

# Opinion



## Free Press Viewpoint

### 57 channels and nothing on?

From The Hutchinson News

Major cable television companies agreed ... to introduce family friendly television packages early next year.

The packages are designed to address the concerns of parents seeking to shield their young children from potentially offensive programming. Cable companies yielded to intense pressure from lawmakers and interest groups by agreeing to the plan.

Yet some consumer advocates believe cable companies' concession to family friendly packages is an attempt to divert attention from an even larger cable battle that centers on a la carte selections.

In recent years, cable companies have come under increasing pressure from Congress and consumer interest groups to develop an a la carte system, which allows customers to purchase channels they want instead of packages padded with rarely viewed channels.

Cable network executives, though, contend the a la carte system hampers development of niche programming because few customers would subscribe to channels such as C-SPAN, which wouldn't survive the move to an a la carte system.

And that leads to the crux of the a la carte debate. Many think cable TV companies will charge more for a handful of channels selected under the a la carte system in order to offset the additional costs of providing niche channels. In the end, the a la carte system could cost consumers more than the current system that bundles 70 or more channels.

Nevertheless, the Federal Communications Commission is seeking public comment this month on a proposal requiring the cable TV industry to offer a la carte programming. If the FCC is successful, the a la carte system should carry a warning: Buyer beware.

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 [jvannostrand@nwkansas.com](mailto:jvannostrand@nwkansas.com) or [pdecker@nwkansas.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansas.com).

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## No chicken here about cooking turkey

I'm the first person to admit I'm never too old to learn from my children. That's exactly what I did Thanksgiving weekend when hubby and I visited my son and daughter-in-law in Texas.

My favorite photo of my son is of him when he was about 3-years-old sitting with his feet in the left side of my mom's kitchen sink peeling potatoes. Visible just to the right of my son is the shadow of my mom standing there teaching him to cook. And a good cook he is.

While visiting him last month, my son taught his mom how to cook what was literally the best turkey I've ever tasted. I'm sure he won't mind, so I'll share his recipe here.

Taking a free-range turkey (one not raised in one of those mass production poultry places) my son washed it and prepared it as anyone would a regular store-purchased turkey.

Next, after having discarded any parts he didn't want to cook, my son placed inside the turkey's main cavity juices squeezed from an orange and lemon.

He also placed inside the turkey several chopped cloves of garlic and a few stems of freshly picked rosemary and sage. And, after having squeezed the orange and lemon, and chopping an apple, the rinds and apple pieces were stuffed into the turkey. Using a smaller version of the same ingredients, my son stuffed the neck cavity of the bird.

Then, carefully pulling the skin from the breast of the turkey, he lathered fresh butter, rosemary, garlic and several granules of sea salt under the skin and draped it back over the turkey breast. He then placed the bird atop a configuration of celery and carrots which lay neatly next to each other like stripes on a shallow baking pan.

While the bird cooked at 350 degrees for about



**Jan Katz  
Ackerman**

#### • From Where I stand

two hours (I can't remember how many pounds it was), my son cooked diced squash, mashed potatoes, and fresh cranberry sauce.

As his wife sat the table and entertained hubby and me, particularly after being asked to "get out of MY kitchen," we ate what was the best tasting Thanksgiving turkey I've ever had. Not because my son cooked it, but because it was wonderfully moist from having the fresh ingredients keep it from drying out.

So, thinking back to those younger years of my son's life, I'm sure glad my mom spent all those hours teaching him to cook.

While my daughter-in-law can cook, and is a fantastic baker when it comes to breads, cookies, etc., it's my son who is the "chef" of their house.

— — —

Speaking of children teaching me things, my daughter gave me the following list of things which help verify I've lived during the year 2005. We'll soon turn the page on our calendars. See if any of the items on this list strike your funny bone as they did mine.

**YOU KNOW YOU LIVED IN 2005 WHEN...**

1. You accidentally enter your password on

the microwave.

2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.

3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three people.

4. You e-mail the person who lives next door to you.

5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is because they don't have e-mail addresses.

6. You need a password for EVERYTHING, you always use the same one and everyone knows what it is.

7. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.

