

Questions? Comments?  
Like to write for us?  
Contact the **Teen Zone**  
at 720-887-2360  
or email the editor at  
srichardson@  
ci.broomfield.co.us

# The 411

## Teen Zone Newsletter

Fall 2003

Vol. 1 Issue 1

www.ci.broomfield.co.us/library/teenwebsite

## Upcoming Fall Events!

### Local Author Hilari Bell

**WHEN:** Sat., September 27 from 2-4 pm

**WHAT:** Denver author Hilari Bell will present a Science Fiction Writing Workshop for teens. It's called *Culture Building* and focuses on plot and character development through group participation.

Hilari is a published author of science fiction and fantasy books. Some of her titles include *A Matter of Profit*, *The Goblin Wood* and *Songs of Power*. Here's what the author has to say about her upcoming visit and her writing background....

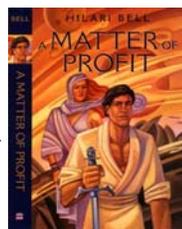


"My writing friends call me the poster child for persistence. *Songs of Power*, the first novel I sold, was the 5<sup>th</sup> novel I'd written. When it sold I was working on novel #13—seventeen years of writing before I made my first sale. I now have five books in print and four more under contract...three of the books in print, and two of the ones under contract, are those same backlist novels

that no one was interested in. It's as if the luck gods stored up my good fortune for 17 years, and now they're dumping it all out at once.

I've presented my *Culture Building Workshop* at writers conferences and science fiction conventions, but I've never done it at a library, or with teenagers. It's not a just-sit-back-and-listen-to-the-author kind of thing; it's a chance to get into groups and brainstorm the house down. We'll be creating a complete alien culture, and if we have enough time we can come up with some characters and plot conflicts as well. It's a magnificent tool for anyone who writes SF or fantasy, and also for people who design fantasy games. It's also a heck of a lot of fun for anyone who likes to exercise their imagination, and I'm really looking forward to presenting it."

Call 720-887-2360 to register.



### What is this?

This is the first issue of the Young Adult Newsletter published by the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library & our Teen Advisory Board. Inside you'll find:

- Calendar of Teen Library Events
  - Reviews of books & movies
  - Original articles by & for teens
- Tell us what you think!

### Celebrate Teen Read Week!

October 19—25, 2003

Poetry Café

October 24, 6-8 pm

Poetry Journals

October 25, 2-4 pm

### Fusing Identities

Have you ever had someone come up to you and ask "What are you?" Hopefully they're not just being rude, but are genuinely curious about your nationality or ethnicity. Broomfield's Asian and Hispanic populations are booming and many people may be asking or being asked this question more and more. A lot of times, minority teens ask themselves this question too, as they try to balance their native culture, American culture, and teen culture.

So, if you've ever asked yourself or someone else "What are you?" we'd like to invite you to join *Fusing Identities* a book and film discussion series exploring immigration, bi-cultural, and teen issues. What is it like for a teen to move to the United States and start attending high school? How do you balance the cultural expectations of your parents with peer pressure and teen culture? Are you proud of your cultural

**Immigration Experiences:**  
Oct. 23, Nov. 20, Dec. 6, 2003

**Bi-Cultural Experiences:**  
Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Feb. 28, 2004.

**Teen Rebellion and Culture:**  
Mar. 4, Mar. 25, April 3, 2004.

This program made possible by Libraries for the Future and MetLife Foundation. In partnership with Broomfield High School.

#### FUSING



PICTURE THIS Identities

heritage? Has it helped you shape your identity? What if differences with your parents aren't cultural, but generational? If you're interested in any of these questions, stop by the library to find out more. We'll be exploring each theme with an intro, book discussion, and film showing.

### Lord of the Rings Adventure



In honor of J.R.R. Tolkien and in celebration of the final movie in the Fellowship of the Ring series-*Return of the King*- we're hosting our own event at the library!

Teens will spend the entire day creating their own Middle Earth character and going on a role-playing quest! Join the Fellowship!

