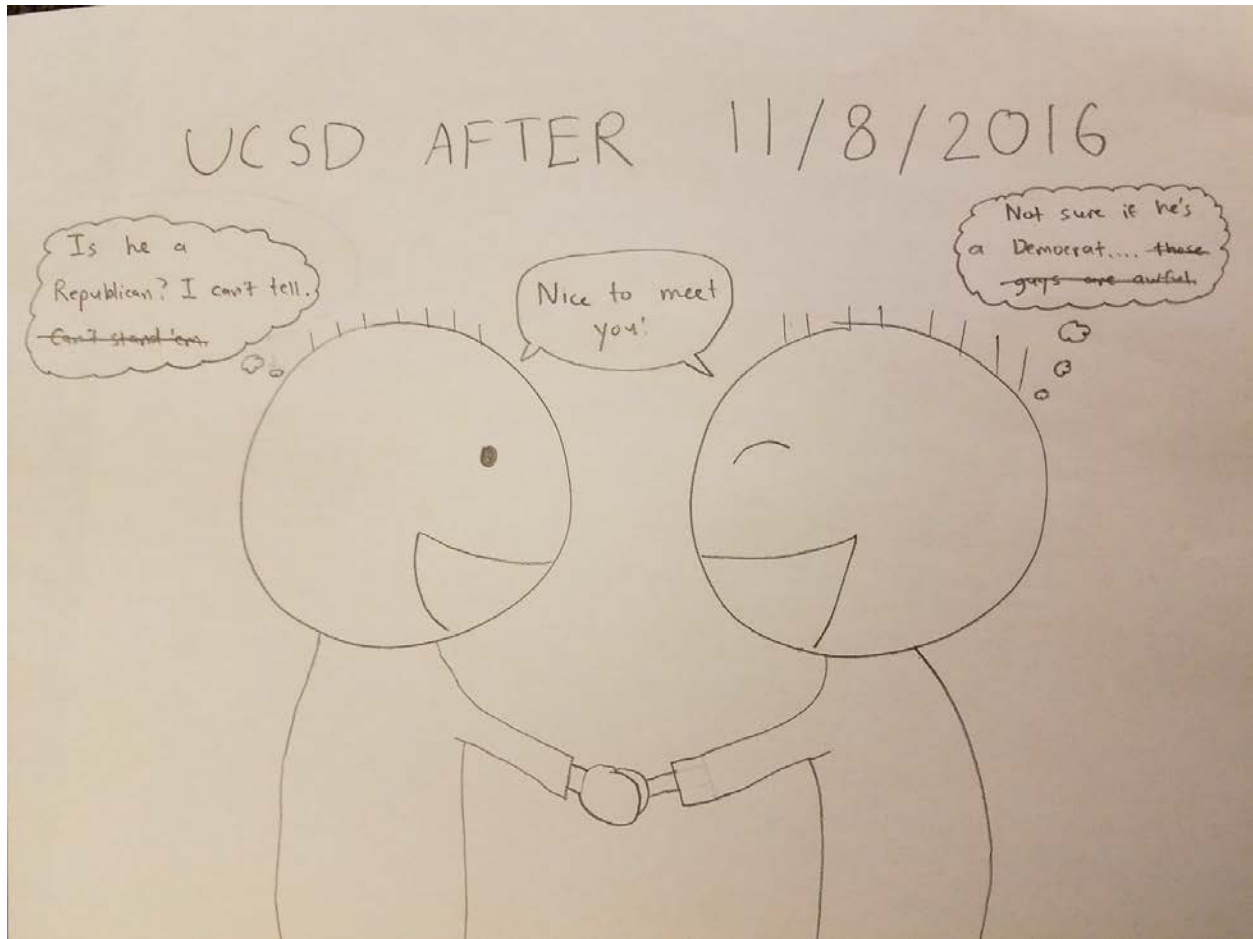


## UCSD Today is Different



I've never experienced or witnessed anything quite like the Compton Cookout on campus. UCSD has been fairly normal to me, save for the aftermath of the election and events following the election. However, while I've never felt marginalized or underrepresented at this campus, I can understand where Kong's analysis comes from. The dissertation has given me a new perspective on UCSD's campus environment. I never thought about my ethnicity being held up as a "model minority" or "yellow peril" until reading Kong's dissertation. I always knew UCSD had a high Asian student population, but I never thought critically about it. After going to this school for nearly a quarter, nothing on campus outside of CAT has given me a reason to rethink my perspective on UCSD as a whole; it was only in CAT when I started thinking more about my role in the university administration's institutional racism. I never thought of the high Asian percentage of students at UCSD as an indicator of UCSD's lack of diversity until now.

Kong's dissertation has definitely changed my views of this school by highlighting how the supposed "overrepresentation" of Asians through student demographics did not change anything about the minority status of Asians as a whole. In the end, I still favorably see UCSD's campus as a generally safe haven where people from all walks of life can learn together. While I can recognize how the university administration isn't as concerned with true diversity, equity and inclusion as some students are, I still value this campus I personally feel comfortable in. I've never encountered anyone who tried turning the campus climate into a toxic one where everyone was at each other's throats, and for good reason: I think a majority of students at this school also value safety and want everyone else to feel secure at this school. It's a quality I'm glad UCSD has, and even if there exist administrative overlords who refuse to recognize complete equity, I'm glad it doesn't permeate into the healthy, safe UCSD I love.