

95-96

**Welcome  
Back  
Alumni!**



**Home-coming  
'95**

Issue 53

North Carolina Central University  
Durham, NC 27707

Friday, October 27, 1995

**MILLION MAN MARCH**

# Black men take capital city by storm

**Men of North Carolina Central join in day of atonement**

By Christie Stancil  
Staff Reporter

They came in droves on Monday, Oct. 16, moving through the capital city like an army during an invasion.

Their mission: to destroy the enemy. Yet, unlike the march of 1963, the enemy did not lie behind the immense columns of the White House.

Instead, the marchers of the Million Man March came to defeat apathy, violence, and disrespect in their communities.

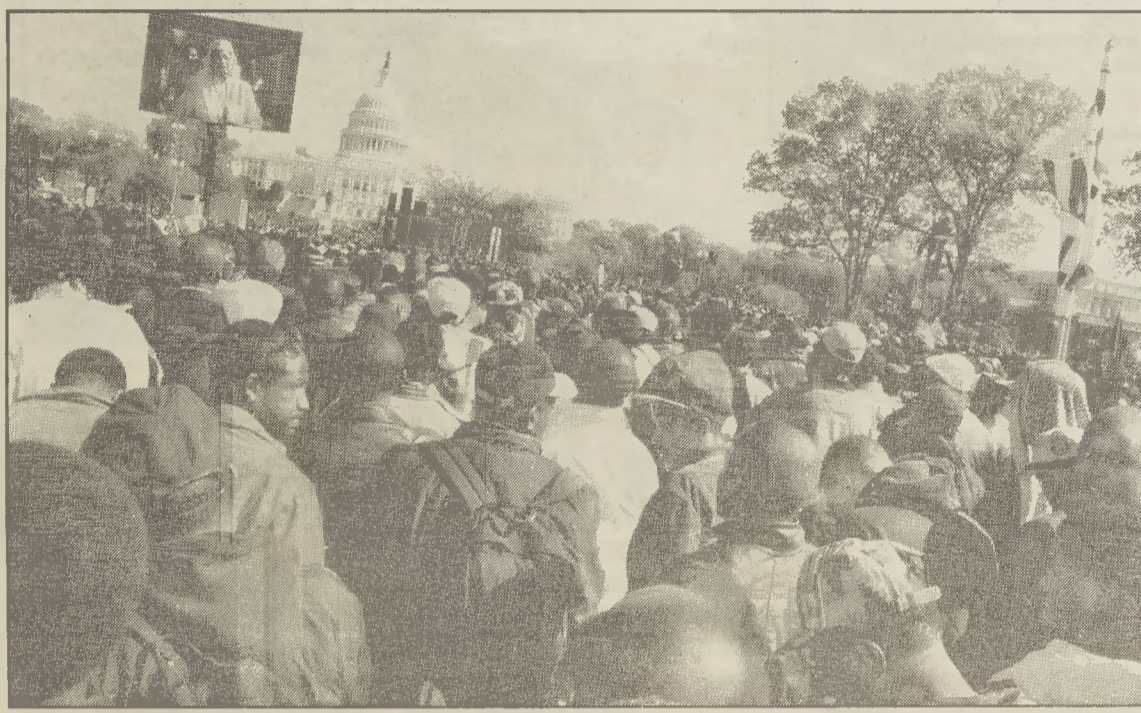
This march was only the second of its kind in the history of the United States, the first was Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic March on Washington, which was a call to all Black men to atone for their lack of leadership in the Black community.

The turnout nearly doubled the 250,000 marchers of 1963, according to many media sources. However, march organizers say the turnout was more magnificent. They reported almost two million marchers.

**NCCU contingent**

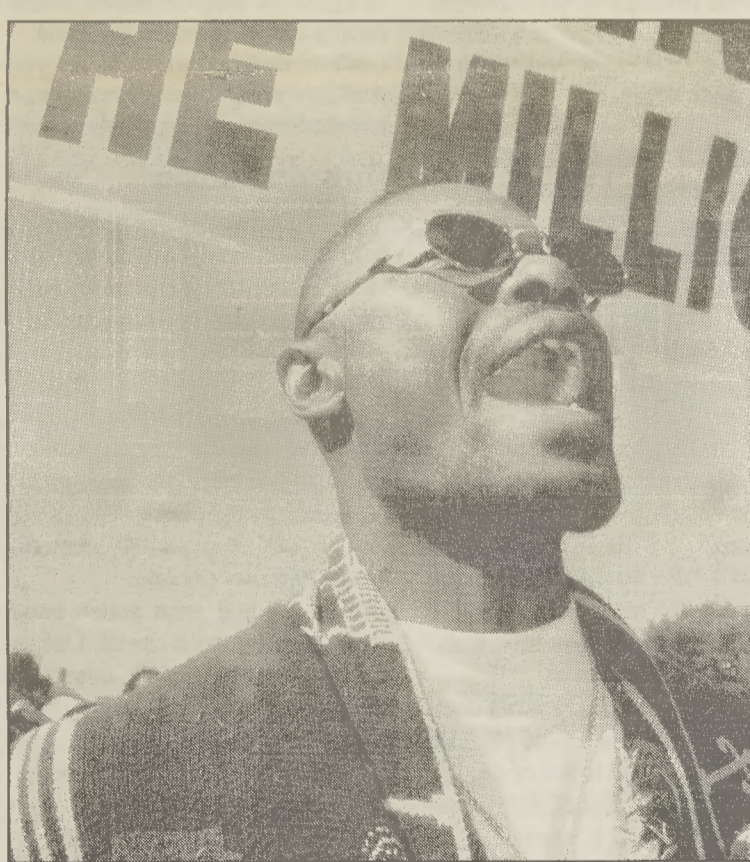
Keynote speaker Minister Louis Farrakhan says people came for many different reasons.

