

by Terje Anderson

Why I Plan to March on Washington

When the October March on Washington takes place, I plan to be there. In fact, nothing could keep me away. There are a lot of reasons I want to go to Washington.

I want to march because I know how much we need to stand up and be counted, that we must remind the media, the politicians and the country that we are here.

I'm going to march because I'm angry about AIDS. I'm angry that our government continues to respond with too little, too late, that there is still not enough money for education, for research, for treatment and care. I'm angry that Ronald Reagan has appointed a sham commission of homophobes and right wingers to "study" the problem. I'm angry that homophobia has kept our society from responding effectively to the AIDS crisis. I'm angry because too many friends have died already.

I'm going to march because I'm frustrated that lesbians and gay men continue to experience widespread discrimination, and the government to which we pay taxes refuses to protect our rights. I'm going to march because the right to a job, to housing, to accommodations without discrimination are rights which we are denied with frightful regularity.

M.O.W. Calendar

1. NATIONAL LOBBY DAY: Friday, October 9. Delegations from around the country will meet with their Senators and members of Congress to acquaint them with our issues and to urge them to support appropriate legislation.
2. THE WEDDING: Saturday, October 10. A non-sectarian union ceremony celebrating the relationships of hundreds and perhaps thousands of same-sex couples will emphasize the demand that lesbian/gay domestic partners be entitled to the same rights and privileges as married heterosexual couples. A reception will follow the ceremony.
3. LESBIANS & GAY BANDS OF AMERICA CONCERT: Saturday, Oct. 10. 8 to 11 pm, DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St. NW. Thirteen bands and two choruses featuring 250 musicians will perform.
4. MARCH AGAINST DEATH AND VIOLENCE: Friday, Oct. 9 through Sunday, Oct. 11. For a period of 40 hours, culminating with the March, people carrying the names of those who died of AIDS or homophobic violence will move in a solemn single-file procession past the White House, the Capitol and other national symbols. By bearing witness to the violence and suffering our community has endured, we hope to awaken the conscience of the nation.
5. LESBIAN AND GAY MARCH ON WASHINGTON: Sunday, October, 11. Come join hundreds-of-thousands of people from all over the country!!

I'm going to march because I am outraged that the United States Supreme Court has said that we are not entitled to the same constitutional right to privacy as other citizens.

I'm going to march because I'm fed up with immigration rules which say that lesbians and gay men cannot enter this country. I am ashamed that Canadian friends of mine must be secretive and fearful every time they come to visit.

I'm going to march because, as a gay father, I love my son. I know how often lesbians and gay men come out on the losing side of custody cases, how difficult it is to adopt or become foster parents, how many children and parents suffer because of the ugly belief that we are unfit parents.

I'm going to march because I love gay men. I want to hold hands and kiss and hug them without fear or worry in our nation's capitol, and in our own town.

I'm going to march because I am afraid of the growing tide of anti-gay violence, and the realization that we all experience danger because of it, and the legal system takes it less seriously than other violent crimes.

I'm going to march because I want our relationships and our families to be afforded the same dignity that government and

society give heterosexual relationships. I want lesbian and gay couples to have the same access to insurance coverage, couples discounts, and other benefits that married people have.

I'm going to Washington because I know that I will see hundreds of old friends from across the country there, and I want to share it with them.

I'm marching in October because I'm tired of politicians ignoring our issues because they are afraid of the political impact; I want them to be afraid of the political impact of not addressing our community's needs.

I want to march because I want to show the world how diverse, how talented, how multifaceted we are. I want them to see gays and lesbians from Vermont in the march, not just folks from the major metropolitan areas.

I'm marching because I need to shout, to chant, to jump up and down and feel the release of pent-up frustration, anger and outrage which boils inside everyday.

I'm going to Washington because I look forward to face to face meetings between Vermont lesbians and gays and Senators Leahy and Stafford and Representative Jeffords. I want them to see us up close, not just through telephone calls and letters.

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"March on Washington" Theme

Walk On Washington

*From Ten Percent Revue
Directed by Joey Brandon
Produced by Laura Green*

Adopted by the National Walk on Washington Committee for the lesbian and gay demonstration this coming October in Washington, D.C.

We're gonna take a walk to Washington Storm D.C.

We're gonna climb the hill to Congress You and me

We're gonna read the Constitution to the President

We're gonna walk to Washington

We're gonna take a walk to Washington Cruise the Mall

Surround the mighty obelisk

Make it fall

We're gonna paint the White House

Lavender

Make the Oval office quake

We're gonna walk to Washington

6. VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE: Sun., Oct. 11. Prior to the March, lesbian and gay veterans will conduct a memorial service at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor the many thousands of lesbians and gay men who have given their lives while members of the U.S. military. Immediately following the memorial service, the veterans will proceed across the Potomac to join the March.

*There are dreams we've been chasin'
Laws to disentangle
We'll make waves in the Tidal Basin
The Pentagon will be a Pink Triangle*

*We're gonna take a walk to Washington
Claim the town
Turn some regulations
Upside down
We're gonna march to the Court House
Tell those judges what to do
We're gonna walk to Washington*

*We will stride up to Lincoln
And ask him what he's got to say
He'll say, "I've been sitting here
thinkin'
And waiting four score years for this
day"*

*We're gonna take a walk to Washington
It's our right
The time has passed for us to
Be polite
The Eleventh of October will go down
in history
We're gonna walk to Washington*

*October eleven, nineteen eighty-seven
Gonna walk to Washington
Will you join us?
Gonna walk to Washington*

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