

Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II

Volume 13

Article 5

2008

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

(2008) "Introduction," *Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II*: Vol. 13 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/historical-perspectives/vol13/iss1/5>

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Introduction

For the past 17 years, *Historical Perspectives* has existed to showcase exemplary student research from the History Department at Santa Clara University. The journal also allows Santa Clara students the experience of publishing their research during their undergraduate studies. This journal is published annually with the assistance of the Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta in order to further the pursuit of historical inquiry.

The papers included within this edition do not all follow a similar theme, but rather encompass a variety of topics from different areas and ages. With Renee Lucas' *The New York World's Fair of 1939: The Marketing of a 'Corporate Utopia'* we are introduced to the importance of American leisure activities as a reflection of society. Brigid Eckhart's *Small Boys are Big Men: Experiences and Reflections from Child Soldiers Fighting in Sierra Leone* and Brigid Kelleher's *Drug Abuse in Vietnam: The Underappreciated Casualty of War* introduces the problems of modern warfare through, respectively, the use of child soldiers and the impact of drug abuse. Melissa Johnson's *Re-Evaluation of Self: An Examination of the Political and Personal Outlooks of White America and Japanese-Americans on the Post-World War II Era*, Christina Lynch's *Political Theatre and Political Myths: Robert Kennedy, George Wallace and the Show Down at Tuscaloosa*, and Robert Philbrook's *Missed Opportunities to Bridge the Racial Divide: The Creation of the First SWAT Team as a Response to Black Radicalism* all deal with issues of race in contemporary United States history. Through the breadth of student submissions it is possible to see the scope and

dedication of the History department's students and faculty in the pursuit of original and thorough historical research.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made this publication possible. First and foremost, without the support and dedication of the Santa Clara faculty who have fostered a love of history among students, none of these papers would have been possible. To all of the students who submitted papers for consideration, we would like to extend our appreciation for your hard work. The high quality of submissions made the selection of paper exciting and very challenging. In addition, we offer our thanks to Professors Brigitte Charaus and Fabio Lopez-Lazaro for their assistance with the student editorial board, and to Mrs. Judy Gillette, who was invaluable in helping with submissions and publication.

Enjoy!

Elaine Anderson and Maryann Lucini
Student Editorial Board