

## BOOKS RECEIVED

**Trial and Error—The American Controversy Over Creation and Evolution.** By Edward J. Larson. Oxford University Press, 1985. \$17.95 hardcover.

In *Trial and Error*, Edward J. Larson combines a legal, historical, and scientific perspective in analyzing the history of the American public schools' experience in teaching the theory of evolution. Larson begins by looking at the introduction of evolutionary theory into American classrooms at the turn of the century. He next chronicles the anti-evolutionary statutes that appeared in the 1920s. The account of the famous *Scopes* trial and the legal confrontation between Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan is particularly interesting. Larson concludes by examining the Supreme Court's actions in the 1960s striking down statutes prohibiting classroom instruction of evolutionary theory. The final chapter focuses upon fundamentalist efforts in the 1970s to obtain equal time for teaching creation science. Throughout the book, Larson reinforces his primary conclusion that the actions of the courts and legislators have reflected the general public's stance on the evolutionary issue. A thoughtful, well-researched, and informative book, *Trial and Error* is highly recommended.

**The Divorce Revolution—The Unexpected Social and Economic Consequences for Women and Children in America.** By Lenore J. Weitzman. The Free Press, 1985. \$19.95 hardcover.

In *The Divorce Revolution*, Lenore J. Weitzman reveals the results of her exhaustive ten-year study of the effects of no-fault divorce. Until California adopted the no-fault standard for divorce in 1970, grounds for fault such as adultery or cruelty were required for divorce in every state. Since 1970, all but two states have at least partially adopted the no-fault standard. Although Weitzman found that the change in law has been effective in reducing the acrimony previously associated with divorce, she suggests that the economic and social consequences have been surprisingly disastrous. Weitzman's major contention is that no-fault divorce has served to impoverish the majority of divorced women and children of divorced parents. Based on voluminous research and interviews with judges, lawyers, and divorced Californians, Weitzman found that attempts to treat men and women equally under the law failed because the law fails to account for the unfortunate but real economic inequality between men and women. Weitzman concludes by suggesting reforms that will not revoke no-fault law but instead save the desirable aspects of no-fault divorce while remedying the undesirable economic consequences. Already an important work in the field, *The Divorce Revolution* will undoubtedly remain an influential work for years and should be read by all legislators, judges, lawyers, and family members.

**The Process of Divorce—How Professionals and Couples Negotiate Settlements.** By Kenneth Kressel. Basic Books, Inc., 1985. \$23.95 hardcover.

The role of professionals in divorce negotiations has unfortunately been frequently overlooked among scholars. *The Process of Divorce*, therefore, provides valuable insight into the role of therapists, lawyers, and mediators in the divorce negotiation process. Kenneth Kressel, a psychologist with expertise in the area of conflict resolution, has applied the principles of conflict resolution analysis in evaluating professional services. After synthesizing the results of the limited data currently available on the subject, Kressel has formulated surprising conclusions. Kressel contends that the best place to begin divorce negotiations is with a psychological therapist. If the marriage cannot be saved, the services of a good attorney or mediator are extremely valuable. The stereotype of belligerent, conflict-raising attorneys is inaccurate according to Kressel, with most attorneys tending to be more like counselors than advocates. In recent years, mediators have been touted as being preferable to attorneys. Although Kressel agrees that mediators may be preferable to attorneys in certain situations,

mediators cannot solve all problems. Kressel suggests that the appropriateness of using an attorney or mediator is determined by the facts of each case. Finally, Kressel points out the difficulties facing both mediators and attorneys and concludes that although improvements may be made, the role of the professionals will continue to be problematic because of the realities of divorce. *The Process of Divorce* will prove to be worthwhile reading for any professional involved in divorce counseling.

**Corporate PACs and Federal Campaign Financing Laws—Use or Abuse of Power?** By Ann B. Matasar. Greenwood Press, 1986. \$35.00 hardcover.

The debate continues to rage over the merits of political action committees with arguments on both sides being supported by a growing amount of academic literature. In *Corporate PACs and Federal Campaign Financing Laws*, Ann B. Matasar responds to both the critics and advocates of corporate PACs. Matasar contends that corporate PACs are neither the menace nor the brilliant idea that many have claimed them to be. Matasar focuses solely on PACs run by corporations and contends that they are often inefficiently run and therefore ineffective. She suggests that corporate PACs have had little impact on campaign financing up until the present but that an effectively run corporate PAC could indeed become very influential. Matasar suggests ways in which corporate PACs could be better run and also suggests reforms for the current structure of corporate PACs. Matasar's contribution to the literature on PACs is valuable because she limits her focus to a certain type of PAC and analyzes it well. This book will be of particular interest to the managers of corporate PACs and the politicians who benefit from them.