

I am Darnell Boehm, Trevor's father.

I would like to open in Prayer just like I did Monday evening:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for being in our presence and embracing all of us today

Thank you for helping us honor Trevor today

Thank you for the tremendous tribute the students gave Trevor Monday evening

And most of all for loving Trevor even more than we do, we know that he is with you in heaven as we speak

Selfishly, I would like to ask you to help me deliver my comments today

In Jesus Name AMEN

First, I would like to thank all the staff of Northwestern University. Everyone has been so kind and helpful. Those of you who are students are truly blessed to attend such a wonderful institution.

Second, I want to thank the Northwestern University Police. Last Monday I called them the friendliest police on earth. After my recent dealing with the Chicago police and the Cook County Morgue, my original opinion is even stronger. I am sure your police force will not like this, but I have started referring to them as the "Casper Cops". Remember Casper the friendly Ghost?

Lastly, I would like to thank Chaplain Tim and the students who gave us the wonderful tribute for Trevor on Monday evening. It was a gift to our whole family that we will cherish forever. It also confirmed what we already knew that Trevor had a tremendous sense of humor and at his core he was a compassionate and loving person.

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT TREVOR

Trevor is our only son. His 3 older sisters Shannon, Ali and Brittany are all here today. Since I grew up in a family with several brothers, Leslie knew how much I desired to have a son. I have always said that Leslie, with the help of God, absolutely willed Trevor to be a boy.

I must confess that I was concerned that by the time Trevor started college, I would be 60 and that I would have a hard time keeping up with him and I have. I've been chasing him for a long time. Now that he has stopped moving, I think maybe I can finally catch up.

As a child he had 4 moms and the biggest cheering squad ever! I remember how his mom and 3 sisters would give him a standing ovation when he first stood up in his crib. Or when he first walked. Even when he was naughty he could charm his way out of discipline because he was "so darn cute"!

Small wonder he grew up wanting to be an actor, to yearn for applause, and most of all how to talk and relate to people, especially women.

Early on we knew he had artistic talent, a very quick and creative mind and a very tender heart. What a joy he was to us all. IN SHORT, HE WAS MAGIC!

By age 10 he was acting and singing, starring opposite girls much older than he was. He just knew how to relate to girls. I suspect this was because the girls knew how compassionate and loving he really was.

After a very successful high school acting career, he achieved one of his major life goals when he was accepted at Northwestern. It allowed him to move to the city he loved and attend the school he loved as a theater major and hopefully eventually as a musical theater major.

He came here and absolutely loved it.

NERD STORY

He worked hard, got great grades, participated in theater productions, even took a 30+ job at Jos. A Bank. His energy seemed unlimited and he absolutely loved every minute of it. Those were beyond a doubt the happiest 3 months of his life!

JOS. A BANK INVESTMENT STORY

We now know this period was the beginning of his first major manic episode. In the middle of finals week he was hospitalized and diagnosed as having bipolar disorder.

Leslie, Trevor and I had some limited understanding of this illness. Our later research revealed some very interesting facts.

The average age for initial diagnosis of bipolar disorder is 19 – Trevor's age at the time.

Almost 75% of men with bipolar disorder are diagnosed between the age 18 and 20. Again Trevor's age.

Experts believe that over 1% of all people in the U. S. suffer from this illness.

If you would like to know more about the illness, the best single source I can recommend is:

TAMING BIPOLAR DISORDER

By Lori Oliwenstein

When we left the hospital, we were advised that Trevor should decide what and what not to tell people.

Trevor chose to Not disclose his diagnosis. He wanted to avoid the stigma associated with a mental illness.

I want to personally apologize to the people I mislead or worse even lied to in order to protect Trevor's wishes.

After our shock of the initial diagnoses it did help us to explain some of the struggles Trevor experienced as a child.

