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PURSUIT



DEAR UKRAINE

DIRTY CASUAL'S GUIDE TO:
INSTANT RAMEN

THE CBU BATHROOMS:
A PHOTO SERIES

IN THE NAME OF CBU

M A G I C

MAN

How Jason Shum brings magic to the campus...and the skies

featured

Emily McGinn tells the story of Jason Shum's talent for sleight-of-hand card tricks and how he integrates that into his life as an aviation major. To read more, turn to page 22.



The pursuit of truth:
To show students the wide range of experiences life has to offer.

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Courtesy of Hope Jayne

Dear Reader,

College is... weird. It is a scary yet wonderful time period in which we begin to finally learn more about ourselves and how we function independently. Some will finally learn how to do their own laundry or wash dishes properly (trust me, I have watched people wash dishes incorrectly). Others will discover that the career they originally planned on is not actually the one they want to pursue. This is a time in our lives when we can try as many new things as we want without worrying too much about having to stay committed to them. Learning a song on the piano, playing Ultimate Frisbee, creating a ceramic mug, slacklining, making new friends — you could do that all in one week if you really wanted to.

I never thought I would become editor-in-chief of Pursuit magazine. However, here I am writing this editors note to you (I am not doing a great job; this is probably my tenth time rewriting this). When I first began as a staff photographer at Lancer Media Group, my goal was to become a photo editor. Once I reached that goal, I thought to myself, “maybe I can learn how to design too.” College is the time to try new things, so that is what I did. I definitely did not stay committed to everything, but at least I can say I tried. After learning how to design, I kept pushing my goals further until editor-in-chief came into the mix, and here we are full circle.

Please do not get the wrong idea. I am not saying all of this to you to show off my title. In fact, I am saying all of this to lead into what will be happening in about a week from writing this. I am stepping down as editor-in-chief. There was one thing I forgot to mention earlier. College is the time to learn how to make hard decisions.

I end my note with this:

Use the time you have here well. Try new things. Step out of your comfort zone. Discover where your passions truly lie. Make mistakes and learn to admit your faults. But most importantly, enjoy it while it lasts.

Farewell,

Camille Rose Grochowski
Editor-in-Chief

When We Were Friends

Grace Crandall

it all counts for something

it does, the house was still a home
before the fire. the hill still grew grass
before the crumbling.

i will breathe before i die and
i will read before i go blind.

the sun once set,
even if it goes out.

the sky was once blue
even at midnight.

and we were once friends
in some distant afternoon.

i'll remember your kindness
because what happened before
still happened.

Design by Leonor Medrano



FEED STARVING COLLEGE STUDENT W/ MEAL SWIPE OR \$\$\$
VENMO ME @ [redacted]

redacted by LMG



Caleb,
This is gross.
Please clean
your kitchen
- E.I.C.

DIRTY CASUAL'S GUIDE TO

Instant Ramen

HAVE YOU EVER SAT AT HOME

AFTER COMING
BACK FROM YOUR
POORLY TIMED

6-9 P.M.

CLASS AND HAD

NOTHING

TO EAT BECAUSE

WANDA'S CLOSED

EARLY?

...Me neither.

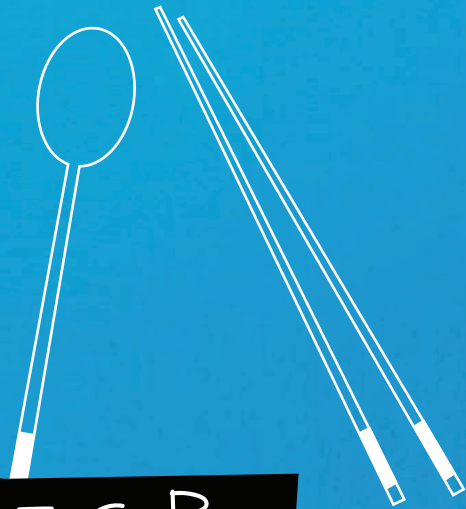
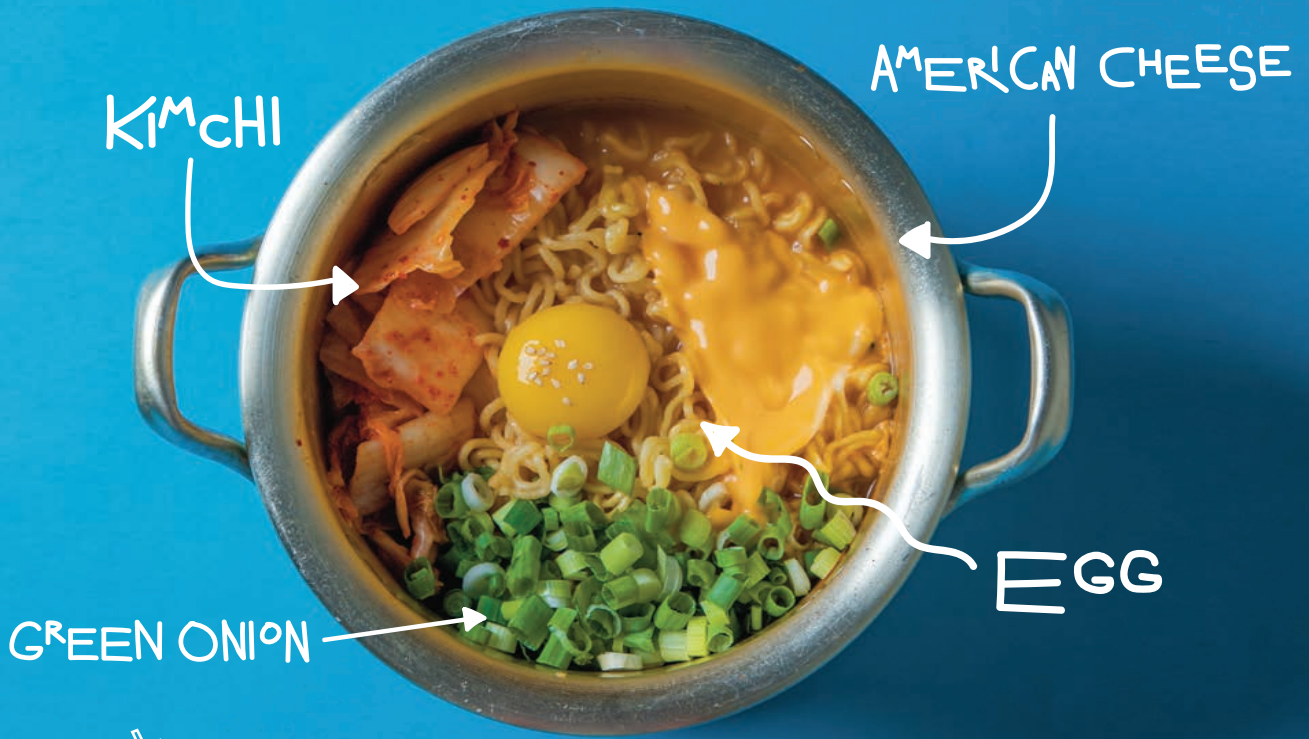
Nevertheless, you cannot deny that there are times when you have nothing to eat, and you just can't afford to go to Raising Cane's for the third time this week. For once, you're going to have to cook a meal. I know — most college students can barely boil water, let alone turn on the stove. You probably don't even know what you have in the fridge. From what I gather, you probably don't have much to begin with. It is at this moment you must embrace the core philosophy of college cuisine: you can combine anything you find in your dorm to make an edible dish. In other words: Toss whatever you find in the fridge into the pot and see what you get.

The one thing you can always count on in a college student's pantry is some instant noodles. Throughout history, instant noodles have aided wartime families, divorced husbands and college students in escaping starvation. It is tasty, quick and filling — exactly what a college student needs. Shin Ramen, a Korean variety of instant noodles, is particularly great because not only are they tasty on their own, but they also can make a variety of different dishes with the help of a few extra ingredients. So that's it. That's the pitch. This is how you can make a pack of Shin Ramen taste better for your broke college butt.

Hopefully by the end of this, you'll have a few extra recipes in your repertoire to make your packet of Shin Ramen a little more filling and tasty. Most of these will require a few extra ingredients, most of which you should have lying around in your fridge. (Really? You don't have EGGS in your fridge?) This guide shouldn't be seen as a strict cookbook but more as a starting point for trying new things. It's important to know that even if you've been dealt some bad cards, you can always improve your circumstances with the little things you have around you. So don't be afraid to think outside the box. Change up the recipe and add your personal favorite ingredients.

If you've read the Dirty Casual series from previous Pursuit issues, you know this isn't a "holier-than-thou" guide that claims to be the expert on cooking. At the end of the day, it's just college instant noodles.

So what are you waiting for?



RAMEN 2.0

(K-DRAMA RAMYUN)

Let's begin with something easy for our stove beginners. This one is specifically for the fire alarm criminals over at Magnolia Crossing. This recipe simply requires four extra ingredients: an egg, green onion, a slice of American cheese and kimchi. For all the BTS stans and Koreaboos out there, this is the K-Drama iteration of Ramyun that you're probably familiar with.

RECIPE

EASY PART

1. Bring a pot of water to a boil.
2. Add your instant noodles, along with all of the soup packets
3. When the noodles start to soften, crack one egg into the pot. If you want the egg to be incorporated into the soup, stir the pot right after you add the egg. Otherwise, simply crack the egg into the pot and place some noodles over the egg so that it is fully submerged. This will allow the egg to cook and solidify.
4. Once the instant noodles are done cooking, sprinkle in any toppings of your choice. Green onion, spam and a slice of American Cheese are always the fan favorites.
5. Enjoy your noodles with a side of fresh kimchi!



Extra K-Drama points if you made your noodles in a golden pot. The great thing about this recipe is that you can honestly put whatever you want into the dish. Mushrooms, tofu, bacon, onions, rice, etc. This can be the literal melting pot of cultural flavors if you want it to be. Just maybe not ice cream, OK?

(GOOGLE IT LATER)

COLD (POOR MAN'S SOBA) RAMEN

RECIPE

1. Bring a pot of water to a boil, then add your instant noodles.
2. Once cooked, place your noodles in a bowl of ice water. Leave noodles in the water until they are cold.
3. While the noodles are getting cold, pour your mentsuyu in a small bowl or cup. You may or may not have to dilute the sauce with water depending on what kind you buy.
4. Drain the cold noodles and place them on a plate. Dip the noodles in the sauce and enjoy your cool meal!

OPTIONAL: Add green onion, grated daikon and wasabi to your mentsuyu.

☆☆☆

And there you have a poor man's cold soba noodles. Formal apologies to Japan.

