



NOGLSTP

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Millennium March: On The Front Line

(adapted from a story from PlanetOut)

After two years of controversy and a week of dreary weather, fate finally seemed to smile on the organizers of the Millennium March, as hundreds of thousands gathered in the sunshine on the Washington, D.C. National Mall to rally in support of GLBT rights. The six-and-a-half-hour event (sponsored by PlanetOut) featured speeches and performances from some of the gay community's most prominent supporters, including Ellen Degeneres, Billy Bean, Margaret Cho, and Melba Moore.

Organizers had two goals for the March: to rally the community around a civil rights agenda and to celebrate the diversity of lifestyles within the movement. A significant number of activists chose to boycott the March, arguing that organizers were sacrificing diversity in order to present a "family-friendly" face to the nation.

Most attendees expressed satisfaction with the lineup of speakers and excitement at the turnout, which initial estimates put at over half a million -- a figure that could make it the largest gay rights gathering ever. Many of the couples, families, and individuals who attended spent the afternoon lounging in the sun in the middle of the Mall, eating picnics and applauding the speeches. Others sought shade on the edges of the Mall or waved signs and rainbow flags.

"I'm tired of marching, and I'm mad because we should not have to be here," said longtime Los Angeles gay activist Lorri Jean. She urged listeners to action, saying, "If we are not completely free, then we are not really free at all."

Corey Johnson, the 18-year-old captain of his high school football team, agreed that there was much progress still to be made, but in describing his own experiences he demonstrated that society has already come a long way. Of his teammates he said, "They were unbelievable. They were supportive the whole way through. They shattered and broke all the stereotypes. And the other co-captain came to events with me and spoke as a straight ally." Author and activist Keith Boykin spoke in support of a multiethnic, multifaceted gay movement. "I speak because not all blacks are straight and not all gays are white," he said.

Aside from the political purpose, many on the Mall said they just wanted to celebrate being out. Ellen DeGeneres recalled, "I wasn't out for the last March [in 1993], and I sat at home and watched it on TV and cried, because I was not a part of a family that I knew I belonged to." After years of being rejected and ridiculed, she said, "We need a day like this to overcompensate as much as we can. We need this love and support."



NOGLSTP member, Tom Humphreys (on left holding banner), from Hawaii marches in Washington.

PFLAG's Apple Pies

(adapted from a story from PlanetOut)

To kick off its annual convention timed to coincide with the Millennium March on Washington, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the largest national group of its kind, held a bake-off of delicious apple pies. The next day they presented pies to several dozen members of Congress as a symbolic gesture that family values include them -- as parents of GLBT people and voters.

PFLAG's other events at their 17th annual conference include a Youth and Education Institute, a speech by pro-gay bishop Thomas G. Gumbleton of Detroit, a dinner with actress Stockard Channing honoring the parents of Matthew Shepard, and a keynote speech given by the vice president's wife, Tipper Gore. Founded in 1972 by Jeanne and Jules Manford after they witnessed the violent assault of their son, Morton, on the local news, PFLAG now boasts over 450 affiliate chapters with over 75,000 members.

"This is a very home-centered effort," said Kirsten Kingdon, executive director of PFLAG. "We see people we love and care about who are suffering. And I can't think of anything more American than an apple pie. I wish you luck in reaching the hearts, minds -- and stomachs! -- of your legislators."

"Since the day they were born they are told it's a sin to be homosexual," said Holmstrom. "I'm hoping for a day when I can hear my grandchildren say, 'Grandma, is it true they used to discriminate against gay people?'" After leaving Congress, the parents remained hopeful. "A personal visit has an impact," Trickey said. "I'm an optimistic person. You could get very discouraged, but they're taking it in." "Especially when they get a pie," Holmstrom added.

Carl Sagan - A Life: Book Review

Rochelle A. Diamond

I have a confession to make. I am a closet obituary reader. It's not that I find reading obituaries a morbid thrill, quite the contrary. I like to seek out the stories of "real people" - people who have triumphed against adversity, led a totally adventuresome career, perhaps was a unique eccentric character who has left an indelible ripple or undercurrent along the river of our lives. A lot of times I look for evidence of a queer lifestyle or an understanding of difference as a good characteristic.

For all of these reasons, I thoroughly enjoyed reading Keay Davidson's Carl Sagan - A Life.

Davidson combs through Sagan's life in search of the meristems and limb buds of Sagan's character. From childhood to deathbed, Davidson connects the path of historical events and cultural watermarks with Sagan's development as a person, scientist,



activist, and finally communicator to the masses. Davidson has unearthed pieces to the puzzle of Sagan's psyche through countless hours of interviews and archival researching in a successful attempt to see Sagan through the eyes not only of his colleagues, friends, and enemies, but through Sagan's eyes as well. The selling of science to colleagues, scientific societies, Hollywood, and the everyday Joe is eye opening to read. Sagan, as a cross disciplinarian, was questioned by his peers for not conforming to the scientist's model - pick a subject and focus. Instead, he pursued multiple-diverse scientific interests who let to a big picture attitude and finally a role as a rationalist who played a bigger role in influencing the public's conception of life on earth and our place in the universe than anyone born to date. His struggle to educate the world by scaring us to death with the possibilities of nuclear winter fundamentally changed the way we allow politicians to shape our policies. His vision to educate the public enough to make decisions at the ballot box as they relate to science and technology issues is a legacy that we must all carry to ensure the welfare of society in our ever increasingly techno-economic times.

