

NOVUS

BIS Hanoi student magazine

CULTURE

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**BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HANOI**

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Editorial

Welcome to the 2nd issue of Novus, BIS's student-led school magazine. Our objective is to bring you a new perspective on affairs which might have passed you by. In this issue, we invite you to engage with culture.

It is indisputable that culture is a fundamental element of human life; it not only enriches life but also creates a connection between people. This fundamental nature relies on inspiration, which then becomes dispersed. Such sequence goes on and on, anytime and anywhere. Thus, it is inevitable that culture is created - unless humans stop thinking.

When you define the term 'culture', it is likely that you will ponder an image of archaic historical products or traditional arts of a country. However, if it brings people together and becomes a custom, it can be considered as culture. New cultural affairs have sprung up in contemporary society - one example of this is K-Pop. If you are interested in how it became viral, see *K-Pop Culture* [page 3~4]. Another term which has developed in the recent COVID-19 era is Cottagecore, an aesthetic which celebrates rural life; see page 13~ 14 which provides a big picture of such Gen-Z subculture.

Celebrating all the cultures which were created, it leads to an ultimate question of why culture is important. A key for that reason is provided in *Why is culture important?* [page 11~12]. On the next page, our fellow students' opinions are also discussed.

Whether culture always benefits our lives is not guaranteed, as portrayed in this issue, yet it is for sure that it is indispensable. I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue and that you will also look forward to the next one.

Best wishes,
Seon Ju Moon



Interview with a
Julliard Dance
specialist
[page 18~22]



- pop culture

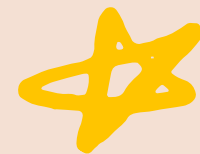
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Written by Min Young Kim 10H

It is no doubt that this genre of music has taken over the world. The genre, originating from South Korea, is called K-pop, also known as Korean pop music. Especially with the help of the internet, K-pop is a global phenomenon quite unlike anything else. Hallyu, colloquially known as the Korean culture wave, is truly a force to be considered. Ever since the early '90s, K-pop has slowly been refined and has become an influential powerhouse over the years. From groups such as Seo Taiji and Boys to Blackpink, there's a band out there to suit everyone's taste.



_BTS photo from Bighit official Instagram



How did it all start?

While there is no specific date on record for the turning point of K-pop, it was not until 1991, when a debut of one particular group emerged that the genre officially blossomed into existence: the indubitable kings of K-pop, Seo Taiji and Boys. Formed in 1992, Seo Taiji and Boys is credited with ushering in a new style and sound that completely transformed the Korean music industry. The three members came out of the gate pioneering a fusion of American rap and Korean lyrics which was enough to lure their fans into successfully making their first iconic album "I Know" to hit the charts and dominate its position for over 17 weeks.

Following the boy band's pronounced start, idol culture was introduced in the late '90s. Idols were trained from early teen years by their entertainment groups in vocals, dance, rap and just about every aspect of performing arts. The idol explosion continued to soar from the late '90s into 2000s fashioning groups from a similar formula: a group of attractive, charismatic members, along with catchy pop tracks people could dance to. The unfoldings of diverse entertainment groups such as JYP and SM Entertainment are some of which remains a successful formula today. As the formula evolved, groups began to appear in various forms with the new introduction to female artists and groups.

Present Day into the Future



Whilst referring to the K-pop culture, we can not miss out on the world-class band of BTS. The chart-topping group has broken records in both their home country and abroad, making significant steps for the K-pop industry as a whole. For instance, in May 2017, BTS became the first K-pop group to win a Billboard Music Award after taking the trophy for Top Social Artist, again in 2020 recently. Becoming the first K-pop group to address the United Nations, BTS has not only made their way of being one of the most influential and popular bands but also chose to sing about the more serious matters like issues in societal pressures and politics. Some of their songs cover subjects such as bullying, elitism and mental health, which may be the reason they are one of the most popular bands worldwide.

It is ungraspable how greatly this genre of music will grow and how it will continue to evolve into the future. But what is certain is that this genre is ultimately a collection of Korea's unique sounds and '80s international pop, proving an irresistible force in the present and the future.

The early '00s to Present Day

In 2000, South Korea saw the rise of BoA who was only 13 years old when she officially debuted. Releasing more than nearly two dozens of albums, she earned the title of "K-pop Queen" after being recognised as the most influential entertainer with multifarious jobs ranging from songwriting and singing to acting. Beyond BoA, in 2007, talented female singers gathered to originate the inimitable Girl's Generation, a glittering, glamorous vision of femininity. The group's song "Gee" became viral in 2009, achieving overseas success, not only opening up new ways for groups like Wonder Girls and 2NE1, but also the modern-day groups like Blackpink and Red Velvet. Later in the year, Wonder Girls joined the Jonas Brothers World Tour 2009 which gave an insight into how there were plans in place to attempt to bring Korean artists into the larger, worldwide stage.

Further into the '00s, in July 2012, Psy released his music "Gangnam Style" which currently holds 3.8 billion views on YouTube. One of K-pop's biggest hits, the rapper Psy's new album instantly became a global earworm that gathered worldwide fans.





