

To The Free Press:

With reference to the letter written by Max & Katie Melvin, I would like to comment.

It seems that some people would like to take the focus off of Dr. (Victor II) Hildyard for his conduct that created this whole mess and make a scapegoat out of the hospital board and CEO.

It should be the responsibility of a professional to act in a professional way that would not create havoc around him to the point of having to lose personnel and other professionals in this community because of his actions. Keeping the harmony at Citizens Medical Center should be the responsibility of the ones working with each other, not the responsibility of the hospital board and CEO. Furthermore, if Dr. Hildyard had been acting toward other staff members and employees this would never have occurred to start with. Someone finally had the guts to file a complaint against him, but yet he is the poor abused boy, it is every one else's fault.

Some of the other people in this community who do not doctor with him would like to be able to keep their doctors too. Unprofessional conduct toward the other doctors by Dr. Hildyard has caused us to lose ours. What is the difference, yours or ours? He may be a good doctor, we have never doctored with him, and all I know about how fine a physician he is is through situations that have occurred with friends and colleagues that I have associated with in the past 20 years.

The hospital board has not divided this community. Place the blame where it belongs, on Dr. Hildyard and admit it was because of the unprofessional way he has acted through the years that we have had such a turnover of doctors in this community.

Don't try to make a Saint out of this situation where Dr. Hildyard is concerned. When he can divide a body of water instead of the way he has divided this community, then I will help you sing his praises.

Rules are rules and after all rules were broken even little boys in school when they misbehave have to be reprimanded and take responsibility for their actions. About time Dr. Hildyard took responsibility for his actions instead of trying to place the blame on everyone else. He caused this mess and he is the one that can undo it by admitting that he has been unprofessional and clean up his act.

I am sure if you would stop to analyze this whole situation, you would surely realize that this was a professional decision and not a personal vendetta.

Joyce Dean Colby (Letter #135)

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail td@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com.

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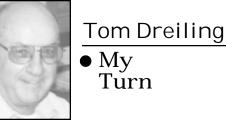
WE SHOULD be thinking about winter and all the fun and excitement it brings. Skiing comes quickly to mind — that is if you like to ski or trust yourself on those things. In front of me is some information one generally doesn't equate with winter. Like carnivals. Those outdoor kind of things you pretty much place in summer's box. But specifically I am looking at some information that has a local link - something they call a home-owned carnival.

In our midst is an organization dedicated — and it really takes dedication, folks - to seeing the realization of a home-owned carnival. Their goal is ambitious, to say the least. But gathering up the elements that comprise a home-owned carnival aren't cheap, but we are fortunate to have some of these kinds of individuals in the community who are focused on attaining this goal.

The Thomas County Amusement Association is up and running in its quest to put together - rideby-ride — a carnival to aid the annual Thomas County Fair and for possible use at other times in the year. The organization's goal is to develop a homeowned carnival for the people of Thomas County and the surrounding communities. They invite all of us to provide input and support as volunteers and/or contributors.

As an executive board and membership body, they have established the following fund-raising goals: by Dec. 31, 2002, \$150,000; by June 30, 2003, \$300,000. The money generated through their fundraising drive will be used to purchase needed equipment, and resources for the carnival and gaming booths. At this time they plan to purchase used rides and refurbish them as other home-owned carnivals have done.

game booth; 2004 — add 2 rides and add games; commercial. The one that is a particular rub is the man replied. "Anyone claiming to be a preacher, but 2005 — add 2 rides and add games.



Just thought today would be the day I give a 'thumbs up" to this group of guys and gals.

IDON'T have the foggiest idea how funds in existing accounts work, but inasmuch as the carnival bunch is a community-minded and spirited outfit, and because their effort is strictly community - not personal - whether some of the dollars in places like the drug money account couldn't maybe be used as an incentive for other organizations and individuals to contribute. In other words perhaps the drug cash could be doled out on a dollar-for-dollar basis. That might spark others to dig deep. Worth a try - if it can be used in that manner.

HATS off to my favorite on-air television personality - Michael Schwanke. He has been selected and a good selection it is — as weekend anchor at KWCH-TV/Wichita (channel 11 on our cable system). He's been at the station several years now and his presence in front of the camera is legend. You can catch him on Saturdays and Sundays. Charlie and Debbie Schwanke are his parents.

THAT Vioxx commercial on the tube certainly Carnival ride goals includes: 2003—6 rides plus doesn't do for me what it does for the 'actors' in the 'older' gent who gets out of bed early and takes his dog along to meet his buddies. He steps right along ably lost his buttons. like he's got springs in his feet and tosses that stick for the dog to fetch like he'd never ever had adversity in his limbs before. And that song, "Oh beautiful morning...." is enough to drive me up a wall. I am up often early to do my walking - quietly so as not to appears Wednesdays and Fridays.

disturb the neighbors. Vioxx works, but the commercial seems to exaggerate the result.

