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Book Review of 'Bad News: Where the Press Goes Wrong in the Making of the President,' by Robert Shogan

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the case, he gives the reader a close look at how homicide investigations should—and shouldn't—be conducted. When the suspect is actually in custody, he shows how the police might have used a single clue to stop him two years earlier—and save the lives of nine women. The book compares favorably to anything by Ann Rule or John Douglas and is essential for all true-crime collections.—*Deirdre Root, Middletown P.L., OH*

Harris, David. **Shooting the Moon: The True Story of an American Manhunt Unlike Any Other, Ever.**

Little, Brown. May 2001. c.400p. index. ISBN 0-316-34080-4. \$26.95. **CRIME**
Noted activist and journalist Harris has woven the many complexities of the indictment and pursuit of Panama's General Manuel Antonio Noriega into a fascinating and highly readable book. Owing to the sheer volume of material covered, the book can be confusing; shifting venues make the time line hard to follow. The author is most effective when describing the many players, including DEA agents, U.S. attorneys, military personnel, politicians, and drug runners. Harris pulls no punches, and his portrayals of real people are sometimes painfully accurate. At times he takes this too far, for instance, when belittling the late CIA Director Bill Casey's mumble. Note also that this book covers the investigation and capture of Noriega but does not cover the subsequent trial. Recommended for academic libraries and libraries with strong Latin America, political science, and modern history collections.—*Karen Sandlin Silverman, Library Svcs., Ctr. for Applied Research, Philadelphia*

Political Science

Edwards, Lee. **Mediapolitik: How the Mass Media Have Transformed World Politics.**

Catholic Univ. of America. 2001. c.364p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. LC 00-026076. ISBN 0-8132-0991-9. \$44.95; **pap.** ISBN 0-8132-0992-7. \$24.95. **POLITICS**
Why did the United States intervene militarily in Somalia but not in the Sudan, where the magnitude of the human suffering has been at least as severe? Partly because of the intensive press coverage of the former and relative neglect of the latter. Edwards (senior fellow, Heritage Foundation; *The Power of Ideas*) examines the burgeoning influence of the print and electronic media in world politics. He finds that the media play a positive role when they support liberal democracy but that they can also be misused to support illiberal regimes, such as that of Iraq's Saddam Hussein. He raises the question of how to assure that the media uphold liberty rather than authoritarianism. To his credit, Edwards recoils from censorship; rather, he

urges journalists to exercise moral responsibility and thus to refrain from sowing cynicism in the democratic nations. While many will quarrel with his conclusions, the insightful case studies comprising this work are a valuable addition to the literature on international relations. Recommended for all academic collections.—*James R. Holmes, Ph.D. candidate, Fletcher Sch. of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts Univ., Medford, MA*

Etzioni, Amitai. **The Monochrome Society.**

Princeton Univ. (New Forum Bks.). May 2001. c.297p. index. ISBN 0-691-07090-3. \$24.95. **POLITICS**
Communitarian thinker Etzioni's (*The Limits of Privacy*) new collection of 13 essays centers on American social virtues and the elements underpinning these values. Disagreeing with the notion of a racially divided America, he argues that most Americans, regardless of racial or ethnic background, support a common set of virtues and goals. These values are shaped by communities rather than government through informal checks and balances, such as shame or common rituals and holidays. Etzioni sees similar structures appearing in cyberspace through self-regulating attitudes arising in chat rooms and other virtual communities. He also answers critics of communitarianism by stating that both societal rights and individual rights may coexist as counterbalances to extreme individualism and oppressive collective action. Even readers unsympathetic with communitarian ideas will find these well-thought-out and well-written essays thought-provoking. For all libraries.—*Stephen L. Hupp, Urbana Univ., OH*

Hitchens, Christopher. **The Trial of Henry Kissinger.**

Verso, dist. by Norton. May 2001. c.143p. index. ISBN 1-85984-631-9. \$22. **POLITICS**
Is former secretary of state and Nobel Peace Prize winner Kissinger a war criminal? Hitchens, a journalist (the *Nation*, *Vanity Fair*) and author (*Hostage to History: Cyprus from the Ottomans to Kissinger*), believes that Kissinger committed crimes around the world, from Cambodia to Bangladesh to Chile. With the recent detention of Chile's August Pinochet and the international interest in prosecuting Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, Hitchens theorizes that the era of "sovereign immunity" for state crimes has ended. He would limit Kissinger's prosecution to "offenses that might or should form the basis of a legal prosecution: for war crimes, for crimes against humanity and for offenses against common or customary or international law." Hitchens relies on congressional hearing testimony, transcripts of the infamous Nixon tapes, and the memoirs and papers of Nixon, Ford, and Reagan admin-

istration officials to support his case against Kissinger. Although there is limited attribution of the quoted and referenced documentation, the substance of the material makes an intriguing case. Recommended for political science and international relations collections.—*Jill Ortner, SUNY at Buffalo Libs.*