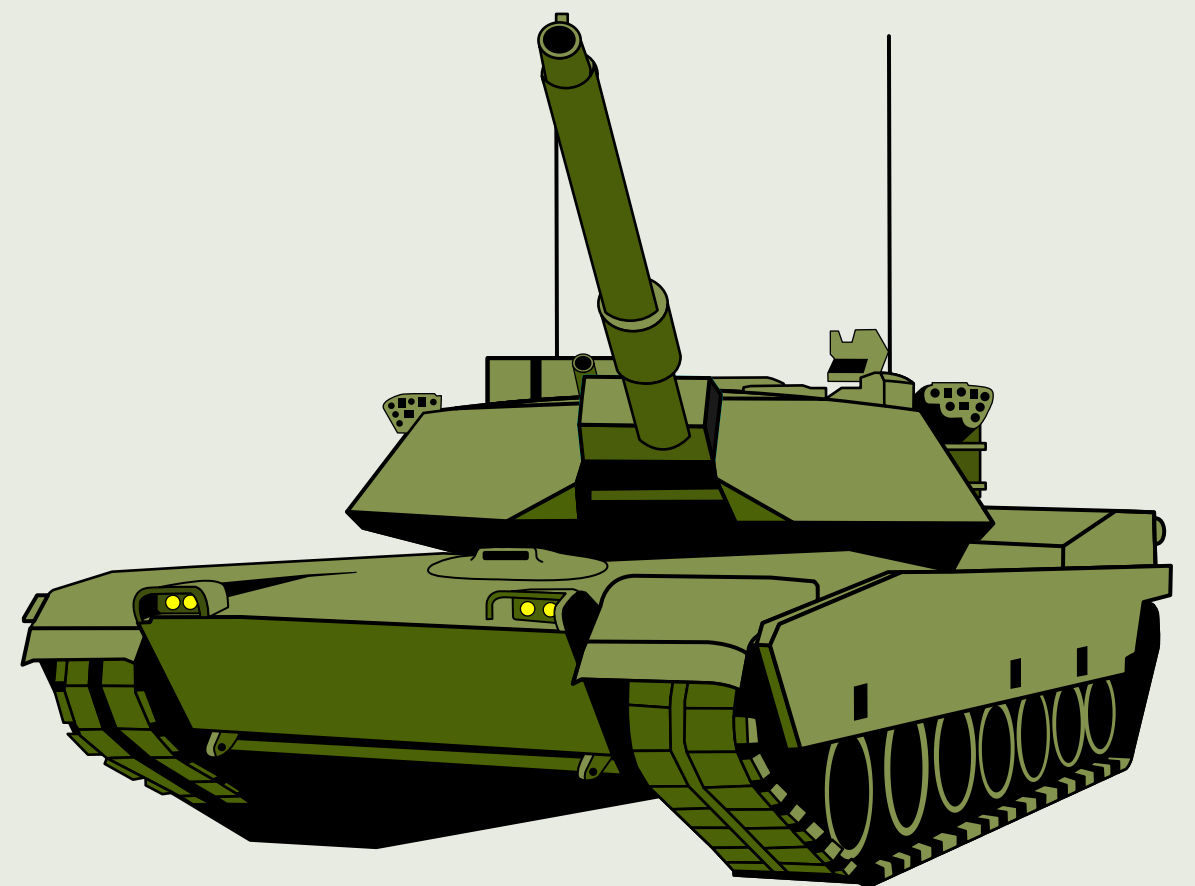
Remembrance Day

Written by Thuc Anh To 101

On the 11th of November, on the 11th hour, the Armistice of 1918 was signed; Germany had agreed to end the fighting against the Allies, thus ending the First World War. Remembrance Day is commonly associated with the Red Poppy and the picturesque image of fields of these red flowers as shown in the poem *In Flanders Fields* by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. Many countries were affected by the First World War and have contributed directly, and also celebrate this day to honour those who have died in the war. The USA calls this day “Veterans Day” instead. Due to the spread of COVID-19 this year, countries have had to adapt to the constraints made by the virus, such as practising social distancing and quarantine. This year, the British Royal Family held the memorial service but did not hold a large gathering as they would usually do. People across the UK participated in the memorial service by standing in silence in front of their doorsteps and sticking poppies on their windows. The Royals themselves stood at their balconies and practised social distancing during the two-minute silence and watched the ceremony take place.

A Bit About the First World War

The First World War broke out through a series of events. It was a big build-up until the assassination of Austrian-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which resulted in Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia. It ended when Germany signed the armistice on the 11th of November 1918 on the ‘11th hour’. While Armistice Day came naturally, a lot of the traditions it practises were started by King George V such as the two-minute silence. He wanted this silence so that “the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead.”



Why Is Remembrance Day Important and Why Is It Celebrated?

We celebrate Remembrance Day to celebrate and remember those who have sacrificed their lives in not only the First World War but in any war and any conflict.

Warfare is characterised by extreme violence and destruction, resulting in consequences depending on the perspective of said war. For example, if a war between two groups broke out in a country (known as a civil war), then general outsiders would see it as a devastating move that had cost lives and its economy while the groups in that country may see it as a chance to seize power, and, if they do, will view the consequences more positively.

Why do people start wars? After all, it is considered counterintuitive and is incredibly harmful. Moreover, according to all of the data from previous wars, war is clearly shown to be very costly and have bad consequences. However, again, war can have a positive outcome depending on the perspective of said war. Like in the first example, that opportunity to seize power is the positive outcome of the war. Some reasons for starting war include economic or territorial gain, religion, nationalism, revenge, and defence.

However, every conflict is devastating because it results in the loss of lives, which include soldiers and normal citizens. Even if a war can have a positive outcome, it does not overshadow the casualties inflicted. War is a big, prominent event as it can take place on a national scale between groups within a country or on a global scale between different countries. This makes war incredibly devastating because of its sheer influence as not only does it take away lives, but it will encourage war to continue. Furthermore, it leaves long-lasting trauma to those who have survived through war. It creates a calamitous cycle.

