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Dear feel-gooders

The two of us were an unlikely pairing. Not like peanut butter and jelly. Or macaroni and cheese. Or even Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

We were more like Rob Lowe and Taco Bell. (It's up to you to decide which one of us is which.)

Our very first day in charge, Balmeo remarked, "You two have skill sets that complement each other very well," which was her polite way of saying we had little in common. But this arranged marriage had to work. We had to keep El Estoque afloat.

We're still not sure whether or not we succeeded. Some times we were like Pam and Jim

and some times we were like Tom and Jerry. But, somehow, we managed to produce eight

issues, keep the website updated and made it to the end of our run without all our hair falling out. (Although one of us has seen a couple of black hairs turn gray over the course of the year.)

But now that it's all over we can both firmly say it was worth it. All the long nights. All the

arguments. All the craziness. It was 100 percent worth it.

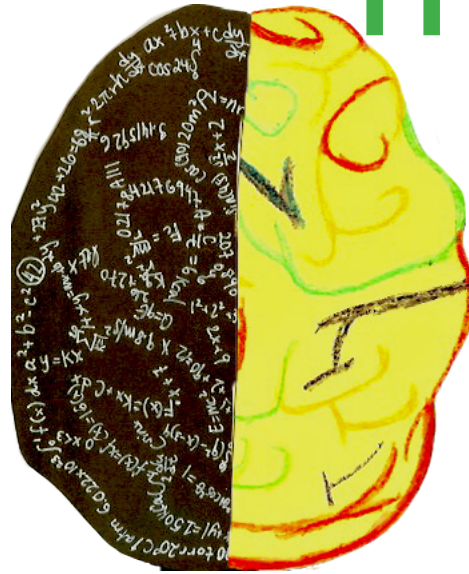
Last May in our very first letter we wrote that each of us has the ability to do something incredible. And that our ability to do great



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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, Judy Wei, Varsha Venkat

Webmaster:

Varsha Venkat

News Editors:

Elia Chen, Maya Murthy, Dylan Tsai

Sports Editors:

Alina Abidi, Amol Pande, Malini Ramaier

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Kristin Chang, Harini Shyamsundar, Mingjie Zhong

Beats Editors:

Ashmita Chakraborty, Avni Prasad

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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.

things doesn't come from being editor or a club officer or the head of a leadership commission. It's something that happens when we care about our community — whether that's our school or our sports team or something else entirely.

Over the last year we have seen that sentiment proven time and time again. We see our staff writers venture into the unknown each month to tackle complex topics like domestic abuse and minority issues. We see them pitch stories at the beginning of each month. We see them work tirelessly to finish pages on Friday late nights. And we see them return to class the next Monday, ready to start the pro-

cess all over again.

We would be nothing without all the writers, editors, designers, artists and photographers who work everyday to keep this publication running. We would also be nothing without our readers. Whether you love us or hate us, we love you. Our work is meaningless if no one reads it. (Hopefully there are still a few of you out there.)

Finally, we would be nothing without our vision, which was simply: "Don't screw up."

Which may not sound too difficult. But when you walk into A111 and see that El Estoque has won so many awards that we use one of our trophies as a pen holder, the stan-

dard for success can seem higher than "Try your best!"

And as Balmeo walked toward her car following our final late night last Friday, she yelled "You're not responsible for the great journalism catastrophe of 2015."

So this it. And with our one-year anniversary having just passed, it's also time for our partnership to come to an end.

And it's up to you to decide whether we were more like "I Love Lucy" or "Jon & Kate Plus 8."

ndesai@elstoque.org | dfernandez@elstoque.org