



May 13, 2005

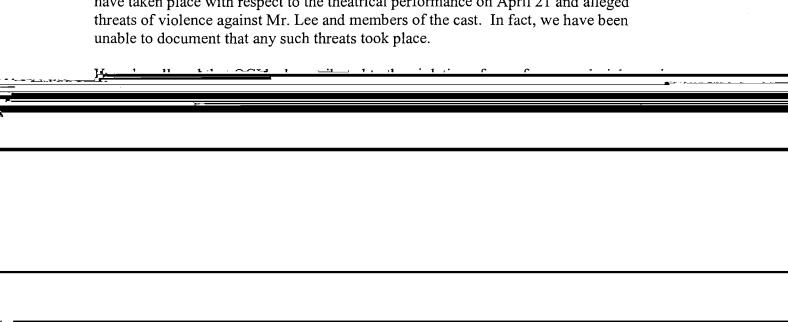
Chris Lee Erik Johnson Washington State University Pullman, WA 99164

Messers Lee and Johnson:

This letter concerns the matters you discussed with me at a meeting on Friday April 22

2005, also attended by Vice Presidents Tate and Jaeger and Rich Kelley, Director of the Office for Campus Involvement (OCI), regarding the performance of Mr. Lee's play, *Passion of the Musical*, on Thursday, April 21, 2005. As a result of your statements, on behalf of the Center for Human Rights (CHR), I immediately opened an investigative inquiry to determine whether an in-depth investigation should proceed. While officially engaged only in an inquiry, CHR has exhaustively looked into your concerns.

I write you now to inform you that CHR has concluded that further investigation is not warranted. We have not uncovered evidence that would suggest that violations of University policies by protestors or the Office of Campus Involvement and its personnel have taken place with respect to the theatrical performance on April 21 and alleged threats of violence against Mr. Lee and members of the cast. In fact, we have been unable to document that any such threats took place.



	You also raised allegations of threats by University employees against members of the audience. This letter does not address such allegations because they do not concern you
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-	up such matters in the near future when the police complete their work.
	As you may recall, I previously informed you that this office also received a Hate/Bias complaint with respect to the content of <i>Passion of the Musical</i> ; therefore, as we carried out our inquiry, we looked at possible policy violations from many perspectives. We also have found no grounds to conclude that the performance or content of the play violated

university policies.

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	Some members of the audience, including but not limited to the protestors, understood such recitation and commentary as an affront and a challenge to the protestors, who up to that point had not protested inside the theater. Their actions had been limited to distributing the flyer outside of the theater.	
	During the first 15-20 minutes of the play, a dozen or so of the protestors then proceeded to stand individually, say "I am offended" in moderate to loud voices, and sit down. These actions were organized and pre-planned by a group of students; however, CHR has concluded that they also were encouraged by you, Mr. Lee. Ironically, the protesters words, "I am offended", merely confirmed what you had promised, that playgoers would	
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an outrageous play was produced, while lawful, was a provocation. Some playgoers chose to exercise their free speech rights by letting you know that you had offended them, just as you had predicted. The protestors were not free to prevent the performance; however, you further encouraged their protests by your taunts after the play had begun. In many respects, your play performance took on the qualities of a public forum.

The majority of protestors were African-American, but they were joined by students and staff of other minority ethnic origins. White students of the LDS faith also quietly protested outside of the playhouse. The African-Americans students especially seemed to have been offended because Mr. Lee, you too, are African-American; therefore, some see Intury to your people. In turn, you have explained that such characterizations

in part, motivated you to write your play. The notion that anyone would tell you how you are supposed to behave, as a black man, is abhorrent to you. Without drawing a judgment on this issue, CHR has considered it as an important contextual factor in understanding the events of April 21. The same is true for the specific attention the one African-American actress in the cast received from the protesters.

CHR's investigation and public writings by you, Mr. Lee, some of the protestors and others in the WSU community have underscored a prevailing generalized ignorance

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