AROUND TOWN

AUTHOR/MEDIA GUIDE

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“Your Full Service Luxury Transportation Company”
two-page fax to Peggy McMullen, assistant editor, Arts & Books, The Oregonian

Peggy, hi--

Here's my set of Book Club answers, I hope they'll serve. Any chance to get a tearsheet, both of Jeff's original presentation of my books and this q-&-a when it hits print? I'm trying to be archival about such stuff, and on-line doesn't do the job like hard copy.

Q: Family obviously means a lot...

A: My memory of my mother was miraculously enhanced when her letters to her brother on a destroyer in the last year of World War II eventually found their way to me, an adventure in remembrance I've told in my book *Heart Earth*. My favorite episode was the Arizona desert night when spooky noises outside our cabin door convinced my father, my mother, and needless to say five-year-old me, that escaped German POWs were trying to dig their way in.

First-drafting is hardest for me. I may be somewhat of a rarity among writers in that I *like* to rewrite.

The dance of language and story is my perpetual inspiration as a writer.

Q: How does his narrative contrast with...

A: Ways of growing up differ according to time and place, memorably so; a memoir that is one of my favorites, *Cider With Rosie*, by Laurie Lee, with its Cotswold village could not be more different from my background in *This House of Sky* and *Heart Earth*, yet it touches to my heart. Such is the miracle of good writing.

Q: How has photography...

A: I am constantly trying to write visually--portray in words the characters and landscape--and photographs often lend me the significant details to do so. For *This House of Sky*, I had the photo albums of my mother, father, and grandmother as a resource--some 500 Brownie box camera shots that gave me scenes such as my parents' 1928 Fourth of July rodeo courtship as recounted on pp. 50-51.

Q: Is your memoir a later reflection...
A: No, the novel you refer to is *Bucking the Sun*, about the Depression-era project of building the world’s biggest earthen dam on the Missouri River at Fort Peck, Montana, all of which occurred before I was born in June of 1939. I purely made up the Duff family that populates that book.

Q: What changes would you make to your life...

A: I believe in playing the hand dealt by life. If I were granted one wish on behalf of my father and my grandmother in those years when they joined forces to raise me, it would be for fairer economic reward for the immense hours of ranchwork they put in.

Q: Advice for aspiring poets...

A: Read masterful poets plentifully (Portland’s late great William Stafford once told me Pablo Neruda was a constant wonder to him). Listen to poets read their own work, in person and by audio (Dylan Thomas!), to help you grasp their wordcraft. Ultimately study with a terrific poet with a word-of-mouth reputation as a terrific teacher, such as the Northwest’s own Linda Bierds (University of Washington).

###
March 7, 2007

Ivan Doig
C/O Danielle Hassell
Harcourt Trade Publishers
15 E. 26th Street
New York, NY 10010

Dear Mr. Doig:

Congratulations on your novel *The Whistling Season* being selected as one of the Young Adult Library Services Association’s (YALSA) ten Alex Award winners of 2007!

The Alex Awards were created in 2002 in recognition of the fact that many teens enjoy, and often prefer books written for adults, and to assist librarians in recommending adult books that appeal to teens. The award is named in honor of the late Margaret Alexander Edwards, fondly called “Alex” by her closest friends, a young adult specialist at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. She used adult books extensively with young adults to broaden their experience and enrich their understanding of themselves and their world. To find out more about the award, please visit our Web site at (www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/alex) and feel free to link to the Alex page announcing the 2007 award from your MySpace page, Web site, or Blog.

We would be happy to work with you and/or your publisher to further promote your book in the following ways:

- Interview you for an article in either YALSA’s online newsletter *YAttitudes* or our quarterly journal, *Young Adult Library Services*.
- Post a Podcast of the above-mentioned interview or you reading from your book on the YALSA Web site and Blog.
- Have you speak about your book at the Alex Award Program held Saturday, June 23rd from 4 to 5:30pm during the American Library Association’s (ALA) Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Participate in YALSA’s YA Author Breakfast during ALA’s Annual Conference on June 24th from 8-10am.
- Participate as a featured author at YALSA’s Teen Read Week Kick-Off event to be held the week of October 14-20, 2007.

If you would like to participate in any of the above events, or for any questions about the award or YALSA, please call YALSA Program Officer Nichole Gilbert at 1(800) 545-2433 etc. 4387. You can also visit us on the Web at (www.ala.org/yalsa).

Again, congratulations! We look forward to collaborating with you throughout the year to promote you, your novel and the award.

Sincerely,

Beth Yoke, Executive Director

cc: Danielle Hassell, Harcourt Trade Publishers
Jack Lapides, Margaret Alexander Edwards Trust

The goal of the Young Adult Library Services Association is to advocate, promote, and strengthen service to young adults, ages twelve to eighteen, as part of the continuum of total library services, and to support those who provide service to this population.
29 March ‘07

three-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, Director of Publicity, Harcourt

Michelle, hi--

First of all, great congratulations on becoming capital-D Director, a fact I just caught up with when Becky came to lunch yesterday. Richly deserved, Michelle!

Besides my next ms, which we’re both happy with so far (I’m about halfway on it), Becky and I talked briefly about events that have come onto my schedule later this year and even into next, and figured I should list them for you now, sooner rather than later:

**Sept. 13-14.** Loveland, Colorado, Whistling Season ‘community read’ speaking gig I told you about in an earlier message.

**Sept. 26-27.** Boulder, Colorado, Wallace Stegner Award from the U. of Colorado’s Center for the American West; from there I’ll go on to the South Dakota Book Festival, **Sept. 28-30,** as per the following fax copy of my letter to Sherry De Boer. Sherry just called, said the schedule I cited is fine with her, the Book Festival will proceed on that basis.

**May 9, 2008,** speaking gig at the Dogwood Fine Arts Festival, Dowagiac, Michigan. This came to me out of the blue by way of Kathryn Barcos of the Steven Barclay speakers’ agency—they both used to work for San Francisco Arts and Lectures, I met both of them then—and it’s a $10,000 fee for me that Mailer, Updike, Oates and evidently damn near everyone else has picked up in that town in the past.

In all three cases, the inviters are covering my plane tix (first-class, except for getting from Denver to Rapid City, South Dakota, groan) etc. Your budget is spared, although your expertise doubtless will have to be called on for publicity, booksignings, and so on.

Lastly, the final page of this fax, the YALSA Alex Award letter that found its way to me a couple of days ago. Becky suggests you run interference for me on this, and I agree that’s the necessary idea just now: about the only way I see to participate, given my medical schedule, would be the first item on their list, an interview, which I hope I’d be fit to do in June or July. All else being equal, I would like to do that, and I’m game to listen to any other possibilities you see.

All for now. I begin medical stuff on April 2 and likely will be out of touch at least the rest of that month, although Carol can field phone calls. Looking forward to getting on with things as I mend through the springtime.

All best,
7 March '07

one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, Publicist, Harcourt

Michelle, good morning--

I hope to call you today and catch you up on how things are going here (pretty good, actually), but in any case here’s how I’ve dealt with the PNBA situation—this note of apology to Thom Chambliss, and my remarks to be read for me by John Huber, the San Francisco-based rep. I’ve talked with John by phone and he has a fax of my remarks, so this should be all set.

Much farther down the schedule, I am still aiming to go to the South Dakota Book Festival in late September, and in fact a “community read” speaking gig just ahead of that has come up and please pencil it in on our calendar. It’ll be in Loveland, Colorado, Sept. 13-14, the sponsor the public library, the chosen book The Whistling Season. The librarian there, Ted Schmidt, has arranged a $6500 speaking fee for me, first-class plane ticket to and from Denver, meals and room, so this should be off your tab. Will talk to you more about this as need be.

Until we have a chance to talk, all best.

Ivan

one-page fax to Thom Chambliss, Executive Director, PNBA, sent 3/7/07

Dear Thom--

Unfortunately news, which I just learned. I had been tremendously looking forward to coming to the March 16 ceremony, the same way as I’ve always managed to attend pertinent PNBA events down through the decades, but this time I cannot. Long story, I won’t bore you with it at this point. Anyway, I am asking John Huber as the Harcourt rep to fill in for me with a bit of heartfelt praise for the PNBA and independent bookstores --here’s a copy for you. Very sorry, Thom, wouldn’t be doing this if I didn’t have to. All best wishes for the spring show.

Sincerely,
Dear Author:

We have received your submission for consideration in the 2007 Spur Award competition.

The appropriate judges will be reviewing all the entries in each category, and winners and finalists will be announced on the website in early April. You may view the list at: www.westernwriters.org. The annual WWA convention will be held in Springfield, Missouri in June, 2007.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us at wwa@unm.edu or call us at (505) 277-5234.

Thank you for your submission, and good luck!

