

# THE CONVERSATION US

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## For Immediate Release



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## **New Podcast Explores Explosive Race & Class Tensions in 1968 Detroit with Jeffrey Horner of Wayne State University**

September 10, 2018 (Boston, MA) – *Heat and Light*, the inaugural podcast from The Conversation US, will release an episode on September 11 that explores the historical significance of race and class in the Detroit Algiers Motel incident and ensuing Kerner Commission Report with Wayne State University Urban Studies scholar Jeffrey Horner.

Go to [www.heatlightpod.com](http://www.heatlightpod.com) to hear the first episodes and learn more about *Heat and Light: Stories from 1968, the year that changed America*.

As 1968 began, the city of Detroit was dealing with the aftermath of some of the worst race street uprisings the country had ever seen, resulting in scores of people dead and many thousands of arrests. That year, the Kerner Commission, appointed by President Lyndon Johnson, placed the blame for the unrest squarely on the way the police and the city government had handled the response. In this episode, Horner and host Phillip Martin, both Detroit natives, discuss how race and class divisions met with economic and social upheaval to shape the city as it tried to rebuild.

“From the killings of African Americans in the Detroit Algiers Motel incident to the Kerner Commission report diagnosing our racial and economic ills, the social upheaval in Detroit in the 60s has fundamentally shaped our society,” said Horner. “These events reverberate today as we continue working to overcome a legacy of segregation, systematic racism and social control of persons of color.”

This is the fourth episode released [in The Conversation’s new podcast series](#). In each episode of the six-part series, host Phillip Martin, the Senior Investigative Reporter for Boston public NPR station WGBH, jumps into the maelstrom that was 1968 with scholars from across the country.

“Each topic we cover in *Heat and Light* informs the dialogue we’re having today in courtrooms, in classrooms and at dinner tables in the United States, including conversations around police brutality, technology, the morphing of our political parties and more,” said Martin.

*The Conversation is an independent, nonprofit publisher of analysis and commentary, authored by academics and edited by journalists for the general public. [The Conversation US](#) has relationships with scholars at more than 625 colleges and universities, with articles distributed to thousands of newsrooms daily by the Associated Press. For more information, including interviews, photos, audio samples and other media requests related to the Heat and Light podcast, please contact Joel Abrams or Jason Lindley.*

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