

Sophomore English Nonfiction Booklist 2007-08

Arts/Sports

Baseball and American Culture: Across the Diamond

Edward Reilly 796.357 R555

A thoughtful look at baseball's impact on American society through the eyes of the game's foremost scholars, historians, and commentators. Edited by Dr. Edward J. Rielly, author of *Baseball: An Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*, the book examines how baseball and society intersect and interact, and how the quintessential American game reflects and affects American culture. Enlightening and entertaining, *Baseball and American Culture* presents a multidisciplinary perspective on baseball's involvement in virtually every important social development in the United States—past and present.

Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues

Pat McKissack 796.357 M158

This book goes far beyond the few familiar photographs and names most readers associate with the Negro Baseball Leagues, and it makes the trip in style. We discover, for example, that George Washington's troops were "batting balls and running bases" and that the nineteenth-century relationship between baseball and race was more diverse than many young readers may realize. The McKissacks carefully record the differences of opinion about some events and the difficulty of finding source material. Oral histories from surviving players add startling depth to descriptions of conditions of play and travel, and Jackie Robinson's entry into major league ball becomes a richer and more complicated moment because the authors show where Robinson came from (and how) in addition to where he went.

Tales from the Cubs Dugout

Pete Cava 796.357 C376

The Chicago Cubs last won the World Series in 1908 and last appeared in the Fall Classic the year World War II ended. Yet Cubs fans are among the most loyal, most knowledgeable, and most rabid in baseball. The teams they have loved and the players they have cherished have provided some of the game's finest moments, as well as a treasure trove of baseball lore. The Cubs' home park, Wrigley Field, is as much a national landmark as the Empire State Building or the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Juice: the Real Story of Baseball's Drug Problems

Will Carroll 613.711 C319

Carroll is a recognized expert on medical matters related to baseball, and, for the most part, his analysis of steroid use among ballplayers is fair, thorough, and based on solid evidence.

Eight Men Out: The Black Sox and the 1919 World Series

Eliot Asinof 796.357 A832

Story of the fantastic scandal in which eight Chicago White Sox players arranged with the nation's leading gamblers to throw the Series in Cincinnati.

Lance Armstrong's War: One Man's Battle against Fate, Fame, Love, Death, Scandal....

Coyle, Daniel 796.62 C881

Armstrong emerges from these pages as neither the cancer-surviving saint his American fans admire, nor the soulless, imperialist machine his European detractors hate. Instead, he comes across as a preternaturally gifted athlete barely removed from the death-defying hellion he was as a teenager, fanatically disciplined, gregarious and generous but with a legendarily icy temper. Coyle sweeps over

the basics of Armstrong's Texas childhood and fight with cancer, concentrating on his obsessive training—this is a sport where results are measured in ounces and microseconds.

First and Long: A Black School, a White School and Their Season of Dreams

Greg Borowski 796.332 B736

Two high schools, one suburban and predominantly white, the other Catholic and predominantly black, joined forces to field a football team in 2001. This unique partnership occurred in "hyper-segregated" Milwaukee, where one mile and a world of difference separate the two schools.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend

Laura Hillenbrand 798.4 H651s

Celebrates the life of a racehorse that just happened to be a descendant of Man O' War. It is a story of a huge talent that almost went unrecognized until the right people came along. According to descriptions, Seabiscuit was a runt, with stubby legs, an odd walk, and a lazy nature. However, he became so popular that he drew more news coverage than President Roosevelt, Hitler, or Mussolini. The atmosphere surrounding his historic match with War Admiral was so intense that FDR kept advisors waiting as he listened with the rest of the country to hear the outcome

Planet Simpson: How a Cartoon Masterpiece Defined a Generation

Chris Turner 791.457 T945

Canadian journalist Turner embarks on an encyclopedic exposition of the show's episodes, catchphrases, characters, cultural impact, social commentary, themes and influences.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

Aron Ralston 796.522 R164

From midday Saturday, April 26, 2003, until midday Thursday, May 1, Ralston was pinned between a boulder and a canyon wall in a remote area of Canyonlands National Park in Utah. He had little food and water. No one would even wonder where he was until he didn't show up for work on Tuesday. Unable to sit, lie down, use his right arm (that was the part between the rock and the wall), or sleep, he knew right away that he was in for an excruciatingly difficult time. Those 120 hours of what he calls "uninterrupted experience" tested to the fullest his physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual being. His eventual rescue led to international headlines, partially due to his dramatic means of escape: he severed his arm with a cheap, dull, dirty knife. This is a searing and amazingly detailed rendition of his ordeal, along with accounts of several of Ralston's previous wilderness adventures.

Sound of the Beast: the Complete Head-Banging History of Heavy Metal

Ian Christe 781.66 C554

Few books on heavy metal music can compare to Christe's thoughtful and passionate history of the music of the beast. There is little argument that heavy metal began in earnest with Black Sabbath (though the Beatles' "Helter Skelter" is considered by some to be the first heavy metal song), and Christe holds to convention and begins his metal timeline in early 1970.

Hoop Dreams

Ben Joravsky 796.323 J81

For nearly five years Arthur Agee's and William Gates' remarkable lives were chronicled by a team of filmmakers. Roughly 250 hours of film were devoted to their journeys from the playgrounds to high school competition to college recruitment and -- whittled down to three hours -- it became the award-winning film *Hoop Dreams*. Now journalist Ben Joravsky vividly brings to light all the richness and subtlety of their stories, and the impact their aspirations had on themselves, their families and their

relationships. It is an intimate look, complete with an up-to-date epilogue on the latest developments in their lives.

One Nation Under a Groove

James Haskins 781.645 H351

Haskins focuses on rap's roots and evolution, giving readers a real sense of how it is part of a long history of social commentary through art. He discusses the place of women in rap, and also how it has transcended its roots in urban African-American culture to become a worldwide phenomenon.

