

Catherine Eng

28 November 2016

Professor Solomon, TA Ken Saragosa, CAT 1A

Reading Response #5

Protect the minorities

But

Not

The

Asians

(They're doing just fine.)

All Asians are the same

Even though they may come from different countries

Even though they may be different ethnicities

Do not forget the Hmong

The Cambodians

The Laotians

For they too are here

They too have struggles.

Why won't you let us work together?

Why won't you acknowledge us?

When you talk of people of color,

Do not forget the Asians.

In short, yes, the reading of Kong's Chapter 4 did change my view of UCSD. Before reading this chapter, the disconnection between the Asian community and the Black community had never been so punctuated. I've noticed that most of my classes were completely without black people, but did not realize that their numbers were in mere hundreds. It is a tragedy that our campus lacks true diversity. With majority Asian and White students, I feel that our campus remains in a bubble and cannot truly understand the diverse and complex racial problems that our nation faces today.

It truly saddened me that in recent years, one of our school's fraternities held the racist and ignorant event that was the Compton Cookout party. I still see cultural appropriation as even a friend dressed up as a Native American for Halloween. Thus, I'm only somewhat comforted by the fact that around Halloween, there were college-approved reminder flyers to not wear costumes that appropriated other cultures.

It perplexes me that students of color cannot come together to make demands for diversity and assistance to students in need. I understand that at the time, the Black students were most offended by the Compton Cookout events, but Asian Americans were needed in the conversation as well. To my understand, all races felt targeted in these events and being the majority ethnic group on campus, Asian Americans would have been very influential in making changes on campus. However, this also traces back to both Black and Asian Americans' lack of education about the cooperation of the two ethnic groups, resulting in Asian American inaction in social justice.

Ultimately, it's true: the campus is divided but I hope that all students of color can create connections to help elevate each other to being treated justly on this campus and in this country.