

Media treatment of the recent National March on Washington illustrates the unevenness in quantity and quality of coverage of gay events. Locally and nationally, this coverage problem takes two forms: the event is not deemed newsworthy, and important details are downplayed.

Without a doubt, a demonstration of approximately 100,000 individuals demanding their civil rights is newsworthy. Yet numerous newspapers, ranging from the New York Times to the Daily Tar Heel, neglected to grant the march any significant coverage. When coverage was granted, it highlighted human interest angles rather than political aspects. For example, the Associated Press story of a minister who attempted to stop the progress of a trainload of gay and lesbian marchers was printed by some newspapers while the events and goals of the march were not.

Some participants of the National March, returning home to find local papers devoid of significant coverage of the event, may well be seeing evidence of institutional homophobia. Is this the case? Perhaps. It may also be indicative of the newness of the movement. This popular movement of gay Americans resisting discrimination is only a decade old. Institutions, and individuals alike, are caught in a period of transition, in which old thoughts and practices are being pulled out from under them by a minority that never before dared to speak its name.

Our response to their resulting confusion should be a didactic one. We should instruct them in the new realities of gay pride and freedom. Let us be proud of the coverage that we earned through our support of the National March, and let us continue to remind the media that we are everywhere: in the news and in their reading public.

## National Resource List

The following listing is intended as an introduction to national resources for gay people. The list is by no means comprehensive, nor does inclusion in it signify any endorsement by Lambda or by the Carolina Gay Association.

### ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Caucus of Gay Public Health Workers  
206 North 35th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Phone 215-386-5327 or 631-2435.  
"Caucus of the APHA. Seeks to establish national clearinghouse on VD, alcoholism, and drug addiction."

- Gay Academic Union  
Box 927, Los Angeles, CA 90028

- Gay Bibliography  
Task Force on Gay Liberation  
American Library Association  
Box 2383  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Rates on request; include an SASE.

- National Gay Resources Institute  
Washington Bldg, Suite 625  
15th and New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

- Gay Nurses Alliance  
Box 8166, UT Station  
Knoxville, TN 37916  
Pub: Signal.

- Lesbian Herstory Archives

Box 1258  
New York, NY 10001  
Phone 212-874-7232 or 873-9443  
"Rediscovering, collecting & preserving all signs of lesbian culture & making these available to present & future lesbian community." Includes books, journals, tapes, graphics, clippings, and original research.

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