



MARCH
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Older men gave advice to younger men in the crowd, and the young men stopped to listen. But beyond the speakers and the controversial nature of the event was a more personal side.

Hundreds of thousands of men gathered together in one place to atone and reconcile their lives within the context of the larger community.

But how will participants of the event that drew at least 400,000 people take Monday's words and turn them into actions?

One day later, students from UNC who attended the march spoke of the overwhelming feeling of unity within the crowd. Tyson King-Meadows, a political science graduate student who marched in Washington, said the feeling of brotherhood in the crowd was infectious.

"Seeing people you didn't know saying, 'Hey brother, how are you doing? What's going to happen next?', that was very powerful," King-Meadows said.

King-Meadows is the founder of UNC's Black Man's Council, a group founded to support the march's goals of community building and political activism. King-Meadows also leads a lunchtime discussion group in the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center called "Around the Circle."

Tuesday's group discussion focused on the aftermath of the march.

March participants, both those who marched on the nation's capital and those who participated in the community-building events that occurred in Chapel Hill, are now looking at ways to capitalize on the positive goals of the march.

But the controversial issues that preceded the march still hang in the air as participants try to move on and look at the future.

Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan's role in the event has focused much of the media attention away from the goals of the march and onto the man who brought attention to them.

"One man does not make a movement," Meadows explained to the BCC group. "When Malcolm X died, and when Martin Luther King died, their ideas did not die with them. The movement is in the hearts and the minds of the 1 million black men

who were there." Meadows said that Farrakhan's message was to unify, and that it was not a new message for him. "The messenger has been around for a long time," he said.

But whites who watched the event were not as optimistic about Farrakhan's message.

Alexander Andrews, a junior at Georgetown University, said he came to the march to see what Farrakhan had to say.

"He's talking about white supremacy, and many of the same old things. He may not be calling white people devils anymore, but the message isn't that much different," he said.

Fred X (Hall), UNC assistant professor of sociology, a member of the Nation of Islam, said he questioned this viewpoint. "Notice that the title of his talk was 'Toward a More Perfect Union.' His message was one of the black man's struggle for

"What makes you like this? You're like this because you are not well. You really need help," he said. "White folks are having heart attacks today, their world is going down."

On a more positive note, Farrakhan called for a reconciliation between his followers and members of the Jewish community.

He said that there had been enough pain in the war of words between the two groups and that it was time to end it.

UNC faculty member Patricia Fisher, director of the campus diversity training project and an active member of the Jewish community, said she was encouraged by Farrakhan's gesture.

"It seemed totally positive to me," Fisher said. "I suspect that Jewish leaders are suspicious of the rhetoric that has in the past been so inflammatory, and clearly anti-Semitic. I'm an optimistic sort of person, and any time people are willing to get

of the campus march organizers and a member of the Nation of Islam, 78 UNC students went to the march on buses chartered for the event.

But, he said, more than 150 UNC students registered for the event, many of those going with their fraternities and in smaller groups.

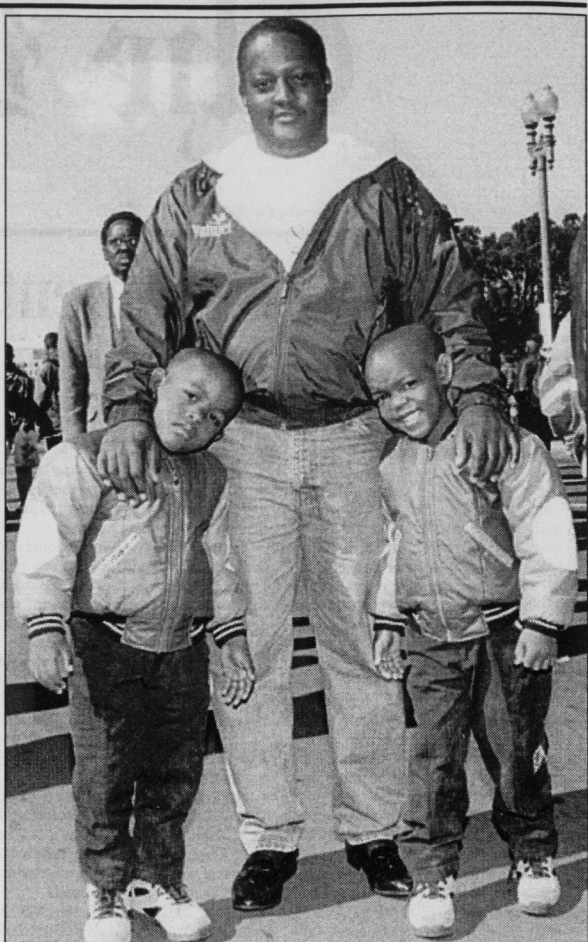
Many black men who didn't attend the march, and women who were encouraged not to attend, participated in community building events on campus.

