

# AAPI IN-DEPTH

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE AAPI staff, students share stories

I didn't connect with my Korean heritage."

However, racism has surged and hate crimes have become a daily routine for Asian Americans with the spread of the coronavirus. Reports show that the AAPI hate reporting center received 3,795 incidents of discrimination from March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021, which is only a fraction considering how many incidents go unreported. Of those 3,795 incidents, 68.1% was reported as verbal harassment, 20.5% as shunning, 11.1% as physical assault, 8.5% as civil rights violations, and 6.8% as online harassment. And although a recent study from the San Bernardino California State University showed that San Jose's number of reported AAPI hate incidents rose from 4 to 10, there are still so many incidents that go unreported. An online Bear Witness poll with 114 voters showed that 36 of them had seen or experienced Anti-Asian prejudice.

"It's not surprising as xenophobia has always existed, but Covid 19 and past comments regarding the origins of the virus have allowed people to act on their true feelings," said assistant principal **Loan Ly Hong**.

Although many students are glad they do not need to face this racism in person, the hate coming from online communities have become more common.

"I've had girls comment on my TikTok videos telling me I eat dogs and bats, telling me that my ancestors and I caused the virus, and calling me racist things in general," said junior Vietnamese Catherine Tran. "I've gotten two death threats over the past three months because people say that since I'm Asian, I caused the virus."

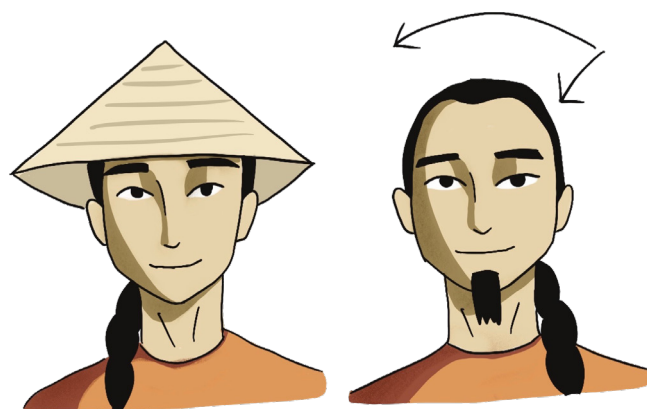
Death threats have carried an exaggerated dread since the Georgia spa shooting, the countless beatings and deaths of the elderly, the killing of **The Nguyen** in San Jose, the shooting of 19 year old Jessica Dimalanta in San Francisco, and so many more all across the country.

"The rise in discrimination towards Asians and Asian Americans makes me terrified for not only myself and my family, but also for all Asians in general," said Tran. "I fear for my parent's safety whenever they go out to run errands or go to work."

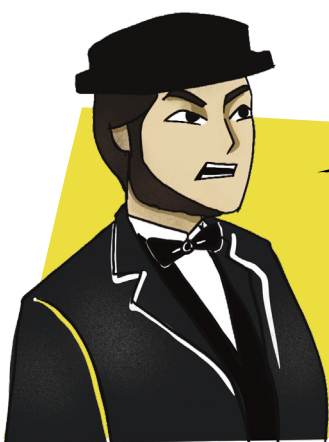
This thought of being the next victim, or their loved ones being next to get verbally or physically harassed has induced fear throughout the Asian American community. However, social worker **Kevin Nguyen** has tried to focus on the things and people who have positively affected his life during a difficult time and continued to express the importance of educating oneself.

"There is a long history of violence and discrimination. But I also know we come from a long history of survivors and resilience--the pan-ethnic Asian identity came out of that. And the community organized themselves once again, and mobilized to protect our elders in these more recent times," said Nguyen. "That is why we need to keep working towards true solidarity and keeping ourselves as informed as possible."

CHINESE IMMIGRANTS FIRST CAME TO THE U.S. IN THE 1850S.



