Debating the presidency

From book jacket: “Each essay--written in the form of a debate resolution-- offers a compelling yet concise view on the American executive. In the 5 pro/con pairs that are new to this edition, contributors debate the presidential power to persuade, whether Congress should have to vote up or down on legislation proposed by the president, if the unitary executive is a myth, if presidents have the authority to appoint "czars" without Congressional consent, and if the people should have the power to recall an unethical, corrupt, or ineffectual president. Ellis and Nelson introduce each pair of essays, giving students context and preparing them to read each argument critically, so they can decide for themselves which side of the debate they find most persuasive.”

Chasing the Red Queen

From Barnes and Noble: “In the race to feed the world’s seven billion people, we are at a standstill. Over the past century, we have developed increasingly potent and sophisticated pesticides, yet in 2014, the average percentage of U.S. crops lost to agricultural pests was no less than in 1944. To use a metaphor the field of evolutionary biology borrowed from Alice in Wonderland, farmers must run ever faster to stay in the same place—i.e., produce the same yields.”

Father Time: the social clock and the timing of fatherhood

From Barnes and Noble: “Becoming a parent is a pivotal, transformational life event. It is well-established that women about to become mothers undergo enormous changes physically, personally, and socially, but we know far less about the experiences of expectant and new fathers. Men’s biological clocks may not be ticking loudly, but their social and psychological clocks may be chiming more than we realize. In an accessible and clear style, Goldberg investigates the importance of the timing of fatherhood.”
Unrivaled: UConn, Tennessee, and the twelve years that transcended women’s basketball

From Library Journal: “Goldberg (Bird at the Buzzer) delivers the story of one of sports’ greatest rivalries, the 12-year feud between the University of Connecticut (UConn) and University of Tennessee women's basketball teams. This title gives readers a behind-the-scenes look at the drama on and off the court as the two teams ushered women’s basketball into the mainstream, as well as the highly publicized conflicts between coaches Geno Auriemma and Pat Summitt...Because Goldberg includes detailed game summaries and basketball jargon, readers unfamiliar with the sport may find the book challenging, but it is highly recommended for basketball and collegiate sports fans as well as readers interested in learning about this important era in women's history.”

The evil hours: a biography of post-traumatic stress disorder

From Publishers Weekly: “Former marine infantry officer Morris (Storm on the Horizon) blurs the line between clinical and creative literature in a lucid etiology of a “species of pain that went unnamed for most of human history...now the fourth most common psychiatric disorder in the United States.”...Morris offers balanced criticisms of the VA, and though he’s focused on American veterans, he attends to “rape, genocide, torture, and natural disaster” as other causes of PTSD in civilians. Well-integrated autobiographical elements make this remarkable work highly instructive and readable.”

Carbon nation: fossil fuels in the making of American culture

From Barnes and Noble: “Carbon Nation ranges across film and literary studies, ecology, politics, journalism, and art history to chart the course by which prehistoric carbon calories entered into the American economy and body. It reveals how fossil fuels remade our ways of being, knowing, and sensing in the world while examining how different classes, races, sexes, and conditions learned to embrace and navigate the material manifestations and cultural potential of these new prehistoric carbons.”

Ella Baker: community organizer of the Civil Rights movement
From Barnes and Noble: “In this book, historian J. Todd Moye masterfully reconstructs Baker’s life and contribution for a new generation of readers. Those who despair that the civil rights story is told too often from the top down and at the dearth of accessible works on women who helped shape the movement will welcome this new addition to the Library of African American Biography series, designed to provide concise, readable, and up-to-date lives of leading black figures in American history.”

For love of country

From New York Times book review: “A slim, well-written volume, For Love of Country has a good deal of heft. Several of its stories could provide the substance for entire books as they show us the very human faces of those who have figured in the usually anonymous narratives of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan...The Vietnam War should have taught us that while we may disown conflicts fought in our name, we must not abandon those who have fought in our name. Schultz and Chandrasekaran should be thanked for their own service, for reminding us of that fact.”

The man who couldn’t stop: OCD and the true story of a life lost in thought

From Publishers Weekly: “In a wide-reaching discussion that spans the spectrum of obsession, Nature editor David Adam strikes an impressive balance between humor and poignancy, and between entertaining and informing. Adam seamlessly moves between personal stories of his own struggles with OCD and case studies of other people with the disorder. He also demonstrates that OCD isn’t limited by cultural boundaries, with the chilling story of an Ethiopian girl who ate an entire mud wall and that of Austrian mathematician Kurt Gödel, whose fear of poisoning led him to starve himself to death. Adam moves from these full-blown cases to more commonplace obsessions with ease, while his smooth prose ensures an enjoyable read. Not neglecting the darker nature of obsession, Adam manages to end on a note more hopeful than harrowing: the story of how he found happiness and relief from OCD.”

Cowed

From Publishers Weekly: “Those already ambivalent about beef won’t be surprised by the revelations in this exposé. Much of what the authors say regarding the cattle industry and its negative effects on health, the economy, and the environment will sound familiar. They echo sentiments expressed by Frances Moore Lappé’s Diet for a Small Planet (1971), Eric Schlosser’s Fast Food Nation (2001), and Michael Pollan’s The Omnivore’s Dilemma (2006)... Discussions on processed beef filled with “nitrates and nitrites (and sometimes nitrosamines)” and bull castration make meat
consumption less than appetizing as well. The authors present a strong case against feedlot beef, giving readers significant and serious food for thought.”

**Gateway to freedom: the hidden history of the Underground Railroad**

From Publishers Weekly: “The Underground Railroad is at once one of the best known and least understood aspects in the history of American slavery, but Pulitzer Prize–winner Foner (The Fiery Trial) makes expert use of an unusual primary source to illuminate the workings of this secret system. He focuses on the antebellum accounts of Sydney Howard Gay, a Manhattan newspaper editor, abolitionist sympathizer, and Underground Railroad participant, whose “record of fugitives” sheds light on the experiences of more than 200 enslaved men and women who passed through New York City... The Underground Railroad is much mythologized but not widely understood; Foner’s gripping account of slaves’ struggles to free themselves reveals the immense risks they, and their sympathizers, took to escape bondage. Agent: Sandra Dijkstra, Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency.”

**Sally Ride: America’s first woman in space**

From Publishers Weekly: “When astronaut Dr. Sally Ride died in 2012, the woman who was once the most famous person in the world, shocked many when her obituary revealed that she was survived by her female partner of nearly three decades. Journalist Sherr, a longtime friend of Ride, gets behind the walls of the very guarded and private pioneer in this engrossing biography...Level-headed and possessed of an optimistic live-in-the-moment attitude, she skilfully navigated such public moments and kept the personal locked away out of view. In the end, Sherr provides a window into one of the most fascinating figures of the 20th century.”

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