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Ethnic Diversity in Agriculture

Asia Smith

Introduction

The field of agriculture has a disproportionality amongst gender and ethnic diversity, this is due to a combination of factors including, and not limited to systemic racism & sexism, limited land access, lack of generational wealth, etc. It is important to address what impacts this will have on the agricultural industry and what solutions can be taken to address this issue. As agriculture continues to advance in growing technologically, commercially, and industrially, it is equally as important to ensure that the ethnic diversity gap does not widen further. For the scope of this paper, the term diversity is defined in regard to the incorporation of people from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds and identities; rather than the more common usage of diversity in agriculture which is defined as the distinct genetics of crops and their production. Over time, collective interest and considerations of implementing more diversity within any professional field have progressed. Incorporating more ethnic diversity within the field of agriculture can provide benefits toward consumer relations, expand ideas in academia, and offset various existing barriers in the industry. Actively incorporating diversification in agriculture can occur in tandem with the existing initiatives the ag industry is utilizing. Nevertheless, one must also take into consideration the legitimacy of concerns an increased sample population of farmers creates such as scarcity of resources, urbanization of farming, and opposition when trying to change policies and legislation.

Lack of ethnic diversity

There is a lack of ethnic diversity within the field of agriculture. Additionally, there is significant evidence that the sector of agriculture has a severe lack of diversity in regard to ethnicity by comparison of producers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 2017 Census of Ag Highlights: Black Producers reports that 1.4% of all producers in agriculture identify as Black, while 98% of all producers identified as White. The disproportionate representation of Black farmers can be problematic because it is not reflective of the current overall Black population in the U.S., which is 13.6% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). Critical to the thesis of this paper is understanding how and why these disparities have been erected, and what mechanisms contribute to the vast misrepresentation of agricultural demographics as well as how this may further impact the industry. The USDA recognizes this as an issue and attempts to help rectify the issue through the Farm Service Agency's loan initiative.




About the Author



Asia Smith

I am a native undergraduate student here in Columbia, MO. My passion is to both surround, work with, and aid in the overall health and well being of animals (as well as their relative owners). My goal is to go to vet school in order to become a full fledged veterinarian. Beyond my undergraduate studies as an Animal Science major here at Mizzou, I am also deeply passionate in incorporating psychology and advancing diversity within the veterinary medicine, animal science, and agricultural fields alike. This is in hopes to create a more inclusive and more representative future in regards to these fields.

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Through this initiative, it recognizes specific communities which the program identifies as, socially disadvantaged farmers (SDA) and ranchers (USDA, 2019). The term is inclusive of women and farmers of color including those who identify as Hispanic, African American, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and other ethnic groups. Per the initiative facts sheet report, “An SDA farmer or rancher is a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities” (USDA, 2019). This definition provides a detailed description of how the USDA recognizes certain ethnic groups that have faced disparities specific to the agricultural field. Hence, this further proves these disparities within agricultural systems have adversely affected certain demographics within the field of agriculture. These disparities further add to the socioeconomic challenges faced by the affected populations including relevant representation.

Impacts of lack of diversity


To understand the existence of the disproportionality of ethnicity and gender within agriculture, factor into consideration the ensuing negative impacts of not having more ethnic and gender representation. The U.S. population has steadily increased over time, thus causing an increase in the ethnic demographics leading to an increase in demand for cultural-specific agricultural products (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). A report from the USDA’s Economic Research Service (2022) reveals projections of an increase between the years 2020-2060 in the overall Hispanic population from approximately 19% to 29% (net 10%), African American population increasing 1%, and the Asian population from approximately 6% to 9% respectively. As the U.S. population becomes increasingly more culturally diverse, particularly brought upon by immigration and the existing U.S. population, this may lead to increasing demand for certain food product demand that may grow faster than others (Dong & Stewart, 2022). Specifically, this means that certain genres of agricultural products belonging to different cultural demographics such as that as Mexican, Chinese, and, soul food, will create an increased demand for the food products needed to cultivate ethnographic-centric products.

As a result, it is reasonable to infer that with growing and changing demands for certain food products following the demographic shifts within the U.S., the field of agriculture will in turn experience more stress on the system to supply these stated demands. This is significant because the lack of ethnic diversity will prove to be a disadvantage for the agricultural system. Because the current composition of the U.S. agricultural system is predominantly white, it is not reflective of the current and future demographic compositions and consumers (USDA, 2017). The permeating effects of the lacking representation in the agricultural industry causes a lack of profits, marketing, and inclusivity.

Policies and barriers

Subsequently, the impacts brought upon by these disproportionalities in the agricultural field can be utilized to examine how existing governmental policies and customs within the field continue to contribute to the barriers that prevent equal representation of ethnic minorities in agriculture. This is important because the referred-to policies prevent equal representation of all members of the U.S. population. One example of such policies includes Section 152(3) of the National Labor Relations Act of 1935. The section of the act disallowed union participation for agricultural and domestic workers, most of whom were African American (Perea, 2010). This legislation is still being applied to the agricultural industry to this day, and from this, this policy has been revealed to participate in exclusionary practices of agricultural and domestic workers. Since its creation, the impact of the legislation has contributed to the barriers for minorities in the agricultural field, more specifically African Americans.

Additionally, there is evidence that a variety of different factors have significantly limited producers of color from further succeeding within the industry. These factors that limit ethnic farmers today derive from the legacies of colonialism, national development, food policy, and globalism which caused immigration and migration of many farmers and migrant workers (Seda, 2020). The lasting effects of these policies, customs, and legislation created lasting socioeconomic, geographic, and generational inequalities (Seda, 2020). By understanding more deeply the differences in lived experiences between racialized groups of food producers, and appreciating their race- and citizenship-based



obstacles, these profiles can provide the framework for agriculture institutions to pinpoint and begin to dismantle racial disparities (Seda, 2020).

Contrasting viewpoint

Notwithstanding a noteworthy argument as to the validity of diversification of the agriculture industry, one must take into consideration the legitimacy of concerns that an increased diversified sample population of farmers creates issues such as scarcity of resources, urbanization of farming, and opposition when trying to change policies and legislation. Each of these contrasting elements provides an argument as to why diversification in ag might not be holistically beneficial. It is important to consider the contrasting points of view because proper operation of the agricultural system requires consideration of the varying viewpoints of population members. Chief among these considerations is the scarcity of resources.


Water scarcity and distribution are agricultural and environmental concerns. Water in particular is significant because the physical, technological, and economic characteristics of water resources pose special problems to the establishment of water rights and market-based allocation of water (Rosegrant et al, 1995). Therefore a diversification in agriculture which leads to an increase in the population of farmers contributes to and in some instances causes water scarcity. Another example of a scarcity of resources can be found in global indigenous populations (United Nations, 2022). Diversifying agriculture would further exacerbate the inequitable distribution of water if more farmers from that demographic were integrated into the agricultural system.

