

# Opinion

## Letters

### Serious rodent problem

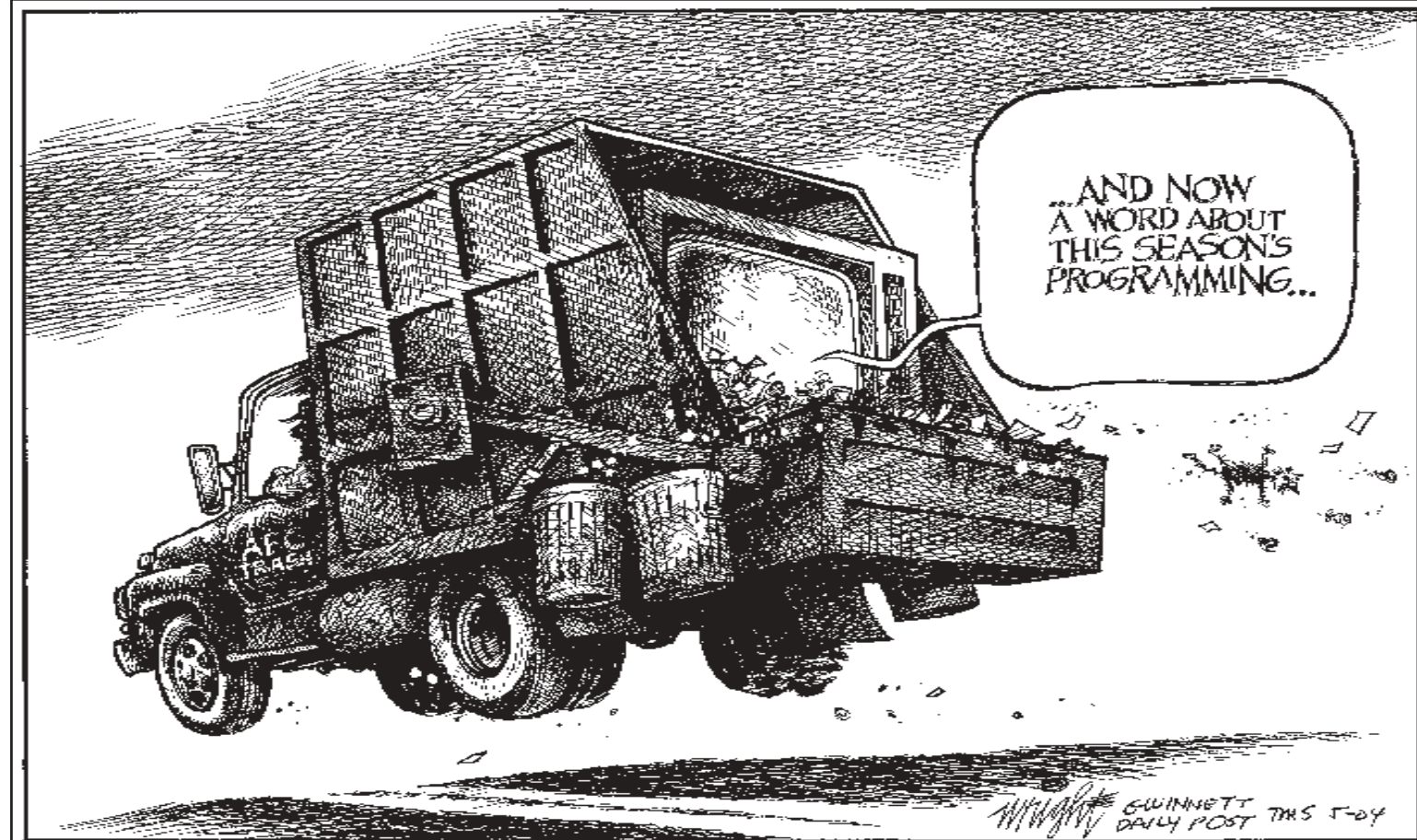
To the Colby Free Press:

We are one of the three trailers in Friendly Acres who have had opossum problems in the last week or so. This is a very serious issue that someone needs to address. I don't know very many people and imagine that if I know of three that are having this problem there are many more.

Our family has exhausted all the avenues that we can think of to get help but have come up empty handed. Some of the things which we have tried are: calling Fish and Game, Colby Law Enforcement, K.-State Extension office, Wildlife Management and the local pest control agencies.

We are seriously in need of assistance. Opossum's can be infected with diseases and are a serious hazard to children who live in this trailer park, as well as the rest of Colby. Our law enforcement should not be the ones who are expected to deal with a rodent problem, and neither should ordinary citizens who have no experience or knowledge of them.

