

Waves of Hope, Sea of Humanity

Day Is Not Without Glitches, But Crowd Focuses on Future

By Michele L. Norris and Sue Anne Pressley
Washington Post Staff Writers

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See DAY, A29, Col. 1



BY ANNALISA KRAFT—THE WASHINGTON POST
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who stood at Pennsylvania Avenue and Fourth Street NW beaming as if she had just won the lottery. "You know that feeling that you get when you're a little kid on Christmas and you wake up and see all those presents under your Christmas tree? Well, that's the feeling I get watching this guy."

For many, the day had an almost magical feel, with only a few major snags: long lines and crowded Metro trains throughout the city, ticket problems at the swearing-in ceremony and along the parade route and, like the prolonged inaugural celebration itself, a parade that stretched past sunset—making it difficult to see some of the participants.

Small clusters of protesters gathered at inaugural-related events during the day, but there were no serious incidents, according to police. Of the 20 arrests yesterday, 19 were for illegal vending. One person was arrested early yesterday morning on the Capitol grounds and charged with the illegal possession of a weapon.

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Police did have a few minor skirmishes with the throngs earlier in the day as people were making their way from the swearing-in at the Capitol to the parade along Pennsylvania Avenue.

About 700 people broke through a police blockade at Third Street and Constitution Avenue NW just before 1 p.m., temporarily blocking the intersection after they were unable to penetrate the crush of other parade-goers on the opposite side of the street. Also, though police tried to close off Pennsylvania Avenue at 1 p.m., crowd pressure forced them to allow people to cross the avenue as late as 1:30 p.m.

"This is a hell of a lot more people than anybody expected," said one harried officer trying to control the crowd.

For all of Clinton's pre-election wishful musings about walking up Pennsylvania Avenue arm-in-arm with the common folk, the president didn't emerge from his motorcade until the last leg of the parade route at 15th and F streets NW.

Surrounded on all sides by a tight security detail, Clinton waved to the crowd but kept a deliberate pace as he, his wife, Hillary, and Vice President Gore and his family walked up 15th Street NW past the Hotel Washington and the Treasury Building, then turned left on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Though he did not dive into the masses to shake hands, each "thumbs up" Clinton gave them drew a chorus of squeals. When he flashed a smile, they whooped. When he reached out to hold Hillary's hand, they cheered.

After standing in the January chill for hours—packing themselves onto windowsills; balancing on milk crates; hopping atop telephone booths; wrapping up in parkas, blankets and sleeping bags—many said the appearance of Clinton sauntering down the street made the wait worthwhile.

"It was like he was one of the regular people," said Bonita Cacho, 38, a member of the Anacostia-based Andrew Cacho African Drummers and Dancers group, which performed before the parade.

But at 10th and Pennsylvania, where Clinton passed in a limousine with dark tinted windows, many were disappointed that the new president waited until he had driven past them to get out of the car.

"What a dweeb," said Ramona Joyce, 24, of Fort Belvoir. "He did not even have his windows down."

"That was a blunder," said Celia Durand, 46, who drove in from Burtonsville with her 5-year-old granddaughter thinking they would have a chance to see Clinton during the parade. "Why not figure out a way to make him more visible?"

Alphonso Wood, an employee with the D.C. Department of Public Works, made a

special effort to be in place on the parade route just after 6 a.m. so he could get a good look at Clinton. But for all his preparations, he still missed the motorcade.

"He came by when I was in the john," Wood said. "I'll have to watch it on TV now."

Such setbacks aside, there were a lot of things that went right yesterday. Clinton, for instance, insisted that the inaugural committee install speakers along the parade route so that those who couldn't attend the swearing-in ceremony could hear him take the oath of office and deliver his speech.

The speakers worked so well that 14 blocks from the Capitol, hundreds of people fell silent at noon as a new president

took the reins of power.

And as Clinton talked about the U.S. economy in his speech, describing it as "still the world's strongest," a vendor barked out, "Souvenirs, souvenirs" and began dispensing T-shirts, hats, buttons and thermal gloves at \$10 to \$20 each.

