

SHOW DAILY
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ALL THE BUZZ ON BOOK EXPO AMERICA

BEA Conventioneers Descend Upon Chicago to Talk Books, Cheat on Spouses

From across the nation, BookExpo America conventioneers are coming to the city of Chicago to talk books and stray from the marital bed.

"There are so many incredible networking opportunities here at BEA," said Ross Watters of Median Publishing, a San Francisco-based house that specializes in business titles. "There are also a lot of smart, sexy female publishing-industry professionals who, like me, are trapped in unhappy marriages and



The bustling convention floor.

see nothing wrong with a brief, torrid affair between two consent-

ing adults whose spouses will be none the wiser."

Three Rivers Press's Bill Kennerly said he had an "extremely interesting" discussion with Debbie Flaxman of Dallas-based Red Mountain Books at her booth on the McCormick Place floor.

"We talked about the threat posed to traditional houses by e-publishing," said Kennerly, whose wife lost all interest in sex following the birth of their son last November. "Then later that

TODAY'S EVENTS

10 a.m.— Alex Hamlin reads from his #1 bestseller *Death at 49,500 Feet: An Incredibly Dangerous Everest Climb Somehow Goes Awry*.

2:30 p.m.— Singer-author Britney Spears announces the June selection for the Britney Spears Book Club.

evening, over a nice bottle of chianti, we talked about our shared love of Henry Miller, risotto, and hiking."

Added Kennerly: "Christ, that woman is amazing in the sack."

BEA organizers say this year's convention will be the most successful ever, with more than 7,400 publishing professionals exchanging ideas about the future of the industry and bodily fluids.

Dozens Injured in Stampede for Promotional Frisbee



More than 30 BookExpo America conventioneers were critically injured yesterday in a violent stampede

for a Gore Vidal promotional frisbee.

The carnage began at approximately 3:15 p.m., when marketing representative Catherine Tarpinian held aloft a 35-cent plastic disc touting Vidal's Fall 2001 release, *Hamilton: A Novel*, and shouted, "Who wants a piece of worthless promotional crap?" Tarpinian then flung the coveted frisbee into the massive crowd gathered around the publisher's booth, setting off a mad, desperate melee.

"It was awful," said Omaha, NE, bookstore owner Brian Lencicki, paralyzed from the waist down in the

incident. "People were kicking and biting and clawing to get at the frisbee. One man finally got his hands on it, but he was stabbed by a woman armed with a Sue Grafton *P Is for Peril* penknife."

The incident is the third to mar the convention since its opening day.

On Friday, an elderly woman was trampled to death by a crowd charging the Putnam booth for complimentary *Who Moved My Cheese?* boxer shorts. Later that day, a man was fatally shot while attempting to steal a fellow conventioneer's Amy Tan Koosh ball.

Last Literate Person on Earth Dead at 98

ROUEN, FRANCE—It was the end of an era Monday, when Béatrice Berceau, the planet's last literate person, died at her Rouen home.

Berceau, widely renowned in her native France and around the world for her remarkable ability to decipher coded inscriptions of symbols printed on paper, was 98 years old.

"Béatrice's death has officially ushered in the Post-Literate Age," said Dr. Roland Habusch, head of Harvard University's Department of Sound Bites & Pictograms. "No longer will we as a species have access to the information stored in the bound paper volumes known to Béatrice and our ancestors as 'books.'"



Despite Berceau's death, BEA attendees remain optimistic about the future of publishing.

"The extinction of readers presents us with new challenges, no question," said American Booksellers Association president Patrick Lindsay. "But we must remember that there are still millions of Americans out there who buy books to give to friends who, in turn, use those books to spruce up their living room shelves."

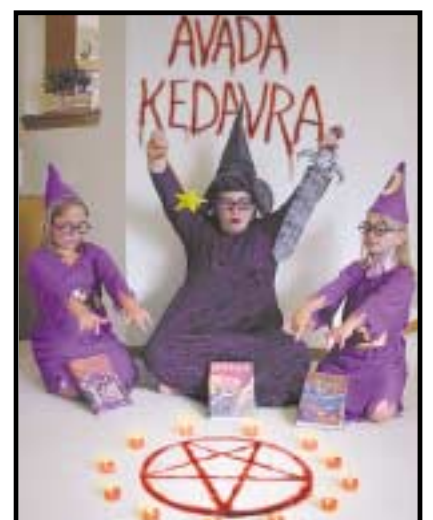
Crown president and publisher Chip Gibson agreed with Lindsay, saying: "As long as books continue to have attractive, colorful spines, they will continue to sell."

According to ABA figures, a record \$4.7 billion was spent on unread gift books in the U.S. in 2000.