U KNOW
THIS PART

ごめんなさい



MENTSUYU
SAUCE

WASABI

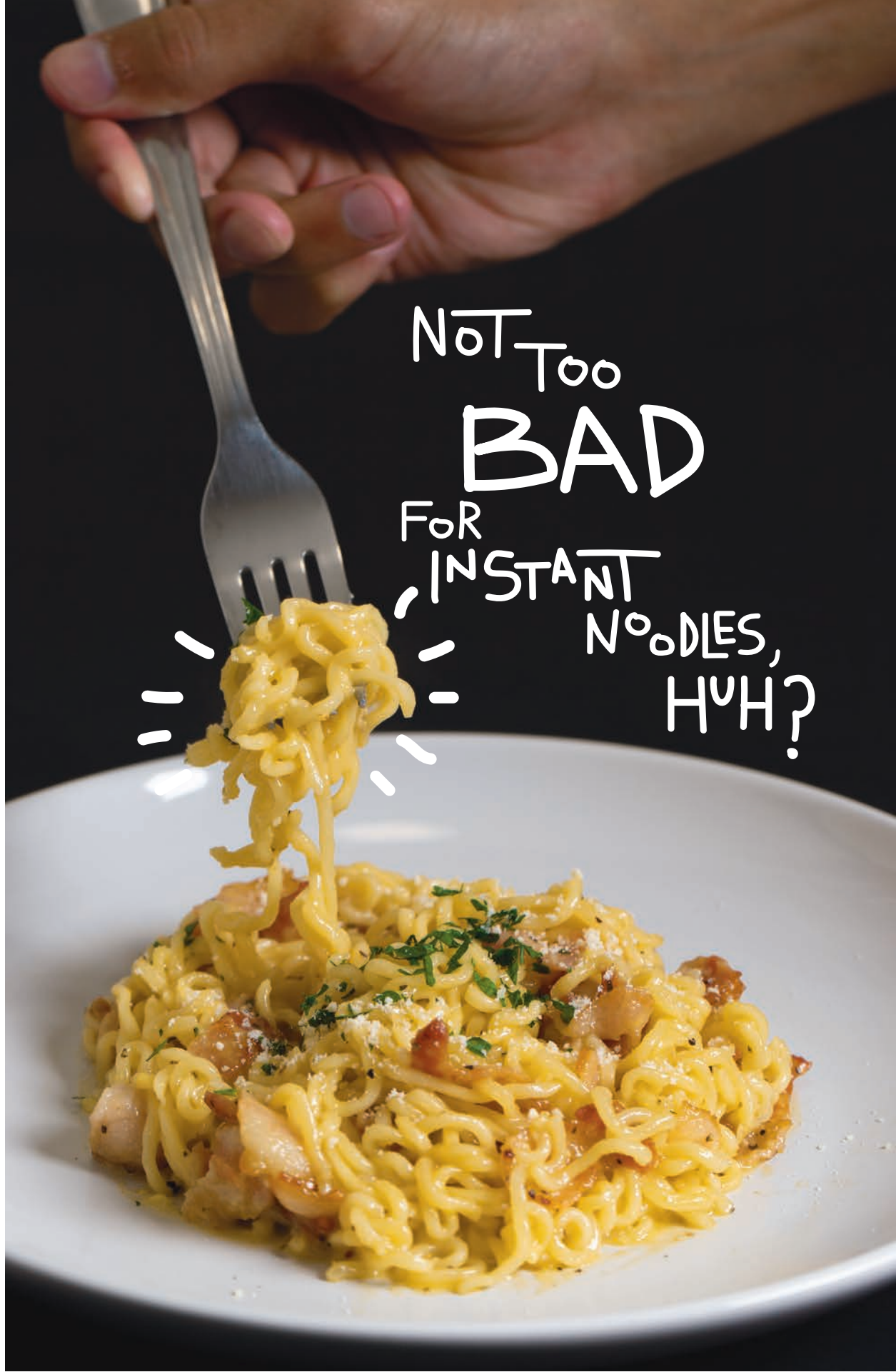
NORI

GREEN ONION



If you're too busy paying off student loans to afford a vacation in Japan, perhaps this will be a cheaper substitute, especially on hot days. This recipe emulates (a nice way of saying culturally appropriating) a commonly traditional way of serving soba noodles, a type of Japanese noodle made of buckwheat. Although soba noodles also appear in hot dishes, it is common to see it served chilled along with a soy sauce and mirin based dipping sauce called "mentsuyu." The great thing about this recipe is that you really only need a packet of noodles and a bottle of mentsuyu, which you can get at any Asian market (such as 99 Ranch off McKinley Street).



INSTANT CARBONARA



IMAGINE THIS...

You've invited your tinder date over to your place and she's expecting you to cook dinner because you may have said you were a "connoisseur of Italian cuisine" in your bio. Well, with a packet of ramen, eggs, bacon and some Parmesan cheese, you might be able to save face. Eggs and bacon shouldn't be too hard to find at a college campus and you can just use the Parmesan cheese packets you use for pizza (plenty of those at the Alumni Dining Commons) And if I'm being completely honest, this isn't too far off from an authentic carbonara recipe if you replace the ramen noodles with real pasta and the bacon with guanciale.

RECIPE

1. Bring a pot of water to a boil. Season the water with some salt. 
2. While you're waiting for the water to boil, mix two eggs and 4 spoons of Parmesan cheese (or 4 packets).
3. Cut up 2-3 slices of bacon and cook them on a medium-sized pan. 
4. Then add your instant noodles in the boiling water when the bacon is almost done cooking. **(NOODLES COOK FAST)**
5. When the noodles begin to soften, reserve half a mug's worth of the noodle water. Immediately add the noodles to the pan of bacon and turn the stove to low heat. Then add the noodle water to the pan. Mix everything together.
6. Make sure your pan isn't super hot and take it off the stove for a moment. This is important because you don't want to end up with scrambled eggs when you add in the egg and cheese concoction. Slowly drizzle in your eggs and cheese sauce while furiously stirring the pan. Once all your sauce is stirred into the pasta, add the pan back to LOW heat to warm up your dish. Continue to stir your pasta until ready to serve.
7. Season with salt and **LOTS** of pepper. Top with more Parmesan cheese.



For a spicy kick, add a quarter packet of the Shin Ramen packet instead of seasoning with salt and pepper.



1. Crush the noodles in the bag
2. Pour the packet into the bag
3. Shake it up
4. Eat it

A little dry and a little salty. But beggars can't be choosers, can they?

Written, Designed
& Photographed
by Caleb Chong

“The Lightning Thief” & “Joyful Noise”

Theater Spotlight

It is not often we get to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, to see something not only visually stunning but also magical — some would almost say mythical. “The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical” is exactly that. Bridging the gap between reality and fantasy, it gives fans who grew up with these books a sense of nostalgia but conveys a deeper meaning as well. From the stunning costumes to the choreography on stage, “The Lightning Thief” is a dazzling production even Zeus himself would have trouble living up to.

But what makes this play so special? Traditional theater often has a cast of actors working individual roles. However, just like Greek mythology, this show is anything but conventional. Instead of many actors individually filling many roles, “The Lightning Thief” has a small cast of actors with each person playing several characters.

Ethan Park, director of the musical and an adjunct professor of theater, shares his experience working on “The Lightning Thief” and how rigorous each role in this musical has been. “It is very intense in all of the work the actors are doing,” he says. “Instead of having 40 different actors doing a ton of tiny parts, you have seven actors who have huge roles.”

Staying true to the source material was a priority for Park, especially because this was the way the play was originally written. Rather than this hindering the production, it only adds to it and allows the storytelling to expand as the audience gets swept away in all of these different characters played by the same actors. Just when the audience sees one side of an actor, they come onto the stage as someone completely different.

When movie remakes or book adaptations are made, fans often complain the movie is inaccurate compared to the original. Live theater is no exception. To see such care put into this production is what really helps bring this musical to life. Staying true to the original show helps to keep audiences engaged, especially Percy Jackson book fans.

Despite Park’s confidence in his students’ abilities to play multiple roles, there were still challenges. A typical semester has two productions, one is on the shorter side and another that is on the longer side. It was very tough for the cast and crew to manage such a visually demanding show in a short time frame.

“The designers had to work extra hard making those 40 costumes, the actors memorizing their music faster than normal and all of the light cues, there is just so much going on,” Park says. Even in the face of the challenges involved, the creative and theatrical skills on display show why this is a top-notch production.



Above: Gavin Duran, senior comedic arts and theater double major, singing “The Tree on the Hill” in Act One of “The Lightning Thief.”

Another unique aspect of the show was the use of puppets. When thinking of puppets, dolls on strings or hand and finger puppets may come to mind, but the puppets in this show are on a much larger scale. These props are carried by multiple actors at once, and one of them is even worn by an actor: the Minotaur.

Towering at 10 feet tall, the Minotaur is an imposing figure with glowing red eyes, and the sound of gasps could be heard throughout the audience each night it stormed the stage. The creature wields a large axe, twice the size of Percy’s sword. However, the hero perseveres, and the Minotaur is defeated. Not without a certain motherly sacrifice first, though.

Another outstanding puppet is a Mrs. Dodds’s fury form, with wings that stretch nine feet across. It took three actors to run it around the stage during the opening song. She aims to terrorize actors and audience members alike with her pointed teeth and squinted, crimson eyes.

From the original Percy Jackson book series came the movies and eventually the musical. Both differ in many ways. Gavin Duran, a senior theater and comedic arts double major, plays Grover, a satyr who is Percy’s best friend, and Dionysus, the Greek god of wine.

“This play is very inspired by the books, where the movie took its own liberties in a lot of areas,” Duran says. “I remember the movie being so different from the books, but this musical is so

faithful to what the books had and what the writer (Rick Riordan) wrote.”

To have actors who have had the story of Percy Jackson hold significance in their own lives adds to the world-building and storytelling these actors accomplish throughout the production. It is one thing to study the script; it is another to be able to relate to the story and have followed it since the start. It goes beyond the script to create something that amazes actors and audiences alike.

Duran says the story even helped him see his faith in a different light.

“The story of Percy is a hero’s journey,” he says. “He struggles a lot with his faith and the world. Being able to relate to him growing up, seeing the hero struggle, seeing the hero not always having it all put together — he is figuring it out all on the spot as the story is going along. And towards the end, he is the one that gives faith to the community in relation to the faith we all struggle with in this world, and it’s going to be hard, but in the end, we can always find that hope in faith no matter how much we struggle.”

With so much hard work and talent pouring into this production, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to make it all possible. Alexis Parsio, a junior theater major, is the stage manager for “The Lightning Thief.” Stage managers have the task of calling technical cues during the show, and “The Lightning Thief” makes full use of both lighting and sound: The lighting alone totals more than

250 cues. Parsio’s role in this show differs from previous shows, and it is one of the first times she has stage managed a show during the school year. The style of the play itself was also something that Parsio found interesting, with the play taking on a much more punk, modern style.

Although her work is mostly off stage, Parsio has her own perspective on the show through her role. Like Duran, Parsio says it also made her think about what her faith means to her as she helped run this production.

“We do what we do for (God),” she says. “And when we put our art on stage or off stage behind the scenes, it’s the way God created us to serve him and worship him.”

Parsio also understands some of the finer details and nuances of theater, exploring how even seat placement can make all the difference for someone watching the show.

“I think something that’s cool about theater is that everyone sits in a different seat,” Parsio says. “They’re all different with different views, so they’re all going to take something different away... I pray that whatever they take away is exactly what God wants.”

Despite performing a musical rooted in Greek mythology, students at CBU still find ways to hear God’s voice in miraculous ways, helping those a part of the experience find courage in their daily lives, the same way Percy finds courage through his own trials and tribulations.



Above: Marisa Alfaro, sophomore vocal performance major, and Duran look up toward Hades as he tries to convince them to give him Zeus's lightning bolt.

Joyful Noise



Above: The cast of "Joyful Noise" stands in historical undergarments of the play's time period. The corsets worn by the women were handmade by Machir Lakofka.

Music. It's universally understood by all. It is always present anywhere you go, but, at the same time, it is ever-changing. This play is not just a story about music, but about change. Some fear change while others embrace it, but one thing is certain: You cannot stop change. This is the story of "Joyful Noise."

"Joyful Noise" is a play based on a true story. It follows the composer George Frederic Handel, who wrote "Messiah" in 18th-century Europe. Within the story, Handel overcomes odds ranging from King George II to bishops decreeing his play as blasphemous, and despite it all, the play must go on. It is a story of change, struggle, sacrifice and redemption.

Zachary Bortot, director of "Joyful Noise" and associate professor of theater, is new to the university this year. He offers a fresh approach to directing, which his philosophies influence.

"Anytime a new professor comes on, it's an opportunity for students to work through the craft through a new perspective," Bortot says. "I try to be someone who is very encouraging, and I meet people where they're at and bring them up to another level."

The approach Bortot takes helps bring out the best in the actors. In his view, subtle teaching methods make all the difference, especially when dealing with historical shows. Rather than telling the actors what to do, they are free to express their acting skills how they see fit, something certainly reflected in the show.

"Our main character, Susannah Cibber, was forced into a situation where she had to commit adultery because she was taken advantage of by her husband who was an awful, awful man," Bortot says. "So because of that, we want to be authentic and true to representing her plight without



perpetuating the same sort of ideas that led to this awful treatment of her. We want to depict how tough it was without it coming across as endorsement.”

“Joyful Noise” also differs from fictional plays because of the need for historical accuracy. We know what they wore, how they talked and the events that took place. What we do not have is information about the conversations that took place and other personal reactions in Handel’s life, as well as with other supporting characters in his play. This is where skill in acting comes in, balancing the historical information we have and filling in with their own artistic interpretations as actors where we don’t. It is what allows this play to be special while still remaining true to the original source material.

Even within the play itself, it can be difficult to know what is real and what is fiction, but that can be seen as a benefit. The story is a combination of real events and characters overlaid with extravagant costumes and attuned dialog. It is precisely this combination that offers a fresh approach to a story more than 200 years old.

Costumes are something that is important in any play, especially when the garments and clothing must be historically accurate. Machir Lakofka, lead costume designer for the play, has helped students achieve that and has contributed to the success of the costume design team. Authenticity in the costumes is not only important for the actors to feel as if they are in the correct time period, but also for the audience. If the costumes do not look genuine, the play’s credibility beings to lack. Lakofka puts care into the details of the garments in order to bring that authenticity to the show. It is this suspension of reality that makes “Joyful Noise” work so well.

With this story being religiously focused, Lakofka says that even in costume design, themes of redemption and grace are prevalent, especially since the story within the play focuses on the Messiah.

“(Susannah Cibber, the main character) has her things torn from her, so we are going to start her out in her underdress,” Lakofka says. “In order to support that and have it be a moment that’s felt by the audience, we had a lot of discussions in our production meetings. How do we do this tastefully but also have it be real... not pretending this didn’t happen.”

It is at the end of the play that we see how Susannah Cibber overcomes the trials and tribulations she faces throughout the story, restoring herself and her place in society. In the same way, Jesus heals, forgives and restores, giving new life to us. With a new life comes a new purpose and plan found in him. This is a theme woven clearly throughout the play, showing audiences that even when we feel like the world has turned its back on us, we still have a place with Jesus.

Building on the theme of change found throughout the play, some actors have made personal changes themselves to make the play the best it can be. Shane Moser, senior theater major who plays Handel, Moser shaved his head for the role.

