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Vulcan Historical Review 26 (Front Matter)

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2022

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HISTORICAL

REVIEW

VOLUME 26

VULCAN HISTORICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 26

2022

RACE, CLASS, & GENDER THEMATIC EDITION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 06** *Letter from the Editors*
- 07** “King”
Alan Atkins
- 08** *Inventing the African American*
Kamau Bamidele
- 15** *1967 Detroit Riot*
Chris Bertolini
- 22** *Redneck Revolutionaries: The Young Patriots and the Rainbow Coalition*
Emily Ann Wilson
- 33** “Downtown Mobile, 1953”
Brianna Carnley
- 34** *Antisemitism Omitted: Failings in the Media Framing of the Crown Heights Riots*
Josef Brock
- 43** *African American Housing and the Urban Crisis*
Austin Dennis
- 51** *Lifting As We Climb: Black Women’s Role in Constructing and Sustaining Black Power, 18th Century to the Present*
Alexis Cathcart
- 61** “It is Entirely Possible for a Black Girl to be Loved”
Alan Atkins
- 62** *Lincoln: The Gradual Emancipation Project, A Story of Growth*
Charlie Crepps
- 75** *Anti-Abortion Activism and Advances: A Historography*
Haley Wells
- 86** *John F. Kennedy’s Alliance for Progress: An Origin Story*
Michael Davis
- 93** “A Photo of my Grandparents, 1954”
Brianna Carnley
- 94** About the Contributors & Editors

EDITORIAL STAFF

Alexis Cathcart
Executive Editor

Tierra Andrews
Graphic Designer

FACULTY ADVISOR

Dr. Andrew Baer

CO-SPONSORS

The Department of History, *UAB*

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chris Bertolini

Colton Segars

Donnae Hampton

Emily Wilson

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Haley Wells

Michael Davis

The Vulcan Historical Review is published annually by the Chi Omicron Chapter (UAB) of Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society. The journal is completely student-edited by undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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Please send inquiries to:
Phi Alpha Theta
History Department HHB 360
University of Alabama at Birmingham
1401 University Boulevard
Birmingham, AL 35294

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

The editorial staff is pleased to present the 26th edition of the *Vulcan Historical Review*. Last year, the *VHR* celebrated a quarter century of publishing the outstanding historical scholarship of UAB's history students and we are grateful to be part of this tradition as we maneuver through the challenges of Covid-19. In this thematic edition, we pay particular attention to marginalized histories dealing with race, racism, class, and gender in the United States. As disingenuous debates around Critical Race Theory and its purported use in K-12 schools polarize our nation, this edition unapologetically grapples with histories that may be uncomfortable for some persons to discuss. Acknowledging themes of U.S. history that do not maintain the dominant notion of willful blindness to past and present injustices is a first step towards unity, liberation, and equity for us all. This special edition aims to make historical scholarship accessible to everyone and we strive to construct a space where people can proudly engage with topics they are familiar with and ones they may have never thought deeply about. We hope that readers will engage these topics in a way that challenges them to think critically about past traditions and present injustices. The cover art, titled "Spirit of the African Woman", exemplifies the themes of this edition. Women of African descent, particularly in the US, sit at the oppressive intersections of race, class, and gender. This publication is dedicated to the lives, resistance, and activism of Black and African descended women across the globe. The 26th edition of the *VHR* represents the power of our voices and what can be done when we use them as a vehicle to articulate, understand, and struggle to change our current system and structures.

The publication opens with a powerful and relevant critique of Black citizenship in the United States, followed by the Glenn Feldman Memorial Writing Award winning narrative of police discrimination in the context of the 1967 Detroit Rebellion. Next, we move to a piece that explores the history of the Young Patriots and their role in strengthening paths for solidarity among oppressed people through anti-capitalist organizing. The next article raises questions about antisemitism in the Black community during the Crown Heights Riots of 1991 and the media's role in misframing the event, followed by an essay that traces the history of the urban crisis and its disproportionate effect on Black Americans during the 20th century. We then turn to the

Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award winning narrative of Black women and their bounteous contributions to the Black Freedom Struggle, particularly the Black Power movement. The journal concludes with three articles that delve into the legacy and growth of one of America's most polarizing figures, Abraham Lincoln; a timely piece that traces the implications and development of anti-abortion activism in the U.S.; and a review essay that outlines the origins of JFK's Alliance for Progress in the context of the United States' multifaceted relationship with Latin America. Interwoven throughout the journal are stunning pieces by artist Alan Atkins and nostalgic poetry by Brianna Carnley that complement the themes of this edition.

The 26th edition would not be possible if not for the endless amount of care and guidance we have received from a number of individuals. First, we would like to extend ample appreciation and gratitude to our faculty advisor, Dr. Andrew Baer. His never-ending encouragement of our work and infectious passion for history exemplifies what it means to invest in the success of UAB's budding historians. We would also like to thank our Chair Dr. Jonathan Wiesen, our Administrative Associate Melanie Daily, and our Office Services Specialist Jerrie McCurry for their unceasing support and encouraging attitudes. Many thanks to the English Department and the Art and Art History Department, especially Dr. Alison Chapman and Dr. Margaret Jay Jessee and Laura Merrill and Melissa Yes, who directed us towards talented students willing to submit work that beautifully rounds out this publication. We are immeasurably thankful for our graphic designer Tierra Andrews, who gracefully brought our visions of the *VHR* to life, and to the previous executive editor, Sheila Blair, for her insight and friendship.

Lastly, we would like to extend appreciation to the UAB Department of History. The knowledge, guidance, and encouragement that faculty have consistently provided to students and their passion for doing history has made it possible for the *VHR* to exist for more than a quarter century. We thank our department faculty, our student contributors, and our readers for giving UAB undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to build upon 26 years of historical scholarship that represents the department and the Chi Omicron Chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.