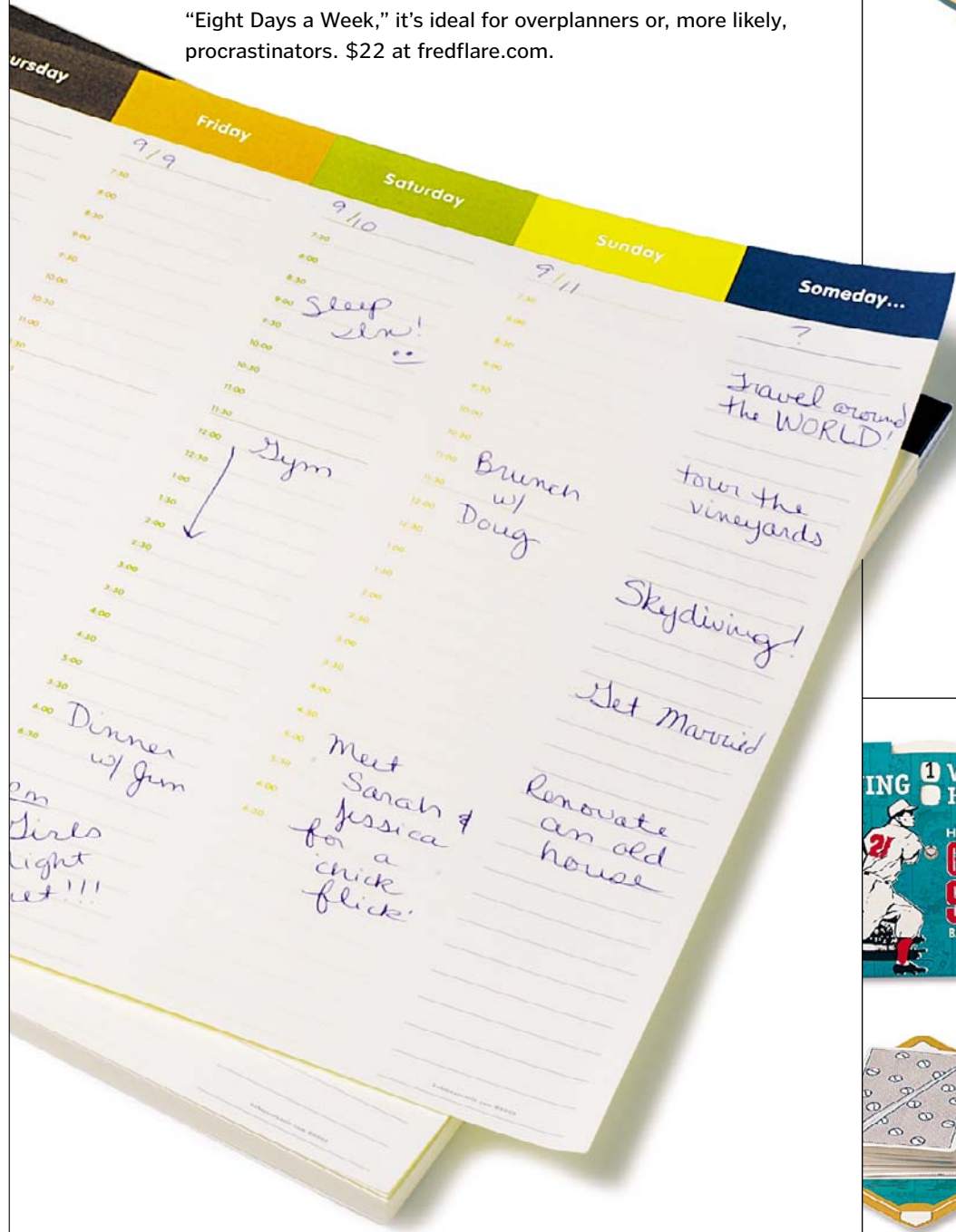


SUNDAYSHOPPER

Life's Too Short

Feeling crunched for time? This 52-page desk planner created by And Bob's Your Uncle boasts a "Someday" column added to the end of each week. Perhaps inspired by the Beatles's "Eight Days a Week," it's ideal for overplanners or, more likely, procrastinators. \$22 at fredflare.com.