On the surface, urban agriculture appears to be beneficial to the ethnic diversification of agriculture. A study by Schlesinger et al. (2015) shows, “The ability to formulate appropriate support policies and intervention strategies depends on the knowledge of the interactions between ethnicity and agriculture in an urban context.” However, little is known about the role ethnicity plays in greater metropolitan agricultural ecosystems (Schlesinger et al, 2015). Moreover, urban agriculture requires access to land and financial resources. This poses an issue for two reasons, the necessity of land in urban areas can add to the scarcity of resources, and two, the financial endowment necessary to purchase the land is limited or nonexistent due to existing and historical exclusionary policies, including the policy previously stated.

A final source of contention to the diversification of agriculture is opposition to the existing system of power and control. Remedying the inequitable distribution of ethnic agricultural representation will take more than superficial attempts to integrate a more diversified and inclusive system. Policies and legislative measures must be enacted especially where it concerns African Americans to appropriately remediate the racially motivated exclusionary policies of the past, which continues to affect ethnic minority participation in agriculture (Rothstein, 2017). Therefore, it stands to reason that dismantling the system erected to prohibit diversification will contrast greatly with those who currently benefit from the lack of inclusivity and hold existing positions of power, thus making it the largest point of contrast.

Recommendations

Improving overall ethnic and racial diversity within the U.S. agriculture industry is accomplishable by further intensifying culturally-responsive outreach and support programs in conjunction with existing programs with the same purpose. By doing so, this can aid in further increasing awareness of the disparities that limit these communities within the field as well as advocating for increased support for diversification, while simultaneously advocating for more consistent financial resources. One element that can further diversification is through improved recruitment strategies geared to better acclimate these communities within the field. It has been proven that outreach programs, such as agricultural workshops, seminars, and field trips geared to immerse multicultural students into agricultural systems can improve their overall sense of belonging within agricultural spaces (Drewery et al., 2023). Lastly, comes the most crucial factor in improving agricultural diversification, which is ensuring that the existing programs centered




in providing outreach for these communities are being intensified in order to further advance diversification. There are a variety of essential programs within the U.S. that are helping to bridge the ethnic gap within the field of agriculture.

Such programs include Kansas State University's Multicultural Academic Program Success (MAPS) geared toward giving new multicultural students a better understanding of agriculture system enrichment, as well as invoking interest in majoring in Agricultural degrees (Wiley and Hobbs, 2021). An additional program is The Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), which is a multicultural collegiate organization whose mission is to supply underrepresented groups with support and connections within academic agriculture and natural resources (MANRRS, 2020). By enhancing the prevalence of these programs across the U.S., there can be significant growth not only to the general scope of the agricultural industry, but this may also be beneficial towards agricultural academia. It has been shown that an increase in collaboration of diverse science personnel (across gender, ethnicity, discipline, and affiliation) typically exhibit a greater positive impact on their research initiatives (AlShenli, et al., 2018). Conversely, increased diversity can also further advance the agricultural field technologically. This is why it is critical to supply further support and advocate for these programs because they can bring more inclusion of different people to agriculture that have previously been limited into entering the field.

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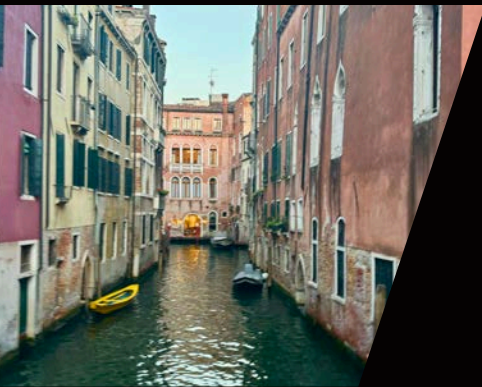
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Sinking Cities: The Detriment of Cruise Ships to the City of Venice, Italy

Sophie Hof

When compared to modern-day societies, historical locations require resilient adjustments to combat contemporary advancements. Whether these advancements are positive or negative, they are an unavoidable part of society. Venice, Italy, a city once the greatest ocean port in medieval Europe, now struggles to balance rising sea levels with a declining economy (Foot, et. al, 2023). According to Laura Carbognin, a marine biologist from the National Research Council of Italy, over the past 20 years Venice has subsided (or 'sunk') 12 centimeters into the surrounding Adriatic Sea. However, a sinking Venice is nothing new. The city has endured more subsiding in past generations, which has caused severe damage to the city's urban heritage and a seven-time increase in flood frequencies (Viviano, 2009). Naturally, many Venetians are fleeing the city in fear of its rapid submersion, causing the population and economy to sink with the town. Moreover, in 2015, Transparency International published its Corruption Perception Index, in which Venice ranked financially lower than several developing countries.

Considering what Marcus Aurelius, a Roman Emperor and philosopher, believed, "all things are concurrent causes of all others," there must be a main factor harming Venice. To narrow the search for the cause, Climatologist Davide Zanchettin from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, believes the sinking of Venice and its economic struggle is linked to lagoon erosion, mass tourism, and pollution (2007). However, Zanchettin fails to mention the modern culprit that has increased such complications: cruise ships. Due to shoreline erosion, substantial amounts of tourism, and heightened contribution to pollution, commercial cruise ships damage Venice's stability and should be banned from docking in the city.

Venice is located in the Venetian Lagoon, which stretches between the shorelines of the Po and Piave Rivers (Bock, 2012). According to Morgan Gelinas, a Venetian aquatic wellness inspector, "In the shallow and muddy lagoon, cruise ships create high water velocities and intense resuspension, possibly leading to serious environmental consequences for large parts of the Venice Lagoon" (2013, pg. 64). To clarify, Venice is surrounded by loose and muddy seabeds, meaning the transit of large vessels, such as cruise ships, can disrupt the aquatic floor, weakening its support for the city. Moreover, Donna Bilkovic, a marine scientist from the Institute of Virginia, explains the loosening of Venice's seafloor can disturb submerged aquatic agriculture surrounding it (2019). Plants act as a natural shoreline barrier by mitigating




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My name is Sophie Hof, and I am an undergraduate student studying Biological Sciences with a minor in Music and Chemistry. At Mizzou, I work in animal behavior and plant research, play cello in the University Symphony Orchestra, and am a part of the Honors College. My post-graduate plans are to attend graduate school.

