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CAT 1, TA: Charlene Cuellar

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Reading Response 5



Recreations of chalk drawings seen on campus during the campaigning period and election.

Originally, I viewed the campus climate at UCSD as one with very little racism or discrimination. However, now, reading *Voices of Asian American Students and the Politics of Diversity Policy*, the fourth chapter in Angela Kong's *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*, my growing suspicions of a different campus climate have been confirmed.

My initial experiences on campus have been full of cultural sensitivity and political correctness. For example, multiple emails were sent out to students in an effort to discourage cultural appropriation and misrepresentation in Halloween costumes. In addition, multiple faculty have included their preferred pronouns when introducing themselves. This fits with the image I had of UCSD before coming here: one of inclusion, progression and forward-thinking. However, it is not what I experience, but instead the things that I hear about which have shifted my perception of the campus climate. For example, I heard through the grapevine about anti-immigrant messages written in sidewalk chalk (recreated in my collage above). From Kong's piece I learned of the Compton Cookout of 2010 (86), the noose hanging in Geisel (88), and the KKK hood placed on the statue of Dr. Seuss (90). Although I have not witnessed anything like this myself, hearing about it makes a big change in my impression of the campus climate.

Ultimately I now feel that the campus climate is one of mixed messages (like I tried to portray in my collage). On the surface it is progressive and inclusive, but there are definitive undertones of racialization. These undertones are subtler, unlike the hanging of a noose in Geisel, and are contained in everyday comments and stereotypes, often directed towards those of Asian ethnicities as they are viewed as a 'model minority'. Once in a while, there are spikes of hostility which include acts like the KKK hood on the Dr. Seuss statue. These spikes, unlike the general undertone, break through the image of inclusivity and expose the racialized reality that lies underneath.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela. *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*. Diss. U of California, San Diego, 2014.

N.p.: n.p., n.d. Print.