PHOTOS BY RENEE COMET FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; GRAND SLAM BY OUT OF THE BOX PUBLISHING, INC.



Baby's Got Bib

Built NY, the company that helped popularize the neoprene carrier craze (six-pack holders, lunch boxes, wine bottle totes), has given birth to a baby line for trendy tots. Thirsty Totes (\$10-\$15) are stylish baby bottle carriers and Strolling Totes (\$20) can hold a small supply of diapers and wipes. The Tidy Bib (\$7), below, has a crumb catcher: Parents are happy, dogs are not. At Home Rule (1807 14th St. NW, 202-797-5544.)

Fido's Best Friends?

Meet Dixie & Spike, the groovy new tug toy for pups from Otis and Claude. Made of durable cotton and canvas, this item is not just fashionable (note the square glasses, cool bob, sharp duds) but also sort of sweet: Every time the duo hits the floor, Dixie spouts "I love you." Of course, that might just drive you — and your mutt — up the wall. \$12-\$16 at AKA Spot (2622 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, 703-248-0093.)



Play Ball

Move over, Nintendo. This authentic reproduction of the classic 1962 game Harry's Grand Slam Baseball represents the antithesis of today's video game culture: no consoles, no joysticks and no superstar endorsements. Created by Virginian Harry Obst, now 73, a former White House interpreter who served six U.S. presidents, the game lets two players manage teams using cards that simulate hardball action — such as walks, strikeouts and dingers — in a quick nine-inning contest. \$14.99 at Barston's Child's Play (5536 Connecticut Ave. NW, 202-244-3602.)

— Janelle Erlichman Diamond

MEDIAMIX | A Quick Take on New Releases

	TITLE	BASIC STORY	SAMPLE GRAB	WHAT YOU'LL LOVE	WHAT YOU WON'T	GRADE
BOOK	Indecision By Benjamin Kunkel Random House \$21.95	After taking a promised "miracle cure" for his chronic, paralyzing lack of resolve, Dwight Wilmerding — an underachieving, 28-year-old child of privilege — chases an alluring former classmate to Ecuador.	"Everyone always moves so insouciantly into the future, one foot in front of the next, that it seems as if they've already been there and liked it enough to go back for more." — Dwight broods over his own reluctance to move forward.	First-time novelist Kunkel tackles serious modern concerns — continued poverty in the developing world, the pervasiveness of psychotropic drugs — with dexterous linguistic chops and assured comic timing.	Dwight's eventual epiphany is unsettling and unconvincing, either as satire or rallying cry. — Reviewed by Carolyn Juris	B
BOOK	Lipstick Jungle By Candace Bushnell Hyperion \$24.95	In this latest effort from the "Sex and the City" scribe, three Manhattan women — best friends, naturally — struggle to balance rule-the-world ambition with relationships and family. Sound familiar?	"Women like Wendy and Victory and herself, Nico thought, were a new model of powerful women.... They wanted women ruling the world, not men." — Nico O'Neilly, editor of the fictional Bonfire magazine	"SATC" acolytes will get cheap thrills from the possibly unintentional references to the show, such as one character's moneyed honey referring to her as "Kiddo," a la Chris Noth's Mr. Big.	Bushnell's lazy writing and flat narrative could have come straight out of a dime-store romance novel. — Sara Cardace	C-
CD	A Bigger Bang The Rolling Stones Virgin Records \$18.98	The band's first studio record since 1997's "Bridges to Babylon" marks a return to stripped-down rock-and-roll.	"So put your lips to my lips to my hips baby/tell me what's on your mind/I know you got that animal attraction for me/been a long time" — "Rough Justice"	Straightforward, blues-based tracks such as "Rough Justice" and "Back of My Hand" prove the Strollin' Bones still have swagger.	Those who don't like politics with their music may be bothered by "Sweet Neo-Con," a scathing indictment of the Bush administration. Those who don't like sexagenarians singing about sex may be mildly nauseated by everything else. — Charlie Amter	B-
DVD	Crash Lions Gate Rated R \$28.98	"Million Dollar Baby" screenwriter Paul Haggis steers a multiethnic ensemble through a look at 36 hours in racially charged Los Angeles.	— "We're the only two black faces surrounded by a sea of over-caffeinated white people, patrolled by the trigger-happy L.A.P.D., so you tell me, why aren't we scared?" — "Cuz we got guns?" — Anthony (Ludacris) and Peter (Larenz Tate) toy with audience expectations.	At this point, wonderful performances from Don Cheadle and Terrence Howard are de rigueur, but everyone acts beyond their potential here, including Ryan Phillippe and Matt Dillon as a morally ambiguous pair of cops.	The commendable attempt at realistically addressing social ills is undermined by the logic-defying script; the stellar cast should have been re-assembled for a commentary. — Greg Zinman	C
DVD	Lost: The Complete First Season Buena Vista Not Rated \$59.99	Forty-eight survivors of a horrific plane crash find themselves on a mysterious island populated by polar bears, a crazy French woman and things that go bump in the jungle.	"Everyone gets a new life on this island, Shannon. Maybe it's time to start yours." — John (Terry O'Quinn, right), a sort of Jedi of the jungle, spells it out for a spoiled ne'er-do-well (Maggie Grace).	The show's intricate plotting, stunning photography and moments of breath-holding tension are buttressed by eight hours of worthwhile extras, including scripts, commentaries, screen tests and several documentaries.	The show's "Twilight Zone"-meets-"Survivor" tone proves to be a delicate balancing act — many of the flashbacks to the characters' pre-disaster lives prove more gripping than their stranded strife. — G.Z.	A-
GAME	The Incredible Hulk: Ultimate Destruction PS2, Xbox Rated Teen Vivendi Universal Games \$49.99	As Bruce Banner tries to rid himself of his gamma-irradiated alter ego, the Army contracts mysterious scientist Emil Blonsky to eliminate the Hulk once and for all.	The Jade Giant's unbelievable strength lets him turn anything into a weapon — he can even rip cars in half and use them as boxing gloves.	"Ultimate Destruction" delivers the primal thrill of knowing that nothing in the game's fictional city can stand in your way for long.	Hulkophiles will get sick of looking at the game's paltry two environments: a generic nameless city and flat desert badlands. — Evan Narcisse	A-
GAME	Mario Superstar Baseball Gamecube Rated Everyone Nintendo \$49.99	More than 30 Mario regulars bring their unique attributes to America's pastime. (Donkey Kong, for one, eschews a bat, choosing to punch the ball into the stands with his giant fist.)	Fields are filled with video-game perils: Man-eating plants can swallow balls mid-play, while giant barrels are launched at your outfielders.	Challenge Mode allows your chosen captain to wander the Mushroom Kingdom and handpick his squad of nine for the championships.	Characters begin with pretty lousy stats, and upping them can take a lot of time. — Christopher Healy	B+
MAGAZINE	Men's Vogue Conde Nast Publications \$4.95	The premiere issue of Vogue's male counterpart marries smart reviews and engaging features with scads of outrageously expensive clothes (\$4,200 dinner jacket, anyone?).	"Good prosciutto, sliced very thinly and evenly, without friction or physical pressure, feels like silk in the hand and melts in the mouth." — Jeffrey Steigarten describes the near-cultish devotion to <i>Berkel meat slicers</i> .	A story on the ancient sport of cricket-fighting is wonderfully bizarre. And Nick Paumgarten's profile of tennis star Roger Federer will make you want to tune into the U.S. Open.	If you want to hate the rich, this is a good place to start: Excess is this mag's middle name. — Joe Heim	B

PHOTOS: MICK JAGGER BY DAVE HOGAN — GETTY IMAGES; TERRY O'QUINN — ABC