Nursing students offer free oral HIV testing

Web site revamps to pacify critics

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Shepard fills Baldwin

Mother of hate crime victim Matthew Shepard shares message of love and acceptance with University, community

Perry Koontz

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Students, residents, mundially hit the 1,156 seats in Hedrick Auditorium Tuesday to listen to a woman speak about hate crimes and love, two concepts she deeply believes in.

Julie Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, spoke to students about her son’s death and her mission in a presentation titled “The Legacy of Matthew Shepard.” Matthew, a University of Wyoming (Laramie) student, was beaten, tortured and left for dead in 1998 because he was gay.

“Terrorism, crimes committed with a sword, knife, or gun of some sort,” said Koontz.

She began the presentation by reading the victim impact statement she read at the sentencing of one of her son’s killers, causing many students to cry.

Shepard said she is not afraid to talk about her son’s death because she doesn’t want to hide from her experiences.

Koontz noted that the few users who have used the site to write insults, accusations, remarks that can be considered libelous.

Shepard also urged the audience to vote and actively participate in the political process.

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