THEY WERE MOSTLY WORKING CLASS MEN WHO WERE EITHER RECRUITED FOR CHEAP LABOR OR PERHAPS THEY HOPED TO STRIKE IT RICH IN THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

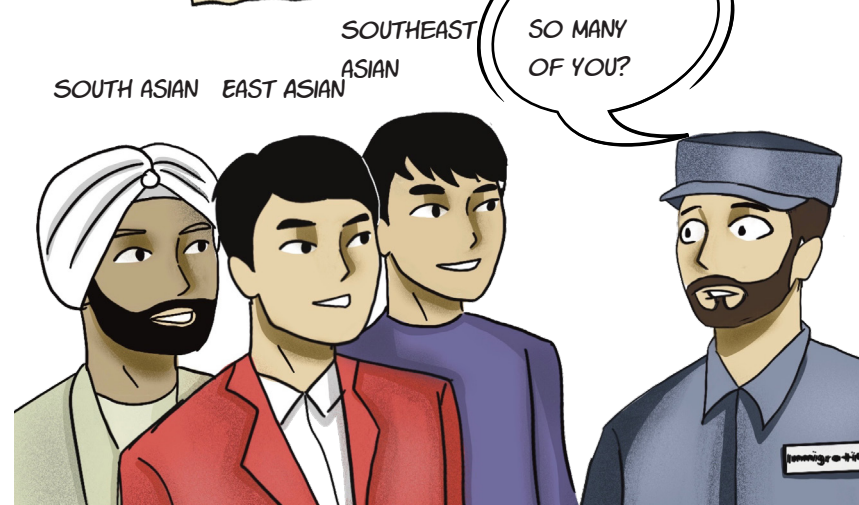


THE CHINESE TOOK AWAY OUR JOBS!

WHEN THE ECONOMY CRASHED IN 1873, THE CHINESE WERE BLAMED EVEN THOUGH THEY ONLY REPRESENTED 0.02% OF THE LABOR WORKFORCE IN THE UNITED STATES.



IN 1882, THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT WAS PASSED THAT BANNED ALL NEW CHINESE IMMIGRANTS.



AFTER THE CHINESE WERE BANNED, OTHER ASIANS SUCH AS SIKHS, FILIPINO, AND KOREAN GROUPS GREW, BUT PREDOMINANTLY JAPANESE TOOK THEIR PLACE IN SOCIETY.

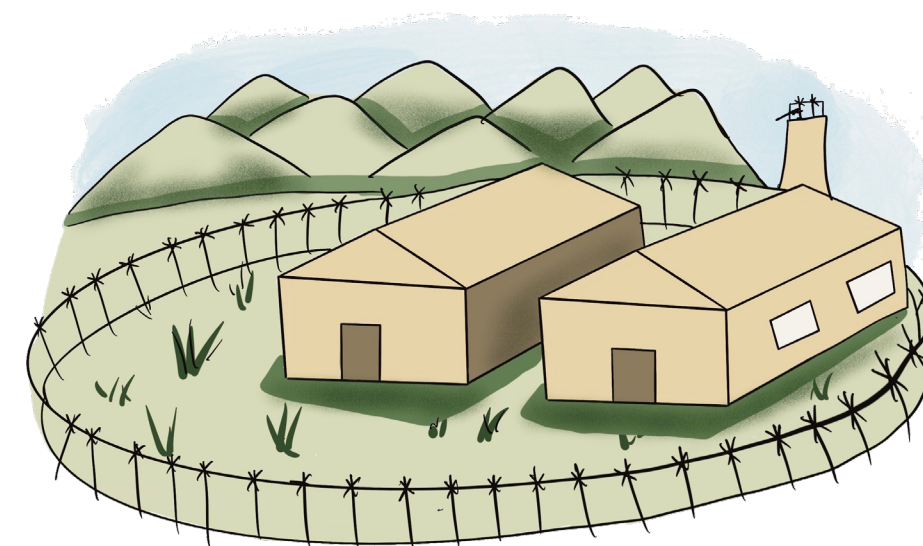


... THEY FORGOT THE FILIPINOS. IN 1924, FILIPINOS WERE THE ONLY ASIANS WHO WERE LEGALLY ALLOWED TO IMMIGRATE TO THE U.S. IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME, SMALL RIOTS BROKE OUT AGAINST THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY, INCLUDING A DEADLY BOMBING IN STOCKTON, CALIF.