“Finding this character, you really have to take into consideration (that) this guy was real,” Moser says. “I can’t fully do my own thing because he was a historical figure.”

Having taken such steps to ensure accuracy and represent the characters in the best way possible highlights the commitment these actors have to their roles. It adds to the layers of a story within an already deep historic and cultural significance. “Joyful Noise” exemplifies the values and commitment of not only the group involved in the play, but of CBU as a community.

The story of “Joyful Noise” and Handel’s life is one that will continue to be told by many actors and playwrights for years to come. The story of change and music is written into its very DNA, especially with the many different ways the play has been approached over the years. Still, the themes of change, struggle, sacrifice and redemption are timeless themes that anyone, at any point in history, can connect with.

Written by Michael Marks
 Designed by Caleb Chong
 Photographed by Caleb Chong
 & Camille Grochowski



Design by Elijah Martinez

Unwelcome Friend

Samuel Castro

The crack of leaves
And the brisk air of winter
Won't stop the overflow
Of feelings that of a black heart

Emotion was difficult to process
In his cold icy soul
When only a familiar face
Could bring him back to the surface

Depression,
Not a warmth envied
Engulfs an unfamiliar character
A facade masks the spirit

The walk resumes
With seldom hope
Nor the faintest idea
Of how to become joyful

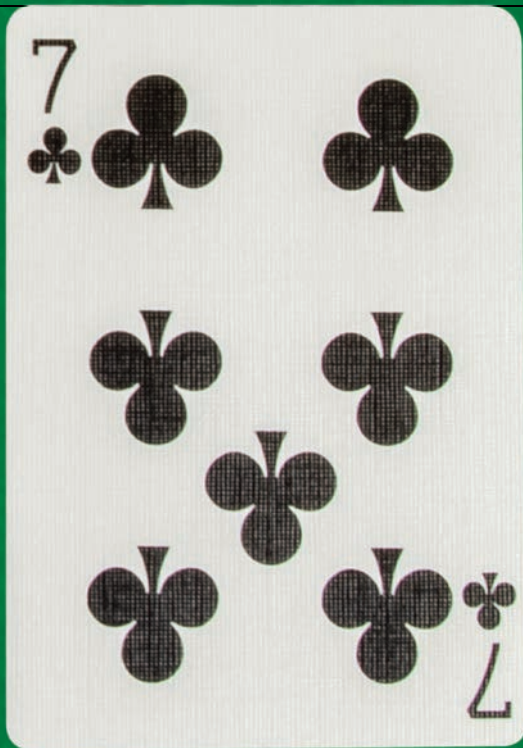
presented by Moments of Poetry

M A G I C
M A N

Jason Shum builds community with spontaneous close-up magic
across campus



Above: Jason Shum, senior aviation major, performs a spring flourish with a deck of cards.



Jason Shum speaks as a philosopher would, quoting C.S. Lewis and discussing time as “a very peculiar concept.” It might have become one of those deep conversations that aims to solve the dilemmas of existentialism and faith in one cup of coffee, only the 52-card deck that Shum casually shuffles as he speaks indicates a twist in the conversation — the discussion is a lead-in for a magic trick centered around time.

“Do you want to see a magic trick before or after?” Shum had asked me as he slid into his seat in Wanda’s, already reaching down to grab the deck of cards he carries with him as religiously as most people carry their wallets or phones.

He first performs one of his traditional tricks: someone picks a card and, as they place it back into the deck, it appears in his mouth.

Then, he asks me to pick a card. I pull the seven of clubs, and when I hand it back to him, he mixes the cards until some lie face up and others face down, joking, “People who are organized usually get super bothered by this.” Grabbing impromptu props, he places the deck between a wallet and a notebook across the table.

To fix the mess of cards, Shum announces we must go back in time. “Eight minutes ago this deck was all facedown,” he explains.

Pulling out his iPhone, he points to the clock: it reads 4:33. Suddenly, the numbers begin to reverse before my eyes — yes, on an ordinary iPhone lock screen — until they reach 4:24. Of course, now the cards from beneath the wallet are all facedown, and among the fan of red Bicycle cards is a single blue card that was not there before.

As my mind grapples with the suddenly very likely possibility of the existence of time-travel, he hands me the card. As I flip it over, I raise my eyebrows. Somehow, it is my seven of clubs.

To those watching, this trick is a five-minute venture into the world of things we cannot explain. For Shum, it is a culmination of a year’s worth of refinement of this single routine, six unnoticeable sleight-of-hand movements and years of honing his connection with audiences through close-up magic.

During an ordinary day, Shum aims to perform magic for at least three random groups of students between his aviation flight classes and trips to the airport. Though he has been performing magic on campus for over a year, he became better known campus-wide last year when a video of him doing magic appeared on the popular student-run Instagram account CBU Confessions.

“It was a weird feeling because I actually have never filmed myself doing magic,” Shum says. “I don’t have one of those TikTok or Instagram accounts where I keep putting magic videos. When I do magic, I just show it to people and that is the end of it. I just enjoy that moment when I can look at people’s faces.”

While many know Shum for doing free magic tricks for students around campus, he does paid performances as well, including a performance for children at City of Hope hospital and CBU’s Yule event last year. Shum jokes that around campus, students have also offered to pay him for his magic in the form of meal swipes.

Although he does paid performances with stage magic, close-up magic is Shum’s specialty. Unlike stage magic, close-up magic is a different brand of the craft because the entire audience is directly involved.

“In close-up magic, you literally talk to someone who is standing one foot away from you,” Shum says. “You are doing a magic trick, and you are having a full conversation. You are interacting with them and getting to know the person a little bit. That’s why close-up is so hard, so fun and so different.”

He spends months preparing routines, but he cannot predict the human interaction involved in his spontaneous performances. No audience is quite the same; it is like adding a joker to the deck. Shum pays attention to details, noting body language during performances. He observes habits, like tapping feet. Each performance is a new experience, which allows him to grow as a performer.

Shum has encountered many situations during routines that force him to adapt on the fly. Once when doing a trick, he asked a girl to pick a card. However, she refused to give it back — a crucial step for him to complete his routine. In response, Shum had to adjust quickly and perform another trick that would not require the card she was still holding. Even though the situation was a bit awkward and unexpected, Shum



Above: Jason Shum, senior aviation major, holds a plane-shaped clock with an Ace of Clubs, symbolizing the interplay he sees between time, magic and his life at CBU.

is thankful for it because it prepared him for future circumstances where a trick might not go as planned.

“The most challenging part is the human element because everyone reacts to things differently,” he says. “If I ask you to pick a card, some people might be a little hard (and say, ‘I don’t want to pick a card’ or maybe they say, ‘I don’t want a card in the middle, I want one on top.’ They give me some kind of challenge. I look for those challenges.”

Nathan Moraes became friends with Shum through aviation classes and watches him perform magic often.

“Fortunately, I’m one of the few people on campus who gets to witness his magic every day and almost every hour,” Moraes says. “Every time he stops and asks that question, ‘Hi, can I show you guys a magic trick?’ people are always stunned and amazed because that’s not something we expect to hear. Those types of events in our lives bring excitement, and his passion for people can reverse someone’s mediocre day to an interesting day.”

Although magic might not appear philosophical to most people, it is more than entertainment to Shum. To him, performing magic serves a higher purpose, which he began to truly explore after he had an epiphany while performing for children at the City of Hope hospital.

“That was a turning point for me,” Shum reflects. “Up until that point, I was doing a lot of magic for the sake of doing magic and sometimes you become very complacent. You get lost in what you do. Day in and day out, you just do magic and get people’s reactions, and then you do more magic. You come up with more tricks, and you do more magic. But when I was at the City of Hope, I saw a lot of people who struggle with life and death. That’s when I had that moment where I was like, ‘What kind of magic do I want to do?’”

As Shum pondered this question, he began to shift his approach to

magic. Now, he uses his magic as a way to connect with people and share his faith in God.

“I don’t want to just do magic for the sake of magic. I want to use my skillset and really use it and think about ‘Hey, what is God’s purpose for me doing magic tricks for others?’ Is it just for the sake of doing magic tricks, or to put a smile on someone’s face? Or doing that and at the same time, through his words, kind of preach and put out the words of God?”

Unlike many other magicians, Shum does not attempt to maintain a persona of mystery or go out of his way to conceal his tricks. Instead, he wants to inspire others to delve into magic as well. This desire is rooted in his own journey. He reflects upon his own venture into the world of magic, which began when he was a child when he witnessed a street performer doing magic.

“I have always been a very curious person,” Shum says. “We stopped at one of those street performers, and it was a really cheesy magic trick. I can actually do the trick now, but when you are like 6 years old, you have that ‘wow’ moment. It almost feels like your world turned upside down. It is a very powerful moment.”

After that experience, he launched himself into the world of magic, beginning by doing small routines for his dad with his magic kit. Looking back, he jokes that his early tricks were “cheesy” and the type where “you totally know what it is”







before the trick is completed, but as a child it was an important foundation for him to reach where he is now.

Shum credits his start in magic to his insatiable curiosity, and when he does magic, he hopes to inspire that same curiosity in others.

“I don’t have a big ego where ‘a magician never reveals their secrets.’ I would like to give people the curiosity that I had when I was 6 years old. I hope when I do magic tricks, I can inspire other magicians-to-be,” Shum says.

In addition to magic, Shum prioritizes studying for his aviation degree. However, magic is still in the cards for his future. Through his past travels, Shum has learned that magic is relatively common in California compared to other places around the world. In fact, when he traveled to Japan and performed magic on the streets, he attracted large crowds because his magic tricks were so out of the ordinary for people there. Recognizing this absence of magic in many regions, Shum hopes to integrate his two interests once he moves beyond college and use his skillset to spark a curiosity in others that first drew him to magic.

“Hopefully I can one day fly myself to different places and show magic tricks to people outside of where I live,”

Shum says. “Some people don’t have the luxury to see magic. They might have seen it on TV, but they don’t have a magician around.”

Viviana Delgado, a fellow aviation student, views Shum’s time spent showing magic to students on campus as a way to bring happiness to busy college schedules.

“He helps alleviate the everyday stress people are feeling with school and life,” Delgado says. “His magic tricks give people an excuse to smile. That’s very important in a high-stress environment like a college campus.”

The seven of clubs still lies on the table. The card is still inexplicably blue. In the moment it transformed from red to blue, I saw nothing. But Shum saw the moment it changed, and he saw the moment I noticed. For us, the magic lies in the card; for him, the magic lies in how his audience reacts.

“My favorite part happens right before I do the trick,” Shum says. “Every time I do a magic trick, before you actually see that ‘wow’ moment, there is a half-second where I was actually looking at your face. I see that trick before everyone else does, and it is just that half-second when you look up and you see people’s expressions on their faces. It is a very real thing. You see very raw, very naked joy expressed on that face. That’s why I do magic.”

Written by Emily McGinn
Designed by Camille Grochowski
Photographed by Caleb Chong
& Kia Harlan





Top: Jason Shum, senior aviation major, poses with a CBU plane that he often flies during his training.
Middle: Shum shows off a magic trick while in the flight simulation.
Bottom: Shum steps out of a CBU plane at sunset.



THE MIDNIGHT SHIFT

Their office is a dark storage room, out of sight to everyone else. Their work hours start after many are already home with their families. They are the people that keep our buildings functional and clean. We might not know much about what it takes to care for our spaces every day, but one thing we should know is that the custodial staff works hard to keep up with the demands of maintaining our campus. Beyond that, the reality is that very few people know who they are, what they do or why they do it.



Right: Alfredo Vasquez, Haynes Building Services supervisor, stands among the cleaning supplies in the custodial room.

An exploration of the lives and work of the campus custodial staff: The people who start their day when you go to bed.

Despite the unseen nature of the work they do at CBU, they are an integral part of campus life. Their labor allows the student body to learn and work in classrooms free of distractions such as debris and other unpleasant sights and smells. And, while they are technically employed by Haynes Building Services and not the university, they've been contracted by the school for the past 20 years, or almost one-third of the time the school has been operational.

It feels isolating, living life on an opposite timeline than everyone else. They start work at 8 p.m. when many people are already winding down after their workday, and they leave at 4:30 a.m. before most people wake up. It begs the question, how does someone on this schedule have time to manage any kind of balance between their work life and their personal life?

Alfredo Vasquez, a supervisor with Haynes Building Services, has recently started working on campus this year. However, he has enough experience to be tasked with training new hires, including his 18-year-old son, Javier. According to the father and son duo, this arrangement has proved to be beneficial to their relationship.

"Growing up, I never had a dad figure, and me and my son bond now a lot more," Alfredo Vasquez says. "We always bonded, but working together has brought us closer together, I believe."

Javier Vasquez echoes the sentiment: "Working with my dad is great. He shows me how to do everything, and it's easier to learn because that's my father. It's easier to get the basics of everything."

Working with his dad not only strengthened their relationship but his own work ethic too.

