

STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZAVASKY

Sampling: Alex Bensky of Detroit looks through a book while shopping at Border's Book Store.



Scanning the shelves: Customer Nora Barron of Bloomfield Hills looks over the popular book titles at Border's Book Store at 13 Mile and Southfield Road.

All Booked Up

Summer readers leaf through politics, issues, casual fiction

BY ALICE COLLINS
STAFF WRITER

Racial conflict in America, current events, blockbuster mysteries, "dishing the dirt" are the book topics in hot demand for the spring-summer season, according to area book stores and libraries.

"And you can rest assured there's going to be a sudden appearance of books on the L.A. riot," said Elizabeth Sims, general manager of Border's Book Shop at 13 Mile and Southfield Road, one of the largest bookstores in the area.

"This season there are a lot of new books on politics, current events and world affairs," continued Sims, "not only because it's a presidential election year, but also because of all the changes that have been taking place around the world."

"The most popular new book dealing with racial conflict in America is 'Two Nations' by Andrew Hacker. Bookstores can't get hold of enough copies to keep up with the demand and there are long waiting lists at libraries."

"I think it was underprinted," said Sims, "and we can't get enough of them in. For the time being we're taking requests."

Skip Rosenthal, owner of Books Around in Farmington, said: "We're trying to get it, but our whole lot is out of it."

"I just put in another order for it today. It's been out of stock," said Lisa Dyer, assistant manager of the B. Dalton Bookseller store in Oak-

■ 'In the book business we see the trends in American thought.'

Elizabeth Sims
Border's Book Shop
general manager

land Mall in Troy. "It's been really big since the unrest in L.A."

Although not new, another popular book dealing with racial issues is "The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America" by Nicholas Lemann.

"In the book business we see the trends in American thought," Sims said. "There seems to be more of a public comment on the increasing racial tensions in America, especially on the college campuses and in the big cities."

On the other hand, the bookstore people and librarians say the spring and summer season always sees a trend toward casual reading, mostly "blockbuster" fiction. "People are coming in now and stocking up for summer reading," Rosenthal said. "We sell used as well as new books and for \$30-\$50 you can get a whole lot of good books. Often they're the same books as the new ones."

"People want more casual reading during the hot months, especially for vacations," according to Sims. The casual reading includes mysteries, romance novels and as Sims put it, "dishing the dirt titles" like

"You'll Never Eat Lunch in This Town Again" by Julia Phillips. It focuses on the film industry.

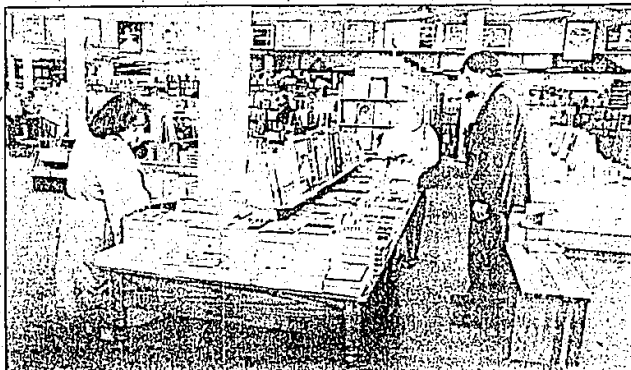
One of the most popular books is "The Firm" by John Grisham. It's not new but it's just out in paperback. Grisham's new book "Pelican Brief" also is on the demand list.

As for other popular mysteries, there's Sue Grafton's "H for Homicide," just out in paperback, and a new hard cover, "All Around the Town" by Mary Higgins Clark.

Kitty Allen, adult services librarian at Southfield Public Library, said "legal fiction is popular with our readers." "Compelling Evidence" by Steve Martin is drawing good reviews," she said. "The author is not quite so well known as some but the comments I've heard are that his cross-examination scenes are particularly authentic."

The Southfield library, she continued, "is still working its way through a waiting list on 'Clutter' by Alan Dershowitz, a book about Jews in America. Dershowitz, the attorney who defended Mike Tyson and Leonid Brezhnev, 'is kind of like the nation's preeminent defense attorney.'"

