



PHOTO BY BRYCE ALBERGHINI

Participants representing Black Lives Matter and other movements gathered at the Moral March, sponsored by NAACP, in Raleigh on Feb. 10.

America must work harder for racial equality

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Those who were paying attention both celebrated Trayvon Martin's 23rd birthday and mourned the six-year remembrance of his death in the month of February, all while observing Black History Month and navigating racial politics.

Trayvon Martin's death set fire to silence

Martin was a 17-year-old boy killed by a community watchman in a gated neighborhood in Florida where his father lived. Unarmed and walking home from 7-Eleven, many argue Martin was targeted purely due to racial profiling.

George Zimmerman, the man responsible for Martin's death, evaded persecution through lack of evidence and Florida's stand-your-ground law. According to the Florida Legislature this law states a person within their residence or dwelling is not required to retreat and may use deadly force if they feel it is necessary to prevent "imminent death or great bodily harm."

The incident was a familiar tragedy to American families of color, for which we often see too little justice, if any at all. In the past, some legislation allowed and encouraged discrimination against people of color, such as the Three-Fifths Compromise and Jim Crow laws, but today such inequitable statutes

are rightfully outlawed. The declared unconstitutionality of discriminatory laws does not ensure laws will not have racial outcomes. The War on Drugs for instance does not contain specific language pertaining to race or other identities, but very often has overwhelmingly racial consequences due to systemic racism and racial profiling.

Black Lives Matter stands up and sinks its teeth into oppression

The acquittal of the innocent teen's murderer sparked a new movement for racial justice that unapologetically lays bare the systemic racism nurturing atrocities that have claimed the lives of countless people of color since the theft of

this continent.

The Black Lives Matter movement is a new crusade for an old, enduring issue. Many argue racism has decreased since the civil rights movement, but that is just not the case. An opinion of that level of oversight is likely the result of specific privileges. Racism is alive and well, thriving within the hive of financial and bureaucratic securities of prisons, public schools systems and residential segregation.

The movement acts as an important rung in the climb to awaken the U.S., and the world, to the constant injustices within the everyday lives of people of color. Speaking out and

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