"My dad, he values hard work. That's his main priority," Javier Vasquez says. "To get his kids to do better and move up levels because he doesn't want us just sitting down anywhere. He wants us working for our money. He doesn't want to see us sitting down thinking stuff's going to get handed to us. So hard work is a very important thing in life, for him and me."

According to Alfredo Vasquez, there is a total of 32 people tasked with cleaning CBU's academic buildings. There are only two supervisors, two people qualified to handle carpet cleaning and one person who power washes. Although Alfredo Vasquez has hopes their team will grow, they devised a system to make it work.

"The way we determined the amount of staff needed was by originally making a quote after doing a walkthrough of the buildings on campus," said Phil Hampton, account manager for Haynes Building Services. From this quote, he goes on to explain, they create a budget of hours required to complete necessary tasks within each building and placing an appropriate number of staff based on that budget.

“We always bonded, but working together has brought us closer together.”

- Alfredo Vasquez
(custodial staff)



Above: Javier Vasquez (left) and Alfredo Vasquez push their carts down the hallway as Alfredo shows Javier, his son, the workflow of his assigned floors.

The entirety of the W. E. James Building is cleaned by three people. One person cleans the basement and first floor, and one takes the second and third. The third person's job is to handle cleaning the science labs in the back of the building. In total, anywhere between 16 and 19 hours of combined labor are being put into a single building every night, five nights a week. The Eugene and Billie Yeager Center is stretched even thinner in terms of manpower; being a larger complex also staffed by three people.

"I didn't know that; I'm all over the place," Booker Williams, one of two carpet technicians with Haynes, said. Because of the way each building is staffed, interaction between custodians, even those cleaning the same building, is limited. The exception to this is supervisors, carpet cleaners, maintenance workers and other floaters within the staff of 32 that currently make up the crew working at CBU.

Although the size of the team is perhaps unexpected, Alfredo Vasquez insists that the job is not nearly as isolated as it seems. He explains, "I don't feel I'm isolated at all because I'm moving all over the campus... I'm not just stuck here in James at all. I get to travel to our Rec Center, I get to go outside the grounds, on the grounds, because this campus is so big and it's still growing."

There is not a specific place on campus where Alfredo Vasquez would prefer to work. "I just like to be all over the place," he says. "I like to be interacting with everyone."

Williams offers a different perspective: "They call me a loner, because I go to different buildings," though he adds that while he does run into people occasionally as he moves around campus, "normally, I never see anybody, because I go in and get it done, and I'm out to the next building."

Now, that's not to say Williams doesn't find the job to be collaborative. "I like to work as a team," he says, "and this is team oriented."

Alfredo Vasquez backs up this point, saying that his job involves talking to a myriad of people, such as the other supervisor, new hires, maintenance, specialists or floaters that may be filling in for regular employees. Because of this, he's excited to, "pick up the pace here and try to get everybody motivated to all work together as a team." He continues, saying "you meet new people as you're going by."

Because he specializes in cleaning carpets specifically, Williams is in a different position than the majority of the staff. He says, "Whatever they ask me to do, I just do it and try to do the best I can."

According to Hampton, while those assigned to specific areas have a fixed schedule every night, floor and carpet technicians are given assignments at random. This is also different to the floaters, which are called in when necessary, such as covering for those sick or on vacation and large events that require extra manpower.

The supervisory role, according to Alfredo Vasquez, consists of training new hires (as seen with Javier Vasquez), coordinating staff, such as Williams and others not assigned to specific areas, and conducting detailed monthly inspections of each building along with his partner Joni.



Left: Custodial carts sit in the hallway as individual rooms are cleaned.

Right Above: Custodians around campus can customize their garbage cans by adding stickers, often of characters from popular movies or TV shows.

Right Below: Javier Vasquez, custodian, cleans one of the mirrors in a James Building restroom.

"Team leaders or supervisors, wherever they tell me to go, I go," Williams says. "I just get my supplies and my machine, and I go take care of business."

It would appear that working the graveyard shift would have the potential to be somewhat detrimental to one's ability to spend quality time with their family at home, as not everyone is in the position of Alfredo and Javier Vasquez. However, on the contrary, Alfredo Vasquez says that while his days off are the time he gets to really "enjoy life," his schedule allows him to provide even more assistance to his wife in caring for their other children.

"Basically, I get to help out my wife more, and that is because she starts at seven and I get in at four o'clock in the morning," Alfredo Vasquez says. "So, basically, we work together, and it helps out. It helps out a lot... She gets to go to work on time... and I get to help out more by taking the children to school."

Williams says that he doesn't believe his life is much different from most people's, despite the schedule difference. "I've got two dogs, and I just go home and sleep. I make sure I get my rest." He says he believes that it'd be

I'm here to make things clean to the best of my ability. And I hope they see that.

- Booker Williams
(carpet technician)

different if he had a family to take care of, but he doesn't feel that there's much of a discrepancy between his daily life and most others. "Now, if I had kids and stuff, I'd have to hurry up and rush home and tend to them," Williams continues. "I don't have all that, just two little bad dogs that I've got to attend to."

It'd be easy to think that long hours and limited contact with people in the workplace would make any job feel tedious and thankless, but that's not the case — at least that's the opinion of those who work on CBU's campus. According to Hampton, Haynes boasts an approximate retention rate of 93%, which is more than double the national average of 42.7% reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2021. This could be due to incentives that the company offers, such as awards, recognition and monetary benefits such as gift cards and pay increases.

"I've been fortunate to have an overall reliable team," Hampton says.

For Alfredo Vasquez, interactions with students have been overwhelmingly positive, and he says he feels appreciated. One student even offered to pray for him "out of the blue," which he said was greatly appreciated. "He didn't know who I was, and he just came up to me, and I thought it was very awesome," he says, reflecting back on his time working with CBU.

For Javier Vasquez, one reward comes in the form of a sense of fulfillment derived from a job well done.

"That is something that drives me," he says. "I feel like I've got to do better, and I could do more than what I just did. I could probably work faster than I do right now."

For him, motivation comes from the idea of self-improvement and performance, rather than external praise.

If students are going to recognize anything, Williams says he hopes it's the fact that "I'm here to make things clean to the best of my ability. And I hope they see that."

There's a lot that might be unexpected about the job. It's not as isolating, as different, or as thankless as some might think. That said, for the sake of those who start their day after you end yours, please clean up after yourself when you make a mess. When you see someone cleaning, say thank you. Recognize that their contribution to campus is one marked by things unseen — empty trash cans, sanitized surfaces, clean spaces that allow a student to focus on learning. Because a student's main job, Alfredo Vasquez says, is to "stay in school and to become better at whatever they're striving for."

Written & Photographed by Charissa Graves
Designed by Kia Harlan

Thrifting

and its

Rapid Gentrification

A phrase that fashion enthusiasts deploy with joy: “Thanks, it’s thrifted.” Having a thrifted piece is a trendy badge of honor that people wear with pride.

Is thrifting the simple exchange of purchasing used clothing at an affordable price or a culture taking over the minds of fashion enthusiasts everywhere?

The thrift store has seen an evolution in the modern world. What started as an affordable way to purchase clothing has evolved into an intense market that many use to make a profit. Reselling affordable thrifted clothing has played a large part in gentrifying the thrifting process to appeal to a wealthier population.

According to time.com, purchasing secondhand clothing began due to the mass overproduction of apparel during the industrial revolution, which occurred in the late 1700s, up until 1840. It was long associated with low-income individuals and a sign of poverty. Thrifting is one of the many aspects of a frugal lifestyle that those in lower-income neighborhoods rely upon. With the new wave of resellers who are more competitive than ever, thrift stores and outlets are raided to serve as inventory for their resales. These resellers look for pieces with specific criteria: brand names, vintage pieces and popular designs. This is the same criteria shoppers now seek to spice up an outfit.

For thrifting to ascend from budget necessity to fashion symbol is a major shift.

Today, being able to say that a part of your outfit was thrifted is a plus — bonus points if the entire ensemble is thrifted and includes a vintage piece. Vintage items are most likely to feature price markups. Single-stitch T-shirts sell for up to \$180 at a local night market in San Bernardino, California.

Jadon Santamaria, 23, has made a career out of reselling thrifted clothing. While originally from the San Fernando Valley, Santamaria travels throughout the area as a reseller. After gaining the confidence to express himself through his personal style, Santamaria founded Salvaged Treasure, a small business that aims to build fashion enthusiasts’ confidence at an affordable price.

“Since the beginning, I’ve always had low self-confidence when it came to my style. I was also on a budget, so I started thrifting,” says Santamaria. “After that, I thought, ‘I could really do something with this.’”

Soon after his jump into thrifting, Santamaria found his way into the reselling market. Something he never thought could generate real profit was soon the source of booming business.

“I know how people are upselling and pricing their things for a lot more. That’s why we like to keep things budget-friendly,” he says. While Salvaged Treasure’s prices are more affordable, it is still a business and needs to make some sort of profit.

Of course, the reselling business has an ugly side to it as well. Thousands of resellers across America are capitalizing on the trend, obtaining large amounts of thrifted clothing at a bargain and raising the prices exponentially to turn a profit. Resellers are often found at small markets as well as online marketplaces like Depop, Poshmark, ThredUp and companies like RealReal, which specializes in reselling designer clothing and accessories. Their justification for soaring prices is determined by the age, quality and design of specific T-shirts.

“I want new resellers in the game to know that you don’t have to charge \$100 to \$200 for a piece (of clothing) — that’s ridiculous,” Santamaria says. “A lot of the ‘godfathers’ of reselling majorly tax their things, and I don’t want the community to look up to those types of resellers just to chase the money and get a bag.”

Santamaria obtains his inventory in various ways but finds the majority at Goodwill Outlets, more commonly known as the “Goodwill Bins” or “The Bins.” The Goodwill Outlets are large Goodwill warehouses that open up to the public (on certain days based on location) and allow them to go through dozens of large bins that contain clothing, shoes and accessories. The outlets allow Goodwill to sell leftover clothing from stores in bulk. According to amazinggoodwill.com, the average price is \$1.59 per pound for clothing and textiles under 25 pounds.

As the reselling business has risen in popularity, the bins have become a place where people have even gotten into verbal and physical disputes over finding unique items. Santamaria has confirmed the competitiveness of the bins. Many of these parties are said to be resellers looking for their latest set of inventory. Along with a new competitive market that resellers have brought to thrifting, resellers like Santamaria and Salvation Army employee Joanna Medina, a sophomore public relations major, have seen a spike in the price of clothing in thrift stores.

Medina has worked at her local Salvation Army in Baldwin Park, Calif., since May 2022, and in her short time there, she has seen an increase in prices. Women’s blouses and men’s jackets sell for anywhere between \$9 and \$20.

During a recent shift, the store offered 50% off on a \$6.99 long-sleeve shirt. A customer in her teens or early twenties brought the shirt to Medina at the checkout counter — with the sale, it rang up to \$3 — and was already thinking about what to do with it next.



“She said, ‘I’m so selling this for 50 bucks on my Depop.’ I was so shocked,” Medina says. “I couldn’t believe that anyone would do that.”

While many members of the resale community take advantage of their finds to profit from affordable clothing, Santamaria takes a different approach. He aims to give people the confidence he longed for in his adolescence through clothing.

“I started Salvaged Treasure to form an outlet for people to feel more comfortable in their style, what they wear and their creativity,” Santamaria says.

While thrifting’s definition has shifted from its budget-conscious origins, that purpose still rings true for many.

“Thrifting is just an inexpensive way to get clothes,” says Maxwell Whitehead, sophomore psychology major at California Baptist University. “It’s easy, and anyone can buy the stuff. The price is a hundred percent the reason why thrifting is so appealing — I can buy so much for just \$20.”

Medina sees the issue from both sides of the coin. Growing up in a low-income neighborhood like Baldwin Park, she says, she knew what it was like for kids her age to feel embarrassed about needing to wear secondhand clothing when, at times, that’s all that their families could afford. She says that although she never personally felt that struggle, she saw how it affected her friends and classmates. As an adult, Medina enjoys thrifting as pure enjoyment rather than necessity.

“For me, it is more about enjoyment,” she says. “I love being able to find such unique pieces that aren’t found in typical department stores. I like how much I can save when thrifting too, rather than spending \$20 at the mall for one thing, with thrifting, \$20 can buy me nearly five different pieces.”

From another perspective, a positive effect of the evolution of thrifting is its impact on the textile waste Earth suffers because of the fashion industry.

The number of garments produced annually has doubled since 2000



Above: Many thrift stores carry more luxury items such as genuine leather jackets or cowboy boots. These pieces sell for more than a typical item of clothing.

“I want new resellers in the game to know that you don’t have to charge \$100-\$200 for a piece (of clothing) — that’s ridiculous.”

- Jadon Santamaria
(professional clothing reseller)



and exceeded 100 billion for the first time in 2014, according to data from fashionrevolution.org, and an estimated 92 million tons of textile waste is created annually from the fashion industry.

