

'Fresh Off the Boat' Gives Fresh Take on Asian Americans

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Comedy, drama and family are common themes in today's popular TV sitcoms. However, very few shows can perfectly combine these elements together. ABC's new series "Fresh Off the Boat" does just that. Combining humor and conventional stereotypes, the show successfully depicts the culture clash in trying to achieve the American Dream, a highly relatable and unique theme for an American TV show.

"Fresh Off the Boat" debuted on Feb. 4 to an audience of around eight million and received captivated reviews, according to PBS NewsHour. Revolving around the memoir of Eddie Huang, a celebrity chef and restaurateur, the show's format and narration is quite similar to "Everybody Hates Chris" and "Malcolm in the Middle." The show is set in 1995

when Eddie and his family move to Orlando, Florida. Because it is based on real life experiences, many of the events in the show

are engaging in Huang's satirical depiction of his life. As the family overcomes a handful of personal conflicts, such as opening an unsuccessful Western themed restaurant and Eddie starting his new school as the only Asian student, the characters stand out to viewers right off the bat. The series' plot resonates with a universal



Asian American experience.

All the aspects depicted in the show are very relatable and have been experienced in one way or another by most first generation Asian immigrants in America. The financial and social

struggles the Huang family face in an all-white community and Eddie's difficult journey to fit in emphasizes how culture shock can impact adolescence. The countless jabs of Asian stereotypes such as reserving expenses, competing with family members, academically pushing children and having "exotic" names combines humor with a dash of reality. These jabs are not blown out of proportion to borderline offense, but instead make the social culture of Asian families understandable.

According to The Atlantic, this is the first sitcom in 20 years that follows an Asian American family. "Fresh Off the Boat" is essentially inspiring a path for more Asian exposure in pop culture. It puts how it feels to be culturally different into perspective, allowing Asian-Americans to see themselves on the screen and for other audiences to experience a unique kind of television show. With its regular Tuesday night slot, "Fresh Off the Boat" is on its way to becoming one of the most authentic shows on TV in a while and it is encouraging to see that TV lineups are diversifying to meet greater audiences.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

CROSSING THE CAROLINE LINE

The Parent Trap: Volunteering



CAROLINE REN
Editor in Chief

Although Assembly Bill 1575 prohibits public and charter school officials from forcing parents to volunteer, some California charter schools still seek to penalize students if their parents do not complete service hours, according to ABC. While parental involvement at schools is admirable, schools should not demand additional time and effort.

Essentially, a parent's role is to encourage and support their child or children's progress in coursework and perhaps assist with homework when needed. Parents who involve themselves in activities like the PTA should be commended, but that isn't an option for everyone. Career, disability, personal issues or anything else could prohibit a parent from being there whenever and whenever the school asks them to. Instead of punishing parents who cannot regularly dedicate themselves to active volunteering, schools need to fix their own problems first. Educational institutions shouldn't be relying on parents as a crutch, especially not to use them to patch up areas administrators, teachers or other faculty members should be handling.

Of course, I still would like parents to take a more active role. AHS' band booster club fundraises and shows support by attending some of the events the band performs at: just one example of how immensely helpful that participation can be and how positively it impacts students. But I am equally aware that many parents cannot afford to sacrifice time away from work or have little enough personal time already. Promoting involvement is wonderful; forcing it is not.

TARDY SLIP

Is the AHS Tardy Policy Beneficial in Eliminating Tardies on Campus?

BARRY CHEUNG
Staff Writer

Starting from the beginning of the second semester, AHS has enforced a new tardy policy in an effort to reduce the number of tardies on campus. The policy is beneficial because it forces students to take the initiative of coming to school by implementing consequences

If a student is tardy, they are now required to head to the Attendance Office, check in and finally head back to class. Most students would not go through such an exhaustive process for any period, deterring students from being tardy in the future.

