“Man Up” and Go To College

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OVERVIEW

 What does it mean to be a man?
  • Gender
  • Sexuality
  • Oppression
  • Language
  • Pop Culture

 Purpose: To unsettle you

 What I need from you: Honesty even if it is unpleasant.

 Note: There are no easy answers to this one!
TWO GUIDING THOUGHTS/CHALLENGES FOR THIS DISCUSSION

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”
-Socrates

“It takes more courage to examine the dark corners of your soul than it does for a soldier to fight on the battlefield. Courage to think critically, courage is the enabling virtue for any philosopher or human being in the world. Courage to think. Courage to love. Courage to Hope.”

–Dr. Cornel West

Dr. Cornel West
This is Personal: The making of men

Joaquincito (my son) and his abuelo (my dad)
GENDER AND RACE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

White v. Latino Gender Gap

- 11.2% gap
- 20.8% gap

Diagram showing gender and race trends in higher education.
TENSIONS

- Usually oppression => underrepresentation
- Chicana Feminism: Society is still structured by patriarchal assumptions
- Q: So, what in the world is happening here?????
Q: Who’s more “manly”?

- Pitbull
- Bill Gates
Q: WHO’S MORE “MANLY”?  

Ricky Martin  

Former UFC Heavyweight Champion Cain Velasquez
Q: Who is more emotional, men or women?

Actually...

- Men and women tend to be just as emotional
- Men suppress more
- This leads to...
  - Emotional ignorance
  - Frustration
  - Framing emotions as facts
Men and Help Seeking Behaviors

- Simple: Men don’t ask for help
- Q: Why?
  - Help=Weak
  - Help=I can’t
  - Help=I’m incapable
  - Help=I’m less of a man?

Language Usage:
- “Stop being a little bitch!”
- “Have some balls!”

Why do people say "Grow some balls"? Balls are weak and sensitive! If you really wanna get tough, grow a vagina! Those things take a pounding! - Betty White
“NO HOMO”.... (LONELY ISLAND)

Hey man.
Hey.
Dude you're looking pretty swoll, you been working out?
Uh yeah, why are you looking?
Oh no, not like that man, I mean, no homo.
Ohhh no homo. Cool

When you want to compliment a friend (no homo)
But you don't want that friendship to end (no homo)
To tell a dude just how you feel (no homo)
Say 'no homo' so he knows the deal (no homo)
MASCULINITY IN RELATIONSHIP TO HOMOSEXUALITY

Q: How much time have you spent saying, “That’s so gay?”

Q: What is your reaction to this picture?

Q: What is your reaction to this picture?
### Sex: Terminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Has Sex</strong></td>
<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Does Not Have Sex</strong></td>
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Trying to be “The Man”

- Problem: There can be only one “The Man”
- Problem: True progress occurs collectively
- Q: Are you willing to work if it means your individual contribution will not always be recognized?

Portrait of La Causa by Octavio Ocampo
What Does All of This Have to Do with Education?

- Education requires...
  - Students to be incomplete
  - Receive influence (especially from women)
  - Take chances
  - Make mistakes
  - Keep trying after failure

Most of these are in opposition to how we construct masculinity
SELF-DEFEATING MASCULINITY

- “I’ve got this…”
- Overestimating ability
- Not trying instead of failing
- Help=I didn’t earn this
- Knee-jerk reactions when masculinity challenged
- Pursuing limited notions of being “a man” (i.e., not education)
**Opportunity for Engagement**

- Q: How are things going for you this semester?
- Better Statement: *Tell me about your semester*
- Follow through is HUGE!
OPPORTUNITY FOR DIALOGUE

- What does it mean for me to be a man?
- How/Am I hurting myself by trying to be more “manly”?
- What kind of a man do I want to be?
- What kind of men do we want to be?
INTERVENTIONS – HOLDING TO ACCOUNT

- Me: How’s your reworked critique coming? (11/3/12, 2:54pm)
- B: I’m visiting with family. I will let you know tomorrow. I will handle this. Thanks for checking. (11/3/12, 3:54pm)

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- Me: How was your progress today? (11/4/12, 7:03pm)
- B: Good. I got through the introduction making it more specific and took out the strengths section. I worked on the weaknesses a bit as well. (11/4/12, 7:06pm)
- Me: Good. Keep plugging away (11/4/12, 7:09pm)
- B: Ok will do ill send something soon (11/4/12, 7:31pm)
INTERVENTIONS – HOLDING TO ACCOUNT

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- Me: Updates? (11/5/12, 7:15pm)

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- B: Hey Nolan I am not confident I can do this rewrite. I feel like im doing worse. I was talking with classmate who did well, and after that I really feel like i don’t belong here. (11/6/12, 7:40pm)

- Me: You are giving me excuses why you shouldn’t do it. Do it and worry after. (11/6/12, 7:42pm)
INTERVENTIONS – HOLDING TO ACCOUNT

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- B: I’m gonna try, but that doesn’t mean I know what im doing. (11/6/12, 7:53pm)
- Me: Doesn’t matter. Do it and figure it out along the way (11/6/12, 7:53pm)
- B: I have to make excuses. But I figure it out by failing? Affecting my grade and not making it through the program? (11/6/12, 7:57pm)
- B: I apologize for the negativity and excuses. I am going to handle all of this the best way I can because I deserve to be here and my heart is in this! Thanks for pushing me, have a good nigh. (11/6/12, 9:04pm)

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- Me: Orale (11/7/12, 6:02am)
CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Men are struggling and we tend to bring it on ourselves.
- Problem = Opportunity
- Understanding the pitfalls of masculinity
- Engagement + Follow Through
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

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