

Views on Student Life

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Reading Response #5

In her essay, Kong addresses the idea that Asian cultural groups are viewed unequally through the description of the mocking of Black history month in 2010. It is mentioned that although other cultural groups have their own center where they can group together and become immersed in a similar culture, many Asian minorities do not have that option. Kong's idea of creating a resource center for Asian minorities is more of a hindrance than an asset as then the resource centers no longer serve their original purpose; they then strive to divide ethnicities, genders, and perceived inequalities. If a center is created for Asians, then another one has to be created for whites who feel oppressed that they are considered the "entitled" race and have more opportunities. In a way, these new centers will encourage racial and gender separation. These centers should be used in times of need, such as the Compton cookout, but as times progress and no other conflicts arise, the centers should become obsolete. After living on campus for a few months, I have yet to experience any conflicts concerning gender or race directed at me or anyone I have met. In the image I have portrayed, I am at a swim meet with my team, all of us enjoying each other's company and cheering for one another. We are all different ethnicities, have many different backgrounds, and have views about culture that may seem distasteful to others. Yet, they do not let their varied backgrounds define them, it is simply just another aspect of themselves. The swim team parallels into UCSD as a whole as few people are willing to define themselves by their race or ethnicity; we define ourselves by major, activities we perform, and whom we associate with. To me, the UCSD campus is very diverse with a varied cultural aspect. Even in my suite, we have people who are outgoing, some who are reserved, some who are gay, and others that are straight. However, never do we define ourselves solely by these characteristics which Kong emphasizes in her essay. While Asians may feel pressured to be the "perfect" immigrant, they do not have to define themselves as Asian but rather what they feel they bring to the UCSD campus. My views on the issue of racial expectations have not only stayed the same before I read Kong's article, but they have grown stronger as I feel very strongly that people on campus are not viewed based on their race and ethnicity first, but rather the attitude they exude.