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Reading Response #5

Before reading Kong's experience/analysis of UCSD, I was under the impression that because of their presence on campus, Asian students had plenty of resources to turn to. I never would have thought that 94.6% feel that UCSD doesn't address their needs and concerns (Kong 92). Another shocking thing I learned from Kong's writing is that the racism on campus is much more radical than I ever could have imagined. I suppose I assumed because this school/area is such a diverse place, there would be a much more tolerant and accepting atmosphere. Overall, this chapter of the reading was sickening to say the least. I felt helpless and nauseous knowing that events this terrible occurred on campus not long ago.

Because of this reading, I now look at UCSD in a different light. As a white student, I never feel unsafe or heckled due to my race. In fact, I never have. My privilege has separated me from many of my friends and peers throughout my whole life. Also, I have gained a new respect for the Asian/Asian-American students who stood by the BSU during the "Compton Cookout," knowing well that they themselves were not black. They put others needs ahead of their own, something which is truly admirable.

To me, UCSD's campus is very segregated. I feel that students prefer to associate with their own race most of the time. In my drawing, I drew myself, a white girl, in a bubble. Because of my race, I am special. I float in a bubble above my peers of color, unable to reach their level. I

see my non-white peers and friends crying for help and find that I have little power to do anything. My race has given me a privilege that unintentionally gives me a leg up that I cannot do much to alter. I don't want to be in this bubble but society has stuck me there with no easy out.