

Justin Park

CAT 1A

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### Campus Climate

Angela Kong's analysis of the Compton Cookout and the resulting aftermath has highlighted a stereotype and social issue, which I must admit, have perpetuated. The reading highlighted notion that the Asian-American population on campus is politically passive, the model minority which is to be seen but not heard, is completely true. Through this reading I have realized that this is the life I have chosen to live since arriving at the University of California, San Diego. I have become content to let others fight the battles for causes that I believe in, for I feel that political activism is for other races, even to the point of mocking my fellow students at the University of California, Berkeley for their endeavors. I may even say, at times, that I am proud of the stereotype that Asian Americans have picked up, both in terms of the reputation of academic success as well as the silence of the population. Kong's work has not changed my mind as to my view of UCSD, but rather highlighted why this stereotype is exactly the mentality, which will limit Asian Americans in the coming decades.

Especially in light of the recent presidential election, the campus climate has become politically charged, however the sleeping giant, the Asian community, has yet to be woken and mobilized, a factor, which will limit the political activism of UCSD. The general feeling amongst this group is silent approval of the movements,

but a desire to maintain the status quo in our daily lives. With so many different cultural backgrounds behind the flag of “Asian” it is shown why it is an extremely difficult task to unite the community under one banner. Without a stronger driving force to strive for the voice of Asian Americans to be heard, this group of people is likely to bear with current inequity in silence.