By now, everyone should know there is a racial bias among many police officers. There have been countless videos and instances where African Americans have been treated poorly and unfairly by police officers. In many recent cases, we have seen the deaths of unarmed black men shot by the cops. But the problem is not always the police officers. Lately, we have been seeing an uproar in white people calling the cops on black people for seemingly no reason. No one should have the cops called on them for visiting their own house, mowing their own lawn, or any activity unless they are actually doing something wrong.

This semester I had a realization with my suitemates about racial inequality with the cops and our RA. All throughout last semester the smell of marijuana would fluctuate throughout our hall and it would come in and out of our rooms. It was not until this semester did our RA start to knock on our doors to find where it was coming from. One night, my black suitemates were visited by our white RA with a white campus police officer questioning the smell of their room. They asked to search, and they let them because they did not have anything in there, but our RA insisted the cop check. After they found nothing, they left my suitemates’ room and they thought that would be the end of it.

A few days later in the afternoon, I was in my room about to go to the library. When I was walking out of my bathroom I saw my door was opened and started to get worried because I had no idea what was happening. I asked who was there and it was two RAs trying to get in my room. When I asked why they said it was because of the smell coming from my room and that they had called the cops. Although I did not have anything with me, I was still nervous because I did not want them to think they found anything. When the cop got there, he searched my room and found nothing. They then asked about my suitemates which I thought was weird because they had told me the RA and cops had come to their room recently. After they left, I went to talk to my suitemates because something was not sitting right with me. We brushed it off and continued with our lives.

About a week later there was another incident. The cop and RAs had shown up at my suitemates door again, insisting to search their room because of the smell. My suitemates were hesitant to let them search their room because they had already looked before and found nothing, but our RA said the smell had to be checked out. Again, nothing was found, but the cop and RA were still asking them questions about why their room smelt that way. I thought this was unusual because all of last semester, no one came to our rooms when the hall smelt like marijuana, so I figured something had changed. After the cop and our RA left, my suitemates talked to me about how they had visited twice when they had not checked anyone else’s room beside mine.

Unfortunately, there had been another incident occurring not too long after this. The cop and RA went to my suitemates’ door again and complained of a smell. At this point, they were annoyed and did not want them to search their room because they had already done so twice and found nothing. Even when they searched my room they asked questions about my suitemates, but they said they did not ask about me when searching their room. We knew something was going on, but the cop still searched their room anyway. The cop claimed there were some “fishy” objects in our bathroom trashcan. When my suitemates told me this, I was shocked. There was nothing in our trashcan that they could have thought was incriminating unless feminine products were suspicious to them. The cop and our RA decided to write something up and send it to the housing office so they could determine if there needed to be some sort of an investigation, or if they needed to be removed from the housing. When my suitemates told me all of this, I was completely shocked.

Even though there was nothing in my suitemates’ room, our RA still felt the need to report them to the housing office. Even after their room was first searched and nothing was found, our RA still felt the need to visit their room two more times with a campus police officer to search their room again. They had only searched my room one time, and during this time they were still asking questions about my suitemates. My suitemates and I boiled this down to a racial issue because they had continuously believed the smell was coming from their room, even after searching three times. My suitemates and I also agreed to not let them search our rooms anymore because clearly there was something bigger than a smell going on here. Before they could search our rooms again, the coronavirus outbreak occurred and we were sent home, but I still wonder if they would have searched my suitemates’ room again even though there was no reason to.

Before my suitemates and I talked about the numerous times they searched their room, I was unsure what was causing this, but they told me it probably had a lot to do with race. When they said this, I instantly felt guilty and understood because they had only visited my room once and were still asking questions about them. Because the cop and our RA searched their room three times and mine only once, we concluded this was very much about race. If the coronavirus did not permit us from staying on campus, I truly believe they would have visited their room again to search it. If this would have happened, I would have stood up on my suitemates’ behalf. This was unfair and it completely changed my view on our RA. I never would have thought she was one to discriminate or have a racial bias, but I guess you never really know someone until they show their true colors.