Another University Is Possible

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ANOTHER UNIVERSITY
IS POSSIBLE

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Luis Alvarez, Roberto Alvarez, Cutler Edwards, Stevie Ruiz,
Elizabeth Sine, Maki Smith, and Daniel Widener
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Between February 15 and March 4, 2010, students, staff, and faculty at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) mobilized against a well-publicized sequence of racist acts on campus and the on-going privatization of higher education. Building occupations and mass rallies, media campaigns and strategic debates were all part of the ebb and flow of a movement that faced three opponents: an inept administration; a student body riddled with ignorance and racism; and decades of active hostility directed by California voters against communities of color and the idea of equality in the Golden State.

The social force that came together in the spring of 2010 drew upon the historical legacies of earlier efforts to create a Lumumba-Zapata College; to force the University of California to divest from apartheid-era South Africa; and to create a Cross Cultural Center that would serve as a space of organizing and refuge during the bleak landscape of the Bush-Clinton years. At the same time, what took place during the spring of 2010 was powerfully new: a model of coalitional, improvisational, multiethnic organizing that rejected the university’s deployment of “diversity” as a rhetorical device and exposed the economic-structural conditions and misguided administrative priorities that failed to ensure an equitable and accessible campus. At the core of this movement lay three interlocking dynamics: the foresight and tenacity of a Black Student Union (BSU) convinced of the necessity and possibility of change; a passionate unity of vision and purpose—a revolutionary trust—between the BSU and the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA); and the ability of BSU/MECHA to serve as the spark for a wider explosion capable of incorporating the hopes and rage of Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American students, progressive whites, and those segments of the UCSD campus engaged in a wider fight against the ongoing privatization of higher education in California.
At the same time, the events at UCSD in the winter of 2010 illustrate the tenacity of what Vijay Prashad has termed “multiracism.” Consider the following about the racist provocations that shook the campus: defenders of the so-called “Compton Cookout” argued that African Americans were in attendance at the original fraternity party; the editorial board of the racist Koala newspaper contained a majority of students of color; the noose hung in Geisel library was placed there by a Latina. Moreover, the demographics of the campus—UCSD’s student body is 49% Asian/Asian American, 13% Latina/o, 1.3% African American, and 0.4% Native American and UCSD’s faculty are 78% white, 15% Asian/Asian American, and 7% combined Latina/o, African American, and Native American—prompted many of the same sorts of questions about race that were raised in the aftermath of the 1992 Rodney King riots. The materials collected within this book represent a genealogy of what one version of a post-colorblind social movement for racial justice looks like.

The students also confronted the enormous burden of the dead hand of history. In its fifty-year existence, the black student percentage of UC San Diego has never exceeded 3%. In an institution fixated on the sciences, humanistic inquiry of social inequality rarely found an echo across the campus. In a place helping to pioneer the model of using public resources in the service of private capital, this movement emerged to demand a University committed to the values of access and equality—a University that puts people before profits.

As a snapshot of a movement and a moment, this collection deliberately avoids the presentation of a straightforward, linear narrative. Instead, the speeches, poems, statements, blog commentary and photographs within are meant to capture the contours and dynamism of this struggle during these few short weeks. In presenting a collection of various voices, we hope to play a role in disrupting the “official” narrative of events, rejecting the idea that the problems began with the Compton Cookout and concluded with the administrative agreement to begin to implement the demands put forth by the Black Student Union. Here, we take our lead from the students, who rightly maintain that what we have witnessed began before we were here, and will continue after we—as editors, students, faculty, and staff—have moved on.

Growing from this shared belief that “Another University is Possible,” we hope this book plays a small part in much broader efforts to document the growing movement for racial and social justice at UCSD; compliment, help sustain, and regenerate the racial justice movement at UCSD; and serve as
a research, teaching, and organizing resource for use by students, staff, and faculty at UCSD and beyond engaged in the study of race, the university, and collaborative social change. We see the recent events at UCSD—from the original racist acts to the political mobilizations against them to the blowback against the mobilizations—as an opportune moment to begin thinking about how newly articulated racisms in a time of declared “colorblindness” combine exclusion, insult, and violence against communities of color, at the same time giving rise to new forms of alliance, solidarity, and transformative movements. In this light, we also understand the events of late February and early March 2010 as the beginning, not end, of a protracted struggle to make UCSD a better university. It is in this spirit of continued struggle that we offer this book as a piece of the on-going racial justice movement, a conversation starter for future movements, and one reminder that UCSD can be a more equitable and racially just place of higher learning.
Part 1

