

## Massacre reveals both good and bad of America

Last week's Virginia Tech massacre set a record for a gunman run amok, 32 innocent lives.

The nation reeled in shock and horror, but the incident — as many do — revealed both the worst and the best about our society.

Seung-Hui Cho showed again what a demented gunman can do. Others emerged as heroes, taking action and saving lives while the carnage progressed.

In one classroom, senior Zach Petkewicz and his fellows in his class in Norris Hall barricaded the door, saving their lives and perhaps others. When the gunman tried to shove his way in, they shoved back, working together and thinking on their feet.

In another classroom, Liviu Librescu, who had survived the holocaust as a young man, blocked the door to give his students time to escape. All lived — except the professor.

Mr. Librescu was buried Friday in Israel, hailed as a hero. And he was.

There will be much second guessing, but no one yet has explained why people sometimes go crazy and decide to kill innocent people. Mass murder is nothing new, but these crazed gunmen seem to become more lethal with every try.

Seung-Hui Cho was not particularly heavily armed. He carried just a couple of pistols — not the shotguns and machine guns sometimes favored by the criminally insane — but he used them with great effect.

As usual, he did not stick around to answer for his crimes.

Gun control advocates will call for new laws, but most people seem to see the futility of that.

University officials and security forces will take a beating for not sounding the alarm sooner, but the first shooting, involving just one victim and a dormitory resident assistant who investigated, hardly seemed cause for a campus-wide lockdown.

Others are second guessing NBC's decision to air photos and tapes sent in the mail between the two sets of shootings.

Some say the networks should have held back, ditched the tapes, turned them over to the police or buried them.

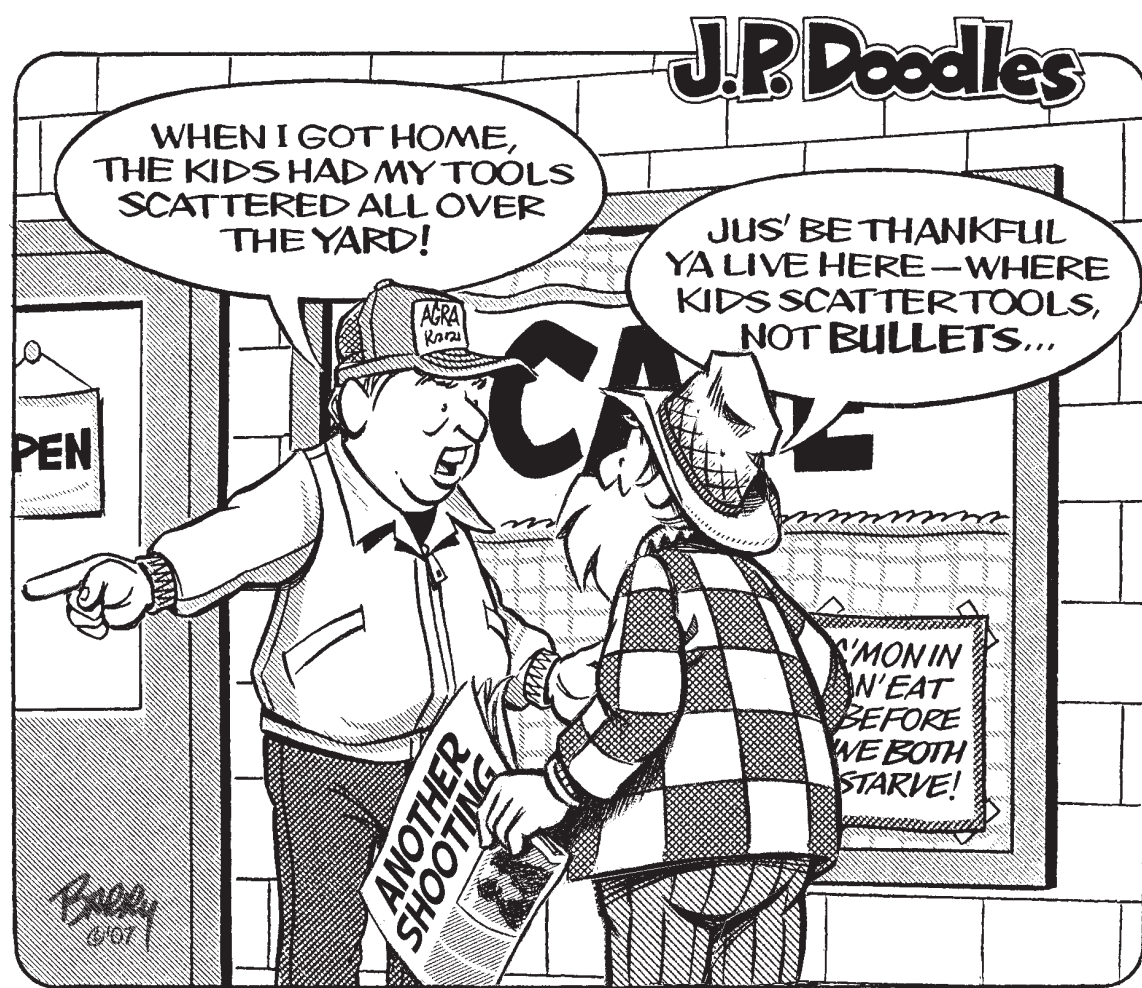
That's foolish. The images are disturbing, that is certain. But we need to see them. People need to know how crazy some of us can be.

