

Reading Response 5



Kong's fourth chapter explains her belief that the UC San Diego administration has not done enough to help out underrepresented Asian Americans. She states that in the light of the Compton Cookout, the issue of equality for Asian Americans is ever so pertinent. In 2010 at UC San Diego, a fraternity held a party known as the Compton Cookout where students dressed as stereotypical African Americans. In the following days, a noose was found hanging in the Geisel library. A few days later, a KKK hood was found on a statue of Dr. Seuss. This understandably caused a great uprising at the school. But to Kong's observation, this brought up an equally important issue. While all the attention brought up the current issue of equality and representation for blacks, Asian Americans face similar racial issues. UC San Diego has no resources for Asian Americans nor do they provide classes on Asian American studies.

Recently, I visited the Cross-Cultural Center on campus to take a tour. It was established in 1995, well before this paper was written. The goal of the CCC is to "strive for meaningful

dialogues and context across all cultures, particularly those of underrepresented or underprivileged backgrounds.” While attending the CCC, I learned that this was a place to facilitate discussion about diversifying UC San Diego. Majority of the people visiting the CCC were Asian American. In my time on the campus of UC San Diego, I have not personally witnessed discrimination or racism toward Asian Americans. While there are indubitably people that may have these feelings toward Asian Americans, I believe this is not as prevalent of an issue as Kang makes the reader believe. I disagree with Kong in her assertion that there is no aid provided by UC San Diego for Asian Americans. The CCC is an example of a service provided by UC San Diego to help out underrepresented API (Asian Pacific Islander) students.

I also do not believe that a minor in Asian American Studies would consequent in elimination of racism for Asian Americans on campus. While I do not disagree that Asian American history classes should be offered at UC San Diego, I think Kong’s assumption that these classes would “fight institutionalized racism” is not true. I believe that that the two are not directly correlated. From my experience, the UC San Diego climate is not one of extreme racism toward Asian Americans. I think it is diverse and accepting of all races. Therefore, I believe the establishment of a college minor is not necessary in fighting racism at UC San Diego.

Works Cited

"Welcome to the Cross-Cultural Center." *Cross-Cultural Center*. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Nov. 2016.