



WASHINGTON COLLEGE  
*in the State of MARYLAND*

DIVERSITY PLANNING TASK FORCE

June 27, 2000

Mr. Shane Windmeyer  
8713 Cinnabay Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28216

Dear Shane,

I have been meaning to write this letter to you for quite some time now, but since school recently let out for the summer, and obligations in Las Vegas, I have been a little too busy for Task Force work. The purpose of this letter is simple, thank you. I would love to leave it that simply put... but I don't think that it quite does you justice.


Washington College is a small liberal arts school on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We were founded by William Smith in 1782 from a gift from our Chairman of the Board and Benefactor, George Washington. At the time, it was the ideal location in our nation for a college, the population center. One quarter of the population of the United States was in every direction from the college. This began the first college in the newly formed United States. Today, we remain the small liberal arts school... population 1,102 students, Undergraduate and Graduate.

When you came to speak to our community, I frankly wasn't sure how a speaker on gays in the Greek system would be received. I chartered a rather small room on campus, and prayed to fill that small room. Our Greek system is approximately 25% of our population, representing six national fraternities and sororities. I am proud to tell you that 25% of that group were represented at your talk. This is AMAZING! So many members of our community came to listen to you. For the weeks following until the end of the school year all I heard were glowing reviews, and heart felt messages of things that individuals had taken home. What was even more astounding is the people who were in the room were not just Greek, about 10% was non-Greek. Another astounding item, it wasn't even a predominantly GLBT community, as the GLBT community only represented 15% of those in attendance. At the end of the talk, I asked the audience to fill out a response sheet rating your presentation on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the best). Shane, you were rated a 4.9 strong.

I don't know what to say but thank you. The Task Force has reviewed the many speakers we have brought in throughout the course of the year... yours by far has made the largest impact on the community here at Washington College as we see it. That may sound far fetched, but with the responses I have heard its well warranted.

I wish you the best in your new book and your future endeavors. If you are ever in Maryland again, please be in contact. We would love to see you again.

Best regards,

  
Jordan Yelinek  
Chairman, Diversity Planning Task Force  
Brother of the Kappa Alpha Order



The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Campus Center  
at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dave O'Brien  
Director  
LGBT Campus Center  
800 Langdon Street  
Madison, WI 53706

To whom it may concern,

The Greek system on college and university campuses throughout the US can be a very significant learning experience for students who choose to get involved. Opportunities to learn leadership and teamwork skills, as well as a sense of belonging can make a great impact on individual students. However, this experience is clearly less positive if lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students within the Greek system feel that they are unable to share their sexual orientation with their brothers and sisters.

When we were planning our annual "Out and About" series at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, we wanted to develop a series that demonstrated a wide range of topics, as well as including a student affairs viewpoint on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. We had also been trying for quite some time to develop a stronger relationship with the Greek system on our campus. We invited Shane Windmeyer, co-editor of "Out on Fraternity Row" to speak as part of the series.

Shane's presentation was outstanding. He challenged Greek students and queer students alike to question their views on the role of LGBT students within the Greek system. His combination of solid research and personal stories from his own experience as a gay man in a fraternity as well as the experiences of others made the presentation interesting and moving. His perspective as a university administrator also lends to his credibility and skill. His honesty and charisma were refreshing and really made students think.

One of Shane's most significant skills is his ability to bridge the gap between Greek students and LGBT students due to his membership in both communities. As we struggle to build coalitions for change on college and university campuses, Shane's work can have great impact. On our campus, it has spurred us to explore new ways of making the Greek experience more positive for LGBT students, and challenged members of the Greek system to do the same.

Seriously consider bringing Shane Windmeyer to your campus, but particularly consider doing so if the invitation comes from within the Greek system. His message will challenge and inspire students to change your campus for the better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. O'Brien".

David P. O'Brien  
Director  
LGBT Campus Center  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

"The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Campus Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the academic mission of the University by providing essential resources and services necessary for student success at the University and beyond."

