The Loop

Spring '25 - Issue 2

collected by CIMS

(Circuits + Internet + Media + Software)

The Loop is a short magazine pubished by CIMS (Circuits, Internet, Media, & Software), a club dedicated to exploring the intersections of media, technology, and culture. Our mission is to provide an inclusive platform for students to create, innovate, and share ideas at the crossroads of computer science, multi-media, and artistic expression.

This issue of The Loop showcases artwork, poetry, testimonies, and creative works that dive deep into the synergy between technology, social justice, and art. You'll find thought-provoking essays, striking visual art, and innovative projects— all curated to dignify student works and stimulate conversation.

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CIMS SoundCloud Playlist

Listen while you read!

General Contents:

Introduction
Intro to E-Board
Contributing Artists.
Entries
Crossword
End Credits

- All entries are exactly as they were submitted to us

- Check out the artists profile pics! (if none submitted, YIPPEE is used)

- All authors are credited with chosen names

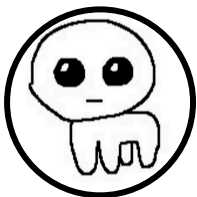# brief introduction from e-board

@raffi
he/him
pitzer '28

@jazz
(she/her)
pomona '26

@elizabeth
she/her
pomona '27

@alison
any
scripps '27

@YIPPEE
ze/zir
pomona 'xx

@claudio
they/them
pomona '25

From the bottoms of our hearts, thank you to all contributors for allowing us to use your works to put this magazine together! And thank you to everyone who helped make a 2nd issue possible! We extend our gratitude to our readers, as well. Thank you for reading, and we hope you enjoy!

contributing artists

(in no particular order)

elisa
scripps
poetry & visual art

raffi
pitzer
digital art

ryan
pomona
photography

elizabeth
pomona
digital art

noa rollman
pitzer
creative writ.

hassan

photography

jazzmin
pomona
poetry & other

claudio
pomona
non-fic writ.

eli
pomona
interactive art

(Turn Around)
Elisa Lalou

kiss me with Tomorrow on your lips,
    As I let the word devour me.
            mulling over syllables that reveal another day;
            with you or to lose you,
            a fear that unravels me.
        I allow dread to twist into sinew and
            dissolve inside marrow.

        (So I will leave you Tomorrow,
            with your kiss on my lips)
                        please
                        Trust me to turn around.
                  the last to leave or the last to stay,
                become buried under the rubble of
          a thatched hut of bones.
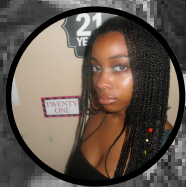   when with pressure the pillars
         splinter
       and heat the roof liquefies-
    How long until this home engulfs us?
    Until you breathe in ash Today,
  and Tomorrow, I exhale our dust?

Mr. Mailman

Jazzmin Duncan

This collection of poems "Mr. Mailman" was a final project for my African American Poetics class, where I explored the intersection of voice, identity, and artistic lineage through a series of interconnected poems. This draft follows a central character's journey from silence to artistic self-determination, framed as a message being delivered to the enigmatic Ms. Surance Couth.

Through shifts between theatrical presentation and intimate confession, first and third person perspectives, I've attempted to examine how Black identity is both performed and authentically experienced. The collection draws from musical traditions (Zydeco, hip-hop), family history, and the complex inheritance of cultural voice.

Although still in draft form, these poems represent my exploration of how messages are transmitted across generations, how artistic voice develops through mentorship, and the sometimes haunting presence of family legacy. The theatrical framework allows me to question what is real and what is performance in the formation of identity.

Plz email me (jpdr2022@mymail.pomona.edu) with any notes you may have!!!

Do Goldfish Go to Sleep at Night?

#creative_writing **Noa Rollman**

last night i had a dream that goldys tank fell over and all of the water came crashing out of it onto the rug and goldy came with it she poured out of there she had no choice and then there was water everywhere and i didnt know where she went and when i woke up from the dream it was the middle of the night and i was scared that something had really happened to goldy so i got out of bed to check on her and i walked up to the tank and she wasnt in there i looked all around the coral and the little pirate ship but no goldy so then i started to panic and i looked on the sides of the tank and on the floor and there was no goldy but there were drops of water all on my desk and i couldnt figure out where she had gone and then i bent my head around to see behind the tank and i saw that there was a tiny little gap between the tank and the wall and in that tiny little gap there was goldy flapping and flopping and dying and i was so scared i thought about getting mommy and daddy but there was no time i had to save her so i reached my hand behind the tank and tried to pick her up but she was flopping so much it was impossible to pick her up i didnt want to drop her and i kept trying and thinking please please please and then she went still. i thought ohmygodno and i grabbed her still little slimy scaly wet fish body and picked her up and dropped her back in the tank and i didnt breathe until i saw her little slimy scaly fish body start swimming around again all quick she was probably so scared she was swimming all over the place back in the water where she could breathe again and i thought thankgodshesokay and my heart was beating so fast boomboomboomboom and it was the middle of

Do Goldfish Go to Sleep at Night?

