

---

## CULTURE

On the undocumented student experience

---

## ART

A closer look at LA's historic movie theaters

---

## LIFESTYLE

prime City Guide | Silver Lake: coffee culture and more

SPRING 2015



# SIDEWALK STRUGGLE

Inside the fight to legalize  
LA's street vendors

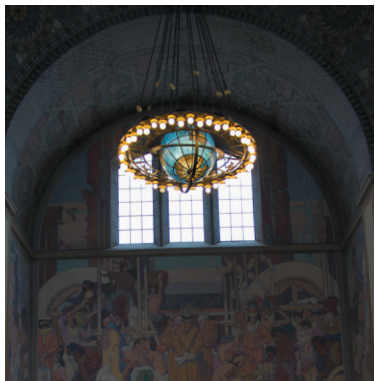


# TABLE OF CONTENTS



06 projecting the past

10 reading LA



15 insuring identity

21 a world away

24

street level



32 city guide: silver lake

38 recipe: tea time

42 diy: making memories

44 fashion: spring forward





# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear readers,

Every school year is an evolution, a process of growth and learning. Sure, as college students, much of our studying is done in classrooms and libraries, the typical facilitators of education.

But college is far more than reading information off a page. Our time as undergraduates is spent in a process of self-discovery, of adaptation, progress, transformation and, ultimately, change.

And with another school year come and gone, that change is very much at the heart of this issue of prime.

From the challenges that transgender students face every day, to the evolution of movie theater culture in Los Angeles, to the shifting laws surrounding street cart vending and undocumented immigrants, each story is emblematic of prime’s broader progression.

Over the course of this year, we’ve grown and changed as a magazine, honing our style and our tone, working to evolve our message.

But now it’s time for us, as editors, to say goodbye. To pass on our version of prime to a new generation, who will help it continue to shine brightly.

Thank you for taking this journey with us. We will miss prime terribly.



Love,

Alexandra Tashman

Leslie Yeh

Agnijita Kumar

Alexandra Tashman [ prime editor ]  
Leslie Yeh [ prime art director ]  
Agnijita Kumar [ prime photo editor ]

[ writers ]  
Katherine Hafner, Yael Levin, Jeong Park, Katie Shepherd, Kevin Truong

[ designers ]  
Hayley McAvoy, LeAnn Woo

[ photographers ]  
Miriam Bribiesca, Heidy Cadena, Alyssa Dorn, Kristen Payne, Angie Wang, Austin Yu

[ graphic artists ]  
Rosalind Chang

[ video contributors ]  
Collette Del Poso, Kai Laide George, Noor Gill, Iris Lee, Bijun Llang, Justine Sto. Thomas

Grace Lin [ copy chief ]  
Michelle Chen [ assistant copy chief ]  
[ slot editors ]  
Anjishnu Das, Katie Esparza, Arlene Huynh, Ishita Gambhir, Namrata Kakade, Juliet Park, Derek Yen

Simon Zhou [ online editor ]  
Jimmy Yang [ assistant online editor ]

[ daily bruin ]  
Andrew Erickson [ editor in chief ]  
Kristen Taketa [ managing editor ]  
Harrison Liddiard [ digital managing editor ]

[ account executives ]  
Khalid Alajaji, Celeste Carswell, Victoria Cohen, Shannon Griffin, Matthew Hezlep, Aliya Kamalova, Dannielle Marrihew, Casey Parks, Sarah Sanders, Sheridan Siegel, Stephanie Wong

Jeremy Wildman [ business manager ]

Abigail Goldman [ media adviser ]  
Arvi Ward [ media director ]

The Daily Bruin (ISSN 1080-5060) is published and copyrighted by the ASUCLA Communications Board. All rights are reserved. Reprinting of any material in this publication without the written permission of the Communications Board is strictly prohibited. The ASUCLA Communications Board fully supports the University of California's policy on non-discrimination. The student media reserve the right to reject or modify advertising whose content discriminates on the basis of ancestry, color, national origin, race, religion, disability, age, sex or sexual orientation. The ASUCLA Communications Board has a media grievance procedure for resolving complaints against any of its publications. For a copy of the complete procedure, contact the publications office at 118 Kerckhoff Hall. All inserts that are printed in the Daily Bruin are independently paid publications and do not reflect the views of the Editorial Board or the staff.

To request a reprint of any photo appearing in the Daily Bruin, contact the photo desk at 310-825-2828 or email [photo@media.ucla.edu](mailto:photo@media.ucla.edu).





# Projecting the Past

WRITTEN BY Yael Levin  
PHOTOS BY HEIDY CADENA

Going to the movies is at once a communal and personal experience.

There is the cackling of the audience during a comedy and the collective gasp at a spine-chilling moment during a horror film. The motley crew of strangers in the drafty, dark auditorium becomes a united congregation – all along for the ride.

But there is also the pleasure of sinking into a plush movie seat that is yours for the next two hours. The intimate connection to the protagonist's struggle, the utter captivation by plot twists and the savory, nostalgic smell of popcorn makes the vast theater feel like a private dinner with an old friend.

Los Angeles has been the motion picture epicenter for more than a century. Aspiring artists from across the world flock to the hills of Hollywood in hopes of eventually seeing their name on a marquee light.

Movie palaces across the city brought these artists' work to the townspeople in a magical community space. A space whose existence has been threatened since the first movie palaces opened in the beginning of the 20th century.

Theaters have always been one step behind, having to keep up with the world around them but never running quite fast enough.

Every new decade since the inception of movie palaces has brought new technology and media for the theater industry to compete with. Radio, television and Netflix have carried the best of entertainment into people's living rooms and bedrooms.

As a result, people are not looking to leave their homes for entertainment in the way they once did.

"From the 1920s to the 1980s, people have been predicting the end of movie theaters," said Ross Melnick, an assistant professor of film and media studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara and a UCLA alumnus. "The question now is, will movie theaters adapt, as they always have?"

The first theaters in Los Angeles were nickelodeons on Broadway Street in downtown Los Angeles, said Jonathan Kuntz, a film historian and lecturer at UCLA. That generation of movie palaces lasted through the 1920s, until the Great Depression, when the building of movie theaters came to a crashing halt during the 1930s. Many of these 1920s-era theaters still exist, even if they no longer serve their original purpose.

"The first generation of picture palaces was on Broadway, then went to Hollywood, then scattered around L.A.," Kuntz said.

In the 1940s and 1950s, neighborhood movie houses began sprouting around the city. Finally, in the 1970s, multiplexes opened up around town and in the San Fernando Valley, Kuntz added.

But in the early 21st century, during the recession, some movie theaters closed their doors for good.

It was, and still is, uncertain how long movie theaters will survive.





“I think there will always be a niche for them,” Kuntz said. “But there’s no clear future for the movie industry.”

It seems the movie theater experience is something Angelenos – and people around the world – are reluctant to let go of. Wherever they go, theaters have made their mark.

## WESTWOOD VILLAGE

Westwood’s Regency Bruin Theatre and Regency Village Theatre are iconic, with a rich history of their own. The Spanish-style, 170-foot tower above the Village theater is an L.A. landmark. Though it still hosts the occasional premiere, the Village theater used to show weekly premieres for blockbuster hits, such as Will Smith’s “Independence Day.”

The Regency Village Theater became an anchor of the Village when it opened in 1931.

“It’s one of the last original buildings in the Village still performing its original purpose from 84 years ago,” Melnick said.

Melnick recalls living in an apartment behind the theater in 1996 and seeing the lines for premieres stretch down Weyburn Avenue, as far as he could see, to In-N-Out Burger and beyond. He grew up on the East Coast, watching movies in shopping centers, so the Westwood neighborhood movie house was a refreshing change of pace for him.

The Regency Village Theatre, also known as the Fox Theatre, was the first of its kind in Westwood. Today, it is a prominent movie chain up and down the West Coast.

Although the Fox and Bruin theaters have the greatest name recognition today, there were about nine theaters in the Village just a few years ago.

Theaters that have closed include the Mann Festival Theater, which took up residence on Lindbrook Drive in 1970, next door to what is now 800 Degrees Pizza. But the movie house closed in July 2009 during the recession. When the Festival theater originally opened, it replaced the Village’s first Ralphs location, which had been there

since 1929.

Whole Foods Market on Gayley Avenue used to be the Mann Westwood 4 theater, which opened in 1975 and closed in 2002.

The Mann Plaza, a single-screen movie house, was located on Glendon Avenue, where the Palazzo Westwood development stands today.

The United Artists Westwood 4 theater was about two blocks south of Wilshire Boulevard before it was renovated to become a CVS pharmacy.

