

ARTS &

The Story Behind Facebook--A Book Review

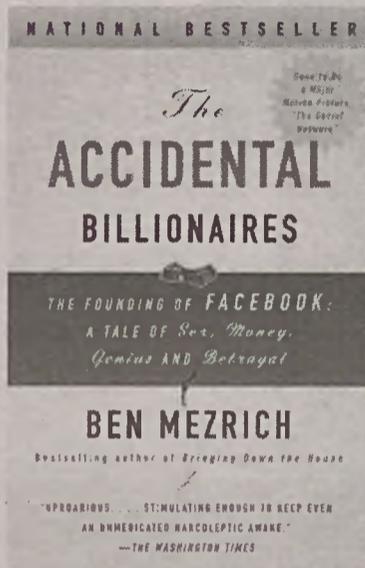
Joy Close, Staff Writer

The Accidental Billionaires, written by best-selling author Ben Mezrich, is about the process of how Facebook was created. One might expect to read about the technical aspects and efforts that went into the creation of what is now the most popular social networking site on the web, but instead this novel is a fast paced drama built around the subtitle to the novel: "sex, money, genius, and betrayal."

The novel starts at Harvard with the friendship of Facebook's two creators, Eduardo Saverin and Mark Zuckerberg. The two young men build a strong friendship supported by the many things they have in common: they are both outsiders in a school of preps and long-time legacies, they are both mathematically brilliant, and they are both geeky and awkward with women. At the beginning, the plan was to help them have more success with women by creating a ratable database of all the female students on campus. As part of this plan the computer genius, Zuckerberg, hacks into Harvard's

computer systems, an action that causes the university's servers to crash. Through this failure, however, the framework for the success of Facebook is created, and through the business savvy mind of Saverin, the popularity of Facebook skyrockets quickly. Ironically, it is the social networking site designed to draw people together that pushes these two friends apart.

Mezrich's tone throughout this engaging novel is real and relatable. He spins his story like a master, keeping the cold facts while placing them in a warm, fiction-like narrative. He makes his characters jump off the page, not only by tactfully exploiting their quirks, but also by impressing portraying for



Facebook's CEO, Mark Zuckerberg
Photo credit: Paul Sakuma

<http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Guardian/Pix/pictures/2010/7/9/1278696340813/Mark-Zuckerberg-Facebook-006.jpg>

his readers how relatable these two men and their conflict are to them. The movie *The Social Network*, based on this popular novel, comes out in theaters October 1, 2010.

Disclaimer: Review copies of the novel were provided by its publisher, Anchor Books.

Ask Gigi

Dear Gigi,

Ever since school started, my car has been completely infested with ants! I park in the lot behind the freshmen dorms, and I think that's where the problem started. My upperclassmen friends on campus, who have better parking spots, say that they don't have this issue. It's gotten to the point where I am losing friends because no one wants to ride in my car with me and the nasty little pests! How do I get rid of the little buggers?

Sincerely,

Creeped and Crawled Out

Dear Creeped and Crawled Out,

Sounds like you're feeling a little antsy about a common campus complaint! I think the underclassmen vehicular ant infestation is about as famous as the scary squirrels, the geese guano, and corn shuckin' at Cornhuskin, so much so that it's almost another Meredith rite of passage. But if you don't want to "just experience it!" this time, I'll let you in on a few extermination secrets. First, remove all food and drink waste from your floorboard. Then spend an afternoon deep cleaning your car: kill those angry little ants by vacuuming and washing all interior surfaces, including the trunk. After the inside of your car is thoroughly washed and dried, spray some Raid (but make sure you take this last step ONLY if you don't have to drive anywhere for awhile!) Raid is not only an emergency insecticide but also a measure to prevent fresh infestations. Once you're finally officially ant-free, try to park as far away from the bushes as possible. The best spots in The Pit are the ones farther away from the dirt and vegetation that surround the dorms. In short, walking a few extra steps each day will save you a lot of future antarchy!

Yours truly,
Gigi

When Love is Madness

Aislinn Murphy, Staff Writer

What is a walk on Meredith campus without hearing women vent about their relationships with their partners, families and friends? Let's admit it; all of us spend some part of our days worrying about a relationship. It helps to get those feelings out of our heads and into someone else's. Whether we are venting about a boyfriend- or girlfriend- on the way to class with our friends, yelling at our parents to support our relationships with our love partners, or talking to a partner about needing to spend more time with our friends; we are always needing advice on our relationships.

In each issue of this newspaper, I will write a column on the common factors that link all types of relationships. Because let's face it, they all deal with the same basic issues no matter what type of relationship it is. In order to really convey the truth, though, I want to interview you. Yes you, the reader. If you want to write me anything anonymously, that is welcome as well. I want you to tell me the truth, no matter how gory the details, no matter how hard it is to say. We all learn from one another, and I'm just making the process easier by sharing everyday stories with you. So prepare some of your best stories, because you may be the next to get interviewed. And remember ladies, "When love is not madness, it is not love." (Pedro Calderon de la Barca)

Write in to Aislinn at herald@email.meredith.edu