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Explanation of drawing: In the picture that I drew, I illustrated what I thought the climate of UCSD was going to be like- completely welcoming and representative of every culture that created the student body. However, the cloud around the picture represents the idea that this is all just an illusion, a dream that only works for majority populations. Although several cultures are represented, those that are not are left in the dark (as illustrated by the shading around the sides). This accurately reflects my experience here at UCSD because on the first day I felt completely at home due to the openness and accepting tone of every staff and student I met. Yet, after welcome week died down and school started in full swing, I noticed that there isn't a huge need to cater to Asian Americans as mentioned in Kong's paper.

Reading Response #5: Voices of Asian American Students and the Politics of Diversity Policy

As a student coming from a densely populated Asian American community, the concept behind the "yellow peril" is quite foreign since the high school I went to had an Asian majority. Most meetings were catered towards Asian Americans and their parents; translators were usually only provided in Chinese and Spanish and a parent club for Chinese-speaking parents was created to help with college and fee waiver applications for students who were first generation. However, in lecture, the idea of overrepresentation was brought up to demonstrate the fact that this isn't the case in other parts of the United States and that because I grew up in a community that reflected my ethnicity, I was sheltered from the struggles Asian Americans face when they're placed in a region that vastly differs from their cultural background.

While applying to colleges, I didn't really look into the history of them but I focused rather on their academic standing in the major I'm currently pursuing. Therefore, when reading Kong's final chapter, I was shocked and appalled that something as horrible as the Compton Cookouts happened on a

campus that has continuously stressed the importance of diversity from the beginning when I stepped foot on Triton Day. But the emphasis on diversity may be the product of such harassment that happened a mere couple of years ago. The main reason I chose this campus was because of its education but a large factor I took into account was my experience here on Triton Day. The welcoming tour guides, the feeling of home it gave me and the openness about the campus that allowed me to envision the next four years of my life here. However, after reading the article, I can't believe that such racism was spread and allowed to manifest on campus in the way and amount of time that it did. Seeing pictures of the campus with students holding banners rioting the treatment of minority groups on a street that seems so quiet and calm everyday completely shatters this ignorant view I had on the university. In Kong's final chapter, he states, "Both Liz and Alicia recognize that administrators provided black students (and sometimes Chicano/Latino students) to speak about their concerns over diversity on campus" (Kong 95) yet when it came to Asian Americans, they were never given the chance to speak which "hinder[ed] their ability to access needed student services" (Kong 96) because they were seen as successful and unneeding of any further assistance. However, this shouldn't be a blanket statement because it fails to recognize the many differences and struggles that each individual faces, that the overall experience for an individual is drastically varied from their counterpart. The part that infuriated me the most was when Scott, a queer Asian American set the curve for the class yet was harassed because his peers saw him as a threat to their academic success. Yet when he tried to confide in his professor and asked him if he could take the midterm at a later date because of the psychological issues he was facing, he was ignored and "dismissed by his professor who expected all Asian American students to do well, regardless of the circumstances" (Kong 94).

Although that may have just been one bad professor in a pool of many better professors, a true and very interesting point was made in the argument, "While a Black Resource Center, Raza Center, and Inter-Tribal Resource Center were created and funded through the Compton Cookout Events, an Asian American Resource Center still does not exist" (Kong 92). I always saw UCSD as welcoming because of the many resource centers that provide support for those of minority groups but I never stopped to even think that Asian Americans needed one as well and just because they make up a large proportion of the

population, it doesn't mean that they don't deal with the same stereotypes, immigration struggles and isolation like every other minority group. What angers me even more is the fact that there still isn't one six years after the event and thus, my whole perception of UCSD as this home of diversity (they even include course on diversity as part of their curriculum) has been abruptly altered. In Le Thi Diem's "The Gangster We Are All Looking For," the narrator feels isolated and is continuously made fun of because of her Vietnamese background despite living in a community that was settled by people of her culture. In the same way, I think UCSD has been isolating Asian Americans because of their lack of initiative to implement an Asian American Center. I didn't notice the lack of specifically Asian American targeted groups until reading this article and despite not needing of services right now, I feel for the person who is looking for help but is withheld from it and told "You are API, you are Asian folks, you should be able to handle this" (Kong 93) because in reality, they're the ones who need it the most.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela. "Voice of Asian American Students and the Politics of Diversity Policy." *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD* (2014): 82-109. Print.

Leì, Thi Diem Thuý. *The Gangster We Are All Looking for*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003. Print.