Palermo, Joseph A. **In His Own Right: The Political Odyssey of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.**

Columbia Univ. (Studies in Contemporary American History). Jun. 2001. c.352p. permanent paper. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-231-12068-0. \$32.50. **POLITICS**

Robert Kennedy used his position as senator from New York (1965–68) to lead a coalition of grass-roots voters—members of the peace and Civil Rights movements, African Americans, members of the working class—in a fight for the liberal soul of the Democratic party while making a credible challenge for the 1968 presidency, notes Palermo (Cornell Univ.). He struggled with President Johnson, who attacked his patriotism because he was an early advocate of a negotiated peace settlement in Vietnam, and with Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Johnson's hawkish surrogate, who continued the fight over Vietnam during their battle for the 1968 Democratic presidential nomination. "Peace candidate" Eugene McCarthy is portrayed as an indifferent senator with a poor record on civil rights who lost many votes and credibility when Kennedy replaced the Vietnam issue as his focus. Evan Thomas's *Robert Kennedy: His Life* (LJ 8/00) and Jeff Shesol's *Mutual Contempt* (LJ 9/15/97) offer more lively accounts of Kennedy's feuds, but Palermo provides a thorough investigation of RFK as political leader that is a worthy continuation of the years covered in James Hilty's *Robert Kennedy: Brother Protector* (LJ 4/15/98). Strongly recommended for academic collections and recommended for larger public libraries.—*Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA*

Shogan, Robert. **Bad News: Where the Press Goes Wrong in the Making of the President.**

Ivan R. Dee. 2001. 300p. index. LC 00-050434. ISBN 1-56663-346-X. \$26. **POLITICS**
In the aftermath of the disastrous presidential campaign of 2000, media analysts continue to engage in painful self-analysis in an attempt to figure out what went wrong. Shogan, a respected political journalist (*Newsweek*) and author (*The Double-Edged Sword*), shines a bright and not very complimentary spotlight on the media, arguing that their performance in the 2000 campaign was one of the poorest in modern history. Arguing that highly critical

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coverage probably cost Al Gore the presidency, the author asserts that it is not ideological bias but the drive of professional forces that skews modern reporting. Seeking to beat deadlines and top the competition made intense by the proliferation of media outlets vying for viewer attention, the coverage becomes superficial and distorted. Thus, the media fill the role of "enablers" for candidates and their handlers. Shogan is hard on his own profession, offering an insightful and valuable guide to understanding why the media so often fail the public in campaign coverage. A valuable contribution to the public debate over the role of the media in presidential campaigns.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Tanovic-Miller, Naza.
Testimony of a Bosnian.

Texas A&M Univ. Jun. 2001. c.304p.
ISBN 1-58544-113-9. \$32.95. INT AFFAIRS

A vast number of books by local and foreign observers have examined the Bosnian conflict, but none has been so boldly written as this diarylike account of the siege of Sarajevo. Interweaving the personal with the public, Tanovic-Miller (mathematics, Univ. of Sarajevo) argues that the perpetrators as well as the Western policymakers have made every effort

to justify the war's inhumane consequences by pointing to the ancient hatreds of the Bosnian people or simply denying the legitimacy of an independent Bosnian state rather than admitting to the obvious aggression of one sovereign state (Serbia) against another (Bosnia). Tanovic-Miller, who took refuge in the United States with her husband from 1992 to 1996, provokes the reader to question the true motive behind the actions, and inaction, of Western European and American governments when dealing with the Balkan conflict. And although the destruction of the Bosnian state is undoubtedly the result of expansionist tendencies, reflecting a chauvinistic brand of Serbian nationalism, the author unapologetically points out that the war remains a shameful episode in not just Balkan but European and world histories. Strongly recommended for the author's intrepid and honest remarks.—*Natasa Musa, New York*

Wrong, Michela. **In the Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz: Living on the Brink of Disaster in Mobutu's Congo.**