I highly recommend reading this book to understand the making of the man in front of the curtain explaining the cosmos and to understand the men and women behind the curtain of such an intense and rewarding life. How scientists perceive their role in society; the pettiness and jealousies that still prevail in the old boys network and in scientific societies; the selling of science for public consumption; the struggle between religion and science and truth; and the loss of a personal life to one's career are all issues that deserve an airing through Davidson's book. A lot of food for thought in one book. Bon Appetite!

Note added: The reviewer would like to apologize to Keay Davidson for the tardiness of this review which should have appeared in the fall NOGLSTP newsletter.

See Page 3 Column 1 for Related Article

National Men's Conference: Continuing the Struggle for Justice

Moshe Rozdzial, NOMAS council

The National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) began as a loose-knit spontaneous social movement in the early 1970s. During this period there was little formal organization, but an ideology developed which was strongly pro-feminist and gay-affirmative, while recognizing traditional male sex role restrictions, and the need to enhance men's personal and emotional lives. Today with its history of more than twenty years, it remains the oldest and the most politically progressive network of men and women allies who share a hopeful perspective about men and masculinity.

Support for gay rights and a willingness to confront homophobia were central themes in the early Men & Masculinity (M&M) Conferences, out of which NOMAS evolved. Supported and co-sponsored by NOMAS since 1982, the National M&M Conferences have occurred annually.

These annual pro-feminist men's conferences continued until 1981, when it was recognized that an on-going organization was needed to give direction and continuity to the M&M Conference tradition. Shortly after the first election of a national council, a position paper proposed that pro-feminism, gay-affirmation, anti-racism and transcending the traditional male role be the central goals of the organization. This position paper argued that oppression of gays and women, homophobia, and straight men's own gender-role wounds and burdens were all parts of the same patriarchal system called sexism. It was determined that it would be wrong and ineffective to oppose just one of these and leave the others unchallenged. The proposal was adopted, and was later codified into the NOMAS Statement of Principles.

Today, the Men and Masculinity Conferences are the premier national gatherings where Gay and straight men join in brotherhood for ongoing dialogue. NOMAS sponsors separate national task groups" in the areas of homophobia and Gay rights. composed of NOMAS members, these task forces have issued reports, made public statements, and sponsored meetings and events. This year the 25th annual Men and Masculinity Conference will be held August 10-13, 2000, at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The annual M&M conference is an occasion for activists, academics, and anyone interested to gather, organize, and work to end all forms of oppression and injustice. Three pre-conference institutes will run from 9am to 5pm on Thursday: "Ending Domestic Violence," "Homophobia and Undoing the -ISMs," and the "Men's Studies Association Meeting." The last is a gathering of social scientists presenting research papers on issues of men and masculinity. The conference itself will feature over forty pro-feminist, Gay-affirmative, and anti-racist workshops and presentations and entertainment which enhance men's and women's lives. The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado has graciously provided grant to support our efforts. Workshop proposals should be submitted by May 31, 2000 to NOMAS-M&M25, PO Box 455, Louisville, CO, 80027. For registration and information visit our web site at www.nomas.org.

Carl Sagan Biography Dedicated to Gay Colleague and NOGLSTP

Keay Davidson, author of [Carl Sagan- A Life](#) and science writer for the San Francisco Examiner, has dedicated the book to a key Sagan collaborator as well as to the work of the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists & Technical Professionals, Inc. Davidson has always been a supporter of the work of NOGLSTP writing coverage of our AAAS symposiums for the SF Examiner and initiating a radio-interview on gay scientists and NOGLSTP in the past. NOGLSTP is honored to have a book of such magnitude dedicated to the organization.

NOGLSTP has an ongoing project to provide educational, historical information on gay scientists who have made a significant contribution to science and society. Davidson's book chronicles on such scientist's life, James Pollack - a student, colleague and collaborator of Carl Sagan. Pollack was the first graduate student of Sagan's at Harvard University receiving his Ph.D. in 1965. Together they studied the atmosphere and terrain of the planet Mars and went on to collaborate for 30 years. Pollack moved to Cornell in 1970 and worked with Sagan to revise the models of the Venus "greenhouse effect" which developed theoretical models for the radiative transfer (heat flow) inside the Venusian atmosphere. This became a seminal paper influencing atmospheric physics in general. Pollack was the P in the TTAPS team of Turco, Toon, Ackerman, Pollack, and Sagan which generated the scientific work on nuclear winter which challenged the whole way of thinking that a country would survive and win a nuclear war that was prevalent at the time. Pollack became a mainstay in planetary science at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View California. A large oil painting of Pollack hangs in the lobby. He was a quiet man dedicated to his work according to Davidson. One would guess that he might have been closeted for security clearance reasons in those times although there is no mention of that in Davidson's book. (Davidson asked NOGLSTP to research if Pollack had joined any gay science organizations during his life) Davidson does, however, detail a story of relating Sagan's knowledge of Pollack's lifestyle. Pollack's colleagues remember him as "a great man, a great scientist" (Dale Cruikshank), "Probably the best planetary scientist I know" (David Morrison), "Really astonishing" (Rich Turco). Pollack died of spinal cancer leaving the majority of his estate to the homeless and the fight against AIDS.

