

Home

Home is the place where I belong
It's the place where I feel free and long
Dining halls, dining room. What's the difference?
Down by the border there's a house that glistens
Every student, every hall that's different
Never comfy, always crowded why stay?
Because there are classes that take up my day
You struggle, I struggle.
Home is the only place worth the trouble
Out in the cold, I'll be on my way
Moving to where I long to be at the end of the day
Evenings at home is where I want to stay, so why the delay?

Are We A Minority?

UCSD is a beautiful campus with a lot of diversity as Angela Kong emphasized in her paper, *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*. Particularly in Chapter Four, Kong discussed the Compton Cookout that resulted in the addition of new policies to protect minorities groups on campus but excluded Asians. She analyzed the "over-representation" of Asians and contributes it to the administration's lack of identifying the different subgroups that comprises the Asian student population on campus. As a result, the students who are racially Asian, experience a lack of improvement (programs, policies, and funding) for their race on campus because they are viewed as the "model minority" (Kong 85). Kong explained and argued that UCSD's administration had not attempted to improve their Asian students conditions with the failure to "recognize their struggles and fund pertinent programs and services for the Asian American community" (Kong 109).

UCSD's failure to comply with the needs of Asian students on campus is not a new concept to myself. The idea discussed by Kong, yellow peril and model minority, has been prevalent in my life since I was young. Her essay correlates with my life, however I have yet to

see this association within UCSD with the exception of the lack of an Asian American resource center. A huge part of the reason why I struggled to see the discrepancy for Asian students is because I do not live on campus. However, I do recognize her argument has been there all along, I have just failed to see it for what it really is.

Kong's analysis had opened a part of me that I have closed off and accepted in my life; that as an Asian American, I have not had the same opportunities as other minorities. She was able to bring myself back into reality and highlight that this is wrong. When we are coming into college, we are told by teachers and advisors that we can be ourselves at college, and it will be so fun because we have all this freedom. The argument posed by Kong would challenge that. Kong's argument did shape my views of UCSD by demonstrating that although I do not live on campus, the administration is ignoring Asian student needs. Under those circumstances, my needs will also be ignored. Further, it is implying that if I were to need help from UCSD, there is a precedent to not receive the appropriate services. This is the antipodal statement to my first impression of college particularly, UCSD. It is easy to see that I am not able to be myself because the university does not provide the environment for Asians like myself to feel accepted. In addition, how does one get the full experience when they feel unaccepted. In Le Yen Espiritu's essay, "*Homebound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures and Communities*", Chapter Eight, he highlights this feeling of not belonging with his interviewee, Henry Aguilar, who "felt uneasy at Filipino functions because his gayness often collide with the group's notion of what constituted Filipinoness" (Espiritu, *Multiracial Neighborhoods* section, para. 6). Aguilar is a prime example of how not feeling accepted can hinder one to fully immerse themselves within a group. Moreover, my view of UCSD has changed from being indifferent to viewing the school critically, as it failed to comply with the needs of Asian students and their "lack of interest in addressing Asian American student needs re-figures them as an underserved minority group" (Kong 85).

Ultimately, UCSD's climate has been kind to me because I never felt the need to belong at school. Being from San Diego, my feeling of home was in my house near the San Diego and Tijuana border crossing. As a result, I never dabbled in extracurricular activities or on-campus clubs and organizations. Likewise, I never took the time to explore campus outside of class because I longed for home after a long day. Therefore, my experiences and interactions at UCSD are very minimal in terms of experiencing the full college experience.

However, Kong's analysis of UCSD's diversity policy correlates to what I have been dealing with prior to college and have grown to accept. Just as my previous schools, UCSD has allocated most of its funding to other minority groups and ignored Asian students. My acceptance of such shortcomings did hinder my initial view of UCSD but now I can clearly see the difference geared towards its students. It is quite surprising that statistically speaking Asians are the largest minority group on campus but lack a resource center or a place to call theirs. It is quite interesting walking back past the Black Resource Center or Raza Resource Center and failing to realize there is not one geared towards students who are Asian. This can be equated to the yellow peril in UCSD, in which views Asians as doing so well because they make up half our student populations. They do not need the help because they are "over represented" further taking away from the other minorities. Also, the model minority myth that Asians are so well prepared and are the "model" for all minorities. This creates a misconception that entails a "single story" for all Asians which is they are "success machines". They are made to succeed in life and do not need assistance, which is not representative of all Asians. Although, I have not engulfed myself into the college culture yet, little moments like noticing the lack of a resource center for Asian students goes along with or correlates to Kong's argument.

Works Cited

- Espiritu, Yen Le. "Chapter 8: 'What of the Children?' Emerging Homes and Identities." In *Homebound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures and Communities*.
- Kong, Angela. "Ch 4." *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*. 2014.