

**From:** Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2013 11:38 PM

**To:** XXXX-NAME EDITED OUT BECAUSE AUTHOR HAS NOT PUBLICLY ATTACKED US---XXXX

**Subject:** Re: hey you!

Hi my dear friend,

How cool to hear from you! <FLINTWATERSTUDY Deleted Personal Information>

On the ME-ME-ME front -- some absolutely mortifying developments a few weeks ago. Like I was dealing with a psychopath sans a soul. Like, if he lived close to me, he would come stab me to death. And then an extremely disturbing exchange where I finally told him that I thought he was a coward, trying to rewrite history and lying and controlling everyone's memories and perceptions, and finally that his cliches, emptiness, disingenuousness, and deception have now put me in a place where so many of his words no longer have meaning for me. It was the last e-mail of substance and actual engagement I wrote to him. Wasn't following your advice, I know...

He wrote back within 3 seconds and told me to fuck myself (in essence) -- but even that e-mail was weird and twisted and ambiguous.

So, on the one hand I am doing MUCH better, but on the other, I am still in shock and very much grieving. I have never had any experience with a human being like this before -- he even accused me of expecting too much of people, which is why he can't stand me anymore and why so many others in my life have abandoned me... => Yes, he made this up. and I confronted him about it, and he backpedalled.

It's all finished. Totally finished. But the idea that he thinks of me as some little pain-in-the-butt psychotic bitch scares me and stuns me and leaves me in disbelief..., and that's because a) I am none of these things at all, and b) in truth I gave him everything, everything I have, the very best of me, just gave him all.

The books I am reading on NPD are so helpful. At this point, I cannot believe how long I allowed myself to be constantly erased. My words, my ideas, my passions, my thoughts were coming out of me like snowflakes in the air, and then upon contact with ME, they would instantly dissolve, disappear, like they had never existed, insignificant, nothingness. I am trying to reclaim myself, remember who I am, what I am interested in working on, talking about, reading, doing. I am trying to remember my history, my strengths. I had lost all that. The only part of me that was rewarded was the part that helped him, listened to him, cared for him, took care of him, gave, and gave, and gave, and gave.

My fault.

Let's talk whenever you can! No pressure. Just give me a call whenever you have a free moment!

be well,

and on daily meditations idea... yes!

Yanna

**From:** Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2015 9:23 PM

**To:** XXXX-NAME EDITED OUT BECAUSE AUTHOR HAS NOT PUBLICLY ATTACKED US---XXXX

**Subject:** wow... thank you!

<Deleted Personal Information>

In the end, I agree so much, this work is not just about engineers. It is a critique of professionalism in its entirety, as well as a critique of professionalization that in most cases seems to be built on the defacement of the public. But is this really necessary? Can we not create alternative models of professions that give professions and professionals all the respect and accolades they deserve without necessitating the annihilation of ordinary people and routine erasure of public knowledges, experiences, and points of view? Can't these alternative models strive for the simultaneous elevation of both professionals and the public through mutually transformational partnerships between the two, rather than the subordination of the latter to the former?

CITIZEN PHILOSOPHERS! HA! :) Women philosophers are writing about how much they've had it with their male counterparts' inclination to keep philosophy inaccessible to ordinary people and irrelevant to our daily lives. Here's a fabulous compilation of essays with this critique:

<http://www.amazon.com/Out-Shadows-Analytical-Contributions-Traditional/dp/0199855471>

My friend, you are helping me so much with your insights and support!!! I am so grateful to you. I say this from the bottom of my heart. Indeed, slowly but surely Marc is starting to fade away from my heart and mind. I think of him as a coward, like all narcissists are, because he doesn't have the emotional and spiritual strength to enter relationships where he is not being feared and worshipped. How pathetic that seems to me. What a spineless way to live one's life. Marc is the quintessential example of the subjugating engineer who colonizes people and knowledge to gain more, and more, and more, and more power -- an unquenchable need for grandiosity through all means necessary. There's no way he and I could have written this paper together. Indeed. He would have fought me, and demeaned me, and assaulted my education and intelligence, and hung up the phone on me, and the whole thing (including my soul) would have ended in the trash.

Donna feels like an oasis. Knock on wood; I keep my fingers crossed.

<Deleted Personal Information>

xx y

On Wed, Sep 16, 2015 at 3:23 PM, Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)> wrote:

**Confidential**

Thanks! Interesting. What did you think?

