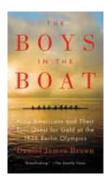
ESSENTIALS

SLOW AND STEADY

SLUGGISH AT FIRST, A SEATTLE AUTHOR'S ROWING NARRATIVE FINDS SUCCESS



Redmond writer Daniel James Brown published his latest book, **The Boys in the Boat**, in the early summer of 2013—to what seemed an indifferent public. Chronicling the

University of Washington rowing crew's 1936 gold medal victory in Berlin's Nazi-staged Olympics, the story is an accessible metaphor for the trials of an embattled American generation. But at first it sold mainly to rowers.

Fast-forward more than a year, and Brown's historical narrative has been awarded 2014 Nonfiction Book of the Year by the American Booksellers Association, spent four weeks as the number one bestselling nonfiction paperback in the country, according to *The New York Times*, and will soon become a motion picture directed by bigtime British film star Kenneth Branagh (*Thor, Henry V*).

How did it happen? The short answer is, old-fashioned way. No massive marketing campaign, no initial prestigious reviews-just slow word of mouth from one enthusiastic reader to another. The buzz around The Boys is peaking iust in time for the the annual Head of the Lake Regatta (11/2; *headofthelake.org*), which pits collegiate teams against each other in a race from Lake Union to Lake Washington. Thanks to the current crew craze, don't be surprised if this year's crowds win the gold medal for the biggest ever. BRANDON TAYLOR



ROAD TRIP

WHERE: DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA. WHY: To experience the thrill of the hunt at the city's vintage and antique store circuit. WHAT: Twenty-five eclectic shops, most of them located within walking distance of each other, offer everything from sassy vintage cocktail dresses to decorative knickknacks and historical collectors' items. Begin at Courtyard Antiques (705 Fourth Ave. E; 360.352.3864; courtyardantiquesolympia.com), where owner Mary Corso presides over more than 70 vendors selling a vibrant mix of flannel wall pennants, birdcages, drawer knobs, early-19th-century typewriters, hard-to-find glass apothecary bottles, rustic shutter shades, loads of furniture and more dig-worthy scores. Grab a map of neighboring shops and ask Corso to point out best bets for home decor, furniture, clothing and other thrifty finds. Antiques Olympia (203 Fourth Ave. W; 360.786.9234) boasts a superb array of one-of-a-kind Native American gathering baskets, dating as far back as the late-1800s, while Psychic Sister (109 SE Fifth Ave.; 360.943.9595; psychic-sister.com) promises an impeccably organized collection of vintage clothing and accessories, including jewel-toned glasses frames and Mad Men-style luggage. WHILE YOU'RE THERE: Try a not-too-sweet mocha from Olympia Coffee Roasting Co. (108 Cherry St. NE; 360.753.0066; olympiacoffee.com)you'll need it to stay alert for treasure hunting. DANELLE JAEGER

APPLAUSE O-METER This Microsoft month the city buvs votes—for the Minecraft Pronto bike-sharing Seattle fifth time-on a for \$2.5 NASA monorailbillion system rents soared 11 taps Boeing to related finally percent between help build "space taxis" initiative launches 2010 and 2013, the for the International sharpest rise in the country Space Station BOO, HISS **STANDING O**