Go For the Goal

Mia Hamm 796.334 H224g

Mia Hamm, star of the U.S. National Soccer Team, Olympic Gold Medalist, World Cup champion, and five-time National Player of the Year, has a simple take on her talents that also explains her success: "Many people say I'm the best women's soccer player in the world. I don't think so. And because of that, someday I just might be."

Art Attack: a Short Cultural History of the Avant-Garde

Marc Aaronson 709.04 A769

Aronson combines traditional art historical narrative with his personal passion for all of the arts to make a convincing case that pop art, surrealism, dadaism, cubism, abstract expressionism and all the other "isms" of convention-defying avant-garde art.

Bloody Sundays

Michael Freeman 796.332 F855

Goes beyond day-to-day newspaper journalism and ESPN highlights to take us deep inside the game and reveal the NFL in ways that will surprise the most avid football fans. He travels to the sidelines and into the locker rooms to interview hundreds of players and coaches on their expertise.

Gene Kelly: A Life of Dance and Dreams

Alvin Yudkoff 792.8 K295

Yudkoff (a writer and film producer) deftly narrates Kelly's journey from Pittsburgh to Broadway to Hollywood, sensitively telling behind-the-scenes stories and relating the details of Kelly's personal life--from his troubled first marriage, to the highly competitive game parties he held at his house, to his experiences during the McCarthy era.

Baseball, Chicago Style: A Tale of Two Teams, One City

Jerome Holtzman and George Vass

For the first time the entire colorful saga of major league baseball in Chicago is wrapped between the covers of a single book sure to appeal to both Cubs and White Sox fans.

Yao: A Life in Two Worlds

Yao Ming with Ric Bucher BIOGRAPHY Y25b

The book follows Yao's career in China, the bureaucratic struggles involved in getting him to the U.S., and his experiences on the court, including what it was like to play against Shaq. Though there's lots of basketball talk, the book's most compelling sections address the clash of cultures, such as the time when Yao's former team, the Shanghai Sharks, banned one of Yao's representatives from negotiating because he was white. Yao clearly loves his native country and says his greatest dream is to lead China's national team to an Olympic gold medal. But with millions in endorsement deals, the adoration of fans across the globe and this earnest book, it's clear he's living out the American dream, too.

Business

The Business Playbook: Leadership Lessons from the World of Sports

Brandon Steiner 658.4 S822

The CEO of Steiner Sports Marketing has rubbed elbows with some of the biggest names in sports. Here he advises readers to use these superstars' strategies to achieve success in the business world. He offers 10 principles of leadership, strategy, planning, and success: start with a road map; find your niche; wake up nervous; know your purpose; go the extra mile; realize that you never know where you might wind up; get focused; know that nothing changes if nothing changes; understand it's not what happens, it's what you do; and see success as a habit. The book includes 50 photographs of athletes and coaches, and while some of the advice is sound enough, the quotes tend toward the forgettable utterances that occur when athletes have microphones shoved in their faces after a game.

The Emperors of Chocolate: Inside the Secret World of Hershey and Mars

Joel Glenn Brenner 338.76 B838

Brenner reveals the bitter legal and marketing fights, palace intrigue, and personality clashes that dominate Hershey and Mars--and the candy industry as a whole. He tells the stories of how Forrest Mars Sr. and Milton S. Hershey turned their two companies from small mom-and-pop operations into international forces over the last century. While they may have started small, their products--Mars's Snickers and M&M's and Hershey's milk-chocolate bars and Kisses--are ubiquitous.

Candy Freak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America

Steve Almond 338.76 A452

The appropriately named Almond goes beyond candy obsession to enter the realm of "freakdom." Right up front, he divulges that he has eaten a piece of candy "every single day of his entire life," "thinks about candy at least once an hour" and "has between three and seven pounds of candy in his house at all times." Indeed, Almond's fascination is no mere hobby—it's taken over his life. And what's a Boston College creative writing teacher to do when he can't get M&Ms, Clark Bars and Bottle Caps off his mind? Write a book on candy, of course. He's not interested in the big companies, instead, he checks out "the little guys," visiting the roasters at Goldenberg's Peanut Chews headquarters and hanging out with a "chocolate engineer" at a gourmet chocolate lab in Vermont.

Ben and Jerry's: The Inside Scoop

Fred Lager 338.76 L174

While Ben & Jerry's is one of the leading innovative and socially responsible businesses, this tale is as much an example to young entrepreneurs of what not to do as it is a model of exactly what to do. Lager, former CEO of Ben & Jerry's, was one of the company's early players, leaving in the 1990s, and he writes a captivating story about the \$200 million, publicly traded enterprise, which originated in a rehabbed gas station where its founding fathers once ate saltines and sardines and slept on freezer chests all winter to be able to open by spring. Ben Cohen's dedication, marketing brilliance, and creativity and Jerry Greenfield's burnout, resignation from the company, and return are all faithfully documented, along with the dedication of the production workers to the ideal that has characterized Ben & Jerry's.

The Search: How Google and Its Rivals Rewrote the Rules of Business and Transformed Our Culture

John Battelle 338.76 B335

The Search is not exactly the corporate history of Google. At the book's outset, Battelle specifically indicates his desire to understand what he calls the cultural anthropology of search, and to analyze search engines' current role as the "database of our intentions"--the repository of humanity's curiosity, exploration, and expressed desires. Interesting though that beginning is, though, Battelle's story really

picks up speed when he starts dishing inside scoop on the darling business story of the decade, Google. To Battelle's credit, though, he doesn't stop just with historical retrospective: the final part of his book focuses on the potential future directions of Google and its products' development. In what Battelle himself acknowledges might just be a "digital fantasy train", he describes the possibility that Google will become the centralizing platform for our entire lives and quotes one early employee on the weightiness of Google's potential impact: "Sometimes I feel like I am on a bridge, twenty thousand feet up in the air. If I look down I'm afraid I'll fall. I don't feel like I can think about all the implications."