Sign up begins December 1st., so be sure not to miss out on this one. Stuff to remember:

**Return of the King**- Movie premieres  
December 17, 2003

**Lord of the Rings Adventure**- (at library)  
December 20, 10 am- 5 pm

Call 720-887-2360 to register.

### The Ballot:

What you say, goes!



Please circle which programs you would be interested in for Spring 2004:

- Aromatherapy
- Yoga Meditation
- Vegetarian cooking
- Feng Shui
- Zen Gardens
- Mandalas

What's the caption? (see back page)

PLEASE Fill this out, cut it out & return it to the Teen Zone Desk by October 31, 2003. Thanks for voting!

# Hear No Evil

## The pros and cons of music censorship in libraries

Censorship. That word can strike fear in millions, while reassuring others. The latest act of censorship that is paralyzing the rights of American teens is no more than three inches wide. This is in reference to the black and white Parental Advisory labels placed on CDs with explicit lyrics. Trying to balance freedom of speech with community expectations, many libraries are contemplating whether or not to purchase CDs marked with this warning. In this column, an issue will be presented and argued from both standpoints so you can form your own opinion. However, it is important to stress that these opinions are not necessarily those of the writers, or the library, and are simply presented to showcase a point alongside a counterpoint.

### The Pros of Music Censorship

By Jennifer Buchtel

Three little words on the cover of a CD make all the difference sometimes. "Caution: Explicit Content." These words are showing up more often on the music CDs that the typical teenager is listening to. In music stores, these CDs are rising in popularity, and now the issue of whether libraries should buy them is becoming a hot topic. Of course, the teenage population is all about having their favorite artists to listen to for free, what can we expect? And no doubt their parents, are adamantly arguing against it. It's bad enough for teens to have role models like Eminem, Puddle of Mud, etc., when they're paying \$18 for the CD. What parent in their right mind would want their child listening to *more* music like this for free? As appealing as free music is, it also comes with a price- the minds of younger children.

It's common enough to see nine-year-olds roaming around the CD collection eagerly searching for the latest pop album. But what happens if they came across such artists as Disturbed, Alice in Chains, and Staind? We all know that music by these groups appeals to teens, but what about the curious ten year old who picks it up and checks it out? Unless librarians somehow have control over what you can and can't check out, there's nothing stopping the younger generation from adopting the musical ways of their older siblings.

### The Cons of Music Censorship

By Magdalena Wegryzn

CDs have born the infamous Parental Advisory sticker since 1990, when the Parents Music Resource Center, demanded that there be government censorship to shield teens from lyrics of an "inappropriate nature." Of course, this worked out so well that today, there are no problems facing the youth of America...

The purpose of a library is to offer information to its patrons. This means all data, not just the select favorable kind. That is precisely why the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Library carries books about issues ranging from drugs, to sex, to violence. This exposes teens to complex issues and helps them to deal with problems rationally, should they ever arise in their real lives. Music accomplishes this task in a much more proficient and, admittedly, more entertaining manner.

Music is an outlet for teens because the artists know what to sing about. They sing about real issues that are impacting real teens. Most of these events, such as death and love, are avoided by parents and schools for fear of instigating rebellion in young minds. When these themes are concealed, teens don't know how to react when genuine concerns arise. Music expresses those feelings and acts as a resource by familiarizing teens

Even hard-core Christian rock groups such as P.O.D., with their song, *Youth of the Nation*, discuss in detail a school shooting. Maybe the "experienced" teenager, who's familiar with this content, wouldn't be affected, but a fifth grader *might* be. And how would the parents of this child feel, knowing their neighborhood library was introducing their child to music such as this?

And what about the teen who listens to this music? Sure, everyone says there's no way music could influence them enough to carry out the things they hear, but we know from evidence of school shootings, murders, and suicides that that's not always true. Whether they know it or not, listening to hard rock and alternative music does play a part in who teens are and who they will become.

