

#4 Deb Thomsen

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THOMSEN

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Matthew's death
the main paper

th Deb.

n, how are you?
thanks.
oment to talk?

DEB THOMSEN. No problem.

MOISÉS KAUFMAN. So tell me, as editor of the main paper here in Laramie, how have the people been thinking about the anniversary?

DEB THOMSEN. Actually, we're doing a short series. I'm doing the intro piece and one of the other reporters has been talking with people just to get their perspective now.

MOISÉS KAUFMAN. And besides the series, what kinds of events are planned for the anniversary of Matthew's murder?

DEB THOMSEN. Well, I have to say ... events ... in Laramie? That would be more something that is organized on campus. But to be quite honest with you, we're long past this ... You know, we're trying to put this behind us, and keep going. I would have to say that most people in the community, they're aware of what's happened here, but they really are moving on from this. You have brutality and you deal with it, and you move on.

~~MOISÉS KAUFMAN. Mm-hmm.~~

DEB THOMSEN. I do think that it brought forth a different awareness ... and I hesitate to speak on behalf of the community, but I don't believe that the catalyst was homosexuality.

~~MOISÉS KAUFMAN. What do you mean?~~

DEB THOMSEN. I really believe they wanted money. And Matthew didn't have what they thought and it just escalated to an anger that was totally out of control. There was so much speculation about drug use. I just don't think it was about his sexuality.

~~MOISÉS KAUFMAN. (Surprised.) So you don't think it was a hate crime?~~

DEB THOMSEN. I think everything is a hate crime. You have to have some kind of hatred in you to do that to another human being. As far as where that hatred comes from, I really couldn't tell you. Most people in the community, they know that the anniversary is coming up, but we really are moving on from this.