

Spring brings a stream of titles, from Clancy to Quayle

BY DONN FRY
Seattle Times book editor

When the spring equinox occurs at 28 minutes after noon today, you probably won't experience any celestial shift in reading habits. Most likely, you'll continue paging idly through today's massive newspaper while David Brinkley drones to a close on his weekly political slugfest.

But someone is watching out for you. Coming off a strong Christmas past, and feeling bullish about prospects for 1994, the publishing industry is introducing a lineup of new books that it hopes will keep you and other readers hooked throughout spring — and well into the increasingly lucrative summer season.

Seattle-area booksellers are busy ordering and

offering new books that they hope will appeal to their particular clientele. Independent and small specialty bookstores know their customers are likely to choose books that rarely show up on bestseller lists, just as large chain stores know their bread-and-butter is the high-profile blockbuster — which they discount to generate further sales.

"Of the books that we think will be major titles in the next three or four months, three are autobiographies," says Mike Murray, manager of the huge Barnes & Noble "superstore" in Bellevue. "We're looking to new books by Dan Quayle, Mickey Mantle and Annette Funicello."

Murray said he also had high hopes for Henry Kissinger's magnum opus, "Diplomacy" (Simon & Schuster), which is due next month. The former secretary of state recounts history as well as personal experience to analyze the differing national styles of diplomacy in world affairs.

Bright forecast for fiction, too

In popular fiction, Murray believes his store will do well with new titles from Jack Higgins, Clive Cussler, Mary Higgins Clark and — in mid-

summer — Anne Rivers Siddons.

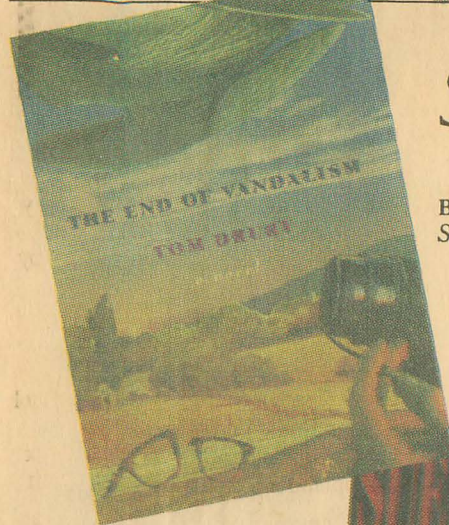
In contrast, Michael Coy, owner of the small downtown shop, M Coy Books & Espresso, thinks he'll do well with two works of literary fiction.

"We have high hopes for the new Dennis McFarland novel, 'School for the Blind,' which is coming in May, and we're excited about the new Cormac McCarthy novel, 'The Crossing,' which should be here this week," says Coy.

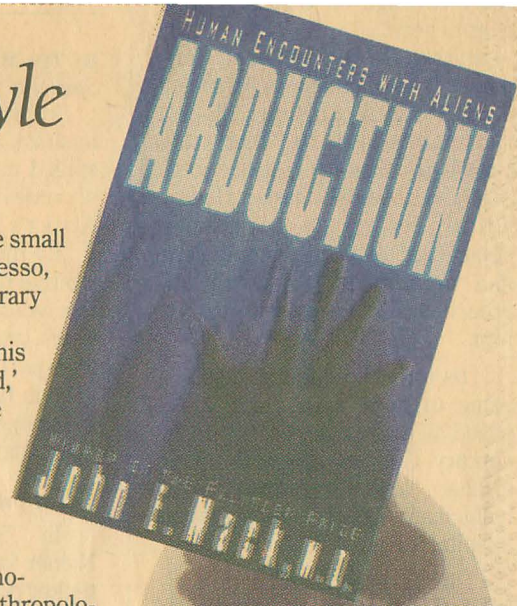
He also expects considerable interest in a large art book, "Stone" (Abrams), by environmental artist and photographer Andy Goldsworthy, and in anthropologist Mary Catherine Bateson's new work, "Peripheral Visions: Learning Along the Way" (Harper-Collins). Pop fiction isn't overlooked entirely,

PLEASE SEE **New books** ON F 7

Nonfiction releases include a doctor's take on reported alien abductions, as well as a portrait of trailblazing journalist Nellie Bly.



