

FICTION

1. "The 5th Horseman." James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. Little, Brown, \$27.95.
2. "The Da Vinci Code." Dan Brown. Doubleday, \$24.95.
3. "Cell." Stephen King. Scribner, \$26.95.
4. "The Templar Legacy." Steve Berry. Ballantine, \$24.95.
5. "The Last Templar." Raymond Khoury. Dutton, \$24.95.
6. "In the Company of the Courtesan." Sarah Dunant. Random House, \$23.95.
7. "The Two Minute Rule." Robert Crais. Simon & Schuster, \$24.95.
8. "The Old Wine Shades." Martha Grimes. Viking, \$25.95.
9. "Sea Change." Robert Parker. Putnam, \$24.95.
10. "Lovers & Players." Jackie Collins. St. Martin's, \$24.95.

# BOOKS

NONFICTION

1. "Marley & Me." John Grogan. Morrow, \$21.95.
2. "The World Is Flat." Thomas L. Friedman. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27.50.
3. "Freakonomics." Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. Morrow, \$25.95.
4. "You're Wearing That?" Deborah Tannen. Random House, \$24.95.
5. "Jim Cramer's Real Money." James J. Cramer. Simon & Schuster, \$26.
6. "The Year of Magical Thinking." Joan Didion. Knopf, \$23.95.
7. "The Sonoma Diet." Connie Guttersen. Meredith, \$24.95.
8. "If You Could See What I See." Sylvia Browne. Hay House, \$24.95.
9. "Manhunt." James L. Swanson. Morrow, \$26.95.
10. "Love Smart." Dr. Phil McGraw. Free Press, \$26.

NOTABLE QUOTE: "Ty Cobb was a mean man back when professional baseball was a mean game."  
"HEROES OF BASEBALL" BY ROBERT LIPSYTE

## In full swing

Baseball titles are hitting the shelves as players hit the park

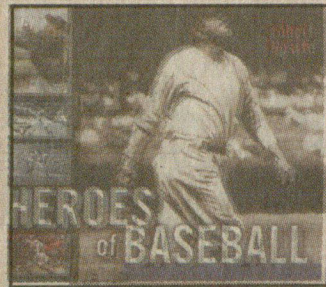
"Heroes of Baseball: The Men Who Made It America's Favorite Game" by Robert Lipsyte

Atheneum, \$19.95, 92 pp.

REVIEW BY DAVID STEINBERG

When my 13-year-old daughter was flipping through "Heroes of Baseball," I asked her what she found especially interesting in the book. Her immediate response was "Hold on!"

That reply told me she was so engrossed in the book she didn't want to be interrupted.



A few minutes later, she turned her head to me and said she was reading a baseball timeline.

Then she asked me if I knew who were the first members inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

I correctly guessed three of the inductees — Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb and Honus Wagner. I missed with

Walter Johnson and Christy Mathewson.