Some may argue that having music with explicit content at the library is a minor detail compared with the "real" dangers in the world, like terrorism and homicide. But what are some of these songs about? *Jeremy*, by Pearl Jam, depicts a boy who gets back at his peers by shooting them. And what's the definition of terrorism again? Why don't we think about that before expecting our library to provide music confirming the belief that violence is the only way to solve problems. Censorship is not always a bad thing, people. Explicit lyrics don't belong in libraries. If you want music with parental warnings, just buy it from the store.

with some of the challenges they will indubitably face at some point.

Teens are much smarter than they are given credit for and they will not go out and kill their girlfriend just because a song mentions it. If anything, this song shows teens that this is wrong, creating a set of morals and ethics. And isn't that what everyone wants anyway? Anything that can do that should be in an open public access area where people can attain it.

Finally, do you really think that hearing Sum 41 sing expletives will send the average teen into a tailspin? The dismal truth is that teens hear more crude remarks as their friends recount their weekend than they do listening to "The Real Slim Shady." The media bombards teens with so many conflicting messages that by the time we hear an Eminem song with profanity, it has no effect on us.

In all honesty, in a world full of deceit and lies, teens need some reality. Everyone needs to get in touch with the real world at some time, but it is never more important than in growing up in today's hectic society. Teens need this dose of reality more than anyone, so they can learn to deal with their problems rationally before it is too late. They need music that isn't worried about presenting a façade but will simply "tell it like it is." Even if it comes in the form of a Puddle of Mud album from the library.



## The Tip by Natalie Osborn



As the summer draws to a close (sniff) a few of you may be wondering the best way to go about shopping for your back to school purchases. Here are a few helpful tips to get you started:

-First of all, shop around and look at different bargains. Just because you see something on sale doesn't mean that you should automatically buy it. Decide whether or not the item is one that you will actually wear or if it will stay buried in your closet. It's also helpful to look at the ads that stores have in the paper. That way you won't have to run around to all the different stores.

-DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE! Everything will be picked over and you will get stuck with all the ugly brown folders. Besides, if you

go early, and avoid the crowds, you can take your time trying to decide which binder best goes with your wardrobe. Also, make a list of what you want to buy. Check items off as you go and make sure you don't forget anything.

-You can cut down on gas and time by shopping online. A few useful websites that you may want to check out include: <http://www.coolgiving.com> and <http://www.officedepot.com>. The great thing about shopping online is that you can view different items and then buy them right then and there. Of course you do need a credit card to do that so start being nice to your parents.

Whatever you decide to do, good luck and try not to get injured in the back-to-school rush!

# THE RECIPE by Will Fulton

## Banana Bust:

This recipe tastes great, and if you don't pour eight cups of sugar into the mix, it is reasonably healthy.

## You'll Need:

- One banana
- 5 or 6 strawberries
- ½ cup fruit juice (your favorite), 3 to 4 ice cubes
- A blender

Put all the ingredients in the blender, after peeling the banana and cutting the stems from the strawberries.

Then put the lid on the blender and turn it on at low speed for one minute, then turn it on high until smooth and frothy.

Pour into two glasses and serve immediately. Makes two servings.

# Poll of One

Q: What did you think of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*?

A: I thought that it was a really good book even though there was a lot of publicity and there was a lot of information leaking out about the plot. I thought it was going to be really predictable.



But, so much happened in this book because it was so long. You find out a lot about the characters because they are getting older and they're more mature. It was definitely my favorite book out of all the Harry Potter books. ---Jennifer, Age 14



# What Just Happened ?

Here's some of the teen programs you might've missed at the library this summer.

## Harry Potter

With the release of *Order of the Phoenix* this summer, we were all in a reading frenzy. To celebrate the long awaited release of the book, we had our annual Quidditch games along with trivia contests and readings from the new book. We also celebrated Harry's birthday (on July 31st) and took that opportunity to talk about *Order of the Phoenix*, as everyone had read it at least once by then. We even made our own prophecy balls.



**Teen feedback-** "I liked everything!", "I liked "discussing the book", "Harry Potter Rules! Discussing the book was great.."

## Nature Hikes and Photography

The Library partnered with the Rec Center this year to take teens on hikes to local parks.



