

**Journey: A UCSD Poem**  
By Danny Barragan

One decision would change my life for the better  
One letter would lead to a week of the brightest smile I have ever had  
One moment would separate me from my siblings

The campus as large as the state of Texas  
Environment incredibly different  
Staff always warm and welcoming

Experiencing the wonders of adulthood  
Handling responsibilities all on my own  
Dependent on my family no longer

Education the number one priority  
Years of school preparing me for this moment  
Grades determine my worth and standing

Studying and homework never leave my mind  
New friends always in need  
Having to find time to balance my new life

Everyday a new experience waiting to be seized  
Pressures of educational and social requirement prevalent in my mind  
Wouldn't want my life any other way

Danny Barragan

TA: Marco Huerta

CAT 1

My experience here at UCSD has not been one of discrimination and hate but one that has been very pleasant and welcoming. This campus and its staff have made me feel welcome and as if I have a place here and the environment is amazing. Everyone is kind and polite and I honestly feel as if they see more than my grades, the color of my skin, or anything else. While there was one incident that involved writing in chalk that said remarks that were offensive towards my ethnicity, the school handled the situation in a way that still made me feel welcomed and that I didn't have to fear for my safety on this campus. When I was researching UCSD, I found it to be a source of diversity and acceptance, and my experiences here attest to that. Kong's dissertation has not changed my view on the school because my experience is going to dictate what I believe; not someone else's words.

There were aspects of Kong's dissertation that I both agreed and disagreed with. I agree that the diversity in the school is beneficial for the campus, and accepting everyone's beliefs or views is essential for the creation of a safe space on this campus. Another point that I agree with was her when she talked about the unification of the students to incite change in the school's policies. What I don't necessarily believe or follow is the fact that her dissertation makes it seem as if their races are all factions competing against each other. She would pull graphs of the numbers of students that were admitted, and she organized her argument in a way that made it seem like the races were pitted against each other instead of coexisting on this campus to work for a common goal. Granted, she did speak about the multi-racial protests that opposed the discrimination of minorities in her later chapters, Kong started off her dissertation heavily looking at the racial aspect of the school in a more separated view. My biggest problem with looking at the school by just looking at the numbers of ethnic students it has is that it doesn't translate to real life. In my day to day life, I never come across anything or anyone that makes me look at someone's race instead of just seeing fellow students.