The Crest Theater, which still exists, is located on Westwood Boulevard, a block closer to the Hammer Museum, and shows mainly a mix of old films and operas.

Melnick said one of the greatest losses, though, was the Mann National Theatre, which used to be on Lindbrook Drive. It opened in March 1970, closed in April 2007, reopened less than a month later with a shorter-term lease and was finally razed to the ground in January 2008.

“Westwood suffered an irreparable loss when the National closed,” Melnick said. “It had a fantastic Brady-Bunch-meets-Art-Deco lobby. It was too bad because it was really the other premiere house in Westwood.”

## GREATER LOS ANGELES

The old feel of the 1920s movie palaces is still palpable on Broadway Street in downtown Los Angeles. Many theaters that were once the epicenter of glamour and glitz still line the street’s busy sidewalks, but they’ve been converted into concert venues or clothing shops.

A standout is the Los Angeles Theatre, one of Kuntz’s favorites.

“It represents so much of the early days of L.A. and movies,” he said. “It’s spectacular.”

Built in 1931 in baroque style, the theater was modeled after King Louis XIV’s Palace of Versailles. When Kuntz visited the palace in France and walked through the ornate Hall of Mirrors, he immediately noticed a

connection to the pattern in the Los Angeles Theatre lobby.

The theater has preserved many of its original features, like its “crying room,” on the mezzanine level where mothers could take their inconsolable infants without missing the film. Moreover, the theater’s original periscope still resides in the women’s restroom, so female patrons could keep watching the movie while they primped, Kuntz said. While the theater does not show movies any longer, it continues to host special events.

“The Los Angeles has a rather restrained facade, but inside, it overwhelms you in its replication of French Renaissance style,” Melnick said. “It takes your breath away.”

Another L.A. icon is The Cinefamily, located in the Fairfax District. It is housed in the former Silent Movie Theatre, which opened in 1942 and showed only silent movies.

Though the lights haven’t gone out on the theater, it has a dark past.

In 1997, a theater projectionist named James Van Sickle paid a man \$25,000 to kill the Silent Movie Theatre’s 74-year-old owner, Lawrence Austin. Austin had left his \$1 million estate to Van Sickle, who was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, along with the man he hired to kill Austin.

This horror-filled theatrical incident sent the theater into disarray for a few years, Melnick said. But it reopened as The Cinefamily on Halloween in 2007, and shows everything from silent movies to contemporary films.

A short drive away from The Cinefamily is the New Beverly Cinema in West Hollywood.

Located in a primarily Orthodox Jewish neighborhood, the building stands out on the street with its pastel blue, lilac and pink exterior.

The theater’s movies have an offbeat personality as well.

The movie house started out in the 1920s as a vaudeville theater, and Quentin Tarantino bought the theater in 2007 to help operations. Today, the theater shows almost exclusively double-feature 35mm films from



Tarantino’s personal collection.



For Melnick, the movie theater he chooses to go to is as much of a decision as which movie he should watch.

He takes all possible factors into consideration beforehand: whether he wants an intimate setting or a gigantic auditorium, if there will be a line outside where he can eagerly await the film with fellow moviegoers, if he can talk to people about the movie in the lobby afterward.

“Movie houses are far more than places where they show movies, it’s about curating your own experience,” he said. “It’s still one of the last places where people around the world gather with strangers for a not-religious experience.”

Unlike the experience of watching a movie alone, the reaction of the crowd changes the movie for him.

“People clapping after a movie, or walking out during it – the experience is more than a movie,” he said. “You can just lose yourself.”





WRITTEN BY **KATHERINE HAFNER**  
PHOTOS BY **ALYSSA DORN AND KRISTEN PAYNE**



**B**ook papers crinkle as their pages turn under the hands of the expert or casual reader. The sounds of cars driving or Angelenos talking are audible but muted by the insulated walls, humming quietly. People type away at computers, whisper to their friends, take a sip of coffee.

Beyond the hallowed halls and shelves of Powell Library, past the continual chaos of Westwood's Starbucks, across that jungle known as Wilshire Boulevard, libraries all over the city lie waiting for students to call home – at least for a few hours.

Unlike some colleges, where students are limited to only their campus resources, UCLA's prime Los Angeles real estate means students have access to dozens of public libraries, varying in size, sound, location and aesthetic.

For the avid studier, researcher or helpless bibliophile, exploring Los Angeles' public libraries is a must. Visiting one provides respite from being stuck on campus and relief from the jangled mayhem of a coffee shop. Not to mention you'll get to travel and experience another part of the city while doing so.

If you're looking for a change from Powell Library or Charles E. Young Research Library, here are some of the city's best public library offerings.

601 Santa Monica Blvd.

#### **SPECIAL FEATURES**

Cafe, history museum  
next door, bookstore,  
auditorium, study rooms

## **SANTA MONICA**

Saunter up the steps of the Santa Monica Public Library and you'll find yourself in a modern-style building with a variety of amenities. There are well-lit tables galore, access to outlets, magazines both old and new to peruse, and a library cafe. Soft greens, oranges and purples color the building, lending a comfortable atmosphere to the sleek modern architecture. At the center sits an outdoor patio with umbrella-covered tables, perfect for reading on a sunny day or relaxing with a drink from the cafe.

On the day I visited, one man sat surrounded by piles of books, his head barely visible atop his research, pen in hand and brow furrowed. Another, a black beret adorning his whitened hair, traced lines of music with his finger in a borrowed book, flipping through to find familiar tunes. A younger man in a suit bobbed his head to music coming from his headphones, while a woman engrossed in her reading sank into one of the comfortable purple armchairs lining the windowed wall.





2601 Main St.

# OCEAN PARK

About 10 minutes farther down in Santa Monica comes a library with a completely different atmosphere.

What the Ocean Park branch lacks in size, it makes up for in character, nestled inside a quaint building painted light blue. The library was built in 1918 and designated a Santa Monica landmark in 1977, as a stone sign outside proudly states. One midsize room hosts a few rows of bookcases and tables, with the other side reserved for children.

As I sit in an armchair complete with an attached mini-desk, like in lecture halls, a number of families with small children come in for children's story hour. You can tell the place is for locals. A mother calls the librarian directly by his name, Jason.

Sunlight from the coast and the faint sound of music stream in. The real value of the Ocean Park library is its charm. The friendly atmosphere and prime location make up for the limited literary collection. Situated just a few easily walkable blocks from the beach, the library's breezy Main Street vibe makes it a natural gathering place.

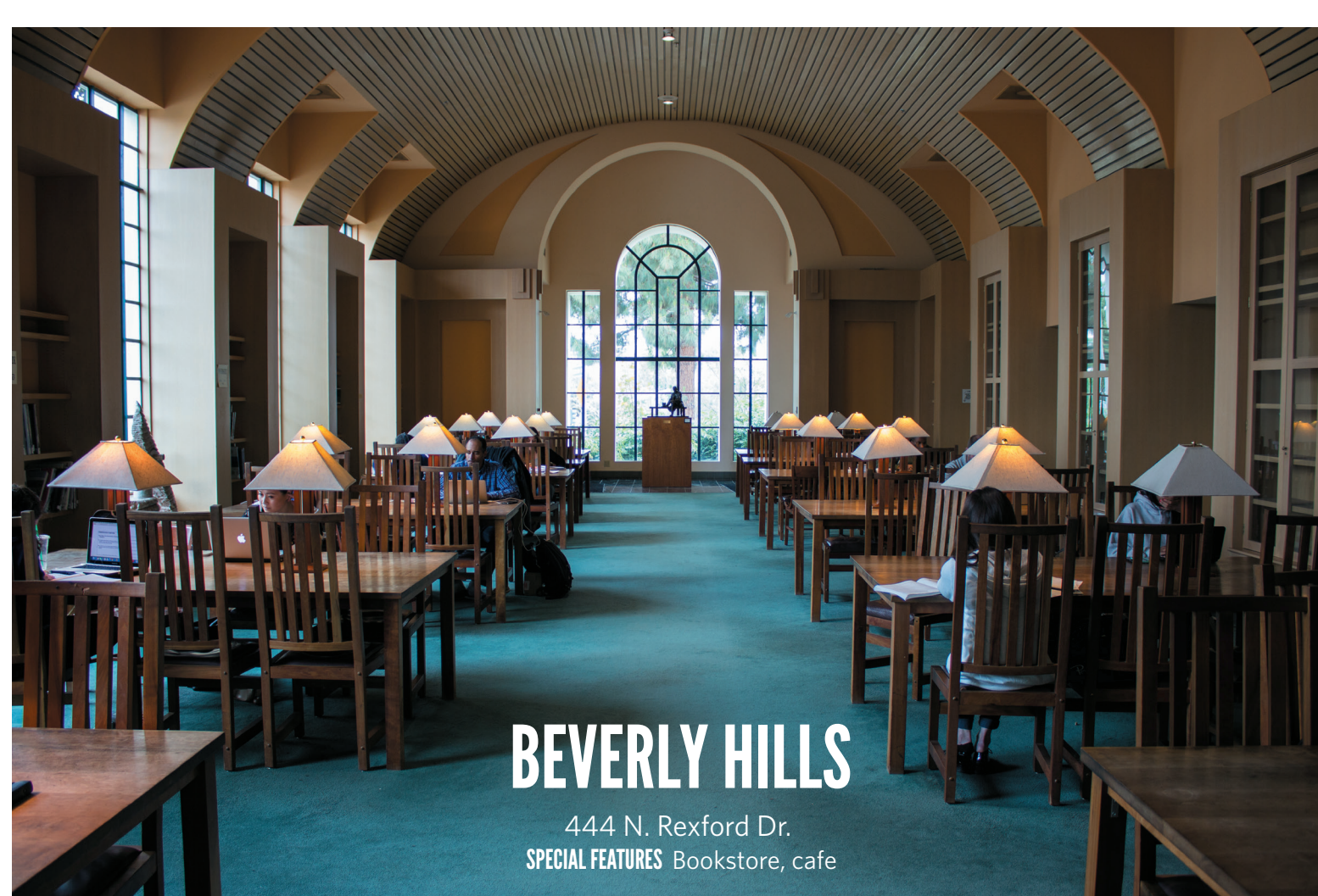
Stop to sit on a bench in the grassy courtyard out front, or enter the library for a bit and take some time to peruse