This year in our school, we have put our focus onto child soldiers. Child soldiers are children under the age of 18 who have been forced or have voluntarily joined the military. Child soldiers do not necessarily need to be fighting but could be involved in other roles that help contribute, such as being cooks and messengers. As children are young and do not have the same judgement as adults do, the uncomfortable truth is that they become easily manipulated and are often taken advantage of. According to Theirworld, there are around 250,000 child soldiers today. To put that in perspective, that is about 150 times more than the number of students studying here in BIS Hanoi.

Conclusion

Overall, we often think that war is an old concept but the sad reality is that it is still happening today. While Remembrance Day is characterised as a single day where everyone gathers to celebrate and honour those who were sacrificed in war, it should be taken into consideration that leaving only one day to do this is not enough, especially when war is still prevalent and current. As a school, we are very lucky and privileged to be able to receive advanced education and be in a secure and safe position. We should always be grateful and respectful.



The LGBTQ Community

Written by
Hye Jin Cho 12S
Su Hyeon Kang 12I



What is LGBTQ+?

LGBTQ+ is an initialism that each stands for:

- **L**esbian
- **G**ay
- **B**isexual
- **T**ransgender
- **Q**ueer or **Q**uestioning

History of the term

The word 'LGBT' was first used in 1988, in the United States. Before this, the word 'homosexual' was commonly used. However, since the term does not equally cover the various identities and may have negative connotations, human rights groups began to call them as LGBT. The expansion to LGBT to LGBTQ was enacted in 2016, when the U.S. LGBT's rights organization GLAAD recommended using it as LGBTQ. Additionally, the plus symbol at the end of 'LGBTQ+' stands for more expansion on its meaning.



LGBTQ+ Discrimination

Modern perception of LGBTQ+ has improved a lot around the world, but there are still steady cases of them being discriminated against. Discrimination against LGBTQ+ is usually due to stereotypes, misunderstandings, and hateful feelings to them. This discrimination comes as a serious hurt to the community. Therefore, we have to be aware of respecting others and their culture, even if they are different from us, which applies not only to LGBTQ+ but also to all cultures and communities.



LGBTQ+ Flags

A number of people are aware of the rainbow flag that represents the LGBTQ community, but it is not the only flag that represents them. Different communities have come up with different flags, which represent their own identities. Here are some examples.



<The Rainbow Pride Flag>



The rainbow pride flag is the symbol of the overall LGBTQ+ community, which is most commonly seen nowadays.

Each colour represents :

Red : Life

Orange : Healing

Yellow : Sunlight

Green : Nature

Blue : Harmony

Violet : Spirit

Each colour represents :

Pink : same-sex attraction

Purple : Attraction to both sexes

Blue : opposite-sex attraction

<The Bisexual Pride Flag>



Bisexuality varies in its meaning in each different situation, but the most common definition is the attraction to both men and women.

<The Pansexual Pride Flag>



Pansexuality means the attraction to all genders. It may seem to be the same as bisexuality, but the difference is that gender is not always divided into men and women, hence pansexuality including various genders

Each colour represents :

Pink : Attraction to women

Yellow : Attraction to all other sexes

Blue : Attraction to men

Each colour represents :

Black : Asexuality as a whole

Gray : gray asexuality or demisexuality

White : Sexuality

Purple : Community

<The Asexual Pride Flag>



Asexuality means the lack of sexual attraction to any kinds of gender

<The Transgender Pride Flag>



Transgender (the 'T' in LGBTQ+) include people who have gender identities different to their biological sex. They desire medical assistance to change from their biological sex to their identity sex

Each colour represents :

Blue : Boys

Pink : Girls

White : People who are transitioning, have no gender neutral

LGBTQ+ Events

• **Worldwide Pride**

Pride parades are held worldwide in June every year. They are outdoor events to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary and queer (LGBTQ) social and self acceptance, achievements, legal rights, and pride (pride being the predominant perspective that boosts LGBT rights movements). These events also occasionally serve as a protest for legal rights, such as same-sex marriage.



• **Background**

The first gay rights protest movement was seen at the Annual Reminder pickets, which was organized by the members of the lesbian civil and political rights organization Daughters of Bilitis and male LGBT organization Mattachine Society. The Mattachine members had also participated in demonstrations in support of homosexuals imprisoned in Cuba's labor camp.

Additionally, in May 2007, Bear Pride London was held to promote the self-affirmation, dignity, equality, and increased visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people as a social group.

• **To Mitigate Prejudice of the LGBTQ**

Firstly, pride parades spread more awareness about the culture and community of LGBTQ. These days, internationally, we are able to read more news and media contents of the LGBTQ group. Furthermore, it leads to admitting the differences of sexual orientation by someone who doesn't really know about the LGBTQ community. Therefore, 'Pride' can reduce prejudice and stereotypes of the community of LGBTQ.