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mitigating the seabed disruption caused by boat wake, making it a crucial form of protection for the city. However, this defense mechanism is destroyed when boat wake is amplified to the level of a cruise ship. Compared to the average wake of a recreational boat, five to seven meters in width, cruise ships take the lead with a standard wake ranging from 100 to 250 meters (Gilman, 2011). This intense emission is too powerful for delicate plants. Additionally, depression wake, the value of water decent caused by boat wake, can reach significant dimensions up to 2.45 m, translating into an eight-foot wave hurling towards the city (Scarpa, 2019). This concentrated wave energy is particularly destructive in Venice's confined waterways, where buildings line narrow canals, amplifying wave force not seen in open water. Therefore, if vacation vessels were banned from the city, shorelines would maintain support for the city, mitigating the sinkage of Venice.

Opposing this proposal, Robert Schuster, a geology professor from the University of Alabama, claims, "boat wakes are an important source of erosive energy in many sheltered coastal and estuarine environments" (2020, pg. 2). To restate, many shallow bodies of water lack wave production. In other words, these areas typically experience minimal natural water disturbances. Schuster believes boat wake should be used as a strategy to prepare plants and sheltered seabeds for intense water disturbances. Although this idea is accurately displayed by Bangladesh's natural root bridges, which have been forcefully strengthened by the brutal increase in natural rainfall, Schuster fails to recognize other crucial aspects that prevent cruise ship wake from being beneficial to shorelines (Watson, 2020). The amplitude of wake that Schuster is implementing does not compare to a cruise ship's emission. In a study developed by the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, cruise ships were found to have a ten-time production of wake when compared to a 20-foot fishing boat (Contini, 2010). Although it is beneficial for low amounts of boat wake to strengthen aquatic vegetation barriers, cruise ship values are irrational when it comes to categorizing them with recreational vessels. Therefore, cruise ship wake is deemed harmful when it comes to strengthening plants that surround shorelines. Although it would be impossible to remove all forms of boat-related wake from the Venice Lagoon, eliminating cruise ships would decrease the damage caused to vegetation barriers and shorelines.

Similar to boat wake, the mass number of tourists that arrive on cruise ships is a main cause of Venice's suffering. Initially, citizens may see a large number of annual visitors as a benefit for the city's economy. New customers for restaurants, more people to use water taxis, and plenty of families to stay in local hotels. However, scientists are finding that such a high number of visitors is causing a strain on the city's local accommodations and sewage systems. Between 500 and 600 cruise ships dock yearly in Venice (Venezia Autentica, n.d). Although this may not seem like a substantial amount, according to Petros J. Katsioloudis, a travel agency director for Green Ships, this data averages 2.45 cruise ships daily with a combined minimum of 5,711 passengers (2010), making Venice the 13th busiest cruise terminal in the world (Ahmed, 2022a). Unfortunately, this concern is not showing any signs of fading. Even in October 2020, during a time with restrictive travel rules, 36 cruise ships arrived 84 times each, bringing a total of 191,000 passengers to Venice in just one month (Avoid Crowds, 2020).

Another aspect to consider is Venice's local population-to-tourist ratio. According to the World Population Review, the city's residential population has dropped to less than 50,000. Meanwhile, Venice receives 36 million tourists each year (2023). Maintaining a balance between a tourist haven and a suitable living location for locals is a battle Venice is constantly fighting, which puts intense pressure on the city's accommodation toward locals (Eaglescliffe, 2022). Ana Trancoso González, an art historian and culture manager from the University of Sevilla, Spain, claims that Venice's market has suffered while, "Trying to be at the service of tourism and obviating the needs of the locals" (2018, pg. 23). This has led to the replacement of essential local amenities, like grocery stores and markets, with hotels and souvenir shops. Although this development is beneficial for visitors, it creates numerous complications for locals, such as limited grocery options and overpriced housing. According to Joanna Simmons, a journalist from Warwick University, "Property prices are sky high, with owners converting what could be family homes and lower income rentals into lucrative vacation accommodation" (n.d, pg. 4). Maintaining an affordable lifestyle in Venice is becoming extremely difficult due to the accommodations made for tourists. In addition to sea level stability complications, the city is unable to prioritize its local's needs. Therefore, lowering the population and causing the economy to plummet.




Additionally, Venice's ancient architecture makes it clear that the city was not built to withstand millions of annual visitors. Due to the problematic systems beneath the city, it is difficult to resolve the constant sewage problems. Many of the structures, from the 16th century, are outdated, which, according to Rudmer Hoekstra, a civil engineer from the Netherlands, "creates several threats towards the town and the health of millions of tourists" (2023). In fact, Venice's ancient networks do not consist of pipes. Installing such infrastructure today would require elevating the entire city by half a meter, an engineering feat made impossible by the city's continued descent. Moreover, even if houses are now equipped with updated plumbing systems, most of the wastewater from the systems will still end up in the city's canals. The tides then carry it out to sea and replace it with cleaner water, perpetuating a fragile and polluted system (Venezia Lines, n.d). The constant spew of sewage into the bodies of water that surround Venice is a health concern. According to Marco Ostoich, from Veneto Regional Prevention and Protection Agency, being exposed to contaminated water can cause health effects, such as gastrointestinal illnesses, nervous system complications, reproductive effects, and even cancer (2006). Although Venice is a beautiful city to visit, it is overwhelmed by tourism, making it a deteriorating and unsustainable location for people to live and visit. To finalize, the majority of tourists that visit Venice arrive on cruise ships. Therefore, eliminating this form of transport to the city would minimize the local accommodation and sewage complications tourism brings to Venice.

However, many citizens of Venice rely on tourism to make a comfortable income. Since there are a majority of hotels and attractions designed for visitors, several locals find employment in relation to them. As stated by Mr. Secci, a Venetian, "Since I can remember, tourism has been our only economy," (Momigliano, 2020, pg. 3). Removing the ability for travelers to take cruise ships to the city would drastically lower the number of customers for locals to gain capital from. Although Venice's economy urgently needs aiding, this is not the correct method to utilize. In the past 25 years, hotel stays in the city have dropped by two-thirds (Sharp, 2017). This is strictly caused by the cruise ship industry. Rather than staying in the city, cruise ship passengers stay in private rooms that are provided on the boats docked in the lagoon. Additionally, many tourists visit Venice while on a whirlwind trip around Italy. They often disembark, buy a few souvenirs, and leave within hours (Simmons, n.d) This form of visitation brings no benefit to Venice's economy.

