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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Campus comes together for Anti-Hate Rally

Summary: Students, staff and faculty came together November 1 on the campus mall in what was billed as an Anti-Hate Rally. The rally was sponsored by H.E.A.T. (Hate Education Awareness Team).

(November 1, 2006)-Students, staff and faculty came together November 1 on the campus mall in what was billed as an Anti-Hate Rally. The rally was sponsored by H.E.A.T. (Hate Education Awareness Team).

Students and student leaders and others gave speeches. An open-mic opportunity was available for anyone who wanted to share their ideas and views on the hate crimes that have occurred on the campus over the past few weeks.

"Unfortunately, what we've learned over these past days and weeks is that more compassion and an even greater effort are required of us. And we are all, I think everyone of us, tired," said UMM student leader Blair Jasper. "But we must remember that we have made progress, and blame and anger will only undermine that. Blame and anger will only breed more violence, and I say with all seriousness that we have had enough of that."

Those who attended, as well as those who were unable to attend, were asked to show their support by wearing a "Stop the Hate" T-shirt. Participants at the rally added their handprints and signature to a banner to show their support.

"...I ask you today to dig down deep with me and to find that compassion in your hearts. Find compassion for your fellow students, for your administrators, for your professors, your staff, your friends, and your enemies because that compassion will keep us on the road. And we will walk together and we will weep together and we will work together. And slowly, slowly, too slowly, things will get better.

"Because of all of you, things will get better," Blair concluded.

Photo by David Nieves, University Relations

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