“Every second, the equivalent of one garbage truck of textiles is landfilled or burned globally,” the website reads.

The popularity of thrift shopping across socioeconomic classes has made sustainable fashion more accessible to the public. It is an excellent way of recycling and even upcycling clothing. While many sustainable brands embrace good intentions for the planet, their prices do not always make it easy to want to shop sustainably. Instead, people look to affordable, fast fashion companies like Zara, Topshop and Forever 21, which overproduce and create micro-trends that die out and end up in our landfills.

Where the gentrification of it all goes wrong is when affordable prices are exploited and human nature takes control. It is greed alone that drives people to resell what is supposed to be affordable clothing for what might be 10 times the original price. Because of these sellers, corporations have caught on to the massive market for vintage clothing. Prices at thrift stores are steadily increasing, making it more difficult for those in low-income neighborhoods to buy clothing, shoes, accessories and even home goods. Can this be reversed? Or will prices at thrift stores continue to rise to meet their new audience? Only time will tell.

Written, Designed & Photographed by Zerenity Lopez
Photographed by Josselyn Guillen
Illustration by Zerenity Lopez

CBU Bathrooms

a photographic series

*d*espite the bathroom being a private place, not many people think about the sheer amount of time spent inside these spaces during the course of their life. Even more than that, few of us recollect the wide range of moments we spend in these rooms that aren't bathroom-related at all.

It is the place you go to check yourself out before the first date. It is where you go to escape from insufferable relatives at Thanksgiving. It is where you go to take a private phone call. It is where you make sure there's no food in your teeth before the graduation ceremony. It is where you duck away when you don't want others to see you crying. It is where you go when you just need a moment of silence, a break from everything.

It is a sort of informal sanctuary where one can stop time and briefly prepare for the unending roller coaster called life.

This photo series is dedicated to the memories and times you spent in each bathroom. But more specifically, the bathrooms in each CBU living area. Here's to the unexpected memories made in the bathroom.



SMITH

Although Smith does not have the best reputation as a dormitory, the restrooms that reside in Smith do have a strange reputation for cultivating a sense of camaraderie and friendship. In a place with little privacy, these men are forced to learn to have respect, trust, vulnerability.



One would assume that the sentiment for Smith and Simmons might be similar, but that does not seem to be the case. From written messages on the mirror to dumping salsa over showers, the Simmons restrooms transcend their reputation as a cramped, clinical, and inconvenient place to become one where there is never a dull moment.



TOWER

Known as the “bathroom that gets the job done,” the Tower bathrooms do not seem to have anything going for or against them. The austerity is often seen as a blank canvas by those who wish to decorate.

VILLAGE

The resident “vintage” restroom that is known for its old look. Due to the big space, plethora of compartments, handy shower seat and detachable shower head, most people can agree that this one is an “oldie, but a goodie.”





COTTAGES

The Cottages definitely have a reputation of bringing the strangest people together. Inevitably those people must learn to put down their differences in order to share a bathroom.

LANCER ARMS

Marked by its industrial flair, the Lancer Arms bathrooms seem to be known as one of the smaller restrooms. It is just as big as it needs to be for it to function as a restroom; not a single inch is wasted.



COLLEGE PARK

It is not until their sophomore year that most students find out that College Park even exists, due to the dormitory's off-campus location. The College Park restrooms can be viewed as the most underrated bathrooms, due to their spacious size and updated facilities.





COLONY

The flickering overhead light along with the loud churn of the fan can not help but remind you of an old film noir movie. It is the bathroom that always feels like nighttime, no matter what time of day you use it.



THE POINT

When one enters a Point restroom, they are immediately confronted with a large mirror that could easily be used by three or four people at the same time. You are either about to feel really good or really bad about yourself.



UNIVERSITY PLACE

Although UP is eyed as one of the best places to live on campus, its restrooms are not the source of enthusiasm. The fault lies not in the restroom itself, but in how many people have to share a single shower. At the very least, the sliding door eliminates your need to buy a shower curtain.



MAGNOLIA CROSSING

The most recent addition to the university's housing, one wonders if any college student deserves a bathroom as spacious as this one. After a nice long shower, Magnolia Crossing residents can not help but wonder if they have been transported into a mysterious jungle due to the thick layer of steam generated by running water.





Above: (Left to Right) Caleb Chong, senior film major; Kia Harlan, junior art therapy and graphic design double major; and Brooke Donovan, junior film major, look at Paris Redjai, senior graphic design major, as she adjusts a headband on her head before a photo shoot.





Caleb Chong

•
*Creative Director
Photographer*

Brooke Donovan
•
*Art Director
Costumes and Makeup*

Kia Harlan
•
*Project Coordinator
Co-Photographer*

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•
*Contributor
BTS Photographer*



Pursuit would like to thank Brooke Donovan for designing and conceptualizing all of the costumes for this photographic story. This photo series would not be possible without her creativity, enthusiasm and hard work.

We would also like to thank all of the kind friends, family, acquaintances and strangers that either volunteered as a model or lent us your bathroom as a shooting location. We acknowledge how weird this project was, so any and all help that went into this project was very much appreciated. We hope that everyone is as proud of this project as we are.

Whispers in the Twilight

Aaron Kooistra

Whispers in the twilight
Are better left unsaid
They float along the ground
Until they climb into your bed

Shadows in the moonlight
Should only dance alone
They celebrate what's out of reach
To those with flesh and bone

The sandman isn't friendly
Nor is he your foe
Treat him right and in the night
You'll have the chance to grow

Eyes within the shadows
Shine bright when you are weak
Sharpened claws and open maws
Draw forth a silent shriek

The night is best spent sleeping
Or else you might just feel
The silent room's cacophony
Drowning out what's real

Wrap yourself up tight
And no matter what you hear
Never think of things unpleasant
For then they will be near

Photo by Caleb Chong



IN THE

24

MOOD

FOR FOOD

California Baptist University has some of the best on-campus food, ranked fifth in the nation by Niche's annual review of the best college campus dining. Students can attest to it: Whether you live on campus or commute, Chick-fil-A, El Monte, Briscos and more are all CBU staples. But have you ever had any of these four nights in a row and felt guilty or bored of eating the usuals? Maybe you just want to spice it up, be adventurous or simply hang out with friends off campus. It is OK to admit it – even the most loyal Chick-fil-A fan can get tired of the repetition.

If you ever find yourself in one of these situations, here is a list of places to eat outside campus, with student favorites and recommendations from yours truly.

Lucky Wok

2995 Van Buren Boulevard

With only four tables pushed against the wall of this small restaurant, all of which are usually occupied, you may wonder where I have sent you. However, trust the process, dear reader, because this one will be worth it.

The ordering station is straight ahead as you walk through the door. Bins of food behind a pane of glass are constantly refilled as hungry customers order, so there is a lingering smell of green onions and orange chicken throughout the space as you wait to order. Think of this place as an authentic Panda Express. Pick your noodles or rice (or both), and then select your meats and vegetables. It is a straightforward and efficient way to order.

After ordering, you are invited to the “prep” station in the corner that accommodates sracha, soy sauce, chili sauce, utensils and napkins. If you are craving late-night Chinese food, this is the spot. Whether you dine in or take it to go, they have some of the best orange chicken in Riverside. It is ideally crunchy and sweet, and the fried rice is cooked to perfection. I recommend you indulge with a lunch special for under \$10, which includes a spring roll, drink of choice and a plate of food big enough to leave you with leftovers for the next day.

D’Mateos

7030 Magnolia Ave.

As you walk through the doors, you will smell fresh garlic and basil. It’s a family-owned restaurant, so if you have been there more than once, chances are you are familiar to them. They proudly serve the best stromboli in town. A stromboli is a pizza pocket filled with different Italian cheeses and toppings. At D’Mateos, you add the toppings you want, and your order is accompanied by the side of marinara sauce, your drink of choice and complimentary garlic knots when you dine in.

When you order, you will enter a nook that allows you to see into the kitchen. At first glance, it may seem like any other kitchen, but you have to pay close attention; if you’re lucky, you may see them rolling the dough, tying garlic knots or filling the strombolis with the best toppings. Once prepped, the chefs walk it to the fire oven, where the food will become flavorful and soon make its way to your table.

After ordering, you can find a seat at one of the cushiony, maroon booths in the dining area. If you go during the weekend, you will see families eating together, old couples visiting their favorite pizza place and people coming from Mount Rubidoux to have a stromboli after a long hike. It’s a comforting place with fantastic food; the walls are decorated with Italian sights and buildings.

While waiting for your order, you will spot picture frames and a TV that will most of the time be playing a sport or the news. Shortly after you sit, you will be greeted with complimentary garlic knots. The dough from which they’re made has perfectly risen for a soft, cloud-like consistency that, when you bite into it, will melt into your mouth.

Birreria Xolos

9696 Magnolia Ave.

I don’t know about you, but when I think of Birrerias, I think of Birria trucks. If a truck is not available or near by, then the next best thing is a restaurant. When you walk in, you get a small behind-the-counter peek. The open industrial concept allows diners to see a slice of the kitchen’s commotion of employees calling out orders to each other in Spanish while the smell of simmering chili peppers, adobo and bay leaves waft throughout the restaurant.

There are small windows so most of the light comes from the LED bulbs on the ceiling. The lighting and setting creates an Old West vibe; not the one of a Mexican restaurant but a Birreria. It sets the mood to be low-key and simple. The plates are styrofoam, as well, which fits with the easy-going set up, like imitating a food truck but in restaurant form. It’s a great vibe to go eat in sweatpants and relax.

The queso-Birria tacos with a side of consome will warm you up and reduce college stress (not scientifically proven.) I recommend you go with your friends to get your mind off of things. And, of course, do not forget to get a horchata, the type of agua fresca that will alleviate any aches.

Randy’s Donuts

3519 Van Buren Boulevard

I first found out about the famous Randy’s Donuts when I watched “IronMan 2.” Do keep in mind, however, that this location is not the one in the movie, so if you were hoping to sit in a giant pink doughnut on the roof, you will have to do a quick drive to L.A. At our local location, if you are lucky enough to secure a parking spot in the front, you may be surprised by the gigantic doughnut chilling on the sidewalk. I am unsure of the doughnut’s dimensions, but just trust that it is big. Upon walking into the establishment, you will realize just how small this place is. It is best not to crowd the place with a big group (lookin’ at you, freshmen). Depending on what time you go, you may smell freshly fried doughnuts or cleaning supplies, but never together.

The store prides itself on two categories: Specialty and Traditional. You cannot go wrong with a traditional flavor. However, a specialty doughnut might just knock you out of this dimension. Ordering is as easy as going “this, this and this.” With Randy’s Donuts being only 10 minutes from campus, it is a fantastic place to satisfy any sweet tooth. The traditional doughnuts, while simple, are some of the best ones, owed to high-quality ingredients and preparation.

It's Boba Time

10082 Magnolia Ave.

I believe boba to be a drink for the soul, a drink that tells you, “you’re happy here.” Regardless if you are a traditional boba drinker or an adventurer that picks a different flavor every time, you can never go wrong with a boba run. The local It’s Boba Time is a franchise location. When you walk in, you are bombarded with two colors: white and orange. The ordering counter is to the left, and there is a sitting area on the right with booths or regular chairs and tables where you can sip away while doing homework or catching up with a friend.

When it comes to ordering boba, there are two ways to tackle ordering. One way is to pick a drink flavor from the main menu and then choose toppings such as boba (tapioca pearls), coffee jelly, cheese foam, brown sugar and more. Do not forget to adjust the level of sweetness to your liking. The second way is to ignore the menu and order the same thing you always get because...why not? Your go-to drink is a go-to for a reason. At midday, this place is remarkably fast, and if you are a busy college student, you must take advantage of it.

D’Elia’s Grinders

2093 University Ave.

Open until eight o’clock is this authentic Italian grinders shop. At the front of it, you will see a sign with red letters and a white border inviting you to experience D’Elia’s Grinders. Upon entering, you will smell a mix of deli meats such as pastrami, ham and roast beef. You know they get busy when you see a “Lines form to the right” sign followed by stanchions waiting to line up people. Once you reach the front of the line, you will get a peek at the menu and featured items as well as a small, three-tier bakery display.

This place occupies a special place in people’s hearts around Riverside. It is a generational restaurant that has been passed down since 1955. Their sandwiches make up an outstanding legacy of service for the community and delicious eats. The bread is perfectly toasted, soft and chewy on the inside, but you can still hear a slight crunch when you bite into it. The ingredients are fresh, and the meat cuts are precise and filling. It is light, refreshing and cooling — perfect for those hot Riverside days.

Olivia’s

9447 Magnolia Ave.

Outside of Olivia’s, there’s a sign in green letters, underlined in red against a white background: “Mexican Restaurant, since 1978.” The sign may be the second thing you see. The first and most remarkable is the energy of the place — the outside sitting area is vivid — and you may spot families having fun, laughing and enjoying each other’s company.

It is common in Latin culture to have multi-generational households, and regardless of the differences within the home, love will always shine through at the end of the day. This lifelong experience is embodied when you enter Olivia’s: the smell of freshly cooked food and the sound of people in the back calling out the orders in Spanish.

