

Sandel, Michael J. What money can't buy: the moral limits of markets. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. 244p index afp ISBN 9780374203030, \$27.00

In *What Money Can't Buy*, Harvard political philosopher Sandel, author of *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* (2009), points fingers at alleged examples of market mechanisms (aka using prices) that he asserts are unfair and distort cultural values. Just because I can buy something, should I be allowed to? Thus, if I'm wealthy enough or care enough, can I buy a nicer prison cell, use a car-pool lane, or pay someone to stand in line for me? For a price, can cash-strapped cities slap advertising on police cars, subway stops, or public buildings? Should schools pay students to get better grades, or firms fine employees for not exercising? (Question: Could this reviewer get the publisher to pay him to lecture in a "Michael Sandel Rocks!" t-shirt?) Entertaining, richly referenced, and with a chip-on-the-shoulder air, the book will be "scripture" for cocktail-party repartee and bar debates. But the author fails to present alternatives that demonstrate nonmarket solutions are fairer or do not themselves corrupt societal values. Nevertheless, this is a provocative book that is accessible to all levels of students. Summing Up: Recommended. Public, academic, and professional collections.