Tracy L. Hutton
Spur Award Chair
The Oregonian
A&E
Portland, Oregon
FAX 503-294-5029

FAX TRANSMISSION

Time: 3:30 AM
Date: July 25, 2006
Total pages: 3

TO: LVEN D016

DEPARTMENT: 
COMPANY: 
FAX PHONE NO.: 206 - 542 - 6650
RECIPIENT'S OFFICE PHONE: 

FROM: Peggy M. Mullen
DEPARTMENT: Books
SENDER'S OFFICE PHONE: 803-221-8432

COMMENTS:

Questions for The Oregonian Book Club story for August.
Dear Mr. Doig,
Here are the questions from our readers for the Book Club story on you and your novel “This House of Sky.” I’ll look for your response on Friday. If you have any questions, please call: 503-221-8432.
Thank you,
Peggy McMullen
Assistant Editor, Arts & Books
The Oregonian
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201
503-221-8432

Family obviously means a lot to you. What is your fondest memory of your mother who passed away when you were so young (6 years old)? What is the hardest part of writing for you? What most inspires you as a writer?
Tom Gospodnetich Zigzag

How does his narrative contrast with the way your own children were raised? I am not a writer, but I loved how I grew up on a fruit farm in the Portland area. My children were raised more in the city. I have since wondered how they viewed their years and mourned that they didn’t have some of the same experiences as I had. My bet is they had a good time also. But I still wonder about it. Do you?
Sheree Hobson,
Southeast Portland

What a coincidence — On Saturday I was at an art show in Newport. There was a quote of yours framed on the wall. It was about your grandmother and her collection of photographs. I believe it was from a book about photography. Then on Sunday I saw this article about “This House of Sky” My question is how has photography affected your writing?
Jerry Weigel,
Vancouver, Wash.

Several years ago I read a novel you wrote about people involved in the engineering and construction of an earthen dam during the Depression Era. Though I can’t remember the title of the book, both the characters and the action have stayed with me. Is your memoir a later reflection of the incidents and the mind-set of incidents that were so realistically portrayed in the novel?
Jean G. Garrett,
Southwest Portland
If given the opportunity, Mr. Doig, what changes would you have made to your life in Montana and why and how? 
Josephine Connolly, 
Lake Oswego

You seem to have had a lifelong urge to write poetry. You’ve not focused on poetry (although you’ve slipped your poems into your books), because you decided you lacked the poet’s “final skill”. As a published poet, do you have any advice for aspiring poets our there? 
Alan Meyer, 
Newberg
Hello Ivan,

Happy to receive your fax of June 12th.

So glad that you're meeting with success in the independent bookseller world. They're against the ropes and a commitment by an author of your stature and salability is a great thing.

I'll be at Third Place Books tomorrow and will discuss their reorder needs. University Bookstore and Elliott Bay are John Huber's accounts. I did see your book prominently displayed at University Bookstore yesterday.

Shifting to the mass market world, Fred Meyer and Smiths just ordered for store locations in the Salt Lake City area. They recently ran an ad for their Northwest accounts. Have been monitoring the stock needed, and being ordered, for your Costco appearances and that all looks good.

I was returning from an Oregon trip and heard you on the Diane Rehm Show. I have satellite radio in the car. I thought it was great and hope that all your media goes as well. Although I must say that I glaze over when callers begin their questions with three minutes of their life history. I must learn patience.

Best luck in your travels.

[Signature]
Dear Michelle—

I thought you deserved to see this morning's Great Falls Tribune. (Note accompanying review, too.) It is of course in the nick of time and should help us at the Waldenbooks signing this afternoon, although it's tardy for people in outlying communities who might have planned a trip to town with more notice. Given how tough it's been to generate media coverage ahead of time in these Montana cities with near-seribund newspapers and TV stations (not only Great Falls but Kalispell, Helena, and Missoula), next time we do this we absolutely have to have advertising help, preferably the Sunday before a signing in the case of the newspapers and if possible a spot TV ad on the little regional network here that would cover most of our markets. I'll drill this home to Becky at some point, but if there's any post-tour analysis where you can make that point, I sure think it's worth making. This media scheduling has been tough and last-minute; thank goodness the KUFM interview came through, as it drew people to the Kalispell signing as well as the Missoula one (and will help out with Chapter One in Hamilton).

Choteau is the first area we've hit, in the Montana expenses, where our cell phone won't operate. Doesn't matter much, as I intended to check in with you from Great Falls after the 1st portion of the Waldenbooks signing anyway. Carol and I are holding up okay—the Kentucky-fried chicken feast(?) the night before and a big night's sleep helped a lot—although the road construction out here is a real gauntlet. Yesterday at the very end of our 12-hour drive, most of it in the car except for the very jam-packed Kalispell signing—we were held up by construction almost within sight of our Choteau motel, for about 20 minutes—so near yet so far! Anyway, we're doing well, and may the rest of this tour do as well as the part of it so far. Be talking to you.

Best,
Dear Becky—

Figured you might get a kick out of the full flavor of the Montana book tour, so here’s a copy of this morning’s Great Falls Tribune. (Note the accompanying review.) There’s a long tale of perseverance behind making this happen—the reporter/reviewer is an academic and freelance who is a casual friend, and wildly overqualified for her makeshift career(s) here in Montana; on a hunch, I had Michelle send her a review copy—but by damn, it worked.

Probably Michelle is passing along the numbers, but just in case:

Spokane: audience of 250, sold 70 Whistlings (sold out).

Missoula: " 150 in a really not very big store, sold about 45 Whistlings and a lot of paperbacks, overall the store has sold 123 of its original stock of 140 Whistlings.

Kalispell: didn’t do a reading, but the line of customers was virtually constant for 2 hours; sold right at 100 Whistlings and, hallelujah, about that many paperbacks, largely House of Sky but also several Heart Earths and Sea Runners.

Having a great time in spite of hot weather, huge stretches of driving, and constant road construction—wish you were here, you’d love it.

All best,

p.s. This beat-up Olivetti portable is the typewriter that wrote much of The Sea Runners—bought it to sling aboard the floatplanes in and out of Sitka, Ketchikan, etc.
one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity manager, Harcourt

Michelle, hello again, hope you had a pleasant Fourth--

A startling development: the Doigs now have an actual cell phone. It's a long story, but a major glitch in our landline the day of the Dan Webster interview (it ultimately went okay, on a cell phone borrowed from a neighbor; Dan is an old pro and I think the piece will be fine) plus the hellacious road-repairs awaiting us on the Montana booktour forced us into it. So now, if we haven't yet reached destinations on the schedule you can try us at (206)200-4143.

Also, we overhauled our fax machine and now it seems to co-exist with the phone and phone machine without interference, so we're leaving it on all the time--no need to call first before faxing, we hope, we hope.

To business: the past week was a really good one of signings, particularly at the five Puget Sound-area independent stores:

--Eagle Harbor, standing room only crowd of 175.

--Snow Goose in Stanwood, WA: this was a 2 p.m. stop-by on the way to Bellingham that I think never even made it onto your schedule, and it paid off. This is a tiny store, maybe 600 sq. feet, in a little town, but the veteran booksellers there have sold 50 copies of Whistling, about half of them while I was in the store.

--Village Books, standing room only crowd of 175, and they sold out of books. (All their distributors are sold out, too. I'll be talking to Becky about this; anybody you can nudge too?) This store has sold a total of 107 Whistlings.

--Scott's in Mount Vernon, small crowd of a couple of dozen for my noonhour reading (we had head-to-head competition with a big community event, Highland Games!), but one woman bought seven Whistlings and other customers bought enough that it was a more than respectable signing. This store too is sold out.

--Anacortes library reading, splendidly receptive audience of 79, strong signing for Watermark bookstore afterward.

And now onward. Accompanying this is the fax I sent to Jamie Broadhurst about the invitation to Bolen's bookstore in Victoria, British Columbia. It was great news, and as I've told Becky, it behooves us and Raincoast to snap up the invitation. Mel Bolen is something like the Joyce Meskis or Carla Cohen of Canada) in Victoria, B.C., so her store is an ideal beachhead for my work up there, and Carol and I can do that trip by floatplane
without strain. Let’s work on getting that on the schedule, I guess via Raincoast? They were so sweet to us when we went up to the Western Canada reps’ shindig.

Montana media: I’m losing track, but I think I told you on your cell phone that I arranged a KUFM radio interview in Missoula for 11 a.m., July 11, in time for it to air before that night’s Fact & Fiction reading.

And things are finally pulling together for us at the Great Falls Tribune. A freelance named Jo-Ann Swanson, fortunately an old friend of mine, is doing a review to run on the day of my Waldenbooks signing, and she’ll do some kind of feature as well. She and I will connect in Kalispell the day of the signing there (she lives near there).

Despite all efforts, couldn’t get an interview at KRTV—they’ve simply wiped out their local show and gone anonymously corporate, the bastards—although the news director said he’ll send a crew to shoot my signing for the late-afternoon news. We’ll see.

Other stuff:

--I’ve been invited to keynote the Great Salt Lake Book Festival on Oct. 28, cited them a speaking fee and a first-class plane ticket, and they’re working on raising the $$ (They’re to let me know on July 19.) If that comes through, it should be a nice freebie for Harcourt while doing the book some good; please drop me out of the running for the Park City festival if you haven’t already done so, as I don’t want to do that even if Salt Lake doesn’t come through.

