

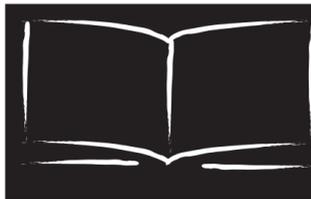
## Associated Press Bestsellers

### Fiction

1. "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown (Doubleday)
2. "The Historian" by Elizabeth Kostova (Little, Brown)
3. "Polar Shift" by Clive Cussler and Paul Kemprecos (Putnam)
4. "Lipstick Jungle" by Candace Bushnell (Hyperion)
5. "Straken" by Terry Brooks (Del Rey)
6. "Widow of the South" by Robert Hicks (Warner)
7. "Thud!" by Terry Pratchett (HarperCollins)
8. "Point Blank" by Catherine Coulter (Putnam)
9. "Slow Burn" by Julie Garwood (Ballantine)
10. "On Beauty" by Zadie Smith (Penguin Press)

### Nonfiction

1. "Natural Cures 'They' Don't Want You to Know About" by Kevin Trudeau (Alliance Publishing)
2. "You: The Owner's Manual" by Michael F. Roizen and Mehmet C. Oz (HarperResource)
3. "The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century" by Thomas L. Friedman (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
4. "1776" by David McCullough (Simon & Schuster)
5. "Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores The Hidden Side of Everything" by Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner (William Morrow)
6. "Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential" by Joel Osteen (Warner Faith)
7. "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking" by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown)
8. "The Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren (Zondervan)
9. "Bait and Switch" by Barbara Ehrenreich (Holt/Metropolitan)
10. "A Man Without a Country" by Kurt Vonnegut (Seven Stories Press)



# BOOK REVIEW

## Bestseller provides smart read

**Economist and author deliver informative, enjoyable work**

**Sara DeGonia**

Assistant Features Editor

Real-estate agents do not make good friends.

At least that is one of the lessons I inferred from reading "Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores The Hidden Side of Everything," by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner.

And these guys write as if they know what they're talking about. Levitt, an economist, and Dubner, an author and journalist, team up to discuss a variety of topics, which they lump under the term "freakonomics."

After reading the entire book, I'm still not sure what that means, but I'm impressed nonetheless.

The book is a nonfiction stew of data, anecdotes, numbers and implied advice.

One of the primary issues is whether or not to trust one's real-estate agent. Without labeling the entire profession as money-grubbing liars, Levitt and Dubner suggest taking advantage of public records to find out how real-estate agents sell their own homes in comparison to how they sell their clients'. It's rather intriguing.

And intrigue seems to be the name of the game consistently throughout "Freakonomics." But not in the way one might think.

It's certainly not an action-packed whodunit mystery or a steamy harlequin-type of intrigue.

Yet, the authors certainly address potentially scandalous and controversial items.

Abortion. It's an extremely touchy topic in our society. Levitt and Dubner have plenty to say about it from an economist's, or maybe freakonomist's, perspective.

In the chapter titled "Where Have All the Criminals Gone?" it reads, "Legalized abortion led to unwantedness; unwantedness leads to high crime; legalized abortion, therefore, led to less crime."

In other words, numbers, trends and studies show that many of the babies aborted immediately following the Roe v. Wade decision most likely would have grown up to become criminals. Thus, when that generation grew to become teenagers, the crime rate dropped because the potential criminals were not alive to commit felonies.

Isn't that logic disturbing? But the comforting aspect of Levitt and Dubner's book is that they're not necessarily forcing these ideas on the reader, nor do they necessarily have a moral agreement with what they logically prove.

The book is interesting because the authors accuse individuals, groups of people and organizations – without bias and with facts.

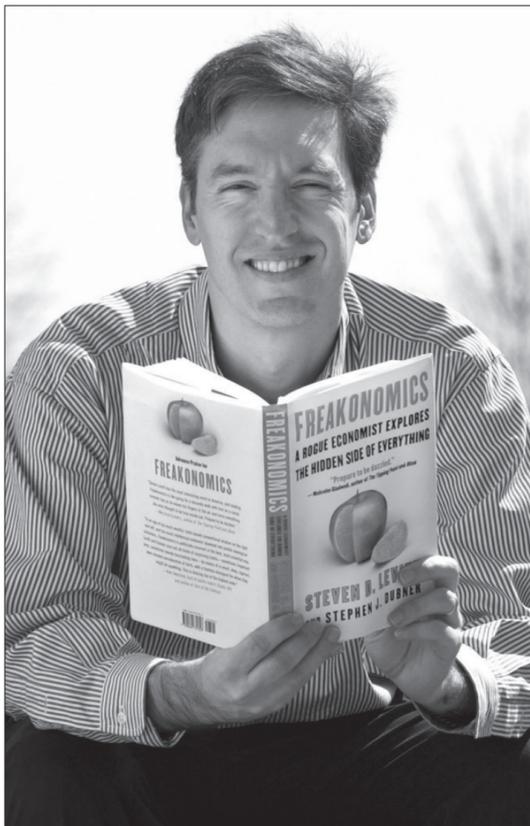
In the "What Do Schoolteachers and Sumo Wrestlers Have in Common?" chapter, they note a study in the Chicago Public School district where teachers were found to be changing their students' standardized test scores

known at the time as the White City.