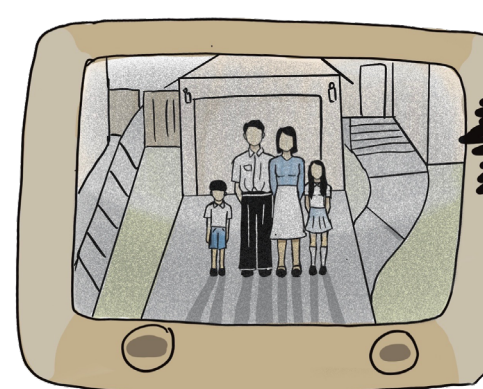
## The invention of the **MODEL MINORITY** myth

written and illustrated by Mei Lin Lee-Stahr

Some people don't believe that Asian Americans experience racism. And on the surface, through the lense of media and pop culture, it may seem that way. In reality, Asian Americans have faced racism as long as they have been in the United States.



AFTER THE WAR, AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA PUSHED THE NOTION OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN SUCCESSFUL COMEBACK. IN REALITY, IT TOOK A LONG TIME FOR JAPANESE AMERICANS TO START OVER.



LOOK AT HOW WELL THIS FAMILY HAS DONE SINCE BEING RELEASED FROM PRISON CAMP!

THE **MODEL MINORITY** MYTH WAS BORN

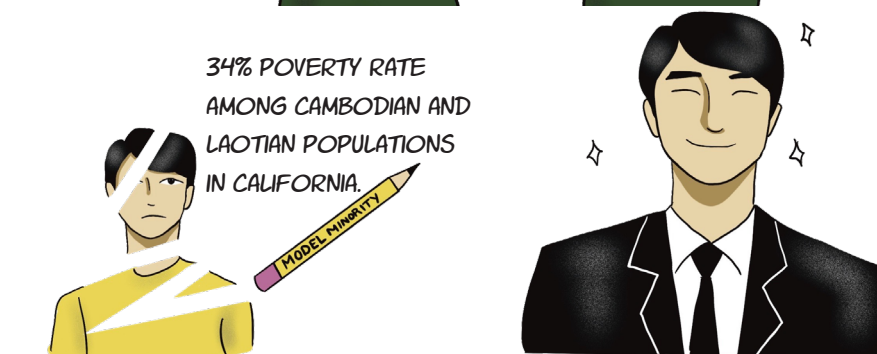


IN 1952, A NEW IMMIGRATION LAW REVERSED MANY OF THE PREVIOUS DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES. RESULTING IN A NEW WAVE OF ASIAN IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.

IN THE SPAN OF THE COLD WAR AND SUBSEQUENT WARS FOUGHT IN ASIA, FROM THE KOREAN WAR, VIETNAM WAR AND THE SECRET WAR, A NEW WAVE OF ASIAN IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED TO THE U.S.



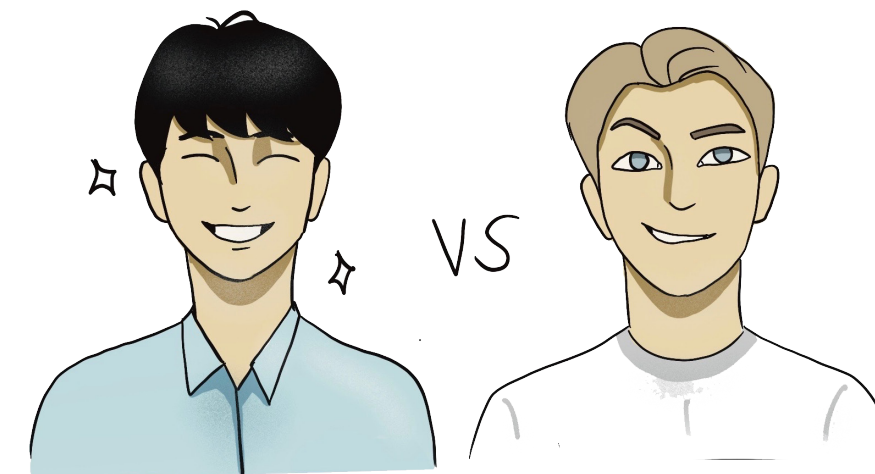
34% POVERTY RATE AMONG CAMBODIAN AND LAOTIAN POPULATIONS IN CALIFORNIA.



