

Murrell Memorial Library Newsletter

MVC

MVC

November, 2007

Volume 14 issue 3

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Dates to Remember

- November 2nd & 3rd
Book Sale
- November 6th
Polar Year Discussion
- November 28th
Poet's Coffeehouse

For Your Reading Pleasure

Come by and "Check Out"
these new books.

A Farewell to Alms
Gregory Clark

*Under Pressure and
Overwhelmed*
by Christopher Vye

Preventing Hazing
by Susan Lipkins

Dalai Lama
by Mayank Chhaya

Genocide of the Mind
by Vine Deloria

For Your Viewing Pleasure New DVD's!

Disturbia

Fracture

Breach

International Polar Year

From March of 2007 to March of 2009, thousands of scientists around the world will be focusing on issues of polar science thanks to the International Polar Year project. You may be asking yourself why this endeavor is called the International Polar Year, as it spans two full years. In order to gather adequate research on both the Arctic and Antarctic Poles, this IPY will span two full annual cycles; in the past it lasted only one year. This marks the fourth IPY to date, with the last one conducted fifty years ago. IPY could not have come at a better time as biological, physical and social changes are occur-

ring around the poles at an alarming rate. These changes are due primarily to global warming caused by environmental hazards. Recently, much attention has been given to this crisis. In 2006, Al Gore presented a movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, illustrating the devastating effects of global warming, which later won an Academy Award.

On November 6th, Drs. John Gault and Mark Mills will meet in the library's Coffee by the Book room at 7pm to discuss IPY and the issues surrounding it. If you wish to learn more about the changes taking place in the poles and their global impacts, visit

the official IPY website at <http://www.ipy.org/>. Also, stop by the library and check out some of these polar related materials.

An Inconvenient Truth

Cumulative Environmental Effects of Oil and Gas Activities on Alaska's North Slope

At the Ends of the Earth: A History of the Polar Regions

Masters of the Arctic Ice

Global Warming

Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change

End of the Earth: Voyages to Antarctica

PANEL SUPPORTS READING OF HARRY POTTER BOOKS

Story by Johnny Henry

Despite the banning and criticism of the Harry Potter book series over the years for its elements of witchcraft, three members of the MVC community urged book-reading for everyone and recommended adult guidance for children who enjoy fantasy topics.

The panelists at an Oct. 8 Murrell Memorial Library discussion about the Harry Potter series, organized for Banned Books Week, were the Rev. Pam Sebastian, assistant professor of religion and MVC chaplain; Scott M. McKay, assistant manager of the Barnes and Noble book store; and

Norine S. Cruz, an MVC English senior.

The Harry Potter books have been the most challenged library books in recent history, according to the American Library Association.

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PANEL SUPPORTS READING OF

HARRY POTTER BOOKS (Story Continued)

McKay and Cruz had read the series, and Sebastian had researched the book prior to the discussion. They generally supported the reading of the series and were opposed to the idea of banning the books.

Most of the people in attendance, who commented about the series, also voiced support for the books. However, MVC student Tamra Bolden expressed opposition to the books with concern about the witchcraft elements. Citing the Bible, Bolden said the planting of seeds of evil, such as witchcraft, especially in young minds, has terrible consequences.

The Rev. Sebastian said many stories are about good versus evil. She said the original Grimm's fairy tales are "dark." People in attendance noted other popular fantasy stories in previous generations, such as "The Wizard of Oz."

Sebastian encouraged the involvement of parents with what their children read in order to explain themes and content.

Bolden, who hadn't read the Harry Potter series, said that detention centers and jails hold large numbers of young people who have gone astray.

Sebastian said most youth who are incarcerated probably aren't book-readers. The panelists agreed that book-reading is usually a positive activity that can help to keep young people from getting into trouble.

The panelists said fantasy fiction can provoke imagination and offer messages in learning, as stories contrast good and evil.

Cruz said the books can teach more than what is found on the surface. She said the books clearly state the difference between good and evil and point the reader in the direction of

what is good, because "being bad is easy."

McKay said the Harry Potter series forces a reader to distinguish the difference between fantasy and reality.

MVC student Yalimar "Yaly" Vidal, who was in attendance and also had read the Harry Potter series, said, "The series is really good because it encourages reading and imagination, and keeps children from just sitting in front of the TV."

The panelists were optimistic about how the Harry Potter books have encouraged more children to read. They stressed adult supervision, but were opposed to book-banning.

Sebastian said, "Be aware of what you are reading, and read more."

Story by Johnny Henry

Libby the Librarian

Dear Libby,

I read your column every month and I think you are fantastic! I would really love to meet you sometime, but I never see you when I'm hanging out in the library. Would you let me know where I can find you.

Love,
Your Biggest Fan



Dear B. Fan,

I am much too busy to make myself accessible to my many admirers. Most of my days are spent knee deep in research or thought. I do understand your fascination with me. I too know what it is like to be awed by greatness. I long to acquaint myself with Gerard Butler. His intelligence is only surpassed by his ability to make me swoon. Alas, dearest fan, like me, you will have to admire from afar.

Love, Libby

Dear Libby,

With wit, wisdom and looks such as yours, how is it that you stay so modest?

Love,
Your Mother

Dear Mother,

It just comes naturally.

Love, Libby

Libby resides in the imagination of us all, but visits one of us more frequently.

So You Think You're Funny?

Due to the overwhelming response to last month's "Fix the Joke" contest, it was quite difficult to choose a winner. However, after many agonizing hours of intense review, the library staff decided to choose this following joke, submitted by Carl Murphree. The fact that this was the only submission does not diminish its hilarity.

Two trucks loaded with a thousand copies of *Roget's Thesaurus* collided as they left a New York publishing house last week, according to the Associated Press.

Fortunately, members of PETA were on the scene, and called in paleontologists from the Museum of Natural History.

GRAPHIC NOVELS



AT MURRELL LIBRARY

COMING SOON!!!