the historic photos of old Santa Monica on the wall.

The branch sits across from a vibrant wall mural – characteristic of the area – of ocean creatures and a woman's flowing hair, and is down the street from a wide collection of coffee shops, restaurants, stores and the community garden.

And located directly in front of a Big Blue Bus stop, it's the perfect destination for a UCLA student looking to shake things up. Students can even reward themselves after studying with a trip to the beach nearby or Urth Caffè.



11820 San Vicente Blvd  
SPECIAL FEATURES Bookstore

# BRENTWOOD

The Donald Bruce Kaufman-Brentwood Branch Library, constructed in a circular fashion, is a small but roomy haven for those just looking for a quiet space to read or study.

The library boasts a respectable collection of typical offerings, with access to books, DVDs and magazines.

But the windowed paneling and balcony offer a view of trees and sky that sets it apart from some other L.A. libraries, allowing visitors to witness life and natural light from outside while they work.

Along the windows sit a collection of purple armchairs and low tables that serve as an alternative to the tables downstairs. And if you need a caffeine boost, there's a Peet's Coffee and Tea right down the block.



If you're looking to leave Westwood but maintain the castlelike quality of your library choice (à la Powell Library), the Beverly Hills Public Library is the place for you. Situated within the fortress compound that is the Beverly Hills Civic Center, the library is impressive in a myriad of ways given its size, aesthetic, selection and amenities.

The main room, upon entering, has a vast and clean collection of white bookcases with lights illuminating them from within. Between the bookcases are scattered chairs and tables, all fitting into the same clean aesthetic. To the right of the entrance are a bookstore and full cafe. There's also a large, colorful children's section that's impressive, so go ahead and let the child within you (inconspicuously) walk by and rejoice.

If you walk past the already grand central area, other smaller rooms branch out, offering plenty of study spaces. Toward the back, featuring a rounded ceiling and tall windows, sits a very Powell Library-esque room, complete with lamp-adorned wooden desks and outlets. With granite floors, sculptures and vaulted ceilings, the library represents what's to be expected of Beverly Hills: sleek, nice and with air conditioning.





## WESTWOOD

1246 Glendon Ave.

There's a public library right here in Westwood, aside from the ones on campus.

Located south of Wilshire on Glendon Avenue, the small but accommodating Westwood library provides a quiet space for reading or studying that will likely prove significantly less crowded than on-campus libraries at any given time, including right before exams. To the right of the entrance is a cute children's reading corner, to the far left are the majority of the book options, and the back wall – which features windows looking onto green and blooming trees – hosts an array of film and TV options.

The main area contains plenty of tables, chairs and computers to accommodate the limited to midsize number of clientele. And the real benefit, aside from its proximity of course, is the sweeping view of green that makes you feel connected with nature despite being embedded on a main L.A. thoroughfare.

If you're willing to go a bit farther, you'll be rewarded at the Central Library, where a majestic exterior and interior await.

Built in 1926, the city landmark is ranked the third largest public library in the United States in terms of book and periodical holdings, which is not hard to believe once you've visited. Walking up from Flower Street, your gaze is immediately drawn upward by the tall, beautiful building, fronted by some gardens and a long rectangular pool.

Upon entering, the library splits into several directions, branching off to a variety of options. Take the escalator up one floor, and you'll find a beautiful rotunda with a domed ceiling bearing artwork and a jewel-clad chandelier. Go up another and you're suddenly looking on the top looking onto an old train stationlike interior, from which you can choose a particular library section.

On the top floor, in the literature and fiction section, there are a variety of seating options if you're looking to study. A collection of cubicle desks provide privacy and outlets, the perfect spot for a productive student. Other tables and desks also have ample space, and allow you to stare out the tall windows unto the classic tall buildings that make up downtown Los Angeles.

Arguably the best seats in the house lie on the top floor, around the corner in the fiction section in the back. From these you can look through the windows at the entire interior, with colorful hanging chandeliers at the center, featuring attached bird and flower sculptures. But if you're easily distracted, go ahead and take an insular cubicle.

If you feel so inclined, stop to peruse any number of the small photo or art collections across the building, or buy a witty memento from the gift shop. You can even take a docent-led architectural tour.



## DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

630 W. 5th Street

### SPECIAL FEATURES

Cafe, restaurant, library store, video and DVD store, literacy center, Getty and Annenberg galleries, tours, auditorium, photo gallery



WRITTEN BY **KATIE SHEPHERD**

PHOTOS BY **AGNIJITA KUMAR AND ANGIE WANG**

## INSURING IDENTITY

TRANSGENDER STUDENTS AT UCLA FACE A MYRIAD OF CHALLENGES. AMONG THEM – GETTING ACCESS TO THE HEALTHCARE THEY NEED.



@dailybruinprime | SPRING 2015





**B**o Hwang was 15 years old when he started to realize his gender identity didn't align with his biological sex.

"Growing up, I always thought I was a boy," said Hwang, a first-year gender studies student. "I didn't realize until middle school that there was a difference between boys and girls."

But he didn't immediately embrace his identity as a transgender man. Hwang said he was still unsure about his gender identity when he was a teenager, though he remembers wanting to transition since high school.

It wasn't until he found a community of openly queer students at UCLA that Hwang decided he definitely wanted to transition away from his biologically assigned sex and eventually embrace his true gender identity as a man.

A number of UCLA students – somewhere between 50 and 400 – identify as transgender. They face challenges on many levels as they try to fit into the cisgender UCLA community, including discrimination and tough choices about how to transition both socially and physically.

The decision to take steps toward gender reassignment weighs heavily on the minds of young transgender people, many of whom encounter the chance to make medical, social and financial decisions on their own for the first time at college.

For Hwang, the decision over whether or not to transition came down to finances.

He wants to wait to undergo gender reassignment until he has the financial means to support himself and access to health insurance that will pay for the procedures and ongoing medical treatment he will need.

"I will need to take one or two shots a month for the rest of my life," he said.

Insurance-covered medical care for transgender people was hard to come by until last year. In May 2014, a U.S. Department of Health and Services review board ruled that Medicare recipients cannot be automatically denied coverage for gender reassignment procedures.

While the ruling doesn't seem to have direct impact on the majority of UCLA students – 18- to 24-year-olds are not eligible for Medicare coverage – it was widely

speculated that the ruling indicated a shift in insurance policies for younger patients, in both the public and private sector.

But even before this ruling, UCLA students had access to some transgender health services, including gender reassignment procedures. The University of California Student Health Insurance Plan covers "medically necessary" gender reassignment surgery and other services for transgender patients.

Doctors and health insurance companies determine medical necessity on a case-by-case basis for each patient. This depends on a number of factors, including how the person is progressing in therapy and whether that person has met certain benchmarks to qualify for surgical procedures.

Since August 2010, UC SHIP has covered \$1.4 million in medical claims related to transgender procedures, treatments and services, said UC spokeswoman Shelly Meron in an email statement. Overall, students have filed about 127 claims related to transgender health care over the past five years.