Beyond the Cookout

Photo courtesy of Erik Jepsen.
It is with crucial concern and urgency that I write this letter to bring to your attention the state of the campus climate for African-American students at UC San Diego. The University is allowing the African-American students to be racially demoralized by a group of students on this campus. The most recent incident was February 18, 2010 between 11:00pm and midnight a group of students on the UC San Diego Student Run Television Program (SR-TV) making statements in support of the racial "Compton cookout" party That took place this past Monday February 15, 2010. These students insulted the African-American community by stating "you ungrateful niggers ...". It is a toxic environment for African-American students on this campus. The SR-TV is funded by the University so in fact, it is using taxpayers dollars to degrade and demoralize the African-American students and other underrepresented backgrounds as well. Again, this is a STATE OF EMERGENCY the University is in direct violation of its "Principles of Community". Students do not feel safe on this campus and it is affecting their everyday lives. We need direct action from the University immediately.

Those students involved in the shameful racist acts should be suspended from the University for spreading such hateful messages about the African-American community to the University campus-wide and with the University's funding and approval. These types of acts will not be tolerated. The Black Student Union calls you to support us in this struggle to heal the underrepresented student community and to create a healthier campus climate at UC San Diego. Students are exhausted and tired of bailing this institution out by developing our own student initiated outreach, retention, and yield efforts and maintaining and sustaining them with our
own student fees. When will the University do its part? Time for change is long overdue it's the University's turn to create that change.

Please understand that this tragedy has marked UC San Diego as a racist University and consequently damaged our student initiated yield efforts we worked on this entire academic year. We demand as a result of this dilemma the University take full responsibility for these actions occurring and take direct action to heal a community that has been scarred. Several students and their families are considering transferring out of UC San Diego because of this injustice. We can no longer stand this HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT. Please Come Support our Protest and march to the Chancellors office today February 19th at 9am on Library Walk at UCSD.

The demands of the Black Student Union to address the issue of poor campus climate are stated below and are to be effective immediately.

- We demand a Permanent Task Force to fund more outreach efforts and create more opportunities for hiring African-American Faculty.
- We demand the University fully fund the traditional and non-traditional events of the Black Student Union in our efforts to create a better climate for ourselves.
- Match Funds with Student Promoted Access Center for Education and Service (SPACES) budget including the Student Initiated Access Program and Services (SIAPS) and Academic Success Program (ASP) budgets. Black Student Union Statement February 2010.
- We demand that every time the freshmen class enrollment is cut the University matches the student fees that they would have been paying to SPACES permanently to SPACES.
- We demand that Chancellor Fox uses more energy and resources to providing research based scholarships for
African-American students as apart of a retention component from the Chancellor's Diversity Office.

- Demand the University to increase the African-American populations in all areas of the campus including, Students (undergraduates and graduates), PhD Candidates, Faculty, Staff and Administration.
- We demand the University directly fully fund Faculty-Student Mentor Programs.
- We demand the University staff the vacant Program Coordinator position of the African-American Studies Minor.
- We demand the Chancellor's office make the African-American Studies Minor and the Chicano Latina/o Arts and Humanities Minor a priority for the University.
- We demand the University to charge a Task Force to create the plan for an African-American Resource Center on Campus in two years to provide a safe space for the African-American community.
- We demand that Chancellor Fox create an Office for Diversity Affairs from her administration instead of a part-time position with a title.
- We demand the Chancellor fully funds the Chief Diversity Office.
- We demand a change of Admissions Policy from a Comprehensive to a Holistic Review beginning for the Fall 2011 applicant pool.
- We demand campus climate becomes the Chancellor's number one priority, especially in this time of crisis.
- We demand Chancellor Fox and the University have mutual respect of the "Principles of Community" and create a precedent of prioritizing students of color and leading by example. When demand that there be repercussions when the "Principles of Community" are blatantly being violated.
- We demand the Chancellor's Office charges the Campus Climate Commission that will work primarily on improving the campus climate and providing a safer and more
welcoming space and experience for the students of under-represented communities and the entire student body.