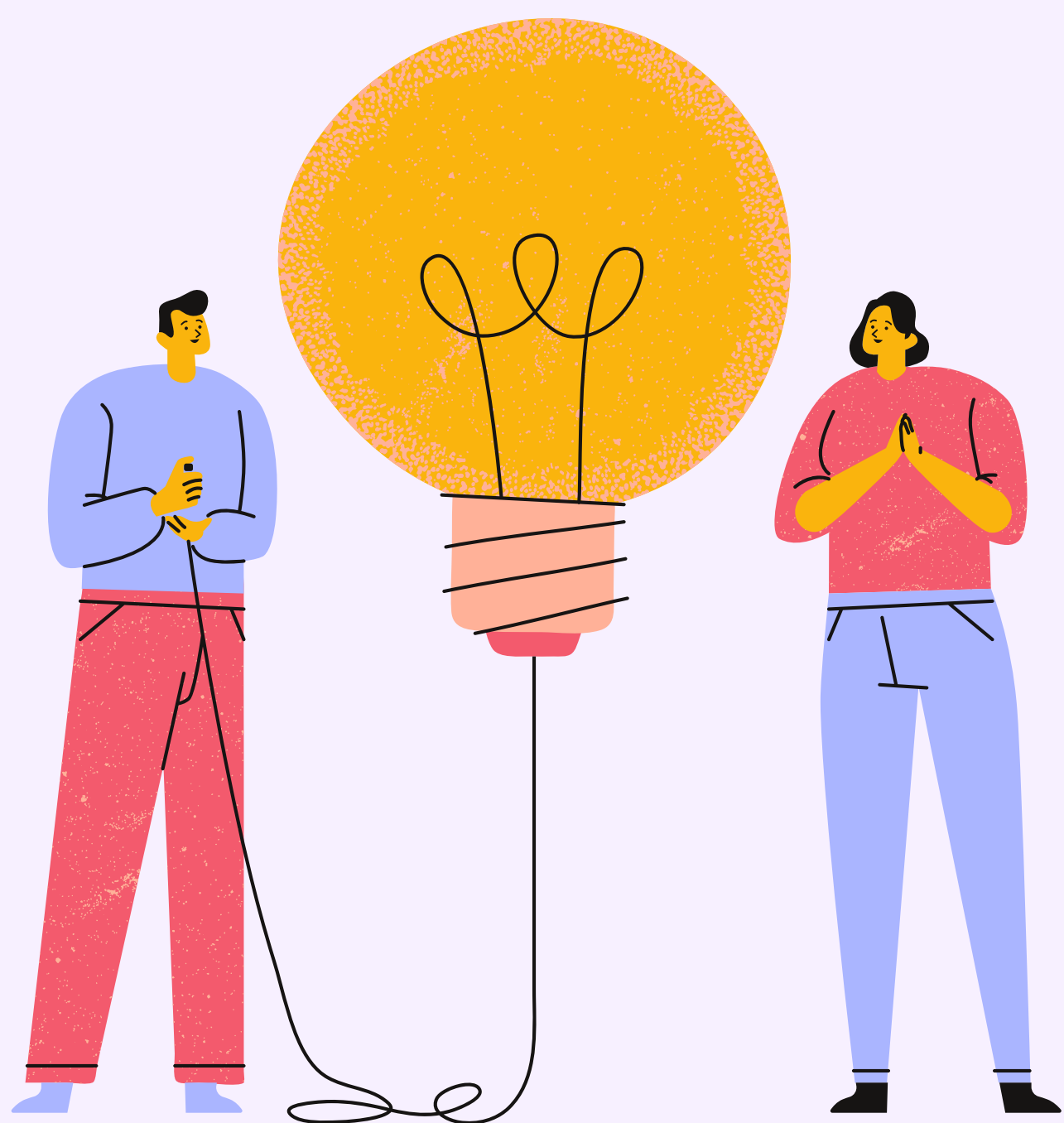
Secondly, meeting more people who belong to the LGBTQ group helps us mitigate prejudice towards the LGBTQ group. According to the 'contact hypothesis', social interactions between social groups can reduce discrimination. Thus, through pride parades, we can increase opportunities of interaction with the culture of this group.

The Importance of Culture

Culture is a complex and intricate term that encompasses areas from the arts to politics. Equally as important, culture encompasses the behaviours and habits found in societies. But culture's complexity makes it prevalent in all from the individual to the global scale. For this article, it will focus on how important culture is within the school.

Culture is very important, but why?

In our school, we have a variety of cultures as we have so many different nationalities. Some students we have interviewed talked about one of the benefits of culture is the learning process, which is very fitting as school is a place for learning as well. One student stated, "(by) experiencing a different culture, we can obtain a wider perspective, better experience, future, and ability to understand a difference." Gaining a wider perspective is always a big benefit because it will help people grow and understand better. Different cultures would mean there will be different social norms, habits and realities so to be able to keep an open mind when encountering different cultures will allow one to really sympathise and maybe even relate. This will be very prevalent here in school as there are so many different cultures present so to be able to sympathise and understand it will create a better experience for all.



Another benefit, and rightfully said so by this student, is that it can create a "better future". Growing up, lives will change and so will the world around them. Learning different cultures will allow people to become a lot more adaptable to change because no culture is ever the same. Here's a provided example: much of the world's culture about women was that they were meant to become housewives, marry a man and bear children. Now, a lot of this has changed and women and men are now equal in most cultures; in many, there is still some clear polarisation. For example in many areas in Vietnam, women are treated differently depending on how many children they have and when they got married/if they are married or not. Being adaptable to change will lead to a very progressive lifestyle for the individual and society.

One last benefit is that learning or experiencing different cultures can teach us to become grateful for what we have. “There are things that we think are important but have been busy and put those things secondary all the time because of other things that we need to take care of now”, said Ms Song, “however, through other cultures, we can see the value of it and give us an opportunity to rethink what we have neglected.”

Opposite side of culture

Of course, culture comes with many benefits but does have some negative aspects. On the surface, it can just be very difficult to understand different cultures especially when one is not exposed to many. For example, in the school the dominant culture is Vietnamese and from interviewing a Vietnamese student, they do find it difficult to understand other cultures. Not only that but as this is a British International school, it becomes confusing as there is a lot of Western cultures mixed in with Asian.