Top-Selling Books, May 25-31, 2001

1. *The Quiet, Compassionate Country Man with a Windburned But Handsome Face Who Was Kind to the Widow and Her Daughter and Always Spoke Respectfully to the Symbolic Livestock*
2. *The Seven Habits of Highly Reprehensible People*
3. *How I Grew Up Covered in Me Da's Vomit in Ireland*
4. Puff Daddy's *The Sun Also Rises 2001* (Featuring DMX & Black Rob)
5. *Chamomile Tea for the Broken Heart*
6. John Grisham's *The Business Traveler*
7. *Management Secrets of the Dread Cthulhu: Creating New Markets While You Dream Unspeakable Visions in Your Sunken Crypt Outside Time*
8. *Mental Retardation for Dummies*
9. *Women Who Nap with the Housecats*
10. *The "Eat Loads Of Fudge, You Fat Fuck" Miracle Diet*
11. *Tom Clancy Presents: Next Year's Shitty Movie*
12. *The Twentysomething Protagonist Who Three-Quarters Through the Book Discovers Her Father Molested Her*
13. *Men Are from the U.S., Women Are from Canada*
14. L. Ron Hubbard Presents: *Motivational Planet*
15. *Chicken Soup for the Publisher's Bank Account*
16. *The Tiny Little Impulse Buy Near the Cash Register Book*
17. *My Wife and I Sure Do See Things Slightly Differently!*
18. *Give the Waiters Funny Buttons and Stick the Mexicans in the Dishroom: The J.T. McPickleshitter's Story*
19. *Wednesdays with Morrie's Brother-in-Law*
20. Norman Mailer's *The Time of Me in Our Times Featuring Me*

Inside: Harry Potter Books Spark Rise in Satanism Among Children



COMING IN SEPTEMBER 2001!

The editors of *The Onion*, the most popular humor site on the Web and the authors of the *New York Times* best-sellers *Our Dumb Century* and *The Onion's Finest News Reporting*, are back. In *Dispatches from the Tenth Circle*, they offer up hundreds of the most hilarious news stories ever to appear on the pages of *The Onion*, juxtaposing *Onion* classics and recent favorites—never before published in book format—in an eye-catching new package.

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—Conan O'Brien

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—Dave Eggers

"This publication is tasteless and destructive to our shared values. Read it for yourself and you'll see what I mean. Seriously, what else could make me laugh—much less laugh uproariously—while being offended week after week after week?"

—Al Gore

Dispatches from the Tenth Circle

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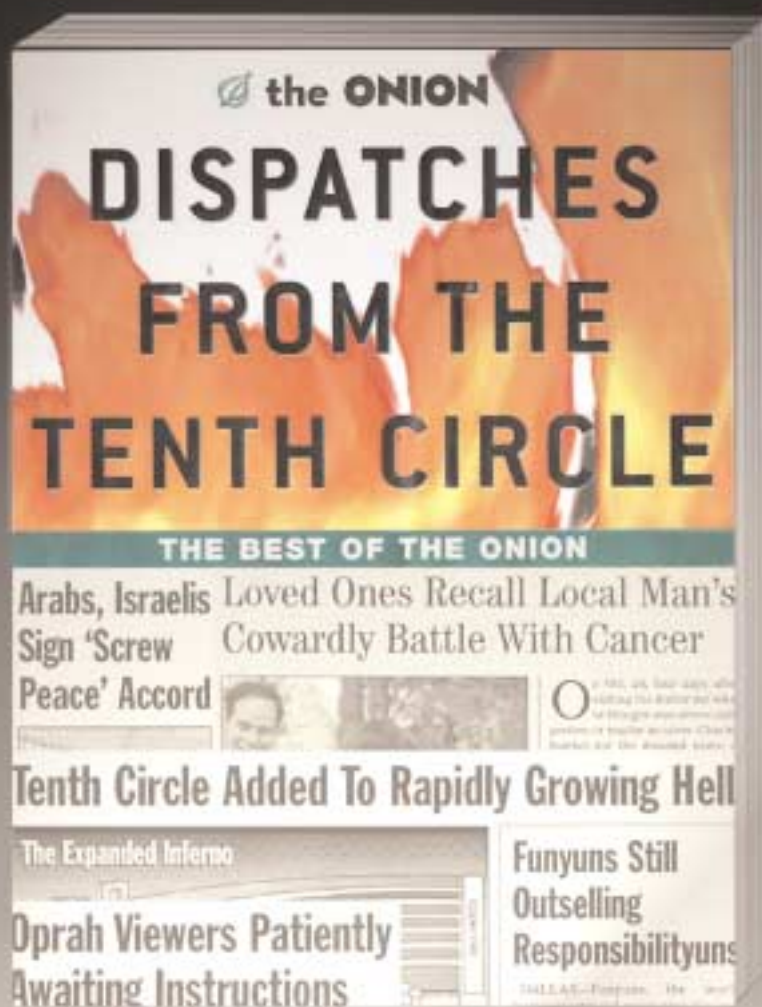
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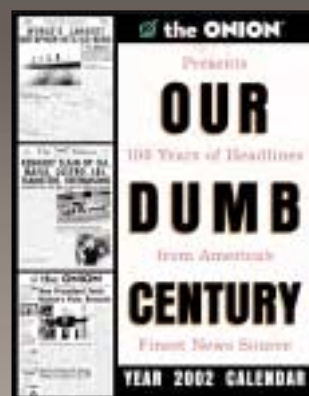


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