

of harmonic and even of melodic instinct, love to fairly wallow in noise," the editorial said.

Part of a New Orleans tricentennial series on the people and events that connect and inspire us.

This wasn't only a stodgy and shortsighted view of something new. The music was being dismissed because of its source: "a kind of servants' hall of rhythm." The editorial was targeting the class and race of these musicians.



"In the matter of the jass, New Orleans is particularly interested, since it has been widely suggested that this particular form of musical vice had its birth in this city -- that it came, in fact, from doubtful surroundings in our slums."

The diatribe ended with this: Jazz's "musical value is nil, and its possibilities of harm are great."

A hundred years later, we can say definitively: So, so, so wrong.

Editorial Regret revisits opinions from The Times-Picayune's 181-year past. If there's an issue or historic event you would like us to explore, email latitude@nola.com.