

# HIGHLIGHTS



Atlas Economic  
Research Foundation

Winter 1995

## Family Structure: What Can Institutes Contribute?



Photo from O Cidadao, Instituto Liberal de Sao Paulo

In contrast to the emotion-laden rhetoric of the political debates, public policy research institutes can assume leadership roles in the ever-popular discussions on family issues by contributing solid empirical analyses. Many institutes are currently playing a vital hand in shaping and advancing family policy.

**The Independence Institute** (Golden, Colorado) for example, recently published *Colorado in the Balance* which includes a chapter on "cultural indicators." The report emphasizes how families are breaking up, or worse yet, never being formed. These "incomplete" families lead to increased incidence of child abuse, poverty, suicide, and crime. Among its many findings:

- The poverty rate for families headed by a single mother is seven times higher than the rate for two-parent households.

- Being raised in a single-parent family significantly increases the prospects that the child will have a troubled family life as an adult. A white woman who grows up in a single-parent family is 164% more likely to have an illegitimate child; 111% more likely to bear a child while still a teenager; and (if she eventually does marry) 92% more likely to get divorced.

- Children from single-parent families are 40 to 75% more likely to repeat a grade in school, and 70% more likely to be expelled from school than children from a two-parent home.

- A very large majority of young violent criminals come from

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## Free-Market Environmentalists Visit Prague

Free-market environmentalists from the United States and Britain visited the capital city of the Czech Republic in December to share ideas about environmental policy. The **Civic Institute** and Klub Mediator, two institutes in Prague, co-hosted the program, entitled "Market Mechanisms and Environmental Protection." Participants of the roundtable discussion included government officials, institute researchers, journalists, and professors.

Sessions focused on ecoteology,  
(continued on page 4)



Front Row: Fred Smith  
Second Row: Michael Fumento, Doug Bandow, Jo Kwong, Roger Bate  
Third Row: Mary Oliver, John Shanahan  
Back Row: Robert Whelan

## Science & Environmental Policy Project Moves to Fairfax, VA

In January 1995, the **Science & Environmental Policy Project** moved to Fairfax, joining Atlas, the **Institute for Humane Studies**, **The Locke Institute**, and the **Center for Market Processes** at "4084 University Drive" near George Mason University. Atlas provided a grant to SEPP to facilitate the move and help fund the organization during its first year in Fairfax.

Atlas invites other institutes to take advantage of the opportunities provided

by the proximity of SEPP. The organization's founding president, Dr. S. Fred Singer, is a well-known physical scientist who has been an active participant in the battle against the "politicization" of science. Singer, along with a handful of other prominent scientists, has dared to challenge claims of environmental apocalypse caused by global warming.

Swimming against the tide of popular perception and scientific funding is a difficult course to maintain. Fortunately

for those who believe that public policy should be based on sound science, Dr. Singer offers a wealth of information, credibility, and encouragement. "Science always flourishes under conditions of liberty, with scientists free to inquire and publish, to travel and discuss," stated Dr. Singer.

SEPP's address is 4084 University Drive, Suite 101, Fairfax, VA 22030 (Tel: 703-934-6932, Fax: 703-352-7535).

### *(Family Values continued from page 1)*

fatherless homes. Almost 70% of juveniles incarcerated in state reform institutions come from homes with no father or without their natural parents.

- Most gang members, 60% of rapists, and 75% of teenage homicide perpetrators come from single-parent homes.

**The Commonwealth Foundation's** (Harrisburg, PA) major fall project focused on rekindling the concept of character and morality in the family, particularly via educational avenues. Its Pennsylvania Character Education Conference, held in November 1994, attracted 265 educators and leaders from business, civic, and public interest groups; generated front-page news stories in several cities; and oiled the wheels for a similar conference in western Pennsylvania in the spring.