#creative_writing **Noa Rollman**

the night and it was so dark and the house was quiet it was just me and goldy who were awake and i wondered do fish go to sleep at night like we do and i looked at her still swimming around and i thought again about going to wake mommy and daddy but i didnt want to wake them up plus it felt like a moment all of our own just me and goldy and i didnt know how i would explain what happened or what i would say or if they would understand because i dont think anyone could understand unless they were me in that moment trying to hold her little fish body long enough to save her but feeling her flop her way out of my hands every time and knowing we were running out of time, that she was running out of time. i looked at her in the tank one more time and just watched her swim and put my fingers against the glass and said its ok goldy youre safe dont worry youre safe now and then i crawled back into bed feeling the most tired i had ever felt and i wrapped myself into my comforter like a burrito until i was all snuggled up and i shimmied my arm out of the burrito so i could grab pink bunny and mr panda and hug them tight and for a moment i thought i was too scared that i wouldnt be able to sleep but i was all warm in my burrito and a minute later i was out.

# Raffi Charkoudian-Rogers

#Photoshop

#Digital Art

#Visual Art

"Throughout my first year at Pitzer, I have consistently noticed the beauty of the nature on campus. I'm originally from the east coast and I'm not used to being surrounded by cacti and palm trees. For this project, I wanted to highlight the unique textures that show up in the plants across our campus. I created these images in Photoshop using pictures I took with my Nikon D3500."
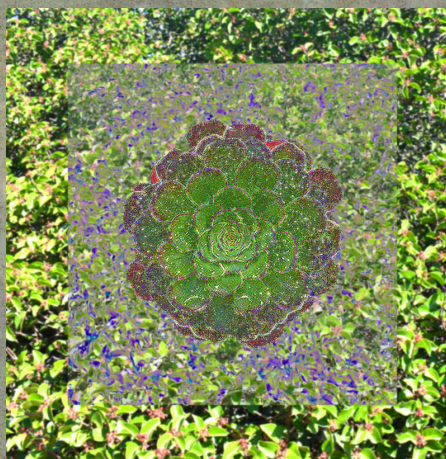
orange, california 🍊

by
ryan ziel
pomona college
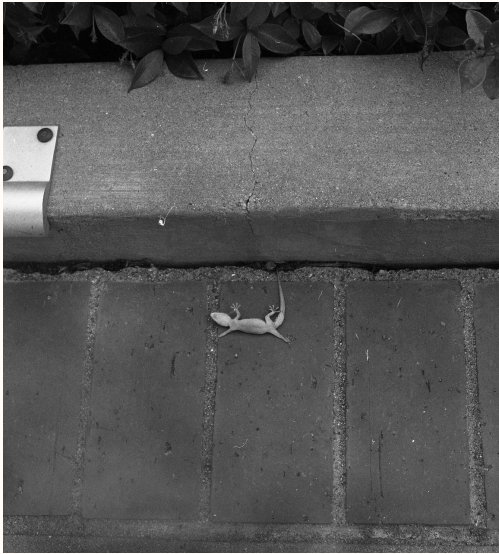
"120 film shot on hasselblad 500 c/m camera at the train station in orange, california, my home town."

Hassan Elzaneen

These photographs were taken by Hassan, an 19 year old visual artist and photographer from northern Gaza. His home was destroyed in fall of 2023 and he has been supporting his four siblings and his mother through continued displacement across the Gaza Strip. He dreams of creating a graphic novel about his experiences.

Earth Mothers
Elisa Lalou

This was a wood cut rendering of another painting I made. The original included many female figures whose placement in time and space was stretched and separate from another. In this painting, the background mosaic more heavily contrasts with the foreground figures, and instead brings the women together as a cohesive unit.
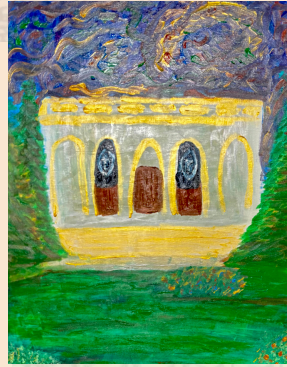
#Visual Art

ryan ziel

Turn your magazine 90 degrees for optimal viewing

"Double exposure image of my friend Anjali's face and my enemy Gideon's torso. Scanned Arista 35mm film."

