

RAMPAGE

continued from page 13

Muslim man commits a crime.

The media instantly labels the "terrorist" as a Muslim, not as a once fun, social guy.

We have a double standard problem in this country.

In the 2009 Fort Hood Shooting where an Army psychiatrist, Maj. Nidal Hasan, opened fire, killing 12 people and wounding 31, the media released the handgun he used, his poor performance evaluation and his name all in a matter of hours.

Audiences globally didn't know about his past relationships, where he hung out on the weekends or what his favorite movie was.

We were just stuck with a picture of a brown man, staring into the camera, slightly smirking.

As of this past Friday, 17 charges were filed against Bales.

While citizens and government officials of Afghanistan are calling for an immediate trial, it will be likely months to years before the public ever sees Bales step foot into a courtroom.

Hasan's trial is set to take place in June.

Bales' case will most likely surround the idea that his damaged mental state and post traumatic stress disorder influenced his killing spree through the small Afghan village.

While PTSD is a very serious condition, and can always worsen, those men and women in the military that suffer probably don't want Bales looked to as the poster child for this unfortunate disease.

Bales could face the death penalty if convicted on all crimes.

Killing for killing is in itself unjustified, therefore I hope Bales doesn't

get the death penalty.

War is not a justification for what is called the worst killing of civilians in all of war history by one soldier.

We are still living in a culture of black and white, us versus them, good versus evil.

Bales's actions shouldn't be justified.

It is my belief that everyone has the ability to snap in a time of increased pressure, depression and stress. But the majority of the population of the world knows how to suppress the thought of possible action.

We as a culture should not be humanizing these events, or justifying that these things just "happen" in times of war.

We must relieve ourselves of using a double standard to justify horrible actions, and realize that humanizing these actions doesn't help solve for the future.

RACISM

continued from page 13

man captain for an all-white, gated neighborhood, called 9-1-1 to let them know that there was someone walking in their neighborhood who looked suspicious.

The officer on the other line told Zimmerman there was no reason to watch him and to leave Martin alone. Obviously having a better judgment, Zimmerman went against the police officer's request and confronted Martin.

Literally wailing for help, as heard on a 9-1-1 phone call tape, Martin was dead a few minutes later.

His crime? Being young and black. Zimmerman's father recently came out with a statement saying that Zimmerman has a multi-cultural and Hispanic background, obviously justifying why Zimmerman's choice was not racially motivated.

This incident happened on Feb. 27. Martin's parents are left without a son, and Zimmerman has not been questioned about the attack.

How are we living in the most successful country with the most educated people and still dealing with unjust situations such as these?

The white man is the colored man's burden.

History provided countless times when the colored man is constantly defeated by the white man.

It's the harsh reality, but it is the true reality.

Sometimes we put ourselves in this bubble of hope and color blindness

where we believe that racism is gone and we don't have to deal with it anymore.

Just because the colored and the whites are allowed to share bathrooms doesn't mean they clean their hands the same way.

So many questions come to mind for this case.

For instance, why did Zimmerman find Martin suspicious if his actions supposedly weren't racially motivated?

The one time Zimmerman was asked about his reaction to Martin, he claimed it was self-defense, but how can something be self defense when he initiated the first interaction?

Why did Zimmerman feel the need to bust out his nine millimeter handgun in the first place?

These questions will only be asked if there are enough people who demand answers.

This incident happened almost four weeks ago.

Zimmerman is a free man who has taken the life of a young boy who was determined to make something out of his life.

If that doesn't outrage the general public, then we have serious issues we need to address before we can save humanity.

The first step would be to accept each other's differences.

Too many people think color blindness is a fair trade to end racism. Wrong. People who embrace the art of color blindness are disguising a subconscious non-acceptance to the differences someone may actually have. To a certain extent, yes, people

are all the same.

If you share the same goal, ambitions and favorite foods, those are things we have in common. But if one person is black and one person is white, there needs to be a sense of acknowledgement.

We go two ways; either we think we might offend someone so we stick to finding similarities we have with one another or we believe that the "other" is so completely different that we choose to falsify any connection we have with one another.

The law was created to ensure a greater sense of protection for the people using the logic of putting 'the bad guys' in jail. Except in this case, the bad guys happen to be the same guys who have the ability to cheat the system and hold no responsibility.

If Martin had been white, there would have been an outcry. It certainly would not have taken three weeks for news reporters to find this story.

Zimmerman was intoxicated when he made his decisions that night.

Martin was an A/B student hoping to be an engineer one day. Martin could have been the difference. He could have very well been the future of the young black youth around the country.

But he is just a victim of racism, another number to the United States justice system, another young black man to law enforcement.

Prayers and thoughtful wishes go out to the Martin family.

One day, a fair trial will be served for all those who had to die to continue to spread awareness about this ongoing war.

INNOCENT

continued from page 13

West Memphis Three, a name synonymous with child killings.

On May 5, 1993, three 8-year-old boys, Stevie Branch, Michael Moore and Christopher Byers, were reported missing. The boys were found a little over a day later in a muddy ditch, naked and hogtied with their own shoelaces.

Byers had lacerations to various areas of his body as well as the mutilation of his genitals.

Police officers James Sudbury and Steve Jones felt the crime had indications of "cult" overtones, and believed Echols, someone who constantly dressed in black attire and listened to Metallica and other metal bands, to have an interest in occultism.

On June 3, Misskelley, with a reported IQ of 72, a score which made him borderline intellectually functioning, was questioned alone without consent from his parents.

Misskelley initially confessed to the crime, but he later tried to retract his confession, stating intimidation, fatigue and threats from police coerced his statement.

Misskelley's statements to the police leaked to the press and reported on the front page of the Memphis newspaper before any trials began, further demonstrating the warped reality of justice the town withheld.

Authorities arrested Baldwin and Echols shortly after the confession and the three received life sentences, with Echols being put to death.

During the trials, Dr. Dale Griffis, an expert on occultism who received his credentials through an online website, made a testimony about what typically indicated involvement with the occult: black nail polish along with social withdrawal.

Also, sacrificing children to the all-powerful Satan is a prevalent indicator of occultism.

Sacrificing children to the beast aside, Griffis pretty much described your average, moody, Smashing Pumpkins - listening teenager.

It was later found that the damages to Byers' body were actually caused by animals living within the wooded area where his body was found. This case demonstrates how flawed our legal and justice systems can actually be.

A terrible murder happens, the town thinks it's some sort of satanic ritual and the small town police, desperate to solve a murder case, find the easiest people to blame.

Voila, you have yourself a town that can now rest easier knowing a murder has been solved.

Thank God I'm not too fond of Metallica.