

Jackson Rouses Sacramento March

Thousands Turn Out in Rain, Demand Action on AIDS, Gay Rights



Many estimates were made on the size of the crowd in Sacramento.

(Photo: S. Savage)

by Dennis McMillan

Saturday's March on Sacramento was a time of rallying gay men and lesbians to unify and strengthen the cause. It was also an opportunity to demand of the politicians who were gathering for the upcoming California primary, action on gay rights and AIDS legislation. March organizers estimated the crowd at 22,000, but police said it was much smaller at 5,000 to 6,000.

The rally featured lesbian and gay speakers, was visited by the son of Gov. Michael Dukakis, and was climaxed by the appearance of Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson.

The much anticipated arrival of Jesse Jackson caused the rallyers to cheer and chant with renewed enthusiasm, as Jackson waded into the midst of a crowd of people with AIDS and hugged them warmly.

Jackson referred to Rosa Parks, the black woman who challenged authorities in 1955 by refusing to sit in the back of the bus. He told gay men and lesbians that, as Rosa Parks did, it is better to walk in dignity than to ride in shame.

He called for a long-term national health care plan and more AIDS research. He spoke of the shame of allowing Proposition 69 to exist. He expressed his hope of seeing mass AIDS hysteria change to mass AIDS education.

Jackson urged the people not just to complain, but to "register and vote and change the course of the nation." He brought the rally to a dramatic point leading the captivated audience in repetitious chants of his now familiar "Jackson... action... Jackson... action... Jackson... action."

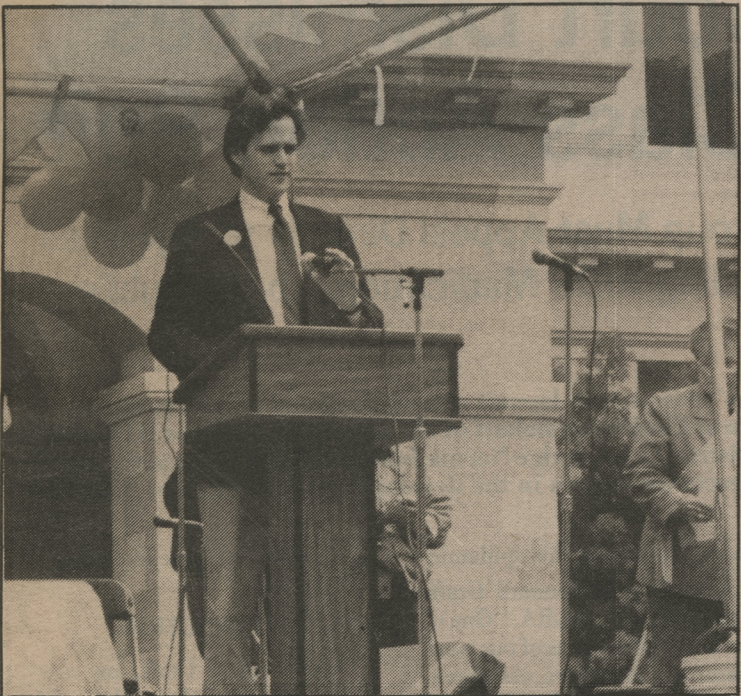
Statewide chair for the March, Ivy Bottini, opened the rally, as the sky opened up with rain, and the throng opened their umbrellas. "The one thing that Gov.

Deukmejian does not like is a public display against him," shouted Bottini. "And I want him to know he has a public display against him today." The crowd roared beneath their umbrellas.

Bottini called Deukmejian to task as a governor of veto power, having vetoed over eleven bills and millions of dollars that would have helped in the AIDS fight and helped overcome discrimination against gays.

She also riled the crowd in

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Gov. Michael Dukakis' son John addressed the Sacramento rally. (Photo: S. Savage)

Sacramento

(Continued from page 1)

stating that the governor failed to mention AIDS even once in his 1987 state of the state address, but made his theme for fire

A Day of Unity, Fun

by Dennis McMillan

Saturday, May 7, was a day of unity and fun for the thousands of gay men, lesbians, and friends who marched and sang in Sacramento. The sometimes misty, mostly stormy weather was unable to dampen the spirits of the festive crowd. Beginning promptly at 10:30-ish GST (gay standard time), over 40 different city contingents from San Diego to Reno gathered in Winn Park to travel down barricaded streets to the Capitol.