To me, it looks good on the surface. I suspect that if we were to look closer at the process of collaboration between these 3 orgs and the communities they are helping, we'd have questions. The fact that the spokesperson is an older white guy engineer already has me wondering. But I shouldn't prejudge!

Take a look at this video too:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2015/03/27/march-27-2015-neighbor/25591/>

Wonder if you have any reactions. I did. :)

You are catching me at an especially cynical moment...

Marc colonized Flint so completely this week, that the press conference I recommended to the residents in order to support them to take power back and become visible again turned into a Marc-fest with Marc at the center of everything. Amazingly, out of all (many) newspaper articles that covered Flint in the last few weeks, only one (somewhat) features what the actual residents had to say. On top of that, in Blacksburg the research team decided to create a crowdsourcing site that asks the world to make a donation for water filters for the low-income people of Flint. The site somewhere says that this initiative is developed in collaboration with Flint communities, but Flint communities are nowhere to be seen or heard on the site (the only photo featured is the VT grad students who analyzed Flint water samples holding a sign saying "we care"). So we have a bizarre noblesse oblige set-up that in reality seems self-promoting. If I were a resident of Flint, I would be offended. Actually, I am not a resident of Flint and I am offended. The climax of the colonization was last night in the form of a tweet from Sid (grad student I love and respect enormously) who accompanied Marc to the Flint press conference and became an overnight celebrity in the news (TV covered him more than the affected residents), and who upon his return home thanked the Flint residents for "coming out" to their OWN press conference (I suspect that Sid and many other grad students have grown somewhat confused about WHOM the Flint situation is about?)

I am thinking that an analysis of this case in the larger context of citizen science and public interest engineering might work fantastically well for the introductory chapter of our book with Erin. I am thinking about analyzing all the newspaper articles, online articles, and TV coverage of the case to literally count the mentions of (and quotes from) actual Flint residents *before* and *after* VT's involvement. I suspect that the numbers drop precipitously. The political ramifications of such a development, if it actually happened, strike me as quite enormous. Do you think? Would love to explore this possibility with you -- you had proposed that I write something myself, but this case is so rich and so breathtaking, that I think it could be a stunning springboard into the rest of our book. Maybe though I could still start the research for a shorter paper? Or something. But if you were open to joining me, I'd definitely prefer it.

Hope all is going well over there!!

**From:** Donna Riley <[dmriley@vt.edu](mailto:dmriley@vt.edu)>

**To:** Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 5:16 PM

**Subject:** Re: APPE stuff

Yeah the spokesman is a big water resources name..... I am skeptical. And the video you sent reveals a set of assumptions probably also being made by the

EWB/ASCE/AWWA collaboration.... "Engineering to help" without analysis of who benefits, who bears risks and costs, who is empowered etc.

I am so sorry to read the update from Flint. I am insulated from the Blacksburg hype thankfully, for now -- though I know my student who is in Marc's class will probably bring it up at some point. We definitely need to write the book! And I am all for using Flint as a case study for the intro. I am so sorry to see what is transpiring there, but it is so typical of what has become of community based learning. Let me know how I can help in the analysis and writing... there are various grad students here who might additionally be brought in - perhaps to run counts of media coverage if that seems like a good idea....(?)

Have been working on the APPE abstract today - asked both Matt W. and Dean Nieuwsma about what they know of the history of engineers in the public interest. Will forward Matt's answer shortly. Dean had a similar reaction to me that the reason such an org doesn't exist is because of the significant effort required at the community level, which engineers are not well prepared to undertake.... more coming...

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## WORKING LIFE

# The water watchdog

### 1. Rachel Bernstein

See all authors and affiliations

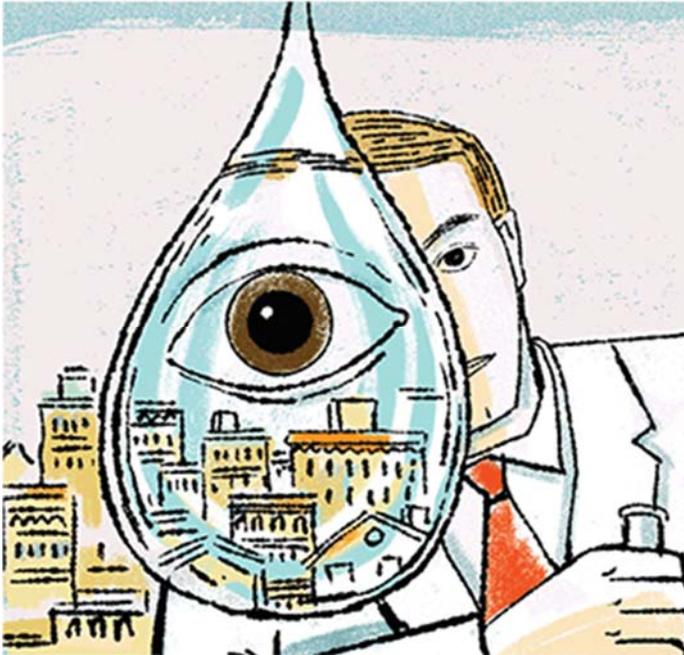
*Science* 11 Mar 2016:

