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DENNIS SHEPARD: (Soborly) Good morning.

As you can see,

I had a little accident. I broke my nose doing work around the house. My son Matt and I had a competition when he was alive. We each had broken our noses twice, one of us would pull ahead of the other for a while and then the other would tie it back up again. (Long pause.) When Matt was lying in the hospital, unconscious, and soon to die from the brutal beating he'd sustained, one of his many injuries was a broken nose. It was Matt's third, one more than me. Now I have restored the tie.

We want to thank you all for attending this morning. We hope you enjoy the bench.

BETH LOFFREDA. If there was gonna be a place that I would have expected change to happen more quickly ... it would be right here at the university.

ZACKIE SALMON. Matthew's legacy — his main legacy is right here at the University of Wyoming.

NARRATOR. Zackie Salmon.

ZACKIE SALMON. And yet ... we've worked, worked, worked, worked, worked to try and get domestic partner benefits here on campus. And we still don't have that. I have been with my partner Anne for twenty years and she doesn't get any of my benefits. This is not the 1950s anymore. It's time for Laramie to come into the twenty-first century. (Beat.) Those of us who have been fighting for this, we call ourselves the "gang of four" — and that's Beth Loffreda, Cathy Connolly, myself, and Jerry Parkinson, dean of the law school.

JERRY PARKINSON. We were all optimistic after last year with the Domestic Partner Initiative. We brought in a consultant to tell us how to get domestic partner benefits and we came up with a plan.

CATHY CONNOLLY. And at the start of the semester, we thought we were gonna have this implemented.

JERRY PARKINSON. But just when it's about to come to a vote, they tell us:

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL. There's gonna be a couple of trustees who are totally opposed to this on moral grounds. Just give us some time to talk to those folks about the business necessity. We don't want the trustees to say something in the press that could hurt the cause. Now, we don't agree with their views, but look, we don't want to run the risk of pushing this too precipitously.

JERRY PARKINSON. It's been ten years. There are so many people out there around the country who don't know anything about Laramie. But they really believe in their hearts, that the university

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