

November 27, 2005

Hello Everyone

I hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving.

In case you haven't heard the last two of the misdemeanor's court date went as planned on Wednesday afternoon November 23rd. Stiefvater pled guilty while Hirth pled no contest (which is essentially a guilty plea) both getting two years probation. Stiefvater got 30 days in jail starting November 28th and Hirth got 45 days in jail starting December 7th.

As some of you know I had been planning to visit the guys in jail, that are currently serving time for their part in Matt's death. Since the court hearing against the misdemeanors was scheduled for the afternoon I decided to go up in the morning and visit the others in jail. Some of you do not understand why or even how I could talk to those boys, but it was something I needed to do for myself, for Matt and for them.

I remembered some of my last conversations with Matt and how he had come to want to be a part of this fraternity, that even though it wasn't his idea and he was tired of the pledge process he genuinely liked the guys, he considered them friends and was looking forward to the initiation being over and being a part of this fraternity.

I understand that they never intended for Matt to die that awful morning and that they too are in pain. I needed them to know that I didn't hate them but I felt they had to be held accountable for their actions for themselves and to set an example for those that may come after them. I also wanted to talk to them about a documentary we are working on and asked if they and their families would like to be a part of.

I didn't know what to expect and I am sure they didn't either but they all agreed to see me. I spent almost two hours with them talking about Matt and what he meant to them.

I asked them each to share Matt stories with me and all of their stories exemplified the kind, gentle, humorous, fun loving person Matt was. I could tell by the way they spoke about him that they genuinely liked him and considered him a friend and that they were truly remorseful for what they had done and that he was taken from us.

One of the stories that Gabe Maestretti told me was the personification of Matt and I wanted to share it with you. What makes this story even more special is that Matt hadn't known Gabe or any of the fraternity members for very long when this took place.

Early on as part of the pledges initiation (at this time there were 4 pledges) they were required to take a rode trip to San Luis Obispo to visit one of their fraternity chapters among other things. When they were getting ready to leave Chico Gabe asked Matt if he would take a detour to Antioch to take his parents trash out because his mother was bedridden and his father had just had back surgery. Of course Matt being Matt he didn't think twice about it he made it a point to go by Gabe's parents house and take their trash out for them. I thought that was a very sweet story and that you might like to hear it too.

As for the documentary it is a project that Matt's friends, his cousin and I are working on, DA Ramsey has offered to assist us and the guys in jail have all agreed to participate and will be speaking to their families to see if they would like to as well. Gabe and I spoke about doing speaking engagements together when he gets out of jail. Can you imagine the impact this would have? It was a good day for all of us. I think Matt would be very proud of his mother as I am so very proud to be called his mother.

And with that I am going to close but will be updating you soon on our big push to make Matt's Law a reality.

Hug your children and tell them you love them everyday.

Love,
Debbie, MM
www.wemissyoumatt.com