But health care for transgender Americans isn't guaranteed by all insurance companies. Many insurance companies won't offer any coverage related to transgender health concerns, whether that includes therapy, surgeries or hormone treatments.

Even government-supported insurance doesn't necessarily cover transgender health care.

TRICAE, the federally funded insurance provided to military service members and their families, only covers sex changes if "gender confusion is documented from birth." This would essentially restrict access to sex changes for people who were born hermaphrodites or with no clear sexual identification and would prevent procedures for transgender individuals who embraced their gender identity later in life. Several other private insurance companies hold similar policies regarding transgender-related health care.

However, for most transgender individuals, gender identity emerges as they grow up and begin to develop a conception of what gender means to them.

Nyala Carbado, a first-year history and African



American studies student, began to notice their gender identity in ninth grade.

“For me, I think it’s hard (to define) because sometimes I feel like I’m gender-fluid, going between genders, and other times I feel like I’m agender,” Carbado said.

Carbado identifies as genderqueer and prefers the pronouns they, them and theirs.

They described the issue of gender identity as separate from sexual orientation, and said they think this distinction is something many UCLA students and people are unaware of.

Regardless of their gender identity, transgender people have a sexual orientation that varies across a spectrum of sexual identities, including heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual and asexual. Gender identity only relates to a personal perception of gender and gender expression.

“There’s a sense of not being interested in learning about it,” they said. “The diversity requirement is one of the first steps (toward more education). Just one class can really help to open one’s mind and help people see things in somebody else’s perspective.”

Carbado said they think just being exposed to transgender people and the human rights issues facing that community will help improve the lives of students whose gender identity doesn’t fit perfectly with their biologically assigned sex.

They added that gender identity is complicated by many factors, such as race, age and gender presentation.

“Sometimes, because I do pass as male, I don’t wear my hoodie when I’m walking alone at night,” Carbado said.

Carbado, who is black, said the prejudices against black men can affect them even though they do not identify as a man.

In addition to various levels of intersecting identities within the queer community, Carbado said they felt as if their actions were often perceived as an indication of the queer community at large.

“What I do reflects the queer community,” Carbado said. “A lot of people feel that way.”

Hwang agreed that his actions are often taken to represent those of all transgender men, but he said he thinks the conflation is not fair or productive.

“Some people treat me like the golden boy, and treat me like I represent all trans men,” he said. “It’s really hard for me because I have so many

different identities: Asian, low-income, Christian.”

Hwang said balancing all of these different identities has led to some discrimination, but he has also noticed acceptance from some strangers, as a Korean transgender man who holds his faith in God as an important part of his life.

Hwang recalled a time when two students he’d met before were walking down Bruin Walk and pointed him out as they passed by. In Korean, they gossiped about his gender identity and expressed disbelief that Hwang was really a man.

“They thought that I didn’t speak Korean, but I speak fluent Korean,” he said. “It’s kind of hard. When (people) misgender me, I start to become quiet and I feel smaller. I feel like my voice doesn’t matter.”

Other times, Hwang said he has benefited from people’s perceptions of his gender presentation. He said he doesn’t often encounter issues when using public restrooms, because strangers tend to accept

his identity as a man without question.

“I think I’m privileged because I’m Korean,” he said. “No one questions my gender much. My white trans friends get confronted more often.”

Both Hwang and Carbado said the

queer community at UCLA has been an important support system.

“It’s a small number of people, but they’re very active,” Carbado said. “You always see them at causes, even if they are not queer causes. That’s one of the reasons I’m proud to be in that community.”

Hwang didn’t have a community of peers at his high school or community college.

“It was rare to meet a queer person, let alone a trans person,” he said. “There’s a huge (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community on campus. I really like that.”

Hwang said it was because of the queer community at UCLA that he decided to officially come out as a transgender man and start presenting his gender as male. He said when he saw transgender people at UCLA who were out and happy because of their decision, he was sure he wanted to transition as well.

For now, Hwang is psychologically and socially transitioning to his masculine gender identity. He said he’s coming out and using male spaces regularly.

“I want to be as open as possible,” he said. “I want to educate and raise awareness, because I want people to take action (for transgender rights).”

**“ WHEN (PEOPLE) MISGENDER ME, I START TO BECOME QUIET AND I FEEL SMALLER. I FEEL LIKE MY VOICE DOESN’T MATTER ”**





# A WORLD AWAY



떨어져 있는 세계

WRITTEN BY **JEONG PARK**  
ILLUSTRATION BY **KELLY BRENNAN**



Last May, my grandmother had a stroke. I heard about it three days later, nearly 6,000 miles away, sitting in my dim dorm room, clutching my cell phone as my dad called.

I wanted the first flight to Seoul. All I wanted was to touch her.

But as an undocumented immigrant, I couldn't. Because I have overstayed my six-month tourist visa by nine years, going to Korea means that I would be banned from applying for a visa to the U.S. for the next 10 years. I would be effectively banned from coming back to the U.S. during that time.

The U.S. was, and is, my promised land. I didn't expect, however, to lose as much of my life as I experienced.

In Korea, I was a teacher's pet in elementary school, always getting high grades on tests. My grandparents bragged about the dozens of certificates I got in fourth grade, commemorating different speech and reading contests I had won. I even ran for vice president of my school, failing but keeping the race competitive even when nobody thought I had a chance.

Then, my classmates' jealousy set in, and the wheels fell off.

My grandmother saw me cry one morning, dreading going to school because my classmates had splashed water on me and laughed at me the day before.

My mom had always wanted me to study in a foreign country. She wanted me to be in a bigger pond, and even had me try living in another country – Australia – where I stayed with my cousin for a month.

But she didn't know when she should send me to the foreign country. After all, changing virtually everything around me was a risky decision.

But as soon as my mom heard that I cried, she had enough. She booked a flight to Los Angeles for herself and me.

When we arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport, my mom told me to tell the customs officer that I came to travel and see the Grand Canyon.

"Don't speak English," my mom told me. "Pretend like you don't know what's going on."

I did see the Grand Canyon, but my mom also sent me to a boarding school in Van Nuys that has since closed down. What was meant to be a six-month stay with my visitor's visa has turned into a nine-year stop (and counting).

Through my nine years in America, I went to school in four different cities and called three strangers whom I lived with my "uncles" just so I didn't have to explain who they were.

I learned to speak English. I enrolled at UCLA, studied political science and became an assistant news editor for the the Daily Bruin. Long gone is the kid who had water poured on him at school – now, I have dozens of friends who genuinely like me.

Legally, conditions for undocumented immigrants have improved since I arrived here.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals has prevented hundreds of thousands from being deported and provided them with work permits (for what it's worth, I'm still seeking one). Because of the newly passed Assembly Bill 60, many undocumented immigrants can obtain drivers' licenses in California. I don't have to pay tuition because the California Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act made me eligible for a Cal Grant.

Because of efforts from activists who have come out with their status, being undocumented is not as stigmatized as it was when I came to this country.

I have succeeded.

I have achieved the American dream.

These policies and activism have enabled me to come and study at UCLA with relative ease. I have become that "dreamer" whom

people can point to.

Yet, I ask if that matters.

What is the point of the American dream when your family is 6,000 miles away? What is the point of the American dream when you can't see your grandparents? What is the point of the American dream when you feel desperately alone?

No policy can make me forget the last nine birthdays I have spent (and the several more I will spend) without my parents.

No policy can bring back the time when my grandfather and I sang Korean folk tunes as we climbed our neighborhood mountain. No policy can restore the memory of spending Chinese New Year – or Seol-Nal – with my cousins and extended family.

I see my mom about twice a year. She is the only family member who can afford to come. For the first couple of years of my stay here, I would cry a night and a day after she left. She would kiss me softly on my cheeks.

Now, the nine-year stay has made me feel detached. I still love it when my mom visits. I still want her to be around, but it isn't the same. What is point of success if you don't have anyone to share it with?

I can drive. I can work. But I can't be with those who love me and whom I love.

Sure, you can tell me that I am just whining, that I should go back to my country, that I have no business being here. I'm an "illegal," after all.

But then, what is the point of the last nine years I spent alone?

If I go back, everything I learned and everyone I befriended in the U.S. would essentially be wiped out of my life. I would spend the rest of my life in a country whose

people I'm familiar with, but whose customs and culture I'm not. I've heard about them through Korean television and movies, but hearing is different than actually experiencing them.

I have run so far, and roads running the other way have been blocked off.

It's not that I regret coming here. My mom had me run away from my problems in Korea, and frankly, it worked out well.