Sweet and Low

Rich Cohen 338.76 C678s

Cohen's maternal grandfather, Ben Eisenstadt, a mid-grade inventor and Brooklyn restaurateur concocts the idea of selling sugar in individual packets--a revolutionary concept in the age of crusty, unsanitary sugar dispensers. His idea stolen by the big sugar companies, Cohen squeaks out a post-war living selling his packets in their shadow until he and his son, Marvin, invent the formula for the saccharine sweetener and catch the first big wave of the American diet craze. Those little pink packets create a vast fortune soon tarnished by interfamily squabbles, Mafia influence, FDA edicts and, mostly, the baser aspects of human nature--greed, jealousy and pride.

Tupperware: The Promise of Plastic in 1950's America

Alison J. Clarke 338.76 C597

the ethical and moral meanings of "modern" design in postwar America; the economic and social conflicts that women faced in the 1950s; how suburban living affected consumer culture; the history of door-to-door sales; and the corporate and gender politics of marketing.

First in Thirst: How Gatorade Turned the Science of Sweat into a Cultural Phenomenon

Darren Rovell 381.45 R873

Gatorade has grown into an internationally renowned brand that today comprises 80 percent of the U.S. sports drink market it created. A lifelong Gatorade consumer and ESPN.com's sports business writer, Rovell locates the increasingly wide intersection of sports, business and popular culture, creating an account wide in scope, rich in details and sufficiently varied to keep the pages turning.

The World Is Flat: a Brief History of the 21st Century

Thomas L. Friedman 303.483 F911w

For Friedman, cheap, ubiquitous telecommunications have finally obliterated all impediments to international competition, and the dawning "flat world" is a jungle pitting "lions" and "gazelles," where "economic stability is not going to be a feature" and "the weak will fall farther behind." Rugged, adaptable entrepreneurs, by contrast, will be empowered. The service sector (telemarketing, accounting, computer programming, engineering and scientific research, etc.), will be further outsourced to the English-spoken abroad; manufacturing, meanwhile, will continue to be off-shored to China. As anyone who reads his column knows, Friedman agrees with the transnational business executives who are his main sources that these developments are desirable and unstoppable, and that American workers should be preparing to "create value through leadership" and "sell personality."

The Naked Employee: How Technology is Compromising Workplace Privacy

Frederick S. Lane 331 L265

Reading Lane's book is enough to make any employee paranoid. The attorney and author of *Obscene Profits* relentlessly lays out the many and varied ways employers legally spy on employees. Web surfing? Workers are being watched. E-mail? That, too. From video cameras to ID cards to background checks, employees' lives are basically open books to whoever is paying their salary.

The Motley Fool Investment Guide for Teens: Eight Steps to Having More Money than Your Parents Ever Dreamed Of

David Gardner 332.6 G226

In a wise and witty manner, brothers David and Tom Gardner, founders of the multimedia investment company The Motley Fool, impart their investment strategies to the adolescent masses with *The Motley Fool Investment Guide for Teens*. In eight teen-friendly sections, the brothers Gardner and writing partner Selena Maranjian demystify the stock market by describing and defining mutual funds, banking practices, IRAs, and drip investing.

Health

Fast Food Nation 338.76 S345f

Schlosser documents the effects of fast food on America's economy, its youth culture, and allied industries, such as meatpacking, that serve this vast food production empire. Starting with a young woman who makes minimum wage working at a Colorado fast-food restaurant, Schlosser relates the oft-told story of Ray Kroc's founding of McDonald's. The author also tells about the development of the franchise method of business ownership and the health and nutrition implications of fast-food consumption. In a striking chapter, Schlosser gives a glimpse into the little-known world of chemically engineered flavorings, both natural and artificial.

The Obesity Myth: Why America's Obsession with Weight is Hazardous to your Health Paul Campos
613.25 C198

The recent bowwow about rampant obesity shortening Americans' lives conflicts with the fact that Americans enjoy the longest life expectancy of any industrialized nation's populace. Not to worry, though, because, says law professor Campos, the obesity allegation isn't true. Obesity isn't rampant or, except in the most extreme instances, unhealthy, and the only reason it is classified as a disease is because fear of it fattens the pocketbooks of a multi-billion-dollar weight-loss industry. The measures used to determine obesity, Campos shows, are arbitrary at best and baseless at worst, and the only ones who stand to gain by perpetuating the obesity panic--besides, perhaps, millions of self-conscious, hapless yo-yo dieters--are the doctors, researchers, pharmaceutical houses, diet-food manufacturers, and self-help gurus who drool at the prospect of helping America slim down.

Flesh Wounds: the Culture of Cosmetic Surgery

Virginia L. Blum 617.95 B658

Blum searches out the social conditions and imperatives that have made ours a culture of cosmetic surgery. From diverse viewpoints, ranging from cosmetic surgery patient to feminist cultural critic, she looks into the realities and fantasies that have made physical malleability an essential part of our modern-day identity.

Truth and Beauty: a Friendship

Anne Patchett 362.196 P294

Her best friend, fellow writer Lucy Grealy, was suffering some of the worst times yet in her altogether traumatic life. Grealy died in December 2002, and Patchett now offers an electrifyingly intimate portrait of a remarkable human being, and a profoundly insightful chronicle of an incandescent friendship. Grealy wrote about her life-defining struggle with cancer of the jaw, and the cruel disfigurement left in its wake, in *Autobiography of a Face* (1994), a shattering memoir that transformed its scintillating and daring author into a celebrity who all too soon became a cause celebre.

Fat Girl – A True Story

Judith Moore 362.196 M822

Moore's memoir focuses on the "curse" of obesity that has plagued her throughout her life. Given a father who overate and deserted her when she was four and a mother who regularly beat her, one finds no surprise when Moore turns to food for comfort and as a way to sublimate other appetites. Of course, as her vivid writing reveals, obsessions with food and angst over excess avoirdupois are too complex to yield a deterministic answer.

History*The Age of Terror: America and the World after September 11*

Strobe Talbott 303.625 A265

These eight essays, written in the first six weeks (up to November 1) after the events, deal with the perceived failure of America's post-Cold War foreign policy, radical Islam, maintaining this country's place in the new hybrid strategic landscape, Arab terrorism, the behavior of earlier empires that faced threats, maintaining the values of America's legal system, new national security questions, and the relationship between science and defense.

