

THE CORNER SHELF



FEBRUARY 2, 2009

News and Alerts

Family Day is February 16th. The library will be closed Saturday to Monday, February 14th-16th. We are open with modified hours during Reading Week: 7:45am - 5pm Tuesday to Friday, February 17th-20th.

Due to popular demand, **ALL** media (DVDs, VHS, CDs) now have a loan period of **one week**. No more 3 day loans. Happy viewing!

Doris Lessing, winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize for Literature, said "With a library you are free, not confined by temporary political climates. It is the most democratic of institutions because no one – but no one at all – can tell you what to read and when and how." Concordia Library supports and celebrates **your** Freedom to Read.



<http://www.unshelved.com/> Copyright © Overdue Media LCC Used with permission

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK 2009

Freedom to Read Week 2009 runs from Sun Feb 22 to Sat Feb 28. It was initiated by the Book and Periodical Council and, according to their website <http://www.freedomtoread.ca/>, its purpose is to raise awareness about "issues of censorship, freedom of expression, fair access to books and magazines, and the ability of writers to have their work distributed and read. Freedom to read can never be taken for granted."

"Even in Canada, a free country by world standards, books and magazines are banned at the border. Books are removed from the shelves in Canadian libraries, schools and bookstores every day. Free speech on the Internet is under attack. Few of these stories make headlines, but they affect the right of Canadians to decide for themselves what they choose to read."

The Concordia University College Library has a wide range of events planned for this week, beginning with the opportunity to **Read Away your overdue fines**. For every 20 minutes you read in the library, staff will clear \$5 of overdue fines

from your account. You can read anything you want! Bring your own novel, textbook or magazine; or choose something from our Freedom to Read display. Read Away applies only to overdue fines on Concordia materials, to a maximum of \$20.

Enter the **Student Contest** to win a gift certificate to Audrey's books or some great Freedom to Read swag. Pick up a contest form at the Library and other locations around campus. Find the answers to the contest questions in the library's Freedom to Read display. Drop your entry into the draw box at the Circulation Desk before 6pm on Sat Feb 28. While you're in the library, look in the alcove gallery to see **paintings by artist Laurie McFayden**. Her artist's statement describes how abstract art is sometimes perceived as confusing or inferior and has at times been suppressed for those reasons.

Come to the **Tegler** building from **10:30 to 1:30 on Wednesday Feb 25**. Visit the game booth and answer a **Freedom to Read** trivia question to receive a sweet treat. Watch the documentary **Dixie**

Chicks: Shut Up and Sing about the backlash to the band's criticism of President G.W. Bush and hostilities in Iraq.

On **Friday Feb 27, at 2pm**, the week culminates with a talk from award winning professor, author, and activist **Dr. Toni Samek** entitled **Those Free Little Words: Freestyle Talk about Canada's Freedom to Read Week**. Think that Freedom to Read is an issue that doesn't apply to you? Think again! Dr. Samek explores the links between information, power, and human rights as discussed in her many publications on intellectual freedom and global information justice.

Although Canadian citizens enjoy a high amount of intellectual freedom, there are still many ways in which people encounter barriers preventing them from reading what they choose, speaking out, or finding essential information. Join with other members of your Concordia community to learn about these issues and the role you play in advancing intellectual freedom.



This photo shows books from Concordia's collection that have been banned or challenged. How big is your challenged bookshelf?

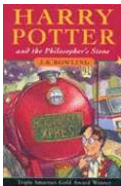
Submitted by Jenna Innes
Circulation and Information Services Assistant



What's Inside

- Freedom to Read Week 2009
- Banned Book Review
- Library Hours
- Cool Web Stuff
- Freedom to Read on the Library Website

BANNED BOOK REVIEW



There are few books as popular as the Harry Potter series. Written by author J. K. Rowling, the seven-book series follows Harry and his friends as they study at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The

basic outline is enough to anger some readers; witchcraft and wizardry are undeniably wrong in many religions. There is however a necessary distinction to be made; the magic of Harry Potter is not innately evil nor is it in any way related to the Devil or Wicca. In fact, much of the magic is used in mundane situations, like stirring a pot of soup or washing the dishes. Some will argue that the whole of the story is centered on the malicious magic of the villain Voldemort. On the contrary, the evil magic used by Voldemort and his followers is displayed not to convince young readers to do evil, but to show them the horrors that evil is capable of.

