



Constructing the Past

Volume 5 | Issue 1

Article 2

2004

To Our Readers

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Recommended Citation

Callahan, Robert; Hamilton, Sarah; Skeggs, Angela; Hawley, Lindsay; and Schultz, Robert (2004) "To Our Readers," *Constructing the Past*: Vol. 5: Iss. 1, Article 2.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/constructing/vol5/iss1/2>

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To Our Readers

To Our Readers,

This year marks an exciting change in *Constructing The Past*. For the first time, students were completely in charge of the selection, editing, and production of the journal. Instead of relying solely on professor recommendations, students submitted their own papers for consideration. We received over twenty papers from a wide array of subjects in history, and the humanities. Choosing just a few for publication was a difficult process. We narrowed the selection down to seven papers. The first four papers in this volume are from the History 290 course. We felt that they were all excellent examples of the goal of History 290: exploring historical truth. Jenna Simpson's "Oh Ya Got Trouble! Right Here in New York City!" explores the implications of a Hollywood Boycott in the 1930's. "Ethnics, Violence, and Truth: Soccer's American Past" by Lindsay Hawley explores myths and stereotypes about soccer in the early 20th century. Elizabeth Fischer investigates how the court system can be unjust in her essay "The Fatty Arbuckle Trial: The Injustice of the Century." The final 290 paper, Lauren Jensen's "The Photographs of Jacob Riis: History in Relation to Truth," explores how historians can interpret historical truth through photography.

In addition to these 290 papers, we are also publishing two papers from other history courses. Anna Deters' "Conservative Christianity, the Military, and American War Culture," written for a History of Religion course, explores the complex relationship between religion and the military. Natalie Burda gives us a good example of a shorter history paper in her essay "Books make the World Go 'Round: The Illegal Book Trade that Started the French Revolution." Finally, we are reprinting an essay published in the last edition of *Constructing the Past*. Due to a mix-up in production, we did not credit Katherine Polak for writing "Perspectives on Epidemic: The Yellow Fever in 1793 Philadelphia." We apologize for this error, and have reprinted her paper in full. The editorial staff would like to thank everyone who assisted us in creating the journal this year. We would also like to welcome Lindsay Hawley to the editorial staff of *Constructing the Past*.

Sincerely,
The Editors