

2005 SPRING EDITOR'S NOTE

2005 is the 100th anniversary of Einstein's "miracle year" when, while working a day job as a patent clerk in Berne, Switzerland, he authored four papers: one on Brownian Motion, a second on the size of molecules, a third on light being composed of particles rather than waves, and a fourth which modified the prevailing theory of space and time into the theory of relativity. He was 26 years old.

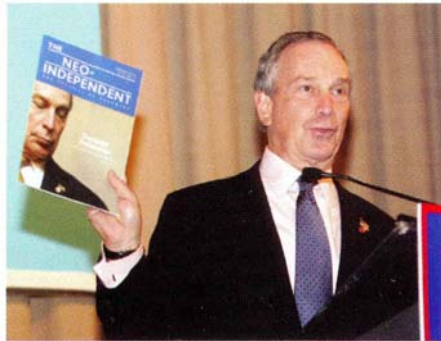
Einstein's work revolutionized 20th century physics, not only by virtue of his discoveries about the nature of the physical world but by calling attention to the significance of the vantage point from which physical phenomena - like the speed of light - are observed and measured.

Philosopher (and *Neo* contributing editor) Fred Newman pictures Einstein and his friend, the mathematician Kurt Godel, "traversing the historical distance between modernism and postmodernism" during their walks at Princeton after both had fled European fascism and settled in the United States. Newman's "Associations with Einstein" is a very personal reflection on the conflicted journey taken by science and philosophy through the 20th century, bringing us to "a new beginning

of history" - a fitting and practical tribute to the genius Einstein.

A perfect example of going from the sublime to the ridiculous is the bouncing that we do in this issue from revolutionary theories of space-time to ballot access laws governing independents. But at *The Neo-Independent* we are nothing if not perfectionists. Read Richard Winger's expert account of the near-debacle in Florida in 2004 and you will see that the partisans who run America's electoral process inhabit a parallel universe where reality is simply made up as you go along.

Scientific and philosophical themes grace other pieces in this issue. Attorney Harry Kresky reports that the philosopher Georg W. F. Hegel has been implicated (no joke) in the independent voters' conspiracy suit against the Democratic National Committee and Kerry/Edwards. "The Power of Fusion" explores the political energy released when independents use their power as swing voters to gain political recognition - a means of transforming an otherwise inert (i.e., bipartisan) electoral system.



You may recall that the premiere issue of *The Neo-Independent* featured New York City's mayor, Michael Bloomberg, on the cover. He was (and is) a key player in the fight to liberate independents from their second class status (see his remarks on this subject in "The Power of Fusion"). Bloomberg, who once asked me if he and I were the only two people in America who read the *Neo*, displayed it proudly at the NYC Independence Party's annual Anti-Corruption Awards in December; he was trying to dispel rumors that Brad Pitt was used as a stand-in for the cover photo. My thanks to the mayor (it's really him) for standing up for the magazine, not to mention the independent voter.

Jacqueline Salit, Executive Editor
editor@neoindependent.com