- 1) Explained his mood swings
- 2) Explained his persistent moderate depression
- 3) explained how he could stay up all night and memorize an entire play including not just his lines but everyone else's

- 4) explained how he could take a simple science project and turn it into a major art project 100 times greater than any teacher expected
- 5) explained how after the high of a performance he inevitably experienced a crash and period of deep depression

So after Christmas Break we brought Trevor back to Northwestern complete with drugs, counselors and doctors. Trevor desperately wanted to return and everyone, including me, thought he was ready. With perfect hindsight, we now know this was a huge mistake. In early February after major depression, Trevor attempted suicide. He ingested over 200 pills.

The doctors told us that Trevor should not have lived. Leslie and I believe it was only God that kept him alive. Miraculously even his liver eventually healed to 100%.

Last Monday evening, I told you I would try and make sense of all this. Why would God save Trevor's life only to know that 9 short months later Trevor would be gone???????

HERE GOES HERE IS MY ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN

- 1) First, had his first attempt been successful, the open questions and guilt may have been too much for friends and family (including me) to bear

6 years ago I lost my brother to suicide. I was an absolute wreck and began counseling. I also attended a grief

recovery class. It helped me a great deal, today I volunteer at that same class and lead the suicide groups. In those groups we always start by trying to help the friends and family with the guilt they are experiencing.

Based on the circumstances of letting Trevor return to Northwestern too early and despite my knowledge and training regarding suicide, I believe I would have been haunted by guilt the rest of my life.

- 2) Second, we were all given the gift of 9 more months with Trevor. We all have some special memories from that period.

It gave us and Trevor more time to exhaust all avenues to deal with his illness. Trevor went to several doctors, tested several meds, and even attended an intense bipolar program in Tuscon, AZ.

By the time he returned yet again to Northwestern this Fall, Trevor understood and accepted his illness. He also had taken charge of his doctors, counselors and meds.

- 3) Third, it gave Trevor time to expand his faith.
- 4) I want to especially thank our friend Ken Gire for coming alongside Trevor and assisting him in his faith journey.
- 5) Next, we learned there are no deep, dark secrets in Trevor's life. The Casper cops overturned every rock and found nothing but a sweet, yet ill young man. This knowledge is very comforting to me and my family.

Newspaper reports citing reasons for Trevor's actions are untrue.

- 6) Even the 11 days Trevor was missing helped several of us to quote ease into the reality that he was gone as opposed to the shock of an instant message.
- 7) Next, it gave us all time to take time from our busy lives, take pause and talk with our Creator. People literally around the world came together to pray for Trevor. Believers from

Northwestern

Colorado

Minnesota

Wisconsin

Georgia

California

Costa Rica

China

Korea

New Zealand

India

Kazakhstan

Several mid eastern countries including Israel

Africa

Several European Countries

All came together in prayer. How can that in any way be bad?

- 8) Next, it gave Trevor the opportunity to return to Northwestern. While he wasn't as happy as last year, he

nevertheless felt good about his return. He was doing well in class and was back at the place he loved so much.

9) And last, it gives me an opportunity to talk with you.

I know many of you are in pain. I know some of you are experiencing tremendous guilt.

To you let me say this was Trevor's decision, only Trevor and his illness are responsible for this act.

There is a popular Christian song that has the following lyrics:

ONE THING I KNOW IS GOD WILL TAKE AWAY THE PAIN, IF YOU CHOOSE TO LET IT GO.

So please, please, please let go of your pain for a few unmentioned we know please seek CAPS for help.

The song goes on to say,

ONE THING I KNOW IS GOD WILL TAKE AWAY THE GUILT, IF YOU CHOOSE TO LET IT GO.

So please let go of your pain and guilt.

Please remember Trevor loved every one of you. At his tender core, he would never blame any of you.

Please also remember that his insatiable appetite for food, attention, love, and fame were all symptoms of his illness.

Lastly, remember that in the end the only cause of this tragedy was Trevor's illness. It was just too strong and severe for him to overcome.

**GOODBYE SON, SOMEDAY, WE WILL BE
TOGETHER AGAIN.**