The large-scale imagination and creation of the fair would not have been possible without such legendary men as Frederick Law Olmsted, the architect who designed New York's Central Park, Daniel Hudson Burnham and John C. Root, who made it possible to house skyscrapers in Chicago's difficult soil, George Ferris, inventor of the Ferris Wheel, and many more.

The tale of these men's lives and dreams is interwoven with the personal story of a psychopath serial killer and the many women's lives he destroyed in an amazing expression of storytelling.

Larson's suspenseful foreshadowing was right on time throughout the book, and he hinted just enough of each character's per-



Wire Photo

**Economist Steven D. Levitt, co-author of "Freakonomics," displays his New York Times bestselling book.**

to make themselves look like better educators.

At this point the reader might question the honesty of his or her past schoolteachers. Later in "Freakonomics," the reader could potentially feel sorry for a crack dealer.

In "Why Do Drug Dealers Still Live With Their Moms?" Levitt and Dubner compare the odds of being killed as a crack-dealing gang member with that of a death row inmate in Texas. Believe it or not, the odds are better for the latter.

Besides its obvious moments of shock value, "Freakonomics" is well written.

The reader is bound to feel increasingly intelligent with each page, yet the topics and style make it fairly understandable. At least it should be for the average college student or faculty member.

A few of the stodgier pas-

sages were skimmable, but the main gist is riveting for the knowledge-starved.

But beyond its appeal on the informative level, Levitt and Dubner's bestseller is thoroughly enjoyable.

It puts serious issues on a personal level, and offers enough everyday wisdom to make it a must-buy for the forgetful type.

Even the most observant type, however, probably won't actually understand the meaning of freakonomics by the end of the book, but the authors address that confusion in their epilogue. It reads "[Freakonomics] has to do with thinking sensibly about how people behave in the world."

That seems easy enough.

Bottom line: The endless supply of tidbits and factual revelations make "Freakonomics" a pleasurable read on an enlightening level.

## Historical account creates suspense

**Erin Sadzewicz**  
Features Editor

History doesn't only come bound in dusty, stuffy hardbacks that line shelves of the intellectually elite's book collection and the nonfiction section of the library.

Erik Larson's "The Devil in the White City" is a historical account of a day and age in Chicago that seems like another world.

Every word between quotes, every name, date and time came from a journal, memoir, newspaper article or history book and documents the construction of the 1893 world's fair and the serial killer who haunted it.

Larson tells a story of a ruthless, living, breathing city plagued by public perception as a hog-slaughtering, blue-collar town with no sense of culture or refinement.

The end of the successful Parisian World's Fair and the end of the Civil War left a reunited America feeling competitive. Despite the nation's preconceptions, Chicago won the bid to host America's prestigious World's Fair and imprinted the country with a mass of architectural feats

sonality to capture their reality without seeming too fictive.

Although Larson claims, "However strange or macabre some of the following incidents may seem, this is not a work of fiction," his perceptions creep through the text.

However, it is well researched, cited and even includes index.

Larson captured specific critical moments of the story in scenes that produced a clear visual and mental understanding.

He alludes to the future resolution of the story in a dramatic slew of beautifully organized words.

"Darker forces marshaled in the smoke. Somewhere in the heart of the city a young Irish immigrant sank still more deeply into madness, the preamble to an act that would shock the nation and destroy what Burnham dreamed would be the single

greatest moment of his life."

"The Devil in the White City" is amazing in the way it brings together famous aspects of history in a way most probably have not heard.

When the World's Fair was being constructed, the man who created the central aspect of Paris' fair, Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, proposed to build a similar tower for Chicago, but the people turned it down out of civic pride for America's architects. If, at that point in history, we had accepted Eiffel's offer, we would never have had the Ferris Wheel and Chicago would have had an Eiffel tower.

Parts of the story drag a little, and the stresses and obstacles faced by the fair's builders are realistically felt by the reader as well.

But the history is fascinating and something readers might feel they should already know and wonder why they don't.

Having lived in and around Chicago my entire life, I will never look at the city quite the same.

