

Division, Not Cooperation

After reading Kong's analysis, I've been noticing I don't agree with many of her statements. She says that Asian Americans and African Americans are the same because they've both suffered from racism and poor diversity policies; therefore, they should work together as UCSD activists for justice. However, I believe that when fighting against racism, the oppressed should be the ones fighting for themselves, rather than rely on the assistance of others of different races. This way, when they have succeeded in regaining their equal rights, it won't be because people from other racial groups pitied them, but because they actually deserved them. In the past few decades, Asian Americans and African Americans have fought against discrimination differently. African Americans, who were seen as the least favored race, needed the most help in fighting against discrimination. Thus, many people of different racial groups, including some whites, have sided with the African Americans. However, based on what I have experienced UCSD's climate, there is an outer appearance that everyone is not discriminatory, and there is an undertone of pity and looking down on the African Americans, because these people choose their words too carefully and are never comfortable around the African Americans. On the other hand, Asian Americans, in order to avoid the same terrible treatments of African Americans, have silently built themselves a model-minority myth by working hard to prove themselves as more intelligent, and thus higher in racial status than African Americans. Asian Americans never sought other people to help them fight against discrimination. They relied on themselves only, and independently rose up. As a result, I do not agree with Kong, that Asian Americans and African Americans will ever team up on a full scale to fight for the same cause - or at least, not anytime soon. UCSD's climate is still quite divided, because so far, I have never seen such an event happen before. The part about the Asian Americans and African Americans in the readings did not change my view of UCSD, because it only made me disagree on it.