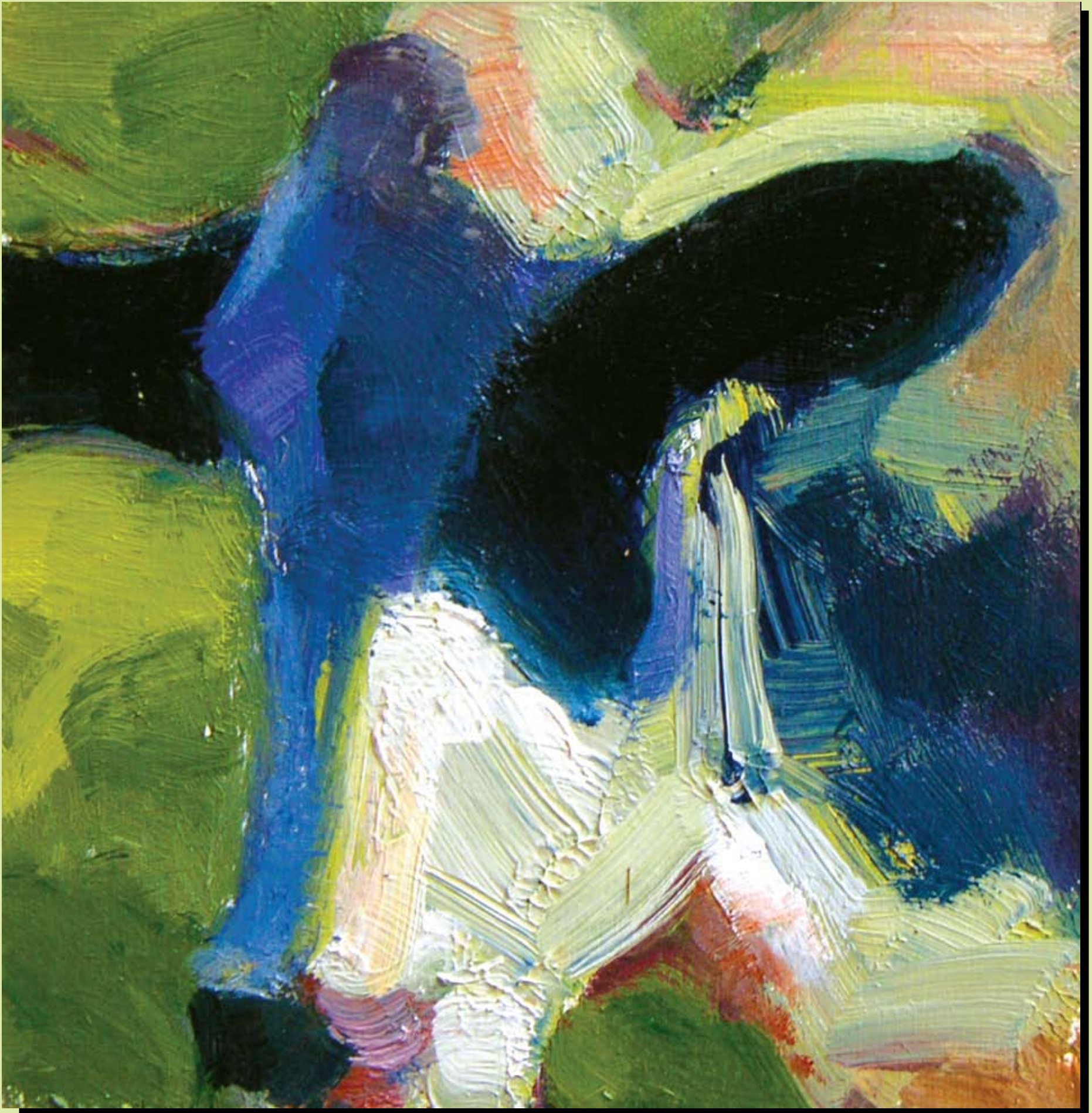


THE
PETALUMA
POST

A READER'S MONTHLY

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**Celebrating the
Sonoma-Marin Fair,
Dairy Month, Father's
Day, and The Post's
22nd Birthday!**



Painting by Sandra Speidel at Gallery One in Petaluma



Kim Schimke graduated from Sonoma State University with a Psychology degree and with honors. She was Vice President of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology, interned in the Human Resources department at Kaiser, and was a peer guidance counselor at her high school. She has plans to obtain her Master's Degree. Send your questions for Kim to editor@petalumapost.com or Petaluma Post, P.O. Box 493, Petaluma CA 94953.

Co-worker Conundrum

I had this flower ring that I absolutely loved. Two of my co-workers always complimented me on it. One day at work I took it off and left it on the break room table just for a few minutes and it was gone. I cannot be certain, but I am pretty sure one of them stole it. How do I confront them?

-Mylene

First of all, if you are not certain, never, ever accuse anyone of stealing. Even if you think one of them did steal it, you need to have some hard evidence to back you up. Perhaps one of them did steal it, but perhaps not. Consider everyone who has access to the break room. Even people you may not think would want the ring may have thought it had some value. Also, do customers visit your workplace? Do they have access to the

break room area? When I used to work in retail, the customer bathrooms were adjacent to our break room which was not locked. By confronting someone, not only could you make them feel bad if they didn't steal the ring, but that sort of accusation can make for a very unpleasant working experience. If you still believe one of your co-workers may have stolen the ring, casually ask if they have seen it and express the importance it holds for you. If one of them did take it, hopefully they would feel bad and give it up. Unfortunately, though, you may be out of luck and out a beautiful ring.

Ticked Off by Technology

Everyone around me is always Twittering and updating their Facebook and MySpace pages. It doesn't matter if I am

Suspected Theft, Social Technology, and a Formula for Success

by Kim Schimke

at school, work, or at the store, that is all people seem to be doing these days. I don't get it. Can you offer some insight to the appeal?

-Paula

It's simple, really. People are narcissistic. I also don't care for the Twitter thing nor do I do it. I can't imagine enough people caring about every thought that runs through my head throughout the day. People are constantly updating because they want people to know everything about them, where they are going, and what they are doing. Though some of us find this unnecessary and - dare I say - creepy, others feel this is keeping them connected with friends and relatives. Some people also use these online applications because they are trendy and their peers are doing it. To be honest, though, I don't think - unless you're famous or have a stalker - people really care what you are doing or thinking every minute of the day. Still, you should probably try to get

used to people around you using these resources, because these technologies are the future.

Expert Advice (...just not mine)

Kim, I have been reading your column for a while now and it made me wonder, what is the best advice you have ever gotten?

-Olivia

I am a much better advice giver than advice taker, sometimes to my detriment. The best advice that I actu-

ally try to apply is a formula for success that I learned from a business course: "Knowledge is 5%, Skills is 5%, and Attitude is 90%." What this means is that skills can be acquired and knowledge can be learned, but a positive attitude and drive is something that is either there or it isn't. You cannot teach someone to care if they don't. If you want something bad enough, you will find a way to make it happen. Having the right attitude is everything. After that, all else will fall into place.

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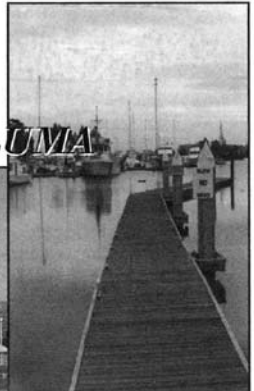
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by Jerry Van Amerongen







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