

Men return home with spirit of march

WASHINGTON — Black men energized by the huge rally in the nation's capital began spreading the spirit Tuesday, making plans to clean up inner-city neighborhoods back home, register voters and simply help each other survive.

As Washington got back to normal, meanwhile, both black and white members of Congress urged President Clinton to create a commission to study America's racial divisions.

After Monday's long day, many men traveled all night, tired but inspired by the brotherhood they felt on the national Mall. Others who only saw the event on TV said they too were uplifted.

"I hope it reverberates around the country in energizing people right where they are," Joseph E. Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, told ABC-TV.

James Bolden Jr. caught some of the event on television from his home in Topeka, Kan. The speeches were inspiring, Bolden said. But he hopes the talk leads to action on issues such

as job discrimination.

"The march is general," he said. "We need to break it down and make it more specific to the problems at hand."

Several members of Congress sent Clinton a letter urging him to appoint a commission on race relations "to issue a report on the progress and failures that our nation has made on race since 1968."

That was the year the Kerner Commission, appointed by President Johnson, issued its famous study that concluded "our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal."

The letter was signed by Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., John Lewis, D-Ga., Jim Leach, R-Iowa, Bill McCollum, R-Fla., Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., and Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia's delegate.

Benjamin Chavis Jr., co-organizer of the event, said plans were being made for a black leadership summit within the next 30 days, and that it would reach out to churches and organizations that didn't endorse the Mil-

lion Man March.

"The march was to mobilize people for action," said Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam.

Even some black leaders and scholars who avoided the event because of Farrakhan's inflammatory statements praised the event Tuesday, while continuing to condemn past remarks by Farrakhan that offended Jews, Catholics, Asians and others.

Several said they hoped the event would help whites better understand blacks and get people talking about racial divisions. They cited Clinton's speech, made in Texas as black men gathered in Washington, which called on Americans to heal racial differences.

"To see 400,000 black men disciplined, non-violent, nobody drunk, nobody making a disturbance, full of positive feelings and spirituality, I think that's a wonderful antidote to the rancid stuff that white Americans see on the 11 o'clock news," said historian Roger Wilkins of George Mason University.

Leaders allege undercount

WASHINGTON — The "Million Man March" lived up to its name, leaders insisted Tuesday, accusing the U.S. Park Service of a racist undercount and threatening a lawsuit.

"They falsely said to the world that 400,000 black men came when they well know there were more than a million," said Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.

"There never was a demonstration or gathering in the city of Washington to equal what happened yesterday," he said at a news conference. "For what reason would anyone fail to give us credit but racism?"

The U.S. Park Service announced hours after the daylong event that about 400,000 people

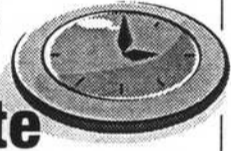
had attended. That would make it the fourth-largest demonstration ever, some 200,000 short of the anti-Vietnam War march in 1969.

"We don't think we are racist; we think we acted in a professional way," said Maj. Robert Hines, spokesman for the park service, which estimates crowds for major Washington events.

"We know they are unhappy with the count as have been a lot of other organizations in the past," he said.

The Rev. Benjamin Chavis, co-organizer of the event, said, "What the U.S. Park Service reported in terms of 400,000 persons owes not only us, but America some explanation." March offices had received "thousands of calls from persons who wonder if they attended the same event," he said.

News in a Minute



Falsely accused black man sues police

BOSTON — Revisiting a painful episode in Boston's racial history, a black man falsely fingered as a suspect in the slaying of a pregnant white woman is suing the police, accusing them of violating his civil rights.

Police pressured teen-agers to identify William Bennett as the man who killed Carol DiMaiti Stuart, Bennett's lawyer Steven Rappaport told a federal jury Tuesday. Stuart was shot in October 1989.

"What this case focuses on is (police) attempts and agreements amongst themselves ... to pin the rap on William Bennett," Rappaport said. "In fact, they did coerce certain witnesses."

Bennett, 45, is seeking unspecified damages.

Chris Muse, a lawyer for the five officers being sued, countered that there was plenty of reason to suspect Bennett, a career criminal, including testimony from two teen-agers who said they heard Bennett's nephew brag about his uncle's role in the crime.

Florida woman challenges Wal-Mart

TAMPA, Fla. — Virginia Berger says she was looking for the best buy on over-the-counter medications when a Wal-Mart clerk told her to put away her pen and paper.

Jotting down prices, she was told, is against store policy.

"I was so angry and embarrassed. I thought they were going to throw me out," Berger said Tuesday.

She sent two letters of complaint to corporate headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., but hasn't received a response.

A company spokeswoman — contradicting an earlier statement from a company spokesman — said the whole thing was a misunderstanding. "That was a mistake that shouldn't have happened," spokeswoman Jane Bockholt said. "All customers have the right and are invited to write down prices."