AND would you believe caffeine soap? Yea, guess that's the latest thing. No time for coffee in the morning? Lather up with caffeine.

HAPPY Birthday to ...

Sept. 25 — Justin Dice, Murray Adrian, Jake Cersovsky, Kaylin Wiens, Robert Tubbs Sept. 26 — Angie Harris, Chuck Heinrich HAPPY Anniversary... Sept. 25 — Duane & Ethel Jean Woofter Sept. 26 — Don & Anne Guilfoyle Congratulations!

Call us at 462-3963 or email td@nwkansas.com to have your special day mentioned. And please keep us informed of any changes. Thanks, for your help!

A MAN lost two buttons from his shirt and put them in his pants pocket. But the pocket had a hole, so the buttons fell into his shoe. Unfortunately, the shoe sole also had a hole, so he lost the buttons. Since pockets with holes, holes without buttons, and shoe soles with holes are useless, the man ripped the buttonholes out of his shirt and the pocket from his pants and tossed them in the trash along with the soles of his shoes. After looking in a mirror at the holes in his clothing, he decided to toss his clothes in the trash as well. A policeman observed all this and asked the man for identification. The man produced a document that he was an ordained minister of the gospel. So, of course, the policeman promptly escorted him to a mental institution. The minister protested strongly, asking why he was receiving such unjust treatment. "Look, it's the best place for you now," the policewho doesn't save souls or wear holy clothes has prob

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Did you know...a new carnival-type ride can cost as much as \$200,000 or more? Did you know...it takes a community to create a home-owned carnival and to make it successful? Did you know ... a home-owned carnival creates community history? Did you know...you can help?

HAVE a good evening!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column

Time for national health care

I am a community advocate for national health care, everybody in, nobody out. I never cease to be amazed at the burden placed upon seniors, low-income people and working people that has resulted in these segments of the population losing faith in the ability of those in charge to respond to their problems, further resulting in the lowest voter turnout of any major country in the world.

Meanwhile, the rich and multi-national corporations are pouring billions of dollars into the political process, and into both major political parties. Believe workers will either have to go without needed care or it or not, the campaign contributions yield the greatest rate of return of any investment in the land.

The obvious result is that many candidates who are elected end up being more concerned about pleasing their wealthy benefactors than representing the needs of working people, children, the elderly and the poor.

It is no accident that while pharmaceutical companies donate huge sums of money to the political process, American citizens pay by far the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. Those same companies and their political donations ensure that the United States remains the only industrialized nation that does not have a national program providing health care for all.

As written by Hans Reimer: "We live in a society where workers between the ages of 19-29 are twice as likely to have no health insurance coverage as either children or older adults. If our economy by itself is unable to increase the availability of health coverage in the entry-level job market, then young

Alfred Shaiken

Another Viewpoint

the government will have to change public policy.'

Whether through strong incentives or a pure mandate to provide benefits, 12 million young workers need their government to take aggressive steps in order to restore health insurance to the low-wage job market. Every person should be able to lead a productive life and should be given that chance.

It's not a matter of charity. It should be a matter of bligation and conscience.

We live in a society without a national health care system, in which a person who loses a leg to diabetes can get an amputation, but not the insulin to manage the disease before needing the amputation; in which a child goes deaf simply because that child has the misfortune to lack clear immigration status and has no health care; in which a person screaming with pain from metastasized cancer gets pain medication from the ER but nothing more. Every case mentioned is obscene.

Our leaders are not listening. They are quibbling

over a Patients' Bill of Rights that will have virtually no impact on our health care system. Worse, this legislation will be passed off as adequate health care reform.

To break this barrier, our leaders need to hear resounding voices echoing throughout the land, demanding health care and social justice for all!

It is time to demand price controls be placed on the pharmaceutical companies. If this were done, seniors would not have to choose between paying rent, buying food, or filling their prescriptions.

We have the wealth and resources today to end poverty, and to make health care available for all. What we need, in addition to the resources, is a rockhard resolve to get the job done.

Let's face it - social justice doesn't come easily. Power concedes nothing without a demand.

It is time to mobilize and organize. It is time to get out from behind the barricades and make our voices and demands heard. Our frustrations and disappointments must be set aside — it is our responsibility to join together and work for a national health plan that provides health care for all, that fits the needs of all a program that leaves no one behind and results in 100 percent coverage for all.

Alfred Shaiken is a retired chief financial officer and the current vice-president of Connecticut Call To Action — Health Care For All. His e-mail is: alneshaiken@snet.net. Feedback to td@nwkansas.com.

