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Book Review of 'An Independent Man: Adventures of a Public Servant,' by James Jeffords and Yvonne Daly

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

publisher plans a major publicity campaign, but its audience is hard to define. For libraries with a large "self-help" clientele.—*Cynthia Harrison, George Washington Univ., Washington, DC*

Jeffords, James M. with Yvonne Daly.
An Independent Man: Adventures of a Public Servant.

S. & S. Feb. 2003. c.320p. index. ISBN 0-7432-2843-X. \$25. POLITICS

Always a bit of a maverick (he voted against Ronald Reagan's budget and against Bill Clinton's impeachment), three-term Vermont senator Jeffords rocked the political world in spring 2001 when he left the Republican Party to become an Independent and vote with the Democrats, thereby giving majority control of the Senate to the Democratic Party. Little known before his "short walk across the aisle," Jeffords is today a hero to some and a villain to others. Clear, straightforward, and to the point—like the man himself—this book is part autobiography, part explanation for his painful decision to bolt the party, part a call to public service, and part a plea for increased funding for the issues closest to Jeffords's heart (e.g., education). This work is particularly revealing for its slice-of-life view of the inner workings of the United States Senate and for its exposure of the inner thoughts of a man tormented by the direction of his party and struggling to make a positive difference in the sometimes seamy world of politics. Recommended for public libraries. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, *LJ* 10/15/02.]—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Polletta, Francesca. **Freedom Is an Endless Meeting: Democracy in American Social Movements.**

Univ. of Chicago. 2002. c.296p. permanent paper. photogs. index. ISBN 0-226-67448-7. \$35. POLITICS

Polletta (sociology, Columbia) considers whether, as a process in decision-making, participatory democracy can be successful in effecting social change or is doomed to fail because it lacks organizational focus and an awareness that strategizing is essential. She closely analyzes the dynamics of participatory democracy in several movements in recent American history—organized labor, pacifist groups, the Civil Rights Movement, the New Left, and groups protesting against globalization. She postulates that the primary challenges of participatory democracy have been how to "coordinate actions and programs across de-centralized units" and how to choose a group interest from among competing individual interests. Drawing on extensive interviews with activists, Polletta focuses on distinct strengths that participatory democracy can provide to social and political action groups—the gathering and evaluation of information, the develop-

ment of skills in "negotiating common agendas," and the ability to look beyond immediate conflict and focus on "future battles waged in electoral institutions." Although somewhat repetitive and densely written, this generally supportive critique of participatory democracy as a decision-making process challenges both proponents and opponents to re-think their deeply held beliefs. For academic and large public libraries.—*Jack Forman, San Diego Mesa Coll. Lib., CA*

Psychology

Baer, Greg, M.D. **Real Love: The Truth About Finding Unconditional Love and Fulfilling Relationships.**

Gotham: Dutton. Jan. 2003. c.288p. permanent paper. LC 2002026072. ISBN 1-592-40000-0. \$23. PSYCH

This self-help book is written by an ophthalmologist who uses his personal experience of recovery from divorce and drug addiction to chart a course for others to learn how to find real love in heterosexual marriage. By "real love," Baer means love that is given unconditionally, and he describes many situations that may look like love but are only "imitation" in that it has conditions or strings attached. He also characterizes the many behaviors that people use either to get love or to protect themselves from lack of real love. Unfortunately, his reasoning often seems circular and simplistic, and there are areas where his judgment can be challenged: his discussion of anorexia is not supported by current psychological theory, and his brief discussion of abusive situations could be dangerously misconstrued to lead a victim to stay in a violent relationship. Finally, there are no notes or bibliography. Although the author is popular on the lecture circuit and radio, there is enough questionable material here to withhold a recommendation. Many better books on relationships are available.—*Margaret Cardwell, Christian Brothers Univ., Memphis, TN*

Eliot, Stephen. **Not the Thing I Was: Thirteen Years at Bruno Bettelheim's Orthogenic School.**

St. Martin's. Mar. 2003. c.304p. photogs. ISBN 0-312-30749-7. \$24.95. PSYCH

In this unique story of recovery from childhood mental illness, Eliot lucidly recounts his 13 years at the Orthogenic School at the University of Chicago, when the controversial Bruno Bettelheim (1903–90) served as director. Born in Austria and interned in concentration camps, Bettelheim believed in long-term psychoanalytic treatment rather than the drug therapy and behavior modification programs prevalent today. Eliot, who now works as an investment banker in New York City, was sent to the school in 1963 at the age of eight. Just why is unclear, however: the author alludes to

unhappiness, lack of friends, and some bizarre thoughts, but that does not seem to account for his diagnosis as a schizophrenic in a transitional phase. Eliot instead focuses on the details of daily life at the school, covering Bettelheim's foibles as well as his therapeutic genius and offering tales of relationships between students and counselors, visits home to an affluent environment, and his rich fantasy life as a troubled boy with gender identification problems. This coming-of-age story was first published in France and relies mostly on memories and case notes. Despite unanswered questions about the nature of the author's illness and treatment regimen, this intriguing and inspirational book is recommended for specialized collections serving mental health consumers and their advocates.—*Antoinette Brinkman, M.L.S., Evansville, IN*

★Karasik, Judy (text) & Paul Karasik (comics). **The Ride Together: A Brother and Sister's Memoir of Autism in the Family.**

Washington Square: S. & S. Jan. 2003. c.208p. ISBN 0-7434-2336-4. \$23. PSYCH

In this remarkable book, the Karasiks present a sibling's viewpoint of growing up with autism. Alternating between Judy's memoir and Paul's comics, they chronicle the life of their brother, David, from the 1950s to today. The authors recount the heartbreaks and joys of growing up with an autistic sibling and offer insights into the treatment of the condition at a time, when the medical and educational professions knew little about it and blamed parents (namely, "refrigerator moms"). Events such as David's recitations of whole TV shows and his slapping his head as a response to uncomfortable situations take on new meaning through the unique format. Judy formerly worked as a book editor, and Paul is a professional cartoonist. Their book fills an important gap in the literature, complementing the parental view found in most autism narratives. This work is strongly recommended for all public libraries and academic libraries with collections on autism and disability studies, as well as for book groups that wish to include a graphic novel. Given the focus on children with special needs, secondary school libraries should also consider it. [For an interview with the authors, see "Sibling Revelry," p. 89.—Ed.]—*Corey Seeman, Univ. of Toledo Libs., OH*

Lacan, Jacques. **Écrits: A Selection.**

Norton. Nov. 2002. c.352p. tr. from French by Bruce Fink. index. ISBN 0-393-05058-0. \$39.95. PSYCH

French psychoanalyst Lacan (1901–81) has generated more excitement in cultural studies and literature than in psychoanalysis. Known as a brilliant but confusing commentator, he borrows freely from many disciplines, using analogy, metaphor, self-con-