

7/18/07

Carroll Ann Ellis,

We would like to submit this statement to the panel from Dennis and Beverly Bluhm.

Our son, Brian Roy Bluhm, would have been 26 years old on July 19 (tomorrow). He would be in his third week at his new job in Baltimore. He loved life. He loved the Lord Jesus Christ and lived his faith. He loved his family and friends. He along with 31 other innocent **MURDER** victims were doing what they were supposed to be doing – attending class, teaching, or getting ready for class.

Brian was at VT almost 7 years and was finishing his thesis for a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering, water resources. Brian loved Dr. G.V. Loganathan and would do anything for him. Brian was auditing the class and helping tutor it. Dr. Loganathan was one of his mentors for his thesis. Brian was doing research, teaching a materials lab, and as Dr. Lohani has stated “Brian was the go to guy whenever they needed anything”.

There are many issues on the table concerning these murders. We know from the Virginia Tech standpoint there is no “heart”, the top administration has been cruel to us, and they just want it to go back to normal. The administration does not effectively communicate, they have not admitted any wrong, and hide behind the privacy acts. The President didn’t follow the actions he took in the past and set a precedent with – cancel classes and close the campus as soon as something major happens – we believe two homicides is major! Brian would have expected that classes would be canceled and the campus would be shut down. This is not going away, VT will now be remembered in the future just like all the others 9-11, Columbine, Oklahoma City, Kent State, etc.

We expect this panel to come up with responsibility and accountability for the actions on April 16 and before. We sent our son to a state school and expected him to be safe.

You can make recommendations for changes in many laws including our mental health system (that is broken now), the gun laws, and the privacy laws but this does not change the fact that in post 9-11 we still have no security in place to prevent such actions.

The young man was crying out for help and in other occupations such as health care these warnings would have been acted on. In this case they were ignored or not reported because of the privacy laws. We now have 33 families without loved ones and many others with physical and mental injuries.

The state and Virginia Tech have a responsibility to take care of the families of each of these victims.

Again, we are concerned that your panel will come up with some well thought out recommendations for the future but not the reasons behind April 16 and the mistakes made over the years.

So we are left with a pat on the back, maybe \$ 100,000.00 for a VT Fellowship fund and a statement to just move on with life. We know Brian is in Heaven and we will be with him for eternity but we are now left on earth to pick up the pieces. Others including the ones responsible will just walk away and go on with life.

Our son loved history and read a lot about Abraham Lincoln. We need you to have the wisdom of Abraham Lincoln as you address all the issues.

No matter what your recommendations are and your decisions on responsibility and accountability you need to remember that these are **32 MURDERS** of innocent people.

Remember you are the voice to the world for these innocent people.

Hug your children and be thankful they were not recipients of this young man’s hate.

Dennis and Beverly Bluhm