After President Barack Obama’s election, many argued that we live in a post-racial society. In truth, you could fill a dozen books with documentation in the form of racism that occurs in the U.S. in just a few years. Jan Miller ‘95 proves this point in “This Post-Racial Negro Green Book,” her inaugural overview of racial bias against African-Americans in the United States, published in December. The book is a self-described “time capsule” of the years 2013-16.

Styled in the fashion of “The Post-Racial Motivist Green Book,” which advised black motorists about accommodations and services available to them in the U.S. during segregation, this “Green Book” compiles statistical research and reported incidents of racism, broken down by state.

In Louisiana, for example, where the book was published, the population is 32.5 percent black—yet blacks were 50.5 percent of the victims of police homicides over the four-year period. The section touches on stories such as that of Altus Sterling, who was Baton Rouge police while selling CDs in front of a gas station, and describes disparate outcomes for blacks and whites who brandished weapons at police.

In introductory comments, Miles describes how she relied only on verified incidents. Reports for which there was not enough information to assert that race played a role were excluded.

“Of course, we did not consider it important to the credibility of the book’s contents not to put questions by uncorroborated incidents,” she explained.

She intended to present the incidents and facts without commentary, she said, but the format and styling of the book were indeed chosen to make an editorial statement.

“The question I’m asking with the look and feel of this book is: How far have we really come?” she said. Ultimately, the book is meant to serve as a conver-

satory companion and a resource for individuals studying racism or trying to effect change on the issue.

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—from Eric Williamson, “This Post-Racial Negro Green Book” by Jan Miller ‘95, reviewed by BROWN BIRD BOOKS