

California State University, San Bernardino

CSUSB ScholarWorks

CSUSB Sound and video recordings

Arthur E. Nelson University Archives

2023

CSUSB Libraries' Banned Books Discussion Series - Student Interviews

California State University - San Bernardino

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/csusb-video-recordings>

Recommended Citation

California State University - San Bernardino, "CSUSB Libraries' Banned Books Discussion Series - Student Interviews" (2023). *CSUSB Sound and video recordings*. 19.

<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/csusb-video-recordings/19>

This Video is brought to you for free and open access by the Arthur E. Nelson University Archives at CSUSB ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in CSUSB Sound and video recordings by an authorized administrator of CSUSB ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@csusb.edu.

Interview Transcript

Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

EINAR CHUA: My name is Einar Chua. I am a third year here at CSUSB. I'm a political science major and I dabble a little bit in theater. The banned books that I read were *Maus* by Art Spiegelman and *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. It has meant a lot to me to have access to these resources because I know we are living in a cultural and societal shift. But with that change comes a lot of pushback and with that push back it has resulted in the banning of more than a thousand books all over the country and I think it's important for us to have these resources here at Cal State San Bernardino. I know because other students in other states may not have access to those resources. Reading *The Hate U Give* really resonated with me even though the book was written in 2017. I connected it with the George Floyd incident in 2020. I remember it was a time of [00:01:00] dramatic social shift, cultural unrest, and on top of that, there was a pandemic and it was a really scary time. But that book, which is about systematic racism, media bias, police brutality, and also learning to live with your different family members and learning to love them even if they have different views than you I think is a really important subject that, even though it was written more than four years ago, I think it still resonates with today. I think a lot of students from various majors can actually benefit from the banned books. *Maus* and *The Hate U Give*. Even though they are about World War II, the Holocaust, police brutality, all these heavy topics. What I love about both of these books is that they condense it to a human and personal level and they're based on real life experiences. And I think a lot of political science, history, psychology, ethnic studies students, they can all take stuff from these books and introduce it into their discourse [00:02:00].

ERIN VELASCO: Hi, my name is Erin Velasco and I am a second-year student in public health. The banned book I read is *New Kid* by Jerry Craft. Reading this book meant a lot to

me because I actually picked the book based off its title. I was the new kid growing up because I was originally from the Philippines, I moved back from here to the Philippines a lot and I was able to connect with the book. Aside from its title, I was able to connect with him because he experienced a lot of culture shock and I also understand how hard it is to adapt from one culture to another.

FILIMON FERGOSO: My name is Filimon Fergoso. Actually, this is my fifth year here at California State University San Bernardino. I graduated this past spring with my Bachelor of Arts in English with dual concentrations in Linguistics and Rhetoric and Writing Studies and now this is my first year in the English graduate [00:03:00] program here at Cal State. The banned book that I read was Jonathan Evison's novel titled *Lawn Boy*. Something about Jonathan Evison's novel is that it's specifically tailored for an LGBTQ+ audience. And as a queer person myself, I often question why was this book banned since it is targeting a group in our society that is continuously looking for connection and it wasn't until I actually read that book that I found out reason why is because as queer people we're often punished whether socially or economically for following a path in life that doesn't conform to the standards of our society. Whenever our community tries to kind of withdraw from the social norm and follow their own path in life, we often face those punishments that kind of force us back into following these norms. And when it [00:04:00] comes to questioning if this is the right path for us, having access to this book and being introduced to the idea that a utopia can exist for us when we follow our own path, that's really affirming. And that affirms my own belief that I will eventually find my own utopia by being my authentic self.

End of Interview:

[00:04:29]