### Book Review

**"The Devil in the White City"**

**Author: Erik Larson  
Publisher: Vintage Books  
Pages: 390**



## Horoscopes

Oct. 2 to 8

By Madame Hughes

**ARIES:** (March 20 to April 18) How many amps of electrical current would it take to power your typical day? My prediction would be not many. Your Arian dynamism is breathtaking; put it to good use this week when your normal vivaciousness won't do the job.

**TAURUS:** (April 19 to May 20) Experience has taught you that "to each his own" is a good adage by which to live. Although you think your way of doing things is best for

you, your sensitivity allows you to be accepting of the ways others have chosen for themselves.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 20) If work is a drag these days, it might be because you are not putting enough of yourself into it. Do some brainstorming and soul-searching. Think of ways in which you can become more engaged and at the same time have some fun.

**CANCER:** (June 21 to July 22) What you thought was an innocent,

harmless comment was taken the wrong way. Your inclination is to be defensive about it, but that is likely to further inflame the situation. Diplomacy and a sincere apology are needed here.

**LEO:** (July 23 to Aug. 22) A recent endeavor has you struggling to master it. This can be uncomfortable because you prefer not to admit to any mistakes. Look at this challenge as a chance to lengthen your already impressive list of strengths.

**VIRGO:** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) More and more you are realizing that the person with whom you chose to live provides a needed balance in your life. In other words, it wasn't just an accident that you ended up to-

gether. There was a solid reason behind it.

**LIBRA:** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Emotional turmoil, in the form of an unsettled relationship, is making you feel blue. Don't allow this cloud over your head to determine your mood. See to it that you address the impasse in some constructive way.

**SCORPIO:** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Archeology is a fascinating field of study, full of mystery and the promise of discovery. Although digging for fossils in Egypt is an adventure you will not likely have, there are all kinds of opportunities for exploring wonders closer to home. Open yourself up to myriad possibilities.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

What you need right now, in the midst of all your upheaval, is to take deep, relaxing breaths throughout the day. This will cut down on stress and train your body to decompress.

**CAPRICORN:** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Your aloof nature means you probably concur with a quote from Andy Warhol: "People are always so boring when they band together. You have to be alone to develop all the idiosyncrasies that make a person interesting."

**AQUARIUS:** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Details, details – don't let them bog

you down now when usually you aren't bothered in the least. Looking at the big picture is the way to go, and you generally excel at keeping a birds-eye perspective of the world.

**PISCES:** (Feb. 19 to March 19) If a vacuum cleaner salesman rings your doorbell this week, you'd better not answer. Although you are normally a little bit gullible, this week you are over-the-top gullible and likely to blow your budget if you hear a good sales pitch.

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS OCT. 4:** You share your birthday with Susan Sarandon and Charlton Heston. You have a tough inner core, prefer to be the boss and pride yourself on your family.



### Campus

**Stage Production**  
The Residential College Program, Multicultural Affairs Center and Sigma Lambda Gamma will sponsor a performance of "Platanos and Collard Greens" at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Baldwin Auditorium. "Platanos" deals with interracial relationships during college and is the stage production of David Lamb's first book "Do Platanos Go Wit' Collard Greens?" Admission is free.

**Film Festival**  
The Residential College Program, in collaboration with the Student Union Building and Apple Computers, will present its first student-produced film festival at 11 p.m. tonight in the SUB Activities Room. The 10 best short films will be shown. Door prizes will be awarded.

**Visiting Scholar**  
Phi Beta Kappa will present visiting scholar Deborah Stone at 8:15 p.m. tonight in Violette Hall 1000. Stone's lecture is titled "The Paradox of Altruism."

**Make Most of Money**  
US Bank, in conjunction with the Center for Student Involvement and the Student Union, will present a Financial Wellness Workshop at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the SUB Activities Room 300. Admittance is free, and snacks and drinks will be provided.

**"Fortinbras"**  
The Fine Arts division will present "Fortinbras" by Lee Blessing at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday in the Ophelia Parrish Courtyard Theatre. Admission is \$2. Call 785-4515 for more information.

**Lorne Newman**  
Prism and the Funds Allotment Council will present Lorne Newman, a gay Jewish comedian and philosopher, at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Baldwin Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

### Local

**Highland Games**  
The Thousand Hills Scottish Highland Games and Festival will be all day Saturday at the NEMO Fairgrounds. The festival will include dancers, bag pipes, vendors, athletics and more. For the schedule of events, visit www.kirksvillegames.com. For more information, contact Thom Van Vleck at (660) 341-1775.

### Concerts

**Driven**  
Driven will perform at 9 p.m. Saturday at NEMO Rocks. Admission is free but limited to those 21 years or older.