

Though San Jose State included a community outreach/economic development component in its mission, the college was unable to embrace some of Sperling's academic initiatives. He turned to other regional institutions in the hope they would accept his adult education program called the Institute for Professional Development. In this, he ran square into the constraints of departmental control and academic in-fighting.

In 1972, with \$26,000 in savings, the merchant marine-turned-professor launched a company dedicated to providing working adults with the opportunity to earn academic degrees in the same time it takes full-time students to do so. Today, his Apollo Group, with its University of Phoenix subsidiary, is a \$500 million public company.

Rebel with a Cause is Sperling's exciting account of how far accrediting agencies and other entrenched organizations will go to suppress innovation and reform in higher education. High drama unfolds in the collision between reform and tradition, as regional accreditation and state regulatory agencies move to eliminate Sperling's new venture. Only his understanding of academic politics and his experiences as a social activist enable him to fend off the vicious attacks and collusion of educational bureaucracies.

The account is directly pertinent to the current tendency of some state commissions to impede the introduction of for-profit programs and to the attack by the American Association of University Professors on initiatives that utilize technology-based means of delivering educational programming.

Sperling's experience illustrates the irony of accreditation and regulatory agencies that for decades have approved the for-profit continuing education divisions of traditional non-profit colleges. Thus, a for-profit component is legitimate as long as it subsidizes a "pure academic" endeavor. But if the for-profit undertaking stands on its own base, as in the case of the University of Phoenix, it is viewed as undermining the perceived

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A Handsome History

John O. Harney

The College on the Hill: A Browser's History for the Bicentennial,
David Haward Bain, Middlebury College Press, 1999, \$35

I'll admit it was the Middlebury public affairs office's pitch of more than 600 pictures that initially attracted me to *The College on the Hill*—and it is the rich images that help make David Haward Bain's 464-page history accessible to people who have no connection with Middlebury.

Following the format of "a print version of a documentary movie," Bain skillfully juxtaposes archival materials from the college's original charter through colorful 1920s covers of *The Blue Baboon* magazine to the oddly penetrating, black and white full-page photo of former President Olin Robison.

The only visual disappointment comes in the sections on the 1990s which settle for college catalog-style fall foliage shots and mortarboards flying heavenward.

Still, *The College on the Hill*, tracing Middlebury's evolution from its founding in 1800 to its upcoming bicentennial year, is more than



a handsomely illustrated coffee table book.

This is the history of a campus as quirky and independent as Vermont itself. Here in 1879, President Calvin B. Hulbert forbade students to kick a football among the college buildings and issued 25 demerits to C.G. Leavenworth when he violated the rule. Here in the later 1950s, frat brothers accepted national expulsion to ensure the participation of future U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, an African-American, in the white-only Sigma Phi Epsilon, then voted overwhelmingly for Richard Nixon over John F. Kennedy in a 1960 mock presidential election.

Bain, who has taught at Middlebury for nearly 15 years, writes for a variety of magazines and is the author of several books including the new *Empire Express: Building the First Transcontinental Railroad* and 1993's *Whose Woods These Are: A History of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference*.

John O. Harney is executive editor of *CONNECTION*.

