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FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of the Journal of Appalachian Studies and Racialization in Appalachia." It begins with Griffin, who examines the racial attitudes of Appalachians. In the Spring, 2002, issue, Griffin and Ashley Thompson's article "A Memory, Identity, and Representation," presents a topic that the authors had initiated at the Appalachian Studies Association when they used opinion surveys to show that Appalachians apparently identify more strongly with whites elsewhere in the South than do whites elsewhere in the South. In an essay, Eileen Smith took the fact that many Appalachians, Griffin and Thompson's revelations as evidence of issues of whiteness and racial privilege in Appalachia concerns have prompted this issue of the journal.

In their original report, Griffin and Thomsen the analyses of Appalachian regional and racial account potentially "confounding factors" in their, indeed, disturbing conclusions. To provide more extensive probing of the opinion polls, they have evaluated statistically the possible unexplored psychological and regional identification issues of the initial findings spurious. However, it must be noted that this before the white Appalachian attitudes Griffin, or Southern southerners throughout the region, but even if negative stress both the importance of whiteness, the the fact that these have not received the focus that they deserve. In two articles that follow, Barbara Ellen Smith and Griffin's paper to argue why critical studies must be of paramount concern to Appalachian scholars. Appalachian scholars have debated Appalachia's "racial innocence" myth and southern mountains and helped to define slaveholding existence in all Appalachian the region by no means uniformly antebellum era as previously claimed. Furthermore, Appalachian scholars have not taken up the issue of the white southern identity of the region. She suggests that we have failed to develop a framework that views all Appalachians, not just people of darker skin color, as embodying a "white" southern identity. This perspective points to several tendencies in Appalachian regional identity and culture that are clearly obscured by a focus on "whiteness."