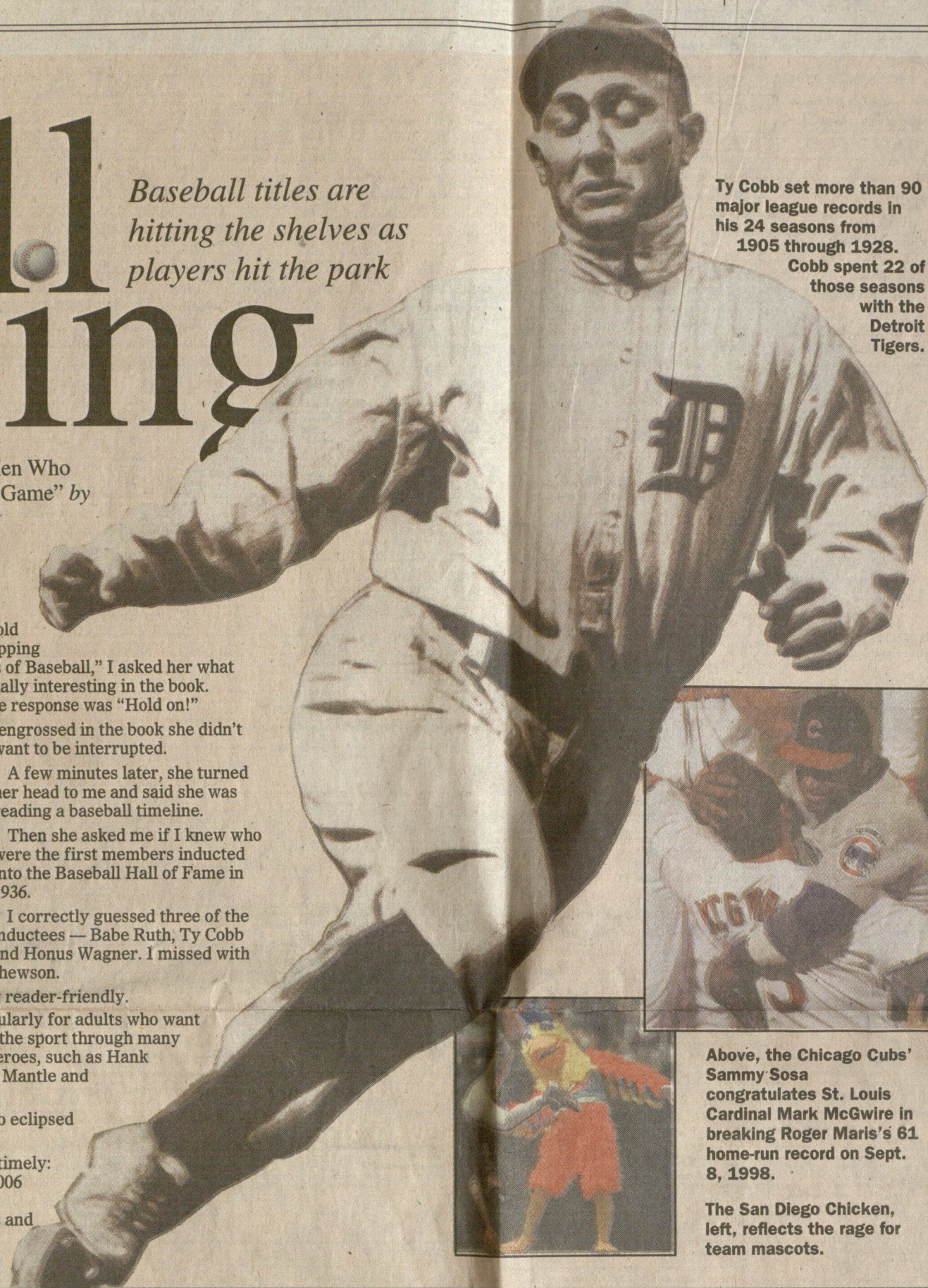
Robert Lipsyte's book is young reader-friendly.

But it has wider appeal, particularly for adults who want an introduction to the history of the sport through many of its generally acknowledged heroes, such as Hank Aaron, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle and Sadaharu Oh.

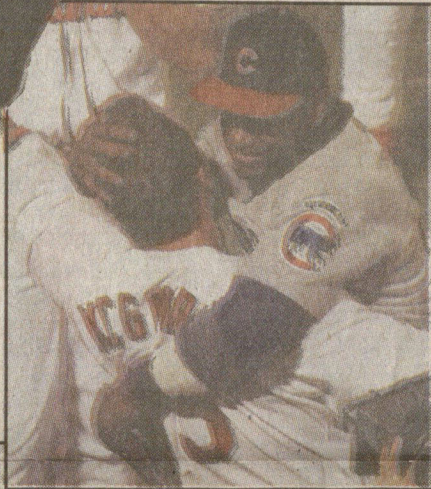
Oh was a slugger in Japan, who eclipsed Aaron's home-run record.