Another difficulty is language barriers. Of course, Western languages such as English are very dissimilar to Asian languages like Vietnamese and Korean. A student told us that to “learn a new culture, we need to use a different language that is difficult to learn. ... I face[d] some challenges when I have to use the English language.”



One last difficulty is that experiencing different cultures will “seem strange ... since it is different from [one’s] country.” It could be that the two cultures are completely different; Asian culture is very family-oriented and collective while more Western culture is very individualistic. Both cultures have their reasons why they are like that and there are both benefits and disadvantages of becoming one or the other. In our school, it does become a large obstacle because the students are dominantly Asians and are mixed in with a lot of Western exposure and sometimes, the two cultures do not clash well and do cause some confusion. The first example is in it’s most obvious; no culture is the same, even very similar cultures that could be categorised under an umbrella term can cause this feeling of strangeness. South Korean and Vietnamese culture is very similar, such as following many Confucian ideologies, being family-orientated and a love for football. Of course, they have their differences: Vietnam is influenced a lot by French culture while South Korea has some Japanese culture influences; South Koreans tend to be are very workaholic and efficient while Vietnamese people tend to be are more easy-going, less serious; Vietnamese people pick up their bowls of rice and shovel the rice with chopsticks while however in South Korea, people use spoons for rice, soup, anything chopsticks cannot hold firmly and they do not pick up.

Despite the difficulties, it is possible to overcome them and when done so, it will create a better environment for everyone and enhance individual lifestyles. No good thing comes without some kind of difficulty and the importance of culture, especially learning it, is definitely the example of that.

COTTAGE CORE

A GENERATION Z SUBCULTURE

Sehyun Lee 12I

WHAT IS GEN Z

“Gen Z” is a term used to identify a new generation that was born between the late 1990s to the 2010s. Also characterised as “digital natives,” the members belonging to Gen Z are early adopters of mobile phones and social media. What’s interesting is that Gen Z’ers are present-orientated but are inclined to escape from reality at the same time. This tendency to seek a getaway from an unpleasant reality -- otherwise known as “escapism” -- is due to their heavy reliance on virtual connection life in a digitalised world.



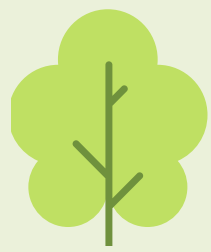
The COVID-19 quarantines in 2020 signified these escapist tendencies of Gen Z, which led to a boost of subcultures that fulfilled people’s unattainable wants.



COTTAGECORE

One of the Generation Z subcultures that went viral during the lockdowns is “Cottagecore,” an aesthetic trend which celebrates a traditional and nostalgic lifestyle with access to the beauty of nature. In such depressing circumstances of lockdowns, people feel the impulse to strip back to an ideal rural life that involves gardens, farm animals, and baking. Ironically, cottagecore was popularised through online communities, and is recognized as a “digital subculture.” It is typically seen in social platforms such as Tiktok and Tumblr, and is even found on Netflix: “Anne with an E” and “Little women” are models of cottagecore life. These platforms provide visual images of cottagecore and enable online users to experience it secondhand. An internet aesthetic that started as a queer subculture is now gradually moving to the mainstream. Encouraged by a sudden uplift in popularity, cottagecore experience is now becoming more vivid and graphical in different online categories.

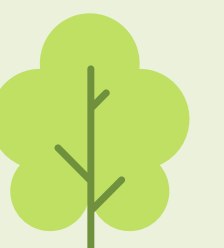
EXAMPLES



Animal Crossing

In a Nintendo video game named “Animal Crossing: New Horizons,” people can experience cottagecore inside the game’s virtual space. Switch on the game, and a virtual island paradise is set for the game user. The island provides an aesthetic environment with woods and lakes, cottages owned by a variety of animal villagers. The motive of the game is simple: decorate your own island and socialise with other game users. A relaxed, tranquil mood from a virtual cottagecore is what attracts Gen Z’ers during their quarantines. In fact, the game achieved a huge success in 2020; Nintendo sold over 26 million units of Animal Crossing after its March release, and the game became viral on numerous social platforms.

Music: Talyor Swift



Additionally, an example of cottagecore in the music industry is Taylor Swift’s “folklore” and “evermore” albums that were recently released during the pandemic. The albums feature indie-folk songs with melancholic tunes, creating a sentiment of serenity. In the music videos of the two albums, Taylor Swift’s folklore-era fashion and forest background link to the aesthetics commonly found in cottagecore culture. For a mainstream pop artist like Taylor Swift, incorporating this kind of subculture may seem unnatural and exotic; however, her new attempt brought success as the features of the album harmonized with her audience

and the current situation. Generation Z, who are continuously exposed to online fake news with misinformation, highly value sincerity and honesty. Taylor Swift appealed to these characters of Gen Z by storytelling her songs. Her song “Epiphany” includes a metaphor of war in the past and present: one concerning WWII, and another regarding the global pandemic crisis. Along with historical truth, Taylor integrated fictional tales (as implied in the title “folklore”) as well as her personal stories. Taylor Swift’s multiple storytellings and incorporation of cottagecore contents in her music are what enabled her to empathise with her Gen Z audience.



