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## Bi-Co Students Travel to Washington to join National Protest

**By Jesse Mesner-Hage**

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Three busloads of students from the bi-co community converged on the nation's capital on Saturday afternoon along with thousands of others from around the nation and around the globe to voice a collective call for peace and international understanding.

The march was advertised within the bi-co community as an organized movement designed to call into question, and open the table for discussion on a variety of domestic and international issues including, but not limited to: exorbitant military spending, racial profiling, United States foreign policy, and the mistreatment of immigrants.




One particularly poignant sign that could be found on Haverford's campus meant to inspire interest in the march on Washington posed the question: "For how long can we take U.S. democracy for granted?"

Sam Arens and Liliana Leitner-Laserna, both freshmen at Haverford, were among the many students at this institution who chose to respond to that question in the same way that the sign encouraged: "NO LONGER."

"Most change these days has to come through bureaucracy," said Arens, "but this is one instance in which public opinion really needs to be changed. I went [to Washington] because I wanted to protest for peace." Arens referenced one instance during the day-long protest in which she and another friend tried to carry their signs to the White House, but were turned away by security.

To Arens this experience represented just how difficult it is, in both a literal and figurative sense, to get close enough to the powers that be in this country to make a positive change. Leitner-Laserna cited her presence among the large number of Palestinian refugees that turned out for the event as a powerful and thought-provoking part of her day. She said: "It was moving for me to be marching with the people we were marching for. It seems that so much of the time you don't fully recognize the humanity of the people you're protesting for, but in this case, I was right there with them."

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