

# Opinion



## Monday's Salute

### Thumbs to...

✓**Amanda and Shaun** — that was quite a spring break/St. Patrick's Day event — congratulations!

✓**Artist Mary Ewing** — on your display at the Colby Community College art gallery.

✓**The Oakley Community** — on the 'Buffalo Bill' Cody monument, certain to be a big plus for your town and the area in general.

✓**The "Young at Heart Singers"** — your performance at Fairview Estates was a big hit...and to **Judy Kleinsorge** for your book review that was well received.

✓**Colby Community College** — on your spring enrollment increase.

✓**Cody Stone** — Congrats — it's a beautiful pickup!

✓**The Office Professionals Organization** — for your tasty breakfast in acknowledgment of the hard work put in by so many at Colby College.

✓**Sadie Munkers** — on your 95th birthday trip to the Grand Bahamas.

✓**Jeanne Thyfault** — on your state board election.

✓**Greg and Ginalyn Cabrinha** — on your new business venture.

✓**The Local National Guard** — good luck with your recruiting effort.

*This column is prepared each Monday by the Free Press publisher. Submissions, comments or questions can be directed to him at [td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com), by fax to (785) 462-7749, regular phone to 462-3963 or by mail to 155 W. 5th, Colby 67701.*

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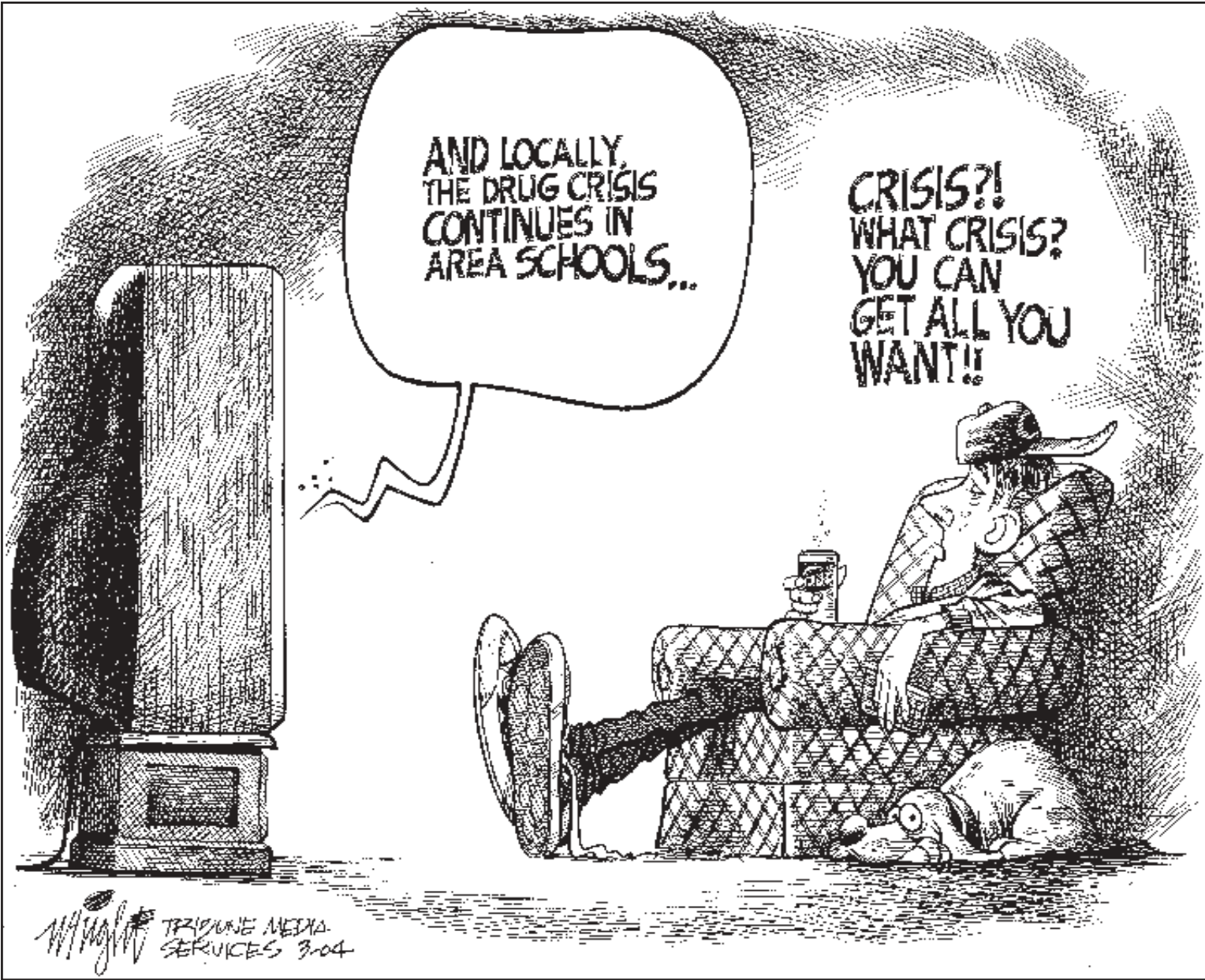
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## Glancing back at those college days

For some people, high school was their favorite time of life. Others had their glory days in college.