For many, Inauguration Day was a time when those who had long felt disconnected from the federal government said they believed they could come home.

"Can you believe it?" said David Kessler, 33. "This is the first inauguration I can imagine where I could be an openly gay person." Kessler sat with a group of 15 other gay men and lesbians in \$100 parade seats directly across from the presidential reviewing stand.

"For the first time in my adult life, we have a government that cares about gay people," Kessler said. "To open up the mail and see an invitation to the inauguration, to see how well-treated we have been—it's amazing."

"I never really paid much attention to politics, but the last couple of years with Bush I started to get scared," said Eric Poland, a Baltimore tattoo artist. "I have two uncles who were recently laid off from factory work. Friends of mine can't find jobs, except for the ones where you say, 'You want fries with that?' . . . I really hope Clinton makes it happen; even if it gets only a little bit better, we'll be better off."

Many said they had a special affinity for Clinton and the change he represents as the first president born after World War II. "This is the first time there's been someone in the White House who totally

embodies everything I believe, who listens to the music I listen to," said Lee-Lee Wiltshire, of Charlottesville.

Eileen Fitzpatrick, 46, called Clinton's presidency "the most exciting thing that's happened in the last 25 years. . . . It's monumental what Clinton represents."

Just as John F. Kennedy used his inaugural addresses to call young Americans to public service, Clinton called on all citizens to help those who are less fortunate. The message was particularly inspiring for Janet Newbold, 49, who said she was rethinking her priorities.

"His election has really made me think about what I should be doing," she said. "Maybe I'll work for a soup kitchen or something."

Yesterday's inaugural parade is sure to go down in the record books as one of the most unusual in history, with a lineup that included reggae music, two Elvis Presley impersonators and a precision lawn chair drill team in shorts, tropical shirts and sunglasses.

What started out as disappointment turned into great good fortune for seven

choirs that were scheduled to perform on a choir float that broke down before the parade started.

The choral groups have been invited to perform instead for the White House reception that Clinton is holding today.

Although many Democrats said yesterday they had been waiting 12 years for this inauguration, no one seemed to be more relieved that the day had come than A.B. Green, a 68-year-old machinist from Houston. Twelve years ago, Green won a free trip to the next Democratic inauguration in a raffle at an AFL-CIO state convention, and since then Republicans have ruled the White House.

So when Clinton won, he had to get labor officials to dig through their records so he could claim his prize. Standing at the Capitol for Clinton's swearing-in, Green said, "I thought the next one would never come."



BY ANNALISA KRAFT—THE WASHINGTON POST

Performance: *Gay and Lesbian Bands of America play.*



BY ANNALISA KRAFT—THE WASHINGTON POST

Seeing stars: *Denise Smith sports a flag.*



BY JUANA ARIAS—THE WASHINGTON POST

Seats of power: *The Precision Lawn Chair Demonstration Team performs.*

Contributing to the inaugural coverage were staff writers Dan Beyers, Ruben Castaneda, Paul Duggan, Leila Fiester, Marcia Slacum Greene, Stephanie Griffith, Charles W. Hall, Hamil R. Harris, Keith Harriston, Peter Hong, Sari Horwitz, Kent Jenkins Jr., Jon Jeter, Avis Thomas-Lester, Nancy Lewis, Eugene L. Meyer, Brian Mooar, Maria Odum, Robert O'Harrow, Robert Pierre, Carlos Sanchez, Rene Sanchez, Graciela Sevilla, Howard Schneider, Tracy Thompson, Martin Weil, Debbi Wilgoren, and Michael York; news aides Julia Angwin, Kris Ecker, Marianne Kyriakos, Terence McArdle, Gagan Nirula, Lonnae O'Neal, and Snigdha Prakash; special correspondent Rick Allen; Metro news resource director Bridget Roeber and administrative supervisor Nancy Brucker.



BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

From the mountains to the Hill: *Bill Williams Mountain Men, of Arizona, ride in their fifth inauguration.*

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