

Student Reporter

Dual Cultural Influences of Toxic Masculinity on Asian American Men



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In today's society, discussions surrounding toxic masculinity, or cultural pressures that force men to act in ways that detrimentally proliferates aggressive and negative behaviors, are becoming more prevalent. When considering the concept of toxic masculinity, it is important to acknowledge and discuss that Asian American men are often expected to uphold the expectations placed on white male masculinity while also negotiating their racialized minority status and Asian male gender norms, thus leading to a lack of mental health support sought by a majority of Asian American men.

The legacy of the ostracization of Asian American male identity in America can be traced back to a series of anti-Asian legislation and stereotypes established during the first wave of Asian immigration to America in the mid 1800s. A prime example of the polarized image of Asian American men can be found in the historical racial color-metaphor of the "Yellow Peril" and perpetual foreigner stereotype, which imagines Asian men as threatening, antagonistic, and constant outsiders. These fun-

damental stereotypes that question the ability of Asian American men to "adequately" assimilate into American culture puts them in a unique position of a dual reckoning of a reduced racial status in the United States.

Extending beyond cultural stereotypes, anti-Asian sentiment is further cemented through a history of concrete legislation. The seminal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 suspended Chinese immigration for ten years, and was largely spurred by fears that Asian laborers would replace opportunities that many white men felt entitled to. In essence, the coupled effects of both racial metaphors and historical legislation have worked to dehumanize, oppose, and eliminate Asian American male identity throughout history.

Beyond the understanding of racial identity, Asian American men are also forced to uphold contrasting ideals of masculinity. The American Psychological Association (APA) reports that American society generally defines masculinity based on standards of "toughness, stoicism, acquisitiveness, and self-reliance." This general standard of masculin-



Protests against toxic masculinity show the urgency of addressing the issue when understanding modern masculinity. [Source Author, Allison Lee]

ity in American society creates a juxtaposition between masculinity defined by Confucian ideals and values of Asian culture. For example, many Asian cultural values such as humility, filial piety, and hierarchical relationships have led to the belief that Asian American men are "effeminate" and unfit leaders for hegemonic masculinity. Studies have shown that Asian American men are more vulnerable to depressive symptoms caused by their bicultural experiences of masculinity, as well as general Asian American social taboos regarding mental health stigma. The constant expectation for men to exhibit behaviors that are qualified through a lack of emotion and perceived weakness leads to the enforcement of toxic masculinity, and largely ostracizes Asian American men in ways that are essentially parallel to the ways in which anti-Asian legislation and

stereotypes have created historical barriers for Asian American men from realizing their full independence and autonomy.

In essence, understanding the history of both Asian and Western influences on defining masculinity confirms the urgency of confronting both toxic masculinity and Asian expectations of masculinity that is largely embedded in Confucian values. With the increasing Asian American population, as well as the increasing relevance of conversation surrounding ways to combat and uproot toxic masculinity as a whole, it is only through institutional support, cultural awareness, and community-led infrastructure that Asian American men will be able to receive the mental health support they need and address the existence of such bicultural and gender conflict.

Student Reporter

Summer Is Here—What Do We Wear?



Alexis Choi

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Corsets, Nike Air Force 1s, chunky loafers, and everything crocheted—it's safe to say that the past few years have been filled with a variety of fashion trends, some fleeting and others here to stay. Now that summer has arrived most people are beginning to make a transition into their summer wardrobes. But with all the rapidly changing fashion crazes, who knows if bucket hats will still be in fashion? Do people even wear bike shorts other than to exercise anymore? For those opening their wallets to revamp their closet this season, it may be helpful to be aware of new and old fashion trends.

According to the spring/summer 2022 collections from New York to Paris, London and Tokyo, a few distinct trends will have a big influence in the coming months. Modernized Y2K, for example, will continue to stay in trend. Y2K includes fashion trends from the late '90s to the early 2000s, and this means wide-legged pants, baby



Summer is here, which means it's time to change up your wardrobe!

