

Missed It

By Brenna Dimalanta

It's early morning. Walking through the darkness is a girl. *Was there rubble here before?* She questions herself for a moment before quickly taking a detour. *Maybe there was.* Construction workers return as the girl walks out of sight, placing a 'ROAD CLOSED' sign where she last stood.

Lost in thought, the girl feels the incline of the empty stretch of pavement. There are no bikes yet. It's still early. She barely notices a cart waiting for her to cross the street and subconsciously recognizes the muffled sound of the city bus from her earbud-blocked ears. The hill gets steeper and she hurries on up. Behind her, students rush away from the bus stop.

The girl stops at a bench by the old abandoned building to adjust her bag. The sun is directly above her now. She strips her jacket and turns up her music a few before heading up the hill. There's faint chanting behind her, maybe a protest, audible yet invisible, behind the old building.

She's passing the Student Center. The buildings are casting shadows over the ground and it's chilly now. There's the LGBT Center and the Black Resource Center. She's rather surprised to see a few people walking into a center, but a breeze causes her to shiver and speed up. Soon after, another girl appears where she had been, promoting an Asian American Center.

She's reached the top of the hill. It's dark now. She has her jacket on. Before entering her lecture, she pauses. Thinking she heard something, she looks around for a moment. There's nothing, just a few students still wandering around the courtyard. It's late, after all. The girl turns and walks into the building. In her wake, it's quiet.

Reading Response #5

Angela Kong's chapter 4 of *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD* highlighted Asian American activism in the aftermath of the Compton Cookout events and the lack of visibility of cross-cultural activism. It brought up a few realities about cross-cultural activism or UCSD that I didn't consider or know, like how something racist like the Compton Cookout occurred only a few years ago, how students struggled to institute something as seemingly simple as Asian American Studies at UCSD, or how one of the founders of the Black Panthers was an Asian American. The explanation and context of the Compton Cookout were probably the most shocking to me, as shocking as the chalk writings in front of the Raza Resource Center, but the issue of the lack of visibility of cross-cultural activism, especially with Asian Americans, really impacted my view of activism and involvement at UCSD. While there may appear to be a lack of cross-cultural activism, there is also a lack of communication, literature, or all together visibility on the subject that became most apparent with the reading.

From the reading, I take that the lack of involvement of Asian Americans that I may interpret at UCSD may not represent the actual involvement of Asian Americans, but this alone does not change my view of UCSD. The UCSD I see does have a lack of involvement, not for the lack of people trying though, there are always people tabling on Library Walk. If you're not seeking anything, you could literally go through a day with little to no interaction. If there's a protest going on, you could go through the day without it even reaching you, without you even knowing it happened, because the campus is wide and routes are plentiful. In the same manner, some of my roommates don't even know where the Black Resource Center is or, even in general, the Student Center, when I try to refer to it and it's swiftly approaching Fall finals week. However, what does help change my view of UCSD is the knowledge of the Compton Cookout and the chalk

writings in front of the Raza Resource Center. I did not imagine that UCSD still had such strong racial issues today, but mixed with the new knowledge that cross-cultural activism is there, just not as visible, it gives me hope that cross-cultural activism may be something I could do at UCSD when I had previously thought it was unlikely because of my previous perceived lack of involvement at UCSD.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela. "Ch 4." *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*. 2014.