Elizabeth Ortega

#Painting

#Pattern

#Poster

My work often centers around connection —between people, places, and patterns. In my Big bridges painting, I'm drawn to structure as metaphor, using scale and repetition to explore how we move through shared space. For POCO, I design posters that blend color palettes with hand-drawn textures that feel both playful and intentional. Whether through painted forms, patterns, or digital art, it's fun to explore visual rhythm and experimentation.

Proposing a Digital Preservation Collective in CIMS

Claudio C.

#archives

This year, I have worked with the fantastic CIMS team to think about our creative and community work, as well as our organization's future directions. Honestly, we have found that it's hard to run an organization that is not solely trying to plan events/parties. Instead, we hope that our members can come away with tangible skills and a broader network of creatives. The Loop, our semesterly course list, and others are some examples of how we accomplish this.

Jazzmin, The Loop's editor/founder and CIMS leader/founder, has spearheaded CIMS' complete restructure, including onboarding a new leadership team this semester. She also lays out the broader vision and possibilities of the organization. Since the beginning of the semester, she has incubated a Claremont Colleges TV (CCTV) revival within CIMS. This process has included collecting historical knowledge, building a network of institutional support, and doing preliminary recruitment work. At this point, the effort is ready to operate independently within the next semester.

This model of incubation within CIMS, preparation, and gradual independence has inspired me to look toward doing the same with a project closer to my own interests. Below, you will find my basic proposal for a digital preservation methodology and student collective within CIMS. I hope that next year this will be my principal project within the CIMS leadership team.

The problem:
Educational institutions last practically forever. However, students suffer from deep "memory" loss. Since most students at the 5Cs take a standard 4 years to complete their degrees and Claremont-based graduate school options are limited, institutional memory rarely stays with the current student body. Long-term archives have emerged at the Honnold-Mudd Library and Denison Library, as well as across academic departments and resource centers. Most of the contents focus on physical materials. With posters, images, and more scattered across the internet, we are losing out on at least the last 5 - 10 years worth of knowledge about our campus organizations and cultures. Most pressingly, this content is at the whim of the digital platforms hosting this content. Artifacts may disappear without notice from inactivity or corporate collapse.

The proposal:
I am hoping to lay the groundwork for a community-driven digital archive collective dedicated to preserving, curating, and sharing institutional/cultural memory at the 7Cs. Ideally, we will collect and share ephemeral histories on historically significant digital platforms, especially Facebook and Twitter. As our collective efforts grow, we will move toward the preservation of websites, blog posts, audio/video media, and the unarchived physical media we come across along the way. Ideally, we can make material available online and on-demand with physical back-ups.

Essential Questions:

Materials originally created digitally will be the first focus of the collective. We must figure out how to collect, preserve, and provide access to digital materials from the 7Cs. Questions of ethics, consent, power, underreporting, and "incomplete" archives will arise. We must also think about trends affecting the *future* production of digital artifacts distributed across the 5Cs.

Initial community values:

1. Community-directed autonomy: decisions, priorities, values, and responsibilities delegated by the project members.
2. Thoughtfulness at the center: thorough engagement (historical, theoretical) with our archival practice and its implications essential as we archive our communities' stories.
3. Creation/collection as healing: seek to make the personal engagement of preservation a process for healing.
4. Access: share our work beyond the collective's members.

Get involved:

Please reach out to me crcz2022@mymail.pomona.edu with a message like "hi i want to get involved in the digital archive project" and I can get a small email list or group chat going. Please let me know if you already have some feedback or suggestions! I'd also be happy to point you toward some existing collective groups from which I drew inspiration for this idea/proposal.

Eli Protas

The Pod

#digital project   #twine

#short form writing

#interactive narrative design

"This is a choose your own adventure game based on a 50 page section of a book I got at a used book store. The book was a lot like Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow if every character was mostly insane and no one actually worked on the video games at all. The game takes place over the course of a single night, and you are buffeted around like a ping pong ball until you are too tired to move. If you see Lightning McQueen say hi to him for me."

Halloweekend in Claremont
Jazzmin Duncan

#documentary #video #Halloween

"This is an amateur documentary that was produced as a group project for my Anthropology of Digital Cultures class. Beginning development in October 2024, Simran Saini, Mira Setty-Charity, and I pursued an ethnographic research project centering cresting racial, administrative, and political tensions, both internal and external to Pomona College, and their effects on how on-campus parties are promoted, and, more importantly, how the promoters and attendees interact (or don't) with one another.

