

# Sacramento Book Review



Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

## **Elsewhere, U.S.A.**

By Dalton Conley

Pantheon, \$24.00, 240 pages

Offering a thorough explanation as to why, in the times we are in, higher pursuits of knowledge and creativity have been replaced by pursuits of monetary gain and superficial trivialities, *Elsewhere U.S.A.* gives insight into our deteriorating culture and selves. Conley has observed and recorded, over his years as a sociologist, how people's lives have become not so much lives, but, rather, muddled streams that go and go and go, but never get anywhere. Serenity, as explained in *Elsewhere U.S.A.*, has all but disappeared, and has been replaced by constant action, much of it pointless. Even when we settle down and rest for the evening, we still may as well be clocked in at the job, for we are still working—on a laptop, on a Blackberry, on an iPhone—we are still going and going, but not getting anywhere. We never get anywhere, we never get to the place where we can put work down and just spend time with the family. We never get to the place where we can stop going.

In a sobering and fearlessly honest account of our lives, of your life, Conley shows us that even though we're always busy, we're never really doing anything; He also shows us why we act in that

manner. A must-read for any busybodies (and, even though one might like to think otherwise, that is the majority of us) that wish to calm their lives down, *Elsewhere U.S.A.* can provide the Stop Sign that is so desperately needed on the road of life.