"Some of us are here because it's history making. Some of us are here because it's a march through which we can express anger and rage with America for what she has and is doing to us... The basic reason that this [march]



(Top) Men listen attentively to Tynella Muhammed, wife of the late Elijah Muhammed

(Right) Durham native Jeff Hopkins responds to the momentum of the march



was called was for atonement and reconciliation."

North Carolina Central University Sophomore Jay Johnson went to be a part of history.

"I felt like the march may be a turning point in this era.

"I could not miss the opportunity to be a part of this movement and to participate in such widespread reconciliation," he said.

Johnson arrived in Washington, D.C., on one of the buses sponsored by the NCCU Student Government Association.

"Seeing more than one million brothers from all walks of life together and on one accord was the most significant aspect of the march, said SGA president, Jeremy Ardrey.

"I felt the vibes, I felt the warmth, I'm still thinking about it."

Perhaps the most important message of the march was the call of some of the nation's most prominent black leaders for the black male to clean up his act.

"Demonstrate your gift, not your breast. Demonstrate your gift, not what's between your legs. Clean up, black man, and the world will respect and honor

you," Farrakhan told the crowd.

Farrakhan, Jesse Jackson and many other speakers simply gave black men "a good talkin' to." But they were also there to uplift the spirits of African-American males.

**Respect and honor**

"We're not putting you down, brothers. We want to pick you up, so with your rap you can pick up the world, with your song you can pick up the world, with your dance, with your music you can pick up the world," Farrakhan said.

Ardrey felt that Farrakhan's sermon was right on the money. "It's time to set our own standards,

not in comparison to any other standards in society. That way you still might come up short."

The Nation of Islam leader said that most of the nation's moral standards are too low and that African-Americans should strive to reach the highest plateau of morality regardless of the poor example that mainstream America has set.

Johnson said that the message of the march merely reinforced the need for attributes like respect and involvement that he already possessed. However, he added that he recognizes the difference the march has made on NCCU students who had not previously been respectful to themselves and others.

"Many male students have

*A dissenting view*  
Minister Louis Farrakhan was prophetic in his keynote speech when he asked:  
"I wonder what you'll say tomorrow...I wonder what you'll say in your newspapers."  
The media did not disappoint: A.M. Rosenthal, columnist, *New York Times*, 10/17/95  
The black men's march in Washington was a blow to the American dream and goal to unity. It can turn out to be as demeaning and damaging as the civil rights movement was decent and hopeful.

changed their language. I know one brother who who stopped referring to women as bitches and 'hoes' after the march. Now, he even encourages other brothers to do the same," Johnson pointed out

This transformation represents only a part of what Farrakhan asked of black men. He also preached spirituality.

**Moral upliftment**

"Every one of you must go back home and join some church, synagogue, temple, or mosque that is teaching spiritual and moral uplift, he said.

The message of the march is not new. Black mothers, fathers, religious leaders, and politicians have constantly stressed the importance of respect and responsibility.

In light of that fact, many leaders wonder whether this day of atonement will really stir such a disadvantaged sector of the population to action.

Ardrey believes that it will and has been instrumental in organizing NCCU students to respond to the call of the march.

The Coalition for Campus Empowerment has been established at NCCU as a result of the Million Man March, Ardrey said.

This organization will consist of male and female students working towards social, political, and economical empowerment on campus and in the surrounding communities.

A forum called "After The March" has been held to discuss the formation of the new organization.

In his speech Farrakhan equates the disparities in the Black community to a carcass. "Here's the carcass, the remains of a once mighty people, dry bones in the valley, a people slain from the foundation of the world. But God hath sent the winds to blow on the bones.

*Inside*

- \* Opinions pg. 2
- \* Marshall Scholar pg. 3
- \* Alumni Affairs pg. 4
- \* Entertainment pg. 5
- \* Miss NCCU pg. 8
- \* Sports Preview pg. 11