

## **Tragic accident shows just how precious life is**

<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/entertainment/12224320.htm>

**By Jeffrey Lo - Senior, Evergreen Valley High School, San Jose**

Like many of us, I was ignorant of my vulnerability to death. It was always a friend of a friend, never someone I knew. But on July 2, it hit me. This time, it was my friend.

That afternoon, I heard the news that my fellow basketball player and close friend Torrienne Hunt had died in a car accident that had also left his mother and sister in a coma.

When I first found out, I couldn't believe it. I didn't want to believe it. Just three days prior, I had played a pickup game of basketball with him.

The devastation of my friend's death wasn't enough to bring me back down to reality. I had no doubt that his sister Tristine Hunt, who was also a friend of mine and fellow theater performer, was going to make it through the accident. But on July 4, I was hit by the harsh reality of her quiet departure.

A memorial service on July 5 at Evergreen Valley High School's theater gave the community a chance to pay its respects to our two fallen friends. The theater seats more than 450 people. That night, people were standing in the aisles. Originally planned for an hour, the memorial went for nearly three.

As one of the speakers at the memorial, I spoke about my treasured experiences with these two wonderful people. I shared my adrenaline-pumped memories of playing basketball with Torrienne and the excitement of watching Tristine perform on stage.

Once I had released all of my feelings by speaking at the memorial, I found it easier to accept their deaths. Denying, crying and mourning did nothing for me; it was talking about my feelings that actually helped me move on.

When I spoke about Torrienne and Tristine, I recalled the many times they would help me realize just how good my life is. I now realize that as they passed away, they were doing just that. I appreciate my life and the precious lives of everyone around me. I will no longer take it for granted, for I know that it can all be gone in an instant.

Thank you, Tristine and Torrienne Hunt. Rest in peace.