One of the student organizers for the campus events, Latarsha Chambers, said she was deeply affected by the concern that those on campus showed during the day's events.

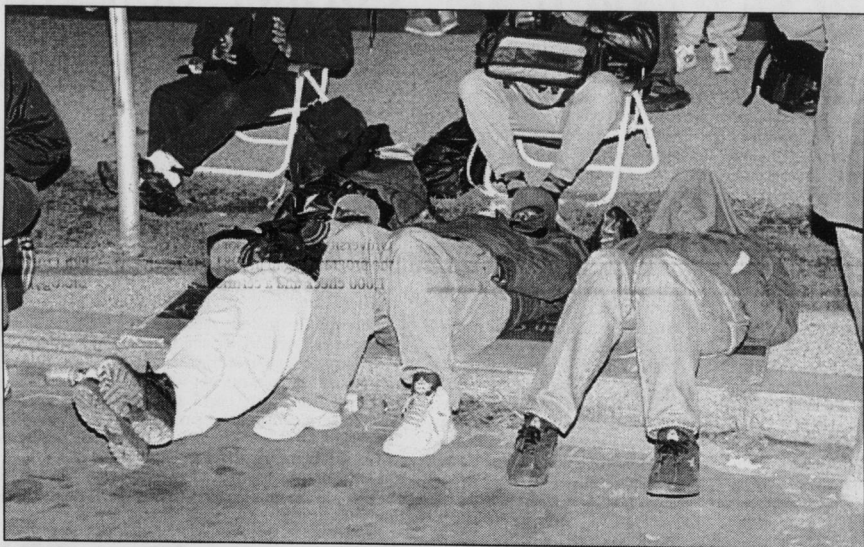
Chambers said that women were given the opportunity to come together to reflect on their role in the black community.

"The events gave us empowering leadership strategies," Chambers said. She also said there was a focus on the future of the black family.

Joseph Gilley of Sodus, N.Y., waves an upside-down American flag, which he says symbolizes the backwards values of America. Gilley said that a federal law providing for the seizure of property where drugs are sold is being used to take away the houses of elderly black citizens in his county.



Derrick Hunter drove to the march from Miami, bringing his twin sons, Adrian (left) and Derrick Jr., hoping they would learn from the event.



Although the march didn't officially begin until 7 a.m. Monday, people brought blankets, coats and sleeping bags out to the Mall hours beforehand and camped out to save themselves a spot near the front.

At the march, men were asked to focus on how they could improve their own families.

Jesse Jackson stressed to the men in attendance that they needed to take time to participate in their children's upbringing and education.

Chambers said one local workshop focused on how the black family extended beyond the immediate and the extended families, and into the community as a whole.

Chambers said Farrakhan's suggestion that blacks "adopt" blacks in prison, and make it their responsibility to support them as a family member fits into the black community as family ideal.

She also said that accepting people as family members even when you disagree with their beliefs was

part of this principle.

"It doesn't mean you have to agree with their views. It's OK to have differing opinions. It's OK not to agree with everything that Farrakhan said. He's still a member of the family," she said.

Joy Plummer said she was overwhelmed by the support that black women showed for the men who participated in the march. Plummer said that 115 women waited out in the cold for the buses to return from the march Monday evening.

"As a black woman, I didn't feel left out at all. I feel very much a part of this movement," Plummer said.

"When they came home, we were there. It was a journey we traveled together."

Valerie Johnson, a professor in the African and Afro-American studies department, spoke in the Pit Monday as part of the campus activities. Johnson said she

supported the goals of the march, in spite of its exclusive nature.

Johnson said this march differed from the 1963 March on Washington in its purpose and goals. "The March on Washington addressed the government saying, 'You haven't fulfilled your obligations.' The Million Man March focused on atonement. It asked the question, 'What does it mean to atone?'"

NAACP President Carson said the march was a beautiful expression of unity. "It was just like an overwhelming feeling of brotherhood togetherness," Carson said.

"The crowd was so tight that you couldn't really move from one side to another. But it was so calm. Everyone greeted me with open arms," he said.

At one point in the march, a platform speaker asked the crowd for a donation to defray the cost of the march. March leaders asked that each person at the event to hold up one dollar and pass it to the front of the crowd.

