

Women show support at Millions More event

By Valencia Mohammed
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Women in unison with thousands of Black men at the kickoff of the Millions More Movement symbolized trust and hope in those charged with the responsibility to unify our resources, financially and intellectually.

Carolyn Kilpatrick from Detroit, Mich., portrayed the feelings of most women who attended the 10th year anniversary celebration of the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., on Saturday in the nation's capital.

"The Million Man March was needed. But it was time for women to join in the discussion and active participation about the plight of our people. This is awesome watching serious and focused

men and women from around the country, marching side-by-side, listening to the same message to take back to their communities for action," said Kilpatrick. Others agreed.

Elizabeth Buckner traveled from Norfolk, Va., by bus.

"It is time for us to overcome barriers that keep us separated as a race. We must learn to take care of ourselves. That is something I hope to learn at the march," said Buckner.

Some believed it was long overdue.

"I think this event is wonderful and the movement is long overdue and needed. I attended another march in the '70s with my parents as a child. It's something you never forget. Somehow I believe that the people are sin-

cere and there will be major changes in the lives of Black people," said Simona Smith, who traveled from Detroit, Mich., with Celester Morris and 14-year-old, Jaquanx Slappeg.

The resounding message brought families together from all parts of the country.

"I have been here for three days having lots of fun. I went to a rally at a church with my daughter who attends Howard University. I am very impressed. It shows unity, no riots, no violence and us supporting each other the way it is supposed to be," said Patricia Hurd, from San Jose, California.

LaDanna Morales drove from Fayetteville, N.C., to the march with her family after her brother, Malik (See Women, Page 12)

Event aims to inspire youth

By Christopher Wall
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - "The Millions More Movement serves as a source of motivation to inspire Black youth to be productive," said Alicia Howard, a sophomore at Howard University who marched from the campus to the National Mall with over 1,000 other students. "A movement has to start with the youth."

The Movement brought Black people together in fellowship to come up with ways to eliminate biases within the Black community, however, Howard isn't sure if the Movement will impart a strong impression on Black America as a whole. "I don't know if [the Movement] will have a lasting effect," said Howard.

"I would like to see it



Youth was served at the Millions More Movement, with thousands of young people and students present.

live up to its purpose."

In an effort to encourage Black youth to participate in the movement, hip-hop leaders such as Wyclef Jean, Jim Jones and Russell Simmons, all aroused awareness in the Black community.

"To see so many people come out for a positive cause is excellent," said Jim Jones of New York-based rap group The Diplomats. "Hip-hop is so instrumental to life right now."

Simmons, entrepreneur and chairman of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, agrees.

"The hip-hop generation is so powerful. Rappers have access and they are listened to," said Simmons.

North Carolina A&T State University student, (See Youth, Page 12)

Million

(Continued from Page 1)
(residents) back what they have lost and return them to their homes."

Farrakhan asked people to donate one dollar a week to a disaster-relief fund and on several occasions gave the movement's website address.

He also called for a series of "ministries" — including ones for health and human services, defense and agriculture — to fix problems in the Black community that he said the federal government has overlooked.

Farrakhan called for Black farmers to unite to make their land productive.

