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Book Review of 'Anyone Can Grow Up: How George Bush and I Made It to the White House,' by Margaret Carlson

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descendant of the 18th-century militia on today's landscape (including the National Guard) and that the word *militia* as used today describes no organization genetically related to the assembly of fighting men empowered by the 18th-century language of the U.S. Constitution, making the introductory clause of the Second Amendment today devoid of meaning. But the authors' radical assertion that changes in the nature, status, and vitality of citizen soldiers across the centuries has somehow rendered them less able or powerful in fulfilling communal military obligations is a stretch of logic, historical analysis, and current events. This book can only be recommended as a supplement to the more balanced approaches, such as Brown & Abel's *Outgunned: Up Against the NRA*.—Philip Y. Blue, *New York State Supreme Court Criminal Branch Law Library, First Judicial District, New York*

Parapsychology

Drayer, Ruth A. **Numerology: The Power in Numbers.**

SquareOne. Apr. 2003. c.176p. index.
LC 2002155868. ISBN 0-7570-0098-3.
pap. \$15.95. PARAPSYCH

In this gem of a book for both beginners and intermediate students, Drayer, who has practiced numerology for more than 30 years, presents a history and how-to on her subject. In the first part, she posits that numbers are not simply numbers but symbols of truth and points out that Pythagoras brought forth this idea 2500 years ago. Ever since, all the letters of the world's alphabets have been assigned corresponding numbers, and our birth names and dates, once converted to numbers, can tell us a lot about ourselves. Offered then are simple step-by-step instructions for making a chart, combined with profound depth-of-meaning in the numbers. She explains very well how to put all the pieces of information together so that readers can get to know themselves more deeply as well as seek guidance in making everyday decisions. Drayer makes it clear that while she provides excellent explanations for each digit, intuition plays a big part in her professional life. With a full glossary, blank charts, and a good index, this book will make a strong addition to parapsychology collections.—Marija Sanderling, *Nesmith Lib., Windham, NH*

Political Science

Carlson, Margaret. **Anyone Can Grow Up: How George Bush and I Made It to the White House.**

S. & S. May 2003. c.352p. index. ISBN
0-684-80890-0. \$26. POLITICS

With her typical wit and insight, *Time* magazine columnist and frequent television talking head Carlson (the first woman columnist in *Time's* history) presents a book that is part personal history and part

political commentary. The first 27 pages are a truncated account of Carlson's life and journey to the top of her field; the remainder of the book consists of previously published columns as well as a number of short essays that are new to this work. These essays stretch from 1987 to today and deal with such diverse issues as motherhood, feminism, and, of course, politics. Her best work is reserved for the essays in a section titled "Presidential Material," an often devastating examination of George W. Bush (she argues that in 2000, Americans elected "the class clown rather than the class nerd"). Most of Carlson's essays stand the test of time and make for great reading.—Michael A. Genovese, *Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Gitlin, Todd. **Letters to a Young Activist.**

Basic Bks: Perseus. May 2003. c.192p.
bibliog. ISBN 0-465-02738-5. \$22.50.

POLITICS

Author of *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*, a significant personal account of the era, Gitlin (journalism & sociology, Columbia Univ.) here draws on five decades as a political activist to offer a series of letters to an unnamed would-be activist. The letters are thoughtful essays rather than pieces of personal correspondence. Gitlin is at his best when he applies the successes and failures of Sixties activism to a post-9/11 world. He notes that liberal activism figured prominently in abolishing slavery and in legislating social security, a federal minimum wage, and civil rights laws. He notes, however, that the Right has become the dominant political force over the last three decades because it has taken more seriously than the Left the importance of being involved in the political process. Gitlin concludes with good advice for activists in these uncertain times: recognize that murderous terrorist attacks are not a justifiable response to previous American foreign policy failings and that patriotism does not mean obedience to government. Instead, it requires a shared willingness to sacrifice and a healthy skepticism of presidential policies. Recommended for public libraries as a complement to Dinesh D'Souza's *Letters to a Young Conservative*.—Karl Helicher, *Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA*

Mendes, Pedro Rosa. **Bay of Tigers: An Odyssey Through War-Torn Angola.**

Harcourt. May 2003. c.336p. tr. from Portuguese by Clifford Landers. index.
ISBN 0-15-100655-5. \$25. INT AFFAIRS

Portuguese journalist Mendes's book is filled with disturbing images, confusing acronyms, and the astonishing cruelties that took place in war-torn Angola in 1997. Many readers will need a history lesson to understand the nightmare he describes. One way to start is to read the glossary, which offers a tenuous but useful outline of the evolution of present-day Angola. An African

nation where land mines still outnumber the population, Angola is no place for the casual visitor or, for that matter, the purposeful one. In fact, as Mendes points out, Angola may represent the dark continent at its darkest. Mendes's journey is not a straight line, and his writing is often as circuitous as his route. Sometimes the interviews become first-person narratives completely outside the author's voice. Three-quarters through the book, references to Cambodia—another land of horror that the author visited—come out of nowhere, like a glass of water to the face, and fade just as rapidly. For academic libraries and those with large collections on African nations.—Janet Ross, *formerly with Sparks Branch Lib., NV*

Shevtsova, Lilia. **Putin's Russia.**

Carnegie Endowment, dist. by Brookings Inst. May 2003. c.290p. index.
ISBN 0-87003-202-X. \$40; pap. ISBN
0-87003-201-1. \$19.95. INT AFFAIRS

One of Russia's leading political analysts, Shevtsova (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; *Yeltsin's Russia: Myths and Reality*) has written an intriguing study of Vladimir Putin's rise to and consolidation of power in Russia. At first, as Shevtsova fiercely castigates the elites, oligarchs, Yeltsin hangers-on, society at large, and Putin himself, one suspects that she has an ax to grind; but in subsequent passages she explains or excuses their actions. Ultimately, Shevtsova has crafted an insightful, well-documented discussion of one of the world's big questions: What kind of a player will Russia turn out to be when it grows up? "The outcome will depend not only on the internal struggle between the conservatives and pro-Western modernizers. It will also depend on the debate with the Western community—the United States and Europe—on the future world order and its new threats and challenges." Of the three or four books published about Putin in the last two years, Richard Rose and Neil Munro's *Elections Without Order: Russia's Challenge to Vladimir Putin* comes the closest to Shevtsova's treatment of Putin's ruling style and explanation of the evolution of Russian democracy, though Shevtsova's book is more focused on Putin himself. Recommended for academic and public libraries.—Harry Willems, *Southeast Kansas Lib. Syst., Iola*

Psychology

Blanco, Jodee. **Please Stop Laughing at Me...: One Woman's Inspirational Story.**

c.288p. ISBN 1-58062-836-2.

Evans, Patricia. **Teen Torment: Overcoming Verbal Abuse at Home and at School.**

c.320p. ISBN 1-58062-845-1.

ea. vol: Adams Media. 2003. pap.
\$12.95. PSYCH

With these two titles, the genre on navigat-