--Have you or somebody else at Harcourt managed to nominate Whistling for the Montana Book Award yet? I think I sent that form to you by way of Becky. I don’t want that to get away from us, and I bring it up now because I’ll likely be around people in Missoula who are involved in that and may be curious if they haven’t seen paperwork from our direction.

--Billings: can you get me the name and phone number of the Barnes & Noble store manager (or event coordinator) who wants me to come by and sign stock? I want to talk to them directly, without you having to translate, about the logistics of that. Similarly, I’ll need someone from Costco to take me to and from that signing, as we’d better not trust to Billings taxis, few and far between. I mentioned this to Pennie Clark at lunch, but we’d better follow up on it at our end, too.

That’s all I can think of at the moment; will check in as often as I can during the Great Montana Booktour.

All best,

[Signature]
2-page FAX to Becky Saletan, editor in chief, Harcourt

Dear Becky--

First of all, a rare communications innovation in the Doig household, an actual cell phone. (It’s a long story, but a second major glitch in our landline this week and the hellacious road-repairs awaiting us on the Montana booktour forced us into it.) Our number now while we’re on the road or the home phone isn’t answering: (206)200-4143.

Also FYI, and for Stacia and all concerned, we overhauled our fax machine and now it seems to co-exist with the phone and phone machine without interference, so we’re leaving it on all the time--no need to call first before faxing, we hope, we hope.

As to real business:

--The good news of last week’s signings at five Puget Sound-area independent stores is that we’re selling Whistling Season like crazy (two standing-room only audiences of 175, and the tiniest store of the bunch has sold 50 copies) and the not-so-nifty news is that three of those stores are sold out of the book and so are all their distributors. At least a couple of the store owners are gritting their teeth and intending to buy temporary replenishments at the nearest Costco, but they’d rather buy ‘em from Harcourt or anywhere else. I’ll try to talk to you by phone about this, later today, so that I can have the latest distribution info for booksellers on the Montana tour.

--Jamie Broadhurst’s message from Raincoast was great news, and as my accompanying fax to him said, it behooves us and Raincoast to snap up that invitation for me to read and sign at Bolen’s bookstore (Mel Bolen is something like the Joyce Meskis or Carla Cohen of Canada) in Victoria, B.C.; it’s an ideal beachhead for my work up there, and Carol and I can do that trip by floatplane without strain. As I’m going to say to Michelle in my fax to her, let’s work on getting that on the schedule, I guess via Raincoast? They were so sweet to us when we went up to the Western Canada reps’ shindig.

--Lunch with Pennie at Costco on July 5 went splendidly, and she hung around for my signing in the store, introducing me among others to the legendary guy who founded and runs Costco, Jim Sinegal. The signing itself was a good but not great one, as there was a glitch--neither of us can figure out where--in getting it scheduled and Costco didn’t have time to run its usual ads. Pennie didn’t seem bothered, and if history is any guide the three further Costco signings I have ahead should be big ones. By the way, Pennie sang Laurie Brown’s praises, and the next time Laurie calls on Seattle customers I’d very much like to meet her, if she wouldn’t mind.

--I’ve been invited to keynote the Great Salt Lake Book Festival on Oct. 28, cited them a speaking fee and a first-class plane ticket, and they’re working on raising the $$'. If that comes through, it should be a freebie for Harcourt while doing the book some good. You mentioned that somebody in the office has put me in as a possible speaker at
the NCTE; I think that's a longshot, but what is the date of that, so I can keep it available just in case?

Liz--the phantom Liz!--checked in a few days ago to say she loves, loves, loves the first 100 pp. of *11th Man*. Am going to re-read those myself, in the car to Montana, where Carol and I will be heading on the Great Montana Booktour about as you receive this fax.

Best,

[Signature]
5 July '06

one-page fax to Jamie Broadhurst, director of marketing, Raincoast Books

Jamie, hello--

Again, maximum appreciation from Carol and me for the hospitality and good fellowship in Kelowna from you, Kim, Paddy, everybody. What a fine event, what a good group of people--even the writers, hmm?

Harcourt passed along your message about Mel Bolen’s decree of “whatever it takes” for an event in Victoria this fall, and Carol and I feel this is a chance we, Raincoast and Harcourt absolutely must not pass up. So, Jamie, work your magic again!

It is exceptionally easy travel for us by Kenmore Air floatplane, and while you will have to deal with Carol and her sharp eye for hotels (hint: not the dowager Empress; been there; how about the Hotel Grand Pacific, she says), we could make a dandy trip of it by going up late morning, doing the Bolen’s reading/signing that night, and returning mid-afternoon the next day.

September would be best for us, although we’re somewhat negotiable about later in the fall, and at the moment we’re amenable any time that month except for commitments on these dates:

Sept. 10-11

Sept. 15

Sept. 27-30 (and on through the first week in October)

So, let us know how this shapes up, pass our regards and thanks to Mel, and good luck to Rob, and affection to Kim and Paddy.

Best wishes,

cc: Michelle Blankenship
Becky Saletan
four-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, Publicity Manager, Harcourt

Michelle, good morning--

Okay, here's the set of answers to pass along to the Bellingham Herald. And some thoughts on other schedule stuff:

--We made real headway on Montana media coverage yesterday, with your contact with Denise Mort of the Great Falls Tribune and my lucky hit with Mary Pickett of the Billings Gazette. Missoula is the other important market; you likely have the essential three media addresses that I've circled on the sheet I'm sending, but just in case. In terms of logistics for broadcast interviews, Carol and I should be able to make it to Missoula from Spokane by 11:30 the morn of July 11.

The one other Montana daily paper possibly worth trying is the Bozeman Chronicle. I don't have any contacts there, so you'll have to cold-call them, I guess. An angle for them would be that I'm descended from homestead families who attended a one-room school north of Bozeman, on Sixteenmile Creek, and I did a lot of research toward this book at the Montana State University library there in Bozeman. There's also a cold-call to be tried at the Great Falls tv station, KRTV. They've evidently dropped their noonhour "Today in Montana" show which was terrific for Great Falls book signings, but maybe there's some other slot; phone # there is 1-800-823-KRTV. We could be there any time after 9 a.m. on July 13 (or even earlier if there's a good slot).

--I have the feeling I already told you this schedule detail, but I can't find that fax, so just to be sure: Boulder, June 29, I want to be at the 14th Street Grill by 5:15 to meet friends (the western historian Patricia Nelson Limerick and her beau) for dinner before the Boulder Book Co. event. And I have jotted on my schedule the 6 a.m. cable tv interview. I'd like Lisa Maxson's advice about dinner on the 28th--should she and I eat somewhere near the Tattered Cover's LoDo store?

And as I said on the phone, the fortuitous phone call y'day afternoon from Pennie Clark Ianniciello setting us back into business on July 5:

11 a.m. Meet Pennie for lunch at Red Robin restaurant in Issaquah

12-1 p.m COSTCO
1801 10th Ave. NW
Issaquah WA 98027
(425)313-0965
--Now to the interview schedule generally: I think we’re maxed out for Friday, which I understand to be:

12:30 (PST) Mary Pickett, Billings Gazette
1:30 (PST) Mary Miller, Kitsap News Group
2:30 (PST) Susan Whitney, Deseret News

The two imminent strategic interviews that we still need to negotiate are:

--Dick Clever of Skagit Valley Herald; since he was late in getting a book, we need to cut him some slack. He’s a true old journalistic hand, so he and I (or Carol if he calls while I’m in Denver) can simply cobble together sometime to do this, from a hotel room if necessary.

--Denise Mort of the Great Falls Tribune, whom you’ve been in touch with; we’d do well to fit her into the increasingly complicated schedule as soon as she’s willing. One thought: if you haven’t heard back from Mary Miller of Kitsap News Group confirming for Friday, maybe offer Denise that 1:30 slot? (The GF Trib is more important to the Great Falls signing than the Kitsap newspapers are to the Eagle Harbor signing.) Other than that, I can see these openings:

--tomorrow (Thursday the 22nd) afternoon

--hotel room in Denver on 29th, although that’s not my favorite venue

--anytime July 3

--8 a.m. (PST) July 5 or 6

Lastly (I hope), probably be a good idea to send a book pronto to the Billings reporter, huh?

Mary Pickett, news staff
Billings Gazette
401 N. Broadway
Billings MT 59107-1262

Inevitably, talk to you soon.
Michelle, here are my questions for Ivan Doig for the email interview I'd like to conduct with him. If you could forward them to him and ask him to respond by this Friday morning, June 23, that would be wonderful.

Also, could you please email me a jpg of the jacket and of him?

This will run in the June 29 issue of Take Five, our arts and entertainment magazine, about a week before his appearance at Village Books. Thank you.

Mr. Doig, I knew when I began reading "This Whistling Season" that I would be reluctant to come to the end. It's not often that a reader comes up such lovely "poetry disguised as prose," and with a captivating plot to boot. Thank you for this most marvelous work.

