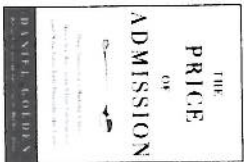


NEW IN PRINT

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

The Price of Admission: How America's Ruling Class Buys Its Way Into Elite Colleges—and Who Gets Left Outside the Gates by Daniel Golden (*Cowm*, an imprint of Random House, www.crownpublishing.com, 336 pp., \$25.95 hardback).

Golden, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, investigates what he sees as preferential treatment given by college-admissions offices to the children of alumni, donors, politicians, celebrities, and faculty members. He finds that such students, most often wealthy and white, greatly outnumber minority students benefiting from affirmative action, and estimates that at least one-third of students at elite universities and one-half at liberal arts colleges received special consideration during the admissions process. Middle- and working-class applicants suffer the most, he writes, with the bar for admission set highest for Asian-Americans. To make college admissions more equitable, Golden recommends that schools eliminate "legacy" preferences, scholarships for traditionally upper-class sports such as horseback riding, and tuition assistance for children of faculty; refuse donations from parents of children applying or wait-listed for admission; and give Asian-American applicants and international applicants requesting financial aid equal consideration.

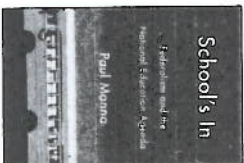


she suggests that the definition of giftedness be broadened, calls for schools to strengthen their gifted-education programs, and reminds parents to allow time for unstructured play.

GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

Schools In: Federalism and the National Education Agenda by Paul Manna (*Georgetown University Press*, www.press.georgetown.edu, 222 pp., \$26.95 paperback).

To explain what he views as the U.S. government's increasing involvement in K-12 education, Manna, an assistant professor of government at the College of William and Mary, presents a general theory of federalism and agenda-setting he calls "borrowing strength." It states that policymakers at one level of government who are seeking to advance a specific agenda can further their cause by making use of the arguments, resources, or structures of other levels. He traces the United States' education agenda over the past 40 years to demonstrate how it has been shaped by this style of interaction between policymakers, giving particular attention to the framing and implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act. Manna cautions against seeing gains at one level of government as losses for the other, however, affirming that states continue to be a source of innovative education policy even as the federal role in schooling has expanded.



Pressure-Cooker Schooling

In *The Overachievers*, journalist Alexandra Robbins introduces readers to high school high-achievers like Julie, a popular, straight-A student and talented athlete whose successful persona is belied only by her stress-induced hair loss. Robbins shadowed Julie and other "superstars" at a well-regarded public school outside Washington to uncover the culture of workaholicism (and its often-injurious effects) permeating top high schools across the nation. What she reveals is a community of students, parents, and even educators caught up in a race not for learning, but prestige. The following is an excerpt.



In present-day America, school for many students has become a competitive frenzy. The high school environment is no longer about a student's pre-adult exploration with the goal of narrowing down likes and dislikes so that he or she ultimately can choose a college curriculum, vocational school, or career path that fits. Instead, it has become a hotbed for Machiavellian strategy

GIFTEDNESS

Hothouse Kids: The Dilemma of the Gifted Child by Alissa

MEMOIR