

July 21, 2005

Hi Everyone

I wanted to let everyone know what was going on with the case against those that murdered Matt. Some of you have been keeping up with the story through the Internet but for some reason the Chico Enterprise Record did not put the story they had in their paper the day following the last hearing on their website this time. The Orion is currently on hiatus until school is back in session and will be following the trial and court hearings leading up to the trial once the fall semester begins so you should be able to keep up with things through their website www.orion-online.net. Most of their articles regarding Matt are still on their website under the heading [A Pledge's Death](#). For the rest you can search Matthew Carrington.

We went to Chico Sunday, July 10th for another court hearing on Monday, July 11th (Travis went with us to court this time) and as has been the case so many times the arraignment and motions to be heard on the preliminary hearing's transcripts were continued to August 12th. At which time the felon's attorneys will try to get Judge Benson's ruling that they were a student organization and that there was enough evidence to go to trial overturned if they are successful everyone goes free if not a date will be set to hear their arguments on the transcripts. The misdemeanor attorneys made motions to have their clients separated from the felons and would like to go to trial 30 days from the ruling. They will be heard on the 12th as well. A tentative trial date has been set for 2nd of November and the Trial Ready Conference for October 24th.

The most incredible part of this trip was our experience in the town of Chico where we choice to stay for two nights. Everyone there is very aware of what is going on with Matt somehow they knew who we were by site and are very supportive of our family and the situation. They are keeping it in the news up there and the citizens and students of Chico are fed up. It was overwhelming to have strangers come up to us and tell us that we were doing the right thing, to stay brave, giving us hugs, encouragement and strength, there were many tears but well worth it. Matt's death has already brought about so much change for the better more than we will ever know. All we can hope for now is that through Matt many lives will be spared I am sure that is what he would want.

I have been approached by National Public Radio who will be following the trial and Dateline NBC who would like an interview and to also follow the trial. I believe that this is huge if we ever hope for change. The court has allowed ABC Chico's Station to have their camera in the courtroom for every hearing, the Orion, Chico ER, News and Review and the Chronicle are also present.

Many of you have shown interest in attending some parts of the trial. I believe this will be a great way to show everyone especially the jury and those that did this to Matt just how special he was. I feel that the more we can get to come to the first day of trial the better, this way we can make a statement right out of the gate. They need to realize they didn't just kill anyone they killed a very special, loving boy that never hurt anyone and had more to offer this world than all of them put together. They need to see how many people have been affected by Matt's death. After that if you could make it to some different days of the trial that would be fantastic it would

be really nice to always have some support in the courtroom for Matt. There are 7 defendants and if they each have family they will have a lot of people there we need to show that Matt is greater than seven of them. So anyone that can and wants to be there for Matt as well as Greg, Travis and me. Bobbie will be organizing a "Trial Calendar" this way there will always be a substantial amount of support for Matt at every trial date we don't expect you to be at every date we understand you have your work and family to take care of. Whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated

Please by no means do we want you to feel obligated to come to court with us we want you to do this because it is something that you want to do.

We have Remembering Matt badges for everyone that we wear to all the court dates (among other times) but there is a good chance that the opposing council will argue that they will persuade the jury and we will be asked to remove them so we would like for everyone to wear red to the courthouse. We will also have ribbons for everyone to wear.

We are also going to be ordering Matt car window decals for anyone that would like to have one.

The trial date that has been set is tentative so we won't know when the trial will actual begin until closer to that date. When it looks like we have a real date set, which could quite possibly be a week or two before we will let you know. With the way the hearings have gone it could be next year before we actually go to court but lets hope not.

If you wouldn't mind could you please reply to this email and let me know if you have any interest in attending one or more court dates? Or if you have any questions about what is going on.

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone that is trying to keep up with Matt and anyone I may have missed.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and thoughts, we love you all.

Debbie

Frankie I told Bobbie that you would help her with organizing the Trial Calendar attendance schedule, thanks Sis, I love you.

Kristi could you please forward this to Molly and Sarah I don't have their email addresses? Could you send me their email addresses? Thanks