

The Blue Banner's View

Justice should not be a question of race discrimination

A teenage boy dies and gains nationwide media attention.

Correction: an African-American teenage boy, walking through a majority white neighborhood, gets shot and an entire nation begins screaming, "Racism!"

Facts in the death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin remain obscure. Eyewitness accounts only tell the story after George Zimmerman shot Martin. Not one eyewitness reports claims to have seen any of the events leading up to the shooting.

Except, of course, we have Zimmerman's own account.

It's said there are three sides to every story: each person tells their version, and the truth lies in the middle.

Sadly, we only have Zimmerman's side.

Martin's died along with him, and everyone is still searching for the truth.

All across the country, people question- "What happened?" "Who started it?" "Is Zimmerman telling the truth?" And, the big one, "Will there be justice for Trayvon Martin?"

But, another question remains to be answered.



Photo by Gabriel Ainslie - Assistant Photography Editor

Students and community members gather in front of Ramsey Library for a protest held on campus, March 29. The protest was being held to "bring justice for" Trayvon Martin, Shaima Alawadi and Agnes Torres.

How did the death of a young African-American boy by a Hispanic man become an issue of racial profiling?

And why, more than half a century after desegregation and the Civil Rights movement, does racism still rear it's

ugly head?

Some sources in the case claim the 911 recording of Zimmerman contains a racial slur, although numerous analysts have reported being unable to distinguish it.

Protests have arisen all across the country clamoring for the arrest of Zimmerman. The New Black Panthers even went far enough to offer a reward for Zimmerman's capture.

Authorities claim, under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, Zimmerman acted in self-defense.

Therefore, if his account stands up against the Martin family's defense, he will not be charged with Martin's murder.

This should stop being a question of race and start being a question of the truth.

Here are the facts: Zimmerman called police and pursued Martin after seeing him walk through the neighborhood. Neighbors heard an altercation and screams for help, but cannot say definitively who screamed. Witnesses came upon the scene after hearing a shot and saw Martin lying on the ground, dead, with Zimmerman standing over him.

This should not be a question of race. Justice should not be served because an African-American was shot.

Justice should be served because a young man is dead, skin color notwithstanding.

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The Blue Banner is a designated forum for free speech and welcomes letters to the editor, considering them on basis of interest, space and timeliness. Letters and articles should be emailed to the editor-in-chief or the appropriate section editor.

Letters should include the writer's name, year in school, and major or other relationship to UNCA. Include a telephone number to aid in verification. All articles are subject to editing.