

Diversity at UCSD

By Guadalupe Figueroa

I am from brown skin; from traditions passed down, to big families.

I am from immigrant relatives and second languages.

From Cumbias to Tamales.

Now I am from looking around new faces and memories made.

Now I am from searching for more brown skins and feeling homesick for my Hispanic heritage.

I am now from lost traditions and a loss of self.

Reading Response #5

After reading Kong's fourth chapter my view on the climate in UCSD didn't really change all that much. Being Mexican-American I noticed how the climate here at UCSD wasn't the best, they advertise diversity and they're not wrong but it isn't a lot. I came from a very Hispanic oriented neighborhood and being around a lot of Hispanic people, coming here I rarely saw any Hispanic people. The only person I felt I could relate to was my roommate and only because we went to the same high school and lived near each other. With her around I felt like I wasn't losing all of my Hispanic traditions and culture. It is hard to find other Hispanic students, sometimes I go to the RAZA Resource Center and see how much culture there is there and I miss home. I feel like other people feel this same way because they don't have a lot of their ethnic traditions more known or common. Some people do join up with people that share the same cultures as them and they it helps with homesickness and getting more adjusted with living away from home; however, not all people share those same groups and ethnic diversity is still a problem here at UCSD.

While reading Kong's fourth chapter I did see what point she was making and how the climate she saw was similar to the climate I am seeing now. She had a different experience because they did not make Asian-American culture known as other ethnicities. What she saw was a big more extreme and I believe since then we have tried to make a difference and add a bit more diversity; however, we haven't made much of an improvement. When walking to class I do see more people of different backgrounds and ethnicities but I believe we can still do a bit better. I still believe there are people out there who could do with more cultural appreciation and also some of the negative comments on campus towards a specific group make it difficult to embrace your traditions. Just like in Kong's fourth chapter where she talked about negative and horrible actions and comments towards specific ethnic groups we still see some of those now and it can be bettered.