Perhaps I'm being too greedy in trying to return to Korea to see my family and also stay in the U.S. to work. But fundamentally, it shouldn't be an either-or question.

As of now, I'm stuck in a dilemma, trying to deal with the status quo as best as I can.

When I turned 20 last May, when I first heard about my grandmother's stroke, I wrote this on my blog: "I believe my grandparents will stay strong, but that's no excuse for not seeing them. ... Hopefully I get to see my grandparents soon, whatever that way may be. I mean, writing this when I get to 21 sounds just, just so depressing."

Yet, I have just turned 21, with seemingly nothing for me ahead.

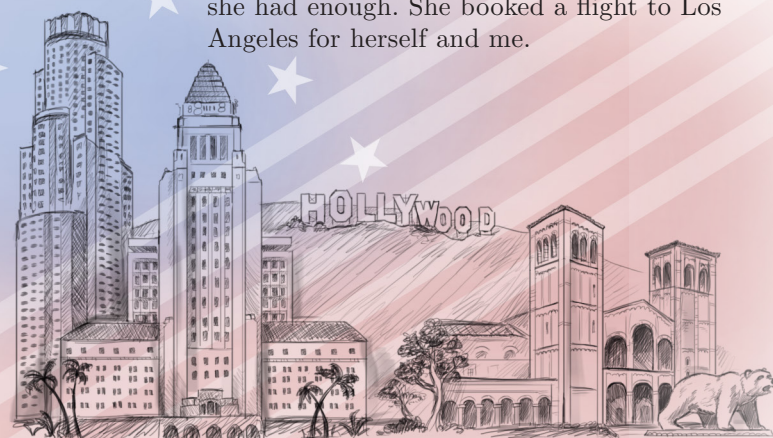
My father called me a few weeks ago on my grandmother's birthday. He passed his phone to my grandmother.

"I lived so long, and I have inconvenienced so many people because of me," my grandmother told me, saying how her illness has made my grandfather struggle.

I told her that's not true, that everyone appreciates how she has recovered. But there is only so much emotion, so many things I can tell her over the phone, speaking 6,000 miles away from her house.

If only I could say I love her, to her, with her.

***BUT THERE IS ONLY SO  
MUCH EMOTION, SO MANY  
THINGS I CAN TELL HER  
OVER THE PHONE, SPEAKING  
6,000 MILES AWAY***







# STREET LEVEL

WRITTEN BY KEVIN TRUONG  
PHOTOS BY AUSTIN YU

# Most Angelenos have had the same experience leaving a concert, a nightclub or a ball game.

As the crowds shuffle outside, the air hangs thick with the sounds of the sizzling griddle, the primal smell of cooking meat and the smatterings of rapid bits of the Spanish language.

This is the real show. It plays nightly, seven days a week.

Street carts, selling a wide variety of food, are the headliners of this late-night event.

Admission costs a few dollars. But pay up, and you'll get a crispy steaming pupusa stuffed to the gills with beans and cheese, a carne asada taco dripping with fresh, zesty salsa or a bacon-wrapped hot dog heaped liberally with onions and peppers.

But within the strict letter of municipal law, these vendors are criminals, subject to a maximum of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine for merely selling their wares.

It's within this constant level of anxiety and scrutiny that the estimated 50,000 people selling their food or merchandise on Los Angeles' streets have to operate.

Emanuel Ramirez, a third-year applied mathematics student, remembers the fear well. It was the one constant in his years of hawking hot dogs in South Los Angeles.

"You get used to the idea that something could always happen, but you gotta do what you gotta do," he said, reminiscing.

If you look closely at his arms, you'll see the faded brown splotches from hot oil burns, physical reminders of the hours and hours he spent in front of a griddle during his high school years.

Every weekend from the age of 13 to the time he graduated high school, Ramirez would buy cases of hot dogs and vegetables, chop up and prepare the ingredients, load up a pickup truck with his cart and set up shop outside of the nightclubs around midnight.

Around 1:30 a.m., the crowd began trickling in, and by 2 a.m., the torrent rushed in for its nocturnal drunken fix, leading to lines that stretched as far back as he could see.

He grooved into a pattern as he worked: bun, hot dog, veggies, sauce, bun, hot dog, veggies, sauce, his mind and hands going into frenetic autopilot as he tried to serve all the hungry customers.

At the end of the night, he would leave exhausted with the smell of smoke and cooked hot dogs baked into his clothes and pockets flush with cash.





“All he was trying to do was make a living for himself, not hurting anybody, but because it’s illegal he lost his business.”

“This was a business I started up pretty much by myself because I couldn’t really get a job anywhere else, and I was actually successful and making a lot of money,” he said. “I knew it was illegal, but I did it out of necessity.”

During his weekends working, he was never ticketed by the authorities, although there were several close calls. Other street vendors were not so lucky.

One time, as he sold his hot dogs on the sidewalk, he saw another hot dog vendor on the opposite side of the street handcuffed and detained by authorities.

“I don’t know whether he got arrested or what happened to him, but he was doing the exact same thing as me,” Ramirez said. “All he was trying to do was make a living for himself, not hurting anybody, but because it’s illegal he lost his business.”

Street vendors in Los Angeles are stuck in a legal bind. A visit from law enforcement or the health authorities could mean hundreds of dollars in fines or the seizure of thousands of dollars worth of food and materials, depending on the charge.

Many vendors are undocumented or come from low-income neighborhoods, so they lack the knowledge or

willingness to go against authorities and get their carts and food back.

Mark Vallianatos, an adjunct instructor of urban and environmental policy at Occidental College and a member of the steering committee for the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign, which was organized to legalize street vending, said vendors face a triple threat from the Los Angeles Police Department, the city’s Bureau of Street Services and inspectors from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

“The question you want to ask the authorities is: Is this really the major public safety issue in the city of L.A.?” Vallianatos said.

An emailed statement from the Department of Public Health said that illegal street vending can be a public health concern, with improperly prepared food leading to foodborne illness, especially among vulnerable populations.

In order to combat this concern, the county offers the opportunity to apply for a public health permit. But even if this criteria is fulfilled, vendors are still prohibited under L.A. city laws to sell their food on the sidewalk.

“There’s no incentive to get the proper permits,”

Vallianatos said. “Whatever they do, it’s still illegal in the city.”

Currently, Los Angeles is the only one of the 10 largest cities in the United States that prohibits street vending.

In recent years, a coalition of community groups and street vendors has formed to put pressure on City Hall to fix this disconnect with city and county policy, and allow vendors to work legally.

As a result, the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign was formed with the mission to advocate for a path toward legalization for the city’s street vendors.

Janet Favela, an organizer with both the campaign and the East L.A. Community Corporation, a grassroots community group, said passionate vendors have pulled numerous advocacy groups into the legalization effort.

“I think there’s always been a need for this as long as vendors have been surviving here,” Favela said. “Every day they are out there, they are taking a risk – just existing and doing their work is a struggle.”

The campaign has gained traction in the media and with the public, leading to scores of op-eds and editorials – including from the Los Angeles Times – in support of making street vending legal. The campaign has also

managed to gain traction in the slippery corridors of City Hall.

At a December City Council committee meeting, councilmembers and the public discussed a legalization plan that would require vendors to take a number of steps, including going through training courses, registering to pay taxes and getting permits from the Department of Public Health, before applying for the legal right to sell their goods on the streets of Los Angeles.

Public commentators from both sides of the debate passionately appealed to the council table.

Hal Bastian, a city developer and owner of Hal Bastian Inc., spoke out against legalization, saying he was skeptical of the possibility of active enforcement of street vending laws and concerned about the damage to brick-and-mortar businesses and property values.

“This city does not have the capacity to enforce much of anything, go just over to Skid Row and watch people shooting up in the public realm,” Bastian said. “What makes us think that we can control street vending in this city?”

Councilman Curren Price Jr., who represents the 9th



District in Los Angeles and has been one of the political players pushing for street vending legalization, pointed to the possible economic benefit of street vending regulation.

“I firmly believe that creating a system for street vending will help micro-entrepreneurs thrive,” Price said. “It will allow people who are part of this underground economy to come out of the shadows and generate some income and some revenue.”

The end result of the meeting was a wash.

The plan was sent back to the chief legislative analyst’s office for more review and greater elaboration of procedures.

While the plan for legalization did warrant public discussion, progress is not coming fast enough for activists, some of whom have been working on the campaign for years.

Esther Park, the community outreach coordinator for the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, which is part of the campaign, said a fairly rigorous process for health and safety already exists, but street vending still needs to be legalized.

“The reality is that the vendors are going to be there whether legalization exists or not,” said Park, a former Daily Bruin staffer and a 2010 UCLA alumna.