The **IEA Health and Welfare Unit's** (London, UK) recent publication, *Farewell to the Family? Public Policy*

and *Family Breakdown* in Britain and the USA, has drawn widespread attention throughout Europe. Feature articles have appeared in every major paper in Britain, including *The Times*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal* (European edition). In this brilliant exposition of the attack on the traditional family by public policy, author Patricia Morgan shows how the traditional family of man, wife and children is being replaced by the mother-child-state unit. Morgan warns that this development is not only harmful to the children, who suffer physically and emotionally, but to the broader community as well. Her conclusions are based on in-depth empirical studies of families, welfare, and related factors.

A new publication from **The Centre for Independent Studies** (St. Leonards, Australia) "Taking Children Seriously" Social Policy Research Program is entitled, *Shaping the Social Virtues*. The collection of essays examine "the 'social' or 'civic' virtues which ...make living in society better than it might otherwise be." In the deterioration of these virtues, "we rapidly notice the signs in deteriorating quality of life, with more violence and disorder, more dishonesty, more rancor, more quarrelling and less kindness."

Why focus on values, morality, and the family? Dr. Thomas Lickona, professor of education at State University of New York at Cortland, and the closing

speaker at The Commonwealth Foundation's conference, offered ten good reasons. Among them:

- There is a clear and urgent need. Young people are increasingly hurting themselves and others.
- A society needs values education both to survive and thrive.
- The schools' role as moral educator becomes even more vital when millions of children get little moral teaching from their parents and value-centered influences such as church or temple are absent from their lives.
- There is common ethical ground even in our value-conflicted society...justice, honesty, civility, democratic process and a respect for truth (A theme that is artfully treated in *The Loss of Virtue*, the award-winning book edited by Digby Anderson of **The Social Affairs Unit** in London).

In late April, Atlas will host its 25th International Workshop in Philadelphia, PA. The focus will be on public policies that affect the family. Institute representatives will share their latest programs, projects, and goals in this vitally important area. Please contact Atlas if this is a policy interest of your institute.

**Atlas Economic Research Foundation**  
4084 University Drive, Suite 103  
Fairfax, VA 22030-6812  
Tel: 703/934-6969  
Fax: 703/352-7530  
Internet:  
74157.1434@compuserve.com

## Upcoming Workshops

From April 20 to April 23, Atlas will co-host its 24th International Workshop with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Konigswinter, Germany. The workshop will be held in Beijing, China.

The following week, from April 30 to May 2, the 25th International Work-

shop will be held in Philadelphia, PA, immediately following The Philadelphia Society meetings. We look forward to seeing institute colleagues at these gatherings!



Detmar Doering,  
Friedrich Naumann  
Foundation, and  
Leonard Liggio,  
Atlas's executive  
vice president

## INSTITUTE NEWS

There seems to be no limit to demands for Dr. Walter Williams, the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University. His lecture circuit brought him to **The Acton Institute's** (Grand Rapids, MI) December Lord Acton Lecture where he delivered an address to nearly 600 guests. In "The Role of Government in a Free Society," Williams expounded the importance of private property rights and minimal government.

Walter Williams also delivered his hard-hitting message to a "sellout" evening audience organized by the **Cascade Policy Institute** (Portland, OR) in October 1994. Williams' moral defense of individual liberty, free enterprise, private property rights and limited government, according to the *Cascade Update*, "pulled no philosophical punches." His remarks paralleled those Williams made earlier in the day, when he delivered the keynote address at Cascade's 1994 Better Government Competition Awards Luncheon.

The winner of the **Goldwater Institute's** (Phoenix, AZ) First Annual Reinventing Government Competition proposes to register and license vehicles and drivers through insurance providers. The plan outlines sav-

ings of \$100 million for victims of underinsured and uninsured drivers in the state, as well as a public-sector savings of \$420 million by eliminating functions of the Motor Vehicle Division.

Goldwater Institute's 1995 competition offers a variation on the ever-popular better government program. High school and college students are invited to design a charter school based on their experience as consumers of educational services in Arizona.

**The IEA-Ghana** (Accra, Ghana) held several roundtable discussions in recent months, including discussions on "The Current Energy Crisis," "Private Broadcasting in Ghana," and "The Status of Democracy in Africa." The sessions were well-attended by public policy leaders, journalists, legal experts, and others interested in the issues. The institute also held an annual dinner in December. The Vice-President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana K.N. Arkaah was the guest of honor.