Another modern development that is causing the rapid sinkage of Venice relates to the colossal amount of pollution cruise ships emit into the city. According to the Italian Senate, every ship emits the same amount of pollution as 14 cars daily, deeming them the main cause of atmospheric pollution in Venice (Contini, 2011). The atmosphere plays a huge part in controlling rainfall and temperature, which influences erosion patterns and the sea level. When atmospheric pollution increases, erosion intensifies, and sea level fluctuations become more severe. However, the atmosphere is not the only natural aspect being harmed by ships. According to Venice's 2009 congressional report, wastes such as hazardous sewage, oil-contaminated substances, and ballast water were all constantly discarded into the Venice Lagoon (Katsioloudis, 2010). To put the substantial amount of water pollution into perspective, The National Bureau of Transportation Statistics, found that a 3000-passenger cruise ship can generate 210,000 gallons of sewage and 25,000 gallons of oily bilge water in the span of seven days (Ahmed, 2022b). Additionally, this data does not account for the increased average passenger capacity of cruise ships, nor the copious gallons of sewage created by visitors during their time off the ships and in the city. Moreover, such a large amount of pollution directly creates another factor that causes erosion to Venice's shorelines. Plant barriers cannot withstand poor water conditions caused by cruise ships. Therefore, water pollution causes them to lose their support towards surrounding shorelines.


High levels of pollution also put a strain on Venetians. Living in an environment plagued by polluted water and air is both unhealthy and undesirable, which is the main reason why Venice's population is decreasing. With the descending population, is the sinking economy. Fewer citizens create a decline in a region's workforce, supply variation, and association with modern-day technology (Wilmoth, 2022). To conclude, cruise ships create a large amount of atmospheric and aquatic pollution, which amplifies the damage to Venice's sinking shoreline, descending population, and plummeting economy. To prevent further harm to the environment and locals, cruise ships should be banned from docking in Venice, Italy.



Considering intensive research, the harms to Venice's physical and economic stability are clearly being caused by an outside object: cruise ships (Antoninus, para. 40, 1902). As a result of shoreline destruction, significant tourism pressures, and considerable contribution to pollution, cruise ships should be banned from docking in the city. This application will preserve Venice for a longer duration, making it a historic wonder that is here to stay.

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Slaughter Conditions on Poultry Species

Isabella Emami

Introduction

Poultry species have been one of the most influential livestock species in the world because of their diversity, breeding ease, products, nutrition content, and growing processing efficiency around the world. Birds such as chickens that are typically used in production are not defined as a breed but rather by their lines and can be divided into two areas of production, which are eggs and meat. As a result of their ability to breed well, growth efficiency, and nutrient content, meat birds can be processed quickly and in large numbers. The production taking place within poultry slaughterhouses is brisk and convenient to consumers, but can be improved to support the well-being of the birds. While slaughter conditions on poultry species are economically beneficial to producers due to their efficiency and effectiveness, they compromise the well-being of the birds and pose consumer concerns due to their perceived brutality and stressful nature.

Other than poultry, many species undergo processing and are protected under the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, a slaughter law passed in 1958 that requires that food animals be treated and handled humanely at slaughter plants while also being provided a fast and efficient death. The law is also enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture and was amended in 1978 to allow the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service inspectors to stop the slaughter of animals if they believe an animal is undergoing inhumane treatment (USDA, 2024). However, the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act does not protect poultry because poultry are not a livestock species.

Poultry meat production tends to be regarded as a quick and efficient process but, at times, can lack proper reforms to make the process better for everyone. There are three main phases of poultry slaughter: pre-stunning, stunning, and bleeding. The pre-stunning process involves the arrival, unloading, confinement, and removal of birds from confinement (Alvarez et al., 2019). Stunning is a form of restraint put on the birds by rendering them unconscious, which can be done in one of three ways: controlled modified atmosphere, electrical, or mechanical. Controlled atmosphere stunning is when producers render the birds unconscious via gas. Electrical stunning is when the birds are put through a low-voltage current to put them into a comatose state. Mechanical stunning involves an apparatus that causes a concussion upon the animal to numb the bird temporarily (Alvarez et al., 2019). Bleeding is completed after stunning and done by slitting the throat of




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I'm a St. Louis native and graduating Animal Sciences major here at Mizzou, and an incoming veterinary student at Mizzou's College of Veterinary Medicine. Animal Welfare is a topic I care deeply about and seek to bring about positive changes through writing and continuing my education in animal care. Outside of school, I intern and volunteer at animal rescue organizations such as the Wildlife Rescue Center and Central Missouri Humane Society. When I'm not volunteering and studying, I enjoy running, skiing, and playing with my French Bulldog Gabby. After completing veterinary school, I hope to specialize in veterinary dermatology or oncology.

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the bird and making sure all of its blood is out of its body (Alvarez et al., 2019). While the process is performed in a timely manner, the humane aspect is absent.

Despite what the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act states, poultry has one of the highest slaughter rates of any other livestock species. For example, in 2018, over nine billion birds were slaughtered in the United States alone (Chan et al., 2022). In addition, poultry are consciously hung upside down and stunned during slaughter, break their legs because of their shackles, or are still alive while being plunged into scald tanks (Chan et al., 2022). While there are many adverse effects associated with poultry production, the technology associated with slaughter methods used today has generated significant growth of production and promoted a positive outlook on the future of the poultry industry. The poultry slaughter assembly line style has forever shaped how birds are processed and indicates positive economic growth within the poultry industry (Mottet and Tempio, 2017). The poultry industry is lacking reform for how they process chickens, but how poultry are processed is helping with increased demand from consumers.

Benefits of poultry slaughter


Poultry production benefits producers because of the projected demand for poultry products in the future. Not only is the United States' population growing, but also the world, so domestic and foreign exports are expected and desired for human growth and function (Mottet and Tempio, 2017). From 1995 to 2005, poultry production and consumption drastically increased worldwide (Mottet and Tempio, 2017). Chicken, turkey, duck, and goose meat have increased by 53%, 13%, 67%, and 53% respectively (Mottet and Tempio, 2017). The statistics do not include poultry going into value-added products, which would dramatically increase poultry consumption statistics. Value-added products include further production aside from preparing the whole bird for sale, such as chicken nuggets and pre-prepared lunch and dinner meals. Additionally, chicken meat production has increased by over 38% within the ten-year period (Scanes, 2007). The consequent increase includes more birds involved in production to support both the growth and demand of the meat bird industry.

Due to the increased demand and production of poultry, producers within the industry are encouraged not to look at poultry as more than products that will be slaughtered because of their centrality to their workforce. As a result, producers and slaughterhouse workers are suggested to undergo a 'de-animalization' process to become more detached from the animals since poultry differs from domesticated animals such as cats and dogs (Hamilton and McCabe, 2016). The poultry industry looks at the birds being processed as 'food-in-waiting', and previous studies have shown that looking at poultry species as more than a food product is detrimental to production practices and projected production growth (Hamilton and McCabe, 2016). Looking at the birds as more than food could cause a slowing of production and inhibit the supply of the growing demand the public puts on the industry.

