

SAN MARIN PONY EXPRESS



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OPINION

Embracing identity



By Pepper King
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I do not look Chinese. I've had people ask if I was adopted. I've had people come up to me speaking Spanish, assuming that I understood. I've had so many responses of, "Oh, really?" when I say that I am Chinese. As a kid, not knowing where I fit in didn't bother me very much. I was happy to celebrate my culture and wear a Qipao (pronounced chee-pow), a traditional Chinese dress, to school when we celebrated the Lunar New Year, but when I spent time with friends it never even crossed my mind that I looked different from them. As I've grown up, I've grown more conscious of my race, and how it presents itself.

Even now, I feel like I don't have the right to be writing about my experiences because I don't feel like they align with the way many other Asian Americans are treated, or what they have been through.

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CENTERSPREAD

Every day should be Earth Day

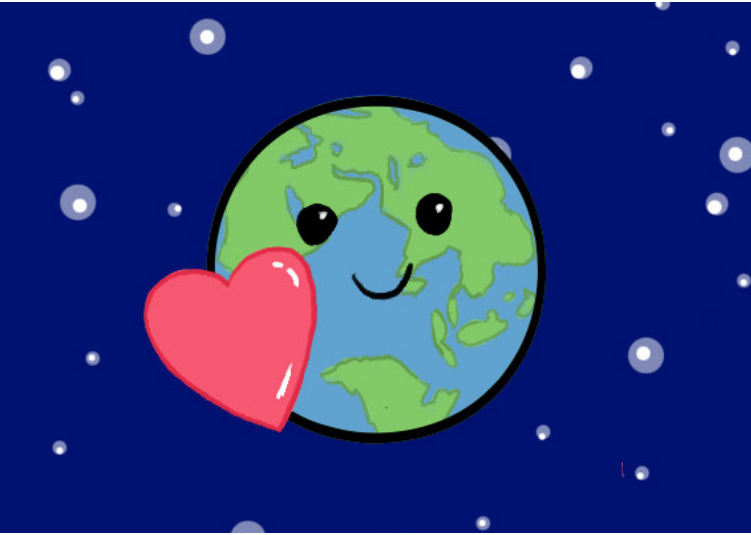
Write-in by Melissa Havel
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Earth Day started as a bipartisan movement in support of the environment and was first celebrated on April 22, 1970. Can you imagine in our current political climate that the environment didn't used to be considered a partisan issue, but instead an issue that affected all of us? People in the 70s were fed up with corporations polluting the air and water so they took a stand. The government passed the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, among many other pieces of legislation. The government acted proactively

in the interest of the earth and the people that live on it, instead of in the interests of the corporations and political donors.

As the AP Environmental Science teacher, I spend a lot of my time being frustrated with the current state of things, but I also spend a lot of time outside, enjoying our beautiful planet. I believe that is important—get outside, go for a hike! It's easy to feel overwhelmed when thinking about climate change or wondering what you can do to make a difference. But, there are some easy changes you can make that can have a positive impact.

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Pepper King

SPORTS

Seniors coach boys volleyball team for a third season



Sahasra Kalluri

Boys volleyball coaches Lindsay Johnk (left) and Sage Kushner pose after watching a game.

By Sahasra Kalluri
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It's not often that you see students working to coach other students. For sports like lacrosse and cross country, the coaches are parents and teachers. For others, it's qualified individuals hired externally. Head coach of San Marin's boys volleyball team, English teacher Adam Williams, chose to follow a different path. After observing a girls volleyball game, he approached two students to join him in coaching his team: current seniors Lindsay Johnk and Sage Kushner.

At the beginning of their coaching journey, they were unsure of how their presence

would be received. "When we first started, walking in as sophomores into a room with a lot of upperclassmen boys was very hard and they didn't respect us very much," Kushner said. "We had to gain their respect by showing that we were serious about our jobs."

They showed their determination to be good coaches by doing most of the player-specific coaching.

"We do a lot of critiquing and a lot of making small changes," Johnk said. "Williams takes care of line-ups and schedules and Sage and I do a lot of the technical work."

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ARTS & CULTURE

A throwback renaissance: the new age of old technology

By Julia Owens and Domi Janot
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While digging through your parents' boxes labeled as "junk" in faded Sharpie, you stumble upon a treasure trove—battered hacky sacks, an answering machine with a clever message recorded, and "The Breakfast Club" on VHS—all buried under decades of dust. Teens today are embracing a nostalgia that they have never experienced, giving discarded items in thrift stores new memories to hold on to.

The camera feature of



phones has unexpected blast-from-the-past challengers: digital and film cameras. Teens have sacrificed user convenience



Domi Janot

and high-resolution quality for a more authentically retro experience.

Senior Gabriella Schaumleffel has been using digital and film cameras, bought secondhand from eBay and estate sales, since 2021. She likes to bring her digital camera with her on the go to capture moments in a way that's more

special than snapping a picture on her phone.

"The quality is just so much better. They take photos where the colors are very pretty compared to a phone camera," Schaumleffel said.

Zane Allen, the manager of the camera store Seawood Photo in San Rafael, sees an increase in the popularity

of manual camera use from younger audiences.

"I think that with so much digital media and so many pictures, people want something a little bit slower, something a little more mysterious, something more tangible," Allen said. "There is a nice aspect to film photography, that delayed gratification, because it does take you a little while to get your film processed and back."



Schaumleffel agrees with Allen. Her film camera is saved for more special moments because of its mystery element.

"You don't get to see them afterward, so that's the fun in it," Schaumleffel said. "It's like a surprise at the end."

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