

By Megan Hocky  
Anderson Staff Writer

On a cold October night in Laramie, Wyoming, a young man lay nearly dead, tied to a split-rail fence. Faint remains of dried tears streaked down his blood-caked face and body.

That night, on Oct. 7, 1998, the 21-year-old University of Wyoming student was robbed, pistol-whipped and tied to a fence in a remote rural area, left to die. He was found 26 hours later by a passing cyclist, unconscious and suffering from hypothermia. His body was then taken by the EMS crew to the nearest trauma center.

This was the story of Matthew Shepard, a homosexual who longed for acceptance.

Shepard's brain suffered severe damage, as did

# Percival Everett

the rest of his body. After being admitted to Boulder

hospital, he tested positive for HIV. He was

in the hospital for several weeks, fighting for his life.

He died on Oct. 10, 1998. His death was a

tragic event that shocked the nation.

His death was a result of the hate crime

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The Matthew Shepard Hate

Prevention Act was created

in 2007 to expand the definition

of crimes to include violent acts

based on a victim's gender, gender

identity, sexual preference, or disability.

The bill also includes provisions

for victims of national origin. The bill

provides funding to help law

enforcement agencies investigate and

prevent hate crimes.

The bill is a simple

and direct piece of legislation that

brings justice to victims of hate

crimes who they were murdered.

Shepard's father said, "Shepard's father

said, "I don't know how to describe

the pain of losing my son. He was a

great person and a great son. He was

loved by everyone who knew him.

# Ferito

Eleven said

that he was a great person and a

great son. He was loved by everyone

who knew him. He was a great

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finché non mi fermo.