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Harrington  
Colby  
(Letter #40)



### Oakley says 'Thanks!'

To the Colby Free Press:

On behalf of the citizens of Oakley and the Wild West Historical Foundation, Inc., we would like to thank the Colby Free Press and Tisha Cox for their fine coverage of our Buffalo Bill sculpture dedication event.

In addition we would like to extend our appreciation to the many people and business that helped us make this project a reality.

A special thanks goes out to Mike Woofter and Woofter Construction for "Being there when we needed them". Mike, Carl, Susan, Rod and Norm were just fantastic, thanks folks!

Be sure to stop by Oakley when you can and visit the sculpture site and the Fick Fossil and History Museum. It is our desire for this sculpture to belong to the people and it is there for the enjoyment of all.

We hope that the fact that we are bringing more attention to our fine heritage will be beneficial to all of northwest Kansas.

Sincerely,

C. Lewis Evins, President  
Wild West Historical Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 160  
Oakley, Kan 67748  
(Letter #41)

### Something wrong with this

To the Colby Free Press:

Mr. Grosso was in the news again (this week). He's indignant that someone wants to take back part of the \$188,000,000 he was awarded as a retirement package when he left Wall Street.

Let's say he worked in the New York Stock Exchange for 20 years. (Some people claim he wasn't there that long). Let's give him two weeks vacation per year. That leaves him 50 weeks at 40 hours per week, 2,000 hours per year, 40,000 hours total.

Divide 188,000,000 by 40,000. Wow! That blew my little calculator so I had to reduce the figures by a tenth.

That came out to \$4,700 per hour or \$37,600 per day. That wasn't his salary, that is just his benefit package given at retirement.

Is there something wrong with my calculator, or is there something wrong on Wall Street.

Wilbur Leebrick  
Atwood  
(Letter #42)

### COLBY FREE PRESS

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Haynes Publishing Company

## Diabetes: She's right on target

YOU can live — and live well — with diabetes. Those of us who have the disease (me included) know that. However, living with it involves more than just tolerance. No one I know of has a way of saying it better than Jean Rogers, Lakewood, Colo., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rogers of Colby. Writing a letter in response to an article appearing in a diabetes-driven publication, Jean's thoughts are educational for those not familiar with diabetes, and also serves as a reminder for those of us who are that we can deal with this health issue.

She points out that she has had type 1 diabetes for more than 40 years and offers assurance that the regimen needed to maintain one's health is fairly arduous. Arduous, she writes for the magazine, does not mean strict, but it does mean that one needs to live a lifestyle that is suited for living with diabetes. She points out that the consequences of not maintaining a regimen can be disastrous and can lead to, in the worst case scenario, renal failure, heart failure, and blindness, among others.

She rightfully points out that a diabetic diet does not mean not ever falling off the wagon and having the occasional "forbidden" food. It does mean that even if you fall off the wagon, you should try to limit it to once in a while and jump right back on.

Most of us living with diabetes knows about exercise. Jean writes: Exercise, along with a proper diet and regular monitoring of one's blood sugar, plays an integral part in helping to regulate weight and blood sugar. It is important to try to keep one's blood sugar as level as possible.

She continues: If a proper routine is learned, having diabetes becomes second nature and not impossible to live with. Yes, it is like a second job, but a very manageable one. Diabetes is a very



### Tom Dreiling

#### • My Turn

serious disease and must be respected. With proper diet, exercise, regular doctor visits, and by properly following your medication regimen, someone with diabetes can live a very full and rewarding life.

And she writes: I had a successful kidney/pancreas transplant over three years ago. This would not have been possible had I ignored these very things that a diabetic must learn to do.

I would also add that like Jean, I pretty much follow a regimen as I continue confronting and dealing with the challenges that at times litter the pathway. I read as much stuff about diabetes as I can get my hands on. I've been dealing with it since 1985 or '86 (exact year slips the mind). One of my sources is *Diabetes Forecast*, a must read magazine for the diabetic. Strange how, as the years pass, you feel like you are up to date on the trends and expectations of the illness and then you sit down to read the *Forecast* and you learn of the many ways never imagined to deal with it. Among my sustaining musts is insulin, something I dreaded at the outset, but it has become just another things I do as I ready for the day at hand.

There are sickness of greater magnitude and if I had to come down with something, well, diabetes — I have found, and as Jean so educationally stated — can be managed with common

sense and a desire to prolong one's existence.

Jean's letter appeared in the *Diabetes Forecast*.

YOU'LL get a chuckle out of this:

A woman went to the doctor's office, where she was seen by one of the new doctors, but after about four minutes in the examination room, she burst out, screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and relax in another room.