Inhibiting poultry production is shown to be detrimental to the world's economy and food supply. Poultry is one of the world's cheapest food products compared to pork and beef, and diminishing the efficient production now will make poultry products more inaccessible to low-income individuals who are already struggling financially (Mottet and Tempio, 2017). Poultry is also one of the most nutritious proteins on the market, and removing poultry products from store shelves will take away healthy alternatives for consumers (Mottet and Tempio, 2017). The removal of poultry products could potentially result in a health decline in world populations as other meat sources, such as pork and beef, do not contain the same nutritional content as poultry products. While there are many reasons why poultry production should stay in place, there could be improvements instilled in slaughterhouses to better treat and handle poultry species compared to previous norms and regulations throughout history.

Drawbacks of poultry slaughter

While there are many positive aspects associated with poultry slaughter, there are better ways to improve the welfare of poultry species throughout the process and change public perception towards the industry. An animal's welfare is determined by its overall mental and physical happiness by taking care of the animal through actions such as meeting



the animal's basic needs and allowing the animal to express natural behaviors. One suggestion for improving the welfare of poultry during meat production is for producers and legislators to allocate more of their resources and goals towards decreasing the painful nature associated with poultry slaughter conditions. The birds will be less stressed, and consumers will be given access to higher-quality meat (Fuseini et al., 2023). The pre-slaughter conditions of poultry due to rough handling cause the birds to experience acute stress. The stress caused within the birds can then lead to the final product of the bird exhibiting pale, soft exudative meat, which is seen as inferior quality when being assessed by meat graders. Pale, soft exudative meats have an abnormal color and are prone to losing much water, creating an overall dry product (Fuseini et al., 2023). Through suggested government reform, better poultry products could be available to consumers.

Furthermore, the environment in which birds are processed is stressful and anxiety-provoking from the bird's point of view during processing. During the pre-slaughter phase, birds are stacked all around each other in unsanitary conditions to the point where fecal matter is dropping on other birds (Alvarez et al., 2019). In addition, the stunning and bleeding phases can be unsuccessful in rendering the bird unconscious and dead, respectively (Alvarez et al., 2019). As a result, the bird is forced to move through each stage of the slaughter process fully conscious and capable of feeling severe, unpleasant pain (Alvarez et al., 2019). The conditions in which poultry species are placed throughout production concoct unpleasant images for consumers.

Consumers feel uncomfortable with poultry processing because of the problems and harm that can happen to the bird. Most consumers view birds as being housed in small, tightly packed crates during extreme weather conditions (PETA, 2024). Consumers also tend to think about how many birds suffer broken wings and legs due to the handling of the animals by the workers (PETA, 2024). Death from undue stress or issues that can arise during processing, such as not being dead upon slaughter, is also a common concern for consumers (PETA, 2024). There are seemingly many concerns associated with poultry processing upon evaluation of events leading up to the death of the animals. However, the conditions in which birds are placed and consumer perception of the poultry industry could change for the better to create a better outlook for the industry.

Summary

The meat production of poultry species is vital for the economy of many world nations and the well-being of individuals looking for a cheap, nutritious protein source to be used in meals. Poultry is one of the cheapest food products available on the market, and taking that source away could lead to severe imbalances and problems within the processing of livestock and the lives of consumers. Alternatively, the current nature of poultry meat processing could be changed for the better due to the ostensibly poor conditions of the birds' cages that allow fecal matter to fall on birds during transportation to the processing facilities. The birds' cages that are causing them to endure broken legs and wings could also be a factor in negative public perception, and re-engineering cages to make the birds more comfortable is a possibility. While a neutral third party cannot say what the birds are going through from a production standpoint since they cannot be there, consumer perception puts poultry processing in a negative light because of all the negative possibilities and aspects an animal goes through during production. By improving the birds' lives before and during processing, consumer perceptions could lean towards a more positive light and boost morale for an ever-growing industry. Despite all the factors that make bird processing both positive and negative, promoting animal welfare while supporting the growing population and economy of consumers is of the utmost importance. As a result, many solutions could be put in place to find the delicate balance between keeping the birds as comfortable as possible while they are alive and supporting the needs of consumers.

Recommendation

The poultry industry can be improved by making poultry species more comfortable during slaughter by thinking more about the birds than the process itself. Poultry processes can consider manual slaughter, comfortable transportation housing, better handling, and consumer assurance to create a better environment and outlook on poultry slaughter while ensuring optimal bird comfort.



One example of more humane treatment towards poultry species is manual slaughter in place of the stunning phase. Manual slaughter is a better process than controlled modified atmosphere, electrical, or mechanical stunning methods, which, in the past, have proven to be ineffective in rendering birds unconscious. Manual slaughter is quick and painless for the bird while also ensuring that the bird is dead throughout the rest of production (Berg and Raj, 2015). As a result, the birds are assured not to be alive during the more physically intense aspects of production, such as de-feathering, blood draining, and organ removal. Being alive throughout the post-slaughter process causes undue stress and kills the birds in an inhumane way, as they can still feel what is happening to them.

Another way the processing industry can make poultry species more comfortable during meat production is through accommodations put in their cages while awaiting their destination at the slaughterhouse. The accommodations include more space, no holes, waterers, feeders, and a resting area. By providing accommodations, the birds will be less stressed, have space to move around to work out their nervous energy, and not have fecal matter splattering on them from other birds. Additionally, the extra space, lack of holes, and resting areas from the improved cages will prevent bone fractures and create an improved, humane environment for the birds (Christensen et al., 2016). The re-designed cages for the birds will make them more comfortable, allow workers to handle them more efficiently, and increase meat grading scores according to the quality and quantity of the poultry products.

A third enhancement to meat bird processing is putting more regulations in place to ensure that the birds are handled carefully and comfortably so that they are less stressed throughout production. Poultry processors can also ensure that the birds are being appropriately processed by adding more supervisors to ensure the work being done by the slaughterhouse workers is correct and complete to prevent any live birds from undergoing painful post-mortem procedures. Laws can even be put in place to allow for the humane slaughter of poultry species since the Humane Slaughter Act does not cover them. By taking the legislative route, the well-being and livelihood of the birds is protected while improving the public's perception of poultry slaughter.

Lastly, consumer perceptions of poultry slaughter can change by allowing the public to take an up-close look at poultry processing and being more public about what meat bird processing entails. One way consumers can be informed is by making information about poultry processing more accessible and easy to understand through videos and credible websites that take the consumer through the entire process.

Applying solutions to problems within the industry would resolve the issue, resulting in less stressed birds that would provide consumers with delicious, high-quality meat and assurance that no suffering was inflicted on the animals during processing.

