



The Donald.
The Condos.
The Trouble.
MARKETPLACE | B1



Thain's Game:
Weighing Plans
For Merrill
MONEY & INVESTING | C1



Coach Breaks
Football's
Grass Ceiling
WEEKEND JOURNAL | W1

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOWN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007 • VOL. CCL NO. 117

***** \$1.50

Quick Hits

Books

Secrets of the Stacks

According to **"Free for All,"** a new comic memoir by California librarian Don Borchert, libraries are more than lenders: They are places where cops bust drug dealers who have set up shop in restrooms, where gangs have been known to roam the stacks, and librarians surf the Internet for porn. Early reviews have been positive, praising Mr.



Borchert's take on the inner workings of libraries and his wit, with the San Francisco Chronicle calling the book "hilarious."

This book is the fourth from the new imprint **Virgin USA**, which began operations in September. It's an imprint of Random House U.K., which also owns the Virgin imprint in Britain. The plan is to publish at least 16 original titles next year focusing on American topics, says publisher Ken Siman. Earlier, Virgin USA came out with the novel "The Flawless Skin of Ugly People," by Doug Crandell, and a nonfiction title about sports violence by Dougie Brimson called "March of the Hooligans: Soccer's Bloody Fraternity."

To publicize "Free for All" the publisher is sending Mr. Borchert to speak to librarians—the book, which depicts them as dedicated to their craft, has been recommended by *Library Journal*. In addition to speaking tours, Virgin USA plans to promote its titles through other arms of Virgin Group, such as distributing books in Virgin Atlantic airline lounges or offering excerpts through Virgin Mobile, a cellphone service, Mr. Siman says.