And the release of the book is timely: Spring training has begun, the 2006 Lobos baseball team has already played more than a dozen games and

See **BASEBALL** on **PAGE F5**



Ty Cobb set more than 90 major league records in his 24 seasons from 1905 through 1928. Cobb spent 22 of those seasons with the Detroit Tigers.



Above, the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa congratulates St. Louis Cardinal Mark McGwire in breaking Roger Maris's 61 home-run record on Sept. 8, 1998.



The San Diego Chicken, left, reflects the rage for team mascots.

A HIT OR A MISS?

### 'Summer of Champions' hero not believable

REVIEW BY TOBY SMITH

In 1956, a group of 11- and 12-year-olds from Roswell, boys who played their baseball on a cratered, all-dirt diamond, won the World Little League Championship in Williamsport, Pa. Don't believe it? Check the record book.

Dewey Johnson, a Presbyterian minister in Albuquerque, grew up in Roswell five decades ago. He attempts to weave this first novel around that almost 50-year-old event.

But instead of weaving, Johnson mostly stitches a story about Joe Don Miller, an invincible fifth-grader.

As someone who has poked about Roswell's 1956 Little League championship, I found myself wanting to read more about that astonishing achievement and a lot less about Joe Don. Simply, this kid is hard to like.

Yes, life has bonked him around. An only child, Joe Don lost his father in the Korean War, forcing his mother to work for nickels at the local five-and-dime.

Too good to be true, Joe Don happily zips off to Sunday school, wins a spelling bee and is named editor of his school

See **'SUMMER'** on **PAGE F5**



"Summer of Champions" by Dewey Johnson

Texas Tech University Press, \$27.95, 244 pp.

### 'Champions' tells a stirring human saga

REVIEW BY DAVID POLING

After the first two pages you have a grasp of the whole story — Joe Don Miller wants to be a champion playing second base on a Little League team in Roswell.

Sound like a cover story for Sports Illustrated? I don't think so. Especially when the team uniforms look like Goodwill rejects and the players have only two balls for practice that regularly disappear in the far outfield tumbleweeds. The bleachers behind home plate appear to be old railroad ties or rough

sawn boards with dangerous cracks.

There's more to this novel than supper snacks at Dairy Queen or youngsters waiting in the dark for the Martians to emerge from their hideout at the gravel pit.

Author Dewey Johnson doesn't let up on comedy and hard times, triumph and conflict, illness and endurance, all ingredients for a champion's life in Little Texas.

Joe Don will saunter, jog and finally race with you

See **'CHAMPIONS'** on **PAGE F5**

REVIEWS

### Rudolfo Anaya shares 'The Man Who Could Fly' and vintage stories in collection

"The Man Who Could Fly and Other Stories" by Rudolfo Anaya

University of Oklahoma Press, \$19.95, 197 pp.

REVIEW BY DAVID STEINBERG

If you're looking for new Rudolfo Anaya to read, this isn't the book for you. But if you're seeking vintage Rudolfo Anaya that's still fresh, this is it.

Only the title story in this volume is published for the first time. According to the acknowledgments at the back this collection, all of the other 17 stories have been previously

published, some dating to the late 1970s.

Magic and myth are the key ingredient in these simply told short stories.

The title story is about a village legend of a man who could fly. No one in the village believed the legend, except for Don Volo.

Don Volo asserted to the villagers that the man, an old man, really did fly.

Don Volo said he personally knew the old man. In fact, the two of them had bet that he, Don Volo, and his fellow vaqueros riding fresh horses could beat the old man and his burro to a dance 10 miles away.

How could Don Volo lose the bet? He doesn't know, but he did, and in the process lost his

cattle and his ranch. Another story, "B. Traven Is Alive and Well in Cuernavaca," is as much about the development of an idea for a story as it is about a story itself.