Favela also expressed frustration at the kind of bureaucratic logjam that has stymied forward movement. She said community meetings that were planned by the chief legislative analyst’s office to take place in March have already been rescheduled twice to the end of May.

As the debate over legalization swirls and makes its way through the city’s legislative process, street vendors still stand at risk of losing their livelihoods on a regular basis.

People like vendor Benjamin Venegas, 48, reported an upsurge of harassment from authorities since the time they began working on the streets.

“Before, they used to just tell you to leave. Now, they threaten to arrest you or deport you,” Venegas said through a translator. “It just keeps getting worse and

worse.”

Venegas has worked with his family in swap meets across the city for almost a quarter of a century, selling churros from a small metal stand.

Inside of his stand sits a specialized machine that sections off pieces of dough that then drop into a shiny, metallic tub filled with bubbling oil. After being scooped up and dusted with cinnamon and brown sugar, the churros are deposited in brown paper bags, still warm from their deep-fried bath.

Biting into one of the churros is a delicious experience. The crispy exterior hides a doughy, chewy inside and a taste that’s the perfect amount of sweet.

When Venegas talks about his business prospects, though, his mood turns bitter.

Rubbing his hands, joints swollen with rheumatism, he speaks in a low voice about the frustration of having his ingredients and supplies seized, sometimes up to twice a week, losing hundreds of dollars that would have gone toward putting food on his family’s table.

“I want people to know all the food we sell is very hygienic – it’s the same as the people selling in restaurants with permits. We just can’t get one,” Venegas said. “The solution is to get everyone permits so they are part of the legalized system and pay taxes.”

In March, the Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign organized a political demonstration outside of LAPD headquarters asking for a stop to ticketing and hassling from law enforcement while the legalization process winds through City Hall.

A report issued in April by the UCLA School of Law’s Criminal Defense Clinic made a series of recommendations to the Los Angeles city attorney’s office that include ceasing prosecutions until new legislation is passed and dismissing pending sidewalk vending prosecutions.

None of these recommendations have been officially adopted by city agencies.

Maria, 43, a street vendor who declined to give her last name for fear of reprisal, has set up her stand on the



“I want people to know all the food we sell is very hygienic – it’s the same as the people selling in restaurants with permits. We just can’t get one.”



same street corner in South Los Angeles for 20 years.

For the last eight, she's had a colorful permit pasted to the side of her metal cart, where she sells a variety of snacks, candy, fruit and food products.

The costs of permitting under county and city laws run into the thousands annually, but even so, the small square of laminated plastic rarely acts as a shield from harassment from the police and other authorities.

Recently, she said she was packing all of her products when officials came and threatened to throw away all of her merchandise, which would have left her hundreds of dollars in the hole.

"I told them I had a permit, but they didn't believe me," Maria said through a translator. "I felt like a criminal and had to stand up and defend myself before they left me alone and stopped bullying me."

Still, she admits she skirts the strict letter of the law out of necessity, often displaying her goods on the sidewalk instead of inside the legal confines of her cart.

"I know it's illegal to sell this much stuff on the street," she said. "But it's the way I provide for my family."

Maria's sidewalk sprawl has led to multiple tickets and warnings, but her wide array of food products is exactly the argument some are using for the legalization of street vending.

At the front of her cart sits not only junk food, but also bright tropical fruit, fresh tortillas and fried wheat puffs that are traditionally splashed with lime and hot sauce before being handed off to customers.

Street vendors often act as healthy food oases in the "food deserts" that are pervasive in pockets of low-income Los Angeles, said Park, who works on food access and food security issues.

"Essentially, the idea is that access to healthy food options is a very eminent issue in these lower-income communities and has to be addressed through supporting multiple food enterprises, including street food vending," Park said.

Park added that legalization legislation could provide incentives like lower permitting costs for vendors looking toward selling healthier food options.

Providing incentives for selling healthier food is only one aspect of street vending legalization that would work especially well in Los Angeles,



Vallianatos said.

The instructor lectured about characteristics of legislation in other cities that would have to be amended for street vending legalization to work in Los Angeles' unique environment.

New York City has capped its number of permits since the 1970s, creating a barrier of entry for vendors while also leading to a black market for the limited number of permits. Portland, Ore., has specified vending areas in the city, similar to a plan in the 1990s that was piloted around MacArthur Park and failed.

"We imagine a system that takes the best of what these systems have to offer, like liability insurance and training in best health practices, but has the kind of flexibility that will work in L.A.," Vallianatos said.

In Los Angeles, a city carved up into ethnic enclaves, Vallianatos spoke about the importance that street vendors have in shaping the vibrancy of life on the sidewalks.

"It's almost like you're recreating the cultural space of the country of origin," Vallianatos said. "When you have a culture built up around street food, it's reminiscent of the kind of outdoor space you see in Latin America with people walking around and eating."

In the eyes of many vendors and activists, the public campaign for legalization of street vending has given political power to a group of people that has been perpetually disenfranchised.

Even as he studies at UCLA, Ramirez said he remembers the people he spent weekend nights with for four years.

"They're some of the hardest-working people I've ever met in my entire life, and they deserve to have (street vending) legalized," he said. "What's funny is that we have people in this country that have the ability to work and choose not to. These people want to work, but just can't."

Favela said vendors have had fire and strength as a community all this time, but the campaign is simply igniting it.

"This is the first time the general public is seeing the spirit and voice of these people," Favela said. "But if you know vendors, then you know they position themselves as entrepreneurs and businesspeople, as 'luchadores,' as fighters."

The fight continues for these people, many of whom crossed countries and hundreds of miles for the opportunity to work their way into the diverse fabric of Los Angeles.





EAT



Silver Lake is known for being an off-the-beaten-path foodie's paradise. And no trip to the neighborhood would be complete without brunch at Sqirl. Although the name may seem misspelled, the food is good enough for even the most irascible of grammarians. While Sqirl is known for its mashup of rice bowls, the best brunch item on the menu is unquestionably the brioche toast (\$9), stuffed with jam and topped with a healthy dollop of creme fraiche. The toast is crunchy on the outside but perfectly pillowy on the inside, and is more than enough to be split between friends.

Another solid choice is the "Open Face Egg Tartine Toast" (\$7.75), which features delicious, thick-cut toast piled high with kale, tomatillo puree and a fried egg. The drink selection is impressive too, with standout choices including the seasonal blood orange juice (\$5) and vanilla bean lemonade (\$3.50). Just down the road is Forage, a small white building so inconspicuous that it's easy to drive right past. Serving up lunch and dinner, Forage's menu changes regularly, and the restaurant offers a wide variety of seasonal eats. However, if you happen to stop in on a day it is selling its bacon

WRITTEN BY ALEXANDRA TASHMAN      PHOTOS BY AGNIJITA KUMAR

One of the most quintessential hipster experiences in all of Los Angeles is drinking a steaming hot latte at Intelligentsia Coffee in Silver Lake. The cafe is the epicenter of the neighborhood, which boasts everything from quality nightlife to quirky shopping and fresh eats. Famous as a hipster haven the world over, Silver Lake routinely beats out other well-known indie neighborhoods such as Williamsburg, Brooklyn in international surveys of trendiness. But Silver Lake is more than its hype. Named for the reservoir around which the enclave was crafted, the neighborhood contains a diverse collection of things to do on any college student's budget. From the litany of coffee spots to amusingly named restaurants (we're looking at you, Sqirl), and to all the funky shops and stores in between, prime has the best of what the notoriously cool eastern district has to offer.







*quick and cheap!*

*local legend!*

*dessert lover's paradise!*

and cheddar quiche (\$6.50), it would be a mistake not to try it.

Another local legend is Barbrix, which serves up one of the neighborhood's most beloved brunches on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Although the menu changes every day, you can't go wrong with standbys like the ever-fluffy blueberry buttermilk pancakes (\$12). But more importantly, Barbrix serves up bottomless mimosas for \$5 with the purchase of food items totaling \$12 or more per person – and that's alcohol pricing any student can get behind.

For a quicker and cheaper meal, try out Berlin Currywurst. This German transplant brings Angelenos the best of the beloved Berlin street food. Pick your sausage for \$7, (the paprika sausage has a great kick) add your choice of sauce (original curry, orange-ginger, garlic, jambalaya or chipotle) and spice level, and chow down. It may sound weird to your mind, but it's heaven to your palette.

If you're looking to grab dessert, look no further than MILK. Serving up fresh, homemade ice cream, MILK is a dessert lover's paradise. Try the "Mint Chocolate Crunch Shake" (\$7), with mint ice cream, chocolate chips and malt balls, or a Nutella ice cream bar (\$5). However, what MILK is best known for is its macaron ice cream sandwiches, usually half-dipped in chocolate. Specialties include the red velvet, grasshopper (mint), and Thai tea varieties.