Olivia’s is a family-owned restaurant specializing in Mexican food and makes everything but the tortillas from scratch, including desserts. Their breakfast items feel made with love by your Abuelita. As you walk through the doors, you will be seated and handed menus. On the inside, tables are arranged to accommodate small and large groups. Olivia’s is considered by many faculty and staff members a staple dine-in restaurant that all students must visit during their time at CBU.

The Beignet Spot

4019 Market Street

The Beignet Spot brings one of New Orleans's signature foods to Riverside. It is a corner shop with brown, woody entrance doors and a table outside to sit down at. Upon entrance, there is an ongoing light-colored wood theme with soft yellows and pastel mustard tiles. The menu is displayed on TV screens, and they may swap an iPad to request your signature when paying with a card, but don't worry, they won't stare you down for a tip if you click the "no tip" option.

Once finished ordering, you will move to the side to experience the magic of freshly made beignets. You will notice the shop because of its yellow neon sign "Beignet Spot, sweet and savory." A glass window with a yellow bar separates you from the kitchen, where you can admire people preparing the beignets you just ordered.

The beignets taste heavenly, with just the right amount of powdered sugar, and while "beignet" is in the name, they also sell fried chicken, morning hash, loaded fries, etc.

Every time you go will make you want more, so beware. This is the risk of trying delicious food.

East Coast Bagel

5225 Canyon Crest

When you walk into the store, you will see checkerboard tiles on the floor and Broadway show posters along the walls; *Wicked*, *Grease*, *Oklahoma*, etc. Five-blade ceiling fans are going strong despite the season. It's a dinner with tables spread throughout. The menu is against a blackboard with three categories: Bagels, Premium Bagels and Breakfast. There's coffee and a bakery section, too. Went I went in, I kept it basic and ordered an egg, bacon and cheddar. The bagel was everything I could've asked for and everything I didn't know I needed.

This place is cozy to be in, the flooring underneath your feet transports you to an old dinner and the food nourishes your soul. Whether you go alone or with friends and sit down for 20 minutes while you eat your bagel, you will find joy in the simplest things in life.

Kaz Ramen

22413 Barton Road

Unlike the previous restaurants within 10 miles of campus, this one is 11 miles away, but it's worth the extra mile. When inside Kaz Ramen, you will quickly realize how cramped a tiny space can get when it is full of people. You will have to wait 15-30 minutes if you are lucky, so beware and be sure you have time to spend. From the entrance, you can see all the tables maxed out with friends laughing, couples out on first dates, and families trying to quiet down their little ones. While waiting for your ramen, you can look around and see graffiti-style art painted on the walls. The bright colors and attention to small details will make the sight of these unforgettable and inviting. If you are not already hungry from the thought of ramen, then the smell of tonkatsu broth, chili oil and green onion should get the hunger going.

Once you finally sit down, staff will hand you a menu, a laminated one-pager filled with ramen, beverage and dessert options. Simply choose a broth, level of spiciness, meat and toppings. If this is your first time, I recommend you try the miso or tonkatsu broth — you can never go wrong with traditional broths. If needed, the restaurant also has a vegan-friendly menu. When your food arrives, you may want to take a picture of it first; the bowls are assembled beautifully. The food tastes like a warm hug on a cold, rainy day. (Pro tip: When you write a Yelp review, you get a free mochi.)

HOW DO YOU GET TO CBU

Written by Jameson Showers
Designed by Hannah Daily

Photographed by Josselyn Guillen, Madison Sardana and Rita Smirnova

Southern California, otherwise known to locals as “SoCal,” is well-known for its 14-lane freeways, massive population and impatient attitude. Among everything else, SoCal is notorious for its traffic. Whether cruising down to Orange County for a beach trip or visiting family in Los Angeles, you will experience some form of gridlock. More often than not, drivers have to plan around rush-hour just to make it to their destination on time. While this reality is not ideal, it is a toll we must pay (pun intended) to live in sunny Southern California. To

avoid freeway traffic, some drivers will take surface streets instead, but what about the traffic on city streets? It is unforgiving and stressful. With all the cards stacked against the SoCal population, let us pose a simple question: How do CBU students and faculty get to, from and around campus?

Commuting is not easy. Some people take buses, bikes, cars or even their own two feet to school. For example, I take the bus daily to get to campus. A bus from a neighboring city should be fast and efficient, right? Well, not quite. A one-way trip to CBU takes an hour and a half if you factor in traffic, waiting times and transfers. An hour and a half. Just to go eight miles down the road. The average half-marathon runner could make a better time than that. I have found ways to keep myself occupied as I sit on the bus or wait at the station for the next one to come. I have been able to stay caught up on my favorite mangas (One Piece, Chainsaw Man, Kaiju No. 8), become an expert on salsa music and read ahead on my assigned books and literature. The possibilities are limitless, and while the time sitting on a bus may seem detrimental to my already packed schedule, it gives me time to work on myself and my hobbies.

The bus system is not ideal, but it is one thing: Free. As long as the school is in session, CBU students can ride for no extra cost. The Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) issues the bus pass, and this service is coordinated through University Card Services. It is one of the many benefits students can use to cut costs

and put the money in their pockets towards books, student loans or the highly sought-after El Monte Grill.

But enough about buses and RTA already. Let’s talk about CBU’s bread and butter: Cars. If the parking space crunch was not enough

to convince you that most CBU students and faculty drive to campus, then I do not know what to say. The Inland Empire is expansive, and no mode of public transportation is enough to provide for all its residents. Some students and faculty live in Riverside or adjacent cities, but some also live much farther.

Michael Marse is an assistant professor of communication studies who commutes from Apple Valley on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and the occasional Monday. With public transportation being non-existent between there and Riverside, Marse’s only choice is to drive.

Knowing how bad traffic can be, Marse designed his commutes to avoid rush hour.

“I generally leave after rush hour, and I come back after rush hour,” he says. “I have always had a long commute, but I look at that as a bonus. I’m not frustrated by it because I listen to audiobooks and podcasts... I’m learning stuff in my commute.” He describes how relaxing it is to have time to himself during those couple of hours in the car and how they get him focused for the day ahead. This positive perspective is a game-changer in how one can choose to look at a long commute.

Marse moved to Apple Valley in 2003 and was hired full-time at CBU in 2005. For almost 20 years, he has been commuting to and from campus and has seen a tremendous change in transportation.

Most of the buildings on campus now were built during his time here. “When I came, it was the James Building, the library and the theater,” he recalls. “There were very few commuters and only 1,200 students. Everyone knew everybody.”

Marse says he believes CBU’s parking and transportation are adequate for the university’s population. He points out how some of the congestion on campus could be minimized if residential students walked more and class times were more spread out. Even though there is constant traffic, Marse still suggests people drive to and from campus.

“Accept where you live and do the best with what you have,” he says. If there’s a long commute ahead, he suggests students listen to podcasts, news or audiobooks to learn more about what is going on in the world.

Educating yourself is one of the best ways to pass the time sitting in traffic. There are hours upon hours of educational content on the internet, and they can all help you to become a better version of yourself. The best investments you can make are the ones that help your mind, body and spirit. Changing your perspective on transportation and accepting it for what it is can help you alleviate the stress you feel at home or the anxiety of an upcoming midterm. Life just happens, and your mentality toward it can make all the difference.

Even for those who do not have to commute far, traffic is still a big deal. Congestion on the CA-91 freeway is, for lack of a better term, crazy. The “Riverside Freeway” is helpful for those taking a trip to Orange County or LA but for Riverside folk, it is necessary to get around town. CBU

is strategically placed next to the Adams exit, but even with careful planning, students must negotiate heavy traffic to get to class in time. Magnolia Avenue is an acceptable substitute, being a prominent street that runs through the majority of Riverside before it turns into Market Street near downtown. Although convenient, those familiar with the conditions of the 91 opt to drive down Magnolia, creating more traffic-based fun for everyone.



After students make it to campus, mayhem still awaits them in a form of scooters, skateboards and bicycles. CBU students are many things, but it is safe to say that they can be violators as they tend to blur the lines between traffic laws. How many times have you driven on campus and someone on the scooter zooms by in front of or on the side of your vehicle? About how often do you experience a biker riding through the roundabout next to the music building, totally negating the flow of traffic? Answer these questions on your own, but one thing will still be clear: CBU transportation is complex.

Elizabeth Rhodes, sophomore creative writing major, lives in Riverside, about seven miles away from campus. She drives to school each day for class and usually, her commute ranges from 20–40 minutes, depending on the flow of traffic. Riverside is not the largest town around, but on certain days throughout the week, Rhodes has to leave earlier to compensate for the colossal task of getting across the city.

“It depends on the day; Tuesdays are usually worse. If it’s earlier in the morning, then it can be a little frustrating that I have to leave earlier,” Rhodes says. “I don’t like driving on the freeway that often. The traffic can be worse on the freeway, so I might as well take the backroads.”

Rhodes further explained how stressful managing her time, transportation and school work can be all together. “Driving does take time,” she says. “If I lived on campus, I probably wouldn’t stress so much about when I need to do homework.” In all the commuting chaos, Rhodes is still grateful for the recently added parking structure and how even on Chapel days, when on-campus parking seems hopeless, she is able to seamlessly find a parking spot.

“I usually go all the way to the third floor. It’s a longer walk, which isn’t great, but at least I know it’s always going to be there.”

While cars may be the most used and obvious transportation method, others at CBU employ their creativity and interests in getting to school. Dr. Keith Hekman is a professor of aerospace, industrial and mechanical engineering who is the epitome of creativity at CBU. Hekman, on occasion, uses a velomobile to commute to campus. What is a velomobile, you may ask? A velomobile, in layman’s terms, is a bicycle car. These contraptions are environment-friendly, human-powered and designed to have an aerodynamic advantage. Velomobiles check the boxes in style, ingenuity and originality while also keeping the user in shape.

Before he bought the velomobile, Hekman had been browsing online for one that fit his needs. After a while, he came across the one he has today, but he still needed to adjust it to help with his ride to work. “I added an electric motor to the back for hills. I used to live in Norco at the time, and coming up Arlington is quite the hill,” he says.

He cites saving money on gas, exercise and helping the environment as reasons for



Left Page, Top: There are racks outside of most buildings on campus where skateboarders can put their boards during class.

Left Page, Bottom: Commuters are allowed to park in the East Parking Structure or the Yeager Parking lot while on campus.

Left: Dr. Keith Hekman, professor of engineering, commutes to and from campus in a velomobile.

Below: Bikes are a popular choice of transportation for students on campus, but they must be registered with safety services for residents.

I have always had a long commute, but I look at that as a bonus. I’m not frustrated by it because I listen to audiobooks and podcasts. I’m learning stuff in my commute.

- Michael Marse

(assistant professor of communication studies)



continuing to use the velomobile. Having a unique ride does draw attention from others on the road.

“For a while, I was getting someone pulling out their cellphone every day, getting a video of me,” he says. “It’s not a good vehicle if you don’t want attention, but if you’re biking, it’s good to be seen.”

No matter the vehicle, being visible and ensuring others on the road are aware of you is the pinnacle of defensive driving. Drivers flood every available street and freeway in SoCal, so practicing safe driving habits is necessary if you want to keep your license.

Hekman also suggests using an E-Bike for those who live close to campus and can afford to snag one.

“They are better on gas and for the environment,” he explains. “Plus, you won’t be all sweaty when you get here.” For those students who don’t ride bikes due to the taxing physical experience, E-Bikes are for you.

Transportation is complicated and daunting. Lancers have an arsenal of ways to get around CBU, but, even still, there are multiple obstacles they must overcome. On the positive side, CBU offers students free public transportation with the RTA and has drivers across SoCal they can carpool with. The creativity faculty and students use to get to campus is a testament to the diverse population and dedication to faith and education. ♦

IN THE NAME OF CBU

Why Lancers choose CBU and why you should, too

The rush of acceptance (or, in many cases, rejection) letters coming in my senior year of high school were moments of happy and sad tears I will never forget. I remember the day Berkeley announced their letters; I pressed the refresh button about a million times... then, with streams of confetti on the screen I read "Dear Kia, Congratulations, and welcome to the University of California, Berkeley..." Everything was a blur after that, as I ran to tell my family, friends and teachers...

DR. NIERMANN



Left: Dr. Matthew Niermann, associate dean of CAVAD and professor of architecture, discusses why he chose CBU and his role in student's lives.

However, after a couple days, the reality set in. I was stuck choosing between CBU and Berkeley. Through the next weeks, I sat in bed watching countless college acceptance and “day in life of a college student” videos on YouTube, going down the treacherous rabbit trail till my head was spinning and I didn’t know heads from tails. It felt like I had to choose between doing what the world deemed successful and what ultimately would be successful for me and it was hard to distinguish the two. With a narrower acceptance rate compared to CBU, based on pure statistics, Berkeley seemed like the obvious choice when it came to picking a school. Yet, despite what everyone said about Berkeley being better on paper with more prestige and opportunities, something held me back from submitting my acceptance.