**Liberty Institute** (Bucharest, Romania) hosted several noted classical liberal scholars in recent months: James Gwartney, research associate at **The James Madison Institute** (Tallahassee, FL) and co-author of *What*



Atlas adjunct fellow, Patrick Addey (IEA-Ghana) with Ghana's First Lady Nana Konadu Agyemang-Rawlings (Photo courtesy of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC)

*Everyone Should Know About Economics and Prosperity*; and Bettina Bien Greaves, resident scholar at the **Foundation of Economic Education** (Irvington-on-Hudson, NY).

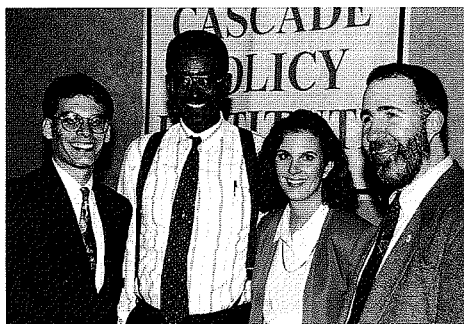
Liberty conducted its first student seminar in the Fall of 1994 on "The Economic Foundations of a Democratic Society." It was attended by 15 students from Bucharest University and the Academy for Economic Studies. The institute also formalized its contract with a local television station to telecast Milton Friedman's series, "Free to Choose."

In recent weeks, **The James Madison Institute** announced several major changes including the appointment of Peter Schweizer as its new president. Schweizer, previously the academic director at Young America's Foundation is the author of *Victory: The Reagan Administration's Secret Strategy that Hastened the Collapse of the Soviet Union* and *Friendly Spies*, a *Washington Post* bestseller. In addition, JMI has joined forces with the Institute for World Capitalism at Jacksonville University. The expanded James Madison Institute will have a Center for Public Policy in Tallahassee and a Center for World Capitalism at Jacksonville University. Projected programs for 1995 include conferences on the

moral basis for entrepreneurship, educational reform, and the dynamics of federal-state cooperation; an essay contest for high school students on the principles of economics and prosperity; a radio series dealing with state policy issues; and a quarterly journal.

At the December awards dinner, **Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research** (Boston, MA) announced the winners of its fourth annual Better Government Competition—a citizen's idea contest which focused on welfare in 1994. The winning ideas include piloting an educational program for middle-school girls based on abstinence, self-esteem, and individual responsibility; requiring single mothers to identify the fathers of their children as a condition for receiving welfare benefits; expanding the use of electronic benefits transfer system to reduce administrative costs of welfare payments. The function included a briefing session at which policy makers met the BGC winners.

Cascade Institute's Kurt Weber, Tracy Sharp, and Steve Buckstein with Walter Williams (second from left) (Photo courtesy of Cascade Policy Institute)



### On the Information Highway

If your institute has an e-mail address, please notify us so we can add it to our directory.



Jaromir Zegklitz (Civic Institute), James Candola (Klub Mediator), and Michael Fumento (Competitive Enterprise Institute)

(Prague continued from page 1)

property rights, market mechanisms, and risk analysis. Foreign participants included Doug Bandow (Cato Institute, Washington, DC), Roger Bate and Robert Whelan (Institute of Economic Affairs, London), Michael Fumento and Fred Smith (Competitive Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC), Jo Kwong (Atlas Economic Research Foundation, Fairfax, VA), John Shanahan (The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC), and Randy Simmons (Institute of

Political Economy, Logan, UT).

Michaela Freiova, Michal Semin, and Jaromir Zegklitz of the Civic Institute organized an excursion to Northern Bohemia to point out the pollution problems inherited from the former Communist government. The environmentalists also enjoyed sightseeing in Prague, thanks to impromptu tour guiding by Robert Whelan, bargaining with vendors at the outdoor markets, and a night at Prague's famous Black Light Theater.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

In *Oregon Better Government Competition: Renewing our Pioneer Spirit*, Cascade Policy Institute (Portland, OR) details the award-winning plans of its 1994 program. The publication links the winning entries with the philosophical ideas that shaped our nation's founding: a positive vision of self-government and a society of free individuals who interacted voluntarily and privately to provide for the common good. The book's foreword reminds readers of our nation's rich history of private compassion and community independence.