- We demand a permanent quarterly and annual campus climate report from this Campus Climate Commission. This Campus Climate Commission must report directly to SAAC.
- We demand the University create a space in the central part of campus safe for African-American students on campus.
- We demand the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Chief Diversity Office meet with the chair and vice chair of the Black Student Union at least once every academic quarter.
- We demand the University provide financial education and counseling, teaching students from low-income, under-privileged communities how to manage their money being independent college students.
- We demand that the University sends out a campus-wide email presenting the Black Student Union's Do UC us? Campaign Report on Yield of African-American students immediately.
- We demand the University live up to it's "Principles of Community" and show leadership and integrity by giving up the remains of the Kumeeay tribe and respect the native land on which we are housed.
- We demand three permanent designated spaces for African-American inspired art to reflect the struggle and progress for students of color on this campus.
- We demand that Chancellor Fox fully funds this Art space. We demand that the moral "Chicano Legacy" become a permanent art piece on this campus. We demand that Native American, Latino and Asian-Pacific Islander cultural art is reflected publicly on this campus.
- We demand Chancellor Fox and the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, and the Academic Senate mandate a diversity sensitivity requirement for every undergraduate student to take an African-American studies, Ethnic Studies, and Gender Studies before they graduate from UC San Diego.
• We demand the programs and departments such as OASIS, Campus Community Centers, Ethnic Studies, Critical Gender Studies, CLAH, and African American Studies Minor amongst others continue to have solid funding for the work they do in retaining African American students and educating the campus as a whole.
• We demand the University implements, maintains and fully funds BSU’s Student Initiated Yield Programs. Stipend for Student Volunteers- students deserves compensation for the hard work they do that the University should be doing.
• We demand that the Chancellor’s Office offers more campus-wide support for the African-American students on this campus, as well as the other historically underrepresented and under-served communities on this campus.
• We demand the University provide the African-American community with a temporary location for a safe space on campus while the African-American Resource Center is being planned and constructed.
• We demand the University provide free tutors for the African-American students who seek academic support. This can be structured similar to that of the Athletic Department’s services to Athletes.
• We demand a response!

THE ISSUE
As you may or may not be aware of the recent events that occurred involving some UC San Diego undergraduate students in an attempt to make a mockery of Black History month and host a themed party entitled “The Compton Cookout”. This is completely unacceptable. The University has made two meager attempts to alleviate the tension between the UCSD community and spread awareness to the population but that those attempts have been to no avail. Our question and major concern is how does a student/group of students feel that it is acceptable to target a group of color. This issue is a direct reflection of the insensitivity on this
campus and has acted as a catalyst in this already existing hostile environment. This address is to not focus on the event specifically but to 1) use this situation as a learning experience for everyone who may or may not have been affected 2) hold the Chancellor and the University accountable to making campus climate a priority and addressing the needs of the African-American community and historically underrepresented ethnic communities on this campus. The administration's failure to prioritize creating a healthier campus climate earlier has caused this tragic event to reach the masses. It needs to be addressed immediately and all members involved in the organizing of the racist event should face dire consequences. The University needs to make an example out of these students.

Earlier this year the Black Student Union, with the help of a larger statewide coalition, organized and coordinated the Do UC us? Campaign in an effort to increase the numbers of African-American students on the UC San Diego campus. The campaign also clearly addressed the issues of campus climate at this University compiled with Admissions Statistics and criteria, Diversity and Yield Reports from the University as well as student testimonies, demands and student initiated programs to increase the yield of African American students. The UCSD Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Penny Rue, has committed to fully funding the yield programs and through this public address along with support we will surely hold her accountable to that. Consequently, with the media involved, this issue has reached national attention and has sadly marked UCSD to be a "racist campus". This is completely problematic because this incident is pushing us back in our efforts of access, yield and retention. Students have been working countless hours developing yield programs for the black students that will succeed but now more ever we are conflicted. We want to increase the numbers of African-American students on this campus but we do not want them to experience the hostile environment that we have to deal with.
WHAT WE HAVE DONE

What type of campus climate do we have at this University that would allow this type of behavior/activity to be acceptable?