**B U Y**

The majority of Silver Lake's shopping is concentrated around the quirky Sunset Junction shopping center, which hosts a wide collection of vintage shops and specialty stores.

But in the actual shopping center itself, there are two worthwhile stops.

The first is Clementine Floral Works, which is worth dropping in to, even if you don't buy anything. The shop is bursting with flowers of all varieties, and the smell alone makes it worth paying a visit. Clementine Floral Works sells a wide collection of decorative planters and vases as well, in case you're looking to spruce up your apartment or dorm.

About 5 feet away, you'll see The Cheese Store of Silverlake. It offers a massive collection of imported cheese and wine, and it's the type of place to stop in if you're looking to treat yourself to something special. But on top

of the mountains of cheese, the store also brings together a well-curated mishmash of gourmet goods, with everything from preserves and cookies to hot sauce.

Across the street, take the time to explore Spice Station. This tucked-away store, painted in vibrant orange, provides an unending selection of fresh spices, the likes of which you'd be hard-pressed to find elsewhere in Los Angeles. The walls are lined with rows and rows of jars filled with coriander, dill and a wide variety of pepper.

Next door is Vacation Vinyl, one of Silver Lake's several quirky record stores. The store sells a broad collection of used and new vinyl, featuring everything from Lady Gaga to Jimi Hendrix. And while it doesn't have the wide stock that mainstays like Amoeba Music do, it presents a more focused, curated alternative. Not to mention, the prices are reasonable.





1



2



3

4



5

- 1/ LAMILL Coffee Boutique
- 2/ Brooke Street General Store
- 3/ The Black Cat
- 4/ Casbah Café
- 5/ Intelligentsia

# DRINK

With its abundance of coffee shops, Silver Lake has more places to hang out, relax and people-watch than any neighborhood needs.

Start with Intelligentsia Coffee, the classic choice. Nestled in Sunset Junction, Intelligentsia's Spanish-tile patio is perfect for sitting back and pretending to work on your screenplay.

But it's more than just looks. Intelligentsia is known for being the best coffee shop in Los Angeles – there are several locations scattered throughout – in terms of the quality of coffee it provides and how it is prepared. In short, no one takes better care of their beans. While the menu is diverse, a standard latte is the easiest way to get the highest-grade coffee for your money.

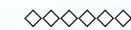
On the other end of the same block, you'll find Casbah Cafe, a less industrial and far more funky approach to caffeine consumption than its storied neighbor. The tea is really what shines (go for mint), but the real reason to stop in is to plop down at one of the outside tables, nestled beneath crawling vines, and each with its own mural.

However, Silver Lake has plenty of other coffee shops outside that one-block radius.

Broome Street General Store provides both coffee and shopping, with an eclectic bunch of knickknacks crammed inside its adorable, houselike storefront. But the vast majority of what's for sale falls outside of any student's budget, so stick with the drinks, best enjoyed on the store's charming, twinkle-light- and tree-covered front patio. The coffee itself is solid and strong – good for a late afternoon pick-me-up.

Down the road is LAMILL Coffee Boutique, which is as bourgeois in decor as the name belies. Avoid the overpriced food and stick with the reasonably priced coffee. A French press coffee is extremely well-priced, but if you're going to splurge, go for the \$6 crème brulee latte.

Despite the wide selection, Silver Lake has more than just coffee to drink. After dark, the neighborhood boasts a variety of bars and late-night haunts. The best though, is undoubtedly The Black Cat. Situated just across from Sunset Junction, this fairly mellow bar serves up the best Moscow mule (vodka, ginger beer and lime, for \$13) east of the Hollywood sign. Plus, with an outdoor patio, there's never been a better reason to drop by.



Ultimately, there is no better way to close out your Silver Lake experience than with a stop at the eponymous lake itself. Find a parking spot on Silver Lake Boulevard (during the week spaces are plentiful, but it can be dicey on weekends), and plop down in the grass. The running trails nearby are quiet, and there is always plenty of room to spread out a blanket and enjoy a good book. Not to mention that enjoying the view of the reservoir is free. And that's a price every UCLA student can get behind.





# tea time

WRITTEN BY **LESLIE YEH**  
PHOTOS BY **AGNIJITA KUMAR**

**L**ike many UCLA students, I am no stranger to copious amounts of espresso shots during finals week. Since weeks five through finals tend to be powered by caffeine, I often find myself wanting a break from the perpetual coffee aftertaste. For me, tea is a luxury reserved for those few slow days of the quarter. A lazy Saturday afternoon with Netflix or a quiet night after a long day.

I once heard a rather passionate rant about how tea is a scam: It looks and smells like it should taste amazing, but actually tastes like water. As a fervent tea enthusiast who grew up in a culture in which tea and water are synonymous, I beg to differ. Tea doesn't have to just be a colored hot water sipped on a cold day. Whether you are in the mood for a refreshing fruity cocktail or a decadent drinkable dessert, any time can be tea time.



## ORANGE JASMINE GREEN TEA

My first inspiration comes from Taiwanese tea bars that offer dozens of cocktail-like tea drinks. I clearly remember the day I was introduced to this world of beverages. On our way home from shopping in Taipei, my cousin and I stopped by a tea chain store called Share Tea. She ordered a strawberry black tea, which wasn't so much strawberry-infused tea as it was a couple spoonfuls of strawberry preserves shaken into the iced tea. It was surprisingly good. From that point forward, I set out to try every fruity combination. My personal favorite is orange jasmine green tea, a rather random combination, but I like to think of it as a Taiwanese twist on the popular Arnold Palmer drink.

### INGREDIENTS

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 green tea bags             | 1/4 cup simple syrup |
| 1 pitcher or bottle of water | Ice cubes            |
| 1 large orange               |                      |

### STEPS

- 1 Submerge the two green tea bags in the pitcher of water, and refrigerate for at least eight hours. This creates "cold brew" tea, which is less tannic than hot tea, has lower levels of caffeine and has proven to be high in antioxidants.
- 2 Cut the orange in half and squeeze out the juice and pulp.
- 3 Add simple syrup to the orange juice and combine.
- 4 For each serving, pour one part orange juice and four parts green tea over ice, stir and enjoy!



## HAPPY HOUR MILK TEA

The first time I tasted this heavenly cocktail was from a Baileys truck parked outside one of the tallest buildings in the world, Taipei 101. A shot of Irish cream liqueur was poured into a cup of chilled Sun Moon Lake black tea at the makeshift bar. This decadent dessert-drink will be well-appreciated by any boba lover!

### INGREDIENTS

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 black tea bags                | 1 cup Irish cream liqueur |
| 3 cups boiling water            | Ice cubes                 |
| 1 cup brown sugar + 1 cup water |                           |

### STEPS

- 1 Bring a pot of water to boil and let the tea bags steep for at least 10 minutes.
- 2 In another pot, boil one cup of water and stir in the brown sugar until dissolved.
- 3 Remove tea bags and pour in sugar water to the tea. Let cool until room temperature.
- 4 Fill up glasses with ice cubes and pour in tea three-fourths of the way.
- 5 Top off with a shot of Irish cream liqueur and enjoy!

## WHITE TEA BERRY MOJITO

This recipe is inspired by the framboise mojitos served in a bar near my host family's apartment in Paris from my summer abroad. Light and refreshing white tea pairs well with fruit, making it the perfect touch to this summery cocktail.

### INGREDIENTS

- |                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 8 teaspoons berry flavored white tea | Crushed ice |
| 6 ounces white rum                   | Lime        |
| 1 ounce simple syrup                 | Fresh mint  |
| 1/4 cup raspberries and blueberries  | Club soda   |

### STEPS

- 1 Steep tea in rum for approximately three minutes.
- 2 Add berries, simple syrup, mint and lime juice and muddle.
- 3 Add crushed ice and top with club soda.
- 4 For extra flair, garnish with a sprig of mint, a slice of lime and a strawberry.



## RED VELVET TEA LATTE

For the imminent gloomy days in June, I found inspiration in a drink that warmed me from the inside out on a below-freezing day in Chicago. Not only does it taste like a warm dessert, but this recipe is even dorm-compatible.

### INGREDIENTS

4 teaspoons vanilla rooibos tea  
1/2 cup boiling water  
4 tablespoons hot cocoa powder  
1 cup milk  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Jar or microwaveable container

### STEPS

- 1 Steep tea in a half-cup of boiling water until dark and concentrated.
- 2 Strain and stir in hot cocoa powder and vanilla extract.
- 3 Pour milk into a jar and shake for 30 to 60 seconds.
- 4 Remove the lid and microwave milk for 30 seconds.
- 5 Pour the milk and foam into the tea mixture and enjoy!

