

In the COMMONWEALTH

Thomas J. Baldino, Editor

It's difficult for me to believe that a year has past and that the second issue of *COMMONWEALTH* is complete. As with the previous issue, it would never have seen the light of day had it not been for the able assistance of my managing editor, Jim Morse, my associate editors, Don Tannenbaum and Martin Collo, and the many reviewers whose comments were invaluable in improving the quality of the articles appearing here.

This issue is much in keeping with earlier issues of the journal in that it contains a diverse mix of subjects and a variety of approaches. There's something here for everyone.

The lead article, by Gerard Fitzpatrick, examines how the American understanding of liberty has changed from an eighteenth century view of liberty as communal (i.e., the rights of the people together are protected against government infringement) to a contemporary notion of liberty as individualistic (i.e., the rights of the individual are protected against the power of the many). Fitzpatrick offers some insights on the implications of this change for the interpretation of our Bill of Rights.

Switching time periods and methodologies, Frauke Schnell provides an example of the individualistic understanding of liberty in her article about understanding political attitudes on abortion. Employing a model that incorporates multiple dimensions of attitude strength, Schnell explores the sources of abortion attitudes.

For those who find empirical methods not to their taste, Francis Moran provides some thoughts on moral relativism and ethical naturalism in his whimsically titled article "Ulcers, Baseball and the New Ethical Naturalism."

For those whose interests lie in the area of the justice system or women in politics, "The Relevance of Gender: A Case Study of Judicial Appointments at the State Level" by Marianne Githens should prove stimulating. Githens served on a judicial nominating commission in Maryland for several years, and from her position was able to observe what

factors in the process and characteristics of the applicants had the most impact on who received endorsements from the commission. Her findings add a new perspective to the literature in this field.

The final article is yet another in our series of research on aspects of Pennsylvania politics. Stephanie Bressler develops a model of implementation politics and tests it on the implementation of Pennsylvania's Seasonal Farm Labor Act of 1978. Her results pose challenges to academicians, bureaucrats and policy-makers.