This incident has given us a moral edge.

The Black Student Union will continuously represent the voice of the African-American student population and raise issues regarding campus climate because we are confident that an inclusive campus climate fosters higher retention rates, student development, and academic empowerment. BSU requests that you all review the needs and that we schedule a quarterly meeting to update, assess, and evaluate.

The Black Student Union has been in existence on this campus since 1968. We are apart of the history of UCSD! African-American students have made instrumental steps for pushing for social justice and equality for all students on campus for decades. The University is planning its 50 Year Celebration and in that half century our population of African American students has never exceeded 3%. The campus having never seen a black population of over 3 percent speaks to the lack of initiative and prioritization of yield and diversity outreach. Students on this campus that make continual efforts to undermine the history of oppression of African-Americans in this country and the racism and bigotry we have surmounted.

HISTORY/SUPPORT

To our fellow students, lets take care of each other. We have to continue to push through the hardship that this situation has caused us and use it as a blessing in disguise. We WILL stay united and our community will hold the University accountable to prioritizing a healthier campus climate for underrepresented groups on this campus. To our extremely supportive faculty and staff, thank you and please continue to push, encourage and guide us as student
leaders and activist. To Chancellor Fox, Vice Chancellor Rue and the rest of University Administration, we demand you commit to the UCSD "Principles of Community".

STEPS FOR THE FUTURE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday Feb 22nd 6:30—BSU general body meeting in Cross Cultural Center in the Comunidad Room

Tuesday Feb 23rd 5–7pm—"Honest and Open Dialogue on Campus Climate"- Muir Quad, Facilitated by Fnann Keflezighi

Wednesday Feb 24th 12–2pm Teach-ins and 2–4pm Open Dialogue-facilitated by Briana Boyd-Price Center Ballroom East

Thursday Feb 25th 4:30–6:30pm—Campus Black Forum (CBF)—Cross Cultural Center library (please note that CBF is a space created for the African American community and you may or may not be welcomed into this space especially in this time of pain)

The University Administration should feel embarrassed for allowing such negligence to occur. We warned the University about the hostile environment for Black students within this horrible campus climate. Other students of underrepresented groups share the same dismay.

It is imperative that our African-American community reaches a critical mass on this campus.

We are committed to fulfilling our vision of a healthier campus climate in order to continue our work in the struggle to recruit, yield, retain and most importantly represent the African American students here at UC San Diego.

David Ritcherson
Fnann Keflezighi
Chairpersons of the Black Student Union
UCSD Teach-In Address
Performance is Not Benign
Dr. Nadine George-Graves
Associate Professor, Theater and Dance
February 24, 2010

Good afternoon.

My name is Nadine George-Graves and I’m an Associate Professor here in the Department of Theater and Dance. I have devoted my entire professional life and scholarship to issues of race and gender in performance. Here are some classes that I have taught here:

• African American Theater
• African American Film
• Gender and Performance
• The Body and Performance
• Ethnicity and Performativity

My books are:
• *The Royalty of Negro Vaudeville: The Whitman Sisters and the Negotiations of Race, Gender, and Class in African American Theater, 1900-1940*

and the forthcoming

• *Urban Bush Women: Twenty Years of African American Dance Theater, Community Engagement, and Working It Out*

I have many articles on similar topics and my creative work as a director also deals with these issues. I say this because I know there has been some backlash against this event and wonder if the speakers are qualified to talk on the subject. So I wanted to let you know where I’m coming from as a scholar.

I want to start off by saying that I fully support the BSU students and faculty of African descent in their efforts to bring about real structural change that has been an ongoing struggle escalated by recent events. I want to acknowledge the strong responses against these acts from many different constituents in our community, not just African Americans, who stand in solidarity with these efforts.

A number of students in the department of Theater and Dance have written a statement that begins to get at some of these issues from a perspective that has not been fully addressed in the blogs and open letters that I’ve read so far. We’re passing them out today and will post it online. I encourage you to read it because I can only give a nod to these issues here. This is not an official statement from the department of Theater and Dance, doesn’t represent everyone in that department’s opinion but the students felt strongly that they wanted to get this word out to you and add their voices to the many others decrying the actions and calling for institutional change and I support them in that. We are also passing out a statement from the department chair. I encourage you to read the blogs on stopracismucsd.wordpress.com as well as the battlehate.ucsd.edu website. I encourage you to read as much as you can—talk to as many people as you can and educate yourselves, because I can’t do it all in 15 minutes. I
encourage you to take classes that address these issues especially if you don’t see anything wrong with these events.