Weekend car accident claims UNL student's life

By Ted Taylor
Staff Reporter

A 22-year-old University of Nebraska-Lincoln junior died this weekend after losing control of his truck on Interstate 29, near Dakota Dunes, S.D.

Funeral services were held Tuesday for Matthew Swanson, an occupational therapy major, in his hometown of Sioux Falls, S.D.

Swanson was on his way home Friday night for a weekend of hunting and camping when the accident occurred, said Roger Swanson, his father.

A South Dakota state trooper found Swanson's truck in the northbound lane of the interstate after it had apparently rolled and crossed the median. He was taken to a nearby hospital,

where he died 45 minutes later.

Roger Swanson described his son, who worked at Lincoln's Homestead Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, as adventurous and hard working.

"He had so many interests," Roger Swanson said. "Sky diving, motorcycling, hunting, camping. He loved danger and people."

His father said nearly 600 people attended the 1 p.m. funeral.

"He had many friends, but most of his friends were involved with his work," he said.

"He was equally as comfortable with kids his age as with older people," his father said. "He related well with people, period."

A memorial fund will be set up in Sioux Falls in Swanson's name.

Reno approves uniform policy about deadly force, officials say

WASHINGTON — Spurred by intense criticism of special shoot-on-sight rules used by the FBI in the standoff with white separatist Randy Weaver, Attorney General Janet Reno has approved a new uniform policy for federal agents' use of deadly force, administration officials said Tuesday.

Under the new policy, law enforcement agents may use deadly force only when they have a "reasonable" belief there is an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the agents or other people, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The policy also spells out conditions under which agents may shoot in circumstances involving fleeing felons and escaping prisoners, they said.

Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick planned to announce the new policy Wednesday during an appearance before a Senate subcommittee that has been looking into the deadly 1992 siege at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, the officials said.

The new policy would apply to law enforcement agencies under Justice

Department authority, such as the FBI, the U.S. Marshals Service and the Bureau of Prisons, and to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which is part of the Treasury Department. It would replace the individual agencies' shooting policies, which vary somewhat.

Treasury officials also have approved the policy, the officials said.

The new policy is an attempt to enlarge the decision-making process by tapping the advice of a large number of government lawyers and others, said an administration official who demanded anonymity.

The FBI has been sharply criticized in the Senate hearings for its use at Ruby Ridge of special shooting orders saying that snipers "could and should" fire at any armed adult male spotted outside the Weavers' mountainside cabin.

The customary FBI shooting rule, by contrast, restricts the use of lethal force to protecting oneself or others from imminent harm.

An FBI sniper shot Weaver's wife,

Vicki, as she stood behind the cabin door, holding her infant daughter on Aug. 22, 1992. A day earlier, the Weavers' 14-year-old son, Sam, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan died in a gunfight that occurred as federal agents scouted Weaver's property in anticipation of arresting him on a weapons charge.

Five top FBI officials were suspended this summer amid a federal criminal investigation into the destruction of some Ruby Ridge documents at FBI headquarters.

One of the officials, then-Deputy FBI Director Larry Potts, approved the shoot-on-sight orders used at Ruby Ridge, according to testimony last month by Eugene Glenn, the FBI field commander at the scene.

Potts disputed that in subsequent testimony. He said the deviation from normal shooting rules was made by lower-level FBI officials at Ruby Ridge, not at Washington headquarters, after he had approved an earlier version that said "can" — but not "should" — shoot on sight.

Subway bomb sets off fears in Paris

PARIS — Mocking the efforts of desperate police, the bombers terrorizing France blew up another crowded subway car Tuesday, turning it into a mass of mangled steel and thrashing injured.

The bomb wounded 29 people, blowing off the legs and feet of some riders. Authorities described it as a steel canister filled with explosives and hex nuts — the trademark device of Algerian insurgents who have waged a terror campaign in the French capital since midsummer.

Rush hour was nearing full swing when the blast shredded the second car of the RER regional subway train at 7:05 a.m., just as it passed the Orsay Museum in the

heart of Paris.

Silver-helmeted firefighters carried writhing victims on stretchers out of the Orsay Museum station, where commuters described a darkened tunnel filled with smoke and cries for help from injured passengers.

Red-and-white police tape ringed the entrance to the station next to the art museum, and fire, police and rescue vehicles filled the street. Helicopters airlifted out the most seriously hurt.

The site of the attack seemed to mock authorities' efforts to halt the terror campaign by Algerian extremists, who have claimed responsibility for seven other deadly bombings or attempts. Islamic militants object to

France's financial support of the military-installed government in Algeria, a former colony.

The explosion occurred between the St. Michel and the Orsay Museum stations along the Seine River in central Paris and across from the Louvre Museum. The subway line is a main artery used by commuters living in middle-class suburbs south and west of the French capital.

"We're all a little bit traumatized right now. It's happened too many times," said Anne Guescoux, who fearfully took the same subway line to her suburban home late Tuesday.

"There's a psychosis now among the population. No one knows what to do."

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