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Reading Response #5: Micro Story

Within my first quarter here at UC San Diego, I have already encountered an experience with campus climate. Unfortunately, it was a negative one. There was an incident inside my residential hall where certain people were using the n word and other derogatory words over the past several weeks. When Robert, our janitor asked to keep the restrooms a bit cleaner, he reported that people began to say the n word around him. I'm not sure whether or not word was directed at him but, I am sure he felt devastated. Robert identifies as an African American and the people who said those words destroyed his job. While the people who used the word may not have intended to harm Robert, that was the consequence. This man cleans our bathrooms, takes out our trash, and cleans our common spaces; simple everyday things that makes our lives as students easier. The least thing we can do is thank him for his work, not make him feel uncomfortable whenever he comes around to clean our living spaces. We must treat each other with respect and stop using derogatory words.

Other than the experience with campus climate above. Overall, I have been getting along with everyone pretty well here at UC San Diego. I have never felt attacked, threatened, or unwanted before. I treat everyone with respect and try to look at things from all aspects and perspectives. Kong's analysis bothers me though. She writes this whole analysis on why Asian Americans are not doing enough to seek the resources and help they need. That's the problem. Do they *really* need help? Asian Americans have been named model minorities for a reason. I understand that Kong addresses the multiple types of minority Asian Americans such as "low-income, queer, and/or first generation college students (Kong 93). But, the majority of Asian Americans are none of those. Most of them are wealthy, independent, straight, and second or even third generation college students.

To be fair, the reading did change my view of UC San Diego. I was unaware of the social political struggles that these minority races faced.. The analysis showed me how cruel the people here at this school could be because of events like the Compton Cookout, the noose hung at Geisel, and the KKK hood draped over Dr. Seuss. I learned that there was not really any cross cultural activism between Asians and black students in the past which may have been why Asians were unable to work against a common cause with blacks. I have stated that UC San Diego is a racially bias free environment but, after reading Kong's analysis , it made me realize otherwise. Ultimately, UCSD's campus climate is a bit overwhelming for me. Back at my old high school, we had none of these. We didn't have campus wide threats like noose hangings or KKK hoodies on statues. Not only that, I learned that I need to be extremely careful with the words I choose to say around people unlike before where I basically had the freedom to say whatever I want. People get afflicted here too easily.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela. Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD. Vol. Ch 4. n.p., 2014. Print.