Conclusion

Over many years, the productivity of poultry processing has proven economically beneficial to producers but looked down upon by consumers because of the stress put on the birds during the slaughtering process due to perceived negligence and abuse. The efficiency of poultry slaughter provides the U.S. with economic support while presenting consumers with food security and nutritional benefits. However, poultry slaughter provides chickens with abundant obstacles because of the lack of measures to improve the quality of life of the birds during meat production, which has caused consumer disapproval over the past couple of years. By improving the various aspects of poultry slaughter, consumers can be reassured that the poultry they are consuming is of the highest quality and produced in a cruelty-free environment. While a lot of Americans enjoy an abundance of poultry products, they don't want to associate their eating experience with the guilt of animal suffering. Therefore, consumers must consider the mechanisms that need to be implemented to promote the welfare of birds before slaughter by making them more comfortable and less stressed.



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Raw Materials: Analyzing Linguistic Codes as Methods of Expression

Janine Ruszkowski

It's difficult to imagine the concept of identity existing at all if there were no language to describe it. One's manner of speaking can be considered the packaging label used to identify their skills, class, occupation, or how, when and where they grew up. It's not necessarily the literal content of one's speech that's giving all of this information away: it's the fashion in which the content is said that is explaining to others that we are independent and 100% Organic, aggressive and Contents Flammable, or Fragile: Handle With Care. Effective analysis of someone's personal use and modification of English begins with direct questioning, but also careful discernment in order to catch nuances.

Identity, like language, is ever-changing – ironic, considering the ways in which we use language to sort our identities into such neat little boxes. Is it, though? When confronted with uncertainty, people typically default to the basics because those basics are known and comforting. Our language labels don't have to be prisons: they're simply storage containers for the many identities we take on throughout our lives (like "son," "husband," or "widower"), or perhaps even on an hour-by-hour basis (like "customer," "audience member," or "babysitter").

Jinju and I met several months ago on a whim, because on that particular day we had both just so happened to choose pool lanes that were directly next to each other. She was a foreign exchange student who attended the University of Missouri for one semester. I was very interested in learning about her adventures overseas and in communication. We sat down to discuss just this, half a week after our initial meeting. At the time of our interview, she had been in the U.S. for about three weeks. I first asked if she spoke in the same manner in every situation.

She took a thoughtful pause before answering. "Um, no." She replied, laughing softly. "Actually, with my family, usually I speak about the good things that I did because I don't want the parents worried about me. And with my friends I would tell... things about me." The family she speaks of lives in Incheon, South Korea, located a convenient 17 miles away from Seoul National University, the regular institution she attends. Evidently, the desire to appease your parents but stay "in the loop" with your friends is cross-cultural. Jinju chose her words very carefully, as it's possible she wanted to maintain a level of formality with me. We were budding friends, but still acquaintances nevertheless. "I think it is different because, um, with my family I will tell about good things I did. I




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Janine Ruszkowski is an award-winning writer and English major currently attending her third year at the University of Missouri. Her works commonly feature topics such as food, travel, relationships and language. In addition to writing, she is an avid swimmer and reader of classic novels. When not in Columbia, she lives at home in Illinois with her family and two cats.

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don't want them to worry about me. I will probably- I will be careful of speaking because there are so many people and they don't know me or know me much," she said.

Most people alter their verbal mannerisms depending on who's listening. With certain audiences, it may be more socially acceptable to use your chosen vernacular in one way than you would with another. However, when speaking a different language altogether, different linguistic choices may be done more so out of necessity than a desire to be perceived a certain way.

Jinju continued, saying, "I have- I am not good at speaking English so I want to talk many things, but I can't..."

"Articulate?" I suggested.

"Yeah, yeah. Particularly think about the words or, yeah, sentences, so it has limited..." her voice sped up and I didn't quite catch what she said next. "I think when I speak more fluently, people will like me. It is of course. Is it question right answer?"

As our conversation continued, a boy walked by. He made a cheerful remark to Jinju in Korean. Her face lit up. She chattered back to him in one or two sentences. I didn't say anything, but smiled at him as we met eyes. She told me that she had recognized the boy as a fellow exchange student, who reminded her just then that there was an event the next day that they were to attend.

If someone had ever spoken Korean within my earshot prior to this, I wouldn't have known because it would not have ever occurred to me to pay attention. What I had heard, I was surprised and delighted by. To my American ears, Korean sounded airy and musical, like wind chimes rustling in a breeze. I couldn't understand a word of it, yet the chipper intonations of a short, friendly exchange were easily recognizable, regardless of language. Jinju spoke more confidently in her native tongue, but her jovial tone carried over well into English. Her delivery of speech changed as she switched between English and Korean, but her personality was distinguishable in both.

It was around this time I became familiar with the concept of code-meshing: an approach to communication in which people combine their dialects to use regardless of circumstance, instead of switching back and forth depending on the situation. Code-meshing is spoken highly of by scholars, because it allows for people to embrace their intersectionality within different social circles. The conversation reminded me of the method because Jinju's delivery of speech changed as she switched between English and Korean, but her warm character remained constant.

"Can you tell me something about American slang?" Jinju asked me.

"Of course. What is it?"

"What is gotcha?"


"I... I'm sorry?"

"I was in a restaurant the other day, and someone say to manager, 'I gotcha.' What does that mean?"

"Oh. It's a faster way for Americans to say 'I got you.' When someone says 'I got you,' or 'gotcha,' they are really saying, 'I understand.'"

"Ah. Okay," She beamed at me. "I gotcha!"

In situations in which someone's identity belongs to the minority of the group, often they will imagine themselves




through the eyes of the majority. Using this awareness of how they are being perceived, they will modify their self expression to assimilate with the majority. They use the majority's values as a guideline for their behavior as opposed to their or their identity's own. This can create what's known in the academic community as a double consciousness. To have a double consciousness is to manage multiple linguistic identities. It can result in an urge to socially push back, to merge the double self into one identity, so that one no longer has to hide their minority status. In *Language Diversity and Academic Writing*, Dr. Vershawn Young writes, "Double consciousness shows up in one of its most pronounced... forms in both the theory and practice of teaching oral and written communication to Black students... Code-switching is a strategy whereby Black students are taught... so that they can learn to switch from one to the other in different settings." (pg. 326) Black students who make up the racial minority in predominantly White institutions often feel pressure to disingenuinely code-switch so that they may fit in with their White peers. Similarly, a foreigner in a predominantly English-speaking country may also struggle with the insecurity that stems from having a double consciousness.

