



News Release

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READING OF CHALLENGED AND BANNED BOOKS AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. — Sept. 2, 2004 — The eighth annual reading of challenged and banned books will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 29 in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building, Enright Room, 214, on the campus of Missouri Western State College. The reading will be in recognition of the American Library Association's Banned Book Week, and is free and open to the community.

Western students and faculty, as well as members of the St. Joseph community, will read books that have been either banned or challenged in United States schools in recent years. Refreshments will be served following the readings.

Some of the books that have been read in the past are "The Catcher in the Rye," by J.D. Salinger; "Brave New World," by Aldous Huxley; "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," by Mark Twain; and "Harry Potter," by J.K. Rowling. It is undecided yet as to what books will be read this year.

Books that are read are those that are challenged or have been challenged in the past, which usually contain difficult information to grasp, or books that some might find offensive.

Dr. Michael Cadden, associate professor of English, feels that the Banned Book

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Page 2 of 2—Banned Books

Week offers a look at the phenomenon of censorship. “It’s a reading, versus a debate or discussion,” he said.

The department of English, foreign languages and journalism, the department of education, the Western library, and the Prairie Lands Writing Project sponsor the event.

For more information, contact Dr. Cadden, (816) 271-4576, Dr. Michael Smith, (816) 271-4514, or Julia Schneider, (816) 271-4369, or visit www.ala.org.

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Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.