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Editor's Note: Acknowledging Loss

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Julia Guzman

Like many in our community, I've repeatedly found it difficult to talk about this subject. I know the topic of gun violence has been widely discussed and, with the string of events that have come to pass, is emotionally consuming. Despite the controversy surrounding gun control, our editors felt we still needed to address it in this year's journal due to how heavily it has impacted our community.

Everyone seeks solace and understanding, but people find closure in different ways. Some people need to argue about what we could have done, and are doing, to prevent or respond to these situations. Some people need to feel safe and secure. Some struggle with how to respond, many feeling disconnected from distant events, yet obligated to take action.

Writing, although small and seemingly insignificant, is a way for us to take action, to speak, letting everyone around us know that we are not oblivious to the loss, confusion, and tragedy that has scorched our world. We openly acknowledge that we too have been affected; we too have needed a warm blanket, sleepless nights, and a friend's backbone to come to terms with what we now know.

To all those who were lost in school shootings, we value your lives and all that you were, and we mourn what you could have been.

This next piece may not give closure to all who read it, but perhaps it could remind our community of its part. We are spectators, behind the fourth wall. While we cannot directly change past events, we can act with our newest understanding of our world reflected in our every step.