Always Faithful : A Memoir of the Marine Dogs of WWII

William Putney 940.548 P993

A retired Marine Corps captain and veterinarian, Putney writes a moving and heartrending account of his days as commander of the 3rd Marine War Dog Platoon, in which some 72 dogs and their handlers were his responsibility. The dogs and handlers trained in scouting, mine detection, and other patrol duties and went into combat together. Here we read about Peppy, Big Boy, and Lady and a host of other courageous dogs who lived and died during some of the worst fighting of the war.

Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War

Mark Bowden 967.73 B784

Journalist Mark Bowden delivers a strikingly detailed account of the 1993 nightmare operation in Mogadishu that left 18 American soldiers dead and many more wounded.

His gritty narrative tells of how Rangers and elite Delta Force troops embarked on a mission to capture a pair of high-ranking deputies to warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid only to find themselves surrounded in a hostile African city. Their high-tech MH-60 Black Hawk helicopters had been shot down and a number of other miscues left them trapped through the night.

Flags of Our Fathers

James Bradley 940.54 B811

The story of those six young American flag raisers in the famed portrait of Iwo Jima, told by the son of one of the soldiers.

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America

Erik Larson 977.31 L334

Incredible events surrounding the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor. Burnham's challenge was immense. In a short period of time, he was forced to overcome the death of his partner and numerous other obstacles to construct the famous "White City" around which the fair was built. The activities of the sinister Dr. Holmes, who is believed to be responsible for scores of murders around the time of the fair, are equally remarkable. He devised and erected the World's Fair Hotel, complete with crematorium and gas chamber, near the fairgrounds and used the event as well as his own charismatic personality to lure victims.

The Greatest Generation

Tom Brokaw 940.5485 B867

Brokaw defines "the greatest generation" as American citizens who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America. The vehicle used to define the generation further is the stories told by a cross section of men and women throughout the country. The approximately 50 stories are listed in the table of contents under eight topics: Ordinary People; Home front; Heroes; Women in Uniform and Out; Shame; Love, Marriage and Commitment; Famous People; and the Arena.

We Band of Angels

Elizabeth Norman 940.547 N842

When the Japanese began their assault against Allied troops in the Philippines, a group of American nurses were caught in the crossfire. These women entered the service to build careers and travel the world, and none of them ever imagined they would see battle, let alone be held as POWs. Yet this is precisely what happened in December 1941 and early 1942, when the Philippines fell to Japan. During the initial months of the attack, the nurses were instrumental in setting up makeshift hospitals, first in the jungles of Bataan and later in the caves beneath Corregidor. Eventually, they were captured by the Japanese and sent to civilian POW camps at Santo Tomas and Los Baos, where they remained for the next three years. Norman (nursing, New York Univ.) tells their harrowing story through survivor interviews as well as letters and journals kept by the nurses during this time. Her book is a well-written account of an obscure piece of World War II history.

Disguised

Rita la Fontaine Clercq Zubli 940.5482 C629

With the Japanese set to invade Sumatra, Rita's Dutch Indonesian parents, fearing that their 12-year-old daughter will become a comfort girl, disguise her as a boy. Throughout WWII, her true identity is kept secret; no one guesses that the boy, "Rick," is a girl. Initially, Rita does clerical work and is sent to school to learn Japanese. Her mother soon dies, however, and she, her aunt Suus, and two younger brothers are separated from her father and sent to various camps. "Rick" becomes the official camp interpreter and works closely with the commandants.

A Short History of Nearly Everything

Bill Bryson 500 B916

As Bryson states at the outset, this is a book about life, the universe and everything, from the Big Bang to the ascendancy of Homo sapiens. "This is a book about how it happened," the author writes. "In particular how we went from there being nothing at all to there being something, and then how a little of that something turned into us, and also what happened in between and since."

Never A City So Real: a Walk in Chicago

Alex Kotlowitz 977.311 K87

Kotlowitz portrays Chicago as a place without pretense where "people are taken for who they are, not for what they have or haven't achieved," and consequently he seeks the city's many-faceted soul in the lives of its mavericks. He spotlights individuals such as Millie Wortham and Brenda Stephenson, who work for an organization that helps young mothers; artist Milton Reed, "a Diego Rivera of the projects"; and the generous owners of modest yet cherished neighborhood hot spots.

The Assassin's Gate: America in Iraq

George Packer 956.704 P119

Packer takes readers inside the vicious bureaucratic warfare between the Pentagon and State Department that turned U.S. policy on Iraq into an incoherent mess. We see the consequences in the second half of the book, which takes the reader to Iraq after the bombs have stopped dropping. Packer writes vividly about how the country deteriorated into chaos, with U.S. authorities in Iraq operating in crisis mode.

America Against the World: How We Are Different and Why We Are Disliked

Andrew Kohut and Bruce Stokes 973.931 K79

Kohut and Stokes examine the notion of American exceptionalism that has dominated world opinion since Alexis de Tocqueville and more current concerns about President Bush's unilateral approach in the war on terrorism since 9/11. They explore differences in American values versus those of other nations, how globalization affects concerns about the effect of American culture and policy on other nations, and what growing worldwide disapproval and even fear of the U.S. holds for the future. Not merely a dry, statistical account but a fascinating--and troubling--look at how the rest of the world views us.

Death by Innocence: the Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America

Mabel Till-Mobley, Christopher Benson 364.12 T574

Nearly 50 years after the murder of Emmett Till, his mother, Till-Mobley, has added her perspective on the tragedy. In what came to be seen as a seminal event in the fledgling civil rights movement, two white men abducted 14-year-old Emmett from the home of a relative in rural Mississippi in August 1955. That night they tortured the boy before dumping his lifeless body into the Tallahatchie River. His crime: he inadvertently whistled in the vicinity of a white woman who happened to be the wife of one of his killers.