The policy also enforces punishments, such as detention, Saturday school and calling the student's home at six in the morning if the student is continuously tardy. Students will likely learn to stop being tardy and find ways of getting to school earlier or head to class before the bell rings.

Ultimately, it is great that AHS has stressed the need of eliminating the amount of tardies on campus with this new policy. As students, school should be the utmost priority and this plan will improve our learning experience by prompting students to attend the full session.

JOSEPH NEY-JUN
Staff Writer

With AHS' new tardy policy came a number of consequences for consecutive tardies to encourage late students to become punctual ones. However these consequences do nothing to encourage students who do not want to come to school and only places more potential strain on those students who do. The policy is not beneficial because it merely threatens students with punishment rather than provide a positive incentive to be on time.

The majority of the student body are still minors and are not always in control of when they get to school. The consequences for being tardy are not enacted until the third offense; however, the threat places unnecessary stress. The policy gives kids reason to get to school on time but not the right reason, it only gives them another thing to worry about and disrupts learning further.

If schools are to encourage education they should not make it feel like a chore. The policy hurts students who want to come to school. After all, they still arrive to receive the tardy but are treated like truants despite their efforts. The consequences of being tardy only create animosity and distaste for school.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG

Michelle Obama Headscarf Dispute Reveals Poor Journalism

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Staff Writer

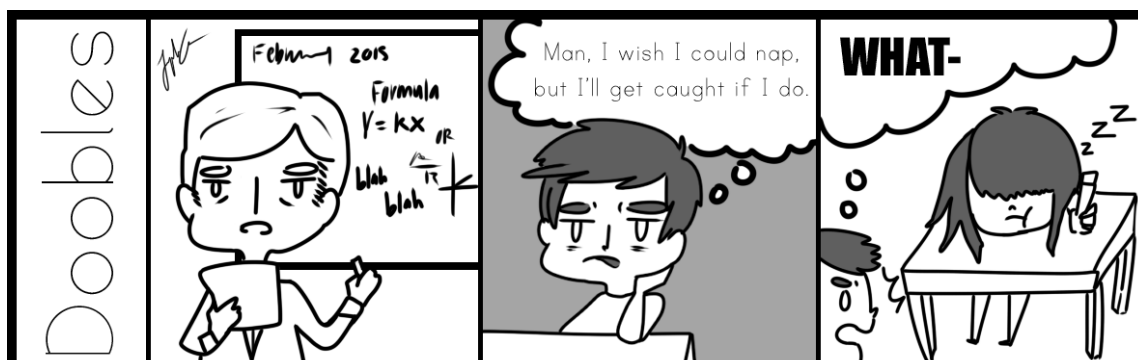
Saudi Arabia is one of the few countries in the world where women are required by law to cover their heads. As stated in Religion Dispatches, women wear headscarves for religious reasons and to show signs of modesty, intelligence and purity. Since it is practiced by many women in Saudi Arabia, it was portrayed to be quite controversial when Michelle Obama did not wear a headscarf during her visit on Jan. 27.

According to the Cable News Network (CNN), Saudi Arabia does not require, nor expect, foreign visitors to wear headscarves. This ultimately undermines the scandal surrounding Obama. Many other prominent women—including Princess Diana and former first lady Laura Bush—who visited Saudi Arabia in the past did not wear headscarves either and yet they were not criticized for their "violation" of Saudi Arabian custom.

The situation was reported to have had a severe backlash, yet according to Washington Post, the "Twitterstorm" of backlashes and critiques that used the hashtag #MichelleObamaUnveiled only had about 1,500 tweets even though Saudi Arabia has over five million Twitter users. In addition, most people who used the hashtag were actually mocking the situation, and most were not even Saudi Arabian.

Altogether, the dispute was simply a false claim that was over exaggerated by news sources. Instead of tackling other more important issues, they wasted time arguing about attire that caused an "outrage." Michelle Obama's decision to not wear a headscarf did not violate any regulations, ultimately revealing poor journalistic choices that did not properly cover the story.

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