The parade was led off by a group of people with AIDS and a huge, flowing rainbow flag arrangement of 50-foot-long stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

The largest representation of all cities was from Los Angeles, stretching for blocks and numbering over five times that of the San Francisco representatives.

The Northern California contingent was a crazy quilt of various groups from the sacred, such as Dignity and MCC, to the irreverent, such as San Jose's bathhouse, the Watergarden. Of course the Alice B. Toklas and Harvey Milk Democratic clubs were well-represented.

The only true drag delegates were the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc., and a platinum-wigged queen in a pleated American flag skirt. Plus a few low-key Radical Faeries in tasteful, camouflage dresses.

Depending on which group one was marching with, the singing could be "We are a gentle, loving people" or "Gay people are a rainbow people, build that multiracial movement." The more militant folk chanted, "Reagan, Reagan, you can't hide; we charge you with genocide."

Still others preferred the queen scream as their mode of oral expression.

Everywhere were signs of creativity. Naturally. These weren't the local Rotarians staging a march, after all. In the midst of the crowd was a huge American flag, except that the stripes were not only red, white, and blue, but orange, yellow, green, and purple as well! Gaymerica the beautiful.

There were hand-lettered placards demanding money for AIDS, gay rights, and an end to homophobia. One giant sign warned, "Beware the Killer D's: Dannemeyer, Deukmejian, Doolittle."

There was only one incident of disruption on the march—a cherry bomb exploded and

momentarily unnerved the celebrants. No one was hurt, and the parade continued marching undaunted through the smoke.

As the marchers approached the Capitol, they suddenly found themselves crossing a makeshift toll plaza. Monitors with bullhorns announced that they needed in excess of \$25,000 to cover expenses. Large trash containers formed toll booths where the marchers could drop their dollars in and pass over to the rally site.

Comic Tom Ammiano talked about LaRouche wanting police to invade the bedrooms of gay men. "I have this fantasy where this big, burly cop bursts into the bedroom; the little queen looks up and says, 'Stop, or I'll shoot,'" he said.

Marga Gomez provided her lesbian perspective on comedy and several digs at Pres. Reagan. "There was a fire at the White House, and Reagan's library burned down. Both books. And one he hadn't colored yet," she quipped.

Deena Jones, one of the few female impersonators who actually sing rather than lip-synch to records, brought a cabaret mood to the program. She started out with "Here We Are." As she belted out the words, "Here we stand, trying not to fall; there's no need to worry, love will conquer all," the audience went wild, clapping and swaying, arms wrapped around each other in gay camaraderie.

Comic Danny Williams out-heckled the fundamentalist hecklers, saying, "I do want to make a correction. That is not the religious right, it's the religious wrong."

The rally ended with Jesse Jackson's recorded musical extravaganza, "Run, Jesse, Run." Reminiscent of Sylvester Stallone's *Rocky* and his theme, "Gotta Fly Now," it was difficult not to compare the two underdog contenders. A chorus of "Win, Jesse, Win" rang out over the frenzied crowd.

prevention—"be safe, not sorry"—more important than discussing safe sex. She urged California gay men and lesbians to do everything possible to defeat his next election bid.

Director of Mobilization Against AIDS, Paul Boneberg, issued a challenge to the presidential candidates to speak more specifically about AIDS issues. "The current president has lost the war against AIDS," said Boneberg. "There was no education program that could have stopped people from being infected, though the lesbian and gay community fought for that program. The research programs for the Centers for Disease Control were so bad, they were sabotaging each other's experiments. The American researchers were engaged in lawsuits with the French. Bigotry got so bad that they burned children out of their homes in Florida. And Ronald Reagan did nothing," said Boneberg.

Boneberg asked the crowd to demand that candidates specify how they will make war on AIDS. He urged people to go to the conventions and force the issue, even attend the inauguration if necessary.

The state coordinator for the National Organization for Women, Shireen Miles, exhorted the marchers never to separate feminist and gay and lesbian issues.

Los Angeles congressional candidate Val Marmillion reiterated a Names Project quotation, "We will all have AIDS until no one has AIDS." He said, "We must remember that, and send the message to Washington by sitting at the table with elected officials and electing our own when we can."

