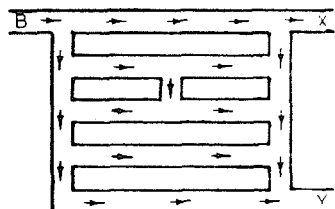


SOCIETY

6. The Figure below represents a network of one-way traffic lanes. If the traffic divides equally at intersections where there are alternative directions, and in one hour 512 cars enter the traffic pattern at point B, how many cars will leave via Y?



(A) 128 (B) 192 (C) 256 (D) 320 (E) 384

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Above is a sample question from the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The correct answer is "(E) 384."

dents began to defy authority more openly than in the past. Educators, seeking to accommodate student whims and to keep schools running smoothly, suffered a "failure of nerve." They, too, began to doubt the legitimacy of traditional academic standards. Teachers and principals became less willing to punish truants and disrupters; some young liberal and radical teachers embraced a "spongy cultural relativism" that treated all ideas as equally defensible. To students, this soon meant that no ideas were worth bothering about.

Since basic skills are not the real problem says Jencks, the "minimum competency" movement will have little impact on the decline in SAT scores. "We must find ways of motivating students to go beyond the basics," he writes. Defending intellectual standards means taking a firm line with students; a school administrator's first priority is to "maintain a climate in which learning is accepted as both necessary and respectable."

Study Now, Pay Later

"The Tuition Dilemma: A New Way to Pay the Bills" by John R. Silber, in *The Atlantic Monthly* (July 1978), Box 1857, Greenwich, Conn. 06835.

A crisis in the financing of higher education has been building relentlessly for the past decade. College tuition costs are soaring, parents and students cheat on applications for financial aid, and the default rate on federal student loans rose in 1977 to 13 percent.

The answer, writes Silber, president of Boston University, is not the controversial tuition tax credit legislation that died in the last session of Congress. A better remedy is the so-called Tuition Advance Fund. The TAF plan was introduced in Congress in April 1978 (by Rep. Michael J. Harrington, D.-Mass., and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D.-Mass.). Under this proposal, any student who had completed his first year of college

SOCIETY

could draw an advance from a federal fund to pay his tuition, plus up to \$1,000 for room and board or other expenses, for a total advance of \$5,000 in any one academic year and \$15,000 over three years.

Following graduation, the student would repay his advance (the full amount, plus a 50 percent surcharge) at the rate of 2 percent of his gross annual income per year. According to Silber's calculations, a person of average earning power could probably pay off his obligation (\$22,500, if he borrowed the \$15,000 maximum and owed a \$7,500 surcharge) within 30–35 years.

Unlike current student loans, the TAF obligation could not be defaulted through bankruptcy. Whenever the recipient had any income over \$5,000 a year (the minimum for which TAF repayment is required), 2 percent of that income would be liable for collection as a special tax owed to the U.S. Treasury.

In the unlikely event that all of the 4.7 million eligible students in higher education participated to the fullest extent possible, the maximum annual cost would be \$9.2 billion, offset by a \$1 billion reduction in the use of federally insured student loan funds. A more realistic estimate, based on the assumption that TAF would be three times as popular as conventional loan programs, is \$4.5 billion, less the \$1 billion in current use of federal funds. Silber estimates that the fund would be self-perpetuating within 20 years on the strength of annual repayments and the interest earned on those repayments put aside in a trust fund. TAF would aid the financing of all higher education, public and private, he argues, and help assure "that the benefits of education are, as much as possible, paid for by those who receive them."

Bearing Down on Serious Crime

"The Major Offense Bureau: Concentrated Justice" by Holcomb B. Noble, in *Police Magazine* (Sept. 1978), 801 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Since 1973, more than 24 cities and counties in the United States have set up major offense bureaus (MOBs) aimed at protecting society from the career criminal. They are credited with clearing clogged court calendars, winning high conviction rates, reducing serious crime, and ending the "revolving-door" procedures that released newly-arrested criminals on bail to prey on the public while awaiting trial for major offenses.

The Bronx MOB system, launched five years ago with federal money, has been the model for others in Boston and Indianapolis and for a \$63 million statewide program in California, writes Noble, a *New York Times Magazine* editor. Certain police, prosecutors, and judges concentrate exclusively on serious crimes—armed robbery, burglary, kidnapping—by violent chronic offenders where there is a strong likelihood of winning a quick conviction. (In the past, such cases would be handled by an overworked prosecutor with as many as 100 major and minor crimes pending simultaneously.)

Of the more than 6,500 MOB cases tried nationwide, 94.7 percent led