

“the whole is greater than the sum of its parts”

By Atika Dunlop

throw me into a new state  
of place and mind  
and make me call it home.

make the king of the jungle  
find a new throne  
throw a fish from a pond  
into an ocean's riptide  
and make it swim the seven seas.

ask a koala to leave the comfort  
of its own eucalyptus tree.

I have never sought homogeneity  
or ever craved comfort in conformity  
but some days and nights  
I too, feel a little lonely.

people at this place hail from every which  
way of Californian coastal highways,  
but hey — I'm from Texas and Australia  
and Singapore too. Much to your shock,  
I know I don't have an accent corresponding  
to my so called nationality.  
But, I am just as much from these places as the Irwin's  
and Lee Kwan Yew. I truly hope you are not confused,

it's really rather nice to meet you.

“you don't look asian or white!”  
your surprise not masked, thrown out in jest—  
Do not reduce my identity  
to the sound of my voice, or the color of my skin  
or the fact that I do not look like the rest.  
as I slowly start to embrace  
the multi facets of my identity within,  
I am not going to let your challenges win.  
I do not need to prove myself to you,  
for I do not greet your nationality or race  
with a puzzled look on my face,  
so why should you?

to seek familiarity in diversity  
is not always easy  
but in passing brisk walks

when the wind blows breezy  
or bored glances around lecture halls  
I see faces unlike me.  
no single story underlining  
our collective identity.  
a place I am comfortable to call home  
for the days out of the year I am here  
each individual story  
makes up one whole entity.

## Reading Response #5

University of California, San Diego is an esteemed public research university that prides itself on their top tier diversity of students. As a prospective student, high rates of diversity is an aspect I found particularly appealing when applying to various universities. Now, as a happy current student at this establishment, I do enjoy the multicultural environment that UCSD fosters. However, Angela Kong's essay on Re-examining the Diversity Policy at UCSD opened my eyes and shifted my perspective to consider the non-exclusivity that may exist on this campus. The racist events that took place on this campus in 2010 and the changes made as a result of these events catalyzed conversation to acknowledge that there is still progress to be made in terms of diversity and support of minorities.

The "Compton Cook Out" incident occurring in 2010 and the aftermath of it affected my view of the UCSD campus by shedding light on hate and exclusivity being present on this campus. The blatantly racist events that took place in 2010 on this campus genuinely shocked me. It specifically targeted a minority that is already severely marginalized in numbers on this campus, which raises the question as to whether this type of incident is related to the low number of black students enrolled at this campus. It fills me with partial shame to belong to a school that could even let such a hateful event take place, and for students to not feel welcome on their own campus. My preconceived notion of diversity at this campus resulting in a welcoming and accepting community was abolished. Even further, the reading reminded me of events that took place already this quarter such as the chalking's of racial slurs directed to the Latinx community has revealed that this campus' diversity can result in deeply saddening conflict.

Angela Kong's reading really shook my perspective on minority support and inclusion in policy making at UCSD. Prior to reading this, I admittedly did not consider Asian Pacific Islanders as a minority that needed resources and support on this campus, simply because they make up the

majority population of ethno racial identities on campus. However, I am now aware and feel the need for this minority group, one of which I am also a part of, to be treated with the same levels of support as other minorities on campus. I strongly believe that representation should never be a competition among minority groups. Rather, strength comes from collaboration between minority organizations in order for recognition and support to be granted equally for all minority groups on this campus. As touched on by Kong, the concept of progression by means of minority togetherness can prove to be a difficult one in practice: “students felt conflicted on how they could both support black students and improve conditions for Asian and Pacific Islander students and other marginalized groups” (Kong 95). This is a major challenge faced by minorities in order to gain support and render change in diversity policies on this campus.

Despite the history of racially charged incidents on this campus, the way in which the community responds to these events reveal an ultimately welcoming and inclusive community.