

More Than a Home



During times of homesickness, it is necessary to create a new home for ourselves. This place is more than just a home to sleep in; it's a place of acceptance. Here I can find roommates, suitemates, and friends that helped me physically and emotionally. They have showed me that I'm never truly alone, that I'll always have someone there for me, that home is not hours away, its here on campus.

Kong argues that UCSD excludes Asian American students with their lack of Asian courses, their generalizations of Asian Americans as the “model minority”, and their activism and programs that focus on other ethnicities. My experience at UCSD has proved otherwise, keeping my view of UCSD the same. A majority of my experience with campus climate can be seen in my apartment in Sixth College. Transitioning was difficult for me but the people in my apartment made me feel at ease and unafraid to be here. In addition, before I moved into the campus, I attended a program called the Triton Community Leadership Institute. A majority of the attendees were minorities, first generation students of different ethnicities. It was the program’s goal to show us that we are welcomed to UCSD, and that we should accept others for who they are regardless of their background. Luckily, during my time at UCSD I have not felt the negative effects of being the “model minority” and “yellow peril.”

As an Asian American student, I recognize that UCSD’s programs are not flawless, however an attempt is made to include students of all ethnicities. According to Kong, other ethnicities receive more attention than others, “... Asian American students’ needs were not a part of the policy demands reflected in items such as funding for an Asian American Studies Minor or an Asian American Resource Center.” Although this is an issue, I am personally unaffected by the lack of Asian American courses and resources, as there are still Asian American organizations and clubs on campus that can be joined. The areas where UCSD lacks representation of Asian Americans does not ultimately define the entire the campus as unrepresentative. While some students may feel the need to discriminate Asian Americans and other ethnicities, I believe there are inclusive and accepting students and staff that act contrastly to the administration of UCSD described in Kong’s dissertation. There is a need for change in the diversity policy, and I will support and hope for this activism, however this need does not change my views of UCSD’s campus climate.