

# Banned book week brings up questions

By Dalton Carver  
News and Opinion editor

When I was in elementary school, my mother forbade me to play video games that had the “T” rating in the corner of the box. Those games contained content that was not suitable for my age, things that I was not supposed to be able to understand yet. Subject matter that included violence, offensive language and references to tobacco and alcohol were things that my young mind shouldn’t have been exposed to at that age. However, as soon as my mother told me not to, I knew I wanted to play those games, even if I had no desire to do so before.

However, with libraries be-

ing public institutions, books and literature aren’t given specific ratings like video games or movies are. If the content is deemed too inappropriate for the vast majority, it’s challenged, and a successful challenge results in the book being banned.

Like my mother being concerned about “Teen” rated games, the leading cause of books being challenged and banned is inappropriate content for those considered minors. Some of the more popular books on the banned list include *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins, the *Twilight* series, by Stephanie Meyer and the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling.

The big thing about kids

is that they don’t stay kids. They will grow up and learn about the material that is mentioned in the books with or without reading them.

It’s just up to them and their parents on how quickly and safely they learn. As a parent, you can attempt to shelter them from anything you deem inappropriate, but that plan won’t ripen well. Even “inappropriate” knowledge is still knowledge, and as they say, knowledge is power.

The better road for a parent to take is to observe while their child reads these books, and intervene if they believe it’s having a negative effect on them. Like the ongoing obesity fight, it’s

at the parent’s discretion.

That being said, I’m not advising a parent to let their children read *50 Shades of Grey* and have family discussions about it after finishing each chapter.

That book is for adults, while many of the books on the banned list are targeted for young adults, like *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games*. Strangely enough, *50 Shades of Grey* doesn’t seem to be listed in the collection of banned books.

Eventually, I did end up playing that “Teen” rated video game, even when my mother forbade me against it. On that same note, I guarantee that some of the books

on the banned list are some of the most recently popular pieces of literature out there. This stat is greatly fueled by the fact that an official list tells society not to read them, leading to the conclusion that banning them has no effect other than a marketing boost for authors and publishers.

Maybe society should focus on getting children and young adults to actually read, instead of telling them what they shouldn’t do. That seems to be a more logical step in a society where reading is steadily falling on a student’s to-do list. Dalton Carver is a sophomore majoring in communication. You can email him at [dalton.carver@sckans.edu](mailto:dalton.carver@sckans.edu) or tweet him @dalty\_james.

# Commitment key to time management



JEVYN VOSS

Imagine the feelings that begin to build as you approach the top of a roller coaster and you’re about to make the great plunge down the rail. The feelings of ecstasy, nervousness and being scared to death of what is to come all fill you at the same time.

That is the feeling that people experience when it is time to go to college. Incoming fresh-

men are excited and ready for all of the new experiences that college has to offer.

We always count on the high points. What we don’t necessarily count on are the low points that come with the high points.

The low points come after the excitement of doing something new has worn off and you realize that you have responsibilities. This can be a very stressful awakening. Several things cause stress to increase. Over the past three years I have found a lot of things that will stress you out beyond belief. Overcommitting will be the main cause of stress due to the time that you must devote to those activities.

When you begin joining organizations and meeting new people you can sometimes overcommit yourself. As a

student you want to get the most of your college experience but there are things to keep in mind when you are seeking these experiences.

When joining an organization or hanging out with your friends for some fun you must keep in mind your class loads, where you stand financially, and if your plans will affect either of those things.

If joining in on the fun affects either of those things, you need to prioritize accordingly.

If you decide to go out for a night on the town, make sure that you have balanced your fun time with an equal amount of time for homework and other responsibilities so that you don’t fall too far behind.

If you wind up falling behind, get help. The first place you should go to for help is

your instructor. The faculty of Southwestern College are paid to give you an education and you should get the most out of what you pay for. If you can’t get ahold of your instructor, or you don’t understand after seeking help from them, talk to your classmates that do understand.

Go to the Student Success Center in Sutton Hall and talk to the tutors that are paid to be there to help.

The worst thing to do in when you fall behind is to let yourself get bogged down and stop trying because you don’t understand.

When in doubt, set goals and keep yourself accountable for your actions so that you stay motivated.

Make short term and long term goals. Your short-term

goals deal with your everyday responsibilities and how you can better yourself day to day. Long-term goals should be set for mid-term or the semester.

Overall, these goals should motivate you to push for the best that you can accomplish. Share your goals with your family and friends so that they can be there to help motivate you to accomplish them.

The root of being successful is motivation. Motivating yourself is not always easy but if you surround yourself with friends and family, keep yourself in check financially and academically, and manage to have some fun, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. Jevyn Voss is a junior majoring in communication. You may email him at [jevyn.voss@sckans.edu](mailto:jevyn.voss@sckans.edu).

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