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CAT 1

Reading Response #5

Yin

They say I am the ideal,
They say my grades are unreal,
They say being yellow's a steal,
But that's far from reality.

When I do well it's expected,
But when it's too well, I'm threatened.
My needs hide behind my success,
And I am left no kind of aide.

The Model Minority – help!
I can only focus on the pressure
to achieve, else I am worthless,
Simply because I'm Asian.

And

They don't say anything of me
Do I simply not exist here?
I do not belong to one side
So how should I identify?

I face the stresses of success,
Ignored because I'm 'entitled',
I can empathize with both sides
But I do not truly belong.

No matter what I try to do,
I'm lost without a single group,
To associate as my own,
Simply because I am mixed.

Yang

They say I cannot empathize
They say I simply generalize
They say I only marginalize
Other races that are oppressed.

It's frustrating to be ignored.
Because I'm seen as entitled.
Yet, if that's what they choose to
think,
who is really ignorant here?

Privilege, a word that haunts me,
Pushes my arguments aside
And undermines my views,
Simply because I am white.

Kong's analysis of the UCSD campus focused on both the lack of resources for Asian American students as well as the lack of political unity within the Asian American community in addition to the stereotypical Model Minority and Yellow Peril identities placed on them. This results in a campus that stays with the status quo since there is no push by the Asian American students to work for Asian American resources like how the African American and Chican@ students did following the Compton Cookout. This piece resonated with me since I am a student of mixed descent, white and Asian, who grew up in Mission San Jose High School whose student body was over 90% Asian. While the piece was quite informative and I already understood the struggles of the Model Minority and Yellow Peril concepts faced by both myself and my peers.

Suffice to say, my views of campus were only partially changed since there were many concepts I had already experienced in my own life. Nevertheless, I was surprised to find that there is no Asian American Resource center on campus and that there have been significant contributions from Asian Americans to the black civil rights movement in the past as with Yuri Kochiyama who worked with Malcom X. However, this hasn't substantially changed my view of the campus since all I see are Asians – a demographic I've lived most of my life amongst.

For me, the campus is a little more diverse than where I grew up and I find it interesting that the student population here can be explained by Richness and Evenness, two measures of biodiversity I have learned in my Biology class here. Richness is the number of different species (or in this case races) and Evenness is the closeness in numbers each species (race) in an environment is. Applying these terms to campus diversity would show that yes there is a high Richness value, but a very low Evenness value. In a more literal sense, UCSD's campus is fairly diverse for most people that come because there are people of all kinds of backgrounds. However, I do not see as many African Americans, Latin@s, nor Native Americans in comparison to the populations of white people and Asian Americans on campus.