Employee Organization Information

The FDA announces the establishment of a new employee group, called the FDA-GLOBE. The purpose of the group is to provide professional fellowship among FDA employees, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, who have an interest in gay male, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (GLBT) issues. For more information, check out <http://www.geocities.com/fdaglobe/HOME.html>.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology GLOBE holds monthly luncheons on the "I-270 Technology Corridor" (Rockville/Gaithersburg/Germantown). NOGLSTP members are invited. Contact us at <http://www.nist.gov/globe/>, globe@nist.gov, or 301/975-8392.



IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 200003-200006, it is time to renew your dues. If it says 199911-200002, or trial2, it is past time to renew or join, and this will be your final newsletter unless we hear from you. We need and appreciate your continued support. Please fill out the form below (and on the other side of this page), and return it with your check to *NOGLSTP, PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109*. Remember to add \$5 US if you are subscribing outside of the US. Thank you. You may also use this form to inform us of any changes.

cut here and return form

Membership Form

To renew your NOGLSTP membership or become a member of NOGLSTP, support its activities, and receive a newsletter, complete this form and send it with a check or money order to:

**NOGLSTP
PO BOX 91803
Pasadena CA 91109**

Annual Membership Dues are:
 \$15-25 (sliding scale) (tax deductible after the 1st \$10)
 \$10 for students and unemployed*
*inquire about our limited free memberships to 'starving students'
 \$5 extra for memberships outside of the US
 (for the extra postage) (US Funds only, please!)

Renewal New Info change only

Name: _____

Address: (don't forget your zip code!)

Telephone: _____

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Technointerest or profession:

Latest Degree/Subject:

Do you want your name and phone/email printed on a membership roster to be released to other NOGLSTP members?
 YES NO

Do you want your email/URL to be placed on the NOGLSTP web page?
 YES NO

Don't forget to fill out the other side →

QUEER SCIENTISTS OF HISTORICAL NOTE

Neil Divine: 20th century American Astrophysicist, major contributor to modern theory of star formation and prediction of meteoroid and space debris environments. During his 25 years at Caltech's Jet Propulsion laboratory, Neil made many fundamental scientific contributions, including defining the radiation belts around Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, and Uranus, and the dust environment around Halley and other cometary targets. During his tenure at JPL, he often served as a mentor and inspiration to many younger space physicists who benefited from both his scientific incisiveness and quick wit. Divine died in 1994 from complications from AIDS, shortly after celebrating his 55th birthday. Source: Divine's memorial biography, 1994



Margaret Mead: 20th century American anthropologist and psychologist, author of *Coming of Age in Samoa*, and Curator of Ethnology at the American Museum of Natural History. While President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1977 she presided over the passage of a AAAS policy statement deploring discrimination against gay and lesbian scientists. Mead had significant sexual affairs with other women during her married lifetime, and helped pioneer, through cross-cultural studies, greater understanding for the natural variety of sexual behaviors that occur in human societies. Source: *Margaret Mead: A Life*, J. Howard, Simon and Schuster, NY, 1984

Membership/Renewal Form (continued):

Please list any other professional organizations that you belong to:

For New Members: How did you learn of NOGLSTP?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US WITH? (CIRCLE ANY THAT INTEREST YOU)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HOLD OFFICE

AAAS

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

EDIT NEWSLETTER

PRODUCE NEWSLETTER

NEW PAMPHLET TOPICS

GRANT WRITING

G/L/B/T CAUCUS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES (which one?)

OTHER _____

ABOUT NOGLSTP

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS, INC., is a nation-wide organization of lesbian and gay scientists and technical professionals, regional and caucus groups, and others interested in technical matters and the gay and lesbian community. NOGLSTP's goals include dialog with professional organizations, providing information, improving our member's employment and professional environment, opposing homophobia and stereotypes, educating the gay, scientific and general communities, and fostering inter-city contacts among our members. National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Inc. is a tax-exempt educational organization under IRS section 501(c)3, incorporated in the State of California (TAX ID # 95-4358685). Membership dues are \$15-25 (sliding scale) annually for non-students. Student dues are \$10 annually. After the first \$10, dues are tax deductible. \$5 extra for memberships outside the US for the extra postage. Please, US dollars only. Written correspondence may be addressed to: NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109-9813. For more information, see our web page at <http://www.noglstp.org/>

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Newsletter

The **NOGLSTP Bulletin** is published quarterly. Articles are encouraged and gratefully received. Handwritten, typed, and magnetic (3.5" pc-FD) may be sent to the NOGLSTP office. If you have internet access, articles may be emailed the NOGLSTP Newsletter Editor, Charles Harless, at charless@cs.ucla.edu.

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