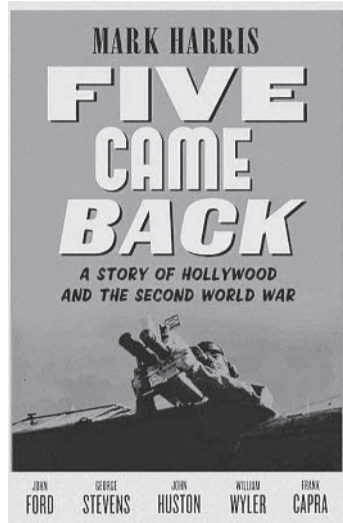


BOOKS

**A Reader's Corner
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2044 Frankfort Ave.
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WHAT'S HOT



Five Came Back: A Story of Hollywood and the Second World War by Mark Harris, Penguin Press, 528 pp., \$29.95

A meticulous examination of the uneasy alliance between Hollywood and Washington during wartime, seen through the lives of five of Hollywood's greatest directors of the period: John Ford, William Wyler, John Huston, Frank Capra and George Stevens. An enthralling read for both history lovers and movie buffs, fairly bursting with fascinating tales.

NATIONAL BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. **The Undead Pool** by Kim Harrison
2. **The Goldfinch** by Donna Tartt
3. **The Chace** by Janet Evanovich and Lee Goldberg
4. **Private L.A.** by James Patterson and Mark Sullivan
5. **Concealed in Death** by J.D. Robb

NONFICTION

1. **The Future of the Mind** by Michio Kaku
2. **Unbroken** by Laura Hillenbrand
3. **David and Goliath** by Malcolm Gladwell
4. **Killing Jesus** by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard
5. **The Sixth Extinction** by Elizabeth Kolbert

From the March 16 issue of *The New York Times Book Review*.

LOCAL BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. **The Goldfinch** by Donna Tartt
2. **The Things We Do for Women** by Seth Johnson
3. **The Round House** by Louise Erdrich
4. **The Invention of Wings** by Sue Monk Kidd
5. **The Fault in Our Stars** by John Green

NONFICTION

1. **The News: A User's Manual** by Alain De Botton
 2. **The Cornbread Mafia** by James Higdon
 3. **Twelve Years a Slave** by Solomon Northup
 4. **Fightin' Words** by Ryan Clark & Joe Cox
 5. **God for Us** by Greg Pennoyer
- Based on sales at Carmichael's bookstores.

EVENTS

Diana Anosike signs **I'm Winning, iPromise** today from 1 to 3 p.m. at A Reader's Corner, 2044 Frankfort Ave. Pamela Olson discusses **Fast Times in Palestine: A Love Affair with a Homeless Homeland** Sunday at 4 p.m. at Carmichael's bookstore, 2720 Frankfort Ave.

Glenn F. Williams discusses his book **Dunmore's War: The Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era** Wednesday at 6 p.m. at The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. Third St.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

The End of Men and the Rise of Women by Hannah Rosin.
Read Roger K. Miller's review at www.courier-journal.com/books

Authors seek to blame escalating medical costs on nation's inadequate social support system



A FLAWED ARGUMENT ON HEALTH CARE

By Kevin Kavanagh
Special to The Courier-Journal

The American Health Care Paradox" tries to make the case that it is the inadequate social support system in the United States — and not the health care system — that is causing escalating health care costs. The authors point out that the amount of money spent in the United States on social services and health care combined approximates that of other countries and that it is poverty and lack of education of our populace that results in poor health care outcomes. The premise of this argument is undeniable, but its impact on health care expenditures is debatable. The book stresses the importance of public health and has well-written historical reviews along with excellent discussions on integrated and holistic health care.

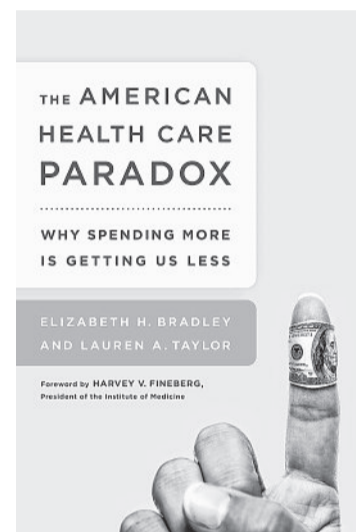
However, the authors dismiss opposing economic views by stating "greedy insurance companies, inefficient and wasteful hospitals and government programs, and skyrocketing costs of pharmaceutical drugs" are political issues of "pundits." This apparent blind endorsement of our health care system perpetuates the status quo and may discourage pa-

tients from scrutinizing the quality and cost of their medical care.

The authors argue that one of the major roles of social service is to lay the socioeconomic framework — through housing, education and employment — to obtain better health outcomes and lower total health care costs. Both the relative size of the disadvantaged population and health care's proclivity to increase total lifetime health care costs mitigates the argument's economic impact. The provision of health care may delay the high cost incurred around the time of death at the expense of prolonged maintenance costs. This may be why Medicare recipients are on guard, lest their access to health care might be cut in an attempt to save money.

Second, the authors describe the U.S. health care system as "leadership in the application of medical care" and list the high rates of cervical cancer screening, orthopedic surgery, MRI scanners along with cardiac surgery, angioplasties and angiography as examples to back up this statement.

However, all of these areas have been prime examples of rampant unnecessary utilization. They later wonder why Scandinavia has not made this investment in utilization when



The American Health Care Paradox: Why Spending More Is Getting Us Less

By Elizabeth H. Bradley and Lauren A. Taylor, PublicAffairs, 272 pp./\$26.99

they have a similar endorsement of technology. One only needs to look at the fiasco in London, Ky. — where allegedly hundreds of unnecessary cardiac procedures were performed — to understand why.

