

Ask Bartleby

Dear Bartleby,

Rumor has it that several of our members attended the peace march in Washington, D.C. on January 17, 2007. Is this propaganda by our enemies, or could it be that the opposition to the war has hit mainstream? *Gerald Duff*

Answer: I intercepted an email by one of our own (Timothy Cogan) that sets the record straight:

We got up at dawn and went to the 1/17/07 march at the Mall/Capitol: Cassidy, Environmentalist (Mrs.) Cassidy, Bill Gallagher from our office, and me. And of course Sean Penn etc., who they saw but I didn't. Cassidy's driving all but eliminated the possibility of sleep.

We got off at Union Station and followed kids.

During the pre-march speeches, a wild-eyed guy VN

vet came up to us and said that he was worried that the news coverage would only address "the crazies."

Signs said "will give blowjob for impeachment" and "bombing for peace is like fucking for virginity," carried by women older and younger respectively.

There were a lot more young girls than young guys.

An inflatable world bounced off people's heads like a beach ball.

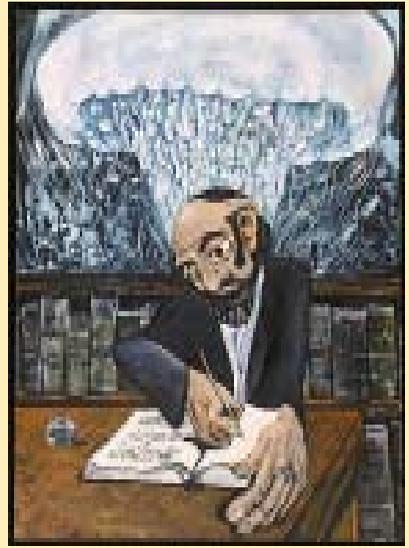
The only people

of color

belonged to SEIU. One held a sign saying

"no Iraqi left me on the roof of my house."

The Palestinian group seemed to have rhythm and the Carmelites seemed to have less. I also liked the girls with hula hoops, those who wrote on the sidewalk, and the CodePink girls.



Imprimis: I am a man who, from his youth upwards, has been filled with a profound conviction that the easiest way of life is the best. — [Bartleby, the Scrivener](#) Herman Melville

Jane Fonda I could have done without. I had no idea there were so many young communists and socialists.

If you needed a bathroom, you could use the West Building, which seemed luxurious, as we were camped on the cross street that intersected the skylight over the

waterfall between the buildings.

A news crew from Canadian Public Broadcasting did a stand up right next to the car on which we were leaning .

By this time it was in the 50's. Cassidy offered to hold the coat of the reporter, who instead dropped it on the ground.

When people cut into his space, he gave classic Gallic hand gestures, cursing in French.

We were separated between the Supreme Court and the Capitol.

The march route was

to turn around between the court and the capitol. I was concerned that the march route alongside the Capitol was blocked by a bus and the closed-in space would fill with more and more people.

They said later that Sean Penn had negotiated the bus' removal and the march went around the Capitol.

I went to the National Gallery, looking for art and food, found the Portrait Gallery and its accompanying Museum of

American something

Art, snacked at the International Spy Museum Cafe (where they wouldn't tell me what I was eating).

I got the train back to the Rockville Ramada and wound up on the same train with the people I drove there with. Lots of people on the trains carried signs. At the bar that night across the street the bartender left so long that I went behind the bar and got myself a beer and left money on the cash register. At least I think I left money.

We returned the next day.

This echoed the demonstration along Main Street when this President came to the Capitol Music Hall and four of us from my office were there. I

help up a sign that I never read. For all I know it said "invade Iran."

Not many of us: a kid from the public library, a girl from Jesuit (who Sister Constance said was a "darling girl,") a doctor's wife, a few kids I didn't know, stars from the Towngate Theatre, a runner of foreign extraction who looked familiar.

I kept thinking of the line from the Rolling Stones song, "I went down to the demonstration/to get my fair share of abuse."

Somebody told Cassidy to go back to Russia.

Yours Truly,

Bartleby,
The Scrivener

the
Blackstone
club



The Blackstone Club is not an official bar function, and has no ties to any city, state, federal, professional or political entity or organization; it is solely a project of the Wheeling Academy of Law and Science, Inc, a private corporation.