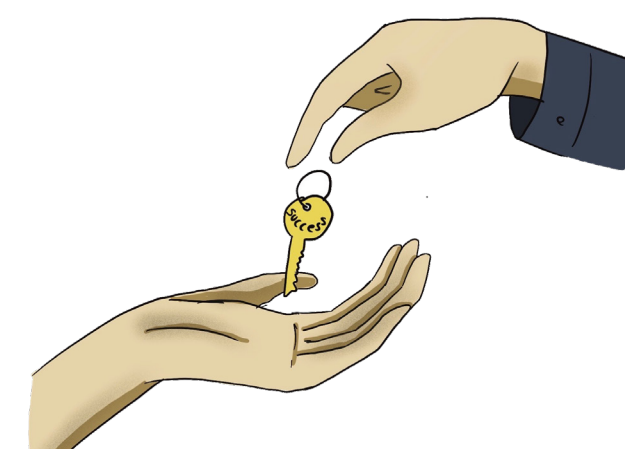
THE MYTH ERASES THE STRUGGLES THAT ASIANS FACE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SOCIOECONOMIC SPECTRUM.

IN 1942, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT ISSUED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT SENT 100,000 JAPANESE AMERICANS TO 26 PRISON CAMPS ACROSS THE WEST COAST IN RESPONSE TO HOSTILITIES FROM JAPAN DURING WORLD WAR II.

DUE TO THE ASIAN IMMIGRANT BAN, HOWEVER, AMERICAN-BORN JAPANESE AMERICANS WERE PRIMARILY THE ONES ROUNDED UP.

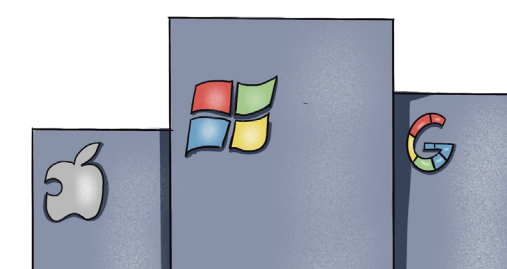
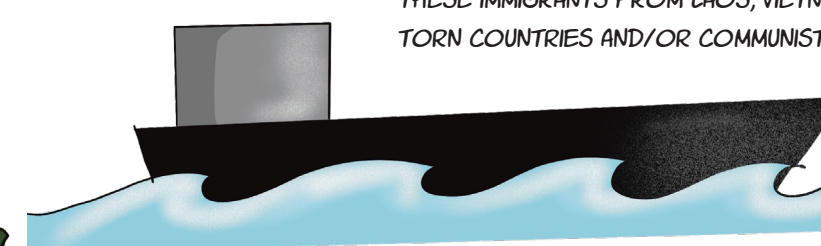


IN THE 1950S, CHINESE AMERICANS PUSHED THE IDEA OF THEIR WELL-BEHAVED KIDS, UNLIKE THE "DELINQUENT" BABY BOOMER TEENAGERS.



IN EXCHANGE FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, ASIAN AMERICANS WERE GIVEN EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION AND HOME OWNERSHIP THAT WERE NOT EXTENDED TO OTHER MINORITY GROUPS. THE **MODEL MINORITY** MYTH NOW WAS POLICY.

THESE IMMIGRANTS FROM LAOS, VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA FLED WARTORN COUNTRIES AND/OR COMMUNIST RULE.



ASIAN IMMIGRATION SINCE THE 1990S HAS STABILIZED, WITH MUCH OF THE NEW GROUP COMING FOR WORK ON H-1B VISAS. (OUT OF ALL EMPLOYED COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS IN THE U.S., 74% ARE ASIAN). THIS FURTHER PERPETUATES THE **MODEL MINORITY** MYTH

THE SUCCESS OF A SIZABLE GROUP OF ASIAN AMERICANS HAS MADE IT OKAY FOR AMERICAN SOCIETY TO IGNORE THE MYRIAD STRUGGLES THAT WE FACE EVERY DAY, FROM HIGH MENTAL ILLNESS RATES TO HIGH POVERTY RATES.

THE MODEL MINORITY MYTH HAS MADE IT HARDER FOR ASIAN AMERICANS TO NOT BE SEEN AS A COMPLAINT MONOLITHIC GROUP. OUR STRUGGLES SEEM LESS WORTHY OF ATTENTION THAN OTHERS, AND THEREFORE NOT AS IMPORTANT.

# AAPI IN-DEPTH