Other popular books, including hardcover and "paperbacks," are "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Cafe" by Fannie Flagg, "Jazz" by Toni Morrison, "Who Will Tell the People" by William Greider, "Jurassic Park" by Michael Crichton, "Jewels" by Danielle Steel, "Return to Love by Marienne Williamson and 'I for Innocent' by Sue Grafton.



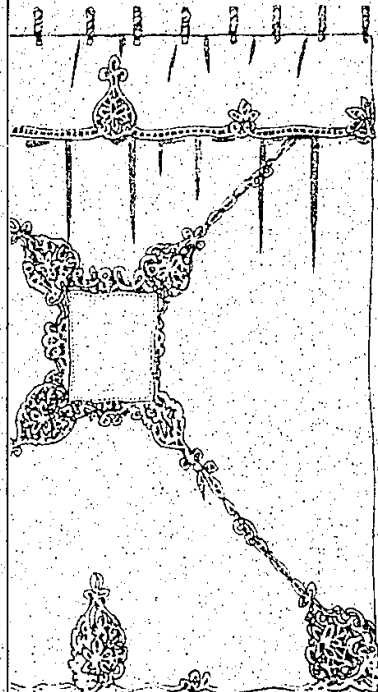
Which to choose?: Browsing has become a "popular sport" at Border's Book Store. Customers spend time looking and shopping.

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High court rejects challenge

The Oakland County Democratic Party has lost its bid to challenge the creation of new county commissioner districts.

By a 5-2 vote, the Michigan Supreme Court decided not to not consider an appeal of the district boundaries, saying "We are not persuaded that the questions presented should be reviewed by this court."

Justices Charles Levin, James Brickley, Dorothy Constock Riley, Robert Griffin and Charles Cavonagh denied the application. Justices Conrad Mallett and Patricia Boyle voted to consider the appeal.

At issue was the creation of the new county districts — including those covering the 12th, 13th, 14th

■ POLITICS

and 15th County Commissioner Districts, which include the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

The Democratic Party charged that the districts were designed to favor Republican voting districts.

"The application for leave of appeal is considered, and it is denied because we are not persuaded that the questions presented should be reviewed by this court," said the Michigan Supreme Court in a short statement.

"I feel upset they didn't even consider it," said Darlene Berent, executive of the Oakland County Democratic Party.

She said the new districts don't give the Democrats in Oakland County "a fair shake."

"The new districts 'chopped up many communities. . . It was not a fair plan," Berent said. "The new districts were determined by results of the 1990 census."

"We tried the best we could," Berent said. "We're going to have to run hard."

"The request was sent back to the state court of appeals," Tom Farrell, spokesman for the Michigan Supreme Court said.

But Berent said that this issue is probably dead now.

"Out of every 100 applications to appeal, only about three are reviewed," Farrell said.

School candidate forums to be on cable

Two candidate forums for the Farmington Public Schools election are scheduled to be broadcast on Channel 12 during the coming weeks, while two additional forums are scheduled to be held at the end of May.

A May 13 forum sponsored by the Farmington Branch, American Association of University Women, and the League of Women Voters-Oakland County will be shown 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 26; 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 27; 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 29; 12:30 p.m. Monday, June 1; 5

p.m. Wednesday, June 3; and 7 p.m. Friday, June 5. All three candidates are shown.

A second forum, sponsored by the Citizens for Quality Schools on May 15, will be shown 8 p.m. Friday, May 29 and June 5. It will also be shown 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 26; 9 p.m. Tuesday, June 2; and 1 p.m. Monday, June 8, election day. Only candidate Richard DeVries is shown.

Two forums have yet to be held. The Farmington Area Republican

Club has scheduled a candidates' night to be held Wednesday, May 27. The Farmington Democratic Club's candidate forum will be Thursday, May 28. Both will be held 7:30 p.m. at Farmington Hills City Hall and will be broadcast on Channel 18.

Running for the board are challengers DeVries and Joseph Seiler and incumbent Helen Protow. Two seats are open; the top vote-getter will win four-year terms. Election day is Monday, June 8.

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