

Confronting racism

All lives can't matter until black lives do.

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Black
Lives
Matter.
These

three words put together such a simple, yet so complex phrase. BLM has been a movement for several years, but has recently resurfaced when 46-year-old George Floyd was murdered by police on May 25, 2020. BLM is a movement that stands for the equality, justice, and fair treatment of and for black people.

Since 1619, African Americans have been discriminated against due to the color of their skin. They were beaten, tortured, raped, and even murdered. In 1790 there were around 700 thousand slaves in America, and African Americans weren't even giv-

been fighting for equality and fighting against racial injustice for black people. Figures like Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, and many others have paved the way for future generations.

Some could argue that BLM is a racist movement because it is glorifying the importance of one race. Due to this, the ALM movement was formed. ALM or All Lives Matter was created as a rebuttal for BLM. They argue that Black Lives Matter is racist, and the reason being "But All Lives Matter not just black lives," in my opinion, is very short-sighted. BLM does not mean that black lives are more superior or more important. It simply means that for a very long time, black people have been

en rights until
1964. For years
many
people
have

oppressed and treated unfairly, and right now their lives are at stake.

For example, let's say my house is on fire. I call the fire department and they show up at my house. As soon as they arrive in the neighborhood, they go straight into my house to help with the fire. They don't check on the rest of the neighborhood until they have made sure my house is safe. Yes, all houses matter, but my house is in danger, and that's the one that needs attention. Wake up. It's 2020, and people are still being treated differently solely based on their skin tone. From police brutality, to flat out

racism, black people are getting murdered day by day. Yes, every life matters, but ALL lives can't matter until black lives do as well.



Amiah Williams, senior, shows her support for those that are oppressed at a BLM rally.

The divided States of America

By: Jacob Shaffer @JacobShaffer_18

The government sucks. The country is trapped in a deadlock, split down the middle between democratic and republican voters, both parties being polar opposites of each other. Both parties demonize each other on almost every issue, republicans calling the Dems soft, easily triggered liberal snow-

flakes and the Dems calling the Republicans gun toting, MAGA hat wearin' rednecks. Not to mention both presidential candidates basically threw a temper tantrum on stage of what was supposed to be the first presidential debate, embarrassing not only themselves but the great nation of the United States. The U.S. is the greatest democracy the world

has ever known, but our democracy and our very way of life is in danger because of a threat most people don't even realize exists: the two party system.

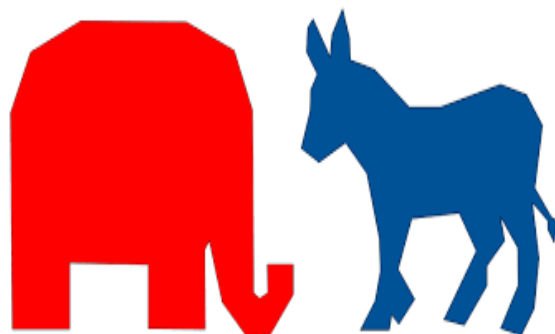
The country is called the United States of America because every state is supposed to be united, but the nation is more divided than ever. The two parties can't agree on any issue, both refusing to think any other way than right or left. People think that they either have to be

republican or democrat and there's no inbetween, forcing both sides to think in black and white about complex issues that have no right answers. This right and left way of thinking is as outdated and old as our presidential candidates. No issue will ever be solved if both parties can't agree on anything because they're both so ignorant to think that their way of thinking is the right way to think. It's only natural for people to have different opinions on various issues, and disagreements are part of the process of change, but demonization and smear campaigns against the opposing party only alienates both sides and further widens the divide between the parties and the country.

The government has never been perfect. The country is still young and developing, the people with it. In the past however, there would only be a few major disagreements between both parties, with enough overlap that they wouldn't be complete opposites. Nowadays both parties wouldn't be able to decide if up is down or down is up. The modern age has accentuated the differences

between right and left, with a constant stream of information that almost every American has access to, both sides doing anything to sway voters. The times are changing, and so too must our government if our democracy is to survive.

While the two party system might be good for checks and balances to keep every branch of government in check, it is entirely outdated by today's standards. Now both the right and left will do anything for votes to gain more power in government, focusing on arbitrary issues like if Dems or Republicans control the Senate or House of Representatives. Abolishing the two party system isn't entirely realistic, but there absolutely needs to be less emphasis on the right and left way of thinking. No one will ever agree on every single problem that this country faces, but if everyone only has only the choice between right or left, the Divided States of America will not survive as a democracy, and our freethinking nation will remain split down the middle in an endless deadlock between two equally ignorant parties.



The longer we stand divided, the longer we put off fixing the parts of our country that are broken. Left or right, we need to come together.