[Source: Author, Alexis Choi]

tees, and bright colors! Regency-core is another fashion trend that has gained popularity, thanks to shows like *Bridgerton* and *The Gilded Age*. It's all about hyper-feminine styles—similar to cottagecore, but a more dressed-up version—such as statement sleeves, corsets, elegant dresses, dainty gold jewelry, and long gloves.

Now that the weather is becoming

warmer, people can finally wear skirts without freezing their legs off! Many skirt-wearers opted for midi or maxi skirts that gained immense popularity in past seasons, but mini-skirts are coming back this summer. In fact, micro-mini skirts, the extremely-short sisters of the original mini skirts, are considered one of the defining trends of 2022. With Y2K fashion's massive popularity, this apparel is likely to become a common piece.

On the other hand, some staple fashion trends of the past years are dying out. Patterns and colors, such as leopard print and plain neutrals are unlikely to be trendy in the summer and are being replaced with stripes, pied-de-poule prints, and brighter shades of blue, pink, green, and yellow. Other trends include cutouts and splices, platform sandals, and knit and netted fabrics.

Finally, unsustainability is going out of style this year. Buying from

fast-fashion brands like H&M, Princess Polly, and Shein is increasingly frowned upon, and more people are supporting smaller businesses and longer-lasting products. Of course, not everyone can afford a sustainable closet. The biggest appeal of fast-fashion lies in its cheaper prices, and speedier manufacturing and shipping methods. Don't feel bad for not being able to afford sustainable fashion! Simply being aware, and making an effort to buy less and more attentively is the first step to becoming a responsible shopper.

Ultimately, most trends don't last forever! Although they may be hot at the moment, there is no need to feel forced into following them. In fact, finding your personal style and dressing in clothes that make you happiest is the best type of fashion. But, for those planning to recreate their wardrobes based on the latest trends, know which clothes to choose and avoid in order to look great this summer!

Student Reporter

Culture Day at Paradise Canyon Elementary School



Elie Kim

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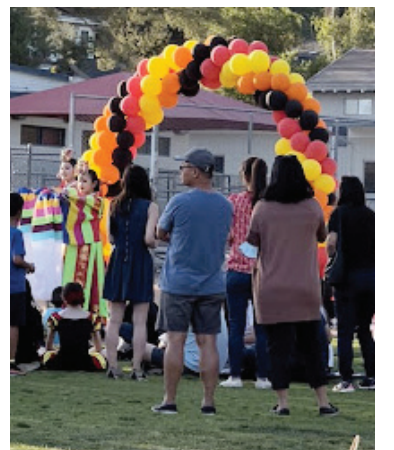
The sound of different cultures' music playing, children running and playing, and different languages being spoken could be heard coming from Paradise Canyon Elementary School. Paradise Canyon Elementary School, PCY, recently held its first cultural fair, encouraging anyone in the community to attend. There were booths and events for different cultures on the field of the elementary school. The parents of the students from different cultures put up 18 tents that represented 18 different countries. Some of the different countries included Korea, the Philippines, India, and Argentina. Each country gave out a variety of foods that represent and are popular in their country. The Korean booth gave spicy rice cake, rice cake, and

dalgona. A small stage was set up on the field with a DJ playing different music from around the world. The small stage was used for different events. For example, for the Korea booth, a group of Korean traditional dancers wearing traditional Korean clothes performed a traditional fan dance.

The students of the elementary school were given "passports," where they could place a sticker they would be given from each booth they visited. Aside from getting to eat different types of foods from different countries, cultural items and facts about the country were also displayed in the booths. This allowed students and people to become more educated and

learn more about different cultures. However, not only students went to the cultural fair. It was held in the afternoon which allowed families, teachers, and even students from a nearby high school to go and enjoy the event.

