

# Opinion



## Monday's Salute

### Thumbs to...

- ✓**Thomas County EMS** — on your just concluded observance of National Emergency Medical Services Week.
- ✓**All Monument Alumni** — on your school reunion scheduled May 30.
- ✓**Dot Mayer** — on your approaching 100th!
- ✓**Don Balluch** — and your Woods IV class at Colby High School on the house project.
- ✓**Mysti Rothfuss** — on your “Locks of Love” contribution..
- ✓**The McLemore Family, Sappa Strings, Jan Barnum, April McAdams, Shannon Myers, Shawna Eberle, Amanda Kidder, Monica Miller and Carla Haggard, and Larry Booth** — this season’s “Picnic in the Park” entertainers.
- ✓**The Meal Delivery Crew** — for your service to the homebound. (More volunteers are needed, please call Donna at the Senior Progress Center, 460-2901.)
- ✓**Greg Swob, Terrel Harrison, Jada Tubbs, Jamie Heskett, Laura Tubbs, Deanna Pabst, Marie Skolout, Tracey King and Tim Moeder** — on your graduation from the Leadership Thomas County program.

*This weekly salute is prepared each Monday morning by the newspaper's publisher. Submissions, comments or questions can be directed to him at td@nwkansas.com or 462-3963.*

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, fax (785) 462-7749, call 462-3963 or deliver to the office. All comments will need a signature, address and daytime telephone number.

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- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521
- U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715
- State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorrison@ink.org web:http://www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison
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## Another big movie season

Ah, summer. The advent of warm weather means I'll probably be driven inside a dark, air conditioned theater more times than I want to admit and with some of the movies hitting the screen between now and Labor Day, it's not a bad idea.

The summer season started "unofficially" May 7 with the release of Universal's "Van Helsing." I should've been giddy with anticipation over this one but I wasn't, considering some of the advance press of this movie. I saw it twice and only went back the second time to make sure my first impression was right and it was.

Unless you want to watch two hours of a movie that could've been deeper or funnier but was somewhere in the disappointing middle with hordes of baby vamps exploding into gobs of slimy green goo, I would advise staying home and renting "The Mummy" or waiting until something better comes along.

Or another suggestion would be renting the original black and white versions of "Frankenstein," "Dracula" and "The Wolf-Man" with Bela Lugosi, Lon Chaney and Boris Karloff as the original movie incarnations of these creature classics. "Shadow of the Vampire," an indie flick from a couple of years ago about the making of the first vampire film ever, "Nosferatu," would also be a good choice in considering alternatives to "Van Helsing."

Two of these movies back to back are about as long as Van Helsing and probably more fun.

Tops on the list of stuff that's not out yet is "The Day After Tomorrow" which comes out Memorial Day weekend. I haven't been to see a catastrophic disaster flick since 1995 when "Independence Day" came out. Said flick was a catastrophe for reasons other than it's subject matter but



### Tisha Cox

#### • Off The Beaten Path

that's a story for another column.

Anyway, "The Day After Tomorrow" is a big-budget film about the Earth's weather patterns getting knocked out of whack, causing massive storms and environmental shift around the planet. I'm guessing second Ice Age. Stars Dennis Quaid and Jake Gyllenhaal.

Next up is "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" on June 4. It's obviously an adaptation of the third Harry Potter novel by J.K. Rowling. This movie clocks in at under three hours so its shorter than the previous two but looks much better.

A week later on June 11, Matthew Broderick and Nicole Kidman team up for a remake of "The Stepford Wives."

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Another highly-anticipated flick debuting that day is "The Chronicles of Riddick," which continues the adventures of the character Riddick from 2000's "Pitch Black" with Vin Diesel.

It looks like a cross between "Lord of the Rings" and "Dune" so I don't know how well-received this one will be.

Hong Kong action star Jackie Chan tames it

down for the family crowd in Disney's remake of "Around the World in 80 Days." Lots of slapstick humor and Chan's trademark fighting antics should make this one fun to watch. It hits screens June 16.

Also slated for release on June 30 is "Spider-Man 2." Tobey Maguire is back as the web-slinging, spandex-sporting superhero along with Kirsten Dunst and James Franco reprising their roles as Mary Jane and Harry Osborne.

July brings even more remakes and historical action.

"King Arthur," touted in the trailer as the "true story" of the once and future king, comes out July 7 and stars Clive Owen as Arthur and Keira Knightly of "Pirates of the Caribbean" as his queen Guenevere.

It's basically a "Gladiator"-like spin on the story of Britain's legendary high king, sans everything that made it memorable in the first place. I guess Arthur is a Roman instead of a Briton and as for the historical inaccuracies, don't get me started. (Plate/suit armor and the English longbow at that time in history? Please.)

Rounding out the July releases are "The Bourne Supremacy" with Matt Damon on July 23, a remake of "The Manchurian Candidate" on July 30. Also scheduled for release on that date is M. Night Shyamalan's "The Village."

Two notable August releases are "The Princess Diaries II: Royal Engagement" on Aug. 11 and the monster smackdown of "Alien vs. Predator" on Aug. 13.

It's showtime!

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Tisha Cox is a reporter/photographer for the Free Press. Her column appears Mondays. tcox@nwkansas.com.

## What kind of apology was that?

Our President finally apologized! But what does the apology relate to? Does it speak to the injustice of the inhumane treatment of our fellow human beings?

Does it address the depravity of those committing the wrongs?

Does it address the failure of our system of military justice?

Did he tell the world he was sorry we didn't live up to our commitment to honor the Geneva Convention concerning prisoners of war? Or, does it indicate; sorry we got caught?

He says this is not representative of American ethics or morals.

Talk to people on the streets and the opinions expressed will alarm you (or at least they should). i.e. So what? This is war, what do you expect? Those guys were shooting at us! It was just some youngsters having fun. They act like animals, treat them like animals. Look at what they do.

Hmmmm? "Do two wrongs make a right?"

We have a drug culture that is out of control and a business environment that seems to have license to operate without conscience.

We have a pornography distribution system that is uncontrollable and void of any semblance

### Ken Poland

#### • Ken's World

of decency.

We have to have police protection in our schools.

We have political leaders who have expressed disgust at the 'whistle blowers' who finally went public with the incriminating pictures.

Our Secretary of Defense says he'll not discuss torture. We will discuss inappropriate behavior or, possibly, abuse. Further indicating the abuse was quite harmless under the circumstances. That is kind of like collateral damage and unavoidable circumstances. The end justifies the means.

He says he will take full responsibility. Does that mean he will take any punishments meted out if court martial proceedings find guilt?

Or, does that mean he'll take full responsibility

ity for protecting the system at what ever the cost in terms of expendable personnel. The lowest rank is always expendable first.

If you were ever in the military service, you know that the poor recruit in boot camp doesn't have a chance with the company commander or even the platoon sergeant. I remember one of my fellow recruits standing before the company commander on charges of an inappropriate act on the firing range.

His defense was, I saw sergeant doing it. The lieutenant tried to convince him he didn't see such a thing. The poor fellow wasn't sharp enough to catch on. He could have gone with just a verbal reprimand if he'd changed his report. He got an Article 15 instead and the sergeant and company commander joked about it. Sad to say; I was smart enough to keep my mouth shut and let the injustice pass.

Just what is representative of our culture? I'm not too sure our culture is consistently representative of Christian or any other religious values. We seem to be better at talking a good talk than walking a good walk.

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Ken Poland is a Gem farmer and frequent contributor to this page. rcwinc@cheerful.com.

### Doonesbury

#### • Gary Trudeau

