

Not My President!

By Sarah Martin

Not My President!

Not My President!

Hundreds of students Chant in the Dark,
Uniting together in the streets and walking hand in hand,
Upset, afraid, angry.

Potent Sharpie smell curls off the fresh posters
The air tastes charged with electricity
Butterflies flutter in and out of stomachs in anticipation
Clicks of cameras, pictures posted captioned
Not My President!

They march up and down the campus,
Cell phone light blazing, leading the path
Past the darkened classrooms, past the sleeping students
Out of the bubble of UCSD and onto the road.

Rough asphalt beneath their shoes
Rumbling cars masked by the pounding of feet
A flash of bright lights and a car comes too fast
Whispers spread, someone is hurt, Call the Police
Sirens echo in the cool night air and the chants die down to frozen silence.

Bright sun rises and reality hits.
Why would they do that? What is the point?
Questions of logic arise after emotion is gone
When all that is left is emptiness.

Why?

Because they are tired of being silent,
They are tired of being invisible,
They are tired of being ignored,
But if they cannot step into the light, into the logic, into effort not just emotion
Then they will never be more than voices in the dark
Calling, calling with no one to listen.

Sarah Martin

Marco Huerta

CAT 1: A06

27 November 2016

Campus Climate

The campus climate is currently extremely divided and highly visible because of the recent election results. It would not be surprising if the events that follow this election, resembled the actions and events of the “Compton Cookout” (Kong 97). The racist views that were revealed during the presidential election process caused a divide amongst students who were hurt by the comments and against the racist remarks, and those who were indifferent or even supported the ideas. This time, instead of gathering behind one minority group and thereby shutting out the others, like in the “Compton Cookout”, we should rally behind every minority to bring a stop to the negativity and hate caused by the election of president Donald Trump (Kong 97). Moreover, this new perspective on how one can view the campus climate is brought in Angela Kong’s paper, that despite being a separated campus that reflects previous racist sentiments, positive change can occur if enough students unite to be more than voices in the dark, to create actions in the light.

Tragically, people seem to think that Trump’s election has allowed racism to be accepted as normal and have responded in this way. On our very campus, a group went around and chalked rude and demeaning phrases around the school and in front of the Raza Resource center, seemingly targeting Latino and Chicano students with vile messages. Sadly, these anonymous actions resemble the incredibly hurtful and spiteful events that took place in 2010 as told by Angela Kong in her paper “Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD”, such as the hanging noose

left on the library and the KKK hood on the statue. Though, luckily, the current developments are not as extreme as they were before, they reveal the racist intentions of many UCSD students and the still striking inequalities that many minority groups must face. It would be nice to believe that UCSD has grown since the racist events of its past; but, this election has only stirred up the passion once again and revealed the hate that still lives on.

UCSD's campus climate is not where it should be, there is a lack of respect for all minorities needs, including Asian Americans who, according to Kong, are the most underserved minority because of their large numbers on campus. Ironically, they make up so many students on campus, but have very few resources, little recognition as a minority group, and face unrealistic expectations. Administrative resistance has led to stagnation within racial equality and civil rights movements, but hopefully this secondary push can help progress the future and create a better campus climate filled with respect towards every individual and their needs.