And to my questions: If you could reply with two-three sentences for each question, my editor will be pleased (if I had my way, I'd have an essay for each, just to hear you sing words.)

1. Paul, who I see as the Halley's comet-- or everlasting star-- among his schoolmates, is the keeper of many secrets throughout the novel.

2. How did you come upon the neat trick of having Paul learn Latin? Why is it important to the novel? Why should Latin be studied now?

3. Eddie and Brose Turley are fascinating characters. What is their part in the novel?

4. The death of a certain way of life and of one-room schoolhouses, as well as of the boys' mother, Aunt Bunice and Rose's husband, are seem intertwined. Putting aside the deaths of the people, what are your thoughts about rural schooling? If you have a moment, I read this article in the Seattle P-I (you may have also) about the school on Decatur Island, and I'd be interested in your comments.


5. I take delight in the melody of well-chosen words, - my father was both a broadcast journalist and a poet, which I know fostered my love of reading (I am by profession a librarian who works at the community college here in Bellingham, with my "pin money" coming from my job at the newspaper.) I am reluctant to ask you the tiresome question of the writers you admire, but I can't help but be curious. I'm also wondering about your thoughts about the importance of students--- perhaps students of life--- embracing books, written words, the spoken word.

6. Did you know someone like the adult Paul, who had the task of deciding the fate of rural schools? How is the character of Ivan Doig imbued in Paul Milligton. How not? Thank you so much.

Margaret Bikman, Entertainment News Coordinator The Bellingham Herald
1155 N. State St. Bellingham, WA 98225
Voice: (360) 715-2273
Fax: (360) 756-2826
E-Mail: Margaret.Bikman@bellinghamherald.com
Visit us at www.bellinghamherald.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Blankenship, Michelle R. (HTP-NYC) [mailto:Michelle.Blankenship@harcourt.com]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 4:34 PM
To: Bikman, Margaret
Subject: RE: Ivan Doig Seattle Public Library event - not open to the public

Hi Margaret,
Answers to Margaret Bikman’s question, Bellingham Herald interview

Margaret, hi--Appreciated your comments about the book. Third week in a row, it’s the #1 fiction best-seller in the Pacific Northwest, so I’m a happy scribbler.

#1--You’re right, Paul does start to feel inundated with secrets, some of them of the slyly funny schoolyard variety and some vitally serious, as the story goes along. In the case of the biggest secret, he has to draw on instinct, innate decency, in reaching his decision. So I see Paul’s chosen course as one of compassion, in the name of giving his family a chance to knit itself together and to offer amnesty to someone who has made a misstep in life but shows every sign of having retrieved full worth. To me, and I suppose this is reflected in Paul, there is sometimes not just one justice in a situation, but a choice, and my hope is that Paul in holding his secret chose wisely.

The ‘whistling’ theme probably reflects my penchant toward music (I have written the songs and poems that show up in all my eight novels) and, yes, a kind of hopefulness. Notice the seasonal return of the whistling swans on the next-to-last page--an anthem of renewal.

#2--Latin is Paul’s Internet. It gives him entry into the roots of language, and in the end his increasing fluency with words and meanings plays a decisive part in the story. The reason to study Latin in this day and age, I think, would be for love of language and connection--much of what we are, in our tongue, comes down to us from those old Romans.

#3--The Turleys, father and son, are rough remnants of a rougher West; wolf-hunters left over in an era when homesteaders were pouring into Montana and other western prairies in railroad ‘emigrant’ boxcars and Model T Fords. The pair of them are somewhat baffled, and certainly threatened, by modernity and other forces beyond their understanding, like Halley’s Comet.

#4--The one-room school as a common institution has been pretty much relegated to the nostalgia niche of the past. But as I have my narrator, Paul, say in The Whistling Season as he ponders the thousand one-room schools he is in charge of as state superintendent of instruction in Montana, in what he knows is going to be a hysterical clamor for change following the Russian launch of the satellite Sputnik, nostalgia and real memory are quite different things: “The Rembrandt light of memory, finicky and magical and faithful at the same time, as the cheaper tint of nostalgia never is.” A virtue of one-room schools was classes of sensible size, so that the students received some individual attention and didn’t get lost in the crowd; as all of us who are former children know, childhood is enough of a crowd as it is.

#5--The number of writers I admire is too big to fit onto a newspaper page, so let me just cite one I tout to readers: Ismail Kadare, who really should need no introduction because he lately won the biggest book award in the world, the Man Booker prize, over Garcia Marquez and other usual suspects. But much of his work was written in Albania before the Iron Curtain collapsed, and his poetic prose has been slowly seeping out in translation. Chronicle in Stone is the novel of his to start with. As to embracing books, I feel that person passes up a magnificent passion if she/he doesn’t fall into their open arms called pages.

#6--Paul is entirely invented by me in my perpetual day job as a novelist, as is his predicament of deciding the one-room schools’ fate. He probably has a few of my mental fingerprints. He loves language, even unto Latin (which I took in high school; then Russian, in college); he’s an inveterate reader of books; he eavesdrops with his eyes; he admits to a bit of a pedantic streak, and at least can admit it. He’s very much his own person, though; I’ve never had his nightly flood of dreaming, could not function in politics and government as he skillfully does, have never had any siblings, nor, full disclosure, did I ever attend a one-room school. ###

Regards,

Ivan Doig
Missoula Media Contacts

Newspapers
The Missoulian
500 S. Higgins Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801
voice: (406)523-5246
fax: (406)523-5294
Mea Andrews, Book Page Editor
mandrews@missoulian.com
Ken Picard
picard@missoulanews.com

Lively Times
1152 Eagle Pass Trail
Charlo, MT 59824
voice: (406)644-2910
fax: (406)644-2911
Bob Phillips
bob@livelytimes.com

Television
KPAX-TV
2204 Regent St.
Missoula, MT 59801
Assignment Desk
voice: (406)542-4475
fax: (406)543-7127
Greg Schiesserling, News Director
news@kpax.com

KECI-TV
340 W. Main St.
Missoula, MT 59802
voice: (406)721-2063
fax: (406)721-6791
Kimberly Tere, Producer, Montana This Morning
news@nbcmontana.com

Radio
KUFM/Montana Public Radio
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
voice: (406)243-4931
fax: (406)243-3299
Sally Mauk, News Director
smauk@selway.umt.edu

KGVO-AM/KLCY-AM/KYSS-FM/KBAZ-FM
400 Ryman St.
Missoula, MT 59802
voice: (406)728-0093
fax: (406)742-2329
(no special contact person)

KBGA College Radio
voice: (406)243-6758

Fisher Broadcasting
KGGL-FM/KZOO-FM/KGRZ-AM/KYLT-AM/KXDR-FM
1600 North Ave. W.
Missoula, MT 59801
voice: (406)721-9399
fax: (406)721-3020
(no special contact person)
DENVER
Wednesday, June 28

Flight:
United Airlines #540
Depart Seattle: 9:06 AM
Arrive Denver: 12:40 PM
Seat: 7D
 Confirmation #: RZS2RE
Note: Media escort will pick you up at the airport and take you to your hotel.

Hotel (2 Nights):
Hotel Monaco Denver
1717 Champa St.
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303-296-1717
Fax: 303-296-1818
 Confirmation #: 1088707468
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for three (2) nights, checking out on 6/30/06.

Media Escort
Guidance Systems
1623 W 34th Ave
Denver, CO 80211
Contact: Lisa Maxson
303-455-0551
llmaxson@msn.com
Note: Media escort will take you to events, stock signings, etc. as needed.

7:00 PM arrival
7:30 PM
Reading & Signing

TATTERED COVER
1628 16th St.
Denver, CO 80202
Contact: Margaret Maupin
303-322-1965 x1269
Note: In addition to the reading, you will be signing 200 copies for their Autograph Book Club.
THE WHISTLING SEASON
Ivan Doig

Contact: Michelle Blankenship
Publicity Manager
Phone: 212-592-1023
Cell: 917-903-4013
michelle.blankenship@harcourt.com

DENVER
Thursday, June 29

7:15 PM arrival
7:30 PM
Reading & Signing

BOULDER BOOKSTORE
1107 Pearl St
Boulder, CO 80302
Contact: Elena McAnespie
303-447-2074 x125
elena@boulderbookstore.com

DENVER
Friday, June 30

Flight:
United Airlines #875
Depart Denver: 8:55 AM
Arrive Seattle: 10:38 AM
Seat: 13C
Confirmation #: RZS2RE
Note: Media escort will pick you up at the hotel and take you to the airport.

SEATTLE
Wednesday, July 5

THIS SIGNING HAS BEEN CANCELLED BY COSTCO.