HarperCollins. 2001. c.336p. illus. index.
ISBN 0-06-018880-4. \$26. INT AFFAIRS

This is a terrific if disheartening book. A foreign correspondent and eyewitness to the demise of Mobutu Sese Seko's Zaire in 1997, Wrong combines travelog with astute political analysis. In lively prose, she traces the country's dysfunction to its history of permitting outsiders to exploit its wealth of natural resources, including diamonds, timber, and oil. Indeed, the very borders of Zaire, now Congo, reflect not geographic or ethnic realities but bargains struck between late 19th-century European firms and tribal chiefs. The key to Mobutu's survival—despite his infamous corruption and ordinary citizens' professed loathing for him—was his ability to forge a sense of nationhood amid the chaotic conditions he inherited. Whoever succeeds Laurent Kabila—who ousted Mobutu before being assassinated early this year—will gain not the presidency of a viable nation-state but the power to barter natural riches for political support abroad. Recommended for all academic collections.—*James R. Holmes, Ph.D. candidate, Fletcher Sch. of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts Univ., Medford, MA*

Psychology

Davis, Elizabeth. **Women's Sexual Passages: Finding Pleasure and Intimacy at Every Stage of Life.**

Hunter House. 2001. c.288p. index. ISBN 0-89793-292-7. **pap.** \$15.95. PSYCH

A midwife for over 20 years and author of *Hearts and Hands: A Midwife's Guide to Pregnancy and Birth*, Davis intermixes medical and scientific information about life-cycle phases and changes with client

comments, responses from interviews, referrals to herbs and holistic remedies, descriptions of women's rituals (some quite inspiring), and freehand New Age-feminist-utopian generalizations about women's connections with nature and mysticism. Her physiological and medical data seem mostly accurate, and she is a rarity in acknowledging and celebrating the sexual aspects of birth and nursing. However, her juxtaposition of facts with speculations and opinions confuses the reader. Too wide a range of information is presented without enough references or qualifications. Useful for women's health collections, this synthesis would have been considerably improved by a bibliography and resource list.—*Martha Cornog, Philadelphia*

Galluccio, Jon & Michael Galluccio with David Groff. **An American Family.**

St. Martin's. 2001. c.288p. photos.
ISBN 0-312-26123-3. \$24.95. PSYCH

The son of a drug-addicted, alcoholic, HIV-positive mother, Adam was himself born drug-addicted and premature, with a hole in his heart. His foster parents willingly changed their lives for him and nursed him into a healthy child. Adopting Adam should have been straightforward but for one detail: Adam's foster parents were a gay couple, Jon and Michael Galluccio, and New Jersey law did not allow unmarried couples to adopt. With the help of journalist Groff (coauthor, *The Crisis of Desire: AIDS and the Fate of the Gay Brotherhood*), the Galluccios tell their story from alternating points of view as they create a family, fostering three other children while challenging their state's adoption laws. Commendably, they do not shrink from discussing the spirituality that sustained them nor the difficulties they faced: having to return one of their foster children to relatives, Jon's search for his own biological parents, and Michael's homophobic relations. This heartwarming and inspiring spin on family values compares favorably with such recent gay parenting sagas as Dan Savage's *The Kid* (LJ 10/1/99) and Kenneth B. Morgen's *Getting Simon* (Bramble Bks., 1995) and deserves a place in public libraries as well as gay studies collections.—*Richard J. Violette, Special Libs. Cataloging, Inc., Victoria, BC*

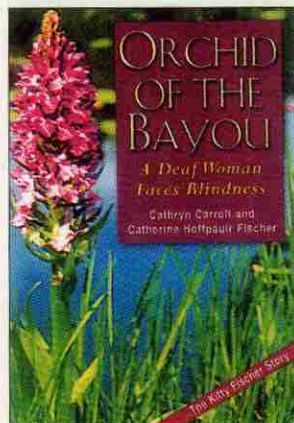
Ilardo, Joseph A. & Carole R. Rothman. **Are Your Parents Driving You Crazy?: How To Resolve the Most Common Dilemmas with Aging Parents.**

VanderWyk & Burnham. 2001. c.240p. index. LC 00-065485. ISBN 1-889242-14-4. **pap.** \$14.95. PSYCH

Clinical social worker Ilardo and clinical psychologist Rothman codirect the Center for Adult Children of the Elderly and the Center for Caregiver Studies in Scarsdale, NY. Here, they have simply and logically condensed years of experience at those in-

Gallaudet University Press

Orchid of the Bayou A Deaf Woman Faces Blindness



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