Nature photographer, Mark Waldron, offers tips to the hikers during a trip to Walker Ranch in Eldorado Canyon.

## Chess Plus

We had a series of chess programs for teens that culminated with a tournament in August. The program was run by Brian Wall and his Colorado Chess Champion teens and will continue this fall.

**Teen Feedback-** "Got to play and learn from champs", "Helped me become better at chess", "They taught us, not just playing", "It was fun and I learned some things".



## Fly-Fishing Workshop

Teens learn about fly fishing from Scott Ivy of the Flatiron Fishing Co.



Teens celebrate Harry Potter's birthday and prophesize what will happen in the next book.

## Graphic Novel & Anime Workshops



Our anime showings are year round events. They are so popular we invited graphic designer, Zane Lyon in to show teens how to write and draw graphic novels.

**Teen Feedback-** I liked that "It didn't teach a specific style but just how to improve", I liked that it

"was very helpful for anyone of any skill", It was "very informative".

## Summer Stats

Fourteeners: 2003 Teen Summer Reading Program had our highest participation ever!

Teens registered:	585
Total # of books read:	2,655
Average hours/ person:	32.4
Teens completing program:	287 (71%)

*Change a life!* By meeting our reading challenge, teen readers made a difference to these local organizations:

### Birds of Prey Foundation:

Goal: 350 teens, Completed: 374, Contribution: \$318 Enough to rehabilitate 3 baby Great Horned Owls!

### Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center:

Goal: 300 teens, Completed: 341, Contribution: \$388 Enough to feed a lion for a year!

### Broomfield Health and Human Services

Goal: 250 teens, Completed: 287, Contribution: 70 children's and YA books to needy families.

# School Daze by Jennifer Buchtel

Throughout the years, I've noticed that there are two distinct patterns in the week. It's not enough to base a scientific study off of or anything, but it's enough to make me wonder about the inside workings of the school week. Each day can have its own set "mood," if you take the time to notice. It all depends on which "group" of teens you fit into.

For the purpose of this article, I will call one group of teens "Group A," and the other "Group B." On Monday morning, members of Group A are awakened by their alarm clock and promptly smack it to the floor, only rolling out of bed with a groan when their father rushes in and snaps open the blinds. Group B members, however, calmly wake up on time, ready to face the new week. Tuesday dawns for Group B's with anticipation of a phone call to their friends to catch up on life, and to study for the geometry test on Friday. Group A prepares for Friday by setting up for the pep assembly before the football game.

Wednesday, is a hectic time for both sets of people. Group B's are bogged down with extra-curriculars and homework. And our Group A's

are busy decorating for the Homecoming dance, also throwing in a few minutes here and there to study. Thursday is the day when Group B's run home and lock themselves in their bedrooms to study for the test the next day...no thoughts of talking with friends are on their minds tonight. Group A members also run home, but only to have pizza, before rushing back to school to finish last minute preparations for the dance.

Finally, we arrive at Friday, the day when the entire week comes together. Today, on a rare occasion, Group B relaxes, and after the completion of the big test, enjoys the day. Today, it's Group A's turn to panic, as one of the biggest social events of the year draws closer. Once Friday is over, both groups will sigh in relief, go home, and the entire process will start again Monday morning. Each teenager in high school roughly fits into one of these groups. Even if they don't quite know it, their sympathies lie with one or the other. Oh, and to those who think they fit both categories: Congratulations! You're a superhero!

# Teen Advisory Board

## A Day In the Life of TAB

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is a group of teen volunteers who meet twice a month on Mondays. This group of individuals is responsible for thinking up fresh ideas that the library then carries out in its programs. TAB has come up with activities ranging from book groups to chess tournaments, Harry Potter to Lord of the Rings.



Pictured from left to right, back row: James Ivey, Matthew Corbin, Will Fulton, Joe Clark. Front row: Jennifer Buchtel, Natalie Osborn, Magdalena Wegrzyn, Christine Lee. Missing from TAB picture is Angela Oza.

TAB members also pitch in to make sure these programs run successfully. If you are interested in joining the Teen Advisory Board, contact the Teen Zone for more information.