The older doctor marched down the hallway to the back where the younger doctor was and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 63 years old; she has four grown children and seven grandchildren...and you told her she was pregnant?!"

The new younger doctor continued to write on his clipboard and without looking up asked, "Does she still have the hiccups?"

DON'T forget the first "Picnic in the Park" program is next Thursday (June 3) at 12 noon at Fike Park. Bring a lawn chair, or blanket, and a sack lunch and enjoy the music of the McLemore Family. The weekly series continues through July 29. The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press have again teamed up to again sponsor this popular summertime feature. There's no charge.

HAVE a good evening! Play it safe this Memorial holiday weekend, and remember to visit the church off your choice as part of your plans.

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Tom Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press.

## Cartoons aren't for kids anymore

It's not that I have a short attention span. I just happen to find stupid things funny.

Take for instance the little monologues on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim.

It isn't as bad as it sounds. They're hilarious, depending on your state of mind.

They are kind of silly but they serve their purpose — to make you stick around and see what's on.

Also, since every other network is bogged down with the leftovers of a new summer season, cartoons are a nice way to kill time.

Adult Swim is a programming block of animation for adults. It's made up of stuff like "Futurama," (by the guy who did "The Simpsons") which Fox canceled and Cartoon picked up, a few other shows for the over 18 crowd and something a little unusual — Japanese anime.

People are becoming more familiar with it in the mainstream but unfortunately it's with shows like "Pokemon" or "Yu-Gi-Oh!"

I bet most people don't know there's probably something out there in anime for everyone. Everything from cute kids shows to horror, scifi, comedy and romance for adults.

They way I understand it, in Japan, animation is a medium that is for more than just kids. Unfortunately, it's a stigma that is still attached to the medium here in the States.

If anyone has been paying attention, for the past year, Hiyao Miyazaki's "Spirited Away" has done very, very well here. (For those of you who don't know, Mr. Miyazaki is Japan's answer to Steven Spielberg. He's been the creative force behind most of Japan's highest-grossing domestically produced pictures.)

I haven't seen it yet but I have had the pleasure of seeing his work before it — "Mononoke Hime," or "Princess Mononoke."



### Tisha Cox

#### • Off The Beaten Path

It's set in 14th century feudal Japan and centers on the conflict between man and nature, mainly a boy named Ashitaka, an outcast prince who gets stuck between both sides.

He falls in love with San, a girl raised by wolves. San sides with her family, putting her at odds with Ashitaka. He wants to help the humans who have inadvertently started the war but he also wants to help San. (There are also a couple of battle scenes that'll match anything in last year's "The Fellowship of the Ring: The Two Towers" except the ones in "Princess Mononoke" were hand-drawn.)

It's a beautiful, violent, breathtaking story. There's only one other movie that I've seen that comes close to matching the power and emotion of Miyazaki. That was Spielberg's "Schindler's List."

To me, that proves that animation is just a legitimate medium as anything Hollywood puts out or the mainstream media here.

Another favorite is "Cowboy Bebop," which harkens back to the old film noir era. It's about three bounty hunters — a grizzled ex-cop, a young mobster turned good guy and an amnesiac gambling addict who keeps the boys on their toes. It's sarcastic and sad and manages to convey everything it is to be human in a mere 26 episodes.

There was also a movie that was released here

in the States back in April, "Knockin' on Heaven's Door." (It's out on DVD, fully dubbed in English for your enjoyment. I saw the subtitled version but it was awesome anyway. This one shouldn't be missed.)

Hollywood has even jumped on the bandwagon. In the works are live-action versions of "Dragonball Z," "Lone Wolf and Cub" and "Akira."

Those stories worked on the printed page and in animation but who knows if Hollywood will be able to present them with the creator's vision intact.

There's also been some editing done to some of the anime we get here because some scenes might not be suitable for kids. In Japan, the target audience wasn't the 7- to 13-year-old after school crowd.

Or it's been edited here because censors think parts of it might be "unsuitable" for young minds. Get a clue folks. They see worse on the news.

DBZ was meant for teenagers on up and if you've read the manga (the Japanese version of the comic book) you'll see what I mean.

For some reason, stuff has been dumbed-down for kids when it shouldn't have been. I know it's for their protection but it's also an insult to their intelligence and anybody who watches anime.

I just don't get how people here think that just because it's animated, it's for a kid to watch.

Not true.

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Tisha Cox is a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Free Press. Her column appears on Mondays (but this coming Monday is a holiday and we won't be publishing a paper, so she opted to share today). Her e-mail is tcx@nwkanssas.com.

### Doonesbury

#### • Gary Trudeau

