

rethinking of art's role in U.S. society transformed cultural programming under the auspices of the FAP.

JENNIFER WINGATE is Assistant Professor of Fine Arts at St. Francis Col-

lege in Brooklyn, New York. She is completing her first book, "American Soldiers in World War I Memorial Sculpture: Picturing, Selling, and Commemorating the Doughboy."



Comrades

A Local History of the Black Panther Party

Edited by Judson L. Jeffries

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007. Pp. 310. Illustrations, notes, index. Clothbound, \$65.00; paperbound, \$24.95.)

Improving upon existing scholarship that is often repetitive, focuses overmuch on "great men" and their tangles with law enforcement, and privileges the history of the Oakland headquarters and chapters in Chicago and New York City, this collection of essays skillfully situates seven rarely examined chapters of the Black Panther Party (BPP) within the larger scope of African American urban migration, civil rights activism, and the Black Freedom Struggle. In studies focused on BPP branches in Los Angeles, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Winston-Salem, Jeffries and his collaborators uncover the forces leading to the establishment of local chapters, the mobilization of rank-and-file members, the implementation of community programs, and the impact of FBI surveillance and counterintelligence efforts on the growth and development of each branch.

Utilizing archival materials and interviews, the essays in *Comrades*

cast BPP members as social service workers, not militants involved in standoffs with police. This more holistic analysis leads to several conclusions about local branches. First, since *The Black Panther* newspaper accounted for their most reliable source of revenue, offered work for many of their members, and kept members connected to the community, the paper's distribution posed a threat to entities seeking to suppress the organization. Second, law enforcement's active opposition to the BPP financially crippled most branches, as members struggled to pay legal fees for fighting arrests, to replace damaged property, and to recoup their physical health. Third, college and high school students constituted a greater percentage of the membership than other demographics in most chapters. Fourth, the opportunism of members who were informants or who were merely interested in the cachet of being affiliated with the BPP eroded chapters from within. Finally

and most important, the BPP rank and file's principal achievements included the establishment and operation of such programs as free breakfasts for children, food and clothing giveaways, busing to prisons, health clinics, political education classes, and the perhaps better-known community patrols.

The essays explore the particularities of each branch, and midwestern chapters enjoyed their own special triumphs. The work of the Black Panthers in Milwaukee, for example, led to a heightened awareness of childhood hunger in that city that had lasting impacts beyond the twentieth century; in Cleveland, many of the alternative institutions put in place by the party remain active long after the branch had disbanded. The Indianapolis chapter stood out for the mere fact of its presence in a city noted for its reserved and calm response to racial issues. Though it suffered like every other BPP chapter from harassment by law enforcement agencies, the Indianapolis branch was considered "the most non-violent

chapter in the country" (p. 147) and the authors tie both its successes and its demise to interracial alliances as well as to the relative comfort Indianapolis blacks enjoyed vis-à-vis those in other large midwestern cities.

With a clear structure, compelling photographs, and an honest introduction that brings the entire work together, *Comrades'* only major shortcoming may be the brevity of its histories. Even as African Americanists diligently work at writing histories of the 1960s and 1970s, future historians will need to write fuller histories of these chapters. As the book's conclusion notes, historians should consider each branch's history and social service components in light of the "rightward transformation of American political culture [that] set in motion the erasure of the meaning and significance of the Black Panther Party" (p. 294).

SIOBHAN CARTER-DAVID is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History and the American Studies Program at Indiana University.



Interstate 69

The Unfinished History of the Last Great American Highway

By Matt Dellinger

(New York: Scribner, 2010. Pp. xii, 340. Maps, notes, index. \$26.00.)

A current road map reveals that Interstate 69, part of the nation's limited-access highway system, connects Port Huron, Michigan, on the north with Indianapolis on the south, skirting

Fort Wayne along the way. Since the late 1980s, however, promoters have envisioned extending the road from the Hoosier capital to the Gulf Coast of Texas, while also realigning its