

Sonnet (Alexandrin)

Minorities fight for their rights on the campus,
The Compton cookout exposes racial bias.
Even though the UC campus is diverse,
It still has much racial tension and hatred.

Asian Americans are role models.
They epitomize the “model minority”.
The majority that is still a minority.
They still have rights that need protecting.

The Asian population is the forgotten,
They lack the resource center and the minor.
This group needs defending against prejudice too.

They are the forgotten minority,
The ones who suffer prejudice without help.
Their plight can no longer be forgotten.

Kong Reading Response #5

Kong's fourth chapter of *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD* describes UCSD as a campus that fails to protect and acknowledge the rights of minority groups. Specifically, the Compton Cookout event showed the University's faults in diversity awareness. While the event addressed the issues of African-Americans, Kong shows that the event noted the perceived image of Asians as the "model minority". (Kong 85) Many students believe this image of the Asian-American student and there is a lack of understanding of Asian culture and heritage. Kong believes Asians are not given enough rights in terms of diversity and respect on the campus. From my perspective the fact that 49% of campus is of Asian descent creates a campus environment that definitely leans towards being more Asian- oriented. (Kong 82) Growing up in a French-Spanish family I don't really relate to the minority struggles of other races as I primarily grew up in a "white privilege" sort of environment in which I did not relate to the hardship that minorities face.

By coming to UCSD and coming to understand the campus environment I have come to acknowledge the diversity of the campus and I have noted that while the campus does lean towards a majority Asian population, Kong is correct in her view that Asians are the forgotten minority. (Kong 86) While Asians represent a greater portion of the student body they are still subjugated to stereotypes about their background and education level. Other minority groups such as African-Americans and Latinos have campaigned heavily to defend themselves against this stereotyping, however Asians have not had as much success. Proposition 209 has created a campus in which students are admitted on the basis of their ability as opposed to race and this has led to campus having a greater percentage of Asians. (Kong 85) This environment has perpetuated stereotypes against the Asian community that are not addressed or defended against.

The fact that Asians make up a majority of this school is the reason for this bias. While they are a minority the amount of Asians at UCSD makes other minorities and even campus officials unwilling to help represent them.

Coming from a white community the majority Asian campus has been a culture shock for me. The campus body tends to reflect a lot of activities, foods, and student organizations that relate to the Asian experience. In my experience the campus climate is more oriented to Asian American students. However, after Kong's reading I have come to acknowledge that even though Asian's are a vast majority of campus they are still a minority group that is stereotyped as antisocial and school oriented. Thus as Kong stated Asians as a minority group deserve more protection and support such as other minority groups on campus.