11:45 AM arrival
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Book Signing

COSTCO
1801 10th Ave, NW
Issaquah, WA 98027
425-313-0965

SEATTLE
Thursday, July 6

7:15 PM arrival
7:30 PM
Reading & Signing

EAGLE HARBOR BOOK CO.
157 Winslow Way East
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Contact: Mary Gicysteen

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THE WHISTLING SEASON

Ivan Doig

Contact: Michelle Blankenship
Publicity Manager
Phone: 212-592-1023
Cell: 917-903-4013
michelle.blankenship@harcourt.com
(206)842-5332
maryg@eagleharborbooks.com

SEATTLE
Friday, July 7

Hotel (1 Nights):
La Conner Country Inn & Channel Lodge
205 N. First St.
La Conner, WA 98257
Phone: 360-466-1500
Fax: 360-466-1525
Confirmation #: 061M0C
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room tax. This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/08/06. The room has one queen bed. Early check-in was requested.

5:45 PM arrival
6:00 PM
Reception, Reading, & Signing

VILLAGE BOOKS
1210 11th St
Bellingham, WA 98225
Contact: Lindsey McGuirk
360.671.2626
lindscy@villagebooks.com

SEATTLE
Saturday, July 8

11:45 AM arrival
12:00 PM
Reading & Signing

SCOTT'S BOOKSTORE
121 Freeway Drive
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Contact: Megan O'Brien
(360)336-6181
books@clearwire.net

2:15 PM arrival
2:30 PM
Signing

WATERMARK BOOK COMPANY
612 Commercial Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221
Contact: Patti Pattee
360-293-4277

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THE WHISTLING SEASON

Contact: Michelle Blankenship
Publicity Manager
Phone: 212-592-1023
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SPOKANE
Monday, July 10

Hotel (1 Night):
The Davenport Hotel
10 South Post St.
Spokane, WA 99201
Phone: 509-455-8888
Fax: 509-624-4455
Confirmation #: 100596112
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/11/06. The room has one king bed.

7:15 PM arrival
7:30 PM
Reading & Signing

AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE
402 W Main St
Spokane, WA 99201
Contact: Lois Hughes
509-838-0206

MONTANA
Tuesday, July 11

Hotel (1 Night):
Doubletree Missoula-Edgewater
100 Madison St.
Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: 406-728-3100
Fax: 406-728-2530
Confirmation #: 82765302
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/12/06. Room #336 was requested when the reservation was made.

6:45 PM arrival
7:00 PM
Reading & Signing

FACT & FICTION
220 N Higgins Ave
Missoula, MT 59802
Contact: Barbara Theroux
406-721-2881
ffbook@montana.com
THE WHISTLING SEASON
Ivan Doig

Contact: Michelle Blankenship
Publicity Manager
Phone: 212-592-1023
Cell: 917-903-4013
michelle.blankenship@harcourt.com

MONTANA
Wednesday, July 12

Hotel (1 Night):
Stage Stop Inn
1005 Main Ave.
Choteau, MT 59422
Phone: 406-466-5950
Fax:
Confirmation #: F34471
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/13/06.

10:15 AM arrival
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Book Signing

BOOKS WEST
101 Main St
Kalsipell, MT 59901
Contact: Jo Ann Jensen
406-752-6956

(173 mi. to Choteau)

MONTANA
Thursday, July 13

Note: As per your instructions, you will be staying with friends.
Contact: Wayne & Genise Arnst
Phone: 406-727-9550

1:45 PM arrival
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Book Signing

WALDENBOOKS
Holiday Village
1200 10th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405
Contact: Joan Sciler
406-453-2202
motherjoan@earthlink.net
Note: You will also sign from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.
THE WHISTLING SEASON
Ivan Doig

Contact: Michelle Blankenship
Publicity Manager
Phone: 212-592-1023
Cell: 917-903-4013
michelle.blankenship@harcourt.com

MONTANA
Friday, July 14

Hotel (1 Nights):
Hampton Inn Helena
3000 Highway 12 East
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 406-443-5800
Fax: 406-449-2592
Confirmation #: 82214589
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/15/06.

11:45 AM arrival
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Book Signing

MONTANA BOOK COMPANY
331 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
Contact: Didi Pescia
406-443-0260
mtbookco@mt.net
Note: You will also be signing from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

MONTANA
Saturday, July 15

Hotel (1 Night):
Hampton Inn Bozeman
75 Baxter Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-522-8000
Fax: 406-522-7446
Confirmation #: 85624125
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/16/06.

12:45 PM arrival
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Reading & Signing

COUNTRY BOOKSHELF
28 West Main Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
Contact: Mary Jane DiSanti
(406)587-0166
THE WHISTLING SEASON

Ivan Doig

Contact: Michelle Blankenship
Publicity Manager
Phone: 212-592-1023
Cell: 917-903-4013
michelle.blankenship@harcourt.com

MONTANA
Sunday, July 16

Hotel (1 Night):
Bitteroot River Inn
139 Bitteroot Plaza Dr.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: 406-375-2525
Fax: 406-363-9700
Confirmation #: P3516100
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/17/06.

1:45 PM arrival
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Book Signing

WALDENBOOKS
Southgate Mall
2901 Brooks St
Missoula, MT 59801
Contact: Susan Drennison
406-549-1375

7:15 PM arrival
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Reading & Signing

CHAPTER ONE BOOK STORE
252 Main St
Hamilton, MT 59840
Contact: Russ Lawrence
406-363-5220

MONTANA
Monday, July 17

Hotel (1 Night):
The Davenport Hotel
10 South Post St.
Spokane, WA 99201
Phone: 509-455-8888
Fax: 509-624-4455
Confirmation #: 100640386
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/18/06.
THE WHISTLING SEASON

Ivan Doig

Contact: Michelle Blankenship
Publicity Manager
Phone: 212-592-1023
Cell: 917-903-4013
michelle.blankenship@harcourt.com

11:15 AM arrival  
COSTCO  
3220 Northern Pacific St  
Missoula, MT 59808  
406-542-3807

(202 min. to Spokane)

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  
Book Signing

SEATTLE
Thursday, July 20

11:45 AM arrival  
COSTCO  
Aurora Avenue  
Seattle, WA

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM  
Book Signing

SALT LAKE CITY
Friday, July 21

Flight:
Delta #1166
Depart Seattle: 9:37 AM  
Arrive Salt Lake City: 12:34 PM
Note: Please take a cab from the airport to your hotel.

Hotel (1 Night): Details tk
Renaissance Stanford Court
905 California St.  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
Phone: 415-989-3500  
Fax: 415-391-0513  
Confirmation #: 81935298
Note: You will be asked for a credit card to cover your incidentals. You SHOULD NOT be asked to pay for room/tax. This reservation is for three (3) nights, checking out on 7/08/06.

6:45 PM arrival  
KING'S ENGLISH BOOK SHOP  
1511 S 1500 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105
Contact: Anne Holman  
801-484-9100  
books@kingsenglish.com

Ask bookstore to escort author to and from event.

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THE WHISTLING SEASON
Ivan Doig

Contact: Michelle Blankenship
Publicity Manager
Phone: 212-592-1023
Cell: 917-903-4013
michelle.blankenship@harcourt.com

MONTANA
Saturday, July 22

Flight:
Delta #3941
Depart Salt Lake City: 9:42 AM
Arrive Billings: 11:00 AM
Note: Please take a cab from your hotel to the airport.

Hotel (1 Night):
Dude Rancher Lodge
415 North 29th St.
Billins, MT 59101
Phone: 406-259-5561
Fax: 406-259-0095
Confirmation #:
This reservation is for one (1) night, checking out on 7/23/06.

1:45 PM arrival
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Book Signing

COSTCO
2290 King Ave West
Billings, MT 59102
406-652-9470

7:30 PM arrival
8:00 PM
Featured Speaker

HIGH PLAINS BOOKFEST
Alberta Bair Theater
Billings, MT
Contact: Corby Skinner
406-294-2390

MONTANA
Sunday, July 23

Flight:
Delta #3938
Depart Billings: 1:00 PM
Arrive Salt Lake City: 2:17 PM
Flight:
Delta #818
Depart Salt Lake City: 3:10 PM
Arrive Seattle: 4:12 PM

Page 14 of 14, 06/09/06
one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity manager, Harcourt

Michelle, good Monday morning again--

Hey, we dodged another bullet, huh? A Washington D. C. friend read me the Washington Post review over the phone yesterday and I couldn’t have asked for better. I would dearly love a copy of that, if you have one by now; I’ll try to call you between 10:30 and 11, your time, this morning before Carol takes me to the airport, to see if you can fax me the review and to touch base generally.

For you and the Philly escort, here are my Philadelphia intentions for tomorrow. I’m getting on line at Independence Hall at 8 a.m.--I have a reservation for the 9 a.m. tour--and after that and whatever other sightseeing I can squeeze into the morning, I’m going to try to have an early lunch at the hotel restaurant, Azalea. (I’ll check in by phone with you then, too, to see if there are any details on the Washington Post radio show situation in Boston.) I’m then available to the escort if there is any stock signing to be done; I can’t imagine there will be much if any, but what do I know?

If the escort and I are out together there in the forepart of the afternoon and we get our chores done in time, I would dearly love a quick look at the Andrew Wyeth retrospective at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. It might not be possible, I realize; in any case, I need to be back at the hotel by about 3:30, or 4 at the latest. My wife’s cousin, Roger Dean--cell phone (215)518-0702, for the comfort of you and the escort--is picking me up at 4:30, we’ll eat and chat early, and make sure to be at the Free Library well ahead of the 7 p.m. event. As I told you on the phone, I would like the escort on hand to help with the book signing and take me back to the hotel.