The Italian Boy: a Tale of Murder and Body Snatching in 1830's London

Sarah Wise 364.152 W813

British historian Wise's book explores the grisly underbelly of pre-Victorian London by examining the trial of three "body snatchers," John Bishop, James May and Thomas Williams, who were arrested in 1831 while attempting to sell the suspiciously fresh cadaver of a teenage boy to a medical college.

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth & John Wilkes Booth

James Cross Giblin

In this absorbing narrative, he frames the intertwined tale of two brothers with accounts of their families, friends, the Civil War, and nineteenth-century theater. Edwin and John Wilkes were sons of Junius Booth, also a famed actor, and Edwin learned his craft in part as a young teen, traveling with his touring father to keep him from drinking too much. Alcoholism and depression afflicted the family, but Giblin is brilliant at showing that darkness was only one part of a life. Edwin's support of the North and John Wilkes' passion for the Southern cause drove a wedge in the family, and John Wilkes' assassination of Lincoln--plotted out for readers from historical documents with breathtaking clarity--haunted Edwin and his family.

Math/Science*Chance, Luck and Statistics*

Horace C. Levinson 519 L57

Simple non-technical book helps you figure out laws behind chance and probability...for sports, gov. and business. 1st part theory, 2nd part how to apply principals

Nine Crazy Ideas in Science: A Few Might Even Be True

Robert Ehrlich 500 E33

From Publishers Weekly

Evolution was considered a "crazy idea" 150 years ago and still is by some people but within 50 years of its introduction, it was accepted by most scientists. Here, Ehrlich, a professor of physics at George Mason University looks at nine offbeat ideas to show how seriously they should be taken. He uses a rating system of zero to four cuckoos ("why not?" to "certainly false") to evaluate the plausibility of each one. Ideas such as "More guns mean less crime" and "There was no big bang" receive three cuckoos ("almost certainly not true"). The author says that the book is aimed at the "general reader".

The Astonishing Elephant

Shana Alexander 599.67 A378

Set apart from other creatures in the animal kingdom by size, dexterity and emotional range, elephants have fascinated humankind for centuries. They've tantalized Alexander since 1962, when, on an assignment for Life magazine, she witnessed the first-ever elephant birth in an American zoo. This passionate book chronicles her three-decade obsession with the pachyderm she explores humans' interest in the gentle monster, from cave paintings to ancient myths, from circus shows to scientific research. Meanwhile, Alexander corrects common myths about elephants' character and culture--they have neither graveyards nor a fear of mice--

Atom: An Odyssey from the Big Bang to Life on Earth...and Beyond

Lawrence M. Krauss 523.1 K91

We are all, literally, star children. Every atom in our bodies was once inside the fiery core of some super giant star which exploded billions of years before our solar system formed. Lawrence Krauss takes us along for the ride of the life of a single particle, an oxygen atom, and helps us understand where matter came from, how many stars and galaxies helped create our universe, how the Milky Way formed, and how the thousand million lives and deaths our atom experiences will affect all life on earth.

Ghosts of Tsavo: Stalking the Mystery Lions of East Africa

Philip Caputo 599 C255

In 1898, two maneless male lions killed and devoured 135 Indian and African workers constructing a railroad bridge over the Tsavo River in Kenya. It took Lt. Col. John Henry Patterson, the engineer in charge of the project, nine months to hunt and kill the beasts, an ordeal recounted in his 1907 book, *The Man-Eaters of Tsavo*, and later the subject of two films, 1952's *Bwana Devil* and 1996's *The Ghost and the Darkness*. A century later, the story of *Ghost and Darkness* still fascinates and terrifies. Were they just rogue lions, or were they the "missing genetic link" between the prehistoric cave cats who hunted early humans and the modern African lion?

Corpse: Nature, Forensics and the Struggle to Pinpoint Time of Death

Jessica Snyder Sachs 364.12 S121

In 1932, Arthur Koehler helped catch a notorious suspect wanted for the Lindbergh baby murder by tracing a wooden ladder from a sawmill to a lumberyard and finally to the killer thereby giving rise to forensic botany. By elucidating such rare moments in history, Sachs, a freelance writer whose work has appeared in *Discover*, *Parenting* and *Redbook*, examines the often distasteful world of the forensic sciences. And while this first book is a serious scientific investigation, it also manages to bring forensic science (specifically, forensic ecology) into the layman's arena, pursuing what Sachs calls "the postmortem stopwatch" namely, the means by which investigators can better determine the time of death. Following various forensics experts on investigations, she conducts an intense study of the

differences between rigor, livor and algor mortis; the analysis of stomach contents; the discerning tastes of flies; and bodily juices sluiced into soil. The book is sure to please readers interested in the processes of death and decomposition: this is the world of maggot instars and the generational cycles of "Great Sarcophagi." Appearing on the tail of Michael Baden's *Dead Reckoning* (Forecasts, July 23), the book brings to the fore some familiar characters (entomologist Wayne Lord and Bill Bass of the University of Tennessee's "Body Farm," among others), and in comparison,

Silent Spring

Rachel Carson 632.9 C23L

Silent Spring, one of the first calls for public awareness and environmental action and a seminal work of the 1960s, examines the way dangerous chemicals have been used without sufficient research or regard for their potential to harm wildlife, water, soil, and humans, creating a sinister chain of poisoning and death. *Silent Spring* is meticulously researched and accessible to the lay reader; its message is as clear as it is devastating: humans have willfully disturbed the whole web of life, the "intimate and essential relations" between the earth and all its passengers, animate and inanimate.

Dead Reckoning: The New Science of Catching Killers

Michael Baden and Marion Roach 364.12 B134d

Baden and Roach simplify the details but retain the interesting aspects and serve up exciting and illuminating cases culled from Baden's extensive background as former Chief Medical Examiner for New York City. His curriculum vitae includes a stint as the chief forensic pathologist for the Congressional Select Committee on Assassinations investigations into the deaths of JFK and Martin Luther King, Jr. Readers follow along during an autopsy, learn about bloodstain pattern analysis, discover the importance of insect analysis performed on corpses, and are introduced to the methods used to reconstruct faces from skeletons. All the information is presented in an easy-to-understand format, with plenty of grizzly detail.