Vol. 351, Issue 6278, pp. 1230

DOI: 10.1126/science.351.6278.1230

Water treatment and corrosion expert Marc Edwards made headlines recently for his work to uncover and address the elevated lead levels in drinking water in Flint, Michigan. Edwards says he originally chose to become an environmental engineer because it "sounded like a great, altruistic career." Altruism has led the professor at

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg to some risky professional decisions. He has taken on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to intervene effectively in Flint and, a decade earlier, in Washington, D.C., when it was experiencing its own water crisis. This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.



- [\\_Open in new tab](#)

ILLUSTRATION: ROBERT NEUBECKER

*“It’s about seeing something that’s wrong and being unwilling to accept it.”*

**Q: Why did you pursue water safety research?**

**A:** What gives me joy is creating new knowledge, especially knowledge that helps normal people. I’ve always gravitated toward the work that had the biggest real-world impacts and was being overlooked. My research on building plumbing systems has profound health and economic implications, but no one wanted to take responsibility for the issue.

**Q: When you’ve discovered problems, how have you gotten them addressed?**

**A:** Science by itself is powerless when you’re dealing with government agencies. I had to cross the line and become an activist, filing Freedom of Information Act requests and working with politicians and people on the ground. You have to reach this critical mass where you can put enough pressure on these agencies to make them take action, and you will never do that with science alone.

If you're not going to fight to the bitter end, don't get started. You have to decide: Are you willing to do whatever it takes to see this through, and can you accept the likelihood that you are going to fail? The odds are against you. I'm one of the lucky ones. It makes me feel so humble to think about all of those who put their professional lives on the line and whose careers were destroyed.

**Q: How do your colleagues view your activism?**

**A:** I engage in activism as a last resort, after every scientific path has failed. Since I personally find activism distasteful, I forgive the academics who also view it negatively. The majority of my colleagues are indifferent or bemused, focused on their own problems and getting their next research dollar.

**Q: How does the current academic culture affect research like yours?**

**A:** We have to address the pressures to publish and get funding so that we can ask ourselves whether our research is doing good for the world. I'm very fearful of the perverse incentives of academia right now. We spend all our time sucking up to funding agencies. We're all such cowards—and with good reason, because the system does not reward good heroic actors. At the same time, because cowardice is the norm, it creates a tremendous opportunity for those who want to go this path, because no one else is doing it and there is so much injustice.

We are still attracting some great people who I firmly believe are ethical, altruistic scientists, but at some point they might become the minority. My biggest fear is that the culture of academia is going to get to the point where these scientists ask, “Can I have a career without cutting corners or cheating?” I don't want us to get to the point where I might have to tell young people, “I'm not sure that you can.”

**Q: What motivates you to carry on despite the challenges?**

**A:** I am the most optimistic person in the world. You have to be optimistic to think that you can change things. It's not blind optimism; it's about seeing something that's wrong and being unwilling to accept it. You have to say, “I'm going to fight to make this world a better place.” And you have to make sure that the world doesn't change you. It's only the people that the world doesn't change who are going to change the world.

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**From:** Yanna Lambrinidou <pnalternatives@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2016 10:44 AM

**To:** Donna Riley <Donna Riley <[dmriley@vt.edu](mailto:dmriley@vt.edu)>>; XXXXXXXXXXXXX  
**Subject:** quote from Marc - hurts and is indefensible, given that he'd be nowhere today without us

[http://science.sciencemag.org/content/351/6278/1230?utm\\_source=sciencemagazine&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=6278workinglife-2882](http://science.sciencemag.org/content/351/6278/1230?utm_source=sciencemagazine&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=6278workinglife-2882)

*I engage in activism as a last resort, after every scientific path has failed. Since I personally find activism distasteful, I forgive the academics who also view it negatively.*

**From:** Donna Riley <[dmriley@vt.edu](mailto:dmriley@vt.edu)>  
**To:** Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>  
**Cc:** XXXXXXXDeletedXXXXXX  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:10 AM  
**Subject:** Re: quote from Marc - hurts and is indefensible, given that he'd be nowhere today without us

"Distasteful"?!? I hear Pierre Bourdieu in the back of my head... How much privilege do you have to have to say something like that!

