

Letter from the Editors-in-Chief

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This fall marked the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address and the 50th anniversary of MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech. Both occasions reinvigorated national discussions of race, citizenship and public service, leading us to once again consider the place of the past in the present. The ensuing discussions reaffirmed the enduring relevance of the historical memory for a better understanding of the pressing issues of our time. Here at the Chicago Journal of History, we strive to provide a platform where undergraduates too can contribute to these ongoing conversations.

The following essays address episodes from the past that continue to resonate with us today. Tim Rudnicki's study of Anglo-Dutch relations in the long 18th century speaks to problems surrounding national identity in an increasingly interconnected world. Next is Christopher Kingdon's work on the British government's response to post-traumatic stress and other psychological disorders amongst Royal Air Force pilots during the Second World War. Interestingly, Kingdon's piece echoes some of the recent concerns about the mental health of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. Amelia Brackett's essay analyzes the role chimpanzees played in the development of the polio vaccine, highlighting the debt modern medicine owes to animals as test subjects. Finally, Ben Miller examines how print culture served to consolidate the fragmented gay rights community of 1960s New York. Miller's narrative offers a telling example of media's increasingly central place in the social movements of our time.

We hope that you enjoy reading these essays. Please direct any feedback to ughistoryjournal@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Pranav Jain and Thomas Prendergast
Editors-in-Chief