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Stand Point: Gary Shaffer: A librarian's dream book

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Posted: Sunday, July 27, 2014 12:00 am

By GARY SHAFFER | 0 comments



Shaffer

This summer I am participating in Tulsa City-County Library's Adult Summer Reading Program. To complete the program, I need to read or listen to four books by Aug. 2.

As part of my participation, I currently am reading "Ready Player One" by Ernest Cline. The book takes place in a dystopian, rather bleak future. However, what the real world lacks in the novel is made up for by the OASIS, a virtual reality universe where most human beings on the planet spend the bulk of their waking hours.

The book came highly recommended by a librarian colleague/friend, and it is truly a great, fast-paced read.

Humans, for time eternal, have enjoyed playing games. We just seem to be designed to play them. In my family, this was no exception. Thus, my fascination with games and how people interact with them served as a natural pull toward this book.

In "Ready Player One," the OASIS is one, large game filled with many smaller, though very elaborate, other games. Friends meet up in the OASIS and some even fall in love. Often, though not always, they have never actually met in real life.

In the OASIS, many people own property and many students attend school. The libraries residing there appear to provide users access to all human knowledge; this is of course a librarian's dream.

Think of it as the "Matrix," the construct popularized in the 1999 film of the same name, but in this alternate reality everyone knows they are in the "Matrix." Yes, as you might guess, many have special abilities and powers too.

It is said that only through reading can we truly get inside another person's head. We can





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It's time to vote for your favorite caption for this week's (7/21/2014) Bruce Plante Cartoon Caption Contest.

We have chosen the best submissions and now it's time for our online community to vote for the winner. Pseudonyms are not allowed for entries. The voting deadline is noon Thursday. The winning caption will be published on Mondays along with the new cartoon for the week. The person with the winning caption will receive the original cartoon and a color print with their caption added by Bruce.

Where's global warming when you need it?

Brrrrrrrr, I'm joining the Tulsa Chapter of the Polar Bear Club in July !!!

Aah July! One last swim before it starts snowing.

visit far-off lands right from our easy chair, and can find respite through another's experience or imagination. I think a love of reading can create greater empathy and more well-rounded individuals, and make for a richer, fuller life. Of course, all of this is freely accessible at your local public library. Libraries truly change lives!

Gary Shaffer is CEO, Tulsa City-County Library.

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Call Al Gore I need some global warmin'.

Quit whining, at least there's no toxic blue green algae.

Yikes! Whatever happened to 'hotter than the 4th of July?'

Freezing water? In Tulsa? In July? What happened to Global Warming?

And that, boys and girls, is where Smurfs come from.

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