8. Every commercial on television has a Web site at the bottom of the screen.

10. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.

11. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.

12. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)

13. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.

14. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to give this list.

15. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.

16. You actually looked back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list. And now you are laughing at yourself, so go on, send this to your friends... you know you want to.

Merry Christmas!

## Your turn

### Placing credit where credit is due

Linda Jones  
Colby

It's another lovely weekend and I am diligently hunched over my desk, grading student papers.

These are persuasive papers my sophomores have written, based on their own thoughts and ideas, as well as those of others. These students have spent painstaking weeks researching and planning, organizing and composing, editing and re-editing, to make these papers the best they can be.

During the course of our research, plagiarism has been discussed at length. My students know that plagiarizing at Colby High School will affect their grade. The repeated practice will result in failure of the course. Many colleges and universities throughout the country have gone so far as to develop honor codes for students in an effort to curtail plagiarism. It is serious business. Jayson Blair, a former New York Times reporter, was fired for plagiarizing from the work of other journalists.

At the high school level, many students plagiarize because they don't know how not to. Part of my job is to help them acquire the skills they need to avoid plagiarizing. But beyond high school, it represents a lack of character. Simply put, plagiarism is theft, theft of the written word.

There are people who make their living by writing well. Writing is hard work, and the author of a well-written novel or essay is no less proud of his accomplishment than is the seamstress who sews a beautiful wedding gown or the gardener whose roses take first prize at the county fair. A job well done is a source of pride for the doer.

Imagine my disappointment then, when I pick up a newsletter from a Colby business and read an article that has been blatantly plagiarized. Surely the "author" knows better. This person's position requires not one, I am sure, but several college degrees. I realize that I have been teaching a long time, and over the years I have become pretty adept at spotting plagiarism. I don't catch it every time, but it's a little difficult not to when an article is word-for-word someone else's

work. It takes only a quick "google" check to confirm that virtually the entire article was taken from not one, but from two, authors from the internet. Authors who make their living, at least in part, from their writing. And at no point is the true authorship acknowledged.

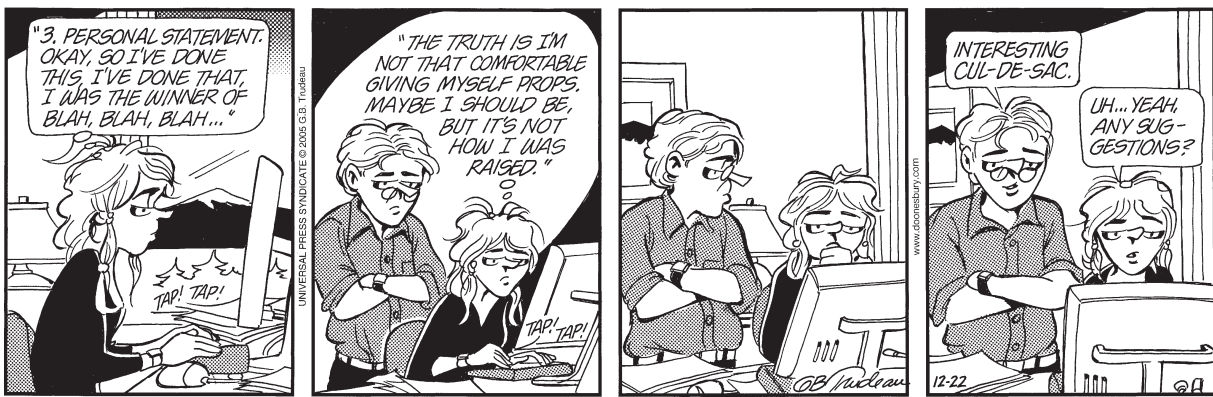
I inform my students that there is nothing wrong with using someone else's words to illustrate or support a point we want to make. In fact, I encourage them to do so. That is what research is all about. But I don't allow them to claim credit for ideas or words that are not theirs. Just as, in the business world, it is dishonest to accept wages for work one did not do, it is dishonest to accept praise for something one did not write. I am sure that the "writer" received many nice comments about this article because it is very well written. Senator John McCain writes very well.

#### About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous.

## Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau



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