

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Personal responsibility can prevent train accidents

It seems to me there are three reasons for people being hit by trains, whether in vehicles or as pedestrians. First, many people are fully aware of whistles, signals and barriers, but believe that they can beat the train. Second is simple inattention. Third is suicide by train.

I have no opinion on the reasons for the recent fatalities. I do think that everyone knows what railroad tracks and trains are and have been taught as children to stop, look and listen. I do not believe that more safety features at railroad crossings will solve the problem of people who ignorantly or willingly defy what train tracks mean. The answer is individual responsibility.

S.D. Schutze
Taos

Amenity of summer

Each summer, as Santa Fe enters its high season, I look forward to *Pasatiempo's* meticulous, engaging and beautifully illustrated articles about what's happening in our museums, galleries, bookstores and performing arts venues. Like others, I sometimes forget how central this "Weekly Magazine of Arts, Entertainment, and Culture" is to what makes our city different.

But when I'm elsewhere — in New York, Washington or London, for example — I'm reminded that features I sometimes take for granted here are in many ways unique. I think of James M. Keller's eloquent guides to each production at The Santa Fe Opera. I remember the literate reviews that Jonathan Richards and his colleagues provide as they discuss both new and classic films. And I ask where else I could find anything to compare with last summer's exquisite coverage of George R.R. Martin's decision to revive the Jean Cocteau Cinema? Let's hear it for one of our capital's finest amenities.

John F. Andrews
Santa Fe

Leash your dog

The trails in and around Santa Fe are a wonderful asset for runners, cyclists and walkers, including those who like to walk their dogs. However, there is an epidemic of people who believe leash requirements apply to everyone's dog but theirs. Twice during a recent trail run, I had to stop as I approached a pedestrian who had taken his dog off a leash. Seeing a runner approaching at a quick pace, these dogs

MORE LETTERS

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apparently perceived me as a threat to their owners (or themselves) and became aggressive.

In both cases, the owner also recognized that they were wrong, stating, "I'm sorry. Don't worry. He doesn't bite." Remember that no one else on the trail knows your dog. Furthermore, users of the trail should not have to guess whether a dog is safe, wait for dog owners to get their dog under control or worse, worry about defending themselves.

I'm a dog owner. I like dogs and I understand that this is a dog-friendly town, but personal responsibility, compliance with the law and consideration for others would go a long way toward keeping your dog safe and creating goodwill with other trail users.

Tony Ortiz
Santa Fe

Better off with Saddam

I've said it before and I'll say it again, the Iraqi people were a lot better off with Saddam Hussein than they have been since his execution.

Richard "P-Nuts" Madrid
Santa Fe

Out of Iraq

I hope that we will not have *any* further involvement in Iraq. I vehemently opposed George W. Bush's attack on Hussein for the same reasons I oppose any further U.S. involvement. When you dive into a cesspool ...

John Scully
Española

Boosting merchants?

I want to thank the city of Santa Fe for keeping more than 30 parking meters covered on Washington Avenue until 4 p.m. June 14, a Saturday. This was a real help for the merchants. Parking is so abundant in town.

Gene F. Atkinson
general manager

Robert Bailey
Santa Fe