

Jay N. Fromkin

From: Jay N. Fromkin
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 7:58 PM
To: 'rshaffer1@uswest.net'
Subject: RE: Brutal Beating of young gay man

Dear Robert:

You're right, this is a horrible tragedy. The University of Wyoming is doing everything we can to support the Shepard family and other gay and lesbian students at the University and in the Laramie community. The University of Wyoming has a long record of support for diversity, teaching the importance of tolerance in all of our freshman classes; we also support an active gay and lesbian student organization; and we include sexual orientation in our anti-discrimination policy. As sad as this episode is, perhaps the saddest aspect is that next week the University of Wyoming is celebrating Gay Awareness Week.

Please know, Robert, that the two men accused of perpetrating this crime are not University of Wyoming students and have no connection to the University. I hope you will not judge our University, city or state by this isolated act.

Sincerely,
Jay N. Fromkin
Director, University Relations
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-766-2929
Fax: 307-766-6729
Fromkin@uwyo.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Shaffer [SMTP:rshaffer1@uswest.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 10:48 AM
To: fromkin@uwyo.edu
Subject: Brutal Beating of young gay man

What is the university doing about this?

This is a horrible tragedy. What are you doing to promote tolerance and acceptance?

Who can I write to about the brutal beating of the young gay man?

rshaffer1@uswest.net

Jay N. Fromkin

From: Jay N. Fromkin
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 7:54 PM
To: 'DiscoRulz1@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Matthew Shepard

Dear Robert:

I understand that, because of the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support for Matthew, the Shepard family has asked that we discourage individual expressions of support. If you would care to forward your correspondence to me, we will bundle all of the messages together and see that they reach the Shepard family promptly. My address is P.O. Box 3226, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 8071-3226.

We share your sense of grief and hope that this isolated incident, as horrible as it is, will not be the way in which people think of Laramie and the state of Wyoming.

Sincerely,
Jay N. Fromkin
Director, University Relations
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-766-2929

Jay N. Fromkin

From: Jay N. Fromkin
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 7:49 PM
To: 'DCasey0456@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Matthew Shepard

Dear Casey:

Thank you for your expression of support for Matthew Shepard. I understand that the family has asked that individual expressions of support not be sent as the response already has been overwhelming.

If you would consider sending it to me, we will see that all correspondence is bundled and sent to the Shepard family.

You can send messages to me at:

P.O. Box 3226
University of Wyoming
Laramie WY 82071-3226

Sincerely,
Jay N. Fromkin
Director, University Relations
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-766-2929
Fax: 307-766-6729
Fromkin@uwyo.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: DCasey0456@aol.com [SMTP:DCasey0456@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 1:30 PM
To: fromkin@uwyo.edu
Subject: Matthew Shepard

Please give information as to where cards and donations can be sent in support of Mr. Shepard.
Thank you
DCasey0456

Jay N. Fromkin

From: Jay N. Fromkin
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 7:47 PM
To: 'Robert Green'
Subject: RE: What Kind of U.S. University is Univ Wyoming?

Dear Robert:

Thank you for your expression of concern about the horrific beating of Matthew Shepard. We share your outrage. However, your comments about the University of Wyoming are misdirected. Please know, if you do not already, that the two men accused of the beating have no relationship to the University of Wyoming. They are not students at UW; in fact, the only UW-related person directly involved in the attack is the victim, Matthew Shepard, a UW student.

We do, indeed, teach our students the importance of tolerance and the acceptance of diverse populations. We recognize and support a gay student organization. We include sexual orientation in our anti-discrimination policy. However, these programs and policies can not have a direct impact on someone who is not a UW student and, as I noted the two accused perpetrators are not members of the UW family.

I have lived in Wyoming for nine years and can say with considerable confidence that this crime is neither supported nor accepted by the people of Wyoming. Please do not judge us by this isolated incident.

Sincerely,
Jay N. Fromkin
Director, University Relations
University of Wyoming

Jay N. Fromkin

From: Jay N. Fromkin
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 8:23 PM
To: 'San Diego'
Subject: RE: GAY BASHING.....

Dear Waine:

Please know that many, many people within Wyoming have for years advocated hate crimes legislation. From what I've read about the crime, I doubt that the perpetrators would have been deterred from their actions by such laws. However, this horrific crime might well result in hate crimes legislation. I think I can safely say that there will be considerable support from within the University of Wyoming.

Sincerely,
Jay N. Fromkin
Director, University Relations
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-766-2929
Fax: 307-766-6729
Fromkin@uwyo.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: San Diego [SMTP:waine@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 12:21 AM
To: fromkin@uwyo.edu
Subject: GAY BASHING.....

I hope those assholes fry that hurt Matthew, maybe the university should be more vocal and try to pass laws against discrimination against gay and lesbians instead of remaining silent for fear you will upset financial donors.....

Waine
San Diego

Jay N. Fromkin

From: Jay N. Fromkin
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 8:20 PM
To: 'Lynn Munro'
Subject: RE: The Hate Crime

Dear Lynn:

Thank you for your expressions of support for the University of Wyoming. We do, indeed, have anti-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation; we also have procedures for dealing with individuals who violate those policies - when they are members of the University of Wyoming community. As you probably know, the two men arrested and charged with this crime have no connection to the University. People within Wyoming have pushed several years for hate crimes legislation. Perhaps this incident will make it happen.

We're also praying for Matthew and doing all we can in support of the Shepard family and Matthew's fellow students.

Sincerely,
Jay N. Fromkin
Director, University Relations
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-766-2929
Fax: 307-766-6729
Fromkin@uwyo.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn Munro [SMTP:lynnmotc@sprintmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 4:58 AM

To: fromkin@uwyo.edu
Subject: The Hate Crime

To whom it may concern,

As a lesbian it is gratifying to know that the University is supporting the family of the beaten student. I can only hope that the University either has in place, or is very quickly putting in place, procedures and rules to prevent these kinds of crimes on campus. Considering the fact that universities usually have boards and alumni associations with powerful people involved, I hope that the powers that be at the university encourage these people to push for a hate crimes law. Hate crimes laws do not give people (and yes, we are people, not "just homosexuals") special rights - unless one believes that not being beaten and tortured is a "special right". I will be praying for Matthew.
Lynn E. Munro, OTC

Jay N. Fromkin

From: Jay N. Fromkin
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 8:16 PM
To: 'Lubi Uzunovski'
Subject: RE: Human Garbage

Dear Lubi:

Matthew indeed seems to have been singled out by his attackers because he was gay. That seems to be evident. We live in a world where people are endangered whether they are gay, black, Jewish, Albanian, north African - take your pick. The University of Wyoming is committed to equality and diversity, with sexual orientation included in our anti-discrimination policy. This particular incident involved a gay man; President Dubois' statement was an affirmation of the University's inclusionary policy of tolerance and acceptance of diverse populations, and we are committed to just that.

Jay N. Fromkin
Director, University Relations
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-766-2929
Fax: 307-766-6729
Fromkin@uwyo.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: Lubi Uzunovski [SMTP:uzunov@shaw.wave.ca]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 1998 6:44 AM
To: fromkin@uwyo.edu
Subject: Human Garbage

C'mon Dubois. You can do better with the comments concerning the kid who was almost murdered. Open up a little and focus on the issues at hand. What a sick place and a chicken shit president.