

# Library personnel review process for missing, old books

By library staff  
Pioneer Memorial Library

For many people, summer is a time to take stock. There is frantic activity — cleaning out closets and cubby holes and trying to get rid of things. When it comes to getting rid of books and magazines, the first place that seems to come to mind is the public library.

During the summer, the library does our annual cleaning, too. With extra summer help, we do inventory on different parts of our collection. Part of the process involves withdrawing books that we no longer need. We might have a book with a newer copyright or maybe it is just something that is not being used. Anything we withdraw, we put in our book sales. All of

the money generated by our sales goes toward new materials. Another aspect of inventory is checking for lost or missing books. After years of working in the library, I am still amazed that it is frequently the same books that are missing year after year. This phenomenon is not unique to Pioneer Memorial Library. In fact, on one of the largest book seller's web sites, I once saw a list

of books that most often needed replaced in libraries. And guess what? The list of titles and subjects was very familiar. Certain areas are notorious for having missing books. Some subjects seem to generate more lost books than others. Books about dreams and witchcraft are just two areas that often have missing items. Also certain authors just seem to walk off the shelves. Ste-

phen King and Dean Koontz are two authors that seem to have a lot of missing titles, especially in their early works. A *Child Called It* by Dave Pelzer is a book that cycles on and off of the best seller lists nationally. This book has been replaced numerous times in our library. Sometimes it has been because the book has fallen apart, but frequently it is because the book is lost.

Interestingly, Dave Pelzer's brother, Richard Pelzer has recently written a book called *A Brother's Journey*. And guess where this book is now — checked out to missing. Another group of books that seem to get walking feet is the poetry of Shel Silverstein. *A Light In the Attic*, and *Where the Sidewalk Ends* are two books that we have replaced more than once. A few years ago we went ahead and put one copy of each of these books in the adult and one in the children's section. Hopefully this will ensure that when you are looking for one of these books, there will be one available.

# Imperfect parents expect perfection from a child

By Harlan Cohen  
Help Me, Harlan!

Dear Harlan, I am a student at an elite college. At the end of this year I will be done with my premed studies and will take the MCAT a year early. However, I am going to get a "C" in my biology class. I don't know how to handle this. I have always done very well in school, but I just could not handle this class. I was already taking an accelerated load, and I had never seen a cell in my life before this course.

could have done more. My family will be so disappointed. At our last get-together, all anyone talked about was how wonderful it is that I'm going into medicine and how proud they are of me. I feel like such a failure. My family told me that if I got anything less than an "A" in the class, I would be expected to re-take it because I should be doing better. What do I do?

— Imperfect  
**Dear Imperfect, I would give your parents a "B+" in parenting. They should go back to school, too. The pressure they put on you is too much. They've left no room for mistakes.**

**By having such unrealistic expectations and saying that anything less than perfect is a failure, they've set you up to fail.**

**Take the biology class over if you want, but do it for yourself -- not for your parents. If it turns out that a "B+" is your best, be happy that you've done your best.**

**Most importantly, pursue medicine only if you love it. If you're not happy doing it, get out.**

**It's great to make your family proud for a weekend get-together, but it's not your family who will have to get up every morning and face a job they hate I am that's all you.**

Dear Harlan, My boyfriend of two years is unemployed and still married. He and his ex separated before I met him, but he still hasn't gotten a divorce. After almost three years, why would he remain married to her?

He says that he can't afford the divorce because he's unemployed, but part of me thinks he still wants her. They talk on the phone, write and e-mail. My boyfriend says they're discussing their kid, but she sends him pictures of herself and love letters. She even calls me to yell at me, then says that she loves him.

If he doesn't want to be with her, why doesn't he tell her to quit yelling at me, to quit writing and calling him and get the divorce? Do you think he still wants her?

— Baffled in the South  
**Dear Baffled, He wants a divorce about as badly as you want to hear the truth.**

**You know what's happening here. The guy doesn't want a divorce.**

**He loves the attention. He might live with you and care about you, but this situation is far from loving. Unless he changes, find the courage to make changes yourself. This child from his first marriage means that this woman will always be in your life. She's going nowhere — just like this relationship.**

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*Editor's note: Readers can write Harlan at harlan(at)helpmeharlan.com or visit online: www.helpmeharlan.com. All letters submitted become property of the author. Send paper to Help Me, Harlan! 2506 N. Clark St., Ste. 223, Chicago, Ill. 60614.*  
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In the strange but true category, self-help books, especially those on organization are frequently books that are lost. Maybe the people who took them should read them. They might get so organized they would find the missing library book and return it.

When we get a box of books donated for the book sale, we go through them to see if any of these books are available. If so, we put them in our stash of replacement books.

So when *What To Expect When You're Expecting* is missing, we have a backup copy ready to go for the expectant mother.

Or if Harry Potter falls apart, we are able to quickly (and cheaply) get another copy on our shelves so you won't have to wait to find out what happens to Harry.

# Tractor safety tips offered

Tornadoes, flooding, high winds and hail — all have hit parts of the country's heartland, and all require cleanup of one sort or another.

a recipe for disaster," Ebert said. She provided several tips:

Tractors will play a part in plenty of that cleanup, so keeping certain safety measures in mind will be important, said Kerri Ebert, who works with farm safety issues in Kansas State University's AgrAbility program. AgrAbility is part of K-State Research and Extension. "Some tractors will be operated by the owner, but many will be operated by someone who has borrowed a tractor and is unfamiliar with its operation. "The combination of inexperience and heavy workloads can be

- If the tractor is equipped with a rollover protective structure buckle the seatbelt.
  - When using a loader bucket, keep the load low and drive slowly.
  - Be vigilant about rear overturn hazards when pulling other vehicles that may be stuck or using the tractor for stump removal.
  - Never allow extra riders.
  - Do not hitch above the drawbar when pulling or towing loads of debris.
  - Be cautious.
- If public road travel is necessary, use slow-moving vehicle emblems and lights.

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