



BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Our annual list of holiday gift suggestions from distinguished readers and writers.

MICHAEL L. KEISER

Ben Wattenberg is the only author I've read who always writes from facts. He gives you the facts, then forms the obvious conclusion. He's a fact-master. *The First Universal Nation* is a rarity: a book that will enlighten your most opinionated friend, regardless of his persuasion. Deconstructionist English Professor, Labor Lawyer, Commodities Trader, Free-market Environmentalist—this book speaks to all in the spectrum.

P. J. O'Rourke's books *do not*. I loved *Parliament of Whores* and *Holidays in Hell*, but not everyone does. After reading the first four chapters of *Parliament* I sent fifteen copies out as gifts with the promise that "if you don't LOVE this, I'll eat the book." I had several requests to honor the pledge. P. J. is for neo-cons only.

If you think Margaret Thatcher was heroic, *Maggie* by Chris Ogden is the book. I was awed by all the accomplishments of Margaret Thatcher as her career progressed. Then I read *Maggie*.

ALEX KOZINSKI

Andrei Codrescu, *The Hole in the Flag: A Romanian Exile's Story of Return and Revolution*. Codrescu provides a gripping political detective story, using Ceausescu's regime as the background for the dark and still-unsolved mystery of what happened in December 1989.

Peter Huber, *Galileo's Revenge: Junk Science in the Courtroom*. A devastating indictment of the ever-increasing use of "expert" witnesses in trials, and its effects on society.

Walter K. Olson, *The Litigation Explosion: What Happened When America Unleashed the Lawsuit*. How and why Americans are so able and willing to spin the litigation wheel of fortune.

Richard A. Posner, *Cardozo: A Study in Reputation*. Posner delivers a unique combination—part biography of an illustrious jurist, part sociological inquiry into the general meaning of reputation.

Bill Watterson, *Scientific Progress Goes "Boink."* Once again, Calvin and Hobbes remind us that some things can

only be understood through the eyes of a child (or a stuffed tiger).

Tom Wicker, *One of Us: Richard Nixon and the American Dream*. The author, admittedly not a fan of the ex-President, reassesses the Nixon presidency and finds himself reaching some surprising conclusions.

Alex Kozinski serves on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.