No purpose would be served by censoring the tapes. It would not bring one person back to life.

If society can learn from them, from the senseless killings, from the fact that many saw this man as deranged and possibly dangerous, but still authorities did nothing, then perhaps all is not in vain. Perhaps.

Society has a difficult time dealing with the issue of people who might be crazy. How can we predict who will be next to "go postal?" And if we could, would we be able to lock them up, change them, protect ourselves?

There are no easy answers here, but there's no benefit to sticking our heads in the sand. We need to look for those answers. And pray. — Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 10 years ago - 1997 April

The rest room planned for the city park is showing some progress. Sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, the rest room is being built with donations raised by organizations and giving by individuals.

### 20 years ago - 1987

The residents of St. Francis voted their incumbent mayor Cliff Keeler into a second term at the Tuesday election.

The Cheyenne County Hospital recently acquired a new system, which allows overnight test results. The system is linked with a pathology lab located in North Platte, Neb.

Fifteen members of the St. Francis Cub Scout troop participated in the District Scout show

in Goodland. Kendall Day was the first place winner in the Bear Division of the Pinewood Derby and was also the first place overall winner in the derby. Ty Jensen was the first place winner in the Wolf Division of the Derby.

Members of the St. Francis Music Club presented the melodrama "The Shame of the Tombstone" Friday evening.

Students in Cheyenne County will have access to a sizable scholarship fund beginning in 1988 according to information released by the St. Francis State Bank and Trust Company. The scholarship has been titled "The Garnette E Greene and Ethyne R. Greene Memorial Scholarship Fund." Garnette E. Greene had served as principal of the St. Francis Community High School from 1930 to 1957.

### 30 years ago 1977 April

The Story Hour room in the Public Library has taken on a bright cheery look. A memorial fund totaling \$165 and a \$100 gift from the PRIDE organization makes renovations possible. The walls were painted a bright yellow and Pat Confer and Karen Krien have added a circus touch with bright animals.

Easter Sunday marked the grand opening of Harland's Grill on Highway 36. The cafe is located in the Motel 36 complex. The re-opening of Harland's marked the 26th year of restaurant ownership by Harland and Irene Andrist. They first started in downtown St. Francis in the building now occupied by the fabric shop and Saintry's Cafe in 1952.

## Hangin' With Marge

Huckle-something

By Margaret Bucholtz



Kurt needed to go to a school for his job and he asked me to go along. It was kind of one of those last-minute things and, since the store was doing all the arrangements, I just decided I didn't need to get involved. I was just going to ride along, shop a little and rest a lot!

A.J. called and gave me the name, address and conformation number of our hotel and I figured that was all I needed.

We got a late start so it was dark when we pulled into Fort Collins. Immediately I lost my sense of directions, but thanks to the car makers that put the directions on the mirror I wasn't too worried.

It was then that I asked Kurt what street we needed to find. His answer was (I can't really remember) was like "Huckle something." We begin looking for a Huckle anything and,

of course, found ourselves driving in circles.

Now why men don't ever want to ask directions, I really can't understand, however when we were cutting through a Home Depot parking lot and he spotted a worker and I began to understand. He pulled up, rolled my window down and I opened my mouth to ask if she knew where Huckle something road was. I started throwing out words like Huckleberry, Hucklebee and ended with Huckle anything.

She was very polite and said she was new in the area but she thought the road over there (she pointed) turned into a Huckleberry road. We thanked her and took off.

Well, an hour later, I could tell you that the mountains had moved to the south, even though the little

dial didn't show that, but I was sure it had went haywire. I know where a couple of lakes and some very elite golf courses are, but there was a huckle nothing!