My friend apologized a few times over the course of our conversation for her English-speaking skills, which she said were "not very good." She was highly aware of her own double consciousness, stemming from having to change her communication – in which her level of proficiency varied – frequently. This likely led her to wanting to compensate for any perceived linguistic flaws by apologizing. Being an English major, normally I'm a stickler for things like grammar and pronunciation. Of course, I don't follow the rules flawlessly, especially in casual settings, but I make a concerted effort to try. Despite my formalist language values, our differences didn't make me feel even the slightest bit uncomfortable: I felt only empathy and admiration. I had previously assumed that, linguistically, people always default to comfortable, easy choices because that's what's most familiar to them. Yet after speaking with Jinju, I came to recognize that many will also exert significant effort to express themselves in ways unfamiliar to them so that they may foster connections. Just how different would the world be if, instead of examining others' linguistic patterns with judgment and scrutiny, we applauded their courage? If we did, the rules of standard spoken English may become broader to accommodate them. A fitting reward it seems, as it takes a lot of bravery to step outside of your original packaging to try something new.

After the interview, I came to theorize that across languages and demographics, certain social expectations surrounding the act of speaking are nearly universal. When discussing the act of consciously changing your linguistic mannerisms in order to assimilate, one would think that the process only happens under very specific circumstances, and that those in the linguistic or demographic majority are all hyper-aware of what counts as correct English. In reality, I don't believe that the people in the majority know why they follow the rules the way they do, or who established them in the first place. Those in the minority may have to work harder for it, but members of the linguistic majority are similarly vying to fit in and impress their peers. People share much more in common than they think, linguistically and otherwise. This theory seemed plausible based on what I already knew, but there was still research to be done before it could be proven. To get a second opinion, I called David.

David is a 53-year-old emergency medical technician from Illinois. He has a Bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He identifies as politically independent. He needs glasses, but doesn't wear them. We share identical clefts in our chins and a taste for cold pizza. I should know: he's my dad. In a way, I knew his answers to my questions before he even said them, and I knew it was my late grandmother's blunt, fiercely loving voice shining through his when he spoke.

On the question of whether or not he spoke the same way in every situation, he replied, "Absolutely not. I mean, you would be ridiculous if you spoke the same way in every situation. A lot of that is, you need to have a sixth sense to read a room. Some situations call for different tones of voice or inflection, and [you must take into account] whoever it is you're talking to. It depends on the person, the situation, and your ability to read a room."



The way he speaks at home with family is most definitely not the way he speaks at work. “It’s almost like comparing apples to oranges,” he said. “At work, I don’t speak the same way all the time. I speak a different way to my coworkers than my boss, and a different way for patients,” he paused, then added playfully, “I speak a different way to bums who are trying to fight me.” I chuckled when he said this as I continued to jot down notes. “When you were a kid, I spoke to you in a way that would make sense to a kid. You and [your brother] are adults now, but even though you’re adults, I speak a different way to you than with Mom—” he’s a fast talker, and I only hoped my scribbling was able to keep up with his rapid speech. “—but that line is already getting blurred.”

It made sense for my father to change the way he spoke around his two adult children to reflect our changing relationship. Hearing him describe his methodology led me to consider the ways in which I could approach the evolving social dynamics in my life. A deeper grasp of linguistic codes could help me understand the social interactions in professional spaces, but it could also help me connect more effectively with my loved ones. Perhaps I could better understand where they’re coming from, and meet them halfway.

“Do you feel like one of the ways you speak is valued more highly than the others?” I asked.

“I would say yes... For example, think about someone using swear words a lot. Immediately when people hear you say that, your image is diminished. On the other hand, if you have a wide vocabulary, people look highly upon that. I know, because when I hear someone speak, I value certain forms of communication more highly than others, but this is just my own way of perceiving others.”

Where other peoples’ code-switching habits swing like a pendulum, my father’s flips like a light switch. Well-seasoned in the art of the code-switch, he keeps a distinct divide between the professional and the personal. Code-switching is less forgiving than meshing, because unlike meshing, there is a decided change between codes rather than a merging. In February 2018, student Katelynn Duggins gave a speech for TEDx Talks on the topic of code-switching. “People often define code-switching as the change in linguistics, but to me, it’s more than that. It’s the way you dress, the way you talk, the way you present yourself in certain situations,” she said.

To further emphasize her point, she gave the following example: “Businessmen and [business]women, you wouldn’t go to China with only American customs and expect people to be comfortable or want to do business with you. No, you learn some of their customs. You get comfortable with their way of doing things so that they know you care.” In its straightforward delivery, this quote of hers in particular reminded me of my dad’s typical linguistic mannerisms. Her black, female, teenaged words could have just as easily been my middle-aged white male father’s. Duggins’ sharp perception combined with my dad’s firsthand observation further solidified my theory on the urge to code-switch being present across cultures.

Duggins closed her speech on the point that “not many people know how to code-switch, let alone code-switch and be themselves... People respect you for trying to fit in, for trying to survive in that situation... you don’t change your morals... you change your demeanor.” The motive behind code-switching can arise not just from a need to fit in, but a desire to be polite and meet your peers where they are.

Through their speech and its qualities, my two interviewees let the facets of their identities flow. Thanks to their contributions, I finished up my research with the newfound knowledge that language holds two concepts in either hand: identity in one, and community in the other. The three share a symbiotic relationship that allows them to flourish together. Language itself is the raw material given to us as children by our community, that we must decide for ourselves how to craft our identities with. The way one talks is something honed over the course of one’s life, thus, we have years and years to learn how to mold this ability to our needs. To express yourself verbally involves much more than diligently following standard grammatical rules. It involves knowing when to adapt and how to stay true to your roots. The phrases, the dialect, the little mannerisms and the slight variations in everyone’s speech all serve to make



language simply one very long and interconnected game of Telephone.

As a writer, I'll keep these experiences in mind over the course of my academic and professional career. I've found that context and perception play an important role in verbal communication, a role so important it is on par with the spoken word itself. Going forth, I will be able to write with a better understanding of how real verbal conveyance works, and the best methods in which to present my writing and research alike. In my personal life, being exposed to different dialects of English has helped increase my empathy towards people who don't talk exactly the way I do. It's simply nice to know that I've found a new method to connect with my loved ones, and it's nice to know that I have full autonomy over what I say and how. You may not be able to make your writing or speaking perfect, but you can always make it yours.

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Healthy Choices at Mizzou Market: Is It Impossible?

David Sternfeld

The Mizzou markets at Mizzou are a staple of the community for many students. It is an easy way for them to get a quick snack or get some groceries for the meals they want to make that week. However, there aren't many healthy food options available, and the healthy options are not financially feasible for the average student. While the Mizzou Market is a convenient resource for students, its lack of late-night hours and limited product variety fail to meet student needs. One student noted that the Markets have "great snack options, but no real food or meals offered." By increasing the inventory diversity, lowering prices, and altering hours of operation, the Mizzou Markets could better cater to the students at the University of Missouri.

