

Reading Response 5



Before reading Kong's analysis about the racial politics of the university, I was completely unaware of the campus climate. When she addresses the issue of how many Asian American students were uneducated about their own social issues or the overall campus diversity policy, it made me notice how true that is. After moving to La Jolla and deciding to my degree at UCSD, I had no problems with my experience on campus and very much enjoyed it so far as seen in my visual provided above. Up until now, I just believed that the university was as open and understanding about different cultures and issues as they advertise themselves to be. However, this was not the case. Upon reading her analysis of the Compton Cookout events and other issues occurring on campus, this definitely affected my own view of UCSD. In her analysis, Kong explains that although there are many student organizations for Asian Americans, most of them primarily focus on the cultural aspect of their organization. As someone who is a part of two Asian American specific student organization, it is very clear that they only briefly speak about the social or political issues that are affecting us and direct attention towards the annual culture show. If they were ever to speak about social issues, as one of my student organization has during a general body meeting, they quickly lose the attention of their members. Kong also brings up an interesting point in regards to the assumptions that are made about Asian Americans at UCSD. She mentions that while Black/Raza/Inter-Tribal Resource Centers were made as a result of the Compton Cookout events, an Asian American Resource Center was not created. It has come to my realization that Asian Americans are assumed, by the university, to not be in need of any assistance or help because we are well 'represented' in the community. Despite our numbers on campus, it doesn't mean that we are all unified as one with all the different subgroups that fall under 'Asian Pacific Islander'. Kong's analysis of campus diversity policies gave a 'wake-up call' on the events occurring on campus and how so many students,

especially Asian Americans, are affected by it. With our own political issues occurring on campus after the recent presidential election, she gives a new perspective of how to look at the situation and how to approach it.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela. Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD. Diss. La Jolla: UC San Diego, 2014.

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