

Politics & Economics

100,000 people march for peace in D.C.



Photo by L. Reidar Jensen

Thousands of people listened as Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a soldier killed in Iraq, spoke on the White House lawn Saturday. Rally organizers estimated the crowd's size at over 300,000. Local authorities refused to give any official estimates.

Massive rally reflects public opinion; 400 show up for pro-war rally Sunday

by L. Reidar Jensen

"I wish you could see what I see," shouted gold-star-mother-turned-anti-war-activist Cindy Sheehan to a sprawling audience. "You go out as far as I can see! You're a part of history! You're so beautiful!!"

Sheehan certainly had something to be excited about – protest organizers estimated the size of the crowd at 300,000.

Throughout the morning, protesters poured in from across the country. Busloads of people from Michigan, Maine, Wisconsin, Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania and many other states made their way to the White House lawn.

The throngs included a busload of about 50 from Centre County.

The crowd heard from the Rev. Jesse

Jackson, Sheehan, former presidential candidate Ralph Nader and many others.

Liberal groups have been criticized in the past, both from outside and from within, for an inability to stay on message. This time, though, the crowd's message was clear: "Bring the troops home now," they chanted at the White House.

There were a few counter-demonstrators set up at points along the march route, drawing negative reactions from marchers.

"Jesus will treat you like George Bush treats the terrorists," exclaimed a man with a loudspeaker.

A pro-war rally held Sept. 25 drew about 400, far less than the anticipated 20,000 organizers had announced to the media.



Photo by L. Reidar Jensen

Ed and Linda McDade, from the outskirts of Port Matilda, Pa., made the trip to Washington, D.C., along with a busload of about 50 other Central Pennsylvanians.



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Bob Long, from Williamsport, Pa., holds up a sign as he rounds the corner onto Pennsylvania Avenue.



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Thousands of protestors gathered on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House.