Everyone's faces appeared to be full of joy and happiness during their time at the cultural fair. Along with it being a time for people to enjoy themselves, have different cultures' food, see their dances, and hear their music, it was also a great learning experience for the many who visited. Stephanie Carballo, a high school student who attended the fair stated, "It was so fun and it was an amazing experience for me to be able to view other cultures



A Korean traditional dance team performing in traditional Korean clothes at the cultural fair at Paradise Canyon Elementary School.

[Source: Author, Elie Kim]

aside from mine. If this is held again next year, I would definitely go again."

Student Reporter



Kaylyn L. Yu

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What Is a Good Amount of Break Time in School?

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:20-8:35	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion
9:25-10:05	Project	PE	PE	Choir	Choir
10:15-11:00	PE	Math	Math	Math	Math
11:10-11:55	PE	Korean	Project	Bible	Art
11:55-12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:40-1:25	Math	English	Science	Science	Korean
1:35-2:20	English	English	Korean History	English	Science
2:30-3:15	Science	Science	English	English	English
3:20-3:35	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework

How do break times differ, especially between countries? Keep at it to find out.
[Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]

School break time is meant to be a time in which students prepare themselves for their following classes, such as grabbing their next class books from their lockers, drinking water, or stretching their muscles for a short while. Getting energizing breaks is vital for every student, as constantly studying for long periods of time can minimize your focus and concentration. This can lead to an unbroken question: How much time would be the perfect break time? I wanted to research schools in Korea and America to better understand how school breaks differ in the two countries.

In South Korea, at Juniper Christian School, JCS, the school provides the same amount of break time for every student from first to twelfth grade; per day, 1 hour and 35 minutes. JCS campus hours last 6 hours and 30 minutes, without any extracurricular activity time. The school lunchtime is 45 minutes, and the rest are shorter ten-minute breaks between classes.

I asked interviewees what they usually accomplished during their breaks and if they felt their current break time was too little, too much, or just enough. According to Seungwoo Han, JCS 4th grader, "I would play board games with my friends, but ten minutes isn't enough to finish a game." He concluded that although he didn't wish for more time in general, he believed it would be nicer with more time in one break and a break skipped later, because of the added time.

"I would love more break time... honestly, anyone would, but if it means I have to stay in school longer, I would rather keep it as it is now. Our lunchtime is great, and our breaks used to only have five minutes instead of ten, it was really again." Jooyoung Choi, a freshman 9th grader high schooler, added.

Mrs. Claire On, an elementary math and science teacher, has a total of 2 hours and 20 minutes of break time, including a free period. "I prepare for my next class during shorter breaks, and I do the same in my free period, but for the next day's." Mrs. On responded. She believes the amount of time is appropriate and is satisfied.

In another Korean school, Hanyang Elementary, a school day lasts 6 hours and 30 minutes, students are given 1 hour and 35 minutes of break time. This is the exact schedule as JCS' in both total hours and break time. Seeun Ahn, 6th-grade student at the school,

said, "I think it's an adequate amount of time, it's not too long or too short."

Next, I returned to my former American school's schedule. The school campus hours are comparably shorter than JCS', 5 hours and 30 minutes a day. The whole break time with lunch is only 45 minutes but just stratified for middle schoolers. In another American school, the school day lasts 6 hours per day, with 45 minutes of break time. This is again very similar to my own school, with the exception of 30 extra minutes of study time.

Although this research may not be totally accurate, it showed me how break times could differ between Korea and America. I learned that Korea's schools kept longer school hours and break times, while America's kept both aspects shorter; not only so, but I came to know more about my school generally.

Student Reporter



Lois Lee

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Juniper Christian School

The Experience of 2022 YMUNT Conference

YMUNT is a Model UN conference, where the participants are assigned the role of a country and then delegate and attempt to solve major problems in their committee. YMUNT the eighth has brought approximately three hundred delegates from the Asia Pacific region. The committee session started with the ideas from the delegates, then coalition, drafting, amending, and ending with voting. YMUNT had a total of eleven committees: CSTD, UNHRC, SOCHUM, UNEP, UNHCR, African Union, Arab League, Order of the Phoenix, UNSC, International Court of Justice, and Council of Ministers. I was a delegate of Italy in UNEP.