This short documentary gives a brief, intimate peek into the parties thrown throughout Halloweekend 2024 (Oct 31 - Nov 2) and the weekends following (Nov. 16). Examining music, design, communication pipelines, and administrative changes at Pomona since the 90's, we designed this project to include the documentary below and a complementary research paper.

I hope to potentially continue expanding on the project in the coming semesters, and also to continue editing it, as the general quality isn't the best. But, if you would like to see it as it was submitted, here you go!!"
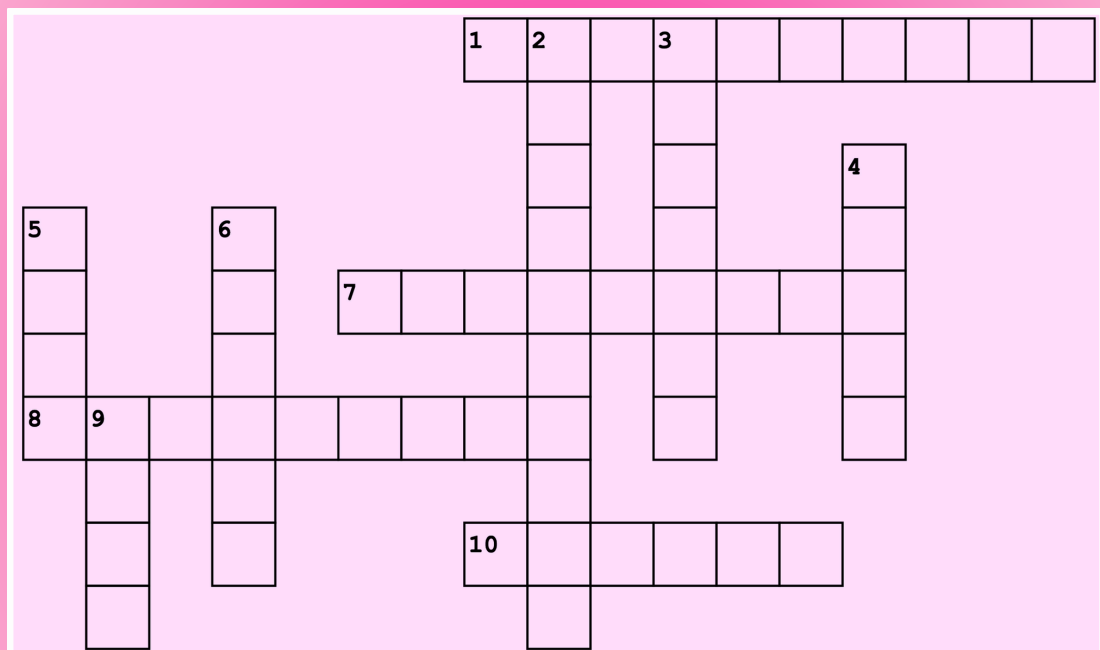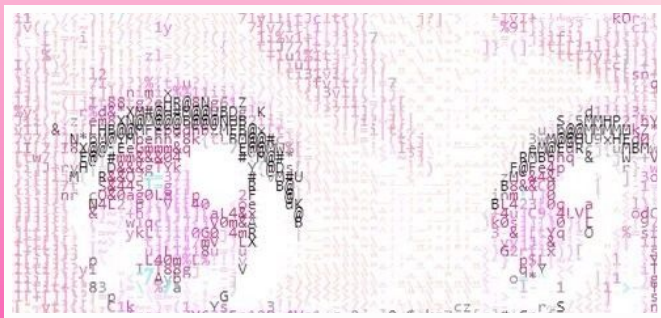
DO THIS CROSSWORD !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(key is on next pg)

Across

1. cool tattoo on your back
7. darwin's theory
8. for aesthetic doomscrolling
10. making another biotech start up with her husband...

Down

2. an uprising through our collective efforts
3. our favorite energy drink
4. used to edit this zine :0
5. CIMS' magazine
6. endless short videos
9. apple's music device

End Credits

submit to our next issue!
bye for now ;)

Contributors were given the option to provide social media sites for additional viewing/contact. Scan the QR codes below to view.

From Ryan Ziel:

"My online drawing gallery"

ryanzehr.carrd.co

From Hassan Elzaneen:

@hassan_photography_sale on instagram

Crossword Key

					¹t	²r	a	³m	p	s	t	a	m	p
						e		o						
						v		n				⁴c		
⁵l			⁶t			o		s				a		
o			i		⁷e	v	o	l	u	t	i	o	n	
o			k			l		u		e		v		
⁸p	⁹i	n	t	e	r	e	s	t		r		a		
	p		o					i						
	o		k			¹⁰h	o	l	m	e	s			
	d							n						