

Good Morning Everyone

As **Matt's** 24th birthday approaches I thought it was a good time to give you an update as to what is going on in our efforts to bring awareness to hazing, and how **Matt's Law** and **Matt's** memory is making a difference not only in the state of California but across the nation.

10/30/2007 12:00:00 AM PDT

OROVILLE -- A Butte County judge Monday refused to dismiss the first-known case of alleged criminal hazing in California, despite arguments on behalf of three Chico fraternity officials that the complaint against them is still too vague to properly defend the charges at trial.

It is believed to be the first case of its kind to be prosecuted under **Matt's Law, a 2007 statute that for the first time criminalized hazing activities on California schools or in fraternal organizations.**

To read the article in its entirety click here... http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_7316980

You may remember this hazing incident from my last update, July 9, 2007, it has been a while. **Matt's Law** is holding strong and making a difference. Up and down the coast of California colleges are teaching their students about **Matt's Law**. I receive emails and articles weekly about how our colleges are educating their faculty about **Matt's Law** and making it a part of their student orientation along with hazing awareness.

From across the nation I receive emails and articles from colleges that are telling **Matt's** story to their students to help them better understand about hazing. I have been corresponding with these schools in hopes that it will help them better understand by telling them what I have learned about hazing since **Matt's** death.

Most of you have a child, grandchild, or child of a friend that has recently entered college, plans to go to college next year or in the near future, so it is important that you continue to talk about hazing.

E! Network is working on a 2-hour documentary on hazing, due out in December. There will be true accounts of actual hazings that have occurred involving our young men and women across the nation. This is something you may want sit down and watch with your teenage children that will possibly encounter some of the situations that will be addressed. Not only can they protect themselves but if they are aware of the signs they may be able to stop someone else from falling victim to hazing as well.

They will be telling true hazing stories - interviewing victims, assailants, families, law officials, medical professionals, hazing experts, etc. **Matt's** story will be one of the stories being told in this documentary.

There is also what looks to be a very good safety book coming out next year, by Tom Kane, called Protect Yourself at College. This book has true stories and accounts of different incidents that occur to our unsuspecting young people from date rape, drugs, and alcohol to hazing and how to keep it from happening to them. This would be a great graduation gift and will have lessons our children should learn whether they go off to college or not. The reason they are more susceptible to these dangers is because they are young and uneducated in these areas not because they are in college.

I hope everyone is doing well and using your own life lessons to educate others, as we should all do.

"Hug your children and tell them you love them everyday."

**Love,
Debbie, MM**