Let me know pronto if you see any problems with this. Talk to you soon, I hope.
12 June ‘06

one-page fax to George Carroll

George, hi--

Please excuse the chatter of a fax at this time of day, but I leave for the East Coast leg of the book tour in about an hour and this is my best shot at catching you up on a few details here in our home country. Things have gone really well at local signings: 200 in the audience at Elliott Bay, 98 at U Book Store, 250 at Third Place. Here are a few logistics, out of that and the area signings yet to come, I wanted to pass along:

--The Edmonds bookstore sold 68 at that signing--I think 80 overall, and that was ten days ago--so Mary Kay was already thinking about restocking, if you want to check her on that.

--Similarly, Third Place had only 15 or so in stock for me to sign, after we sold 65 at the signing. There and Edmonds both, I can drop by and sign up whatever they reorder.

--Jane Leforgue (sp?) of Fireside in Olympia brought 55 books to my house for signing; she has a son to visit in Seattle now, and so she may repeat that maneuver. (Selling books without leaving the house is a concept I quite like.)

--I am able to accommodate Snow Goose, with a stop by at 2 p.m. on the day of the Bellingham signing, July 7.

--I offered to sign up stock for ParkPlace if they could bring ‘em to my Seattle Public Library speaking gig on June 2, but they didn’t manage to get the books there. Strange. Friends tell me Rebecca Willow is passionately hand-selling the book.

I think that’s it for now, George. Thanks for all the support of the book; things are going really well on the tour.

Best,

[Signature]
one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity manager, Harcourt

Michelle, good Monday morning as I wax my wings to fly to San Francisco--

We had another storeful at the Edmonds bookshop: advance orders and the crowd in the store added up to 68 Whistlings sold. Overall, that small store now has sold 80 of its initial order of 120 books; Mary Kay, the owner, said she thought she had ordered enough to last through Christmas, but is pretty sure she'll need to order more. So, good news there.

Also, the book is #2 on the Seattle Times local bestseller list yesterday.

And a small stroke of luck came our way Saturday night when the book's dedicatees, friends for eons, took Carol and me to the baseball game (the woeful Seattle Mariners pounded the unutterably woeful Kansas City team) in his law firm's suite seats, and among the regional newspaper executives also invited was the city editor of the small daily that serves the area of our four July 7-8 signings--Mount Vernon etc. He offered to have his paper, the Skagit (pronounced Skadge-it if you're ever on the phone with anybody from the paper) Valley Herald, do a phone interview with me, for a feature piece on the Thursday ahead of the appearances. This guy is a big-league journalist--former feature writer for the Seattle Times who once did the best profile of Ken Kesey I ever saw--who retired to the Skagit Valley and is running this small daily just to be doing something. We need to get a copy of Whistling to him pronto, please:

Dick Clever
City Editor, Skagit Valley Herald
1010 E. College Way
Mount Vernon WA 98237

As to the interview time, I've dropped him a note suggesting either June 20 or 21, 2 p.m., and he's to call and leave a message with Carol as to his preference. I sent him my bio sheet and the PW review, and your phone number and e-mail; if you see any need to follow up with him, his phone is (360)416-2143.

There are, incidentally, two other newspapers up there that ought to be nudged to do similar interviews ahead of those signings: the Anacortes American, which has done a nice job in the past, and the Bellingham Herald, a sleepy chain paper (Gannett) that is hard to rouse. An angle for the Herald may be that reception Village Books is throwing before the reading; it's for a well-known local group called the Whatcom Conservancy, and I once wrote the foreword for a land-preservation book they did. You could try the angle that I have contributed appearances to the Nature Conservancy in Montana and Utah and am coming to Bellingham to do that very thing; Chuck Robinson at Village Books will have full particulars on the Whatcom Conservancy and the reception.

All for now. Talk to you from the road, somehow, sometime, this week.
one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity manager, Harcourt

Michelle, hi--

A few quick bullet points about The Sea Runners that you might apply on Jeff Baker at the Oregonian, if need be, as he scouts our paperbacks for a readers’ book club choice:

--The plot involves Oregon, as the characters aim their canoe escape from Russian Alaska to Astoria, at the mouth of the Columbia River.

--The Sea Runners was the first fiction I ever wrote, and I kept a journal of my work on the book, i.e. conscious decisions about plot, character, turns of language. I can bring a few examples to the interview; it’s an unusual chance for him to see what a writer was up to, at given places in the novel.

--Although it’s maybe a bit overshadowed by my “Montana” reputation, it’s a popular book; our new edition will be its 28th printing in paperback, it was a NY Times Book Review “notable book of the year,” and the movie rights to it have been bought.

In setting up a June 8 interview time with Jeff, the media escort could take me to the Oregonian building right after I check in at the Westin Portland, which should get us to Jeff between 2 and 2:30. Or if he needs a more precise time, he could meet me at the hotel at 3.

Appreciated your update on tour matters last night. If I don’t talk to you before you head to Ohio over the Memorial Day stint, I hope all that goes as well as possible.

Best,
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- July 1: Salt Lake (Kings English)
- July 15: Salt Lake
- July 20-22: Billings, High Plains Book Fair
one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity manager, Harcourt

Michelle, howdy--

PEOPLE pics: Carol got half a dozen pretty good ones of me in yesterday’s camera session, and there’s an interesting one of me at the National Homestead Monument ceremony. We’ll have prints and the negatives by 10 this morning, our time, and I can FedEx ‘em to you for tomorrow morning; so if you’ll hang onto the trio of pics you’re receiving this morning and then pass the whole schmear along to PEOPLE, they’d have a selection of about a dozen to choose from—‘if that doesn’t satisfy them, I don’t know what the hell will.

If humanly possible, Carol and I want the negatives back when and if PEOPLE is ever done with them

Best,

[Signature]
Tom Nolan
11/96/3, 22nd Lts tour; 10th 1/ back tour in
some stores
Ross Macdonald/Ing
Lee Berman/
Baron Schnell, org. Baskell
Michelle 5/2

2 m. in Bozeman
Nolan early arrival
Seattle - Calgary - Wh'peg
Contea Bellumg - need Yampa

Bressing 300 wk / 30 min
- publ ABA newsletter (Bootsno / June)
- all indept

Tom Nolan/WSJ - Eudora Welty
Th. 10:30 - (818) 500-8240
NY:

Elsdale

Bum's head

Pdx. 503 279-6375
one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity manager, Harcourt

Michelle, hit--

A couple of quick early morning (okay, maybe middle-of-the-night) thoughts about travel details:

Getting me to Philadelphia: if it would cut appreciable time, two or three hours, off that now-scheduled trip by way of Houston, I’d be game to fly to D.C on Alaska Airlines instead, and then take a flight to Philadelphia (that’d be a short one, aisle coach seat would be fine). Or go by Carey car if that’s cheaper? It simply strikes me that we’d get an Alaska round-trip deal that way, Seattle-D.C.-Seattle, and maybe I wouldn’t have to be in an airplane daylong; I really would like to get into Philadelphia in afternoon or early evening, rather than 11:25 p.m., too.

If for some reason this or some other alternative to Houston isn’t feasible, of course I can put up with the Houston diagonal for the sake of first-class.

The Diane Rehm show, and the somewhat close margin of arrival on June 15: I would be game to fly out of Boston to D.C. the night before (after the Newtonville book signing) if there’s any flight schedule that would reasonably fit. Or as I think I’ve said, an earlier flight the morn of June 15 is fine with me, I am an early guy. Tell me if I’m fretting too much about this, but since this is our one national gig, I just don’t want anything (like a delayed flight) to go wrong with it.

All best,

[Signature]
US Airways Flt #782

lv. Sea 6:30 a.m. arr Philadelphia 2:36 p.m. nonstop

one-way coach $215.30 T.I
bsns 559.30 T.I and space available

Alaska miles do not apply.

Aisle seat in business class?

(United quoted 1st class on this flt at $1631.30, but nearly everything else she told me was wrong, so should be checked w/ U.S. Airways.)
15 May '06

one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity manager, Harcourt

Michelle, good Monday morning--

Let's see if we can cut this knot about my flight to Philadelphia that's driving us all crazy, this way:

US Airways flt #782, nonstop, lv Seattle 6:30 a.m. arr Philly 2:36 p.m. (June 12) one-way business class $559.30 tax included; space was avbl as of Friday, please get me an aisle seat.

The price difference between this and the coach fare of $215.30 is $344, which if necessary I am willing to pay myself in order to get my flimsy knees there in decent shape. If it's the simplest way to handle the money, I am even willing to book the flight myself and simply add whatever Harcourt's share is onto my eventual out-of-pocket expenses of the boektour. In any case, we ought to nail down this available flight and seat as quickly as humanly possible, so that it doesn't get away.