## EARL GREY COOKIES

Finally, here is something to pair with a simple cup of tea. Inspired by dainty English afternoon tea sets, these bergamot-infused cookies can easily be grabbed on the go to bring a little elegance to any afternoon.

### INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons Earl Grey loose-leaf tea  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup powdered sugar  
1 1/4 cup flour  
A dash of salt  
2 teaspoons cream  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 cup cold unsalted butter  
Extra sugar for garnish

### STEPS

- 1 Combine tea, sugar, powdered sugar, flour and salt.
- 2 Add cream, vanilla extract and butter. Combine until dough forms.
- 3 Gather dough and form a log. Roll the log in sugar to coat the outside.
- 4 Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- 5 Cut into 1/3-inch slices and lay on a baking sheet.
- 6 Bake for 12 minutes until lightly brown. Let cool and bite into for an afternoon escape!

# BENEFITS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF

# TEA

## BLACK TEA

- expands airways
- improves cholesterol levels
- promotes cardiovascular health
- contains superchemical acting as blood thinner
- may protect lungs from damage caused by smoking

AVERAGE  
RECOMMENDED  
BREWING TIME  
(minutes)



## OO LONG TEA

- widest array of flavors
- boosts metabolism
- prevents clogging of arteries
- improves cholesterol levels
- lowers blood sugar

## WHITE TEA

- highest level of antioxidants, which combat aging and disease
- promotes relaxation of mind and body
- boosts immune system

## ROOIBOS TEA

- fights cancer
- dense in minerals such as iron, zinc and calcium
- helps combat diabetes
- improves blood circulation
- soothes the stomach

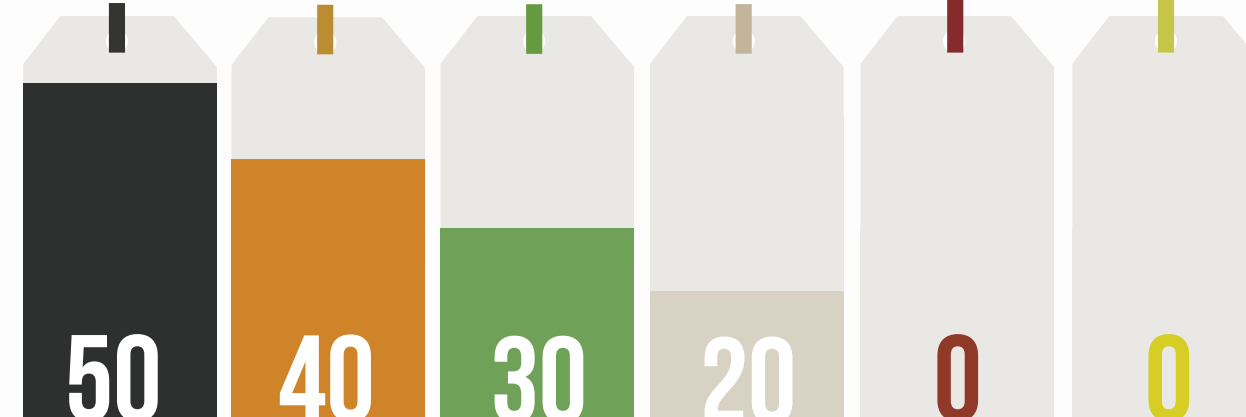
## GREEN TEA

- boosts metabolism
- promotes detox of body
- prevents clogging of arteries
- counteracts mental stress
- improves cholesterol levels

## CHAMOMILE TEA

- fights cancer
- promotes healthy skin
- promotes sleep
- helps combat diabetes
- antibacterial
- soothes the stomach

AVERAGE CAFFEINE CONTENT (mg/8oz. cup)



SOURCES: The Octavia Tea Company and Choice Organic Teas. Graphic reporting and graphic by Rosalind Chang.



MAKING  
MEMORIES

WRITTEN BY ALEXANDRA TASHMAN  
PHOTOS BY AGNIJITA KUMAR

MAKING  
MEMORIES

WRITTEN BY ALEXANDRA TASHMAN  
PHOTOS BY AGNIJITA KUMAR

Ag's first photo ever published in the Daily Bruin four years ago

The needlepoint that overlooked the prime corner of the newsroom

Snapshot with friends on Halloween

One of Alex's more than 20 parking tickets acquired during her four-year UCLA career

Three-pent ticket to victory!

a vintage postcard of Leslie's summer at home in Paris

Leslie Yeh  
Daily Bruin



WRITTEN BY ALEXANDRA TASHMAN  
PHOTOS BY MIRIAM BRIBIESCA

# Spring *Forward*

Although Los Angeles is known for its year-round warm weather, spring can be a hard season to dress for in the City of Angels. With June gloom right around the corner, prime asked a pair of stylish best friends to talk about their UCLA experience, share their student style tips and offer inspiration for spring's hot days and cool, windy nights.

## Julie Edwards

22, fourth-year geography/environmental studies student

### Hometown?

Santa Monica.

### How tall are you?

Six foot.

### Do you always wear your pants cuffed?

We both do, actually. No matter what, my pants always hit my ankles at an awkward length, so it's just easier to have them rolled up.

### Favorite campus coffee shop?

The SEAS Cafe, in Boelter, with the 99-cent drip coffee.

### Why study geography?

Especially here, studying geography is really about learning how the world works. I like nature, and we don't utilize the world in an effective or sustainable way, and studying that really interests me.

### How would you describe your style?

I like simple things because you can throw them together really easily. Clothes that are trendless, in a way. I like normal-looking clothes that have a slight twist on them.

### What do you think of student style on campus?

In terms of L.A. style, being from here and growing up here, I think the style students have is okay. I think that people here care about their appearance a lot, instead of having fun with the stuff they wear and exploring things they might like. There's a lot of focus on fitting in with everyone else. But we're here to go to school; it's not a runway. People can and should do as they please.



### What's your favorite place on UCLA's campus?

I really like Engineering IV, because it's like a labyrinth. You get lost – it's creepy, there's a hidden courtyard that no one ever goes to, and it's just this maze of a building. I like that about it.

### As a graduating senior, looking back, do you feel you've been part of the UCLA community?

It's such a big school. I think that you can always find your little thing that you go to, your activity or group. But it's not like there's really a sense of community here at UCLA. There's no way that we all come together, because there's just so many people that go to school here that it would be impossible.

### Where did you get your:

**Shoes?** Birkenstocks.

**Pants?** Gap – shoutout to Gap because they have tall sizes, and I like the material they use because it's thick but still stretches.

**Shirt?** ASOS.

**Watch?** My dad got it for me. He's really into tinkering with stuff, so I actually think he made it himself – like he bought the parts and put it together.

**Sweater?** It's my dad's, but it doesn't fit him so he gave it to me. But it's Hermès, so I'm very protective of it because it's the one nice thing I own. I think it's from the '70s.





# Alexis Williams

21, fourth-year history student

**Hometown?**

Brentwood.

**Why study history?**

I get really worked up when I think about the past. I major in storytelling, really.

**What inspires your style?**

I really like to find things that look nice. I don't have a really defined style. I like to find things that are comfortable.

**Where do you like to buy clothes?**

Mostly secondhand stores, where things don't really all look the same. And they're old - I like old things.

**What's your favorite place on UCLA's campus?**

I don't spend much time on campus, but probably Kerckhoff.

**You're both a commuter and a transfer student. What are some of the challenges that brings?**

I guess mostly it's that I'm not really part of Bruin life. Most of my friends don't go here; I've never lived near campus - I'm just very removed. This is my first year here, and I'm not really in the community.

**What do you think of student style on campus?**

Eh. Everyone is in workout clothes or looks like a 12-year-old who lives at Brandy Melville.

**One piece of style advice to give students?**

Don't try so hard.

**Where did you get your:**

**Pants?** They're Guess, and I got them from the Fairfax swap meet.

**Shoes?** Doc Martens, from Wasteland.

**Socks?** Men's socks from Target.

**Top?** American Apparel (I get half off because my friend works there).

**Sweater?** Also from the Fairfax swap meet.

**Rings?** One my mom bought me from a Native American store, and the other one is my great-grandpa's, he was a Freemason. This was the least gaudy of the rings that he had.

**Necklaces?** The purple one is my friend Anya's. She's studying abroad for a year, so I wear it to remind myself of her. The other one is my grandpa's, and it's a St. Christopher medal that his high-school girlfriend gave him, so the back of it is inscribed.