Morris Kight, long-time activist from Los Angeles and member of Mayor Thomas Bradley's Human Relations Commission, commended the marchers for their stamina in sticking out the downpour of rain. He accused the Reagan Administration of "eight years of inaction, ignorance, and abandonment of civil rights."

Kight called for a national health insurance policy, including home health care and hospice for AIDS people. He spoke of the shame that it has too long been the burden of the lesbian and gay community to deal with the AIDS epidemic.

Leonard Matlovich, a gay activist, encouraged the crowd "to love and not to hate. If there is any word that describes our community's reaction to AIDS, the word is 'love.'" He spoke of the mixed-up morality of America, and how "when I was in the Army, they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge



Rev. Jesse Jackson greets the throng in Sacramento. (Photo: S. Savage)

for loving one."

Chairperson of Mobilization for Peace, Jobs, and Justice and organizer of the March on Washington, Pat Norman, congratulated people for the spirit of the October March on Washington continuing in Sacramento.

She acknowledged the gay victories that have been won since October's march, including the federal government's recent outlawing of discrimination against those with AIDS or ARC, California Supreme Court's upholding of poor women's right to abortions (two of the demands made at the Washington march), and U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's right to mail safe-sex education pamphlets to every home in America.

Ivy Bottino read an official letter from the office of Vice President George Bush, saying that "due to the heavy demands on the VP's schedule, he will be unable to attend your march." She then commented with a loud Bronx cheer/razzberry.

The crowd met with mixed emotions the arrival of Gov. Michael Dukakis' son John in place of the candidate himself, whose schedule allegedly did not allow for a personal visit. The elder son communicated from his father the message, "I believe that our government at both the state and federal level should work to protect the civil rights of all our citizens, including those in the gay and lesbian community."

He said that Dukakis promised to fight as president for federal legislation to add prohibition against discrimination based on sexual orientation to the existing protections of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

He said there were serious flaws in the country's response to the national health crisis, and committed himself to a federal war on AIDS. "Basic research programs, grant reviews, and drug evaluations must reflect the urgency of the situation," John Dukakis read from his father's letter. "I will never allow the public's health to be held hostage by ideologues and budget analysts."

Tom Nolan, openly gay supervisor from San Mateo County, expressed disappointment and disgust at not seeing a single Assemblymember or state senator present at the rally. "We need to be treated a whole lot better than this," he said.

On Monday, organizers sent marchers into the offices of state senators and Assemblymembers to lobby for legislation on AIDS and other issues.

In a civil disobedience action in Gov. George Deukmejian's offices, 41 people were arrested for sitting in. They demanded that the governor sign legislation to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination and increase the state's funding in the battle against AIDS. Those arrested were cited for misdemeanor violations.



The artist contingent was a lively bunch.

(Photo: S. Savage)

State News

Thousands march in rain to Capitol for gay rights

By Jim Dickey
Mercury News Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — Bobby Kennedy sat shivering in his wheelchair Saturday as rain poured on him and thousands of others who came to demand gay rights and a war on AIDS.

"I'm really sick, but I came here in spite of the cold because somebody, somewhere, somehow has got to do something about AIDS," said Kennedy, 37, a San Francisco resident whose face is marked

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with the black and blue blotches of Kaposi's sarcoma, a complication of AIDS.

"I'm living proof that what we're doing now is not working."

People from throughout the state traveled to the capital to participate in the peaceful demonstration, part of a nationwide effort by gay activists to call attention to the AIDS epidemic. The march

marked the beginning of three days of protests and lobbying in Sacramento. The group's demands include an end to discrimination against homosexuals and people with AIDS in jobs, housing and public accommodations; more funds for AIDS research and health care; and enforcement of civil rights laws.

Organizers had hoped for a crowd of 50,000, but the rainy weather was blamed for lowering the turnout. Leaders estimated that the march drew 22,000, while state police said 6,000 to 10,000 people showed up.

The demonstrators marched for 17 blocks on quiet residential streets, observed by a few dozen passers-by and people staring from windows. The march ended in front of the Capitol.

"No more passive genocide," declared a sign from Lutherans Concerned of Los Angeles, reflecting worries that little is being done to fight AIDS because most victims are gay men.

A group of Seventh-day Adventists, who have faced opposition from their church, held a large banner that pleaded, "We are your children needing our freedom. Grant us the right to love."

