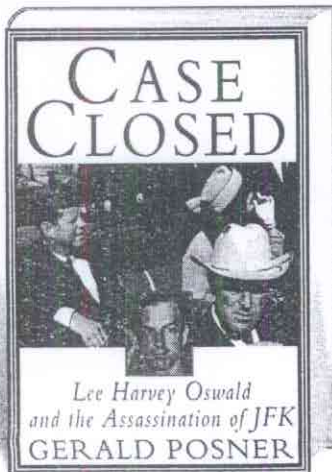


016

ONE MAN. ONE GUN. ONE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION.

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BY GERALD POSNER



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- 9 **CASE CLOSED: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK**, by Gerald Posner (Random House, \$25). *Another final look at what happened.* [1 week] (4)
- 10 **AMERICAN HERITAGE COLLEGE DICTIONARY: Third Edition**, (Houghton Mifflin, \$21.95). *More words.* [2 weeks] (7)

WASHINGTON IS ALSO READING...

The following titles are selling well in local independent bookstores:

- CONSIDER THIS, SENORA**, by Harriet Doerr (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$21.95). *Four expatriates settle in a small Mexican village.* (F)
- HOME REPAIRS**, by Trey Ellis (Simon & Schuster, \$21). *Privileged young man obsessed by women.* (F)
- RACE MATTERS**, by Cornel West (Beacon Press, \$15). *Poverty, capitalism and the search for solutions to America's social ills.* (NF)
- SWEET WILLIAM: A Memoir of Old Horse**, by John Hawkes (Simon & Schuster, \$30). *Strights from the horse's mouth.* (F)
- WILD WOMEN DON'T WEAR NO BLUES**, edited by Marita Golden (Doubleday, \$22.50). *Essays by black women writers on love, men and sex.* (NF)
- WOMEN WHO RUN WITH THE WOLVES: Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype**, by Clarissa Pinkola Estes (Ballantine, \$20). (NF)

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Eileen Franklin testifying against her father (right) during the murder trials

NONFICTION

Stuck in Time: The Tragedy of Childhood Mental Illness, by Lee Gutkind (Henry Holt, \$25) This book by a professor at the University of Pittsburgh is a chronicle of the lives of three teenagers with serious mental illnesses and their experiences in the labyrinth of American health care. There are, says Gutkind, "7.5 to 9.5 million U.S. children who suffer from serious mental health problems. Four fifths of those children receive no treatment while even the 'lucky' remaining minority are often treated inappropriately." Gutkind's book is based on extensive interviews with children, parents, families, physicians and administrators; and while his book focuses on three lives in particular, the resulting picture is a troubling view of the challenges that all similar families must face in dealing with institutional bureaucracies.

Once Upon a Time: A True Story of Memory, Murder, and the Law, by Harry N. MacLean (HarperCollins, \$22.50). In 1989, Eileen Franklin reported that she had quite suddenly remembered witnessing the death of her best friend 20 years earlier, when they were both eight years old. In a methodical recreation of the crime, she described the man who had done the deed. It was her own father, George Franklin. "In one sense," writes true crime writer Harry MacLean, "this book is about the murder of a little girl in Foster City, Calif. in 1969, and the trial of her alleged murderer in Redwood City in 1990. In a much larger sense this book is about the nature of human memory, an elusive and still little understood function of the mind." It might be, posits MacLean, that Eileen Franklin's recollection was created in her imagination as an explanation for her difficult childhood and her cruel father. Despite the opportunities for psychologizing, this is in essence a book that builds to the murder trial with all the dramatic tension of its precedent-setting case.

Ma Haide: The Saga of American Doctor George Hatem in China, by Sidney Shapiro (Cypress Press, \$37.50). Young George Hatem disappointed the relatives who had struggled to find money during the Depression to send him to medical school by going to Shanghai shortly after graduating. He planned a brief stay "because he thought he could learn more about venereal disease, as well as malaria, hookworm and yellow fever." In fact, nobody in his family was to see him for nearly 30 years. China's medical problems fascinated Hatem, and its social inequities troubled him. Known as Ma Haide, Hatem not only made important contributions to public health control of venereal diseases but also gained intimate knowledge of China. Written by a China scholar and longtime friend of Hatem, this biography remembers a figure whose devotion to medical research in China eventually won him international recognition.

A Writer's Diary: Volume One, 1873-1876, by Fyodor Dostoevsky; translated by Kenneth Lantz (Northwestern University, \$49.95); **Notes from**

Underground, by Fyodor Dostoevsky translated by Richard Peavar and Larissa Volokhonsky (Knopf, \$20). In Gary Saul Morson's lengthy introduction to *A Writer's Diary*, he establishes that Dostoevsky hoped that this project would become a kind of total artwork—one mixing fact, fiction and opinion, while aiming above all to capture the creative imagination as it brooded on contemporary news and events. Originally a column in a periodical, the diary quickly became a self-published newsletter of its own. In effect, the great 19th-century novelist was hoping to create a new medium with the fluidity and immediacy of an electronic bulletin board. *Notes from Underground* is, of course, one of the world's most influential short novels, an account of the collision of impulse and reason in the soul of modern man (it opens, famously, with the words: "I am a sick man"). This new edition follows upon the Peavar/Volokhonsky translations of *The Brothers Karamazov* and *Crime and Punishment*.

The Civilization of the Middle Ages, by Norman F. Cantor (HarperCollins, \$35). This volume, originally titled *Medieval History* (1963), has been revised and expanded; about a third of the material is new, taking in current studies on "social structure, particularly on women's and family history and on medieval piety and heresy." That such a volume is brought out by a trade publisher, rather than by a university press, testifies to the felt need for a good book for general readers on this fascinating period of history. Don't miss the reading lists. Cantor's previous works include the well-received *Inventing the Middle Ages*, a scholarly, anecdotal and often highly opinionated account of the achievements of such 20th-century medievalists as J.R.R. Tolkien, R.W. Southern, Marc Bloch and David Knowles.

The Faber Book of Art Anecdotes, edited by Edward Lucie-Smith (Faber, \$29.95). Of course, the pictures are what matter, but anyone fond of Watteau, Rembrandt or Matisse enjoys hearing stories about these and other masters. As Watteau lay dying, he sent away a crucifix presented to him because it was so badly carved. Ingres used to cover his eyes when passing by one of Delacroix's canvases: "I've no need to know how not to do it." Picasso claimed that wartime camouflage derived from cubism. Poussin "could not stand the work of Caravaggio, and said that he had been brought into the world in order to destroy painting." Tintoretto, asked which were the most beautiful colors, answered: "Black and white. The first gives strength to the figures by deepening the shadows, the second gives relief." Giotto's famous crucifix, it is said (apocryphally, one hopes), was painted from the life, or rather death: The artist reportedly persuaded a poor man to be bound to a cross and promised to reward him; instead he stabbed him in the heart and then painted his dying agonies. How he tricked the pope into absolution for his crime shows that Giotto might easily have traded in his paint box for a lawyer's shingle.