Letter From the Editors

By Your Editors

In this issue, you will come to realize exactly how much of an impact we, the youth, the students, the children, really have on the world; from anywhere between taking a stand on gun laws, to talking openly about LGBT+ rights. The world is finally seeing how strong we have become and how much stronger we will get. So Toro’s, keep being safe, keep being kind, keep being responsible, but most importantly, keep being strong, the country really needs us right now. We hope you enjoy the issue!
Montera Stands Against Gun Violence

By Olivia Cowgill

News of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida has caused a political and emotional uproar, being one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history. Seventeen people were killed during this attack, ranging in age from 14 to 49. Three out of the 17 were faculty members; a football coach who was a second father to many, a geography teacher who took a bullet for a student, an athletic director who was a “great coach and awesome motivator”; and then there were the many teenagers who were robbed of the life ahead of them. It could have been stopped.

The 19 year old shooter's name will not be stated in this article because we will not glorify the tragedy he caused. He has been faced with 17 counts of premeditated murder, and is being held on suicide watch. The shooter was living with his friend’s parents who took him in after his adoptive mother died in November. The shooter's friends' family knew that he owned multiple weapons (they made him lock them up in a gun safe), and saw that he was showing signs of depression, but they thought it was related to his mother’s death. The hints of mental instability were anything but subtle. He posted images of dead animals that he said he killed on his Instagram page, along with images of guns. He commented on someone’s Youtube that he wanted to become a professional school shooter, which was reported. Someone who knew him called the FBI, saying that he was going to explode, and might resort to slipping “into a school and just shooting the place up”. This was one of many calls warning of potential violence, and one of many red flags for the FBI.

There are so many things that could have prevented this, but there is one thing that outweighs them all. Gun control. The young teen's purchase of an AR-15, the weapon used for the shooting, was completely legal. It is illegal for a 19 year old to drink alcohol, but not to purchase a weapon that is behind 17 people's death. We cannot allow random people to be able to fake a story, and buy a gun without people having access to FBI warnings and mental background checks. This needs to change. This shooting has started the movement, no matter how many republicans deny it, no matter how many inefficient solutions they come up with. It has taken adults too long to do what needs to be done, and now students from all over the nation are doing it. You do not stop guns with more guns, just as you do not stop death with more death. Guns are not protection. Scott Beigel. Aaron Feis. Christopher Hixon. Alyssa Alhadeff. Martin Duque Anguiano. Nicholas Dworet. Jaime Guttenberg. Luke Hoyer. Kara Loughran. Gina Montalto. Joaquin Oliver. Alaina Petty. Meadow Pollack. Helena Ramsay. Alex Schachter. Carmen Schentrup. Peter Wang. 17 dead. How many more will we add to that list?

Our hearts are with all of the 17 lives lost, along with there loved ones, classmaters, and teachers. If you or a friend is feeling depressed or considering suicide please call any of the hotlines listed below. You are loved and you are appreciated!

National Suicide Prevention Hotline - 1-800-273-8255
Depression Hotline - 1-866-229-5719
Both available 24 hours a day!