Anaya is a character. He meets Justino, a gardener, who urges the author to go with him to locate a buried treasure known as *El Pozo de Mendoza*. The author backs off, but near the end of the story a Travenlike old man advises him to "find and follow people like Justino. They're the source of life. ..."

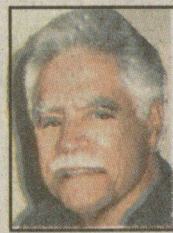
B. Traven wrote the book on which the 1948 John Huston film "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" is based. By his own intent, Traven, a shrouded figure in 20th century literature, avoided publicity about himself.

And Anaya's story explains that the cult of Traven and his writings live on in Mexico.

Anaya uses the same approach with one other story in the collection.

The book is part of the University of Oklahoma Press' Chicana & Chicano Visions of the Americas series.

David Steinberg is a Journal arts writer and the book editor.

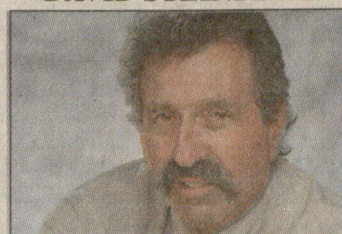


\* Rudolfo Anaya signs, discusses "The Man Who Could Fly" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, at Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande NW, Flying Star Plaza.



Copies of Anaya's novel "Albuquerque," the first of a quartet of his mysteries set in the Duke City, is being re-released by University of New Mexico Press. It may be available at the Bookworks event.

DAVID STEINBERG



Of the Journal

### Poet shares work from 'Noisy Pen'

Albuquerque poet Don McIver has just self-published a collection of his work titled "The Noisy Pen." He'll be reading from the collection at p.m. Wednesday, March 8, as part of the World Stream Poetry Series in the theater at the Harwood Art Center, 1114 Seventh NW. The reading doubles as a book release party. Free and open to the public.

Retail price of the book is \$13.95.

READING AT BOOKWORKS: David Carson reads from his new book "Crossing into Medicine Country" at 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 9, at Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande NW. Author of "Medicine Cards," Carson, of Choctaw descent, shares what he has learned from his initiation into wisdom and healing power of a Native American shaman.

LOCAL AUTHOR HOSTS CLASSES: Corrales author Lisa Lenard-Cook hosts two spring fiction writing classes. Her Fiction Writing I class begins April 3 and runs for eight Mondays through May 22. Her Fiction Writing II class starts April 5 and runs for eight Wednesdays through May 24. Classes will be held at the Station Gallery in Bernalillo.

The cost is \$200 per person. For more information or to register go to the Web site [www.lisalenardcook.com](http://www.lisalenardcook.com). Lenard-Cook's novel "Dissonance" was short-listed for the PEN Southwest Book Award and "Coyote Morning" was named a Southwest Book of the Year.

SIGNING AT MUSEUM: Debra Hughes signs copies of her book "Albuquerque in Our Time: 30 Voices, 300 Years" 1:30-4 p.m. today at the Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain NW.

SIGNING AT BORDERS: Lucy Moore signs her book "In the Canyon" at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at Borders Books & Music, 10420 Coors Bypass NW. Moore's memoir of living among the Navajo in Arizona won the 2005 Willa Award for best memoir from Women Writing the West.

AUTHOR WINS PRIZE: Gene Guerin, a Denver novelist, is the winner of the 2005 Premio Aztlan literary prize. Guerin, author of the New Mexico family saga "Cottonwood Saints," will receive a \$1,000 and will give a public lecture on April 11 in the Willard Reading Room of UNM's Zimmerman Library. Guerin was born in Las Vegas, N.M.

Albuquerque author Rudolfo Anaya and his wife, Patricia, established the prize in 1993 for writers with no more than two books published and who are active in the Chicano See **'CASTLES'** on **PAGE F5**

R. Anaya file

17:00-18:00 on F5