

My Thoughts on UCSD

I've never lived outside of Norcal before. For the last 18 years of my life I was comfortable living up in this small world I had gotten used to. I knew the general system of things, like I was a regular within the world. It seems so easy to know how the world around you works. It feels routine. Now I haven't been back home in almost 3 months. Everything still feels different.

I've never heard much of the issues I hear about on campus. My home was already diverse enough. My school had a good balance between different cultures and I never saw much issues with race. In a way, I think the different cultures at my school segregated themselves, but we still intermingled with the right people. Now, I see all these issues with racism and sensitivity towards certain cultures and social groups. Having to be mature and growing up into this kind of world, I see all the displeasement and issues about the current state of the U.S. and why people are offended by such actions. As for myself, I never faced such issues because I keep to my own world.

The campus climate is something I am not shy to. I prepared myself for living in a different type of world. The student body reminds me of one similar to home but I know what I see it as will not be what it actually is. My experience at UCSD has been tame for the most part. I've stood on the sidelines as certain events have played out, but what more could I have done? As I grow with the campus, I will incorporate myself deeper into the system.

Reflection

I believe that Angela Kong's reading is an important piece that should be read by all students here at UCSD. The reading changed my view of the school as a whole with all the different types of people in mind. As for myself, my experience with the school has some correlation with what Kong was trying to express. I feel that this school isn't as unified as it hopes to be with all the different minorities in mind.

Based on our physical location, I feel that much of the concern for minorities falls towards hispanic culture. We live 30 minutes away from the U.S. - Mexico border and the current state of our country has the hispanic culture on edge. We've seen verbal attacks written around campus targeting the Raza Resource Center and the different minority groups around campus. While these are serious occurrences that threaten the safety of the student body, it had always made me wonder why we never had a resource center for asian students.

Kong wrote about interviews with a variety of asian students. Their experiences and views toward the Compton Cookout and the diversity policies. Many Asians were somewhat passive about the situation because these policies were not all that focused on Asian students. It created "confusion" according to a Pinay student named Michelle. She felt that the Asian orgs around campus were not aware of their influence in protest against the issues regarding the Compton Cookout and how they could've helped for the better. I feel that Asians themselves did not feel that such reforms were there to assist them along with the rest of the minorities, and the lack of a direct Asian resource center proves it.

In its current state, I feel that the asian community lacks sufficient support from the campus itself. I feel that we only look out for each other, leading to the variety of asian organizations that gather together and create families with one another. This is how I feel the different minorities around campus handles things. We all keep to ourselves as a group, similar to that climate I had back home. UCSD is still not as united as it hopes to be between all of its minorities and this lack of inclusion is something the school should face when tackling their diversity policies.

Work Cited

- Kong, Angela. *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*. Diss. U of California, San Diego, 2014.
N.p. :n.p., n.d. Print.