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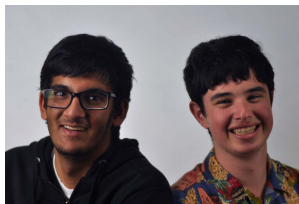
Eat your heart out

She's the man

Dear rememberers,

As a publication, it is rare that we cover tragedy. Certainly we examine topics that are uncomfortable and controversial regularly — things like domestic abuse, cancer, stress anxiety and bullying. But we almost never report on topics that affect us so intimately that they can bring tears to our eyes, cause our hearts to ache and make us wonder why did this happen.

However, there are days when we have to do that. And Oct. 27 was one of them.



NATHAN DESAI AND DANIEL FERNANDEZ

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

During those late morning hours, as rumors spread like wildfire, as teachers nervously checked seats, we were reeling in A111 in

the same way that everybody else was. We wanted to know. We wanted to do something.

But, we didn't spend that brunch assigning pitches or gathering information. We spent it scared, confused and devastated like everyone else on campus.

Surrounded by so much emotion and tension, it was impossible for us break the news first and at the same time offer a fair recounting of that morning's events. We recognized that it was our obligation to publish sensitive, fair and correct information, which required time and patience that we frankly did not have at 11:00 on that Monday morning. So we waited.



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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.

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Sisters Julie and Joyce Chen open up

On Tuesday, our news staff published a brief based on preliminary reports and a few short interviews. But in many ways, we were still waiting. On the same day, several MVHS students created a Facebook event; there would be a candlelight vigil for the fallen Matador the following day.

And on Wednesday — minutes before the student's identity was publicized over the PA system and minutes before lunch began — we published an editorial stating that everyone on campus knew Ethan, even if they had never met him before and that all MVHS students should attend his vigil to pay their respects for him.

We waited through the vigil on Wednesday. Certainly, we held candles and we grieved next to more than 800 parents, teachers, students and staff. But we did not report because we decided that it was more important to be students than reporters.

Despite our waiting, members of the community were critical of our coverage, most notably the editorial published on Wednesday. We were criticized for trying to force a connection and accused of blindly celebrating the life of a student we barely even knew.

It's easy to think now that we have finished our period of waiting. Many weeks have passed, many of us have moved on. In many

ways, things have returned to normal. But, we hope you remember that more than our city laws have changed.

We may no longer grieve in public. We may no longer remember just what was said on Wednesday night. We may no longer think of the memorial as we drive down McClellan each morning on our way to school.

But we hope you recognize that we, as both individuals and a community, have changed. Because we will never forget Oct. 27, 2014.

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