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Foreword

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Editor-in-Chief Foreword

Today's political climate presents many challenges as the realm for healthy political discourse becomes narrower and narrower. Societal issues have now taken sides and even in some of our most prestigious institutions we are subject to quasi bans on speech. Inherently, hate speech has been allowed to cover itself as adverse political discourse under the veil of the First Amendment. Those who challenge such speech through demonstrations like protests, sit-ins, and the like are categorized and labeled as obstructors of free speech. This sentiment has now infiltrated the legislative system both at the state and federal level. It has become contested topics for electoral candidates as well. In *Free Speech, Academic Freedom, and Racial Justice on Campus: An A.C.L.U Lawyer's Perspective*, Emerson Sykes highlights the hotly debated free speech issues that are implicated in our legislative system today, especially those affecting campuses today at all levels, while unveiling the problematic sentiment that has motivated the legislation.

Additionally, while the political climate has definitely affected the free world, the incarcerated are not exempt either. Racism still runs rampant in our penal system and disenfranchisement and a severe lack of care infects the day to day activities of inmates nationwide. Our most severe forms of punishment seem to be administered more towards inmates of color than they are against their white counterparts. Moreover, incarcerated individuals are written off from society and are not offered rehabilitative care. In *Capital Punishment for Latine Populations*, Morgan Zamora highlights the racial disparities in our most severe form of punishment, the Death Penalty. Zamora goes in depth as to how such punishment has disproportionately affected the Latine population. Finally, in *Felines in Carceral Facilities: A Call to Introduce Cat Visitation Rooms in Prisons*, Nora Sullivan outlines the history of prison-animal programs and their psychological benefits on inmates both while they are incarcerated and after they are reintegrated into society. The writers in this issue are just a few of the countless advocates working for communities that need and deserve equity. Throughout this issue, we hope you will constantly be reminded that we cannot give up. To create a future that we can be proud of, we must never stop fighting.

Thank you,

John Akinwale
Editor-in-Chief

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