The marchers tried not to let the rain dampen their spirits. Almost nothing seemed to spur them on as much as six people who stood in the gutter, taunting them and wagging fingers.

Dressed in mock space suits, with helmets and masks symbolizing protection from AIDS contamination, the hecklers would identify themselves only as "lovers of Jesus." They held a banner that said, "God is angry. Repent, Sodomite," and they chanted, "Shame on you for what you do."

Most marchers responded with a sense of humor. "Jesus loves me, this I know, 'cause the Bible tells me so," chanted a group of gay Christians.

At the park in front of the Capitol, the demonstrators stood for hours under a sea of umbrellas, listening to fiery speeches by leaders of the gay movement.

Ivy Bottini of Los Angeles, an

SJ.

MERCURY NEWS

5/8/88

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Pg. 2/2



GAY RIGHTS RALLY —
Ralph Anello, above, claps during entertainment at the gay-lesbian rally at the capital. He was sitting in the Persons With AIDS section, where Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, left, greeted people as soon as he arrived at the rally. Jackson has been an outspoken supporter of gay rights. The rally, which attracted thousands from throughout California to Sacramento, marks the beginning of three days of protests and lobbying for gay rights and a war on AIDS.

Cheryl Nuss — Mercury News

organizer of the march, read a list of pro-gay and AIDS measures vetoed by Gov. George Deukmejian. The crowd broke into a chant of "Dump the Duke."

Paul Boneberg of San Francisco, who helped organize the national gay march on Washington last fall, criticized President Reagan.

"While Americans were dying (of AIDS)," Boneberg said, "you did

nothing."

The speeches by some four dozen people, including Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson, continued throughout the afternoon.

Jackson is generally considered the favorite candidate of the gay movement because of his outspoken support of gay causes. This was evident in the crowd's reaction

to John Dukakis, son of Jackson's opponent, Democratic front-runner Michael Dukakis.

John Dukakis was jeered when he tried to explain why his father opposes the adoption of children by gay men and women. But as Dukakis continued with a series of pro-gay statements, he warmed up the crowd, which ended by giving him polite applause.

SJ. MERCURY NEWS
4/24/88 PG. 1/1

State News

Homosexuals plan May march to fight bias, ask for AIDS help

By Jim Dickey
Mercury News Staff Writer

Gay activists are planning a massive march on Sacramento in May to demand an end to discrimination against gay people and to lobby for a "war against AIDS."

Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson is scheduled to be the main speaker during the three-day event, which will get underway Saturday, May 7.

The event is being organized by Ivy Bottini, chairwoman of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Los Angeles and one of the founders of the National Organization for Women.

"Tens of thousands" of homosexuals and their friends and supporters are expected to march, she said.

Jackson issued a prepared statement explaining why he will attend the rally:

"Due to bigotry and fear exacer-

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bated by AIDS-associated hysteria, gay people have been kicked out of their homes, fired from their jobs, denied health and life insurance and assaulted on the streets."

In addition to demanding passage of anti-discrimination legislation and a dramatic increase in AIDS funding in California, Bottini said, demonstrators will also seek enforcement of existing statutes to combat increasing violence against gay people.

She and her Stonewall club began organizing gay rights groups throughout the state last fall for the march, the latest in a series of demonstrations that began in Washington, D.C., in 1979.

Marches were held at the 1984 Democratic convention in San Francisco and in Washington, D.C., last October. Major disruptions are also planned for the Republican convention in New Orleans this summer.

The Sacramento march will be-

gin at 10 a.m. Saturday, followed by a rally at the Capitol from noon to 3 p.m. Jackson is expected to speak at the end of the rally.

A "die in" will be from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Capitol. Demonstrators will lie on the pavement or sidewalks and have their bodies outlined in chalk. Then the names of people who have died of AIDS will be written in the outlines.

Monday morning, demonstrators will gather at a lobbying training session, and they will spend the rest of the day urging legislators to enact gay rights bills and to vote against more than 140 pending measures considered anti-homosexual or harmful to people with AIDS, Bottini said.

The Northern California coordinator of the march is Paul Boneberg, an official of Mobilization Against AIDS in San Francisco.

More details on the event, including information on bus transportation from the Bay Area, is available by calling (415) 863-4676.



