

Tuesday, October 6th

- Attended meeting of LGBTQA to finalize all plans for GAW Matt was in attendance and seemed excited about GAW.
- Went to coffee at local restaurant, as group always does. Matt was there and left with a member of the group around 9:30pm

Thursday, October 8th

- Morning: Received email from friend telling me about Matt's condition and the attack
- Received another email telling me to keep details in confidence because of investigation
- Email said nobody had seen Matt since Tuesday afternoon. I knew this was wrong.
- Called friend to find out who to contact in LPD/ACSD
- Friend called detective in charge of case to discuss information with him
- Rec'd call from friend asking me to contact detective and tell him what I knew
- Called Com. O'Malley of LPD and discussed info with him (ie Matt's whereabouts Tuesday night, who he left with, etc). Was given Matt's accurate and full medical condition and the neurosurgeon's prognosis: Matt would never wake up and most likely would not survive the week. Gave detective the names and numbers of people who might be able to provide Matt's whereabouts after the information that I had.
- Night: Rec'd call from friend at BI asking for quote/interview about the "hate crime." Worked Thursday night to keep reference to "hate crime" or Matt's sexuality out of the press until we knew for sure he was out to his parents/family. Could not suppress the story, so BI ran it as a "hate crime" but did not mention LGBTQA or "gay" at my request. While at friends' house, rec'd call from former member of LGBTQA now living in Ft. Collins. He asked "Which Matt" had been "gay bashed." He had seen story on 9 News from Denver listed as an "apparent gay bashing." Matt's sexuality was now out in the open, so no more harm could come from talking to press/giving interviews.
- Also had to call keynote speaker for GAW. Made her aware of situation and made alterations in the plans so that her safety was ensured. Contacted other officers in the group and made sure we all agreed: we would go on with GAW as planned.

Friday, October 9th

- Rec'd call at work at about 9am telling me that there was press in the Union wanting to speak to a rep from the LGBTQA. As chair, I felt it my duty to handle the media so members of group did not have to out themselves on local TV. Had to leave work (on Customer Appreciation Day) to go to Union. Spoke with print reporters briefly and then went home to change into more presentable clothes, as we knew TV cameras were en route. Calls had already been rec'd from Dateline NBC and other major national news organizations requesting information and names of people who might be interviewed.
- Spent Friday in front of TV cameras and reporters for radio and print. Was contacted by GLAAD and NGLTF and offered assistance in dealing with the media. Had to contact my mother and tell her I was not only a member of the group, but I was the Chair. Also had to warn her that I would be on the news that night and that she and everyone in my hometown would be aware of the fact. My sexuality was no longer going to be something we didn't talk about or that nobody else knew about.

- Spoke with President Dubious and ASUW President Jesus Rios about football game and parade on Saturday, as well as making sure plans could continue for GAW.
- Had to set up office space in CAC. Coordinated with work to get access to my email account and calendar from remote location. Set up shop in CAC and used their phone lines, fax, copier, etc. Began receiving email by the truckloads. By the time all was said and done, I had rec'd approximately 800 email messages. The messages continue to come in to this day.
- Spoke at press conference on the steps of the Courthouse with Phil and Jesus.

Saturday, October 10th

- Went to Union early in the morning to deal with more press. Slept in as much as possible and was therefore unable to attend homecoming activities, including the parade and moment of silence.
- Met with CAC staff to discuss what LGBTQA needed in order to continue with GAW events. All requests were taken care of quickly and efficiently.
- Finalized plans with keynote speaker for her arrival and itinerary. Began plans to move event to location with more seating and better AV capabilities.
- Spoke with reps from HRC.

Sunday, October 11th **(National Coming Out Day and Beginning of GAW)**

- Met with CIT in morning. Discussed what was needed by the LGBTQA. Attempted to give CIT all the information that I knew of that would be of use to them. Briefed them on GAW events and discussed what would be necessary/appropriate over the coming week and in the event Matt died. Informed CIT that media control aids for the LGBTQA would arrive that evening from GLAAD and NGLTF.
- Dealt with press from base in CAC.
- Spoke at candlelight vigil at St. Paul's Newman Center with Phil and Jesus. Also open mike format discussion and commentary. Was amazed at the number of my friends who knew Matt and I didn't know it. Stood next to Phil's family...including his son, whom I had taught for a week at the Jr Hi and knew well from lunch duty.
- Returned to CAC after vigil to help make armbands. Ended up dealing with press instead.
- Was receiving about 60 phone calls per day at my home number. About 2-3 times that per day in CAC.
- Night: Rec'd medical update that Matt had taken a turn for the worse after his parents' arrival.
- Met reps from GLAAD and NGLTF and discussed press releases and conferences for the upcoming week. Also made plans for how they could best assist LGBTQA and myself in dealing with/screening the press.

Monday, October 12th

- Woke up to phone call at 5am informing me that Matt had died early that morning.
- Went to CAC at about 7am with Bill. Press, press, and more press.
- Set up SBNN table in Union and made sure everything was in place for keynote.
- Spoke at "Remember Matthew" gathering in Prexy's in afternoon.

