

# Notebook from the Edinboro bus trip to March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian and Bi Rights (April 25, 1993)

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The 1993 March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian and Bi Rights was one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in United States history, with estimates ranging from 300,000 to 1 million.

In the months before the march, a lot of effort was spent on getting interest in participating in the march. One of the major reasons for the start-up of the publication known then as Erie Gay Community News (now Erie Gay News) was to encourage participation in the event.

Many people in the Erie area travelled by car to participate in the historic march, as did a bus chartered by the Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO), a student group at Edinboro University in Edinboro PA.

During the bus ride, a notebook was passed around, and riders were invited to share their thoughts and impressions about the event. Riders were informed the notebook was for Erie Gay [Community] News.

In the following pages are the comments from riders on the Edinboro bus to the March on Washington in 1993.

It's been so stressful these past  
couple of weeks. Being in charge  
of Scholarship for people who  
didn't have enough for the  
trip down to Washington  
to hanging up posters for publicity  
to being Co. Captain for the  
bus. Yes, it's been very  
stressful but it's also had  
been a fun learning experience.  
Through working to get the  
bus organized I have  
met people who have  
enlightened me. I have  
learned some of the ins and outs  
of doing things on short notice  
& also learned that when one  
minority is hurt then all minorities  
are hurt. This is not  
just a march for Homosexual  
Civil Rights but a march for  
human kind Civil Rights.  
David Neubauer - Co. Captain

IF wishes  
were fishes,  
then I guess this  
bus  
would be an aquarium.  
- Jesse Prentiss


I am feeling something of the same way I did when I first stepped into my Women + Society class. Then, I wondered if I belonged in that class, because I was one of the only guys in a class <sup>full</sup> of women. This is different, tho, because I can't tell some of the homosexuals from the heterosexuals, whereas I could see how many women there were just by looking. The reason I am taking that class is the same reason I'm on this bus: society is screwing people over (women, homosexuals, blacks, etc. etc.) because they are different than the people in power, white heterosexual males (like myself). Just as much as I believe in equality among all human beings, I

have to admit that I am somewhat uncomfortable around homosexuals. I guess all of the "programming" that I've gotten since I was born has had something to do with it, because even as I am aware of homosexuals as thinking, breathing individuals who should have just as much claim to happiness as me, there is still something in me that identifies with the "threatened" feelings of other less open-minded heterosexuals, and I also catch myself feeling repulsed when I look at two guys hugging who obviously love each other. But, in spite of my occasional uncomfortableness, especially concerning some off-hand comments I might make that might unintentionally offend, I am glad that I am a part of all this. I have no doubt that it will be an awesome experience.

- Frank P.

~~It's coming together what ever~~  
~~it's coming together what ever~~

yo I'm human,  
it's coming together what ever  
Sunday is going to be like, one step  
after the other.

I don't think I'm Homo or Homo Phoe... bic   
except homo sapien. (never mind the spelling)  
but what is there to walk for  
you and you and you and you and and and  
and

William  
Sasso  
line

Let me tell you a little story...  
I came to Edinburgh University with high expectations, unfortunately, they did all pan out. Except for Marching Band, for the sheer sake of an activity. I met a girl as soon as I got to band camp. Our "relationships" went okay, but it wasn't working.

The band played for the pep rally for the full season and I was there with the rest of them, blaring and yelling away.

My girlfriend decided not to show, but to go drunk. So I looked elsewhere.

The ash from the roaring fire was falling everywhere and it seemed everyone had a boyfriend/girlfriend to protect them.

I, then, saw a lovely cybal player say; "But who will protect me?"  
"I will," said I, being the chivalrous man I am.

That night we made out a little and started a new relationship. Since we were both seeing people at the time, it didn't get off to a rolling start.

We quickly became the best of friends and she confided in me that she occasionally felt attraction to women. She sometimes phrased it "bi-sexual". This unnerved me a bit, but I took it well.

Even when my mother told me she was getting divorced from my father it didn't bother me that much. I was in middle school, but that's another story.

Well, my girlfriend and I have had quite a relationship. A portion of it spent towards understanding her bisexuality was no exception.

I am a Criminal Justice Major. As far as I can tell I am atypical in my field and as a person. I am not a sociopath that the CJ system normally seems to attract. So when Kim asked me if I would march with her to Washington D.C. I think I laughed.

Currently, I have Jessica Jopp for Intro to poetry. Kim had already told me she was "actively"

involved in Edinboro Gay Organization (E.G.O.). It was a different experience to know a professor (even a teacher) of mine was "gay". [I say "gay" because I am not certain of her homosexuality and do not want to jump to any conclusions].

Kim ~~has~~ my girlfriend, knew about Jessica from attending E.G.O. meetings. Her attending meetings made me afraid of implications <sup>about</sup> of my relationship with her. She had received a nasty phone call.

As I began this trip it was still in the back of my mind: the fear of how this could affect me.

My fear started when Kim showed me a newsletter of the goals of the march. I didn't agree with a single one.

I turned it into something positive though, I am the Head of Security. It will be listed on the resume: "Head of Security for protest march"

Despite all my feelings, I am here to stand on my soapbox and preach tolerance.



My girlfriend and I made a compromise  
to get me here, now people must  
compromise for the future of their  
movement. Good luck and I hope it  
works out.

