

CHAPEL
SUNDAYS, 8:00 P.M.

ALL FAITHS CHAPEL
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY

WORSHIP LED BY ROSS KING
Sponsored by Compass College Ministries

**WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS
IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
2000 - 2001
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**



Who's Who applications are now available for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Office of Graduate Studies (125 Teague)
- Office of the Dean of each College
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th floor Rudder)

Completed applications may be submitted to either of the following locations no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2000:

- Department of Student Activities, 125 Koldus Building
- The Office of Graduate Studies, 128 Teague

Questions may be addressed to Sandy Briers (862-1973) in the Department of Student Activities or via the web site (<http://stuaact.tamu.edu/whoswho>).

**WRITER'S
BLOCK**

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius

Author: Dave Eggers
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Book Courtesy of Barnes & Noble

Dave Eggers does not want your pity. Dave Eggers wants you to buy this book.

So noted. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* is not genius. Or really heartbreaking. It is, however, one of the best books of the year, and extremely funny despite its tragic subtext.

The book, slyly introduced with the phrase "This was uncalled for," follows up its bombastic title with such levity (note the especially hilarious Rules and Suggestions for Enjoyment of This Book) and sincerity that it can be difficult to understand that it really is Eggers' life being spilled over 375 pages.

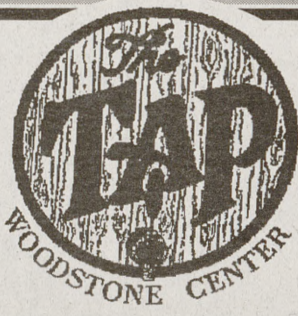
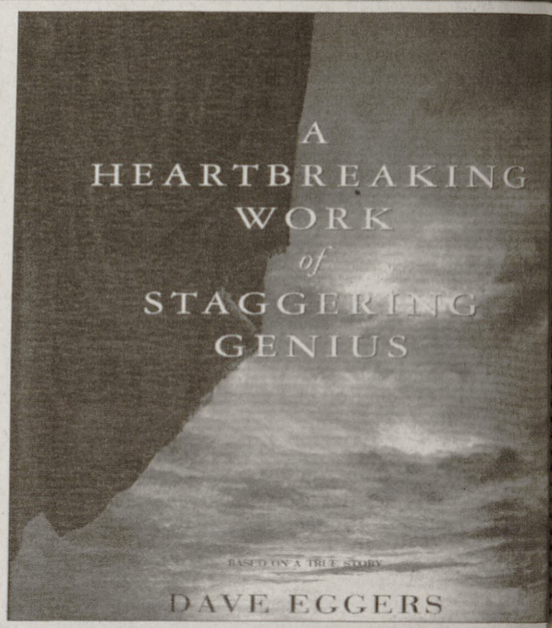
What an interesting life it is. *Heartbreaking* tells the story of Eggers' family before and after both Mom and Dad succumb to cancer. At the time Eggers was in his early 20s, with two older siblings and an 8-year-old brother named Toph.

After his parents' death, the rest of the family is left without much direction, so Dave and Toph abandon the pseudo-comforts of home and head to California, where they deal with the life of a family in pieces.

Eggers' prose is entertaining, but after a while the book does get, in Eggers' own words, kind of uneven. With that said, the stories of Toph and Dave are some of the most realistically written pieces about brotherly interaction in a long, long time. *Heartbreaking* tells stories like Toph and Dave singing loudly to Journey's "Any Way You Want It," and just passing time with loving insults siblings can identify with.

Do not listen to Eggers: Not only was this book called for, it is a delight. *Heartbreaking* is a fulfilling novel that balances humor with thoughtfulness. (Grade: B+)

—Beverly Mireles



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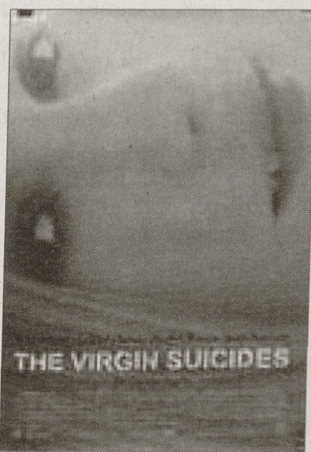


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The Virgin Suicides

Author: Jeffrey Eugenides
Publisher: Farrar Straus Giroux
Book Courtesy of Barnes & Noble

The Virgin Suicides opens with a sentence both terrifying and nonchalant: "On the morning the last Lisbon daughter took her turn at suicide ... the two paramedics arrived at the house knowing exactly where the knife drawer was, and the gas oven and the beam in the basement from which it was possible to tie a rope."

This is a tremendously well-written and interesting novel that benefits from an unusual writing style, where many other would have failed.

In Eugenides' singular prose is the story of not just the Lisbon sisters, but of their would-be suitors. In a lilting, but resigned, prose filled with interview-like quotes and personal accounts, the novel is told by an unnamed narrator, one of the many boys afflicted with an

overwhelming desire to know the mysterious and barely distinguishable Lisbon sisters: Therese, Mary, Bonnie, Lux and Cecilia.

When Cecilia, the first sister to attempt suicide, slits her wrists in the bathtub, the boys' curiosity about the sisters reaches a fever pitch that does not include even two decades after the last death. They obsessively pore over medical records, newspaper articles and interview doctors who examined the neighbors, teachers and parents.

The boys save everything they can about the sisters — one of Lux's tapes, records they played to the girls while they were confined to the house, family pictures dug out of the trash and even a photocopy of the Virgin Mary prayer card that Cecilia clutched in the Roman bath.

Besides the great storytelling, what makes *The Virgin Suicides* so effective are all the questions about the suicides that readers never have answered. There are no loose ends tied up, and every boy who once yearned for a Lisbon sister stays affected by her death.

Jeffrey Eugenides takes readers to the heights of vicarious obsession through the neighborhood boys and will not let go of readers' attentions until the sufficiently haunting last sentence. Readers' curiosity might not be sated, but *The Virgin Suicides* makes an impression both quick and deep. (Grade: B+)

—Beverly Mireles



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YOU'RE TALENTED.**

**AND YOU
DON'T KNOW
SQUAT.**

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