There, how's that? Sorry that the frequent-flyer upgrade notion didn't work out for the convenience of everyone involved, but after talking with you Friday afternoon I did a round of phone calls to check on my available airline miles and pin #s and so forth, and to cut a long tedious story short, the only viable amount of frequent flyer miles I currently have is on Alaska Airlines which doesn't fly to Philly. So, US Airways as per above, please please please?

Best,
Dear Michelle--

Here you go, the further batch of pics to lay on *People*.

A quick thought on review copies: when you get to sending ’em out, there are a couple of freelance reviewers at this end of the country who know my stuff and have treated it well: Jo-Ann Swanson in Montana, and Ellen Emerey Heltzel, formers books editor at the *Oregonian*, in Portland. If you could send them books, that would be great, and I’d advise including Rick Bass’s immortal *PW* one (I’m enclosing a couple of the pristine photocopies I had made for my own nefarious purposes) along with the book, to try set these reviewers on the right path; Jo-Ann in particular, while she has been splendid to my books in the Great Falls *Tribune* and elsewhere, sometimes has a tough time believing that a guy she knows can be that good. Sorry I don’t have a current address for Ellen, but Jo-Ann’s is:

Jo-Ann Swanson  
468 Big Lodge Road  
Rollins MT 59931-9741

The *Oregonian* mention above reminds me: it’s been several books since they did an interview with me, despite Portland and Oregon generally being one of the very best markets for my books. Jeff Baker or whoever the current books editor is ought to be leaned on, ahead of the Powell’s signing.

Along with the packet for *People*, I’m sending you a set of Carol’s latest pics of yrs truly in case you see any use for them.

All for now,
13 April '06

one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity, Harcourt

Michelle, hi--

Just wanted to pass along a phone number for most of next week in case you really, really, really need to reach me: (503) 436-1097. It'll be an answering machine for the Nelson family, in a beach house on the Oregon coast that they loan to Carol and me every year for our anniversary.

Our intention is to be there April 17-19, drive home on the 20th, and be back here at the desk, checking phone messages etc. on Friday the 22nd.

Best,

[Signature]
Ivan Doig

17277 15th Avenue N.W., Seattle, Washington 98177
(206) 542-6658

28 March ’06

one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity, Harcourt

Michelle, good morning--

After we talked on the phone yesterday and I had a chance to go over the booktour logistics with my wife the more astute travel planner, here are a few refinements which would improve my life on the trail:

**San Francisco:** Please ask the Stanford Court for a high east-facing room. I’ve stayed there a number of times on booktours and the SF Arts & Lectures series, and the hotel has been good about putting my writerly self up there where I can see out (rather than inward to the claustrophobic “court” where rooms face each other).

--I am going on old memory and suspicion here, but to play it safe I think I’d prefer some other escort than Naomi Eppel; if I’m right, she was once drastically late in picking me up to get me across the Bay to Black Oak. (If she’s the person who did a book on writers and their dreams, it was definitely her.) Don’t hold this suspicion against her if you’ve had good luck with her, but long rememberer that I am, I’d just feel better in other hands. I don’t suppose Lynn Korman is still escorting? She was great.

--The last plane leg of that trip, Portland to Seattle, June 9: please try for an arrival into Seattle around 10 a.m. or pretty soon after that, so I can get some rest at home before that night’s University Book Store event. In this instance, Alaska Airline’s commuter line, Horizon, is perfectly fine if it fits the schedule handily.

**The Benjamin:** whatever NY guidebooks Carol has been consulting say it is one of the highest occupancy rate hotels in NY, so maybe it ought to be booked pronto?

That should do it. Thanks, Michelle.

Best,

[Signature]
3 Nov. ‘05

two-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity, Harcourt

Michelle, hi again--

Here’s some good news from Thom Chambliss, who runs the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association. As you know, I took the initiative and sent Thom a ms copy of *The Whistling Season* some time back, on the hunch that it wouldn’t hurt to try to edge in ahead of the autumn traffic of advanced reading copies.

It seems to have worked, and now I guess we need to play it with a straight face, with you going through whatever motions you ordinarily would to seek me a speaker’s slot at the PNBA spring trade show, hmm? (Probably routinely send him a *Whistling Season* ARC, which he would then have as ammunition on any of his committee members he has to work on, do you think?) You’ll recall that the trade show is right here in Seattle, March 16-18, so it’s an easy shot for me.

Can’t recall if I told you the other ms copy I launched into the world also paid off, in Sun Valley during that Trailing of the Sheep Festival I spoke at; Jyl Hoyt of Boise Public Radio, one of the top NPR interviewers in the West, taped a *Whistling Season* interview with me that she’ll hold on to until the book is in the stores. Given the attention I’ve had in Idaho this fall with the pair of speaking gigs, that can’t hurt either.

Last thing: when you get a chance, Michelle, could you give me an approximate schedule, by phone or fax, of how my book tour looks to you by now? As you have maybe heard, my trip to Montana last month produced an idea for a big World War II novel that Becky is excited about, and I’ll need to get back there for a stint of research sometime next summer. It would help my planning, in all ways, to know if and when I might fit that in, given the Montana proportions of the tour—ten days needed for that day-by-day schedule I’ve sketched out for us with those bookstores, remember, and evidently a separate plane trip to the High Plains Book Fair in Billings (paid for by them) July 21-22, with a logical stopover in Salt Lake City for a King’s English signing. Plus, of course, what you’re setting up elsewhere in the country.

How’d the sales conference go? Any vibes for or against us?

Best,

[Signature]

Ivan Doig
5 Oct. '05

one-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity, Harcourt

Michelle, hi--

I imagine you're going to be deep in sales conference the rest of this week, but just in case you need to know my whereabouts:

--Departing tomorrow at 2 p.m., Seattle time, for speaking gig, two book signings, etc. at the Trailing of the Sheep Festival in Sun Valley, Idaho, on the 7th and 8th. In a real pinch, you can try me at the Best Western Kentwood Lodge in Ketchum (208) 726-4114, or via the cell phone of the person escorting me to events, Diane Peavey, (208) 481-1484.

Will be back here at the desk and phone as usual Monday the 10th, for the foreseeable future.

Best,

[Ivan's signature]
13 Sept. '05

two-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity, Harcourt

Dear Michelle--

I'm about to become a moving target, with the speaking gig in Idaho and a Montana trip tacked onto that, that, so here are phone numbers and a few strategic addresses if you desperately have to reach me while I'm away. Otherwise, I'll be back here, business as usual, Monday, Sept. 26.

All best,

[Signature]
six-page fax to Becky Saletan, editor in chief, Harcourt

Becky, good morning--

I absolutely promise not to inflict every jot, tittle, wart, and crazybone of the Whistling Season booktour scheduling on you, but I thought you might get a kick out of this Montana mini-tour I’ve worked up for Michelle to plug into her calendar. These stores which time after time have ordered a hundred to three hundred books apiece and sold ‘em like mad at my signings are the most stable part of the book business I’m ever around; it’s kind of refreshing despite being a helluva lot of work.

And note my forthcoming appearance at the unlikely festival in Sun Valley, Idaho, centering on This House of Sky and its pages devoted to sheep. Don’t you think Harcourt should be represented at such an august event by, say, the editor in chief? Or does Andre do the sheep festivals?

Best,

Ivan
booktour points to Becky, Sept. 30 ‘05

I think I see how we can keep both your promotion budget and my gimpy knees intact. Among other things I’m going to woo you with frequent flier miles, but I’m going to try a little logic too. Okay, here goes;

--The more I think about it, the more problems I have with breaking a flight to the East Coast with a Chicago stopover: it means one more big airport and set of lines to stand in, general wear and tear, and previous stopovers in Chicago haven’t paid off well in either books sold at signings or publicity. Seems to me our main point had better be to get me to the East Coast in one shot, in as fresh a condition as possible, and shuttle the hell out of me.

--So: Alaska Airlines has two non-stop flights a day, Seattle into Newark. The difference between coach and first-class is $560, and I have about 55,000 frequent flyer miles to put toward first-class. Carol, who’s the one in the household who has any kind of magic touch at travel planning, called and found out that 40,000 miles would upgrade to first-class. The kicker is to find a flight, and day of the week and so forth, where they’ll let us apply those miles. Michelle’s travel people would have to work that out for us, but I’m game to put up with any schedule, coming and going, for the sake of a first-class seat across the country where I can get those legs stretched out and sleep and so on.

--This would give us the added advantage of getting me into more East Coast markets if wanted, like Washington, DC. That’s always been one of the best stops on the tour, for me--I’ve done really well at Politics and Prose, and noonhour signings downtown at Olsson’s, and the Washington Post and USA Today have treated my books well and I’ve had personal contact with both those book editors, and I’ve been on the Diane Rehm book show, and so on. It just seems to me that’s a lot more promising venue than anything in the middle of the country.

Other stuff, on other legs of the tour:

--I’m going to try to save your budget a plane ticket to Salt Lake City. Michelle says she wants to send me to the terrific bookstore, The King’s English, there, and she was going to add it to the Denver leg. But I’ll see if I can couple it with that Billings book festival I told you about, and try to get a ticket out of them that would take me through Salt Lake City--I think that’s probably the route into Billings anyway.