I remember sitting in the warm lighting of our family’s favorite pho restaurant, Golden Deli, playing with the paper from my unwrapped straw, listening to my dad talk about the possibility of going to each school. I closed my eyes for a second and pictured where I wanted to be, and it wasn’t an epiphany moment, but it snuck up on me – the beginning of an answer. Slowly but surely, day by day, my ego fell away, and I knew what my decision was. There was something special about CBU, and the more I talked to other people, the more I realized. Now, three years later, I can confidently say: Rejecting Berkeley and choosing CBU was the best decision of my high school career.

I have received shocked looks when telling people that I chose CBU over Berkeley, but in my mind everything has been so clear. After stepping on the campus and staying overnight at the dorms with the past valedictorian at my school, she told me about her experience at CBU, how the small community was instrumental in her growth and how some of the most prestigious schools are not all that they’re cracked up to be.

I reflected on the difference in my experience in walking both campuses. At Berkeley it was bustling and stress buzzed in the air, whereas here there was this sense of carefree and comfortability that I couldn’t quite place a finger on. Greta Anderson, director of undergraduate admissions, put it this way: “One thing I hear frequently with new students and prospective students coming onto campus is they always say, “This is so different, I love the feeling I get when coming on campus. It felt like I was home when coming here.”

Coming to CBU truly felt like finding a home away from home.

Although I may have really thrived at Berkeley, I thought about its inherently competitive nature and the countless stories I had heard of everyone becoming depressed and mentally fried, and I found it was not an environment in which I wanted to risk my mental health. Even more than that, though, it’s the way that professors really got to know me on a personal level at CBU, the overall care for my mental health and joining the art therapy major, a major rarely offered at the undergraduate level in most schools, that all created the perfect environment for me to personally thrive.

However, this story doesn’t end with me. Many others have found a special home at CBU, with stories that transcend what meets the eye when looking at what CBU has to offer. Beyond the quality food, DI athletic status, and sunny Southern California location, there’s a spark that makes CBU a remarkable place.

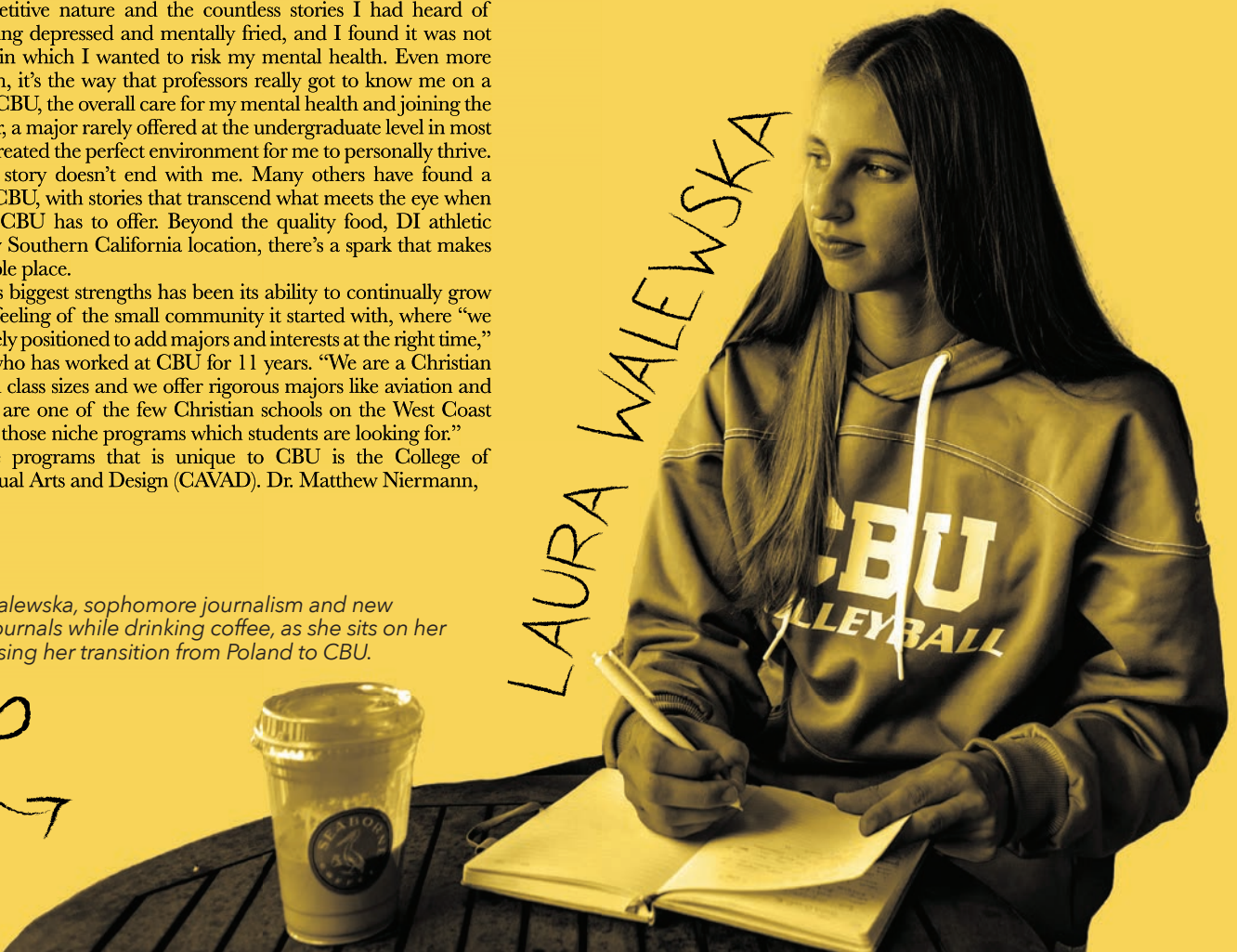
One of CBU’s biggest strengths has been its ability to continually grow yet preserve the feeling of the small community it started with, where “we have been uniquely positioned to add majors and interests at the right time,” says Anderson, who has worked at CBU for 11 years. “We are a Christian school with small class sizes and we offer rigorous majors like aviation and architecture. We are one of the few Christian schools on the West Coast that has some of those niche programs which students are looking for.”

One of these programs that is unique to CBU is the College of Architecture, Visual Arts and Design (CAVAD). Dr. Matthew Niermann,

“I’m proud to say CBU is dedicated to faith integration. When they say they want to integrate faith and profession, they actually mean it.

- Dr. Matthew Niermann
(associate dean of CAVAD & architecture professor)

Right: Laura Walewska, sophomore journalism and new media major, journals while drinking coffee, as she sits on her balcony discussing her transition from Poland to CBU.



LAURA WALEWSKA

associate dean of CAVAD and a professor of architecture, had a unique perspective when coming to teach at CBU. He had previously taught at Big 10 universities and R1 universities and had planned to continue that trajectory, however in looking at the interaction between faith and practice, he “desired a particular place where I could bring together faith, research, scholarship, and teaching, all under one umbrella. It wasn’t necessarily the prestige of the university or the R1 status, but it was the full integration of faith with the profession that was a success,” Niermann says.

What CBU has done so excellently in the CAVAD program through Niermann is this faith integration in the classroom. “I’m proud to say CBU is dedicated to faith integration — when they say they want to integrate faith and profession, they actually mean it,” Niermann says. He notes that it is easy to do thin faith integration where only a verse is shared or the class is prayed over. However, as associate dean of the program he seeks to challenge this and pursue full faith integration through the profession. Having been here seven years already, Niermann says he hopes to continue to build this in the coming decades.

Furthermore, Niermann notes that working in other studio spaces may be a difficult environment where it can be competitive, oppressive and even belittling, yet in this program CAVAD works toward providing character growth alongside creative growth.

“Success comes in shared foundations and ability to work with students not only on the craft but also on their character and that’s a shared goal within it, he says. “It feels limited to go to another university and just work on craft. Without the right foundations or without the right motivation, it ultimately falls thin.”

Through looking in depth at the CAVAD program, it offers insight into how CBU approaches the student experience at large. CBU as a whole is able to remain anchored as a Great Commission University, providing the best of many worlds: the resources of a larger university, the depths and roots of faith of a smaller university and the care of a Christian university,

“Being able to find a community of people who are so encouraging and gifted and try is so huge.

- Austin Elliot
(junior photography major)

while still maintaining the diversity of conversations with Christians and non-Christians interacting together. This is “very rare an institution can hold all those things together at once, but CBU is proving that is possible,” Niermann says.

Even in the healthiest environments, there is room for growth and improvement. For some students, CBU may not have been their first choice.

This was the case for Austin Elliot, junior photography major, who had initially hoped to attend the University of Texas at Austin. When Elliot did not get into his top college choice, he hoped that joining several friends from his high school at CBU would be a good alternative. Ultimately, it proved challenging — most of his friends ended up switching their school choices at the last minute, and COVID-19 hit right around his graduation. In addition, he realized that his initial major in film wasn’t a fit for him, so he switched to the business program but still struggled to find his place. Finally he found the photography program, which he connected with right away, as “photo has always been a passion of mine, and (I’ve been) working with cameras ever since I was little. The fact

that CBU made it so accessible I think is another thing I really appreciated and I found cool. I am still here at this school because of the photography program,” Elliot says.

The photo lab, a five-minute drive from campus at the Adams Business Park, is where Elliot spends many hours with newfound friends and community. Many students find community at CBU to be a key reason they fall in love with it. This is why CBU intentionally does not have fraternities and sororities, according to Anderson, who says it is CBU’s goal to allow students to experience culture through meeting people in classes, events and extracurricular activities.

Even though he had a rocky start when coming to CBU, Elliot finding his niche made his stay worthwhile. “When I came to photography, being



Above: Austin Elliot, junior photography major, shows various photos he and his peers have taken that are displayed in his dorm.



Above: Yasna Petrova, sophomore international studies major, discusses why she chose CBU after moving from Bulgaria.

able to find a community of people who are so encouraging and gifted and try is so huge. Being able to hang out with different people and automatically having the same interests as me has been so cool. We are all just a few creatives who all have a sense of competitive nature, but in a way that's building up and not a way that's trying to be better than you, but a way that's helping you be the best you can be."

Another way CBU excels is through the way students can connect deeply with professors. Elliot found this to be true in meeting Prof. Christopher Kern, program lead for photography. Because Elliot changed his major so late, he says Kern was instrumental in helping him arrange his classes to stay on track for graduation.

"I needed to change my schedule, and he would email me back the day of and put so much effort," Elliot says. "Kern has so much passion for his craft and he focuses on student success and helping them aspire to do what they want to do and find their genre."

For other students, CBU has become a great possibility as a transfer school, with transfer students making up about 10% of CBU's undergraduate population. This was the case for transfer student Christian Jauregui, junior psychology major, who says that "a big factor of why I transferred to CBU is I'm a psychology major and I wanted to study it within the Christian field, because psychology is typically taught by atheists and people with other beliefs, so I wanted to make sure I learned from a Christian background. I know that I could easily be persuaded into new beliefs and I didn't want that."

Jauregui said when he stepped foot on campus it had a certain feeling, and he appreciated how friendly and kind people were. While open to Christian and non-Christian students alike, the strong shared values of a Christian community and integration of faith into each course has deeply

benefited students.

Another unique population at CBU is the large international community on campus. CBU's athletic scholarships are a major draw for many international students who wish to live abroad and continue pursuing an athletic career. For Laura Walewska, sophomore journalism major from Poland, a volleyball scholarship was a main factor in choosing CBU.

"My dream was always to come to California, so I feel like I was always looking for an opportunity to find something here," Walewska says. The culture at CBU was a huge adjustment for Walewska, but she says she has enjoyed how extroverted and friendly people are. Being at CBU was also a dream come true for Yasna Petrova, sophomore international studies major from Bulgaria, whose now-coach reached out to her with the possibility of attending CBU.

"At that time I couldn't believe his proposal was real, because when I saw pictures of CBU, and the living conditions and the manner in which I can progress both academically, athletically and as a person, it looked too good to be true — honestly at first I thought it was a scam," Petrova says.

For both Petrova and Walewska, coming to CBU has allowed them to pursue both an academic and athletic career, which would not have been as possible in their home countries.

"There's a stereotype that when you play sports you don't have to be smart; only fools are playing sports," Walewska says. Petrova adds: "The best thing was that I could combine running with my academics. In Europe we don't have this opportunity because you have to substitute one thing for another. I appreciate everything that we have here. Every day when I wake up I am grateful for that. It's my second year and my excitement is at the same level as when I came here the first year — it didn't decline; it's just there on the peak."

Interviewing international students humbled me because I have personally often forgotten how blessed we are to have all the opportunities we have here at CBU. We have some of the best food in the nation, yet how many times have I heard the complaint that people are sick of the food already? Even when we have the best things it is easy to get sidetracked and see what we are lacking. The way that they spoke of how grateful and happy they are here opened my eyes to how often I become jaded about life and can nitpick the institution. Even though I know my own story behind why I picked CBU, it is a nice reminder to see people who genuinely love waking up each day and living here.