Rowling crafts her stories in such a way that we feel empathy for the victims, and even for Voldemort. Though Rowling allows Voldemort to perform terrible spells, she always makes it clear that Harry and the

good side will defeat him. There is not a single event in the books where Harry loses to Voldemort; even in the face of unlikely odds. Rowling's strongest point throughout her series is that love, which Voldemort is incapable of feeling, is the most important power of all.

Rowling's fundamental message is that good will always triumph over evil, and love truly conquers all. Harry Potter is triumphant over Voldemort *because* he can love. It is his mother's love that saves him from death; it is Harry's love for his friends that gives him the power to fight; and it is ultimately Harry's love for humanity that enables him to defeat Voldemort for good.

True, for some readers, it is wrong to read about magic, regardless of the positive message lying within. But if one is able to look past the viewpoint that magic in fiction is intrinsically wrong, one can see that the novel is meant to be an epic story of good triumphing over evil, and underscoring the power of love, much like the Chronicles of Narnia and other Christian allegories.

Submitted by Leanna Yonkers
Student Library Assistant

Weekly New Books List: <http://catalogue.library.ualberta.ca/newbooks/library/index.cfm?Libraryfilter=21>

Subscribe to New Books RSS feed: http://www.library.ualberta.ca/rss/newbooks/library/library_Concordia_University_College.xml

COOL WEB STUFF

🔗 The Canadian **Freedom to Read** website <http://www.freedomtoread.ca/> has issued a challenge for Canadians - "Free a Challenged Book. Your mission is to release challenged books all across Canada — on park benches, in coffee shops and in schools — as a way to mimic how challenged books are passed around, and to spread the word about challenged and banned books in Canada." It's simple -select a challenged book (check the list at the Freedom to Read site) from your personal bookshelf that you can part with, create an account at the **BookCrossing** website <http://www.bookcrossing.com/> and follow the instructions to release that book 'into the wild.' I've done this twice and it's great fun to imagine a treasured book giving enjoyment and enlightenment to a fellow reader, whoever and wherever they are! BookCrossing began in 2001 and today has over 740,000 members in several countries and over 5,352,000 books registered. Read and release!

🔗 Check out the **Readers Bill of Rights** <http://kh052.k12.sd.us/reader.htm>, penned by Daniel Pennac in 1994, and the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, in English here: <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm>. Readers, stand up for your rights!

🔗 How could we read without words? if you want to make a difference and save little-used words from extinction (yes, it happens!) go to **Save the Words** <http://www.savethewords.org/> and adopt a word. I've adopted 'blateration' n. blabber; chatter. My task is to spread blateration, use it in conversation, writing and other means - I probably won't get the tattoo or graffiti a wall but I'm going to do my part to get blateration back into the dictionary. I've already used it three times! Up for grabs are 'veteratorian', 'theomeny', 'xenization', 'stibogram', 'mecography' and many more. Any takers?

Any feedback or suggestions for future columns would be *mutch* [sic] appreciated. Contact me at 479-9335 or jan.mutch@concordia.ab.ca.

FREEDOM TO READ ON THE LIBRARY WEBSITE

Thanks to Renee, our web builder/guru, further information about Freedom to Read is available on the library website. You can access this information from the library home page by clicking the link in the **Library News** section or click on this link <http://library.concordia.ab.ca/services/bannedbooks.php> to go there directly.

You can check the **Freedom to Read Homepage**, lists of challenged/banned books, and even a **Forbidden Library**.

Details about Freedom to Read Week events at Concordia are listed. Make sure you enter the student contest and come to Tegler for your sweet treat. It should be a fun week!

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

Winter Library Hours

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Monday - Thursday | 7:45 am - 9 pm |
| Friday | 7:45 am - 5 pm |
| Saturday | 11 am - 6 pm |
| Sunday | 1 - 8 pm |

Closed Statutory Holidays

****Check the website for details****



Happy Family Day!!

There's also a list of books about "banned books" available in our library.

Of course, any library staff member will gladly answer any questions you may have about **Freedom to Read** at Concordia Library.