Mosquito: A Natural History of Our Most Persistent and Deadly Foe

Andrew Spielman and Michael D'Antonio 595.771 S755

In this lively and comprehensive portrait of the mosquito, its role in history, and its threat to mankind, Spielman and D'Antonio take a mosquito's-eye view of nature and man. They show us how mosquitoes breed, live, mate, and die, and introduce us to their enemies, both natural and man-made.

The Science of Harry Potter

Roger Highfield 500 H638

Magic and science may seem like strange bedfellows, but science journalist Roger Highfield nimbly illustrates how the two disciplines are actually deeply intertwined in the Harry Potter books. Magic, like science, he states, affords many insights into the workings of the human brain, which he designates as the greatest wizard of all. Whether dealing with flying broomsticks, Quidditch, or Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans, Highfield demonstrates how Muggle science has a leg up on many of the phenomena in Harry's world. The book's second half focuses more on the origins of magical thinking

Killer Germs: Microbes and Diseases that Threaten Humanity

Barry E. Zimmerman and David J. Zimmerman 616.9 Z73k

Killer Germs takes readers on a fascinating (sometimes horrifying) journey into the amazing world of viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi, and worms and explores the roles they have played in shaping the course of human history. From biblical plagues, to the AIDS crisis, to super germs of the future, this updated and revised edition of the original covers the whole gamut of diseases that have threatened

humanity since its origins. It also includes a new chapter on the history of bioterrorism and the deplorable role it has played and is likely to play in the phenomenal diversity of diseases.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers

Mary Roach 611 R628

Those curious or brave enough to find out what really happens to a body that is donated to the scientific community can do so with this book. Dissection in medical anatomy classes is about the least bizarre of the purposes that science has devised. Mostly dealing with such contemporary uses such as stand-ins for crash-test dummies, Roach also pulls together considerable historical and background information.

Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog

John Grogan 636.7 G874

Labrador retrievers are generally considered even-tempered, calm and reliable; and then there's Marley, the subject of this delightful tribute to one Lab who doesn't fit the mold. Marley was a sweet, affectionate puppy who grew into a lovably naughty, hyperactive dog. With a light touch, the author details how Marley was kicked out of obedience school after humiliating his instructor (whom Grogan calls Miss Dominatrix) and swallowed an 18-karat solid gold necklace (Grogan describes his gross but hilarious "recovery operation").

Media

Branded: The Buying and Selling of Teenagers

Alissa Quart 658.8 Q1

Alissa Quart illuminates the unsettling new reality of marketing to teenagers, as well as the quieter but no less worrisome forms of teen branding: the teen consultants who work for corporations in exchange for product; the girls obsessed with cosmetic surgery who will do anything to look like women on TV; and those teens simply obsessed with admission into a name-brand college.

Covering Catastrophe: Broadcast Journalists Report September 11

070.4 C873

This book offers accounts by broadcast journalists from New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC, of their experiences covering the events of September 11, 2001. The text is pieced together like a quilt, interspersing brief fragments identified by a quote and the name of each journalist, who range from radio helicopter reporters to all three network news anchors. The intensity created by this format represents the chaotic feeling of that day, which readers will relive through the vivid descriptions of what the reporters saw and felt.

Superman on the Couch: What Superheroes Really Tell Us About Ourselves and Our Society

Danny Fingeroth 306.48 F497

Connecting the dots from ancient warriors and biblical figures to modern-day superheroes, Fingeroth analyzes archetypes like the angry young man (Wolverine), the avenging orphan (Batman), the dual personality (Superman) and other modern derivatives like Dirty Harry and Rambo.

Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq

Riverbend 956.704 R621

Iraqi women's voices have been virtually silent since the fall of Baghdad. Yet four months after Saddam's statue toppled in April 2003, the pseudonymous Riverbend, a Baghdad native then 24 years old, began blogging about life in the city in dryly idiomatic English.

The Girl on the Magazine Cover: The Origins of Visual Stereotypes in American Mass Media

Carolyn Kitch 302.2308 K62

From the Gibson Girl to the flapper, from the vamp to the New Woman, Carolyn Kitch traces mass media images of women to their historical roots on magazine covers, unveiling the origins of gender stereotypes in early-twentieth-century American culture.

Real Sports Reporting

Abraham Aamidor 070.449 R288

Anyone interested in sports writing will want to read this book, which packs between its covers a universe of knowledge. Its 22 chapters, each written by a reporter or editor, cover pretty much the entire spectrum of the field.

Psychology*Blink: the Power of Thinking Without Thinking*

Malcolm Gladwell 153.44 G542

Here he brilliantly illuminates an aspect of our mental lives that we utterly rely on yet rarely analyze, namely our ability to make snap decisions or quick judgments. Adept at bridging the gap between everyday experience and cutting-edge science, Gladwell maps the "adaptive unconscious," the facet of mind that enables us to determine things in the blink of an eye.

The Call of the Mall: The Geography of Shopping by the Author of Why We Buy

Paco Underhill 381.33 U55

Underhill takes readers on an insightful tour of a typical Saturday at a large, regional mall. He examines the routes there, the shopping center itself, the stores, food, entertainment, ambience, and the customers. He shows why the mall is the way it is and how it could be improved. He provides insight into how the stores are arranged, how they display merchandise, and the different ways that men and women respond to this environment.

Odd Girl Out: the Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls

Rachel Simmons 302.54 S592

Forget the stereotypes of sugar and spice. Girls are *mean*, and as this book and a recent *New York Times Magazine* cover story indicate, their subtle, insidious style of bullying is rapidly garnering attention and concern. Simmons, a twenty something with a political background, calls on her extensive face-to-face research with teens in this book that exposes the social minefields of female adolescence and the deep scarring that can result.

