

Dear Community Members:

I sent out a brief message yesterday to try to make sure people were aware of the recent hate crimes targeting members of the GLBTA community. These acts of violence may occur to individuals but I know that the damage and the threat also impacts the safety and wellbeing of our entire community. Many have asked for more details saying it isn't enough to just know something happened, that it is important to know what happened.

On September 29, at University of Idaho there was anti-gay vandalism on student's door

On October 12, at Washington State University there was anti-gay vandalism on a student's door in a residence hall

On October 15th, a student was physically assaulted by another individual while walking near the Scott-Coman Soccer Fields

On October 18, a student was physically assaulted by a group of individuals wearing Halloween masks while walking on College Hill in Pullman

On October 20, a student was physically assaulted by another individual while walking in the CUE parking structure on WSU

Of those five incidents, four are considered hate crimes because of what was written in the vandalism or because of what was said to the individual as they were assaulted. One of the incidents is too coincidental to be dismissed as not part of the bigger picture but it is entirely certain that the person's identity was the motive behind the assault.

Yesterday the Campus Climate Response Committee met to discuss the seriousness of this series of incidents and to ensure that we name it for what it is. These were hate crimes that target individuals and the community for who we are and for who we love. These were acts of violence against members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community.

Last night many members of the community, faculty, staff, and administrators attended the GLBTA meeting to talk about what has happened and what actions will be taken. There was a lot of anger, hurt, and fear in the voices that were heard as well as in those who did not feel their voices were heard. Those are valid feelings. That was one conversation, I hope it was a beginning and not taken to be a stopping point.

You will see more information coming out in various forms to ensure that we get the word out to as many people as possible. It is important that we as a community work to support each other and make our voices heard. Do not suffer in silence, do

not suffer in shame. If you or someone you care about is victimized because of their real, or perceived, association with the GLBT community please report it.

To report an emergency, please dial 9-1-1, or call the WSU Police directly at (509) 335-8548

Bias Hotline: (509) 332-2427 (BIAS)

Crisis Line: (509) 334-1133; Toll Free (866) 871-6385; TDD (800) 833-6388

Cougar Security: (509) 335-8548

Counseling Services: (509) 335-4511

Office of the Dean of Students: (509) 335-5757

Women's Transit: (509) 335-6830

You can also report misconduct online with the Student Conduct Office at:
<http://www.conduct.wsu.edu>

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509-335-8841

NASPA GLBT Knowledge Community Co-Chair
NWLGBT Leadership Board of Directors, Co-Chair and Co-Founder

Gender Identity/Expression &
Sexual Orientation Resource Center
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