College was fun but I don't think I'd ever go back unless it's to make a run at a Ph.D.

The concept of "college" is almost mythical. With so many pop culture references, you'd think that anyone has the chance to be the big man on campus.

It's kind of true, and I think it depends mainly on the circles you run in at the big university.

However, my own university experience was nothing like "Animal House."

Maybe in the respect I found some loyal friends and I really didn't have much respect for authority.

I did have a thing against most of the sororities, mainly because my first and only roommate was a pledge. So were our neighbors.

They were freshman and I was a sophomore transfer.

They tended to stay up late and primp and party and I had 6:30 a.m. mornings at the Oklahoma State University horse barn.

I made some good friends there and I try to keep in touch. Most of the stuff we did was stupid.

"X-Files" marathons, "Star Trek" marathons, and "Highlander" marathons.

Road trips to nowhere and Christmas light expeditions during dead week.

Playing cards and Jenga with Tanam when she worked her night shifts in the middle of the night on Fridays and Saturdays at Willham North, the dorm that was home for three and a half years.

Coin beer nights at the Tumbleweed and waiter-baiting at Eskimo Joe's.

A Wade Hayes concert and The Great Divide. Free movie tickets from Y105.



### Tisha Cox

#### • Off The Beaten Path

7:30 a.m. medieval history with Dr. Bischcoff. Islam, Dr. Pepper and donuts.

Dan Wall getting bit that Sunday afternoon in the pasture. The "wormy" incident.

The paint filly we not-so-affectionately nicknamed after the grey mare in Larry McMurtry's novel "Lonesome Dove."

Cold, cold hikes to BFE.

Being keel-hauled across the Oklahoma clay.

Homework nights in the lounge.

Hockey games and homework.

Stupid freshman and "90210," "Dawson's Creek" and "Felicity."

"X-Files," vampires, aliens and sorority pledges. The great Willham power outage and the bomb threat during finals week.

The day a bird in the transformer took down the power in the animal science building and later the entire west half of campus.

Incompetent copy editors and Patrick and Roger at the O'Colly.

French foreign literature, ag economics, genetics, and American foreign policy.

Russian history, breaking and training, news reporting, equine science, Russian and range management.

Cheap movies and Chinese food and Cowboy cinema.

Running out of candy at Halloween and hand-

ing out mints.

Air conditioning in October. Heaters in April.

Baylor baseball and bad pitching.

Ray Bourque, Baby B's and OKC.

Getting stuck in elevators.

Eskimo Joe's, Mexico Joe's, Stillwater Bay.

There was a smashed thumb, blown knee, a concussion and a few days from one week in November 1995 that are very, very hazy.

There was also tailgating at football games, razzing the TAMU Aggies mascot one game, basketball games.

There was also that first homecoming and how excited everybody got about something called "pomping."

It's the Greek tradition of building a float on display for the house. The actual "pomping" is pushing pieces of colored tissue paper through the holes in chicken wire.

To this day, I fail to see the attraction but it just drove the sororities nuts to get to do it.

There was also the real Mulder. One of my friends found a guy from upstate New York on campus and started to date him for no other reason than his name was Mulder.

There was other stuff too, like Attila the professor, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and the three cases of beer, security scanners on the dorm doors, mucking stalls and many, many other things that happened that are either too numerous to mention or just don't deserve seeing print.

College was fun but there have been some things since that have topped some of the experiences I had there.

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## When you live with cats



### Maxine Nelson

#### • Random Thoughts

ing and find a strange cat sleeping in your breakfast chair. Which by the way, is a swivel chair, and if he ever does that again, he is going for a spin. My cats won't go near that chair because it is so unstable, but it doesn't seem to bother him.

Blackie is a gorgeous cat, and if I didn't already have two cats, I'd adopt him in a minute — as an outdoor cat. (He's not neutered and wants to mark his territory.) I think he already has a home — he is so friendly and loving. He loves it when I have company, especially children. I've explained to him he is my outside cat, and I will feed him outside, but don't want him inside. And he seems to understand. He's pretty polite. If he wanted, he could rush between my feet and I wouldn't be able to get him outside. So I bring him some dry cat food out on the deck,

and he purrs and rubs and loves me up more than my cats ever do. He's like a 'tall dark stranger' and I suspect on closer acquaintance, he would not be so lovable.

He has a loud voice, and when he comes around, he is so happy. "Meow! Meow! Meow! Here I am! Aren't you glad to see me?!", he says. He reminds me of the dogs belonging to the neighbor down the street who ride home in the back of his pickup truck. When he turns the corner, the dogs bark and sing, and let everyone in the neighborhood know they are happy to be home. I love it!

I don't know if Baby, my 17-year-old gray cat, has a stomach ache or is mourning for my husband. Every day, she goes into my bedroom and just cries, "Owie, Owie, Owie," for about seven to 10 times, several times a day. It's eerie. She may have a stomach ache, many times it is after she eats; but it started the day my husband died. She's not eating much, but at this time of year, cats don't eat much. She's skinny as a rail but she is old, and has been getting thinner for quite some time. I don't know whether to take her to the vet or to the Pet Psychic.

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*Maxine Nelson is a retired Free Press reporter who writes when the mood strikes.*

### Doonesbury

#### • Gary Trudeau