Tom Drury's acclaimed first novel, "The End of Vandalism," makes its way to bookstores this spring, as does veteran novelist Sue Grafton's latest alphabetized whodunit, "K is for Killer."



Plenty of new titles coming to bookstores

New books

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however — Coy is highly enthusiastic about "The Concrete Blonde" (Little, Brown), a riveting combination of police procedural and courtroom thriller by Michael Connelly.

There's much more this spring, of course. Below are a few highlights of the season; some titles are just finding their way onto bookstore shelves, while others will be released gradually through June. Happy spring reading.

POP FICTION

The newest potboiler by the reigning heavyweight champ of popular fiction — Tom Clancy — won't be released until August, and the leading contender for his crown may deliver a knockout punch in late May. That's when John Grisham's new legal thriller, "The Chamber" (Doubleday), will hit bookstore shelves. The plot involves a 1967 civil-rights murder case, brought alive again in the late '80s, in a courtroom drama that should only add to Grisham's amazing record: four No. 1 bestsellers with more than 30 million copies in print since 1991.

Of course, Grisham's novel won't enter a pop-fiction vacuum. Frederick Forsyth uses a Gulf War setting for his thriller, "The First of Grubbs"

the Midwest in his first novel, "The End of Vandalism" (Houghton Mifflin), while another stunning new voice is heard in Steve Weiner's "Museum of Love" (Overlook Press).

Whitney Otto made many best-seller lists with her much-loved first novel, "How to Make an American Quilt," so hopes are high for "Now You See Her" (Villard), her new novel about a woman who feels herself "disappearing" as she moves into middle age. In "School for the Blind" (Houghton Mifflin), Dennis McFarland ("The Music Room") focuses on an elderly brother and sister forced by a grisly crime to confront the darkness in their earlier lives.

One of our most influential short-story writers, Grace Paley, will be represented by "The Collected Stories" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), and a late master of short fiction will be represented by "Thirteen Uncollected Stories of John Cheever" (Academy Chicago), edited by Franklin Dennis, a volume that was the object of a long legal battle with the writer's family. The frequently outrageous T. Coraghessan Boyle also will release a new story collection, "Without a Hero" (Viking).

The African-American experience is examined by first-time author Helen Elaine Lee in "The Serpent's Gift" (Atheneum), and by Susan Straight in her second novel, "Blacker Than a Thousand Midnights" (Hyperion), while IRA terrorism intrudes on the life of an Irish widow in Edna O'Brien's "House of Splendid Isolation" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

V.S. Naipaul's new novel, "A Way in the World" (Knopf), draws on Britain and Spain's colonial histo-

examined from two perspectives in "Unchained Memories: True Stories of Traumatic Memories, Lost and Found" (Basic Books), by Lenore Terr, M.D., and in "Remembering Satan: A Case of Recovered Memory and the Shattering of an American Family" (Knopf), by Lawrence Wright. The latter is the compelling account of a case that wrenched apart an Olympia family.

Anthropologist Elizabeth Mar-

shall Thomas follows her surprise bestseller, "The Hidden Life of Dogs," with "The Tribe of the Tiger: Cats and Their Culture" (Simon & Schuster), while Melody Beattie, the guru of codependency, tells how to find joy in "The Lessons of Love" (Harper/SanFrancisco).

Wall Street Journal reporter Erik Larson examines the tools of contemporary violence in "Lethal Passage: How the Travels of a Single

Handgun Expose the Roots of America's Gun Crisis" (Crown), while an exposé of the international oil-transport industry is found in Eric Nalder's "Tankers Full of Trouble" (Grove Press).

Close encounters of the third kind are finally taken seriously by a Pulitzer Prize-winning psychiatrist in

PLEASE SEE *New books* ON F8

New profiles of Roseanne, Reno

New books

CONTINUED FROM F7

"Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens" (Scribners). John E. Mack, M.D., examines reports of alien encounters by patients who are not mentally ill. In what sounds suspiciously like a rip-off of "Embraced by the Light," Betty J. Eadie's phenomenal bestseller, Dannon Brinkley (with Paul Perry) tells of his two near-death experiences in **"Saved by the Light"** (Villard).