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Donna Riley, Ph.D.

On Mar 13, 2016, at 11:24 AM, Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Indeed. Thank you. I honestly sometimes get scared that I'll go crazy. Took the liberty to tweet about this. Sometimes I can't take it anymore. xx Thank you.

**From:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXDeletedXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2016 4:58 PM  
**To:** Yanna Lambrinidou <Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>>  
**Cc:** Donna Riley <Donna Riley <[dmriley@vt.edu](mailto:dmriley@vt.edu)>>  
**Subject:** Re: quote from Marc - hurts and is indefensible, given that he'd be nowhere today without us

Wow. This quotation from ME is a keeper. There will definitely be places to 'cite' him as more and more students and faculty embrace the phrase "activist academic." It's great that he shows his true colors here in print. Wow.

You are not crazy, Yanna. And, the unethical ME is not a good scientist, not a good engineer, not a good teacher, and not a good citizen.

Lv,

XXXXXX

Sent from my iPhone

On Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 4:08 PM, Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Indeed...

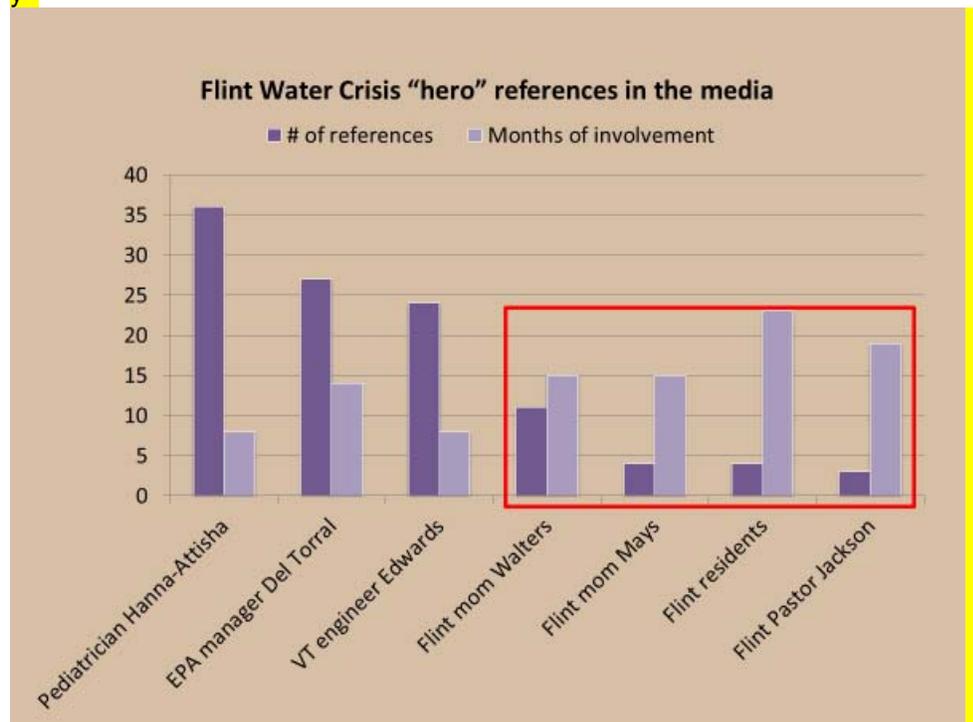
Thanks much for reading!

:(

And btw, in just the past 2-3 weeks, I tasted corporate academia like I never had before -- they are all freakin out there to make a buck out of FLINT! Donna, it's SHAMELESS. I also turned down a BS award about being a public policy "hero" because upon further discussion with the organization it became clear that they don't even know what I do (or care) and that they were hoping I'd bring them DC press to their event and sponsors. It is so devastating. I want to turn my phone off and email for one year so that all these people think I died and stop contacting me. VT has of course been leading the pack. I did dare write that in an email to some EPA folks (friends and colleagues of mine and Marc's), with Marc cc-ed, and since that day I haven't seen any more advertising of Marc and his students carrying out the heroic act of stuffing sampling bottles into boxes. I have no idea if there's a connection here, but it would be typical of Marc to read my email and try to save his ass by calling the PR people and telling them to slow down.

