

FEATURES



Intercontinental Commute

JENNY LEE Features Editor

From rickshaws to mini golf carts, methods of transportation have evolved above and beyond ground travel. One century later, airplanes send passengers soaring through skies and ships carry cargo over the four oceans on a daily basis. Although alien to Los Angeles, New York's subway and taxi systems bustle with business. Used American school buses become chicken buses in Central America, while Indians ride elephants and Middle Eastern folks ride camels halfway across the globe. This network of transit seems to know no limitations.

Chicken Bus, No Fuss

JACQUELYN LOI Staff Writer

We all need different types of transportation to get through our day. For example, driving, biking and walking are all frequent modes of transportation utilized in the U.S. However, in the city of Guatemala, it is neither of these; the chicken bus is the most popular form of transportation.

Chicken buses, or Camionetas, are buses that were previously the yellow school buses we have here in the U.S. When American school buses have been in use for 10 years or have been driven for 150,000 miles, they are auctioned off and taken to Guatemala to begin their new lives as chicken buses.

These buses received their name from the likelihood of crossing paths with the animal while riding the bus. Additionally, the way people are crammed into these buses also contributes to the name of the bus since it resembles chickens in a coop. On these buses, there are no such things as a "maximum capacity."

The chicken bus itself is covered with colorful murals and praises to Jesus. The image of Jesus Christ's crucifixion hangs on the front of every single bus.

Although chicken buses are a type of transportation that may be foreign to us, it is nothing peculiar the denizens of Guatemala.

Traveling on Fours

SHELLEY LIN Staff Writer

A whole new world! Dubai, a city located on the coast of the Persian Gulf, is the most progressive public transportation system in the region and the home to the world's longest fully automated metro system. The Middle East is not very well known when it comes to modern methods of transportation. Despite the fact that Middle Eastern people use cars, buses, trams, trains and airplanes, they are not as popularly used as in the U.S.

In fact, camels are the popular mode of transportation in the Middle East. According to a historical archive, they were called "the Gift of God" because of their sustenance. Their ability to go through days without food or water, make them incredibly useful in dry cities like this. Because camels can withstand extreme temperatures, they are convenient for travel and for importing and exporting goods.

In the hot Middle Eastern environment, camels are more than suitable as the primary source of transportation.

New York City and its Noise

SYLVIA WINSTON Features Editor

Charlie Chaplin once said, "The glamour of it all! New York! America!" But what glamour was he referring to? Was it the multi-story Empire State Building or the taxicabs of New York City that have gradually become a widely recognized icon of the city?

Many Americans wonder what it would be like to walk around the Big Apple, but only those who have been there know how hectic it is. Taxicabs serve as a quick and easy mean of transportation across this city. The downside of having an abundance of cabs is the traffic that results from it. Most traffic jams in midtown are speckled with the over 10,000 yellow cabs that service the city.

However, taxis aren't the only type of transportation in New York. The hot and dingy subway system of the 1970's has been completely renovated into a safe, convenient and comfortable mode of transportation in nearly all areas of the city. Over 4.3 million people ride the subway system everyday; over 1 billion people go through the turnstiles per year!

Whether it's a yellow taxicab or a smelly subway train, New York City has distinguished itself by its unique means of transportation. So the next time you visit the Big City, keep an eye out for these two manners of haulage and perhaps try taking a different route, and you just might see the City from a whole new angle.

"Relephant" Facts

BRIANA THAI Staff Writer

In the U.S., elephants are used as entertainment in the circus and are usually hunted for their ivory tusks. However, in Asia and India, they are used for transportation.

Elephants are used for transportation in Asia and India because of their unbelievable strength! Aside from this, they have the ability to navigate through heavy terrain and dense forests. Recent discoveries have shown that elephants can communicate over long distances by producing a sub-sonic rumble that can travel over the ground faster than sound through air. Other elephants receive the messages through the sensitive skin on their feet and trunks.

Asian cultures respect the high intelligence level and superior memory of the Asian elephant, which symbolizes wisdom and royal power. Many customs believe that elephants are good luck and that, if an individual rides on one, they feel more powerful.

Within the Asian culture, elephants are culturally iconic to those in India. According to mythologies, the gods and the demons churned the oceans in a search for the elixir of life so they would be immortal. As they did so, the 'navratnas', also known as the nine gems, surfaced, one of which was an elephant.

Although elephants represent something different to us, we cannot ignore the importance these mammals have in countries like India and Asia.

BILLS

COINS

MOOR graphics by GEN THIPATIMA and SYDNEY LI

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The MOOR Weekly
101 South Second Street, Alhambra, CA 91801

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The MOOR Weekly encourages students, faculty, and community members to submit Letters to the Editor. Topics need not deal with stories previously published but should pertain to issues affecting the school and/or surrounding community.

Letters can be delivered to C-225, or The MOOR Weekly's suggestion box in the Activities Office at least one week in advance. For legal reasons, The MOOR Weekly cannot publish letters written anonymously but can withhold the name of the writer at their request. The MOOR Weekly also reserves the right to refuse publication when the opinions expressed or issues discussed have been previously addressed or are of no relevance to the campus community and/or surrounding areas as deemed by the Editorial Board.

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