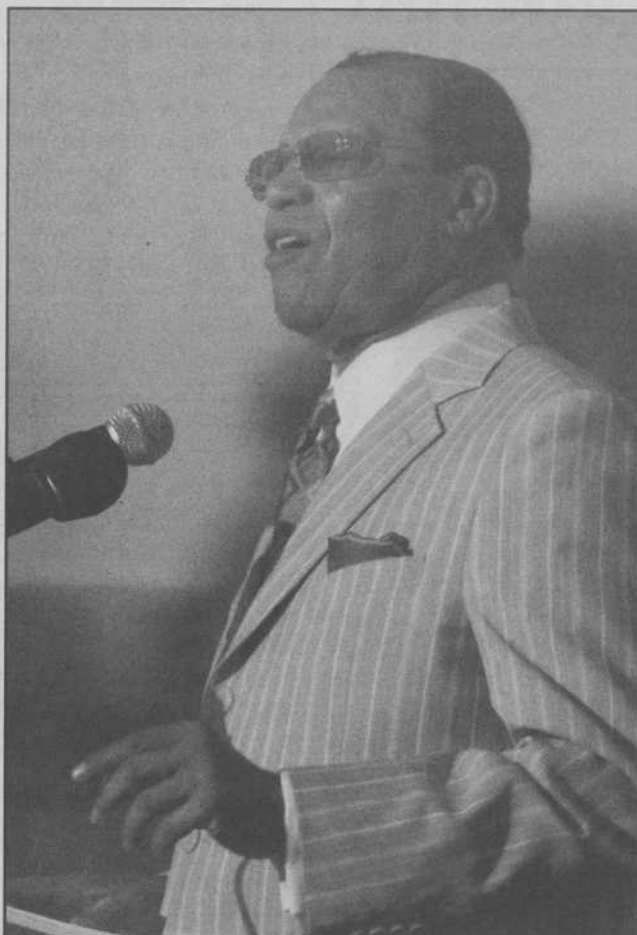
"Farming is the engine of every nation," he said. "As long as we keep our mouths in the kitchen of our enemy, we will never have [economic freedom]."

Farrakhan also called for reparations for slavery.

Unlike the Million Man March, the gathering this time not only includes women, but also elected officials such as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Mel Watts (D-N.C.) who was one of several members of Congress to speak in the first hours of the program that lasted until sunset.

Farrakhan was the last of dozens of speakers to take the stage on the steps of the Capitol. His speech closed the day and came as the setting sun turned the building into a glimmering backdrop.

Listeners sitting, standing and lounging on blankets



Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan addresses tens of thousands of onlookers Saturday in Washington D.C.

formed a thick crowd that started at the foot of the Capitol's steps and stretched onto the Mall for several hundred yards.

Many nodded in agreement with points in Farrakhan's speech, often saying "Yes, sir," or "That's right," at key points.

"If the house is on fire, you cannot just save your room, you must save the house," the Jackson said. "Our vision is inclusive. We are all people of God."

Jackson, president of the

sis and urged listeners to channel their anger into bettering their communities.

"We need millions more to act and react to what we saw in the Gulf (Coast) and Mississippi," Jackson said. "Those images were burned into our consciousness."

Authorities would not give crowd estimates. But by 6 p.m., Metro reported 331,000 passengers had used the subway system, compared to a typical Saturday rider count of 220,000. On the day of the march 10 years ago, ridership was more than 804,000.

Sgt. Scott Fear of the U.S. Capitol Police reported no arrests or other problems. "It was very peaceful," he said.

Gay leaders have felt shut out of the organizing of events led by Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam, but there was an indication earlier last week that Keith Boykin, president of the National Black Justice Coalition, would speak.

However, gay Black leaders said Boykin had been rebuffed and that he would give his speech, instead, to a gath-

ering of gay Blacks elsewhere.

Russell Simmons, hip-hop entrepreneur who has been making some rounds with Farrakhan, discounted those complaints: "Everything is going well..." He said Farrakhan promotes tolerance and said he hoped gays had a voice. He said it was important to promote peace "and let God be our judge."

The day also featured gospel choirs and liturgical dancers, but the most of the time was spent in continuous speeches from African-American leaders, many of whom took the opportunity to talk about rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The plight of the poor of New Orleans was highlighted by

the aftermath of the hurricane, which left many displaced and homeless.

Bob Ximiez, 49, who works for a managed care organization in Philadelphia, said, "I was here for the first Million Man March and it was so positive at a time when there was so much negative going on. I am looking for bigger and better things today."

Jorge Torro echoed those sentiments and said he had brought along his nephew to continue what he called a family legacy. "My father," he said, "attended the 1963 March on Washington. And now it time for me to do what I have to do for this generation," he said, referring to his nephew.

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