Finally after being back in Loveland twice Kurt decided to stop at a gas station, not only ask for directions but get a map. When he came out I asked him if that man knew anything and he say, "Oh, yes. The road is Harmony Road." We had passed Harmony many, many times looking for Huckle.

Next time I think I will ask for the name of the road that you turn off on, and make sure I write it down. As for the shopping, well here I am sitting in my room because I can't tell what direction I am going.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I'm back!  
In the newspaper business, we are often called upon to go to unexpected locations. Well, the last few weeks have found me in the middle of a life-and-death struggle. Problem was, this was my story!

For those of you who may not know, on Good Friday, (April 6), I was Flight for Lived from St. Francis to the Sky Ridge Medical Center in Lonetree, Colo. I was diagnosed with acute Pancreatitis, with a gut full of infection and a primary organ shutting down.

For about a week, I traveled in and out of consciousness. Luckily during these critical days, I had Lezlie, my mother, brothers Kelly and Mike, sister Becky and her husband Steve at my bedside.

I can't say enough about the staff at Sky Ridge. Although the nurses, doctors and technicians deal with

ever-changing herds of sick people and their families, their hard work and genuine concern for each visitor is amazing.

Sure, they saved my life, but they were sure nice about doing it.

I'm not out of the woods yet. My pancreas and other vital organs are on the mend, but it will be several weeks before I'll be operating at top speed for the *Times* and *Herald*. Till then I'll keep in touch through Casey's Comments.

P.S. Sure miss you all!

**GOD SAYS**

**They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work r eprobate.**

**Titus 1:16**

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## Community should work together

Letter to the editor:

### Window of Opportunity

A few weeks ago our community did an interesting thing. A leadership group of community calling themselves the CIA (Cheyenne Initiative Association) invited the community to gather at the St. Francis High School cafeteria. Over 100 citizens gathered to discuss what they felt were the most important things that could be done to help make our community a better place to live and work and to reverse the decline in population that we have seen for many years. A community center, an indoor swimming pool available for all citizens and an emphasis on developing wind energy were among the items of need that I heard.

The workshop on the following

morning stressed the need for groups in the community to work together to meet our common goals. To make these goals a reality many dollars will have to be raised either by taxes, grants and gifts.

From my observation the county and cities struggle continually to raise tax funds to carry out their responsibilities while our school systems are able to tax up to 8 mills for capital outlay. USD 297 (St. Francis) currently collects 4 mills. If I understood the article in the Herald a few weeks ago the district has accumulated approximately 1 million and that figure will increase to about 1.5 million in a few years. (US 103-Cheylin is currently not

collecting any capital outlay funds.)

Note: a rumor keeps surfacing that if we don't spend those funds, they will have to be given back to the state (or some other entity). I have checked with the State Department of Education and some of our political leaders and am told that these funds have to stay with the district.

Wouldn't it be neat if leaders of the CIA, county, cities and school boards would talk to each other then work together to reach our stated common goals in this window of opportunity?

Mr. Bee...(Elmer N. Kellner)

St. Francis

**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 11 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

**United Methodist**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Morita Truman  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11 a.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**First Christian Church**  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Grace Assembly of God**  
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899  
208 E. 2nd  
Rev. Rob Meyer  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

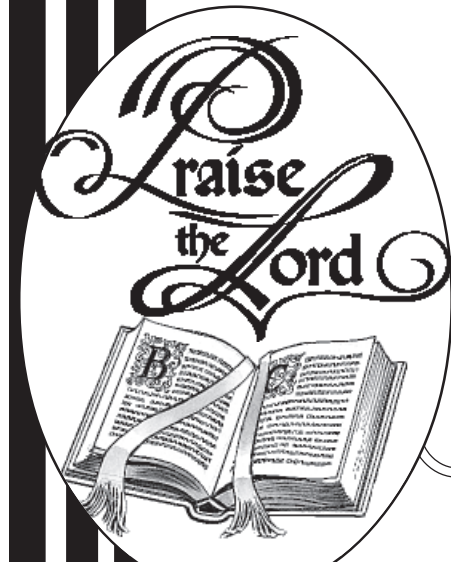
**St. Francis Community Church**  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
Pastor: David Butler  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Mike Larson  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**First Baptist Church**  
2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
J.W. Gildewell, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening  
Service 6:30 p.m.,  
Wed. AWANA Club  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Ken Hart  
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Clough Valley Church of Hope**  
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF  
Pastor Jason Howard  
332-3152  
Saturdays  
8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT



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