CONCLUSION

The convenience of digital media and the impact of quarantine is what prompted subcultures like cottagecore to move to the mainstream. This trending subculture comes as a refreshment to a repetitive lifestyle or eco-friendly leisure for mindfulness. However, this may not always be the case. Cottagecore, motivated from escapism, provides online aesthetic communities that are merely temporary getaways from reality. The fact that this culture does not benefit its members in the real world, that it rather entices them to run away from it is something that may be overlooked. We need to consider whether the over-romanticizing of nature and idealisation of #cottagecore lifestyle on the internet is actually beneficial to the young generation.

OPINION

#isoverparty :

the **cancel culture** conundrum

Cancel culture is when a member of an online community gets ousted for wrongdoing. This typically happens on social media sites such as Twitter or Instagram. When a person is cancelled, they lose their right to voice their own opinion, and people in the community sever ties with them.

Towards people who have committed genuinely appalling acts, Cancel culture exists as a practical punishment against the individuals responsible. This dismissal will not only hold perpetrators accountable for their actions but also acts as an effective deterrent against possible reoffense. This means that cancelling somebody *may be* the right thing to do - provided it is *the right person*.

This is the issue.

The fact that Cancel culture only effectively applies to a minor subset of people means that it is not always done rightfully. In many cases, the victims of such brutal ostracism are the ones who committed negligibly minor offenses. Whether or not such offenses are of the past or present does not matter, *the mob will still cancel them*. As a result, Cancel culture is often overwhelming reactions against underwhelming actions - a shallow, unfair form of punishment without virtues or morals.



kevin hart | Photo by Getty Images



FELIX KJELLBERG Photo by John Lamparski/Getty Image

Cancel culture, in and of itself, is most commonly seen in the entertainment industry, where celebrities are cancelled for something they did in the past - no matter how far back. In the 2019 Oscars, Kevin Hart 'stepped down' from hosting after Twitter users uncovered his disreputable comments regarding homosexuals back in 2009 and 2011. James Gunn, the director of 'Guardians of the Galaxy', was fired by Disney following the resurface of scandalous jokes. Felix Kjellberg, the most subscribed 'Youtuber', continually faced backlash for his inappropriate language use back since 2016. Do you see a pattern? The list just goes on and on and on. Nearly every celebrity gets cancelled due to something that they did in the past, which is not only superficial but also unfair and unwarranted.

Celebrities are like every human being - they grow and change with time. Along that process, they will certainly make mistakes to learn from. Therefore, tweets and statuses from the long past are not an accurate representation of who the celebrities are today. As seen with the

examples above, being cancelled not only affects one's reputation but also their careers. By exclusively branding them with inaccurate and horrible personalities, Cancel culture practically disregards all the good they've done. Kevin Hart founded a charity organisation ('Help from the Hart') and Kjellberg's numerous charity streams and donations - *but you don't see anyone bringing that up, do you?*

In the end, Cancel culture's needless toxicity is inherent within its premise: a collective cancellation rooted within specific agendas and ingroup bias, escalated by the unnecessary desire for solidarity and the lack of sympathy regarding the targeted individual. The trend is one we should not tolerate, for the fact that it creates a harmful environment for all involved, one which encourages superficial bandwagoning while outright implying that positive change is impossible.

Controversy of the Legitimacy of the Law Banning Muslim Clothes

Written by Chae Yeon (Hailey) Park 12S



Muslim women in various head coverings. PHOTO BY FROM LEFT, PIERRE OBENDRAUF, KHALED KESOUKI, FABRICE COFFRINI, N/A /Montreal Gazette, AFP/Getty Images

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIJAB, CHADOR, NIQAB, AND BURQA?

When you travel in Europe, it is not hard to find women who wear traditional Muslim clothing. In its traditional form, they are worn by women to maintain modesty and privacy when in contact with unfamiliar males. There are different types of head coverings of Muslim women.

Hijab

Hijab is a general term meaning ‘to cover’ or ‘veil,’ most commonly referring to a head scarf that covers the hair and neck, but not the face.

Chador

A chador is a veil that covers the entire body except for the eyes so that no one else can see his or her face.

Niqab

A niqab is a veil covering the head and face, but not the eyes, usually worn with a loose black garment that covers a person from head to feet.

Burqa

A burqa is a veil that covers the entire body and face, with a mesh window or grille across the eyes for a woman to see out of.

However, controversy has continued in Europe and Muslim countries over the use of niqab and burqa. For example, France, the largest Muslim country in Europe (with 10 percent of people being Muslim), had passed a law in September 2010 that banned the act of face-covering, such as the use of niqab and burqa, in public. In fact, on the first day the law came into force, a Muslim woman who was wearing a burqa was imposed a fine of €150 (\$183.54). Additionally, similar legislation is being considered in Italy, Belgium, and Spain. Since the law was passed, conflict about the legitimacy of this law has been continued between France and Muslim people. In this article, I will discuss the conflict between the French government and Muslim.

WHY WAS THE LAW ENACTED?

The French government claimed that the burqa suppresses women's human rights and does not fit "Laïcité," a constitutional principle of secularism in France. Furthermore, after the September 11 attacks of 2001, it has become necessary to secure identity for security of public order.

TWO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Some members of French society have protested saying that this law is discrimination against Islam. Iran's Foreign Ministry has also protested that this is a denial of the Muslim women's human rights and freedom. In addition, after the enforcement of the law, a Pakistani woman living in France started a lawsuit claiming that the law violates the freedom of religion, saying that no one, including her husband, forced her to wear a veil covering her face, but that she only followed her religious belief. However, there are many views that the law helped women who have suffered from religious dogmatism. Many women's rights groups sided with the French government in the lawsuit. Ani Suziere, president of the International Federation of Women's Human Rights, had sent a letter to court defending the legitimacy of the law, saying that "the veil covering the face is like removing the presence of women." Finally, in 2014, the ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights) judged it to be legitimate that this law was enacted for the purpose of living together with various citizens. Moreover, the court accepted the French government's claim that "the face serves an important role in social interaction," stating that "the law does not question the religious meaning of the costume, but just covers the face."

