

In the *COMMONWEALTH*

Gerard J. Fitzpatrick, Editor

My predecessor as editor of *COMMONWEALTH*, Dr. Thomas J. Baldino, introduced volume 10 with the aphorism “all good things come to those who wait,” for it had been 14 months since the journal’s last publication. Alas, volume 11 has taken even longer to appear. Three reasons explain the delay. First, we received an unusually small number of submissions. Second, those submissions were slow in coming. Third, we had a demanding group of anonymous referees, many with national reputations in their fields, who rejected most of the submissions. Thus, the cloud has a silver lining. Getting published in *COMMONWEALTH* is not easy and the quality of those pieces that do appear is high, as can be seen in the five articles comprising this issue.

In the lead article, Dr. William F. Byrne explores the political and aesthetic significance of some of the less known writings of the German political philosopher Friederich Nietzsche concerning the composer Richard Wagner. Dr. Byrne believes Nietzsche rejected Wagnerian operas as “romantic” diversions from the pursuit of a more genuine human existence, a failing Nietzsche regarded as symptomatic of modernity. Although he focuses on nineteenth century political thought, Dr. Byrne makes us think about the interplay among art, morality, and politics in our time as well.

Dr. Donald W. Beachler examines the difficulties labor unions faced in trying to make Al Gore president in 2000. Weakened loyalty on the part of blue-collar voters to the Democratic Party explains much of the erosion of the New Deal realignment during the past several decades. Dr. Beachler shows how insufficient turnout by this once stalwart component of Franklin Roosevelt’s famous Democratic coalition, along with the idiosyncrasies of the Electoral College system, conspired to bar the door of the White House to Vice President Gore.

While politicians’ speeches are often dismissed as calculated opportunism at best and mere bombast at worst, Dr. Daniel DiLeo shows that there can be more to political rhetoric than meets the eye. By applying a sophisticated form of content analysis to gubernatorial state-of-the-state speeches, Dr. DiLeo reveals the degree of “realism” with which governors speak. He also considers how these speeches are affected by governors’ party affiliation and political experience, state economic development, public opinion, and divided government.

Our two articles on Pennsylvania politics concern the role of race in the electoral process. Both find that race matters but in ways more complex than expected. Dr. April Gresham and Dr. Robert Maranto analyze the degree to which white voters in Pennsylvania's conservative Lehigh Valley would support an African-American presidential candidate, specifically retired Army general Colin Powell. They find such support to be contingent upon the voters' attitudes toward issues like affirmative action, immigration, and NAFTA, as well as concepts like authoritarianism and populism.

Dr. Jeffrey Kraus portrays Philadelphia as having been really two cities with regard to the mayoral election of 1999. The Democratic nominee, an African-American with twenty years of governmental experience, could only narrowly defeat his untested white Republican rival in this overwhelmingly Democratic city. Dr. Kraus finds that while the candidates themselves concentrated on issues rather than race, voters sharply divided along racial lines, thereby rendering hollow Philadelphia's sobriquet as the "City of Brotherly Love."

Let me close with three matters. First, I urge our readers to submit manuscripts to *COMMONWEALTH* for review and to persuade their colleagues to do so as well. With a larger number of manuscripts in the pipeline, we will be able to publish the journal more regularly and with more articles per issue. As I have noted, getting published in *COMMONWEALTH* is a challenge and success ought to be deemed an acknowledgment of the strength of one's scholarship.

Second, I believe *COMMONWEALTH* is a quality journal in part because we use first-rate referees. Without their service, not only would our articles not be as strong as they are, but production of an issue would not even be possible. I therefore take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the ten referees whose skill and selflessness helped to produce this volume. Working with these talented people truly has been a joy for me.

Finally, I wish to thank Tom Baldino for his support and guidance. By the time he stepped down as editor of *COMMONWEALTH* in 2000, Tom had devoted more than a decade of his life to our journal, including five years as its editor-in-chief. When he asked me to take the editorial reins, I was flattered — and terrified. My limited knowledge of the editorial process came from my experience as an *author*; I knew nothing about being an *editor*. All that I have learned I owe to Tom. He patiently tolerated and expertly answered a never-ending flow of questions from me. In short, credit Tom for the strengths of this issue and blame me for any blemishes.