The West Point of Capitalism

by Michael D. McNamee


is one of the kinder nicknames for the Harvard Business School, behemoth of scientific management and rational business techniques, the school that turns out more top executives, more millionaires, more presidents of Fortune 500 companies, than any other single institution.

Of course Cohen does not dwell on the pleasant nicknames for the B school, however, Cohen, a graduate of the school's more user-friendly Administration program, prefers to linger on some of the more unpleasant aspects of the education of America's managerial elite. In doing so, he exposes many of the more unpleasant aspects of American education, and America's education system in general.

No one who reads this book will agree with all of Cohen's analyses, having second thoughts. Cohen describes the pressure of working eight and ten hours a night, after classes, to complete three cases a day, with each case ranking up to forty pages. Such pressure may sound familiar to MIT students, but as Cohen describes the B school, the pressure is more intense, the competition more cut-throat, and the stakes of the same higher than at any other school in the nation.

Besides discussing the causes of the pressure, Cohen delves into the room, behind the walls of education that makes schooling so competitive. In an essential essay inspired by the suicide of a B school student (reprinted in The Tech, Feb. 28), Cohen questions the necessity of "competitive education," the need for creating pressure on students when every student is needed to make whatever contribution he can to solve the world's problems. That may alone be worth the price of the book.

By placing his fictional protagonist, (all the names of Cohen's characters, and some of the biographical information about them, were changed in the book) at Harvard during the time of the 1970 war action, Cohen offers another perspective on the social usefulness of an institution like the B school. Showing the student body and faculty torn by dissatisfaction over the Vietnam War, contrasting Harvard Square protesters with the B school's students, representing the whole process by which Harvard MBAs find their $18,000 jobs with the action in the streets, Cohen raises fundamental questions about the role of business, and business education in solving America's problems.

Through his own eyes and those of his classmates, Cohen offers a useful and interesting view of higher education in the Cambridge circuit. Anyone interested in attending the B school should read this book, many people who aren't planning on going there would find it valuable for its insights on education and American society.

Herblock Special Report – Herbert Block (W.W. Norton; 223 pages)

Herbert Block has been drawing cartoons about Richard Nixon since the California primary in 1948. Herblock Special Report is a compilation of that coverage. Taking Nixon's career from his day as a red-baiting congressman,Block throws forward about Liberties, until the full, complete, and abso- lute pardon granted to Richard M. Nixon. The cartoons have been a part of the student's life at Harvard. They have been a part of the student body at MIT. MIT's Department of Humanities offers three prizes for undergraduate writing at MIT. These prizes are open to all categories of writing by any one person, in each competition to works of substantial length, completed or in progress. It is primarily for graduate writing at MIT. These prizes are open only to MIT undergraduates. There is a limit of two separate entries, by one person, in each competition and no single entry may be submitted in more than one competition.

The Robert Boit Writing Prize is open to all categories of writing by MIT undergraduates. $450 is awarded among several awards. The Robert Boit Writing Prize is open to works of substantial length, completed or in progress. It is primarily for longer works of publishing quality. There is an award of $200 offered. The competition closes April 18, 1975.

Alec Reid - Waiting for Beckett

by Margaret A. Minsky and Vinay Reddy

Alec Reid, a Becker scholar and personal friend of the playwright, lectured Wednesday, March 12, to a small literary audience in 14N-409. The lecture was sponsored by the Humanities Department and the Council for the Arts. Reid's enthusiastic topic, "The World and Art of Samuel Beckett," gave him scope for anecdote and analysis of Beckett as he pleased. His preoccupation with Beckett, the poet of alienation and author of Waiting for Godot, grew from his intimate familiarity with the Irish theater. Reid is a personal friend of the playwright, lecturing at the University of California in Berkeley.

Despite his naivete, or perhaps because of it, the solution is appealing. The economy, the consumer, not any more, but a free-loving anarchism, an abolition of the taboos that separate us, and a return to the renderer's state in which we supposedly started.

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