Cascade invites all readers to support the winning ideas and their authors by organizing public forums, or highlighting the ideas as other opportunities arise. Winning ideas include: private practice options for educators, advanced public transportation/information systems, private prisons, public/private transportation facility partnerships, and the establishment of a state park authority.

*Shaping the Social Virtues*, published by The Centre for Independent Studies (St. Leonards, Australia), is part of the "Taking Children Seriously" Social Policy Research Program (See lead story above).

The Commonwealth Foundation's (Harrisburg, PA) *Building a Community of Citizens: Civil Society in the 21st Century* is a collection of articles by Doug Bandow (Cato Institute), Allan Carlson (Rockford Institute), John Cooper (formerly with The James Madison Institute) and others.

The contributors examine the "underclass," gender, family, and religion, and conclude with five philosophical perspectives: libertarian, populist, communitarian, traditionalists, and the political and cultural center.

Goldwater Institute (Phoenix, AZ) published *Reinventing Government: The 1994 Award-Winning Reinventing Government Competition Implementation Plans*.

In *Farewell to the Family? Public Policy and Family Breakdown in Britain and the USA*, published by IEA Health and Welfare Unit (London, UK), author Patricia Morgan shows how the traditional family of man, wife and children is being replaced by the mother-child-state unit. Morgan warns that this development is not only harmful to the children, who suffer physically and emotionally, but to the broader community as well (see lead story, page 1).



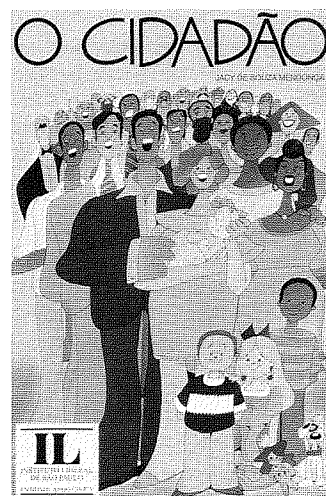
Patricia Morgan, author, *Farewell to the Family?* (Photo courtesy of IEA)

Instituto Liberal de Sao Paulo (Brazil) added a lighter side to its publications with a colorful booklet entitled *O Cidadao* (The Citizen). The illustrated guide emphasizes individual rights and responsibilities for the citizenry. The institute also published four new booklets addressing "Citizenship and Public Goods," "Changing the System: the delicate balance between intent and spontaneity," "The State and the Home," and "Who's Afraid of Neoliberalism?"

Publications from the National Center for Policy Analysis (Dallas, TX) include "What is the Optimal Size of Government in the United States?" Findings from its econometric model find that Americans could have had twice as much income and the same government services if total tax rates had been held to 20% of Gross National Product over the past 45 years. Recent editions of NCPA's newsletter, *Brief Analysis*, discuss "How Not to Judge Our Health Care System," and "Tax Reform: The Need to Change Depreciation Rules."

Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research (Boston, MA) details the award-winning proposals of its annual program in *Invitation to Change, Better Government Competition 1994* (see Institute News, page 3). *Invitation to Change* has been distributed to state legislators, the media, and government officials.

Pioneer also launched its new publication, *Charter School Newsletter*, which outlines the competitive mission of public schools: to stimulate reform throughout public educa-



Cover page from a new publication of Instituto Liberal de Sao Paulo by Jacy de Souza Mendonca

tion. It also highlights opportunities available to the Massachusetts corporate community in developing alternatives to traditional public schools.

Washington Institute for Policy Studies (Seattle, WA) exposed major weaknesses in the state's Health Services Act of 1993. "What you may not have known about the new health care law" debunks the myths that had been created by the bill's supporters. "The bottom line," says author Dr. Michael Schlitt, a neurological surgeon and President of the Washington State chapter of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, "is you'll probably end up paying more and getting less."