UNEP, United Nations of Environment Programme, provides an environmental agenda and encourages participants to gather their knowledge to develop



Me and my friends doing an online conference for YMUNT.
[Source: Author, Lois Lee]

the environment for the future. At this conference, the delegates of UNEP discussed the topic of Sustainable Animal Husbandry Practices and Fine Dust. Sustainable Animal Husbandry Practices is a system for food production, producing and providing better living for the animals, and decreasing the effects of greenhouse gasses. Fine Dust, also known as PM 2.5, is a tiny particle found in

the air. The delegates had first discussed what to talk about in the beginning and came up with the topic of Sustainable Animal Husbandry Practices.

A student who participated in the YMUNT conference stated that it was really enjoyable and a great experience. At first, she felt very nervous and expected the mood or the conversation would be very serious, strict, and harsh. However, after the first session, she said she wanted to do it again. Before the first experience, she was hoping she would not participate in this conference, but her committee chair was so comfortable and nice that she gave her hope and nice feedback even after the conference was over. For future conferences, she said she will save more time for practicing and be ready to speak up more. A memorable moment during the confer-

ence for her was when the delegates were doing an ice-breaker. During this time, they discussed pineapple on pizza. Also, she enjoyed talking with new friends who she became close with by the end of the conference. After, she felt that she would definitely recommend this to others because it is a wonderful opportunity to have new global friends and a good experience to learn about what is going on in the world.

Due to Covid-19, the YMUNT conference was online, but they still provided a lot of information. The disadvantages of online conferences were technical issues, however, all of the supporters, especially the secretary-general, provided an organized website and some instructions on how to do the YMUNT conference. We all look forward to joining the offline conference in the future.

Student Reporter



Joan Huh

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The Truck Shortage



Empty docks are seen as cargo ships stay at sea awaiting trucks that may never come.
[Source: Author, Joan Huh]

The shortage of truck drivers has always been a problem for the US economy, largely due to the hard work conditions they endure. The truck industry was already in need of 61,500 drivers when the pandemic hit. This number has quickly spiked to 80,000 in 2022 and has heavily impacted busi-

nesses and customers.

There are many reasons why there's a large shortage of truck drivers today. Truck drivers go through problems that include a lack of respect and long hours with low pay. Aside from that, only 7 percent of all the truck

drivers in the US are women. Truck companies have sought to attain more women drivers, but they are harder to recruit as they have to confront sexism and constant sexual harassment on the road. The lifestyle of a truck driver isn't that desirable either. Some drivers complain that their bladders are constantly tested and there's little to no daily exercise. Most of the food they eat is from convenience stores, and some truck drivers skip meals due to the lack of dining options on the long road. Due to the demands of the job, many truck drivers end up leaving the industry. A truck driver's job is not only tedious but also dangerous. Driving a big truck filled with cargo is very difficult. Truck drivers also spend time away from friends and family, even on holidays. They spend most of their life on the road and basically live in the truck. This just discourages more drivers from sustaining their job.

Because there is a lack of transportation available due to these reasons, cargo has been stuck in the US ports. According to Theresa Braine in Daily News, "About 200,000 shipping containers stranded off California coast in supply-chain pandemic disruptions." These boats are probably still stuck with all that cargo now. This not only creates a huge problem for businesses but for the economy that pervades each part of the country.

If nothing is done to fix this shortage of drivers, then the economy may face even worse problems in the future. Over the next ten years, the need for 80,000 truck drivers will rocket to 1,000,000. Customers will be frustrated and stop buying from online businesses as much, which will force them to close. This will cause an even bigger problem for the economy as shipping dates will have to be postponed until much later.