

Prologue

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With this issue, *American Experiment Quarterly* officially takes full advantage of the millennium's remarkable possibilities by becoming an on-line and e-mailed journal exclusively.

My colleagues and I very much welcome your thoughts on this large change for the Center's flagship publication.

Given this new, quicker way of getting the word out, my sense is that longish prologues—the kind I used to write in the old days—no longer fit. This, actually, may prove a reprieve for all of us. So let me simply say that the Winter 2005 issue of AEQ opens with a piece by me on the history of the conservative movement in Minnesota and the nation since World War II, subtitled: "Further Proof That Books, Magazines, Think Tanks, and Other Ideas Have Consequences."

Since space isn't an issue in cyberspace, we link to the Center's main website for two studies by Cheri Pierson Yecke. The Center's Distinguished Senior Fellow for Education and Social Policy holds forth with two studies: one on "Kids, Schools, and Politics: Ensuring Ethical Uses of Taxpayer Dollars," and a second titled, "Education Accountability: No Child Left Behind and Beyond." In the past, the cost of ink and paper would have limited the number of words AEQ readers would have seen. Now we're able to offer you the full studies via the click of a mouse.

Meanwhile back at AEQ, we have Elizabeth Mische, executive director of the St. Paul-based Partnership for Choice in Education (which I'm privileged to chair), writing about "Why Won't We Let the Children Go? School Choice and a Liberal's Examination of Conscience."

Next is Vin Weber's remarks at an American Experiment Breakfast Forum on the recent presidential election, a mere thirteen hours after the polls closed in this part of the country: "Is Our Red and Blue Nation Changing Colors?"

Vin is followed by Patrick Garry of the University of South Dakota law school on "The Judicial Mistreatment of Religion: Promoting a Religion-Free America."

Professor Garry's essay is followed by an extended portion of "What Next for the Marriage Movement?" a recently released statement signed by more than 140 national leaders of that vital movement. I'm one of those signers and am proud to have played a role in drafting the document.

From there is another extended sampling, this time from "Intellectual Takeout," which is just getting started as the Center's newest website, www.IntellectualTakeout.com. Intellectual Takeout is part of a comprehensive American Experiment project called FACT (Foundations for Active Conservative Thinking), which aims to bring intellectual diversity to Minnesota colleges and universities.

And finally, as always, we conclude with several columns on American education by my favorite writer in the field, Chester E. Finn Jr.

Also as always I very much welcome your comments. Keeping things electronic, you can find me at mitch@amexp.org.

Many thanks. ■