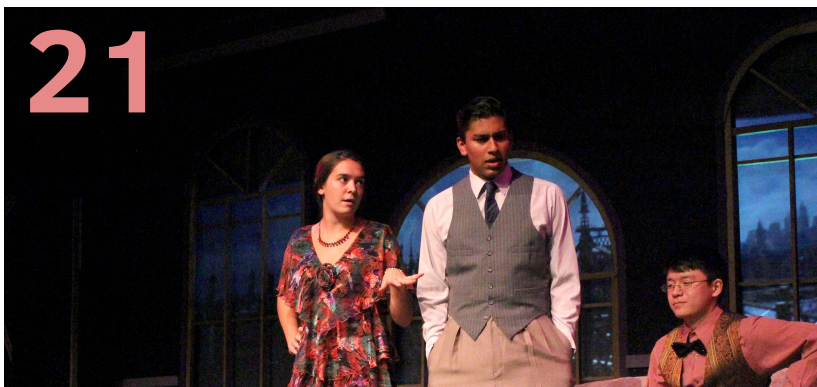


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Dear anonymous,

“Withholding a name will only occur in rare cases when a student’s safety is in danger, if it is required by law, or in the event that the Editorial Board deems it appropriate.”

Our staff policy takes a clear stance on the use of anonymous sources — they are only meant to be used sparingly and only in extreme cases. This is one of those cases.

Domestic abuse is an issue that divides our community. We all come from different places that shape the way we see and interact with the world around us. Our staff editorial this month (page 12) goes into these cultural stigmas in great detail, explaining that our up-bringsings define our outlook on the fine line

between discipline and abuse.

And by the nature of the parent-child relationship, the abused find themselves unable to speak up out of fear of harsher punishment. Trauma, especially when it comes from those who are our mentors, our keepers, our parents is not an easy topic to speak up about.

We are taught to honor our parents, to believe that what they do is for our own good. That in 10, 20, 30 years we’ll look back at them and thank them despite our suffering in this moment. How do we as teenagers have the life experience to question our elders, to affirm that we know the line between right and wrong better than those who raised us?

Placing any serious blame on our parents is extremely uncomfortable, something we are conditioned not to do.

This is why we ultimately supported reporter junior Kristin Chang’s story (page 25), despite its heavy dependence on the word of a single student. We believe that it is a voice that must be heard and that there would be no other way that this student’s could be heard. This boy’s story speaks to a pervasive problem that is too often ignored and put off as the status-quo in our community.

Unfortunately, that’s not a dynamic we can change. We’re just a group of high school students; we can’t force all the parents in our



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el**estoque**

21840 McClellan Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
mv.el.estoque@gmail.com

Editors-in-Chief:

Nathan Desai, Daniel Fernandez

Managing Editors:

Yifei Wu, Kathleen Yuan

Copy Editors:

Rahul Iyer, Jady Wei, Varsha Venkat

Webmaster:

Varsha Venkat

News Editors:

Elia Chen, Maya Murthy, Dylan Tsai

Sports Editors:

Alina Abidi, Amol Pande, Malini Ramaier

Entertainment Editors:

Christine Liang, Sarah Ramos, Lydia Seo

Opinion Editors:

Gabriella Manico, Pranav Parthasarathy

Special Report Editors:

Kristin Chang, Harini Shyamsundar, Mingjie Zhong

Beats Editors:

Ashmita Chakraborty, Avni Prasad

Photo Editors:

Justin Kim, Aditya Pimplaskar

Design Editor:

Rhonda Mak

Graphics Editors:

Rhonda Mak, Sharon Tung

Business Editors:

Claire Lu, Sarah Weinberg

Staff Writers:

Rabina Bishit, Brandon Chin, Aditi Desai, Brian Fan, Kalpana Gopalkrishnan, Pranav Iyer, Pranav Jandhyala, Trisha Khaliya, Elliot Ki, Anjana Melvin, Sanjana Murthy, Vishal Nagar, Jyotsna Natarajan, Colin Ni, Neha Patchipala, Vanessa Qin, Anushka Tyagi, Joshua Tsuei, Emily Zhao

Adviser:

Michelle Balmeo

Credits

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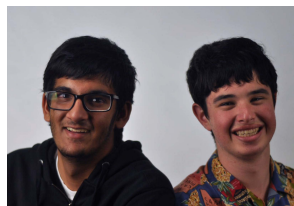
Mission Statement

El Estoque is an open forum created for and by students of Monta Vista High School. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the journalism staff and not of Monta Vista High School or the Fremont Union High School District. The staff seeks to recognize individuals, events, and ideas and bring news to the MVHS community in a manner that is professional, unbiased, and thorough in order to effectively serve our readers. We strive to report accurately, and we will correct any significant error. If you believe such an error has been made, please contact us. Letters of any length should be submitted via email or mail. They may be edited for length or accuracy. Letters cannot be returned and will be published at El Estoque's discretion. We also reserve the right to reject advertising due to space limitations or decision of the Editorial Board that content of the advertisement conflicts with the mission of the publication.

community to change the values that they grew up believing in. And we can't keep them from imparting those values onto their children.

But what we can do is tell the story of one boy — a boy who represents more than just himself — and give him the freedom to tell his story without the fear of further repercussions. More than telling a story, each of us can still make a difference in the lives of those around us. We have an obligation to stand for our friends.

Especially when they suffer in silence.



**NATHAN DESAI AND
DANIEL FERNANDEZ**

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

n.desai@el estoque.org | d.fernandez@el estoque.org