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Ti: 'AB & a Quest for litig name  
I identity

Albuquerque  
Maya, Rudolf

## BOOKS

## 'Albuquerque' a quest for Hispanic identity

By Sandra Dallas

Albuquerque Hispanics blame a semi-literate Anglo for dropping an "R" from their city's name. He was given the job of painting the sign for the local depot and, unfamiliar with Spanish, he misspelled the word. So it's only natural that when Rudolfo Anaya completed a work he first conceived 40 years ago, telling of a Hispanic and an Indian adrift in their native land, he began by restoring the city's name in his title: "Albuquerque."

This is a book about identity and power politics, set in Albuquerque and centered around Abran, a young man raised in the barrio by a Spanish couple. He discovers his real mother is an Anglo, the daughter of the city's wealthiest banker, but she died before she could tell Abran his father's name.

With the help of his sweetheart, Lucinda, and his Pueblo Indian friend, Joe, a

## ALBUQUERQUE

By Rudolfo Anaya

University of New Mexico, \$19.95

morose Vietnam vet, Abran begins a quest for both his roots and his soul.

The search takes him to Frank, a land developer running for mayor, who promises to supply the father's name in exchange for Abran, a former Golden Gloves boxer, returning to the ring. Readers figure out early on that Abran's father is a Hispanic writer, but they don't know whether Abran will learn that in time to withdraw from the contest.

The plot is simple and at times hackneyed. The book sometimes bogs down in clichés. But those are minor flaws, because "Albuquerque" is a remarkable work for anyone who cares about the Southwest. Anaya's characters are drawn from the

barrios, the sanitized Anglo suburbs and Spanish folklore.

Anaya, best known for "Bless Me, Ultima," conveys a superb understanding of Spanish culture in both Albuquerque and the Hispanic villages of northern New Mexico. In the high point of the book, Anaya compares the messy shooting of a pig by a drunken young Hispanic with the ritualistic killing of another pig by an aged Spanish don, using only a hammer and a knife. Later, he juxtaposes the killing of a rural villager in Vietnam with the Indian hunter's ritual of asking a deer for understanding before shooting it for food.

Because of such insights into Hispanic and Indian tradition and alienation in the Southwest, "Albuquerque" is likely to become another Southwestern classic.

Sandra Dallas is a Denver author and freelance writer. Her columns on regional books appear on this page every month.



RUDOLFO ANAYA: Characters from barrios, suburbs and folklore.

## Calling musical notes the way he sees them

Albert Goldman dissects the pop output

By Steven Rosen  
Denver Post Staff Writer

Albert Goldman is one of our most hated writers — his skewering of Elvis Presley and John Lennon in best-selling, merciless biographies assured him of that status for at least several lifetimes.

And yet, is that fair? His newest book, "Sound Bites," collects his shorter writings on pop music. Many were done for major magazines and newspapers in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when rock just was beginning to be taken seriously by the mainstream press. A couple are excerpts from his other books.

Goldman was already old for the scene — he was born in 1927. And he was pretty darn erudite to be covering the likes of The Doors and Jimi Hendrix. He had a doctorate in English and comparative literature, which he taught as an adjunct associate professor at Columbia University. However, he had a long-standing interest

## SOUND BITES

By Albert Goldman  
Turtle Bay Books, \$22

formers like guitarist Albert King and 1960s eccentrics like Tiny Tim.

Often, his writing shows his refusal to succumb to celebrity worship, courageously so. In 1971, Goldman dared to take on Miles Davis, an artist so cool at the time — he had just created jazz-rock fusion music — everyone else treated him like a god.

## Paper panther

"Posturing onstage in his shades, continental suits, and bantweight boxer's physique, he played the role of the jazz genius. . . . (But) Miles was a paper panther. His power was almost entirely the power of the press. . . . His trumpet tone remained the puniest in jazz."



The Denver Post / Jerry Cleveland

## BESTSELLERS

## LOCAL

area's best-selling books, according to Cover to Cover, Hatch's Book Store, the Boulder Book Store and Bookshop in Colorado Springs.

## FICTION

THE GAME, by Stephen King. (Viking, \$19.95.)  
FINDING THE SECRET OF JOY, by Alvin Toffler. (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$19.95.)

PLACES YOU'LL GO, by Dr. Robert M. White. (Random House, \$12.95.)

THE CANON BRIEF, by John Grisham. (Doubleday, \$22.50.)

THE SABINE, by Nick Bantock. (Doubleday, \$16.95.)

THE WITCH, by Elmore Leonard. (Dell, \$19.95.)

THE AND, by Robert Harris. (Random House, \$19.95.)

THE TO EXHALE, by Terry McMillan. (Doubleday, \$20.)

THE PRETTY HORSES, by Cormac McCarthy. (Knopf, \$21.)

## NONFICTION

WHEN TO LOVE, by Marianne Williamson. (Simon & Schuster, \$22.50.)

THE CENT PASSAGE, by Gall Sheehy. (Doubleday, \$18.)

HER TRUE STORY, by Andrew Ross. (Simon & Schuster, \$22.)

THE I, by David McCullough. (Simon & Schuster, \$22.)

WHO RUN WITH THE WOLVES, by Michael Crichton. (Random House, \$20.)

THE POSITION FROM WITHIN, by Gloria Steinem. (Doubleday, \$22.95.)

## FICTION PAPERBACKS

THE M, by John Grisham. (Island/Dell, \$19.95.)

TO KILL, by John Grisham. (Wynne, \$19.95.)

THE OF ALL FEARS, by Tom Clancy. (Doubleday, \$19.95.)

THE AY AND THE MIRACLE MAN, by Michael Crichton. (Warner, \$7.99.)

THE SIC PARK, by Michael Crichton. (Warner, \$5.99.)

## NONFICTION PAPERBACKS

THE SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE, by Stephen Covey. (Simon & Schuster, \$9.95.)

THE ADDO ATLAS & GAZETTEER. (Doubleday, \$19.95.)

THE LITTLE INSTRUCTION BOOK, by H. L. Hunt. (Rutledge Hill, \$5.95.)

THE SERIES OF MY LIFE, by Katharine Hepburn. (Doubleday, \$5.99.)

THE FORTYFOURTEENERS FROM HIKES, by Gerry Roach. (Fulcrum, \$19.95.)

THE S, by Gerry Roach. (Fulcrum, \$19.95.)

## NATIONAL

figures below are based on computer-processed data from 3,000 bookstores and from a survey of wholesalers with more than 28,000 titles, including variety stores and super-

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