Negative Impacts of Redneck Culture

Culture as it stands is extremely influential. It binds people together but also keeps them apart. It is the strength of people however, that is most predominantly shown in the families that exist in these cultures. From proud and old traditions to simple family gatherings, it is seen throughout the world. Using the MLA style, three articles will help express some of the less desirable contributions of culture. Redneck, white-trash, or whatever you want to call it is one of the more prevalent in the United States. While not bad overall, ignorance and poverty are hard to break free of when the culture around you revel in it.

The article adaptation, *Family, Culture Affects Whether Intelligence Leads to Education, Study Finds*, was hosted by sciencedaily.com. It explains a study done between two different environments and cultures, revolving around the education and intelligence of children. The overall experiment involved separating maternal twins and sending one to Minnesota and one to Sweden. The after effects on the schooling of the twins were then recorded, mainly by comparing the availability of college in each country. It was more widely accepted in the US to be able to buy your way into college, as college here is almost never free. Whereas in Sweden, the cultural norm is that to be eligible for college, you must excel academically. This was the only way into a university, as students don’t have to pay.

This article was chosen because it takes a closer look at a particular part of culture’s influence. While very broad by some standards, it brings light to the fact that cultural standards
can have a dramatic effect on the local population’s average intelligence. Overall, the outcome was to be expected. Societies and cultures that put an emphasis on education tend to send more people on to higher education. The same can be said for families that value their members’ schooling.

While this article is informative, it seems to be much more of a general footnote, a new flash if you will. The language is elementary but explanatory and readily understood, if lacking some finer details. This is to be expected from an adaptation. The original source materials, where provided, was the Association for Psychological Science and was edited by the Science Daily staff for distribution purposes.

With authors that were untraceable, the Science Daily website was examined for creditability. With source material and other such links given in each article, it seems fair to say that they at least did their homework. The ever-present Google ads were not too bothersome as they were hidden amongst the countless story links. Updated daily and without much bias in its productions, the site concluded to be of reasonable value to anyone looking for a quick update on world happenings.

The double binds of getting food among the poor in rural Oregon.(Report) is a report from the journal, Food, Culture & Society13.1. It is best summarized by the hosting website.

"An in-depth ethnographic study of low-income rural residents in Oregon shows that they are caught in double binds as their ways of life and their incomes increasingly do not fit with the neoliberal economic order, creating tensions in the ways in which they can fulfill their food needs. The study uses Bourdieu's definition of a double bind as a set of inculcated habits that do not match the changing field in social, economic and political ways, and thus people are not able to live effectively. In this study, we found that
interviewees, many of whom have experienced economic and social decline in their lives, exhibit attempts to keep up and strategies particular to their situation that do not fit easily into the neoliberal economy. Analysis of the data shows several important double binds: eating habits that do not fit their nutritional knowledge or their food income; strategizing for material cultural capital on incomes that can ill afford it; use of social networks to survive; and contradictory perceptions of independence set against need for government assistance." (galegroup.com).

A very broad and complex journal source, the material focuses on a more diverse cause of events. However, at the core, there are ties to the culture associated within the rural communities. These cultural norms can be seen during the interviews in the report. "People missed being part of the growing American tendency toward eating out. People interviewed still reached out for this as they could, but most people could not afford to eat out except for fast food." (Culture & Society 13.1)

It can be said that poverty and lower education cause one another, but they themselves are a culture. There are biases that can keep people from evolving. Having seen it first hand, this report did not offer surprise.

Very extensive, well written and researched, this report appeals to more than the average reader, although this is given by the nature of the host Journal. Being destined for scholarly minds, the journal is both technical and clinical in its workings. Published in March 2010, it is an up-to-date documentary on on-going things. Unable to track down authors Gross, Joan, and Nancy Rosenberger, the source documentation was looked at. Extensive resources and prestige of the journal itself showed the document to be legitimate in its standing.
Capitalism Magazine, an online magazine, hosted the article “Black Rednecks and White Liberals,” written by Thomas Sowell in 2005. This particular piece was chosen for its ideals on how culture can have its negative impacts upon a community.

"Illiteracy was far more common among whites in the antebellum South than among whites in the North, and of course the blacks held in bondage in the South were virtually all illiterate. On into the early 20th century, Southern whites scored lower on mental tests than whites in other parts of the country, as blacks continued to do."

(Sowell)

The point made throughout the piece is that the redneck whites influenced the modern day ignorant black population. This may be true but Sowell makes no point of providing facts for it. Culture is usually inherited to the next generation, but is also picked up from the surrounding Microsystems. So unsurprisingly, this could very well be the case for many families.

While fairly up-to-date, the magazine is targeted towards a particular type of person. It is geared towards hardcore capitalists and bashes those who are not. So for those on the other side or somewhere in the middle, the material comes off a bit abrasive. The author himself is rather well renowned, having won the Bradley Prize in 2003 for intellectual achievement, as well as other notable high standings. He has also written multiple articles for the magazine and other institutions.

In conclusion, culture itself can be both historically beneficial while limiting. It creates diversity and companionship within our communities. However, there are some instances the opposite can happen, which goes with the old saying "misery loves company." Culture can stifle ones ability to better oneself simply for lack of know-how. This seems to be what some of the
authors were trying to exhibit through their examples of college expectations, illiteracy and ignorance.
Works Cited