Eating healthy and getting more exercise is a goal that many students have coming into college. It is important to them to eat well and exercise in order to improve their mental and physical health. Every freshman is required to buy a meal plan, which can be used throughout Mizzou's campus at Mizzou Markets and Campus Dining Services restaurants. The Mizzou Markets offer a quick and easy way to get food for either a quick snack or for any meal during the day. The Markets offer many diverse food options, including fresh fruit every week, which varies based on the shipments they receive from their shipping company, Crazy Fresh. The company will make shipments to Mizzou every week containing items it has ordered, however sometimes the shipments aren't always what was originally ordered. One manager, who requested to remain anonymous, spoke about the shipments saying, "We make orders from the company, but sometimes things are either missing or they have gotten replaced with other items. It happens a lot with our fruit, which is why we often have the same fruit every week. The manager reported receiving more oranges than ordered, less apples, and more bags of chips. This allowed the chips to be restocked more and leads more students to reach for the less healthier options.

As the days go on throughout the week, before another shipment arrives, many students are less likely to pick the fresh fruit option available in the market because they have grown brown and do not look as appetizing as when they first arrived on the shelves. Mizzou Market stores its fresh fruit in air temperature baskets next to the checkout counter. According to an article published by the Nebraska State Government, "apples ripen about four times as fast at 50°F as at 32°F..." (Nebraska State Government). The fresh fruit at Mizzou Markets are stored around 72°F, which means it is only fresh for about




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My name is David Sternfeld. I am an undergraduate student from Charleston, South Carolina. I am pursuing a bachelors degree in news production at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Post graduation I plan to produce sports or news at a news station.

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four hours after it is received from the shipment trucks. The freshness can be detected by visual clues, such as its color being brown or appearing softer, as well as not being as crisp as it once was. The reduction in freshness time makes the fruit look less desirable for purchase, and as such leads to more food waste. According to a study done by the American Marketing Association, if food looks less desirable, consumers may “avoid consuming healthy (vs. nonhealthy) about-to-expire food, resulting in increased disposal intentions.”(Kim). The best way to help keep fruit fresh for as long as possible is to store it refrigerated in the refrigerators that are already placed in the Markets. This may cause one unintended side effect for the Markets; however, as they will run low on stock due to the higher demand. As the demand increases, the price of the fruit will inevitably increase due to the lower stock.

At the multiple markets across campus, in addition to fresh fruit, students can find precut fruit in packages located in the refrigerated section. Some of these options include pineapple, watermelon, and a fruit salad. These items are some of the most expensive items in the entire store, only being outpriced by a select few frozen meal items. Prices will fluctuate slightly throughout the semester based on the demand, however the average price of the packaged fruit has remained around \$7.99. The Mizzou Markets offer a 20% discount to anyone who is using a dining plan, which many feel is not discounted enough. At most of the restaurants that fall under Campus Dining Services(CDS), which provides students with their meal plan, students who make purchases with their meal plan receive a 50% discount on their purchase. The higher total price with the discounts applied makes many students hesitant to purchase these healthier foods due to their higher price. On the basic plans that most freshman students receive when they enter Mizzou, students are allotted \$925 per semester. If a student were to eat on campus everyday, they would only be allotted about \$8 per day. The dining halls such as Plaza 900 and Restaurants at Southwest cost \$6 per entrance with the student plan, which means that a student would overspend and have troubles at the end of the semester when they have either run out of money or are almost out of their dining plan. The high cost of these healthier foods at the Mizzou Markets makes students feel discouraged about eating healthier. In a survey of Mizzou students from all across campus, one student noted that, “It kind of tempts me to make unhealthy decisions like getting candy when I shouldn’t.” Many students reported feeling similarly, as the more unhealthy foods in the market cost less. For example, students can buy a soda and a Hershey's bar at the Mizzou Market in the Student Center for \$4.98 before the discount is applied to the purchase. This is starkly contrasted with the cost of a container of cut fruit, such as the pineapple. The packaged fruit is one of the healthier options that is offered in the market, however its high price drives many students to go for the candy bar and soda instead. The Market is sometimes the only option open at the time for students, and as such they choose the less expensive option to save money for later in the semester.

Mizzou Market’s hours of operation have shifted over the last few years. After relocating from Hawthorn Hall in 2023 to the student center, Mizzou Market Central changed its hours of closing from 11pm to 9pm. As the Maneater’s Sterling Sewell wrote in her article about the move, “Students often have classes and organizations that last late into the evening. Cutting the market’s available evening hours would be a detriment to students’ needs” (Sewell, 2023). The only options available to students after 8pm when many clubs and organizations have completed their meetings is often only Pizza & MO and Wings & MO, both of which are located on a side of campus away from most of the dorms. The only other CDS option that is available to students after 8pm is the Mizzou Markets, which are often short on stock by the end of the day. The Mizzou Market Central, where most students go for the markets, changed its hours at the beginning of 2024 and now is only open until 8pm. The options available for students after their clubs and extracurricular activities have commenced do not have many healthy options for students during these hours which serves as a determinant to their physical health and their diet. When students look for dinner after 8pm, and the only CDS location that is open is the Mizzou Market with their small selection of “real food or meals”, students feel discouraged and decide to opt for an unhealthy option that does not serve the same purpose as a healthy meal. One student noted that “The Mizzou market near my dorm is Emporium and they run out of a lot quite often. it’s the only one open when I get off of work most days”.

The solutions to help Mizzou students eat healthier, fresher foods are very important for their mental and physical health. First, one solution to this problem would be to store the fresh fruit in the refrigerator section that is already



built in the Mizzou Markets. Second, by reducing the price of the packaged fruits and vegetables, more students would purchase the items. By allowing students more flexibility to buy healthier options throughout the grab and go markets, Mizzou students would have the ability to take care of their physical health.

Ultimately, while Mizzou Markets offer a convenient food access location for students, the current operation fails to support the health and wellness needs of an otherwise health-conscious student body. Between few healthy offerings available, healthy offerings being more expensive than junk food, and fewer late-night offerings for those unplanned nighttime snacks, students have no choice but to make unhealthy selections. In order for these important changes to happen, Mizzou Markets will not only need to have their hours changed by the university, but the university will also need to contract local supermarkets in order to get the fresh fruit in better conditions than they are currently in. In addition, in order to upgrade the refrigeration section in each of the markets, a donation would need to be made to upgrade the space to accommodate the influx of new items that require to be refrigerated. As such, should Mizzou Markets properly refrigerate perishables, lower healthy options prices, and change the hours of operation to last longer into the evening, Mizzou can change the current mindset of management to something more conducive to the health and wellness of its students.

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