Carson explained that this was an exercise in trust. "There was a pause before each person passed their dollar up, people recognized the significance of what we can

do when we trust our brothers," he said.

At Tuesday's BCC discussion group, the air rang with an unanswered question: What next?

Discussion leader King-Meadows said he hoped the event would translate into a greater political awareness and action in the black community.

"I hope that people have a different perspective," he said. "I saw a lot of single mothers with their sons."

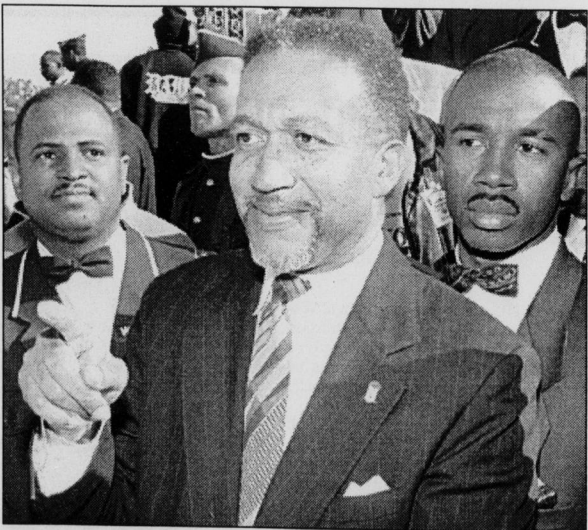
"There were a lot of little boys who needed someone to interpret the effect of the march on their lives. I saw black men caring about the way that they spoke about black women" he said.

He added that the BMC would hold a forum in the BCC Thursday at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the effects of the march and to talk about future community building.

King-Meadows said the goal of the BMC was to promote a proactive spirit in the black community.

He said that the political, economic and social effects of the march must continue to be a major focus for the future.

"If blacks are always responding, instead of creating the parameters," he said, "We will always be left in the shuffle."



The Rev. Benjamin Chavis, former director of the NAACP, holds up a 'number one' after informing the crowd that the 1 million men goal had been reached.



Women and children were encouraged to stay home and fast and pray, but many women and children attended the march anyway. Some men even showed up with their families. One focus of the march was that black men take responsibility for their families by demanding strength and unity.

March Has Little Effect on Local Business

BY MEGAN MONTGOMERY
STAFF WRITER

All goals of the Million Man March were apparently not met, as it was business as usual Monday for many white-owned businesses in Chapel Hill and Carrboro despite the call of the march's organizers for a national boycott of these businesses.

Nation of Islam Louis Farrakhan requested those not attending the march to boycott white-owned businesses, stay home from work for the day and skip classes. But from the looks of the amount of business done by local white-owned and black-owned businesses, his call was not answered nationwide.

Robert Humphreys of the Downtown Commission said Chapel Hill did not participate in the proposed boycott. "I certainly didn't hear of such a movement around here," he said. "I would certainly think that if it took place, it was unsuccessful."

Local business owners agreed with Humphreys that the boycott was not an

issue in Chapel Hill.

"Monday was the same as usual," said Will Raynor, son of the owner of The Rathskeller, located on East Franklin Street. "The same crowd, same people as usual. No change." Raynor said that talked with many owners of businesses around the restaurant, and they all expressed the sentiment that there was no deviation from the norm.

Because roughly 90 percent of The Rathskeller's employees are black, Raynor said that if there had been a local boycott, he probably would have heard of it. He said that all the black employees reported to work as usual Monday.

Josh Mason, an employee of Sutton's Drug Store at 159 E. Franklin St. said Monday was a bit slower than normal, but he did not feel that it was because of the marchers and proposed boycott. "I didn't hear any talk about the boycott from in here or outside," Mason said. "I don't think the effect was as far-reaching as they had hoped it would be."

Judges Coffee Roastery, located at 161

E. Franklin St., also did not feel the effects of the proposed boycott. "Monday seemed like a normal day. Actually, it was our second best Monday of the year," said owner Ed Donegan.

Black businesses in the area also reported no change in business Monday. The manager at Dip's Country Kitchen, 405 W. Rosemary St., said that Monday saw no change at the restaurant.

"I didn't hear that (of the boycott proposed by Farrakhan). I didn't hear that message," said Lydia Currie, the owner of Blind Cleaning Plus Inc. on U.S. 15-501. Currie said that business did not change at all Monday.

Hank Anderson, the vice president of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said he agreed that the boycott did not take place in this area. "I never heard anything about the boycott, and I talked to a lot of people from other cities who were there, experienced it and were a part of it," Anderson said. "The NAACP did not endorse the march or the boycott, he said."