There appears to be a degree of circular reasoning here: The U.S. health care system is good since it is a top utilizer, and thus overutilization is not an important factor.

The Institute of Medicine estimates that one in three dollars (\$750 billion) spent in the U.S. is on unnecessary treatment. The issue of overutilization is so pervasive that the American Board of Internal Medicine and over 50 medical specialty societies have established a Choosing Wisely Campaign (www.choosingwisely.org) which is designed to reduce unnecessary tests and procedures. Finally, the Dartmouth Institutes data is briefly presented in the book, but what was not said is that it supports the problem of overutilization by demonstrating wide variations in Medicare expenditures between different geographic locations with similar socioeconomic characteristics.

I did find overutilization discussed briefly in a section on medical technology where the patient is blamed — "a population that believes a greater use of technology may improve their health outcomes" — and the final chapters of the book where patient demands are identified as a "major driver of costs." Maybe social services will help curb this through further patient education.

Kevin T. Kavanagh is a retired physician from Somerset, Ky.

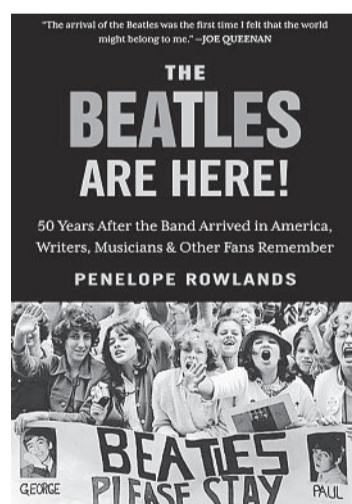
In my life: How Beatles stirred us

By Linda Elisabeth Beattie
Special to The Courier-Journal

Media of all stripes have celebrated the 50th anniversary of "The Ed Sullivan Show" debut of The Beatles and have replayed that revolutionary Fab Four performance to death. Still, Penelope Rowlands' "The Beatles Are Here!: 50 Years After the Band Arrived in America, Writers, Musicians, and Other Fans Remember" includes fresh perspectives on the phenomenal lads from Liverpool and their music that launched baby boomers and their parents into a brave new world.

Forty-five people who say the Beatles helped shape their personal and professional lives contributed their thoughts to Rowlands' tribute. In her introduction, the editor articulates her attraction to her subject by stating, "I listen to the band's songs as I write these words, wondering why they mattered so much then — and do to this day. ... I'm struck by the purity of their early musical offerings, the seductive simplicity of the stories they tell." She adds, "And there it is, in the Beatles' gentle early songs: 'Please Please Me,' 'All My Loving,' you name it. Each is a distinct universe, shiny and pristine, each one a haven. You can walk right in, and be safe.

"Which I think," she adds, "partly explains why these



The Beatles Are Here!: 50 Years After the Band Arrived in America, Writers, Musicians, and Other Fans Remember
Edited by Penelope Rowlands, Algonquin, 288 pp./\$15.95

musicians mattered so much then — and still dominate half a century on. Then it changed just as radically as its audience did, moving through violence, protest, drugs, spiritual awakening, and more. It brought us to the next phase, long before some of us even suspected that change was in the air."

Yet Anne Brown, whom Rowlands terms a "Beatlemaniac," points out, as do other contributors, that contrary to the lyrics of one of the group's most popular songs, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo

Starr "did not want to hold your hand." She notes that the band members' innocent looks belied more delinquent personas. They were, she states, "quite experimental and ingesting everything and they were not what they appeared to be."

But disc jockey "Cousin Bruce" Menow's discussion of how the Beatles and their music evolved suggests that pigeonholing the musicians as naive or wanton is as inaccurate as it is simplistic. He points out that the "band didn't happen overnight. It was a pretty long process, at least several years. John Lennon and Paul McCartney grew up listening to American rock and roll, blues, rhythm and blues, and jazz. They loved our expression of music.

"At first they were replicating American music, they hadn't developed their own style. Then they began taking that music, beginning with rock and roll, and refining it, adding a new energy and excitement to it. ... They refined it and they went wild."

Other essayists, such as composer and songwriter Gabriel Kahane, address the group's talent and musical heritage. He writes, "I think of Paul McCartney as a true craftsman ... John Lennon, too. His approach to lyric writing was probably more intuitive than McCartney's; nevertheless, many of his lyrics have a really satisfying

shape and structure. "She's Leaving Home" comes to mind because the harmonic notes are so beautifully controlled; there's this kind of Schubertian quality to it. It was a favorite of Leonard Bernstein's in his quest to draw a connection between the German lied tradition and Lennon-McCartney."

What's clear in almost all the essays is the profound way in which the Beatles affected the contributors' culture and shaped their worldview. Just as those who first saw the band on Feb. 9, 1964, on "The Ed Sullivan Show" benchmark that night as the date of their coming of age, they recognize that just three months on the heels of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the Beatles struck a mourning nation as harbingers of hope.

Writer Amanda Vaill summarizes the essayists' collective assessment in referring to the bell that rang to summon her and her classmates to bed on that evening. She notes, "We certainly didn't think of it then, but in some ways [that bell] was ringing a funeral knell for one era, our parents', and ushering in a new one, which for better or worse belonged to us."

Linda Elisabeth Beattie, a Louisville writer and reviewer, chairs Spalding University's Adult Accelerated Program.