

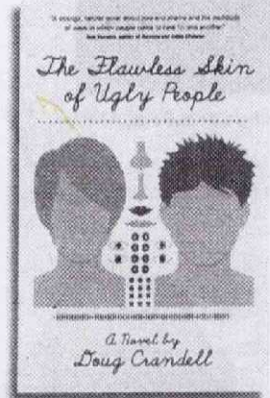


4D · THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2007 · USA TODAY

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**Book buzz**  
What's new on the list and in publishing

**'Skin' care:** Getting attention for a first-time author is a Herculean task. So Virgin Books has tried something different with Douglas Crandell's upcoming tour for his debut novel, *The Flawless Skin of Ugly People*. A dermatologist will join Crandell at bookstores in Seattle, Atlanta and other cities. The connection: Crandell's novel, out Sept. 18, is about a Georgia man named Hobbie who suffers from disfiguring acne. Instead of reading from his book, Crandall and the skin doctor will discuss our national obsession with physical perfection. "This is the first-ever literary book tour that will provide both brain food and skin care," promises Virgin Books USA publisher Ken Siman.



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By Carol Memmott, Bob Minzesheimer  
and Deirdre Donahue