I’ve been asked to explain the historical and social context surrounding the “Compton Cookout” to help people understand why the originating incident is “a big deal.” I’ll be honest with you, when first asked, I was concerned, ambivalent and a bit outraged about this charge. My entire body of scholarship is dedicated to analyzing and articulating the negotiations of power in terms of race, class and gender through performance on and off stage. So it makes sense that I was asked. But how do I condense that rich and complex scholarship into 15 minutes? But as events escalated I decided that I wanted to use this opportunity to do a small part toward battling ignorance.

Of course, two hours is a drop in the bucket. And this must be part of the larger response from the University and not just a band-aid. We must all keep the administration accountable for that.

I can’t tell you how many versions of this talk I’ve written, each in response to the latest occurrence or internet response or news piece. And I stand here right now, not quite knowing what to say. This has become so enflamed that I seriously doubt anybody can hear what I have to say.

- There is no trust on this campus
- The atmosphere is toxic and hostile.
- The atmosphere was toxic and hostile before but it has become unbearable and unsustainable.
- This community has fractured.

Unless the demographics of student, staff and faculty representation and the commitment to work in areas of race, ethnicity, gender, class, disability and cognate fields is more fully supported, nothing I can say here today will matter.

Not to mention this is just plain embarrassing. UCSD is becoming known nationally as an institution of intolerance and ignorance. What year is
this?! I hope the university takes quick, decisive and sufficient measures to address the campus climate, starting with the already existing yield report and the calls for action from the students who are bravely leading us all. I hope we all commit to our part of the project of ensuring that something like this doesn’t happen again. And I hope that we can all commit to our part in changing the atmosphere so that students don’t think these behaviors are sanctioned. Because I don’t know how much longer I can take it and I’m sure there are others of you who agree.

So, what do I do? Do I try to begin to talk about these issues or do I stop here and give up?

I’m not one to give up, so I’ll try to do my small part.

My other area of concern was who to address. The students who threw and attended this party? The students who are the target of these vicious representations and have to live with the fallout? The faculty and administration members who have fostered the toxic campus environment that allows students to think this event was harmless?

What I’ve decided to do is to begin with the premise that these events and others like them are wrong and that they instill hatred, racism and violence. If you don’t believe me then I refer you to the library; or to the many responses that have come from various departments and faculty members who study this stuff; or to this huge national outcry denouncing the actions.

I’ve decided to address this talk to those of you in the room who know that this incident was wrong (no matter what your race, class, gender or age) but don’t quite know how to articulate your feelings when talking to roommates or colleagues who pose different beliefs and ask certain questions. There are many ways to approach this but I want to show you how the language of theater studies and performance studies is particularly useful for understanding the events and fallout.

So the title of the talk is Performance is Not Benign.
I’m currently teaching a class on the body in performance and my students and I discussed this at length and some of this talk comes from those discussions.

The imagery described in the original party invitation draws on a long history of stereotyping first begun in the theater genre of minstrelsy in the early 1800s. Minstrelsy has the dubious distinction of being labeled the first truly American theater form. Prior to minstrelsy’s inception, American audiences were entertained by versions of music hall and variety that were imported from England albeit with an American flair. But minstrelsy is all ours and as such has become one of the primary narratives of human interaction in this country. And the development of stereotypical character types is the most significant legacy of minstrelsy. These types were developed not only to ridicule and entertain; they also served very significant social functions. As popular culture, minstrelsy marked changing social tide and served as a site for racial negotiation during antebellum, wartime and reconstruction. Minstrelsy was a performative argument for slavery. It presented African Americans as less than human and therefore only worthy of being slaves. And it has resurfaced over and over again throughout American history. It was used as the argument for Jim Crow laws and the continued second-class citizenship of African Americans, among many other directly destructive effects. So that as the times changed, the stereotypes changed but they always served to disenfranchise African Americans, even when African Americans do it. Because we are all implicated in these narratives. There is a complicated history of African Americans also performing these roles but that happening doesn’t diminish the negative power of the stereotypes and it remains with us as a constant anxious negotiation of classed, raced and gendered bodies with different particulars but doing the same cultural work.

