

SOCIETY

College, U.S.A.

"Reaching the Hard to Reach" by Marilyn Gittell, in *Change* (Oct. 1985), 4000 Albenmarle St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

With university tuition in the United States rising faster than inflation, many students are seeking less costly postsecondary educations. One answer, reports Gittell, a political scientist at the City University of New York, is the "community-based college."

These private, non-profit schools—offering both two- and four-year programs—enroll from 100 to 2,000 students apiece each semester. In 57 accredited colleges, some 150 non-accredited ones (usually affiliated with a nearby public college), and an estimated 300 other non-degree granting institutions throughout the United States, about 700,000 (mainly adult) students are honing their reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. Most of those enrolled are recent immigrants, working mothers, or inner-city minority folk (largely black and Hispanic) who have not had solid academic training, observes Gittell.

While these small institutions do not boast the broad curricula of their liberal arts counterparts, they do offer a variety of courses ranging from American literature to office management. Some emphases are narrower. Whether at Harlem's Malcolm King College or at Navajo Community College in Tsaille, Ariz., history courses tend to highlight the culture of a school's majority ethnic group (e.g., an emphasis on Black Studies or Native American Studies).

Money for the colleges comes primarily from federal subsidies and foundation grants, notes Gittell. But a shortage of such funding persists. Since 1980, nearly a dozen colleges have gone under—though not because of a lack of students. According to a 1981 report published in the *Education Statistics Bulletin*, at least one-third of all black college students were enrolled in community institutions. And the demand for such programs appears to be on the upswing.

Some educators argue that these local schools foster parochialism, segregation, and class distinctions. Not so, says Gittell. A recent Ford Foundation study concludes that community colleges not only "spend less money educating people who require more support," but also have "made an important contribution to higher education in America."

Winners, but Not Quitters

"Lottery Winners and Work Commitment: A Behavioral Test of the American Work Ethic" by H. Roy Kaplan, in *The Journal of the Institute for Socioeconomic Studies* (Summer 1985), Airport Rd., White Plains, N.Y. 10604.

Lotteries are an American bonanza: Those who play sometimes win big, while those governments that run lotteries usually reap a nice harvest.

Today, 18 states and the District of Columbia are running games of chance that last year collectively grossed more than \$8 billion. Three more states (Oregon, West Virginia, and Missouri) will soon start selling tickets too. As of mid-1985, more than 1,200 people had won \$1 million or more, with one prize of \$40 million going to a 27-year-old printer in Chicago.