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Cat 1 Solomon

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With the coming of fall, a leaf began to lose its green,  
The tree said “we include all”, so nice it seemed,  
Indeed, all the tree's leaves were colored in the green range,  
But that fateful autumn, many things started to change

The leaf's edges gave way to gold,  
Other leaves shunned him like he had the cold,  
“Worry not,” they said, “I do not judge by your hue”,  
As they refused to help him with his work that day,  
When they were so polite, what could he do?  
“Oh well”, he sighed. “I'll be okay”

As the leaves looked at their reflections,  
They begin splitting apart into sections,  
The tree attempted to calm the leaves down,  
But requests for real change were met with a frown

The barbs were many, the jabs were quick,  
This subtle separation made the first leaf sick,  
He cried, "No more of this bunk!"  
"We have many branches, but only one trunk!"

When they elected a leader leaf, that was the worst,  
Greater and greater their squabbling grew,  
Until the connections burst,  
And to the ground they all flew.

The lonely leaf watched their hatred give birth,  
In the end, all were pulled to the same earth.

It is an undeniable fact that, unlike the African American and Mexican American communities, there is no resource center or organized support system for Asian Americans in the case that a member is harassed. Despite the majority of the university's population being composed of Asians, as Kong points out, each individual who happens to be Asian can still be verbally attacked. In fact, due to the perceived Asian majority, I have met many people on campus who feel comfortable poking fun at Asian stereotypes where they would not do the same to other ethnic groups because they all think that Asians are not actually threatened by it.

In the case of the Compton Cookout, Kong mentions that the university had not allowed Asian students to rally with the BSU to protest discrimination against minority groups, even though they were arguing for the same reason. This is an understandable mistake. I observed that when organizations recruit on Library Walk at the beginning of the quarter, some cultural organizations seek out people of a certain ethnic group, not to participate in cultural activities that would be specific to that group, but simply to socialize and eat together. It seems as if these groups deliberately go out of their way to turn themselves into a minority. It is also possible to perceive that, in the case of the Compton Cookout, Asian students were attempting to steal away spotlight time from African Americans to focus on their own issues, rather than banding the two groups together to fight for the same thing. That said, while these would be forgivable mistakes for an individual, the university has received complaints for too long to excuse the lack of definitive action.

In the beginning of the year, every freshman was required to take an online seminar about diversity. It is a series of videos that feature about a dozen people talking about how they feel included, along with an exorbitantly large number of multiple choice questions. In other words, it was a little bit of talking and limited text interaction, which acts as a fairly accurate analogy for university policy on defending against ethnic harassment. It was clear to me at the very beginning that this course was unhelpful.

Kong's argument accurately picks apart the factors restricting the Asian community from defending its members at UCSD. While the other groups are not to be ignored, the same should be said for everyone.