The original party invitation acts as a script. And the event itself was a rehearsal of the negotiation of power. It gives people the performative argument for the continued systematic oppression of poor, black and brown men and women. In other words, by playing at mocking a group of people one can practice not respecting them as human beings. We can tell ourselves it is all done in fun but it fundamentally changes the
way we see those people in the future especially at a place like this when there are so few of us that you see. This is not just symptomatic of racism but it creates racism—it enacts racism again and again. There are many reasons why—just one of which is the fact that this was a mockery of black history month. And the social work of this party will come back to haunt other spaces—job interviews, legislative chambers with lawmakers drafting legislation, doctor’s offices, classrooms—this is where racial profiling comes from.

Performance is Not Benign.

I could go on and point to other moments in history where these kinds of acts were negotiated. But what I thought would be most useful is to focus on developing language to help us articulate our feelings of dissent. I’ve talked to a number of people who essentially say, “I know it was wrong but I don’t quite know how to respond when somebody says____.” I want to use the time I have left to talk about some of the more complicated conversations that people have had and start us sharing strategies for how to respond. So, I’d like you to think about one such moment that has happened to you in the past week. When you didn’t know what to say when confronted about your beliefs. Turn to your neighbor, introduce yourself if you don’t know the person and explain the situation, what you did or didn’t do or say, and try to work together to come up with a way to respond.

I’ll start you off with an example: Somebody said to me “People are so sensitive. It doesn’t mean anything and I’m tired of people complaining.” To which I said, “Well let’s talk about this oppression fatigue—who gets the right to be bored, who gets the right to dictate who is offended? I was to resist allowing others to dictate the terms of my offense and I’m bored with people who are bored with the continued acts of racism. If these acts didn’t persist, if we didn’t have an atmosphere that fed the ignorance then we wouldn’t have these problems and we could all get on with our lives. But they do persist, it is important and people don’t feel safe, so we can’t stop.”
Another comment was “I don’t want to look stupid so I don’t say anything.” To which I responded, “Well how can we create a climate of respect especially in this educational setting so that you can feel comfortable working through these issues.”

Those are just a few examples.

So take a few minutes to do that—turn to your neighbor and talk about a situation you experienced and what you said or wish you had said.

(After a few minutes…)

I’m out of time but I hope this has gone a little way in our productive conversations. I invite you to bring up those situations when we open up the discussion so that we can all think together of strategies for battling racism, sexism, classism and homophobia.

Thank you.

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**URGENT ACTION NEEDED**

You may have heard of the recent event at UC Irvine with Michael Oren, the ambassador of Israel to the US.

While he was invited by a student organization to speak on US-Israeli relations, the UCI Law School and the Political Science Department cosponsored the speech by Oren, a public figure who represents a state that continues to commit more human rights violations than any other country.

At the event, 11 students who chose to protest by making clear and organized statements were arrested and held in a room until after the event. The school is also currently threatening to punish the students, aiming to send a political message by selective enforcement of university policies.

Contact UCI Chancellor Michael Drake NOW to declare that it is unjust to arrest these students!

Ask to speak with Chancellor Drake or leave a message at: (949) 824 – 5011 and email him at: chancellor@uci.edu

Speak to the Dean of Students office, who are determining the punishment at: (949) 824-5181 and email them at: deanstu@uci.edu!

urvil rights movement in America the eventually ensured equality and human rights for all minorities.

Thank you for your support.

[www.irvine11.com](http://www.irvine11.com)
My name is Jenn Tran and I’m a fifth year at UCSD. I represent Ethnic Studies and Urban Planning, and I think that one thing that needs to be mentioned is … if any of you all were at the teach-in/teach-out, one of the things that Nadine George reminded me is that “who are we speaking to?”