### Say What?

What's the best caption for this picture? Make one up & put it on the front page ballot. We'll publish the best ones!

## What's Hot and What's Not by Angela Oza



Welcome to the first edition of *What's Hot and What's Not*. I am going to try a different approach to this article than most people would. I know that you all are ready to read about Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake but I figure you get enough of that from all of the teen magazines. So today I am going to tell you what's hot and what's not based on the opinions of regular teens like you and me. Are you ready?

**HOT:**  
Reading a book: So many teens have read the new Harry Potter book and say that they love it! Many teens really enjoy sitting down with one of their favorite books, and maybe a cold drink, and getting lost in the pages for hours.  
Watching a movie: Whether you go to the theatre or sit at home, whether it is educational or just entertaining, movies are great any time. Many teens say that the best movie they've seen this summer is *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Hello, Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom, who cares what the movie is about.

Comfort: For fall, teens say that they will probably be buying whatever is hip and popular in their favorite stores. But what do they really want? Comfort. Many teens say they would wear their pajamas to school if they could. This year, the hot clothes will be those that look cool and are comfortable. Just don't fall asleep in class.  
**NOT:**  
There are not many things that I am going to say are not hot because who I am I to judge that? Smoking is definitely not hot. I know, I know, your parents have already given you the speech. But really, how many people like to hang out with someone who makes you cough up a hairball? How many of you would like to hug someone with bad breath and yellow teeth? Yeah, not hot.  
Well, I'm out for now. If you would like to voice your opinion of what is hot and what's not, I would love to hear it. I need all the help I can get. Please send your comments to the Teen Advisory Board.

## A TURNING POINT by Will Fulton

I dream a world of unspoken pleasures,  
But unspoken demons also;  
I hope for a world with wonderful treasures,  
And dread a world of woe.

I dream a world of good and peace,  
Where children laugh and play;  
I fear a world where wars don't cease,  
And on playground dead men lay.

I loathe a world of fear and hate,  
And despise those murderers so;  
But I love to think of a happy fate,  
When rivers of knowledge flow.

I have a hope that good will come,  
To this world and all its peoples;  
And not a time of dastardly crime,  
When you can't hear the bells from a steeple.

Now I ask you this, my dreaming friend,  
Which future will we see come?  
Only time will tell, until the end,  
When the drummer beats the final drum.

## THE LEGEND OF LADY ILENA by Will Fulton

The Legend of Lady Ilena takes place in southern Scotland. The book begins when Ilena's father is dying. Her mother has been dead for two years. Her father tells her to go to Dun Alyn, a city on the far coast. When her father dies, she heads east on her horse, Rol.



Along the way, she meets an envoy for King Arthur, and they travel to Dun Drueg, where she must continue on with only a few words of encouragement in her ears, not knowing whether she will be welcomed... or killed.

Find out more by reading The Legend of Lady Ilena by Patricia Malone.

## Smash or Trash? Teen Reviews



### A PIRATE'S LIFE FOR ME by M. Wegrzyn



"Welcome to the Caribbean, love," is a phrase uttered by Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) in the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*. It demonstrates exactly what the movie portrays: Disney pirates who sing "Yo ho, yo ho" and sail the seven seas. Surprisingly, I was actually amused by this placid plot!

Set in 17<sup>th</sup> century England, the tale unfolds with the rescue of a young boy who washes into a ship secretly marked as a pirate. He grows into the handsome blacksmith Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) who falls in love with his vivacious savior, Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley). Nonetheless, an esteemed man,

Commodore Norrington (Jack Davenport), seeks her hand in marriage.

Excellent fight scenes are choreographed into this film as well as entertaining quips delivered by Captain Jack Sparrow, a rogue pirate portrayed to perfection by Depp. This makes up in part for total lack of original thinking put into this film. What it boils down to is the timeless story of unrequited love, revenge, and a feisty damsel in distress.

Overall I found this to be the perfect film for the summer. It was flimsy, cliched, and downright predictable. Despite all of this, I suggest this film as nice break over monotonous romantic comedies or violently barbarous robot fantasies.