See Jane Hit

James Garbarino 302.54 G213

Fascinating look at girls getting physical—from the assertive physicality expressed by healthy girls to criminal violence on the part of troubled ones.

The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference

Malcolm Gladwell 302 G543

The "tipping point" (not a new phrase) occurs when something that began small (e.g., a few funky kids in New York's East Village wearing Hush Puppies) turns into something very large indeed (millions of Hush Puppies are sold). It depends on three rules: the Law of the Few, the Stickiness Factor, and the Power of Context. Episodes subjected to this paradigm here include Paul Revere's ride, the creation of the children's TV program Sesame Street, and the influence of subway shooter Bernie Goetz.

Our Boys Speak: Adolescent Boys Write About Their Inner Lives

John Nikkah 305.235 N692

Nikkah opens each chapter with an essay in which he compares his own experiences to those of the young men who sent him their writings. Intriguingly, his subjects' pieces display both a silent adolescent maturity and the sort of vulnerability that can lurk beneath manly bravado. Felix Flores bares his grief at losing a friend; Chris Chambers-Jupo recalls hearing his best male friend admit that he'd been raped eight years earlier. Boys looking for a perfect romantic love confess to the heartbreak of being "dumped." And many contributors admit that they require a good cry from time to time. On display are boys who pay attention to and learn from their experiences.

The Normal One: Life with a Difficult or Damaged Sibling

Jeanne Safer 158.24 S128

For most of the book, Safer writes with simple directness, informal and jargon-free ("the sibling of the child with special needs is not supposed to have any needs") as she explores the burden of being the normal one. Drawing on concrete examples from her own life and also from her interviews with 60 other siblings, she identifies the key symptoms that no one escapes, including premature maturity, survivor guilt, compulsion to achieve, the fear of contagion, and jealousy.

Social Science*Admissions Confidential: An Insider's Account of the Elite College Selection Process* Rachel Toor

378.161 T672

A former admissions officer at Duke, Toor calls this a "Dear John" letter to her old job, but it's really a description of the relatively honest and complicated process by which thousands of eager, qualified applicants are evaluated every year by a typical "elite" university. While title and jacket scream "expos.," anyone looking for tales of under-the-table bribes or unopened applications in the shredder will be sadly disappointed. Human error sometimes creeps in tired readers can make cranky decisions but according to Toor, the system basically does what it's supposed to do: admit students who fit Duke's profile based on grades and the difficulty of curriculum, extracurricular activities, teacher recommendations and SAT scores.

Best friends: the True Story of the World's Most Beloved Animal Sanctuary

Samantha Glen 636.083 G558

The largest no-kill animal sanctuary in the country, Best Friends houses between 1,800 and 3,000 creatures--from dogs, rabbits and birds to sheep, pigs and horses--75% of which are adopted and many of which have special needs. Located on 3,000 acres in Angel Canyon (formerly Kanab), Utah, the shelter was founded in 1982 by several friends. This is the story of their efforts to execute their grand plan, from locating an appropriate piece of land to building various shelters, taking in ever growing numbers of abused and abandoned animals, finding a reliable veterinarian and raising the funds needed to keep their huge project afloat.

Dude, Where's My Country

Michael Moore 973.931 M823

Flush from the success of *Stupid White Men* and an Academy Award for best documentary, Moore continues his rhetorical assault on the Bush administration. The book shares much with Al Franken's *Lies* besides liberal sentiment and satirical tone; not only do both authors rely on the hoary device of having God tell them He doesn't support the president, but they each claim to pack their carry-on luggage with baseballs to bean would-be hijackers. But where Franken attacks individual conservatives, Moore focuses on issues. His first chapter is a series of unsettlingly specific questions (based on

rigorously footnoted facts) about the political and financial ties among Bush, the Saudi Arabian government and Osama bin Laden's family, though he leaps from the facts to speculation when he wonders whether the September 11 attacks might have been hatched within the Saudi military.

The Hacker Diaries: Confessions of Teenage Hackers

Dan Verton 364.168 V568

On February 7, 2000, Yahoo.com was the first victim of the biggest distributed denial-of-service attack ever to hit the Internet. On May 8th, Buy.com was battling a massive denial-of-service attack. Later that afternoon, eBay.com also reported significant outages of service, as did Amazon.com. Then CNN's global online news operation started to grind to a crawl. By the following day, Datek and E-Trade entered crisis mode...all thanks to an ordinary fourteen-year-old kid. Friends and neighbors were shocked to learn that the skinny, dark-haired, boy next door who loved playing basketball--almost as much as he loved computers--would cause millions of dollars worth of damage on the Internet and capture the attention of the online world--and the federal government. He was known online as "Mafiaboy" and, to the FBI, as the most notorious teenage hacker of all time.

The Price of Admission

Daniel Golden 378.161 G618

A heavy-hitting, name-naming exposé by *Wall Street Journal* deputy bureau chief Golden concludes that Ivy League admissions offices do not practice meritocracy. Instead, top-drawer schools reward donor-happy alums and the "legacy establishment," which Golden defines as "elites mastering the art of perpetuating themselves." Moreover, the "preference of privilege" enables wealthy candidates to nose out more deserving working- and middle-class students, especially new immigrants and Asian-Americans.

Bringing Down the House: The Inside Story of Six M.I.T. Students who Took Vegas for Millions

Ben Mezrich 364.172 M617

A story of how a young gambler and his card-counting cohorts employ simple math and complex disguises to win nearly \$4 million at the blackjack tables. Bouncing from huge scores to frightening banishments, the M.I.T. team fights a winning battle against the law of averages--until they're forced to flee south

Secrets of the Tomb: Skull and Bones, the Ivy League, and the Hidden Paths of Power

Alexandra Robbins 378.73 R632

Robbins, herself a Yale graduate and secret society member, aims to debunk the myth of one of the oldest secret societies, Skull and Bones. She begins with a superstitious, melodramatic account that suggests the society is both immensely rich and so powerful that it influenced politics. What follows is an extremely detailed account that traces the history of Yale and that of secret societies in general and that of Bones in particular, founded in 1832. Fifteen initiates, who are often among the smartest and most talented in their class, are tapped their junior year. They are initiated in the tomb (the Bones headquarters) and taken on a retreat to Bones-owned Deer Island, off the coast of New York. Much like a fraternity, Bones has many secret rituals and traditions.

Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture

Amy Best 306.4 B561

Prom Night is a collection of first-person accounts about the preparations, the event, and the after-prom parties. The schools used for this study are located mainly in the northeastern U.S. Best's study provides insight into the thoughts and dreams of today's youth.

Memoir

She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders

Jennifer Finney Boylan BIOGRAPHY B 792

Boylan, English professor and critically acclaimed novelist, began life as a male named James Boylan. In this autobiography, she details her lifelong struggle with her burgeoning femaleness and the path she followed to become a female, both physically and mentally.

Lake Effect

Rich Cohen BIOGRAPHY C678

Cohen, the author of *The Avengers* (2000) and *Tough Jews* (1998), chooses a lighter subject for his third book: his own youth in the suburbs of Chicago. At the heart of this memoir is Cohen's friendship with Jamie Drew, a charismatic boy who befriends Cohen in high school and takes him beyond the affluent suburbs they reside in. Together, the pair and their friends traverse a world of parties, girls, and downtown bars.

Autobiography of a Face

Lucy Grealy BIOGRAPHY G786aut

Diagnosed at age nine with Ewing's sarcoma, a cancer that severely disfigured her face, Grealy lost half her jaw, recovered after two and half years of chemotherapy and radiation, then underwent plastic surgery over the next 20 years to reconstruct her jaw. This harrowing, lyrical autobiographical memoir, which grew out of an award-winning article published in Harper's in 1993, is a striking meditation on the distorting effects of our culture's preoccupation with physical beauty.

The Secret Life of Cowboys

Tom Groneberg 636.2 G876

As a young suburbanite from Chicago, Tom Groneberg first falls in love with horses and the rural West during a stint as a guide on a Colorado dude ranch. In this affecting memoir, he traces his decade-long attempt to shrub all evidence of his strip-mall roots through a series of cowboy jobs--mending fences, baling hay, and disposing of dead calves while working as a cattle hand.

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance

Barack Obama BIOGRAPHY O12

Son of a white American mother and of a black Kenyan father whom he never knew, Obama grew up mainly in Hawaii. After college, he worked for three years as a community organizer on Chicago's South Side. Then, finally, he went to Kenya, to find the world of his dead father, his "authentic" self.

She Went to War

Rhonda Cornum BIOGRAPHY C819

This thrilling account of the Gulf war is all the more affecting for its matter-of-fact, unpretentious tone. The story is that of Army battalion surgeon and helicopter pilot Cornum--a major, wife of an Air Force officer and mother of a 14-year-old daughter--who was captured when her helicopter was shot down deep in Iraqi territory. One of only three survivors, Cornum required medical care for fractured arms, a broken finger, a smashed knee and lacerations--and received it after three days of being roughly shuttled from bunkers to primitive prisons. That she survived the painful, humiliating ordeal all the way to Baghdad and repatriation via the International Red Cross was due not only to her grit but to an irrepresible vitality.

Riding the Bus with My Sister: A True Life Journey

Rachel Simon 305.908 S596

This perceptive, uplifting chronicle shows how much Simon, a creative writing professor at Bryn Mawr College, had to learn from her mentally retarded sister, Beth, about life, love and happiness.

Jarhead: A Marine's Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles

Anthony Swofford 956.704 S979

Swofford describes the sheer terror of being fired upon by Iraqi troops; the elite special forces warrior freely admits wetting himself once rockets start exploding around his unit's encampment. But the adrenaline of battle is fleeting, and Swofford shows how it's in the waiting that soldiers are really made. With blunt language and bittersweet humor, he vividly recounts the worrying, drinking, joking, lusting and just plain sitting around that his troop endured while wondering if they would ever put their deadly skills to use.

Living History

Hillary Rodham Clinton BIOGRAPHY C64L

Beginning with a brief outline of her childhood, college years, introduction to politics, and her courtship with Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton covers a wide variety of topics: life on the campaign trail, her troubled tenure as leader of the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform, meeting with foreign leaders, and her work on human rights, to name a few. By necessity, she also addresses the various scandals that plagued the administration, from Travelgate to Whitewater to impeachment, though she does not go into great detail about each one; rather, she seems content to simply state her case and move on without trying to settle too many old scores. Regarding the Monica Lewinsky scandal, she maintains that her husband initially lied to her, as he did the rest of the country, and did not come clean until two days prior to his grand jury testimony. Calling his betrayal "the most devastating, shocking and hurtful experience of my life," she explains what the aftermath was like personally and why she has elected to stand by her man. In all, *Living History* is an informative book that goes a long way toward humanizing one of the most recognizable, and controversial, women of our age.

Faith of My Fathers

John McCain BIOGRAPHY M121

The Republican senator from Arizona has a remarkable story to tell--better than just about any of his peers--and he tells it well, with crisp prose and an unexpected sense for narrative pacing. The first half of the book concerns his naval forbears: his grandfather commanded an aircraft carrier in the Second World War, while his father presided over all naval forces in the Pacific during the Vietnam War. They were the first father-son admirals in American history. Young John McCain knew he had enormous shoes to fill and rebelled against many of the expectations set for him. At the Naval Academy, he was nearly expelled, graduating fifth from the bottom of his class. He never became an admiral, but achieved fame another way: as a naval aviator in 1967, he was shot down over North Vietnam and spent several years in POW camps, where he was beaten, tortured, and nearly allowed to die. McCain describes the awful details of his imprisonment and tells how he stayed mentally strong during seemingly endless months of solitary confinement and how he communicated in code with fellow captives. *Faith of My Fathers* concludes with McCain's release and contains no information about his subsequent political career. It is, nonetheless, a complete and compelling memoir of individual heroism.