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Books from page 17D

+\$1.99-\$18.99; Viking). Sure to show up on multiple wish lists this season, this zany book will entertain, inform, and sometimes delightfully confuse. "You can think of almost everything as a math problem," Mrs. Fibonacci proclaims to her math class one day. Sure enough, this can happen, learns one "cursed" little boy. Lunch, with its slices of pizza and apple pie turns out to be a problem of fractions. In social studies, the Mississippi River is one big, very long problem. Phys. Ed. is a major league problem. Math class, of course, is nothing but problems. After awhile, you could turn into a "math zombie" or a "math lunatic," for heaven's sake. Then, just when the problem

may be solved, another big one pops up in its place. Ah, but that's another story. The crazy-quilt illustrations fit exactly. Brought to readers by the duo who revealed "The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs."

"The Watsons Go To Birmingham — 1963," by Christopher Paul Curtis (\$14.95; Delacorte). Kenny Watson's big brother, Byron, is in trouble again. In Flint, Mich., he's fast becoming a "juvenile delinquent." In this chapter novel, Mother and Dad decide the best solution is to take him to live with his grandmother in the more "peaceful" city of Birmingham, Ala. The family (with not much help from Byron), refurbishes the 1948 Plymouth they call

the Brown Bomber, and sets out on a journey that will prove to be significant in ways none of them anticipate. Visiting with this vibrant, slightly dysfunctional family is a superb way for young readers to get better acquainted, up-close and personal, with a crucial era in American history. Curtis, an Allen Park writer, sparks his story with generous touches of humor and deft characterizations, and the momentum of this emotional journey never slows.

LAST WORDS: For adult readers, Arthur V. Vinici's debut novel, "The Survivors," a coming-of-age story set in the '30s through the '60s, is available at select bookstores. Vinici is a Northville writer.

The best selling books in America

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST SELLING BOOKS

1. "The Christmas Box," by Richard Paul Evans (Simon & Schuster)
2. "The Lost World," by Michael Crichton (Knopf)
3. "Five Days in Paris," by Danielle Steel (Delacorte)
4. "Silent Night," by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster)
5. "Politically Correct Holiday Stories," by James Finn Garner (Macmillan)
6. "The Hundred Secret Senses," by Amy Tan (Putnam)
7. "The Horse Whisperer," by Nicholas E.

8. "The Celestine Prophecy," by James Redfield (Warner)
9. "The Final Judgment," by Richard North Patterson (Knopf)
10. "Morning Noon & Night," by Sidney Sheldon (Morrow)
11. "Coming Home," by Rosamunde Pilcher (St. Martin's)
12. "Beach Music," by Pat Conroy (Doubleday)
13. "The Island of the Day Before," by Umberto Eco (Harcourt Brace)
14. "Finding Moon," by Tony Hillerman (HarperCollins)

15. "Enigma," by Robert Harris (Random House)

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. "The Road Ahead," by Bill Gates with Nathan Myhrvold and Peter Rinearson (Viking)
2. "Mia America," by Howard Stern (HarperCollins)
3. "Charles Kuralt's America," by Charles Kuralt (Putnam)
4. "My American Journey," by Colin L. Powell with Joseph E. Persico (Random House)
5. "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus," by John Gray (HarperCollins)
6. "Emotional Intelligence," by Daniel Goleman (Bantam)

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NO SWEAT ON THIS TOILET

Many bathroom renovations become necessary because of water leakage and/or water damage. Homeowners can seize the opportunity of a bathroom remodeling to very simply correct one secondary problem — a sweating toilet. Over time, as the condensation drops, floor coverings may lift, causing the subfloor and floor joists to rot. One way to prevent condensation from forming is to run both hot and cold water to the toilet by way of a mixing valve, resulting in room temperature water inside the tank. Another solution is to purchase a new toilet with a factory installed foam insulating liner, or an after market insulating kit at your local hardware store. Either procedure, for a slight charge, will avert a sweating toilet. Call the highly trained staff of MODERN KITCHEN & BATH at

810-546-0660 for professional guidance with your bathroom remodeling project. We assess current problems and develop solutions to give you a beautiful, functional, and safe room. Bring new beauty to your bath with the shiny smooth, subtly translucent surface of DuPont Corian. Bring new value to your home with the easy to clean, sandable, and resalable surface of DuPont Corian. The luxuriousness of Corian far surpasses the plastic or chalky look of the impostors, and has a ten year warranty to back it up. Visit our showrooms at 810 E. Fourth St. in Royal Oak.

Note: Connecting a mixing toilet with a mixing valve will hardly affect the lobby bid.

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