The story of the Apollo missions to the moon is told both by insiders and an outsider in two books this spring: **"A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts"** (Viking) is by science journalist Andrew Chaikin, and **"Moon Shot: The Inside Story of America's Race to the Moon"** (Turner) is by former astronauts Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton.

Two books about a pair of Northwest business giants may attract wide general audiences: **"Show Stopper! The Breakneck Race to Create Windows NT and the Next Generation at Microsoft"** (Free Press) is G. Pascal Zachary's profile of a software-development team, and **"Just Do It: A Season Inside Nike's Global Marketing Machine"** (Random House) is a look at the sports-shoe maker, by Donald Katz.

PEOPLE'S LIVES

Dan Quayle, the much-lampooned former vice president, finally has his say in **"Standing Firm"** (HarperCollins), a memoir of private and public life, due in May. Another political figure, the attorney general, will be profiled by Paul Anderson in **"Janet Reno: Doing the Right Thing"** (Wiley).

An influential journalist from an earlier era is recalled in **"Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Reporter, Feminist"** (Times Books), by Brooke Kroeger, while in **"The Family Heart: A Memoir of When Our Son Came Out"** (Addison-Wesley), novelist Robb Forman Dew explores the impact on her family when her older son revealed he was gay.

The life and career of the great African-American writer is recounted in **"James Baldwin"** (Knopf), by David Leeming, while Henry Louis Gates Jr., the eminent scholar and head of Harvard's Afro-American studies department, recalls growing up in a West Virginia town in **"Colored People"** (Knopf).

Christopher Sykes examines the career of a late Nobel Prize-winning physicist in **"No Ordinary Genius: The Illustrated Richard Feynman"** (Norton), while a giant of American music is profiled in **"Leonard Bernstein"** (Doubleday), by Humphrey Burton. The life of another American giant, novelist Edith Wharton (*"The Age of Innocence"*), is told from a feminist perspective by Shari Benstock in **"No Gifts From Chance"** (Scribners).

Among celebrity biographies, one possible bestseller is **"Reba: My Story"** (Bantam), by country-music star Reba McEntire, with Tom Carter, while the younger sister of a television megastar tells all in **"My Sister Roseanne: The True Story of Roseanne Barr Arnold"** (Birch Lane), by Geraldine Barr. And Victoria Starr traces a singer's life and career in **"k.d. lang: All You Get Is Me"** (St. Martin's).

Finally, baseball legend Mickey Mantle recalls (with Mickey Herskowitz) the sweet spot in his

career in **"All My Octobers: My Memories of Twelve World Series When the Yankees Ruled Baseball"** (HarperCollins), and the career of an influential fashion maven is examined in **"Obsession: The Life and Times of Calvin Klein"** (Birch Lane), by Steven Gaines and Sharon Churcher.

DISTANT EARLY WARNING

Finally, there are a few titles to keep in mind as spring becomes summer. In pop fiction, watch for Seattle horror writer John Saul's **"The Homing"** (Fawcett Columbine) and the new romance, **"Mistress"** (Bantam), by Seattle writer Amanda Quick (Jayne Ann Krentz). Also, Tacoma aviation expert John Nance will have a thriller, **"Phoenix Rising"** (Crown), while Bellingham attorney-turned-novelist Steve Martini will have a new legal mystery, **"Undue Influence"** (Putnam).

Also coming are Anne Rivers Siddons' **"Downtown"** (HarperCollins), Tom Clancy's **"Debt of Honor"** (Putnam), and movie legend Kirk Douglas' **"Last Tango in Brooklyn"** (Warner).

Lastly, watch for Nelson Mandela's autobiography, **"The Long Walk to Freedom"** (Little, Brown); Helen Epstein's **"Joe Papp: An American Life"** (Little, Brown); and **"Epitaph for a Desert Anarchist: The Life and Legacy of Edward Abbey"** (Atheneum), by James Bishop Jr.