--The San Francisco leg: I really, really want Carol along on that. We’ll of course pay her plane fare and so on, but I’d like for her to hitchhike on my lodging there and be in on things. She’ll have been an unpaid literary escort on nearly everything I do here in Washington and Oregon and Montana, and San Francisco is the only part of the tour out of the region she gets a kick out of. So, I’d alert Michelle to that if it’s okay by you.

[Handwritten note:
"edit: Author Appearances on reading copy
back cover?

Should I run this by Michelle, or do you want to
- is there a meeting...?"
Ivan Doig; *The Whistling Season*
Montana Book Tour, preferred days of the week for each store

**Monday**

Spokane

media interviews to be arranged:
--Dan Webster at Spokane Spokesman-Review
--noon TV show?
--check with Lois Hughes at Auntie's for further media

7:30-9 PM reading/signing  
**Auntie's Bookstore**
402 W. Main
Spokane, WA 99201
Contact: Lois Hughes
Tel: 509/838-0206

→ Hotel: Davenport
Tel: 509/455-8888

**Tuesday**

Missoula

media interviews to be arranged:
--The Missoulian
--KUFM public radio
--KPAX morning or noon show?
--check with Barbara Theroux at Fact & Fiction for further media

7:30-9 PM reading/signing  
**Fact & Fiction**
220 N. Higgins
Missoula, MT 59802
Contact: Barbara Theroux
Tel: 406/721-2881

→ Hotel: Doubletree Missoula/Edgewater
100 Madison
Missoula MT 59802
Tel: 406/728-3100
Request room 336

**Wednesday**

Kalispell

media interviews to be done by phone prior to trip
--possible newspapers: Kalispell Inter-Lake
    Hungry Horse News
--check with Jo Ann Jensen about possible radio interviews

11:00-1:00 reading/signing  
**Books West**
Kalispell, MT
Contact: Jo Ann Jensen
Tel: 406/752-6956
Hotel: Stage Stop Inn  
Choteau, MT 59422  
Tel: 406/466-5900 or 888-466-5900.  
Request: 2 beds, non-smoking

Thursday

Great Falls

media interviews to be arranged:  
--Great Falls Tribune by phone prior to trip  
--KRTV, live that morning

2-3 PM  
& 6-7 PM signing

Waldenbooks

Holiday Village  
contact: Joan Seiler  
Tel: 406/453-2202

Hotel***  
***staying with friends:  
Wayne & Genise Arnst  
Tel: 406/727-9550

Friday

Helena

media interviews to be done by phone prior to trip  
--Helena Independent-Record  
--check with Didi Pescia about possible radio & TV interviews

12-1 PM  
& 5-6 PM signing

Montana Book Company  
331 N. Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, MT  
Contact: Didi Pescia  
Tel: 406/443-0260

Hotel***  
***staying with friends.  
Dave and Marcella Walter  
Tel: 406/442-0306.

Saturday

Bozeman

media interviews to be done by phone prior to trip  
-- Bozeman Chronicle  
--check with Mary Jane DiSanti about possible radio interviews
afternoon, 2 hrs of their choice reading/signing

**Country Book Shelf**
28 W. Main St.
Bozeman, MT
Contact: Mary Jane DiSanti
Tel: 406/587-0166

Hotel: Hampton Inn.
75 Baxter Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
Tel: 406/522-8000 or 800-426-7866.
Request: 2 beds, non-smoking

**Sunday**
Missoula and Hamilton

2-3 PM signing

**Waldenbooks**
Southgate Mall
Missoula MT 59801
Contact: Susan Dennison
Tel: 406/549-1375

Depart Missoula for Hamilton (50 miles) at 3 p.m.

7:30-9 PM reading/signing

**Chapter One**
252 Main St.
Hamilton, MT
Contact: Russ Lawrence or Jean Matthews
Tel: 406/363-5220

Hotel: Bitterroot River Inn
Tel: 406/375-2525

**Monday**
Missoula

11:30-1 PM signing

**COSTCO**
drive to Spokane for the night

Hotel: Davenport
Tel: 509/455-8888

**Tuesday**
drive home from Spokane to Seattle.
seven-page fax to Michelle Blankenship, publicity, Harcourt

Michelle, good morning--

After we talked on the phone yesterday, I made a couple of quick calls to local bookstores and trusted to intuition and past experience on some others, so here's your booktour calendar back with my Puget Sound-area suggestions added. (These would be evening events unless I've indicated otherwise.)

--We lucked out with Elliott Bay for June 1, Rick Simonson tells me there's no dreaded baseball game. This seems to me the most logical kickoff event for the book; I've always drawn good crowds at El Bay, and the sell-through has been historically strong at that store.

--June 3, the Edmonds store ten minutes from my house, I think will slip in a good signing for us ahead of bigger, more customary venues; on my last book, this store sold 44 at the signing and more than 70 overall. The contact there is the owner, Mary Kay Sneeringer (425) 775-2789; her husband, David Brewster, was once publisher at I think Houghton Mifflin.

--June 9-10, I bunched these two big Seattle stores--University Book Store and Third Place--and while they may not like it, let's try to make them swallow it. Back-to-back nights of reading/signing gives my usual audience at these venues their choice, and all we care is that they turn out at one or the other.

--I think we have to utterly avoid the long 4th of July stretch of days--starting with June 30, really--because people aren't going to be focused on going indoors to bookstores. Consequently, I suggest July 5 for Eagle Harbor; July 6 for the Costco mother-ship store in Issaquah, and July 20 for the Costco Aurora Avenue store, which is just a few minutes from my house and easily done before that final leg of travel to Salt Lake and Billings.

--Bellingham etcetera: let's try to nail them down for July 7-8 as I've indicated. There are actually three stores up in that corner of Puget Sound country that have long been loyal supporters of my books, ordering strongly and getting exceptional sell-through. Carol and I can accommodate them on a driving trip, by repeating what we've done numerous times in the past, thusly:

July 7, 2-3 signing at Watermark Book Company, Anacortes. Contact: Patti Pattee (360)293-4277.

7:30 p.m., reading/signing at Village Books, Bellingham.

Overnight at Channel Lodge, in the little town of LaConner, handy to the next day's event in Mount Vernon; the place has been good about giving publishers a business rate
and we save the cost of a meal or two by staying there. Phone (888)466-4113; fax (306)466-1525

July 8, noon hour reading/signing at Scott’s Bookstore, Mount Vernon. Contact: Megan (pronounced MEE-gun) O’Brien (360)336-6181.

I realize this is a fairly tight and busy schedule, but that’s nothing new with my booktours, and I think we both see some advantage to confining it to those two months. If the past is any guide, we’re likely to get requests from more stores, particularly in the Seattle area and Oregon, but I’d like to hold it to these if we possibly can. Anybody we miss this time, we can promise to try to cut them a break on the paperback tour, I guess?

A few last things:

--I looked back over Portland results on my last tour, and let’s go with Powell’s; they turned out a full house last time and the signing was pretty good, 40 hardbacks sold. The Borders store I told you about, in the Portland suburbs of Tigard (pronounced TIE-gerd), could be considered if it fits comfortably in the travel schedule from San Francisco and any media stuff you may have for me in Portland. On my last tour, we drew a noonhour standing-room crowd of about a hundred and sold three dozen hardbacks and quite a few paperbacks. That Borders store was unusually promotional, I think with a newsletter, a regular schedule of readings etc., and it would have to be checked that they would support the event the same way they have in the past.

--Accommodations: just to make sure you have it handy, I’m sending along the Montana tour outline I drew up for you, with indicative arrows where Carol and I will need reservations made by you (although we’re game to pay as necessary along the way and be reimbursed; however you want to do it). Those need to be done probably by May, so we don’t lose out to the tourist season. On all those, as with the Channel Lodge in LaConner, we need two beds, non-smoking.

All for now. I think the tour schedule is looking good. I’ll be gone the rest of the day after I fax this in, but am around beyond that if you need to reach me.

Best,

[Signature]
May 18, 2006

Dear Ivan:

Thank you for taking the time to participate in our author interview for HarcourtBooks.com. The interview will be posted on the site in June.

As you know, we give away signed books from our featured author. Readers register to win a signed book, and we draw five random winners. I know you will be embarking on a large tour to support *The Whistling Season*, so I am sending you these books to you now for your autograph. I need them returned to me by early July.

Please take a moment to sign these books and return them to my attention. I’ve enclosed a prepaid FedEx label. Please reuse the box by attaching the included label. You can drop the package off at any FedEx Kinko’s location. You can also schedule a pick by phone at 800-463-3339, or online at www.fedex.com (click “Ship” then “Schedule a Pickup”).

Thank you in advance for taking the time to reach out to your readers. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me.

Sincerely,

Roseleigh Navarre
Internet Marketing Coordinator
Harcourt Trade Publishers
525 B Street, Suite 1900
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(619) 699-6331
Roseleigh.navarre@harcourt.com