**Appalachian**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28608

Center for Student Involvement  
and Leadership

W.H. Plemmons Student Union

ASU Box 32034

(828) 262-6252

Fax: (828) 262-6502

October 17, 2000

Shane Windmeyer  
8713 Cinnabay Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28216

Dear Mr. Windmeyer,

In your promotional materials you promise to provide a program that is interactive, fun, and thought provoking, I am happy to say that you met each of these objectives. Your program entitled, "Truth and the Brotherhood, Being Gay in a College Fraternity" was a wonderful kick off for our campus' weeklong celebration of National Coming Out Day. Our office enjoyed the opportunity to sponsor this event with support from BGLAAD.

Your program provided important facts on gay hate crimes, gays in sororities and fraternities and the gay community in general. You provided the right balance of humor, serious discussion and fact in your presentation. I appreciate your efforts to get the entire audience involved.

Students in attendance have shared that they learned a lot through their participation and attendance of this program. Additionally they shared their appreciation of your openness and willingness to share your own personal story of coming out to your family and fraternity with them.

Thank you also for your willingness to attend the reception that followed. Your accessibility was greatly appreciated by those in attendance. Your giving spirit extended to the point that you donated a copy of your book, *Out on Fraternity Row: Personal Accounts of Being Gay in a College Fraternity* to the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership's Resource Library. We greatly appreciate this gift. I am encouraging each of our fraternities to check the book out and discuss it with the members of their fraternity.

Thank you once again for accepting our invitation to come to our campus. We look forward to hosting you on future occasions.

Sincerely,



Tracey L. Wright

Director of Multicultural Student Development



May 15, 1999

Shane Windmeyer  
Lambda 10 Project  
9381 Kimmel Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28216

Campus Activities Center  
Lory Student Center  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-8033  
(970) 491-6444  
FAX: (970) 491-3746

Dear Shane,

I hope that this letter finds you and Tom well. I wanted to write you a quick note to let you know how much we appreciated your recent talk at Colorado State University, "Truth and Brotherhood: Being gay in the college Greek system."

Your program was incredibly timely for our community due to the death of Matthew Shepard right here in Fort Collins. Thank you for your willingness to travel here on such short notice to educate and assist members of our community with the healing and grieving processes that such an event inflicted upon our consciousness.

Your light-hearted, truthful, factual, and animated presentation style was readily accepted by our students, and the feedback we received was outstanding. Your program was one of those "perfect" programs with ample communication, critical timing, capacity attendance, excellent delivery, and spontaneous follow up conversations among students, faculty, and staff.

I can't thank you enough for taking the time to understand our students and our situation prior to coming to campus. I am confident that your research was instrumental to the positive reception of your presentation.

Thank you again and best wishes for a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you again in the near future (hopefully the students will invite you back again soon!).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brett Perozzi".

Brett E. Perozzi, Ph.D.  
Director, Campus Activities Center

Megan T. Wilson  
*Student Director*  
Baldwin-Wallace College Allies  
275 Eastland Rd. Berea, OH 44017  
Email: [allies@bw.edu](mailto:allies@bw.edu)

June 26, 2000

Dear Shane,

I am writing to express my heartfelt thanks for your exceptional presentation at Baldwin-Wallace this spring. We were so fortunate to have you as our guest speaker!

As the student director of the campus gay/straight alliance, I have tended to stereotype the Greek community on campus as a "problem" when it comes to gay issues. I want to thank you for challenging me to look beyond these stereotypes and reach out to my peers in the fraternities and sororities. For the first time in the history of our organization on campus, fraternity and sorority members joined the gay community in a celebration of those members we have in common. It was a powerful and moving moment, and we owe it to you and the fantastic job you did of bringing these groups to a common understanding.

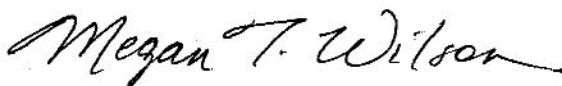
I think that many people arrived feeling uncomfortable because they were at a "gay" event. Your informal, amiable style of presentation quickly put them at ease, and the positive feedback generated from these students was enormous!

We also found that many people were surprised by the "normalcy" of it. So often, both the gay and the Greek communities are perceived to be made up of fringe elements: leather-wearing flamers or cultish drunkards. You represented both communities as the successful, well-liked "boy next door," which helped to dispel stereotypes from both "sides." Your style made it possible to look beyond common stereotypes and start to see the serious problems that these prejudices can cause.

