

# Indianapolis man to live inside Vonnegut Library to protest book banning

## ***Move aims to halt ban of 'Slaughterhouse-Five' by Missouri school district***

(INDIANAPOLIS) – Corey Michael Dalton will be “Locked Up with Vonnegut” in an Indianapolis plate-glass window display for Banned Books Week to protest the treatment of Kurt Vonnegut’s masterpiece, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, by a Midwestern school district.

Although the district says its 2011 ban of the World War II-era novel has been lifted, in reality, students can get a copy only through a parent’s request and only from a sequestered part of the high school’s library.

“Banning significant works of literature is a mistake we as a society keep making, and we cannot stand by and do nothing,” said Julia Whitehead, executive director of the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library – the only library in the nation devoted to the author.

Dalton will spend 24/7 in a “prison” constructed of books that have been banned over the years. He will be blogging about his experience ([vonnegutlibrary.org](http://vonnegutlibrary.org)) and writing a short story during national Banned Books Week, Sept. 30 – Oct. 6.

The Vonnegut Library will have extended hours to accommodate special Banned Books Week activities:

- “Corey’s Bedtime Story,” 5-7 p.m. – local and national writers will read from their own works; visitors can record themselves reading from a banned book for uploading to the worldwide Virtual Read-Out on YouTube ([www.bannedbooksweek.org/virtualreadout](http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/virtualreadout)).
- Visitors can sign petitions that will go to the Republic, Mo., school board at the Vonnegut Library as well as at Book Mama’s bookstore in Irvington.
- People who abhor book banning can donate copies of banned books to become permanent additions to the Vonnegut Library. See a list at [ala.org](http://ala.org).  
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged>

Find details on the ban, this and other related events around Indianapolis, and more at [VonnegutLibrary.org](http://VonnegutLibrary.org).

### **About Dalton:**

Corey Michael Dalton is a fiction writer and an editor with The Saturday Evening Post Society, which publishes *The Saturday Evening Post* and the three magazines in the U.S. Kids family (*Turtle*, *Humpty Dumpty*, and *Jack and Jill*). While earning his Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing at Butler University in Indianapolis, Dalton first volunteered, then worked at the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library and now serves on its advisory board.

### **About the Vonnegut Library:**

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library is a public-benefit, nonprofit organization championing the literary, artistic and cultural contributions of the late writer, artist and Indianapolis native Kurt Vonnegut. The library seeks to engage people, especially young people, in the written word – including their own. In the historic Emelie Building in downtown Indianapolis (340 N. Senate Ave.), thanks to the support of Katz & Korin, PC, the library is open daily from noon to 5 p.m. except Wednesdays and major holidays. Admission is free, donations appreciated. [vonnegutlibrary.org](http://vonnegutlibrary.org).

**About Banned Books Week:**

Banned Books Week, a national effort, highlights the benefits of free and open access to information while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted bannings of books across the United States. Intellectual freedom – the freedom to access information and express ideas even if the information and ideas might be considered unorthodox or unpopular – provides the foundation for Banned Books Week.