

Ka Ming Chan

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Reading Response Five



Thought the whole college looks like the Geisel Library.



Getting great food around campus and San Diego!

I am an Asian American immigrant and a first generation college student of my family myself. My first reaction to hearing and reading about the Compton Cookout incident is, I am shocked. Because I came from the bay area where the atmosphere of society is tended to be open to diversity, I expected that would be the case in the rest of California, and in the public UC system, respecting diversity is an universal value. But in 2010, offensive acts of racism were still performed inside such an institution. Now, according to many other cases I heard, I re-examine my naiveness and learned there are many different opinions inside thirty thousand students.

The high percentage of Asians on UCSD campus - well over fifty percent of the whole student body - was what attracted me and fooled me. Before I came on campus I thought since the percentage of minor groups of students are so high, diverse students shall have no problem becoming friends and crossing over each other. Then I saw that is indeed not the case, especially when this reading reminded me to reflect on why are there so many race organizations. They are said to provide "home" and "shelter." They shelter students who are in "danger" of not fitting along "others." Unknowingly even worse than high school, on a large campus people are even more unlikely to open comfort zones since there are options of comfortable environments.

I am in race organizations myself. Based on experiences, Asian Americans do care little about political affairs and focus more on socializing. Maybe it is because as the largest group on campus, we are not targeted severely yet. We pretty much remain new and neutral to this long-lasting white versus black and brown conflict in this country. The reading has enlightened me of why - our awareness of the problem of racism is generally low. We do not know about it partly due to lack of education, or we do not care as we can stay inside our large comfort zones. We must be taking more actions, as afterall we are just as well a minority in this country.