- Keynote speaker immediately following my speech in Prexy's. Made sure all things handled/arranged. Phil came in before presentation to apologize that he would not be able to attend. He needed some time to himself and with his family if he was going to be of any use to the people of the university and the community in the upcoming days.
- Met with RSO's in evening to discuss what events should take place and to coordinate events from RSO's so that nothing was ignored or done twice and that nobody was left out.
- For the first time, I watched a news report (NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw) for myself...and was surprised (I don't know why) to see myself on TV.

Tuesday, October 13th

- GAW events continue.
- Press continues.
- Began plans to attend national vigil in DC on steps of capitol bldg. GLAAD picked up the tab.
- Spoke at Teach-In in Prexy's pasture. Spoke as a teacher, not as Chair of LGBTQA. Was greatly impressed by the presence of several classes from Prep School.
- Weekly LGBTQA meeting had been cancelled prior to Matt's attack due to GAW events.
- Had to do a suicide intervention for a call that came in to CAC. Gay individual had been assaulted in the past and feared what he might do to himself with the renewed pain and fear he was feeling. Contacted UPD and Emergency Counselor on call from UCC.

Wednesday, October 14th

- Left for DC early in the morning with Cathy Renna from GLAAD. Arrived in DC and prepped for vigil. Wrote speech on plane. Seemed to be a recurring theme for me throughout media barrage: talk to the press all day long and then about an hour or so before I was supposed to deliver a speech at an event, sit down to write it out. I knew that with my emotions running as high as they were, I couldn't give a speech without having it completely written out in front of me. If I tried to ad lib, I knew I would break down and I knew that I needed to act as the voice for my friends and the LGBTQA.
- Spoke in DC along with countless politicians, Executive Directors of just about every Natl. Gay organization on the planet, Ellen DeGeneres, Anne Heche, Betty DeGeneres (whom I had met the previous year at an HRC banquet), Kristen Johnston (Sally from Third Rock from the Sun), and Dan Butler (Bulldog from Frasier). Crowd estimated at 7000-9000 people. Very cold. Very few people left early. Because of a federal ordinance, we could not burn candles in the area (fire hazard), so thousands of glow sticks were distributed to the crowd. Hundreds of candles were burned, despite the rules. A friend of mine from a small college in Maryland I hadn't seen in 2 years found me after I spoke. He drove 3 hours to be at the vigil, and did not know that I would be there, much less speaking. Small world, isn't it?
- Stayed with Cathy and her partner in their apt. It was less likely that the press would find me there and it was a quiet, private atmosphere.

Thursday, October 15th

- Postponed flight and stayed in DC because I was exhausted and had developed a cold. Needed some time away from the insanity and I had that in DC. The press couldn't find me, which was very nice. I spent time at the GLAAD office in DC reading and looking over some of the articles that had been written about Matt.

Friday, October 16th

- I missed Matt's funeral because I couldn't make it back to Casper in time, despite the offer of a seat on Phil's plane. Blizzards had my flights delayed all evening. When I finally returned home to Laramie, my luggage wasn't with me. My suitcase not only had my toothbrush and a change of clothes, it also had the keys to my apartment. So I spent the night at a friend's house and got a spare key from one of my friends the next day. One more joy to add to my week. My cold was in full swing.

Saturday, October 17th

- Press, of course. Tried to relax a bit and avoid press as much as possible. Also worked on plans for LGBTQA's annual Masquerade Ball. This event is held each year after GAW as a celebration of another successful week of events. It's a chance for us to blow off steam and have some fun as a group. Invitation is by word of mouth only and the event is funded by LGBTQA private funds, not ASUW monies.

Sunday, October 18th

- Press. More plans for the dance. More work to overcome my cold. I was on the mend at least!

Monday, October 19th

- Returned to work. During the crisis, I wasn't able to work. As an hourly employee, this created a problem: how would I pay my rent. Dr. Hurst and Student Affairs made certain that I was taken of.
- That evening, spoke at Memorial Service in A&S Auditorium.

Overall comments/facts:

- It was very necessary for people to take care of one another on a needs level. We needed to set up counseling through the UCC and local authorities. People weren't sleeping and were working 18 hours a day or more. People needed food to ensure that they were eating. Working in a crisis setting like this is very draining on those involved. It takes a huge physical toll as well as having to deal with one's own emotions. Caring for one another was essential.
- By the time all was said and done, I had been on: All local channels, Denver channels, Good Morning America, Today Show, Dateline NBC, NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, PrimeTime Live, MTV News, CBS News Tonight, ABC Nightly News, Hard Copy, CNN, Nightline, 20/20, a Canadian television news program. I had been on radio call in shows in Chicago, Florida, Denver, and Colorado Springs. I've been quoted or interviewed in The Advocate, Out, Newsweek, Time, U Magazine, LA Times, NY Times, NY Post, Washington Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News, Casper Star Tribune,

Tribune Eagle, Branding Iron, Chicago Times, Miami Herald, Washington Blade, the AP wire. And who knows what else!

- Have also been contacted by Vanity Fair, A&E, HBO, Hard Copy (again), and numerous other news organizations.