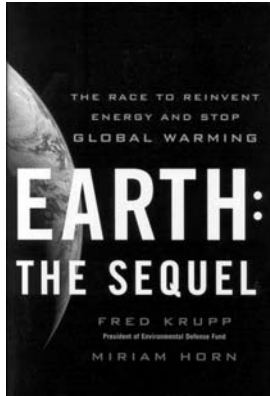


**Earth: The Sequel**, by Fred Krupp and Miriam Horn (279 pages, March 2008), asserts



that there is one way to encourage market forces to develop the new technologies essential to slow global warming effectively: entrepreneurial environmentalism. A carbon emissions cap-and-trade system

could provide economic incentives to venture capitalists willing to invest in alternative energy development. Innovative solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, biofuel, and other solutions await the right combination of policy and financing, as Krupp and Horn optimistically demonstrate in several chapters that showcase some of the visionaries behind these projects. Krupp is the president of the nonprofit advocacy group Environmental Defense Fund, which has had many lobbying successes over the years, from the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 to California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Probably this appeal to America's corporate self-interest is the only way for us to cut emissions by 80 percent over the next 50 years. \$24.95. W. W. Norton. 978-0-393-06690-6.

**The Execution of Willie Francis**, by Gilbert King (362 pages, March 2008), examines the facts of the case of Willie Francis, a black teenager sentenced to death for a murder he may not have committed (at least in the first degree) in 1944 in St. Martinsville, Louisiana. Because the execution in the cumbersome electric chair nicknamed Gruesome Gertie was botched by drunken prison guards, Willie survived. Public outcry pre-

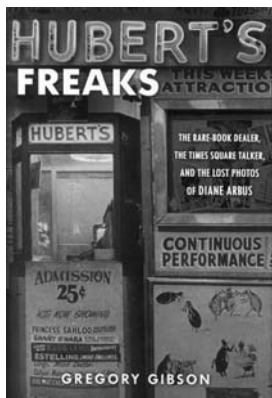
vented another try the following week and a sympathetic lawyer, Bertrand DeBlanc, took his case all the way to the Supreme Court on the grounds that he had already gone through cruel and unusual punishment. The sharply divided court rejected the appeal 5-4, and Willie went back to the chair in 1947. King explains this long-forgotten case compellingly and puts it in the context of the early civil rights struggle. The Supreme Court did not decide a similar case again until April 16, 2008, when it ruled 7-2 in *Baze v. Rees* that lethal injection was not cruel or unusual. \$26.00. Basic Civitas Books. 978-0-465-00265-8.

**The Guadalcanal Air War**, by Jefferson J. DeBlanc (240 pages, May 2008), is the author's personal memoir of his days as a top-gun Marine pilot during two tours of combat in Guadalcanal in 1942-1943, as well as other action in the Pacific Theater. DeBlanc (who won both a Medal of Honor and Navy Cross) recounts his experiences surviving in the jungle with the help of Solomon Islands Coastwatchers after he was shot down by a Japanese Zero near the island of Kolombangara. In addition to his wartime narrative, DeBlanc describes his feelings on returning to the islands to take part in the dedication of the Guadalcanal Memorial in 1992. Sadly, he passed away just six months before this book was published. \$24.95. Pelican. 978-1-58980-587-3.

**Hubert's Freaks**, by Gregory Gibson (274 pages, April 2008), sports one of the most intriguing subtitles in recent history: *The Rare-Book Dealer, the Times Square Talker, and the Lost Photos of Diane Arbus*. The book revolves around Hubert's Museum, a sideshow attraction on 42nd Street (located where Madame Tussaud's is now) in business from 1926 to 1965 that featured a sea circus, a snake dancer, a sword swallower, and such human oddities as Seal the

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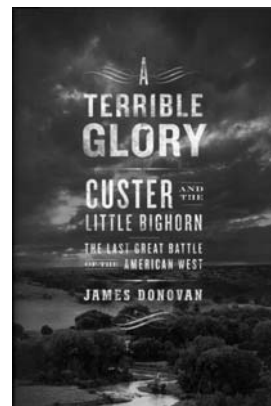
Seal Boy, Melvin Burkhart (the Anatomical Wonder), the Human Canary, and the World's Tallest Cowboy. In the 1960s it was managed by the exuberant Charlie Lucas, whose papers, pamphlets, and photos lingered in storage after his death in 1993 until they were acquired by a Brooklyn vendor in 2002. Philadelphia rare-book dealer Bob Langmuir purchased the collection in 2003 for \$3,500 and was surprised to find some unknown photos by Diane Arbus, who had done some of her best work with Hubert's freaks. Gibson paints a vivid picture of this lost subculture of strangeness that thrived less than two blocks away from the New York Public Library. This fascinating saga has an unresolved coda: Langmuir was to have auctioned off the now-authenticated Arbus photos in April 2008, but the Brooklyn vendor sued him for underpayment and the sale was canceled. \$24.00. Harcourt. 978-0-15-101233-6.

**Lies My Teacher Told Me**, by James W. Loewen (444 pages, 2d ed., April 2008), has been thoroughly updated from the 1995 edition and is well worth an upgrade. Loewen tears apart the inaccuracies in six new high-school history textbooks that he analyzed in 2006–2007 and adds a chapter on Choosing Not to Look at the War in Vietnam and sections on the Iraq Wars and the war on terrorism. But even with the worst textbooks, good teachers can make history interesting, Loewen argues, by teaching against the texts, by adding multicultural elements where none exist, and encouraging critical thinking and open debate among their students. This is a crucial step, because two-sixths of all Americans never take a history course after high school and may well be ill-equipped to analyze and understand controversial political and social

issues. \$26.95. New Press. 978-1-59558-326-0.

**A Terrible Glory: Custer and the Little Bighorn, the Last Great Battle of the American West**, by James

Donovan (528 pages, March 2008), tells the story of the campaign, the battle, and the aftermath with admirable clarity and objectivity, quarantining the numerous Custer controversies within 180 pages



of footnotes to keep the narrative flowing smoothly. Donovan bases his interpretation of the battle on his critical assessment of the oft-conflicting primary sources, memoirs, Indian accounts, and archaeological evidence that resists reconciliation. He carefully uses quoted dialogue only when it's taken from accounts by eyewitnesses or those who interviewed them, and pays close attention to the sequence of events, at the same time injecting color into the background and personalities of the major participants. \$26.99. Little, Brown. 978-0-316-15578-6.

Librarians wishing to amplify their Little Bighorn collections should also consider *Stricken Field: The Little Bighorn* since 1876 (University of Oklahoma, April 2008), which focuses on the preservation and memorialization controversies surrounding the battle site; *Lakota Noon*, by Gregory Michno (Mountain Press, 1998), an analysis of all the known Indian narratives; *Archaeology, History, and Custer's Last Battle*, by Richard Allan Fox Jr. (University of Oklahoma, 1993), a detailed site survey that lends credence to the theory that the Little Bighorn was more rout than last stand; *The Custer Myth*, by William A. Graham (new ed., Stackpole, 2000), a compilation of primary sources; and *Custer and the Battle of the Little Bighorn*, by Thom Hatch (paperback ed., McFarland, 2000), a nicely illustrated encyclopedia. ♪