LC REID MEMORIAL LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

Library Info

Soups on!

Need to brush up on your crafting or culinary skills for St. Patrick's Day or Easter? Cook up something good with a recipe or project idea from the library's Hobbies & Crafts Source database. Find it under "Hobbies" on the library's online database page .

Spring Break Schedule

Here's a reminder that the campus, including the library, due to Spring Break, will be closed Monday, March 16, and open from 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. the rest of the week.

We're Chronically Online

Visit us at **our website** to browse the catalog, request books through ILL, browse our databases, chat with a librarian, and much, much more!

Upcoming Events

- **Crafternoon: Canvas Book Bags:** April 7/8, 1pm - 4pm.

Book Rec of the Month

Every Time I Go on Vacation Someone Dies by Catherine Mack: Eleanor Dash has had it with her main character, Connor Smith. So much so, she wants him dead. And as soon as her Italian book tour is over, she plans to kill him off in her next book. There's just one problem...when life begins to imitate fiction, and an attempt is made on the man, her ex-boyfriend, who inspired the character, Eleanor finds herself involved in a real-life attempted murder case. Throw in another old flame, Interpol, and some hilarious footnotes, and you've got one very entertaining read. This is "Knives Out" meets "Only Murders in the Building," only in print and perfect for...well, when you go on vacation!

Contact Info

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Director's Corner

Should We Be Surprised?

Former United States poet laureate, Billy Collins, once said that, "Poetry goes to high school to die." I confess that I don't read poetry. But a recent study published about poetry in *Nature Magazine* – yes, *Nature Magazine* of all places – recently caught my eye.

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh wanted to know whether poetry non-experts could determine if a poem was AI-generated. Keep in mind, this wasn't a survey but a bona fide scientific study with over 1600 non-expert participants. There were an equal number of human and AI poems from which to choose. If just guessing, a participant would have at least a 50% chance of correctly identifying a poem generated by AI.

Participants were only able to accurately identify AI-generated poetry 46.6% of the time. Put another way, participants were more likely to judge an AI-generated poem as being authored by a human than a poem penned by a living, breathing person.

And here's the kicker: AI-generated poems were rated higher in terms of rhythm and beauty in comparison to poems written by people.

On that note, and because March 21 is World Poetry Day, here's my contribution to "second-rate" human poetry:

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
People write poems,
And AI can too (even better).

If interested in reading the article: **AI-generated poetry is indistinguishable from human-written poetry and is rated more favorably.**

And be sure to check out Billy Collins' latest collection of poetry, *Dog Show,* and other works both by and about him in the library.

Happy reading!

~ **Dennis**

The Present Mirrors the Past: Rebuilding and Renovating the Main Complex

March 9, 1889: On this day, 137 years ago, the rebuilding of Monticello College began when the Board of Trustees met to review architectural plans from four architects: J. B. Legg, Charles E. Illsley, Theodore C. Link, and John T. Long. After deliberation, they unanimously chose Mr. Link, who would later design projects such as Hayner Public Library and Union Station. The Board also accepted a $25,000 gift (about $1 million today) from William Henry Reid in memory of his late wife, Eleanor Irwin Reid, to build a chapel named for her, which is now the library. Mrs. Reid attended Monticello, and she passed away one month before the fire, on October 6, 1888.