



CSU
College of Law Library

Cleveland State Law Review

Volume 20 | Issue 2

Book Review

1971

Book Review

Elliott A. Cohen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstlrev>



Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#)

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Recommended Citation

Elliott A. Cohen, *Book Review*, 20 Clev. St. L. Rev. 439 (1971)

available at <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstlrev/vol20/iss2/25>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cleveland State Law Review by an authorized editor of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.

*Reviewed by Elliott A. Cohen**

COPS ON CAMPUS AND CRIME IN THE STREETS, by Erle Stanley Gardner (William Morrow & Co., Inc., New York, 1970), 156 pp.

Erle Stanley Gardner was, for many years, the creator of the world-famous *Perry Mason* mysteries. But, unlike Perry Mason, Mr. Gardner is not almost infallible, as a reading of this book quickly reveals.

The author, formerly a practicing trial lawyer, has worked closely with criminologists, wardens, and the police, as he is not reluctant to remind the reader. Under discussion, in cursory fashion, are brief chapters which deal with the police, the death penalty, polygraphs, probation and parole, guns, and allusions to student activities on campus connected to violence and the cops. The reader is treated to a list of the author's honorifics.

If Mr. Gardner had as his object in writing this book a desire to add another to his accomplishments, he has not succeeded. This volume is scarcely analytical. It is doubtful that student, professor, or practicing lawyer would derive any insight into the matters to which the author gives consideration. There are, however, two chapters relating to lie detectors, probation and parole which save the book from irrelevance. Since Erle Stanley Gardner spreads himself so thin by treating so many topics, it is a wonder that he hasn't dealt with the causes of crime (or cures), nor with police corruption. Further, the title of the book is misleading, because the role of the police on campus does not take up a substantial part of the book; the same can be said for the matter of crime in the streets. The book contains a scattered number of anecdotes and clichés.

It is evident to most fair-minded observers that policemen have been subjected to verbal and other abuse. Mr. Gardner is correct in this observation. However, couldn't he find a few words to express the ideas of policemen about those who abuse them?

There are some common-sense insights into the causes of student rebellion, for which Mr. Gardner merits credit. He is strongly against the death penalty, which he correctly terms a lottery. His skepticism of alcoholic prohibition is parallel to gun control. But, how he concludes that unless there is more respect afforded police, more efficiency, and police mobility, crimes against the householder will increase, remains a mystery to the reader. Mr. Gardner believes that society needs more Negro millionaires, businessmen, and executives. How about Negro access to labor unions?

One is familiar with the maxim that big things come in little packages. Suffice it to say that this volume of 156 pages does not measure up to that standard.

* Of the Albany, New York Bar.