I'd like to share with you a conversation that I had with one individual during a break-off session of the workshop. At the question, "What do you think it would be like to be gay and Greek on your campus?" he looked at me with a strange expression on his face, and said, "It would be hard. It would be really hard. I never thought about it before. Wow." That comment alone made your workshop worth all of the time, money and energy that went into it: a sudden moment of realization from someone who "never thought about it before." We finally *both* realized how far we must go to change things together: myself, the president of the gay/straight alliance, and him-- a leader in the most distinguished fraternity on campus as well as the president of the student body.

Thank you, thank you again for your instrumental role in bringing together these two campus communities into a place where there can be common understanding and common goals. Our community owes so much to you! Your call as the catalyst for change has vaulted us to a new level of understanding, and the important work has just begun!

Peace and rainbows,



Megan T. Wilson  
Student Director, B-W Allies

# The University of Kansas

Student Organizations and  
Leadership Development Center

June 28, 2000

Fraternity & Sorority Advising Professionals and students,  
Campus Programming Boards, and GLBT students:

I am writing this letter with overwhelming support and enthusiasm for Shane Windmeyer's program, "Truth & Brotherhood: Being Gay in a College Fraternity." I have known Shane for many years, but had not witnessed his program until his presentation at the University of Kansas.

From the very beginning of the presentation, he puts his audience at ease and adds great humor to what can be a sensitive and uncomfortable subject. Shane begins his program with statistics and uses the audience to read testimonials of feelings and emotions of gay and lesbian Greek students. He provides many "slaps" to the audience with his own personal stories, as well as other stories from fraternity men. I believe the program has an even greater impact when you see the photographs of Shane and his fraternity brothers, even after he "came out" to them. His brothers' support and love were unconditional, and Shane conveys this message to the audience.

Without a doubt, this program should be "mandatory" for every Greek student, male or female, gay or straight. Whether individuals want to believe it or not, gay, lesbian, and bisexual students are in our fraternities and sororities. They are your big brothers, big sisters, chapter presidents, chapter officers, new members and alumni. We need to learn to take care of our brothers and sisters, and make sure that their Greek experiences are positive ones, such as Shane's!

Sincerely,



Kelly Jo Karnes  
Assistant Director for Greek Programs  
University of Kansas

# R·I·T

Rochester Institute of Technology

Greek Affairs  
Center for Residence Life  
68 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623-5603  
716-475-7123 v/ttd  
Fax 716-475-5050 tty

July 7, 2000

Shane Windmeyer  
Lambda 10 Project

Dear Shane:

I wanted to take a moment and thank you for your presentation to our RIT campus community and fraternity/sorority system on March 21 regarding "Truth and Brotherhood". Your candid thoughts, laid back style of presenting and use of factual knowledge helped our students and leaders to open their minds with exploration on the issues of homosexuality, gender relations and elimination of commonly used stereotypes. We appreciated your willingness to not preach at students but to talk and listen to them, helping them to learn via interaction!

The presentation benefited faculty and staff as well in that it expanded their knowledge and practicing options to help all students with education and the process of identifying who they are as individuals.

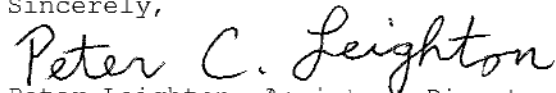
We are hopeful that as you continue your research and writings in these critical student development areas, you are able to share these life experiences with more audiences as it has helped our community. Several students shared reactions to your presentation including;

"I was skeptical, as a lesbian women, of joining a sorority on campus but after hearing Shane's discussion, I am now more confident and empowered to openly approach membership in a sorority and know that I have better avenues to let my new friends know who I am as a person."

"One fraternity man stated to Shane after the program ... thanks for being so honest with us. I have a fraternity brother who has subtly come out to a few trusted members and now I am better "equipped" to talk with him and be more supportive."

Obviously these student reactions speak for themselves and to the level of effectiveness of your program! We hope others will recognize this as well and seek out your help on these sensitive topics within the collegiate community. Thanks again.

Sincerely,



Peter Leighton, Assistant Director for Campus Life (Greek Affairs)  
Rochester Institute of Technology