

Boardroom amorality

Where did my fellow liberal Richard Cohen get the quaint idea that corporate executives have a moral obligation to protect their employees' jobs (or health, for that matter) as best they can (Daily News, Sept. 24)? Where in the history of business has this principle ever been observed, except under the threat of legal sanctions?

In fact, those on the executive track must be amoral at best, since the name of the game is success by whatever means the law will allow. Did not the "great" industrialists delay safe manufacturing processes as long as possible, ringing up the profits even as child factory workers lost their limbs to unguarded conveyor belts?

Thus, in the euphoria of self-centeredness created by former President Reagan, it is only natural that big players such as Time magazine chairman Steven Ross should try to get as much for themselves as possible — as in the good old days, let others look out for themselves. What Cohen does not realize is that just below the thin veneer we call morality lies the irrepressible rapacity of the business mind.

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