I also did a quick and dirty analysis of media articles about Flint that name someone (anyone) a hero. And then I looked at the number of months (and dogged work) that these heroes have devoted to the water crisis. As you can imagine, hero mention increases with higher professional status and lower time-commitment to the cause. See attached.

y



**From:** Donna Riley <[dmriley@vt.edu](mailto:dmriley@vt.edu)>  
**To:** Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2016 9:09 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: confidential

Amazing! That graph is something else. Would be good to do it for a couple other crises - maybe the Brockovich PG&E case... Woburn, MA or Love Canal or Cancer Alley.... patterns will emerge...

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On Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 9:34 PM, Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)> wrote:

let's do it together. cannot wait to write something about this with you. if you are up for it.

this work, although i know it's important, is making me sick. an hour ago i just took my first ever anti-anxiety med (i almost never take meds for anything). the injustice of it all, the exploitation, the abuse, and the national narrative of celebration and heroism is eating me up alive. it's like looking at your rapist get the nobel prize for gender equality. i need to read more about anita hill. somehow she managed to survive the travesty of "justice" thomas with integrity.

i need to come to terms with this whole injustice thing. most leaders don't let it eat them up. i am missing something, some sort of strength, but i'm not sure what.

u doing any more justice/organizing retreats this summer?

y

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**From:** Donna Riley <[dmriley@vt.edu](mailto:dmriley@vt.edu)>  
**To:** Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2016 9:42 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: confidential

I think this is why so many justice folks talk seriously about self care - because it does eat us up. And often it's not the opposition but supposed allies that inflict the most betrayal and harm. There is nothing wrong with you. You are having a very human response to it all.

I have nothing retreat-y planned at this point - june is busy with a presbyterian general assembly - there will be justice fights there - pretty much the opposite of a retreat.... but I am less caught up in the struggles compared with 10-15 years ago when I went every

year... and then the ASEE conference is the next week... would be good to retreat somewhere....

-----  
Donna Riley, Ph.D.  
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**From:** Yanna Lambrinidou <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 5, 2016 10:19 PM  
**To:** Donna Riley <Donna Riley <[dmriley@vt.edu](mailto:dmriley@vt.edu)>>  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: confidential

Yes. You are totally right. Super helpful to hear. Thank you.

If you find a retreat anywhere that inspires you, let me know. I'll do the same!

:)

**From:** Yanna Lambrinidou [<mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 6:38 AM  
**To:** MIGUEL DEL TORAL <[thedeltorals@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thedeltorals@sbcglobal.net)>; Marc Edwards <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)>; Michael Schock <[mrschock@yahoo.com](mailto:mrschock@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Virginia Tech News Daily Email Message

hm... where to start.

the shock doctrine and the hero economy.

quite the cultural revelation here, both in relation to academia and our society at large.

**From:** Marc Edwards <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)>  
**To:** 'Yanna Lambrinidou' <[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 10:39 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Virginia Tech News Daily Email Message

Now what....what happened?

**From:** Virginia Tech News Daily Email <[websupport@vt.edu](mailto:websupport@vt.edu)>  
**To:** Virginia Tech News Daily Email Subscriber <[yanna@vt.edu](mailto:yanna@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 6:23 AM  
**Subject:** Virginia Tech News Daily Email Message





## Flint water leaders Marc Edwards and Mona Hanna-Attisha named to Time magazine's 100 most influential people of 2016

The list, now in its thirteenth year, recognizes the activism, innovation and achievement of the world's most influential individuals. [Read More](#)

## TAKE NOTE

Happy Earth Day 2016 [Read More](#)

**From:** Yanna Lambrinidou [mailto:[pnalternatives@yahoo.com](mailto:pnalternatives@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 3:04 PM  
**To:** Marc Edwards <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Virginia Tech News Daily Email Message

nothing new. despite all the good scientific work carried out, the injustices being done are grave. the below is one of them.

On Friday, April 22, 2016, Marc Edwards <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)> wrote:

Grave injustice.

**From:** Siddhartha Roy <[sidroy@vt.edu](mailto:sidroy@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 3:36 PM  
**To:** Marc Edwards <[edwardsm@vt.edu](mailto:edwardsm@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Virginia Tech News Daily Email Message

Okay.. This is just spiteful!

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