Jesse Jackson

SF EXAMINER
4/21/88 PG. 1/1

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JESSE JACKSON has confirmed that he will speak at the March on Sacramento for Lesbian and Gay Rights on May 7. Organizers hope this will induce Mike Dukakis to appear at the same event to talk AIDS policy. Says organizer Paul Boneberg, "If Dukakis speaks this could be an historic event for lesbians and gays." ... Jerry Semas sends the following message: "Since Olympia Dukakis is getting so much publicity for winning the Oscar — is it true the U.S. Olympic Committee is suing her to change her name?"

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Volunteers Still Needed For May 7 Rights March

SF Expected to Send 10,000 to Sacramento

by Dennis McMillan

Mobilization Against AIDS (MAA) is organizing the Northern California coordination efforts for the May 7 March on Sacramento for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The march is expected to have a similar spirit and effect as the October March on Washington, D.C.

The event will kick off with a march at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, and end the following Monday with a civil disobedience demonstration. People will assemble at Grant Playground on C Street in Sacramento, marching to the east steps of the capitol at noon. The list of speakers has yet to be confirmed, but it is certain that Ivy Bottini, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, and lesbian comic Robin Tyler will be speaking in the afternoon.

The streets will be blocked off in anticipation of up to 20,000 local demonstrators known as the Lavender Triangle.

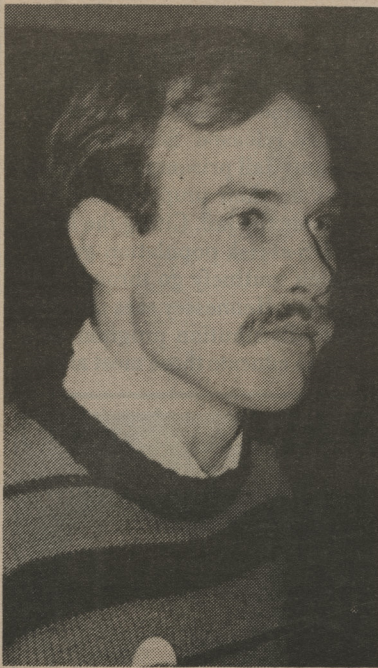
On Sunday there will be a "die-in" around the state capitol, where people will drop to the pavement and outline their bodies in chalk. This is intended to speak dramatically to Sacramento workers when they arrive on Monday morning.

Monday will be Lobby Day, coordinated by Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE), the only gay lobby group in Sacramento.

Marchers have five demands. They want passage of nondiscrimination legislation such as AB-1. They also demand massive increases in AIDS funding, nondiscrimination legislation for people with AIDS and HIV infection, and inclusion of hate-crimes bills dealing with sexually oriented violence. They also demand the repeal of the Gann Limit (the limit of funding that was passed as Prop. 13 several years ago, which severely hinders AIDS funding).

Southern California activists asked MAA to organize Northern California marchers. MAA did similar work during last October's March on Washington.

"We view a successful march as essential to both blocking the bad AIDS legislation in California and creating expanded AIDS treatment and research pro-



Paul Boneberg (Photo: Rink)

grams," said Ken McPherson, chair of Mobilization's board of directors. "When contacted by our fellow activists in Southern California to help with the march, we felt we couldn't say no."

THE WORK STARTS

Three weeks ago, Mobilization began its work on the Sacramento march. "Our sense is that most gay and lesbian San Franciscans would go to a march like this if they knew about it and had time in advance to make plans," explained Paul Boneberg, executive director of MAA.

Not only will Mobilization offer its offices as a contact point and help to distribute banners, flyers, and posters, but it also hopes to reserve round-trip buses for those who do not have cars. Bus rentals will depend on the number of people interested. Tickets will be limited and must be purchased for \$20 at least one week before the march. MAA encourages would-be bus riders to call 863-4676 for reservations.

Mobilization anticipates up to 10,000 San Franciscans driving up to Sacramento. For those who would like to stay for more than the one-day march, limited housing will be made available if planned in advance. Arrangements may be handled by calling 863-4676.

It should be similar to the all-day-long Castro Street Fair, Boneberg said. It will be a lot of fun, as well as making a statement against the Doolittle and LaRouche legislation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A meeting was held Sunday at the Clarion Cafe on Mission Street, where Boneberg stressed the need for additional volun-

teers to get out about 10,000 more flyers and 1,000 posters.