I am glad I could help and be  
involved in ~~an~~ occasion such as  
this.

Jesse [redacted]  
[Please withhold  
names if possible]

I'm bisexual and I'm proud to say that my boyfriend supports me so much that he chose to come on this trip with me. Last week he ~~is~~ told me that he is not only "tolerant" of my sexuality, but that he now accepts it.

I've always wanted to be a part of a "March on Washington;" now it is for a cause I really believe in. And it couldn't come at a better time. With Clinton in the White House, the homosexual community can for the first time look forward to a brighter future.

When I was younger, ~~I remember~~ when I first started to discover my sexuality, I wondered why there was such a thing as "gay rights." I mean, gays are people, and all people are (supposedly) equal under the Constitution. So what is the big deal? Unfortunately I soon learned about homophobia & discrimination. I hope today we can change that.

-Anne O'Grady

I wrote up just now. To write this... approx: 6:30 AM

I love.

though I guess that matters neither.

6:30

I am still a male...

I still love.

we humans are interesting creatures eh?

approx: 8:31 PM.

8:31

Anticipations: Many Diverse Styles

How will we Meld?

I Feel Great positive energy!

How many Are we?

UNDERSTANDING - I hope I

will have more - AFTER.

I know I won't Be the SAME.

Heb

As I write this bounding now the  
highway to OS I think to myself  
GEE THERE ARE SOME A LOT OF US  
OUT THERE, MAYBE THE WHOLE USA  
WILL OPEN ITS EYES AND EARS TO  
OUR FEELINGS NOW.

I HOPE

I HOPE

LOVE YOU ALL

STEVE

At 7:45 am Sunday morning, the morning  
of the largest Civil Rights Demonstration  
in history. How do I feel? Excited, jubilant,  
~~am~~ proud to be taking part in such a  
historic event. I'm here because there are  
still too many people who, do not understand  
either by choice or ignorance, that gay  
individuals have just as much right as  
anyone living in a "free country" to enjoy  
the same basic freedoms ~~as the so-called~~  
~~at~~ I'm here to show my family, my friends  
and the world that there is still much to  
fight for to end human oppression.

Edie

Even though I'm tired, cranky and look like hell, I'm also excited and exhilarated to be on my way to the March. This is a big step for me because I don't get to do this sort of thing very often, even as a matter of fact!

So I wish everybody peace and love to all my brothers & sisters. Together we shall not only change our country but some day change the world!

Ignorance = Fear

Silence = Death

Act Up!

OH

WE STOPPED AT A REST STOP AND THERE  
WERE PEOPLE DISTRIBUTING MILITARY NEWS  
LETTERS - I WAS SORT OF OFFENDED. THERE  
WERE PEOPLE DRESSED VERY STRANGELY  
AND I WAS A LITTLE OFFENDED BY  
THIS AS WELL. IT OCCURED TO ME  
THAT I SHOULD HAVE THE SAME  
OPEN-MINDEDNESS THAT I AM MARCHING  
FOR OTHERS TO HAVE.

Ruben Marcia



We are together 13 years  
We are here so that our 7  
grandchildren will know what  
there were/are pioneer women  
in their family.

Sandy + John

This March is a spiritual journey  
for me, a renewing of my faith that  
I have a huge family and that  
we will live free to love. I expect  
to be nourished and energized -  
filled with love.

SALLY MEISER

"Before the march:"

This is my coming out  
I want to shout  
overcome my doubt.

Be something bigger than  
petty thoughts about right and wrong.  
2.6 million people strong.  
I've been in the closet so long.

J.



"After the march:"

Unbelievable!!  
Courageous!!  
Spiritually uplifting.

~~closets~~

"closets are for clothes" I'm realizing this!

Amazing.

My fears were unfounded.  
I've never seen any thing like it!!  
And I hope to again.!!!!



J.

Today, I must say  
was a great day to be gay!

Tamara  
Brown  
93

25 April '93

I needed this beautiful day  
of love to affirm my beliefs in equality and  
the strength of human compassion. It's  
hard to stay strong when your beliefs  
are constantly being challenged and put  
down by the ignorant majority around you.  
Today, I was the majority, love was  
the majority. Empowering! Inspiring!  
I matter! and you matter!

Sarah Welles '93

~ 9 pm

After the march - WOW! It was so unbelievable - but I was there - I saw it!

There were people everywhere. Not just gays, but people of all walks of life.

"Straight - But Not Narrow Minded" - I was happy to see these signs, shirts & posters. If every heterosexual thought like this we would not have the need to march for gay Rights.

- Before I forget. The news coverage was great! Tamara and I were interviewed by MTV! - not just a tv station but MTV! That is very cool!

- This was a great experience!

John Wetzel

Much better  
I loved the weather and the millions  
of happy people. It was a serious spoken  
day and my sun burn is great learning  
to talk about it but I had a blast.  
I spent a long time talking to somebody  
from SANTA MONICA who knew where  
Edinboro was. Boonies to bombs  
it wasn't the whole population of free  
willing and individualist people there but  
D.C. had a good great deal of representa-  
tion stopping on ~~it~~ this day.

I'll remember many things about today  
including the faces of all the  
people I was with.

Thank you

William  
Saethson  
Edin