Above conflict of view, is clearly a complicated matter. Perhaps the values of tolerance and respect can help French society and find a harmonious solution.

Interview with a Julliard Dance specialist

Performing arts is a unique field where people creatively express themselves in front of an audience and no better to describe this field than its well-recognized and popular form: dance.

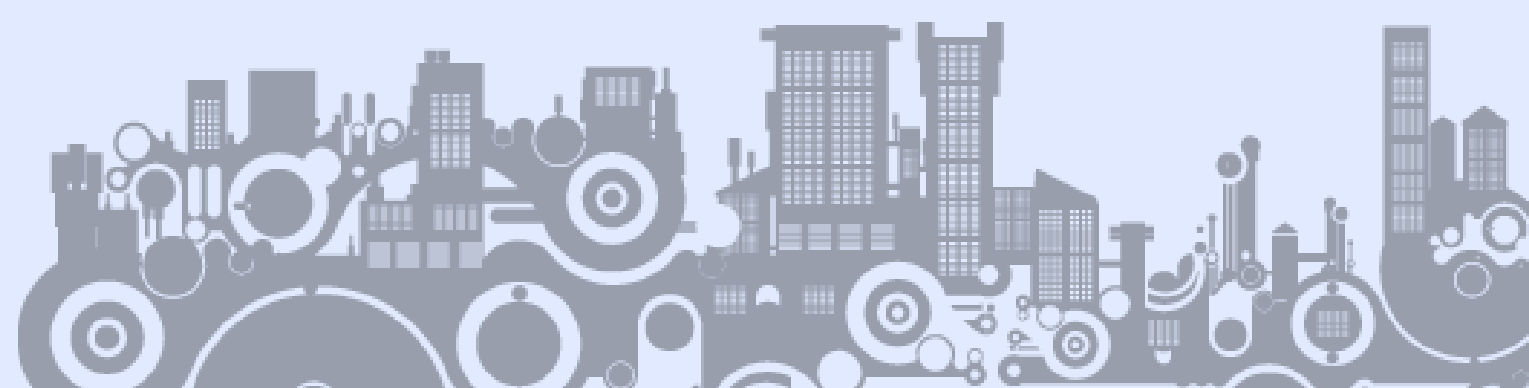
Dancing is known for being the outcome you see on stage with performers expressing themselves. Yet, the 'learning' part of it is often disregarded. Underneath dance is a wide range of other interconnected fields and personal perseverance and resilience that make up the dancers you see on the stage or the screen. It is interesting to observe how something rigid with a right and wrong will create something abstract and profound.

In this article, Mary has talked to Julliard's Dance Specialist Hilary Easton about dance education and dance as a career. We have discussed what dance education is like for both teachers and students and discussed what it is to be a professional dancer.

Q. Can you introduce yourself first?



My name is Hilary Easton. I am a choreographer and a dancer. I have a dance company in NYC where I live. I also am a director of dance for Julliard school so that is why I visited BIS as well. I create a curriculum with a team for dance teachers to use. Also, I teach at Julliard. I teach the sophomores, students who are around 19 years old. I teach them choreography and I teach the seniors in the dance division- hadegochy - which is how to teach. I am very lucky to have a faculty position at Julliard, and I also direct dance programmes.





Q. What is choreographing?

Choreographing is making dances. So when I say that I am a choreographer that means I am a dance maker. And I have dancers that work for me and we make dances together that we present and perform in different places in America. The type of dance that my company is working on is 'contemporary dance'.