There are many reasons to choose CBU — many that I may not have even touched on — so whether you are a prospective student or a well-weathered senior, perhaps CBU has yet to offer a place where you can find your own niche.

"I want to enjoy every moment," Petrova says. "I want to make the most of my days and I want to be inspired every day, and this all happens in a natural way. I don't need to force anything. It just flows because of the good environment — it's so healthy for me here."

Whatever it means for you to live your purpose, ultimately you get to decide the trajectory of your life. Whether or not you chose CBU like I did, I hope you find yourself open to life's possibilities, wherever you are, inspired, like Petrova said, to live every day.



Written, Designed & Photographed by Kia Harlan

TRIGGER WARNING

The following students' words have been read but untouched by editors. They are the raw thoughts and emotions of two Ukrainian citizens.

Dear Ukraine

Dear Ukraine... It has been already more than 8 months
... It is always painful to

Дорога Україно

Дорога Україно... Минуло вже більше 8 місяців, як Росія почала вторгнення до тебе. Завжди бачиш дивитися фото і відео руйнованих будівель, невинних мирних жителів, які мали якісь плани на майбутнє, а зараз вони просто мертві, дітей як втрачали сім'ю і залишилися сиротами і тепер їм доведеться жити з цим болем надовжені. Чи це цінна наша свобода в 21 столітті? Якщо так, то я просто мушу сказати що цей світ повністю зламаний... Дуже роздратований усвідомлювати що це правда і нам потрібно це прийняти. Після всього болю що ти пережила, всі ці людські норми та правила яких ми повинні дотримуватися здаються нам фальшивими чи не так? Досі не можу зрозуміти як світ дозволив цьому статися. Так багато залишилися, а відповідей немає. Нащо багато болю надовжені залишилися в наших серцях. Що далі? Хотів би я мати відповідь... Я точно знаю, що це несправедливо по відношенню до тебе і цих твоїх людей які гору їм проходять. Якщо Росії це знає і рік, з нами не уявляю що буде далі. Тому нам потрібно пережити цей біль щоб цього не сталося! У нас є лише один вихід... Вони хотіли щоб ми билися? Тож борімося до кінця! Нікого справляючи, весь світ уже побачив що для нас означає свобода і що може статися з тими хто хоче її забрати. Скільки людей повинно загинути? Скільки запитань... Люди такі гелодні до слез і здається що їм вже нічого не важливо. Настав час покарати їх, що слода нікого не означає. Ми обидва знаємо що за гроші не можна купити свободу, а слода забрати тимчасова, чи не так? Тому немає жодних сумнівів що ми виростаємо і вийдемо з тебе, а тепер ти найкращий приклад свободи та хоробрості. Зараз про тебе знає весь світ, але це не привіт режисація. Чесно колегуєш, давай не бачив тебе... Ти навіть не можеш уявити як я сумую за тобою! Я не можу тобі відповісти коли і за яких обставин, але я знаю точно, що я люблю тебе моя мила Україно.

Roman Zozulia / Роман Зозуля
люблю

you my lovely Ukraine!

Dear Ukraine

Letters to a home they cannot return to...

It has nearly been one year since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The Russo-Ukrainian War's presence on the news may not be as prevalent as it was earlier this year, but we must not let that cause us to forget that there is still active fighting going on in the country. It is a war that has affected the entire world. Not everyone has a direct connection to the conflict, but there are those among us who do. Marharyta Smirnova and Roman Zozulia are both international students from Ukraine who have had to watch the terror inflicted on their home from afar. The following words are letters written by Smirnova and Zozulia to a war-torn country they cannot return to.

Дорога Україно

It has been already more than eight months since Russia started invading you. It is always painful to watch the pictures and videos of bombed-out buildings, innocent civilians that had some plans for the future, and they are just dead, and children that lost families and became orphans, and now they have to live with this pain forever. Is this the price for our freedom in the 21st century? If so, I just have to say that this world is totally messed up... So disappointed to realize that this is the truth and we just need to accept it. After all of the pain that you have experienced, all of these human norms and rules that we have to follow seem fake to us, right? Still can't understand how the world let it happen. So many questions but no answers. Too much pain will stay forever in our hearts. What is next? I wish I had the right answer for you... But I know for sure that it is not fair to you and all of these people that are going through it. If Russia gets away with that I can't even imagine what will be next. That is why we need to go through this pain to not let this happen! We have just one option... Do they want us to fight? So let's fight until the end! No worries, the whole world already has seen what freedom means to us and what can happen to those who want to take it away. How many people have given their lives for that freedom, and how many will still have to? Do you know? How many people still have to die to stop the aggressor? Again, so many questions... People are so hungry, for power and it seems like nothing matters to them. It seems like the time has come to show them that power does not mean anything. We both know that money can't buy freedom and power is always temporary, right? That is why there are no doubts that we will win this war and take our land back. You know, people keep on asking me how everything is going, I would even say that they are so impressed after everything that they have seen on the news. Almost nobody believed in you in the beginning and now you are the best example of freedom and bravery. Now, the whole world knows about you, but it does not mean that we need to relax because there are a lot of things that have to be done to win the war and liberate our territories back, and people that are waiting to see a Ukrainian flag. Honestly, have not seen you for a while... Actually, it has been a long time, but you can't even imagine how I miss you! I can't give you an answer when and under what circumstances, but I know for sure that I'll see you my lovely Ukraine!

Roman Zozulia / Роман Зозуля

Люба моя Україно!

Дорога моя нене! Я так тобою пишотоя!

Ти найкраща країна у світі! Твої злоті
паш, землі луки, горді Карпатські гори,
блакитні озера та повноводні ріки не можна
не любити. Моє рідне місто, мій Києве
свої перші кроки я робила по твоїх скверах
та парках. Я прывала з тобою багато
щасливих років моя любя Україно.

Ти навчила мене багато чому. Я пам'ятаю
тебе величю, уквітчаною кашиною, щирою,
радісною, стовнею любові до життя.

Останній раз я бачила тебе такого рік тому,
коли приїздила на канікули.

Я відчувала тепло, яке розливалось по моему тілу
від потужних пісень, що звучали на головних
площах Києва. Я знову побачила ярмарки
на яких мунав сміх та всім убетанне
дітвори. Там'ятаю художників і поетів з якими
вдавалось приємно поспілкуватися та
обмітисе історіями. Та як сиділа в
кав'єрні мирного Києва та смакувала
гарячий какао у Львівській шоколадній
майстерні на Андріївському узвозі, слухала
джаз та спілкувалася з друзями з легкістю
та любов'ю.

Я ніколи не думала що все може змінитися

за одну ніч... Чому? За що?
Як змириняла з тими, що одна страшна
ніч зруйнувала життя мільйонів людей.

24 лютого, 4 ранку 2022 рік...

Небо вкрили ворожі літаки, секі тисячі смертей.

Ніхто нічого не розумів. Росія почала повно-
масштабне вторгнення в мою рідну країну.

"Росія... Будь навіть проклята! За зруйновані
міста і села, за тисячі смертей, за перерваним
дитячий сміх, за материнські сльози"

(Т. Смірнова).

Як же тобі болить моя люба, які страшні
рани залишає ця навала на твоєму квітучь-
ому мілі. Вона нищить все на своєму
шляху!

Де пройшов "руський мір", залишилася
лише пухля та морок.

Зникли великі міста такі як Маріуполь,
Харків, немає чепурних сіл із квітучими
вирощеними, не чути більше пісень та сміху на
них. Тільки жах в очах у людей.

І кров... Море крові... Вона скрізь; в містах,
будинках, вирощених, людських тілах, кров
вкрива навіть тіла маленьких невинних
дітей.

І замість зешних чепурних вирощених, які
раніше наповнювали піснями і танцями,

тепер, стоить руйни.

А від забивання сирен кров замерзала
в жилах. Ракети падали з неба, як град
поширого дня. Діти екстремне бігали
щасливі та безтурботні ставали сиротами.
Вони втрачали домівок, батьків, друзів,
іграшки. Все те, що вони так цінували все
забрав страшний Буревій, залишивши
по собі лише обпалену букву Z.

Твоє тіло вкривши рани які загоюються у
випки іграшки. Іграшки на всі життя не
одного покоління.

є тину тобі маминко мого, Україно,
і вливаюся ірками союзами.

Але мене гордість за тебе не має меж!

Тя безстрашна, сміла, непохитна!

Тя як фенікс відродилася з попілу.

На твої захист піднімали всі- від малого до
старого. Бабусі натрудженними руками тешуть
тилі шкарпетки нашим воїнам, дідусі їдуть
в паризахи, матусі варять, печуть, смажать
щоб не було голодно нашим захисникам.

Діти теж допомагають чим можуть.

Тя чи можна перимоти таку країну?

Топти біль, страх, ненависть, віддай твої діти,

Україно, стали як один на твої захист!

Тя знаєш, що є живу за тисячі кілометрів,
але забути тебе неможливо, тому що

коли я прокидаюся вранці і дивлюся
в дзеркало на риси свого обличчя, я бачу своїх
предків, а в колосі свого волосся я бачу золоті
поля пшениці.

Я пишалаю тебе тим що є твоє донька,
має мене!

My dear Ukraine! My dear Nene!

I am so proud of you! You are the best country in the world! You can't help but love your golden fields, green meadows, proud Carpathian Mountains, blue lakes, and full-flowing rivers. In my native city, Kyiv, I took my first steps in your squares and parks. I spent many happy years with you, my dear Ukraine. You taught me a lot. I remember you as a majestic, blooming viburnum, loud, joyful, and full of love for life. The last time I saw you like this was a year ago when I visited. I felt the warmth that spread over my body from the songs I heard that sounded on the main squares of Kyiv. I once again saw the fairs where laughter and cheerful chirping of children rang out. I remember artists and poets with whom I chatted pleasantly and exchanged stories. Remembering times when I was in a coffee shop in peaceful Kyiv and tasted hot cocoa in the Lviv Chocolate Cafe on Andriyivskyy, listened to jazz, and talked with friends with ease and love. I never thought that everything could change overnight... Why? For what? How to come to terms with the fact that one terrible night ruined the lives of millions of people? February 24th, at four in the morning, 2022... Enemy planes covered the sky, carrying thousands to their death. Nobody understood anything. Russia has launched a full-scale invasion on my home country.

"Russia... Be (doomed) forever! For destroyed cities and villages, for thousands of deaths, for interrupted children's laughter, for mother's tears" (Halyna Smirnova).

How it hurts you, my dear, what terrible wounds this rush leaves on your blooming body. Destroys everything! Where the "Russian World" passed, only wasteland and gloom remained. Majestic cities such as Mariupol and Kharkiv have disappeared. There are no elaborate villages with blooming streets, you can no longer hear songs and laughter there. Only horror is present in the eyes of people. And blood... Sea of blood... It is everywhere; in cities, houses, streets, human bodies, blood covered, even the bodies of little innocent children. Instead of the green streets, which used to be filled with songs and dances, are now in ruins. The wailing of the sirens made the blood freeze in our veins. Rockets fall from the sky like hail on a gloomy day. Children who used to run around happy and carefree became orphans. They lost their homes, parents, friends, and toys. Everything that they valued so much was taken away by the terrible "Storm," leaving behind only the burnt letter Z. Nene, your body is covered with wounds that heal into large scars, scars for life that will belong to more than one generation.

I write to you my mother Ukraine and wash with bitter tears. But my pride for you knows no bounds! You are fearless, strong, and unshakable! You will rise from the ashes like a Phoenix. Everyone rises to your defense, from young to old. Grandmothers knit warm socks for our soldiers with tired hands. Grandfathers join the partisans, mothers cook, bake, and fry; they do everything to help our defenders.

Children also help as much as they can. But is it possible to defeat such a country? Despite pain, fear, hatred, and despair, your children, Ukraine, stood as one in your defense. You know that I live thousands of kilometers away, but it is impossible to forget you because when I wake up in the morning and look in the mirror at the features of my face, I see my ancestors, and in the color of my hair, I see golden wheat fields. I am proud to be your daughter, my dear Ukraine!

Маргарита Смирнова | Margarita Smirnova



Design by Hannah Daily

Ants from Up There

Elijah Martinez

There is a man
Running ahead of me
Into no particular shadow

Legs swinging back at an easy pace

I could never run like he does
I may never run again

Except maybe from the things I can't seem to control

Happiness
And the pursuit of shaky understanding

And in that pursuit i will trip
Several times and scrape up my elbows and knees

Proof that I ever pursued at all.

When the time comes
To leave this place
This barren desert of electric life

I will find a different desert
No different from the last
And start over again

And maybe find people
With good hearts
And an openness to change without warning

Maybe I'll find someone with a compass
And a boat
And some idea of where they might be going

Until then I just sit
On the curb
Where the ants have made their home

Or
On my bed
Where I've made mine.

presented by Moments of Poetry

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