



THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
(307) 766-4121

October 19, 1998

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Dear Mr. Morris:

Thank you for your recent letter which I received on October 16th. I agree with you that gay and lesbian human beings need to be treated with the same dignity and respect afforded everyone else. This entire community is reeling from the tragedy of the vicious assault on Matt Shepard. Although the press mistakenly reported that the two men arrested were also UW students, they are not.

I will continue to speak out against this hate crime while working to support the gay and lesbian community on campus. You might be interested to know what the University has done to take a stand against discrimination based on sexual orientation and to support sensitivity training. Here are some actions that the University has taken to fight prejudice:

- In 1990, the University released its official "Anti-Discrimination Policy," which denounces—within First Amendment rights—expressions in word or action that reflect prejudice or hate based on gender, color, disability, sexual orientation, religious preference, national origin, ancestry, or age.
- The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Association (LGBTGA) has been a formally recognized and supported student organization for the past six years. There has been a gay/lesbian organization formally recognized (under other names) since the mid-70s.
- For the past three years, the Safe Zone training project has been in place. During that time, more than 155 students, staff, faculty, and administrators have been trained in awareness and providing a safe environment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered members of the community.

Mr. Oscar E. Morris

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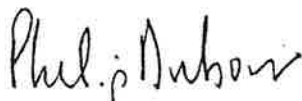
- Since its inception in 1991, the curriculum of UW's required "Introduction to Freshman Life" course has included mandatory diversity training.
- Under the auspices of the UW Minority Affairs Office, a series of programs called "Celebrate Diversity" has been offered each year since 1990.

Since Matt's death, we have conducted a string of vigils and teach-ins. The largest segment of the Homecoming parade Saturday, October 10th, was a group of students, faculty, and staff—who were joined by townspeople along the route—protesting bigotry based on sexual orientation and violence. Tonight we will have a memorial service for Matt in the A&S Auditorium. The students have organized an open forum on Tuesday; the Ethics Center has organized a panel of faculty to speak about these important issues on Wednesday.

We are hoping we can emerge from all this turmoil with a renewed conviction to help create a safer and more caring world.

Thanks for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Philip L. Dubois

President

PLD:me