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*The Rise and Fall of Community at UCSD: Black Winter of 2010*

All within the span of three weeks during the Winter Quarter of 2010, UCSD suffered a series of racist and sexist events that mobilized an already primed group of student activists to organize against institutional and structural racism. These events included: the so-called Compton Cookout; the Koala TV's use of the n-word on student-run campus television; the discovery of a noose found in Geisel library; and finally, another discovery, this time of a KKK hood in the library. As stated previously, students were ready to organize - UCSD student activists had recently hosted the Students of Color Conference on campus, and were also preparing for the March 4th Rally for Education before the Winter 2010 events. From the efforts of students and faculty who had pushed the administration to be more supportive of its marginalized and underserved populations, the university was changed dramatically, being pushed towards the path of answering to the needs of students, staff, faculty, and the community at large (e.g. the Black Resource Center was established, the Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion was put into place, etc.). Unfortunately, these gains came at a cost - schisms within faculty and students resulted from the inward turning of aggression and pain, leaving deep wounds within the activist community.

Where were the Asian American student activists during this time of strife and pain?

After all, the mainstream media coverage framed the events as a Black issue. However, what the

media neglected to illuminate was the cross-cultural coalitions that included Black and Brown (Chicano) students, as well as Asian American students. Indeed, Asian Americans were involved in the student organizing and mobilization during that time. It is crucial that we remember this, that the efforts of Asian American students during that time are not erased from the institutional memory. These students recognized the injustices committed daily by the institution and stood in solidarity with Black and Brown students. The following shorts will clarify what exactly happened during Winter 2010, how Asian American students felt about the turbulent time, in which ways Asian Americans spoke out against injustice and inequity, and finally, the consequences of Winter 2010 on students still aching from its pain and emotional violence. What stories are hidden by the dominant narrative? By the end of this program, this question will have been thoroughly explored and examined.

Short #1: The Compton Cookout ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDHag\\_0NjRY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDHag_0NjRY)) [11:36]

What happened during Winter 2010? Why was it a time of contradictions - of great pain, trauma, but joy as well? In this short, a few key UCSD students, faculty, and staff reflect upon this crucial and paradoxical moment in the college's history of activism. Through its choice of interviewees and its inclusion of media clips from that time, the film works well in breaking down the myth that the only community involved in addressing the blatantly racist and misogynistic events of that time period was the Black community on campus. Instead, it points out that a coalition across identities was formed during that point, especially with that of Black and Chicano faculty and students. However, glaringly, the participation and work of Asian Americans with the community is not highlighted through the absence of an Asian American

interviewee. It is only implied briefly, with the insistence that the organizing that occurred happened along pan-ethnic lines. Nevertheless, this absence of stories about 2010 from the Asian American community is thus present by its very nonexistence in the dominant narrative.

Short #2: Sam Jung @ March 4, Rally ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTvWln9Ymz4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTvWln9Ymz4)) [9:40]

Winter 2010 encompassed so much more than reactions to the Compton Cookout-themed party. Often, it is forgotten that the students were mobilized and preparing to interrogate the campus concerning the rising costs of education and the lack of focus on serving the needs of the people. Specifically, students again organized a month after the Compton Cookout, this time to rally for public education, a statewide movement organized months in advance. In this short, now UCSD alumni Sam Jung addresses the crowd concerning the context of the attack on education in California. This film succeeds at showing not only the Asian American activist involvement during that time, but also that participants of the rally drew upon 1960s and 1970s activism through its choice of rallying cries and chants. This use of old-school activism reminds the audience of how much the past truly has a hold on current student activism. Echoes of the past continue to then haunt the present and the future.

Short #3: real pain. real action. real voices ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu-2TdtCd04](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu-2TdtCd04)) [14:50]

In UCSD alumni Thieny Nguyen's final class project, the often lauded footage and pictures of the events of Compton Cookout are downsized extremely, focusing on only three key images. Instead, through the course of the video, the audience is led to focus not on the faces of

the students telling of their own experiences. Rather, the audience is forced to focus on the actual words, the oral histories from that time. A black background dominates the majority of the screentime, with the occasional white text flashed on the screen to emphasize specific feelings and experiences of the interviewees. This proves to be a haunting technique. Additionally, it must be noted that this narrative finally incorporates the voices of some Asian Americans involved with the 2010 events, thus combatting the erasure of Asian American involvement. Their reflections prove to ground Winter 2010 with testimonies that are heart-wrenching and deeply meditative.

This is one of the most recent reflections, having been uploaded only a year ago. Now, considering that it is four years later with the last of the students who were physically here during the Compton Cookout graduating, these haunting oral histories have become all the more important for current and future students to hold on to. This video thus answers the following questions: What lessons about coalition-building can students learn from that time? What were moments of the highest highs in terms of organizing, and the deepest of lows in terms of the breakdown in community and coalitions? What can the future possibly look like as the school moves away further and further from the events of 2010?