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ANDY PARIS. Jonas wrote a letter to the editor.

JONAS SLONAKER. "Many citizens of Laramie want to move on but denial isn't the best way to accomplish that. There is no disgrace for Laramie in acknowledging that part or all of the motivation in the murder of Matthew Shepard was homophobia. NO, the crime certainly does not define Laramie. How we react to the crime, how we talk about it, and if we do or don't do anything to prevent this from happening again does define Laramie."

### MOMENT: VISIBLE MARKERS

NARRATOR. Company member Stephen Belber.

STEPHEN BELBER. I spend the afternoon with Matt Mickelson, former owner of the Fireside Bar. The fence has been taken down. The Fireside has been renamed. It seems like all the visible markers of Matthew Shepard's murder are gone.

MATT MICKELSON. Yeah, I had to sell the Fireside. On one side people were like, "local gay bar!" And then on the other side they're like, "crazy redneck gay-slayers!" For seven years — I tried to ride that shit out. I'd renovate and paint and do all this shit. Then, MTV'd make a movie. Then HBO'd make a movie. NBC'd make a movie. 20/20'd make a movie. They drug that shit out for seven fuckin' years — instead of havin' kids crawlin' in the windows on a Friday night, it was a ghost town. Man, I did eight hundred and some thousand dollars in sales that year that Matt was killed. The next year I did forty-three thousand, crushed me. I had to put that shit up for sale.

STEPHEN BELBER. And then I asked Mickelson about the *Boomerang* editorial:

MATT MICKELSON. I tried to tell people — it was such a big media sensationalism hate crime hate crime hate crime — it's not — that wasn't the issue. The issue was methamphetamines. They'd been up for three days, those two guys had been up for three days doin' dope. And that's why they beat him and robbed him.

NARRATOR. Jim Osborne, friend of Matthew Shepard.

JIM OSBORNE. One of my friends a couple months back said to me: