

Tyler's critique of Reaganomics and its "trickle-down" approach challenges several common economic myths. He argues, for instance, that Adam Smith supported rigorous government regulation of corporations as a means of maintaining competition in a capitalist economy. He also observes that von Hayek and Keynes--whose theories are assumed to conflict--actually align against the Reaganomics strategy of, as he describes it, "overtly crafting large, routine structural deficits merely to lower taxes on the wealthy." Finally, he states that there is no real relation between the minimum wage and unemployment or inflation, and thus no reason for corporations to continue suppressing wages--except that they can.

Though his conclusions are undoubtedly controversial, Tyler grounds his arguments in data and facts, providing a deep exploration of our current economic situation and the pre-Reagan policies that, if implemented again, may lead us out. --Dani Alexis Ryskamp, blogger at The Book Cricket

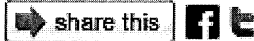
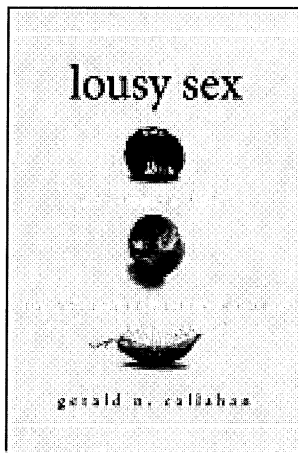
Discover: A former undersecretary in Clinton's Treasury Department identifies Reaganomics as the root of our 21st-century recessionary woes.

Benbella, \$26.95 hardcover, 9781937856717

Essays & Criticism

Lousy Sex: Creating Self in an Infectious World
by Gerald N. Callahan

Lousy Sex attempts to answer the ages-old question of what is self, but instead becomes a fascinating memoir that fuses science and philosophy into a poignant portrait of the human self. (The title is a pun referencing the bacterial infection that turns wood lice into self-reproducing females.) Gerald Callahan, an immunologist at the University of Colorado, uses his considerable expertise to explain the divergent themes of biological self-immunity and the evolutionary ways cells have evolved in distinguishing "self" from "nonself"--and



psychological self—the brain's connections to thought and creativity.

Ranging between the science, religion and philosophy, Callahan's more personal recollections question the entirety of self within the context of his own humanity: an almost detached description of his mother's test for Alzheimer's and subsequent admission into a nursing home for care; a Thanksgiving car accident that leaves his wife physically disfigured and the efforts to restore her to her former self. In one passage, he uses multiple sclerosis as an example of a brain-body destroyer to illustrate how infectious diseases have allowed science to unlock the dark secrets of the human soul.

Callahan's prose is more poetic than scientific. He imbues a sense of wonder in his subject while punctuating how entwined our biological and psychological halves are to one another—destruction of one leads to a sense of loss for the other. —Nancy Powell, freelance writer and technical consultant

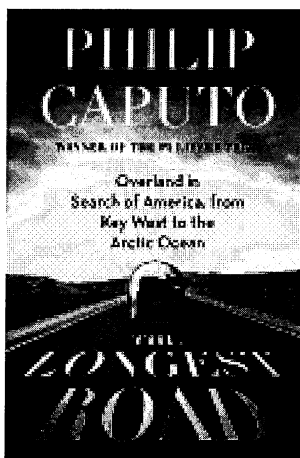
Discover: An immunologist's deeply personal and philosophical take on the meaning of "self" and its implications on humankind.

Shelf Awareness
7/26/2013

University of Colorado Press, \$19.95 paperback, 9781607322320

Travel Literature

The Longest Road
by Philip Caputo



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Philip Caputo (*A Rumor of War*) joins the list of great travel narrators like Jack Kerouac (*On the Road*) and William Least Heat-Moon (*Blue Highways*) with *The Longest Road*, a memoir that harkens back most closely to John Steinbeck's classic *Travels with Charley*. Like Steinbeck, Caputo wants to look at the country afresh and searches for today's America on its two-lane highways. And, also like Steinbeck, he brought along a dog—two, actually.

"The longest road," Caputo writes. "The idea brought on a rush of restless blood, stirred my imagination." His wife joins him on the transcontinental adventure, leaving Key West towing an Airstream behind their truck. He grouches about the particulars of his camper,