

UCSD Family



Reading Response #5: Kong

The main reason I chose to attend UCSD was because of its ethnically diverse student and staff population. From the moment my orientation began, I felt as if I had entered a different world, one where people were accepted and embraced for their uniqueness. It seemed no matter who you identified as, UCSD had resources and love for you. I felt proud when I discovered there was a Raza, LGBTQ, and Women's resource centers located on campus. When my RA constantly advocated inclusive language and politically correct speech I was overjoyed. Within my first week at this school, I knew this was where I belonged.

Having said that, I knew very little about the school's background. Kong's fourth chapter not only increased my knowledge of UCSD's history, but it also changed my view of the university. It is easy to come to an institution like UCSD and be blinded by the newness of the whole experience and imagine it to be a perfect place where nothing bad can happen and everyone gets along. Learning about the Compton Cookout and the struggles between the various ethnic student organizations on campus hit me with the reality that even this institution has a dark past but that there are always opportunities to foster a brighter future.

The fact I am currently taking CAT 1, a course on "Migration Narratives" that focuses on the stories of immigrants from China, Vietnam, Philippines, Mexico etc. is a testimony to our growth. However, I know that although I may feel safe and welcome on this campus, in light of the election, many of my peers do not. It is key to understand that even though an extreme few may target students with hatred, they do not represent the majority here. In my residence hall, we have all become a family, a family of immigrants and international students of many countries, different identities, and beliefs. I feel that each day here at UC San Diego, I learn about the stories of the members of this loving and supporting family.