"We have an urgent situation in Sacramento, where they're talking about doing things like making antibody-positive status a reportable disease," said Boneberg. "They're considering allowing medical insurance to be based on antibody status. They're talking about forced testing for large numbers of Californians."

On the other hand, there is much positive legislation at stake, according to Boneberg. For instance, a \$35 million treatment program, proposed by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, would be a model for national legislation for people infected with the AIDS virus before they become ill. "We have to pass these bills, and the only way we are going to do so is by showing that we care enough," said Boneberg.

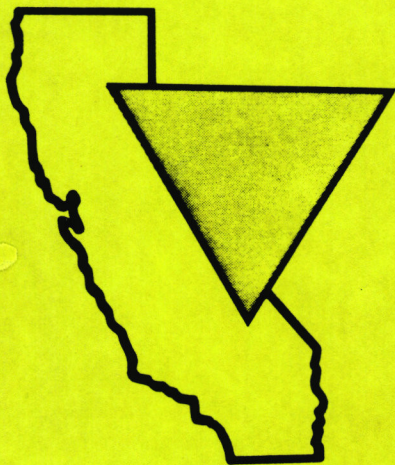
The date of the march is strategically planned in that May 7 is the beginning of the California primary, when presidential candidates will be present. It is an opportunity to urge them to talk about lesbian and gay and AIDS-related issues.

The march anticipates heavy media coverage. "If any of the three expected candidates attend—Jackson, Dukakis, or Gore—we will have major national press, since their entourage of reporters is always so great," said Boneberg. "This could be the major address on AIDS and gay rights in the presidential election."

"I hope people will understand how important it is and make the decision to go," Boneberg added. "It's so much easier than the March on Washington, and I think it will be just as much fun. It's much less expensive, much less difficult, just as important, and should have just as much good feeling as occurred at the national march." ●

MARCH ON SACRAMENTO

**FOR LESBIAN
& GAY RIGHTS**



**SATURDAY
MAY 7**

**VOLUNTEERS
URGENTLY NEEDED!**

MOBILIZATION AGAINST AIDS

CALL 863-4676

**MARCH BEGINS 10 AM,
GRANT PLAYGROUND ON "C" STREET**

**RALLY BEGINS AT NOON,
EAST STEPS OF THE STATE CAPITOL**

history

- The challenge before us

- Statistics on AIDS

- ~~Am~~ - San Francisco

- U.S

- World

- Political Debate underway

- Historical Comparison

'52 - Korea

68 + 72 - Vietnam

- No Debate in 88 on AIDS

- No Candidate - top priority

- No candidate - raising issues in debate

- No program to save the lives of those infected

- Why Difference between '88 + previous elections?

- Projected deaths are acceptable, because they are gay + I.D. drug users.

- Mobilization Against AIDS is moving to collect this - Presidential Project

- Across the country civil disobedience is occurring

- I close with a challenge to you

are these projected deaths acceptable to you?

- Help us force this nation into stopping AIDS.

- Help us force the issue of AIDS into the political debate

is a challenge that is of ours

This is your receipt for one round-trip to the March on Sacramento for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Buses will leave from Castro and Eighteenth at 8:00 AM SHARP. Buses will leave to return home from the point they dropped you off at 5:30 PM SHARP. For further information call (415) 863-4676.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

ZIP: _____ DAY # _____ NIGHT # _____

Sold By: _____ # 4

MARCH ON SACRAMENTO

May 7, 1988

TRANSPORTATION -- BUS

\$20 ROUND TRIP

LEAVE: Castro & 18th; 8:00AM

RETURN: SACRAMENTO 5:30PM;

ARRIVE SF 7:00PM

Sponsored by: **Mobilization Against AIDS**

1540 Market St., Suite #60, SF 94114

415-863-4676

Tickets available at:

The Love That Dares Speak Its Name Book Store: 18th & Castro

Mobilization Booth; 18th & Castro: Sat & Sun

Mobilization Against AIDS 1540 Market Street, Suite #60

Please Reserve Seats by May 1st

Labor Divided

May 7

Cuddy

1-800-528-0447

MARCH ON SACRAMENTO
MAY 7, 1988
TRANSPORTATION
\$20 ROUND TRIP

LEAVE: Castro & 18th 8:00AM

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