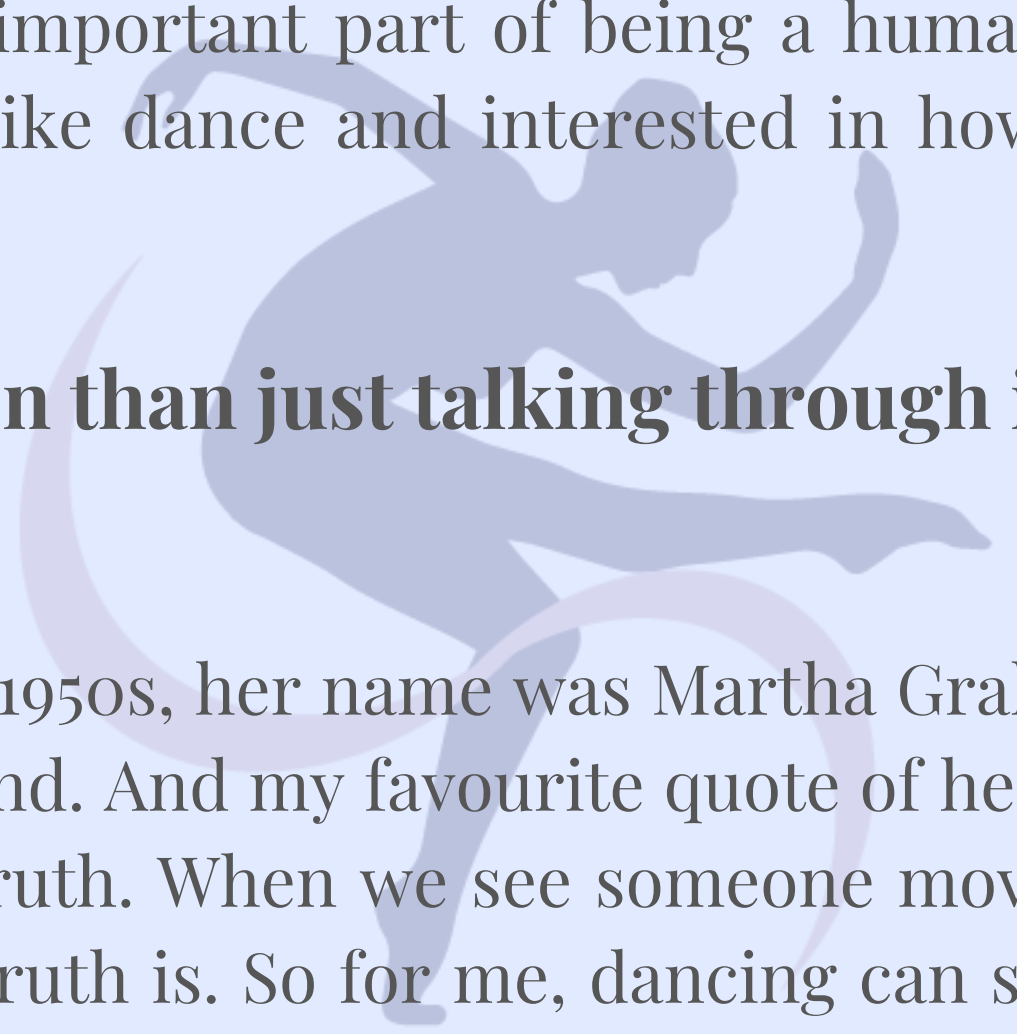


Q. What makes you fascinated by 'dance'?

I've always loved to dance and I think that's true for many people. We all secretly dance. We are better when we are dancing, I think. We are happier people, we are more creative, we feel more alive, we feel more connected to each other. It is something that everyone does naturally, even babies dance. It is a very natural and important part of being a human is dancing. And so I think I have always been inspired like dance and interested in how to make dances.

Q. So you think dance is a better communication than just talking through it with people?

You know, there's a choreographer from the 1940s and 1950s, her name was Martha Graham and she had many statements that make herself profound. And my favourite quote of hers is that 'movement never lies', I mean it always tells the truth. When we see someone moving, we know so much about who they are and what their truth is. So for me, dancing can say a lot of things that words can't. Each of our languages can be so confined and when we see something in movement, there are many more metaphors, many more ideas, multiple ways of understanding, and that to me, make the dance more special than any other things.





Q. How would you describe a ‘professional dancer’ in NYC based on your experience?

Being a professional dancer in NYC is very interesting. Dancers generally take a class in the morning to warm themselves up and then they rehearse in their dance companies in the afternoon and evening. And if they are performing, they are performing usually on their weekend, Dancers usually have more than one job and for me, it was dancing and teaching. As soon as I became a dancer, I also became a teacher. And I was able to balance two things. And I always find time to teach us well which eventually let me go beyond the faculty of Julliard and have my current position as a director of Julliard. Being a teacher and being a dancer taught me two different things. I was a better dancer because I was a teacher and I was a better teacher because I was a dancer. Exciting performances, and it is a chance to try a different part of an artist.

Q. What did you focus on as a high school student to become a dancer?

I started to dance when I was 8 years old but when I got serious about it was when I was in high school. So I was always dancing after school and in school, if there were any performances, I took any dance classes I could. But I was interested in other things too. And I think it’s very important. I read a lot of books and pieces of literature. I was very interested in history and I often hang out with my friends. And All of the things overall improved my high school life.



Hilary Easton's Troupe Presents
Man as a Wild at Heart

Q. Which dance did you focus on?

A number of skills, taking lots of classes so that my technique developed. I was watching a lot of dances to get lots of ideas. So I went to lots of performances and I asked myself lots of questions about the origin of dances.

Q. What value does a dancer try to transfer to the audience?/ How do they communicate with them?

Well, it depends on the dancer it depends on the project. There are some kinds of dancing where you want to expect to really emerge for the audience. There's another kind of dancing where the audience is not that central to what the dancers are doing. The dancers will do the same thing with an audience there, without an audience there. So it depends on what the dancers are trying to communicate. IT depends on the theme and ideas of the performance. Notice details or emerge from the audience in the performance.



Q. Which education do you think is most important for the students who want to be a professional dancer to develop their creativity and persistence as a way of preparing themselves to become a better dancer?

Creativity is best built by being in a habit that is creative. Anyone who desires to be creative, we need to be that way is to make things all the time without worrying if they are going to be perfect or beautiful or special in any way. Just keep up making things up knowing you are gonna throw it out and start again. And eventually, you start to make things you really care about. And that is how you develop your creativity. It's just by trying it, feeling not afraid. Just taking that risk to make stuff. That is actually a part of the persistence. Even though it's a little insecure, it's really important just to keep pushing forward.

Hilary Easton and her company

Q. If you could go back in time, what advice and lessons learned would you have given your “younger self”? Do you have any advice for those who are dreaming to become a professional dancer?

Don't be afraid to take risks and follow the things you love because they will make the difference for you. And create a community around you of people that appreciate you and that you appreciate. That community will sustain you if you have a group of people around you that you care about. They would really support you and make your life so much happier.



Q. What is your goal for now?

I want to keep contributing for as long as I can both as an artist and as an educator, as a family member and as a friend. As a member of society. I want to be able to give back and to share with others the ways I can.

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