March Against War

By Catherine Detwiler
Contributing Writer

“The People, United, Will Never Be Defeated!” shouted EMU students marching down Washington, D.C. streets toward the White House. Some students carried signs reading, “Multilateral Nonviolent Alternatives” alongside tens of thousands of other protesters.

Behind was a group of “Grannies for Peace” with flow- ers in their hats singing thoughts like “Bush is Doo Doo” to the tune of “Campout Races” and “Georgie Forgie” to the tune of “Daisy, Daisy.”

In front were children and mothers carrying colorful umbrellas with images of a peaceful world. Others stood on buses, buildings and anything else they could find while shout- ing and holding signs.

Newspapermen lined up on either side of the march to position their cameras.

At least 33 EMU students attended the Oct. 26th National March in D.C. that was organized to stop the war on Iraq before it starts. Combined with a few pro- fessors and other surrounding community members, 73 people left EMU 7 a.m. Saturday in school buses headed for the capi- tal. Transportation was arranged by the Iraq Action group that has been meeting weekly on campus.

Another group of 25 individu- als went early so that they could first stop at the Mennonite Central Committee D.C. office for a briefing. Several students went individually, making the overall number of participants from the the area well over 100.

The day began with a rally at 11:00 a.m. in the Constitution Gardens and continued for over three hours. Speakers included Rev. Jesse Jackson, actress Susan Sarandon and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

“If we launch a pre-emptive strike on Iraq, we lose all moral author- ity,” said Jesse Jackson as listeners cheered. Speakers riled the crowd up on issues that ranged from freeing minorities on death row to a call to end cap- italism and Zionism.

“I was disappointed that the march brought in a lot of other political side issues that weren’t directly related to the conflict in Iraq or the impending war,” said Junior Lynette Nussbaum. “It would have been a lot more pow- erful if it had focused mainly on the war.”

While walking around the fringes of the main crowd, stu- dents encountered a variety of mini-events, including a parody act of ridiculously dressed demonstrators holding a “Peren War” rally, people lying in body bags, and numerous drum circles.

“It’s cool that there was such a diverse group of people there that all genuinely cared about stopping the war,” said junior Lindsey Frye. Overall the tone of the rally was very peaceful. Only three arrests were reported.

The march began at 21st Street NW and Constitution Avenue and circled the White House. Many signs had derogatory state- ments against the presi- dent and included slogans such as “dubya, dubya, dubya, ilkichildre n.bush,” “the world would be a better place without a trigger- happy cowboy,” and “drunk frat boy drives country into a ditch, starts war as cover-up.”

Some students voiced their disapproval that Bush was used as a scapegoat for a problem that in reality is much more complex.

“Signs that say ‘F— Bush’ don’t do much to convince pro- war people that the anti-war movement is legitimate,” said Senior Conrad Erb.

By the time people began marching organizers claimed that there were 200,000 people attending the event. There is no way to know exact figures.

Police even estimated the number of protesters as over 100,000. This number would make it the largest protest ever held in hopes of preventing a war.

According to the Washington Post, even in the Vietnam era no demonstration of comparable size took place until 1967, which was three years after the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

In addition to the D.C. protest, demonstrations were held in San Francisco, Colorado, Maine, Vermont, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Mexico, Japan and Sweden.

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her.” Huber realizes that many politicians do break promises, especially during campaigning time. "I’m not Pollyanna. I know they’re promising pie in the sky.

But he feels voting does overall have a positive impact when applied correctly. "The vote should be used ideally to help improve society and through pol- tics help bring in the kingdom of God.”

Voting, for others, was not a high priority on their list.

“I am not a Virginia resident and that is why I did- n’t vote. I also have a lack of interest, care, and time,” said Janie Yoder.

Sophomore Joanna Goins said, “I have no time whatsoever [to vote]. Plus I’m not up to date with cur- rent issues.”

Nick Buckwalter, a sophomore, was one of the students on campus who was encouraged to do so by his first-year roommate Absalom Shank. He placed his vote in his hometown of Keeseeville, Virginia. Buckwalter says that he voted for Warner for Senate and David Rife for House. Rife is a student at EMU.

“The only option for House,” Buckwalter said, “was Bob Goodlatte. I went to one of his speeches. It seemed he didn’t know the area or his constituents.”

Buckwalter then wrote in the name of his friend David Rice for the House of Representatives since there were no other choices on the ballot.

Buckwalter said, “I think that voting is a great way for citizens to take advantage of the liberties their government affords them.

Off Campus News

Voters in both northern Virginia and Hampton Roads rejected regional sales tax hikes aimed at providing funds for development and roads. According to a Washington Post report, the defeat of the half-penny increase to the sales tax in northern Virginia was particularly disappointing for Governor Mark Warner who had championed a locality’s right to fund its own projects.

At 16 percent, Rockingham County and Harrisonburg have one of the highest concentrations of Mennonite Church USA participants in the nation. According to a study by Glenmary Research Center of Nashville, which appears in the current Mennonite Weekly Review, a total of 435,404 Anabaptists live in the United States. The figure includes Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites and Brethren in Christ. Holmes, Ohio was identified as having the highest concentration of Anabaptists at 63% of its total population.

The Christian Science Monitor reported a rally of 15,000 anti-war protesters on Sunday. The demonstration against a U.S. war to oust Saddam Hussein of Iraq met on the Boston Common. The crowd marched through the streets chanting “Peace not war, this is what we’re fighting for!”

After Israel’s former leader Benjamin Netanyahu joined Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s government Wednesday, Netanyahu vowed to challenge Sharon for the leadership of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s government Wednesday.

Netanyahu was ousted in Georgia and Missouri.

According to an online CNN report, Republicans are assured of majorities in the House and Senate after win- ning races in several key states. Likely Senate Majority Leader Sam Nunn released his election victory statement Tuesday night, keying on the fact that the Senate is not needed until January.

Democrats thought they had a shot at legislation this year, but will have far less power to work on soon. Democratic incum- bents were ousted in Georgia and Missouri.

Senior Catherine Detwiler casts her vote at Waterman Elementary School on Tuesday. Tuesday was election day across the nation.

Based on the information provided, it is not possible to accurately calculate the number of votes cast in the election. The text mentions that the election was conducted across the nation, but does not provide specific numbers for any state or locality.