And one thing that touched me is that she said we’re speaking to the people who say “why does this matter?” Why does this matter? And everyone here obviously knows that this is important to all of y’all, but that is why I say that there’s a lot of people out there that still don’t know why this matters right now. And that is why our job is to continue not only being in solidarity with one another right now, getting to know each other, connecting, going back to the roots of where we all come from, but as an Asian American I want to also reiterate that we are a major minority, not only on this campus but UC-wide, and in higher education, and we need to keep all of us accountable for what’s happening.

So tomorrow night at the Cross Cultural Center, Ethnic Studies and Literature professors are inviting all Asian American and A/PI students and other UC orgs to come to say, to speak on, you know, why does this matter—to all students, but in particular to Asian American students in this issue that’s going around. So I invite you tomorrow night, at the Cross Cultural Center, from 7-9:00 p.m. … There’s also a Facebook statement that’s been circulating, and there’s a petition as well, and so, you know, if you can’t make it, sign it, and be in solidarity with the BSU right now.

Thank you.
MY LIFE BELONGS TO THE STUDENTS

Cecilia Ubilla, Summer Bridge Writing Coordinator, UCSD OASIS program, Library Walk, Friday after the noose, February 26, 2010

I have been on this campus for 30 years. And I have been on this struggle since I was in high school like the compañeras and compañitos from Lincoln High school that were here. I've seen much injustice and I have suffered much on my own person. I have cried days and nights in other places in the world and here.

I came here in 1974 as a graduate student and this university welcomed me. And then I found a family and professors who are still here, who are human, who respect peoples' dignity. And I felt that I had found a real warm, a real humane place. But in 30 years that paradise is somewhat turning into a nightmare from which I run away. I have seen much mobilization on this campus. Because they cut the trees. Because they didn't cut the trees. Because they opened ground for this, they didn't open up ground for that. Every issue I have been here. Not for me, not for my colleagues who are here with me today, not for the professors, but for the students. Because that is the objective of my life. And it will always be.
It is time to dry the tears. It is time to take action. We have suffered. No one probably on this campus has suffered more than the African American students because history has oppressed them throughout their entire existence. I did see their pain in Austin, Texas, and the entire state of Texas in the 60s, when horrible things like this happened and nobody did anything. I think that the students on this campus are so committed to their studies, so committed to the library and the lab, that they have missed the point, they have gotten out of history and we need to bring them back. They need to know there is an enemy and these things do not happen by accident. I’m here with you, and as I’ve always said, I offer my life, and my life belongs to the students. Twice in my life I came very close to losing it; and if I need to lose it now, so be it, it’s yours.

I think that educating yourself is very good. Educating this crowd is very good. But I think there is a crowd on this campus that is a mainstream American crowd that have never studied their history and they’ve never come to terms with how they belong to the enemy and how they are part of the repressive apparatus of this nation. We need to educate them!

Madame Chancellor, about 2 months ago, I received from your hands a medal, because I have been here serving the students for over 30 years. You cannot imagine how happy that medal made me. Not for me, but
because it reminded me of my father. An uneducated guy who said to me, in his lack of literacy at all, that the only thing that I could get in life and win was an education.

Please help me to continue to love that medal, Madame Chancellor, and please tell the students that you understand better than anyone else, that in spite of all the pressures that we know you’re under, that you will expel some fraternities from this campus. And even if the people make an issue, get the *Koala* out of this campus. If it’s a violation of civil liberties, then I would say, civil liberties that attack and degenerate the dignity, the pride, and the freedom of human beings to do what they want to do, for their own dignity, are not laws to be respected.

**High School Students from the African Revolutionary Student Organization, Lincoln High School, San Diego, CA**

*Friday morning rally after the noose was found, February 26, 2010*

**Marquel Carnell:** … I know there is the rage of 1200 black and brown students here, but there’s more than that, there’s the rage of a whole community here against the selfishness, the racism, and the bigotry that has occurred here, and I hope you guys know that we’re with you all the way, right behind you!

**Sakeenah Shabazz:** I’m Sakeenah Shabazz, a junior at Lincoln high school, and I’m up here representing ARSO, the African Revolutionary Student Organization, and the fact that Marquel is able to come up here and eloquently express the rage that he feels, is so tight, because we are the products of the Lincoln High School Center for Social Justice, and this is the stuff that we’re learning about. And seeing that it’s right here in front of us, and that it’s real, it kinda hurts our hearts to know, but it just shows that