

It has been fashionable to trash healthcare system

It's been fashionable to trash the U.S. health care system the last couple of years, especially since the appearance of the Michael Moore movie "Sicko."

The agenda for Moore and other leftists is pretty clear, of course: they want a government-run medical care system to make things "equal," and by that we presume they mean equally bad.

And while the American health-care system is, in many ways, a mess, it works better than most. It produces cutting-edge research, top technology and a broad application of medical knowledge.

It's the medical payment system that's wrong, and though most of the problems have been caused by government involvement, the leftists want even more. There is a certain plausible illogic to that: What we've been doing the last 30 years has only screwed things up, so let's do more.

The socialized medicine crowd points to longer life spans in several developed nations, including France and Canada. Still, you never hear about anyone flying from the U.S. to Paris for heart surgery or Edmonton for cancer treatment.

A supposedly objective news story from the San Francisco Chronicle quotes experts — all favoring socialized medicine, no opponents — as saying many countries do better. One study quoted put the U.S. last among six nations, including Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Moore himself touts health care in Communist Cuba.

Supposedly, the Canadian system works well — if you don't count the overburdened system which has to ration care among users and the flight of many top doctors to the U.S., where they can make a lot more money. Britain has faced legendary problems trying to get its system into line.

The World Health Organization put the U.S. 37th out of 191 United Nations members in health-care services — between Costa Rica and Slovenia and just ahead of Cuba, the article says, but it fails to list any criteria.

But if you've seen the hospitals in Costa Rica, you'd have to wonder who did the ranking. They're adequate, but just that, no comparison to American hospitals.

That's not the way our system is perfect. It's bloated and wasteful, and government

intervention often makes things worse. The government on one hand gives out money to build and equip hospitals and on the other tries to limit their scope and function and tells them what they can charge. It offers to pay for welfare clients and the elderly, but not enough to keep the lights on.

It makes rules that often make no sense: One requires hospitals and other providers to use the same price list for all customers, but allows deep discounts for insurance companies and, of course, government programs.

The result: "private-pay" patients, the 46 million uninsured Americans, are expected to pay more than anyone else because they have no one to bargain for them. How much sense does that make?

The uninsured often can't pay, of course, so the insured and the government make up the difference in the end. Private-pay patients eventually leave the system with their pocketbooks empty, their credit ruined, paying nothing, many 10 cents on the dollar at most.

Yeah, the system is pretty crazy.

It used to work better before the government got involved. Hospitals were run as charities, never expecting to make money. Doctors made house calls.

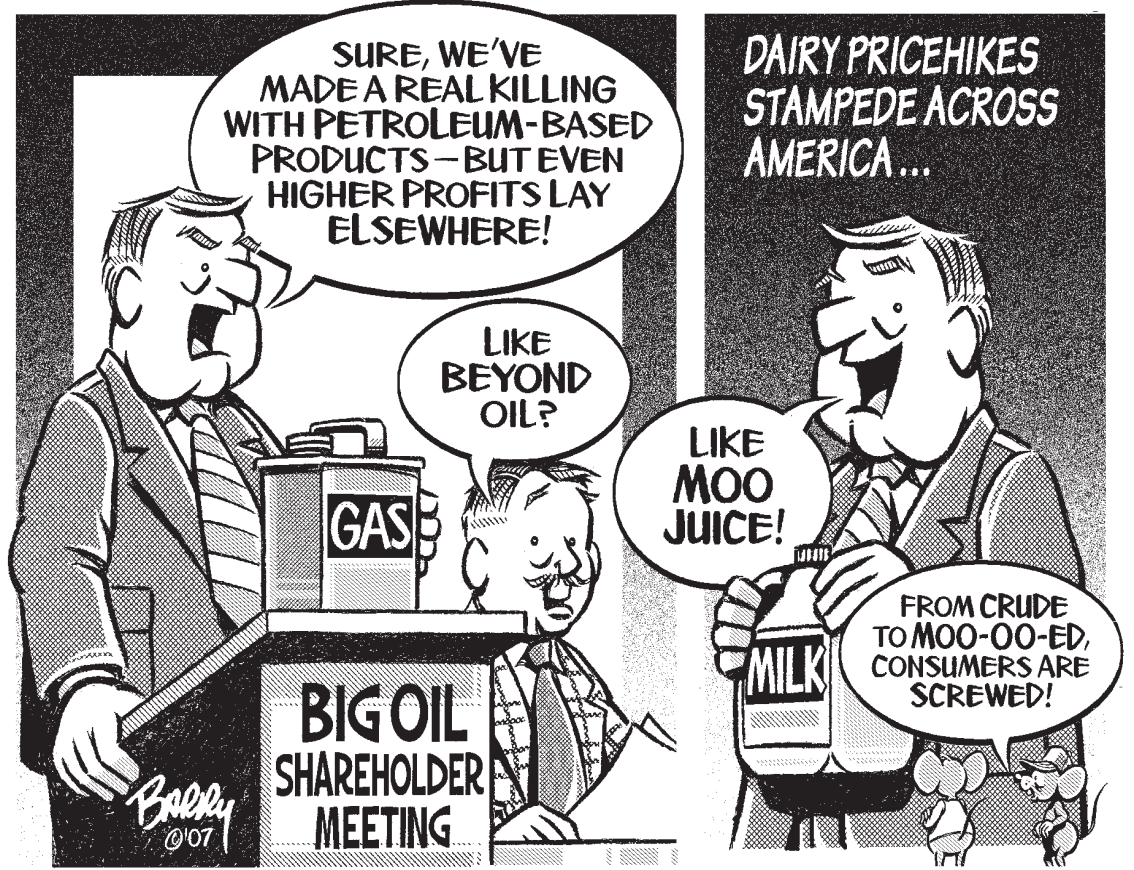
That was a simpler time, a different era. Medical care was more primitive and less expensive. City and county hospitals and charity wards took care of the poor.

Today? If you can figure out the system, more power to you. If a political candidate could deliver a solution, he or she'd be elected in a flash.

So far, no one has found that grail. And while medical care keeps getting better, the payment system keeps getting worse. Big hospitals are big business, many run by for-profit firms anxious to get federal dollars.

Care keeps getting better, but the payment system is coagulating. Medicare, the government-run system for the elderly, is said to be nearly bankrupt. No one is doing anything, though everyone thinks the government should do something.

But is that the answer, as Mr. Moore and his buddies would have us believe? Or is it the problem? — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

75 years ago - 1932

The county commissioners have made some cuts in wages paid. The salary of the county engineer was lowered \$15 a month, and the wages of the road laborers were cut from 35 cents to 30 cents per hour. The salary of the deputy sheriff was dropped from \$65 to \$50 per month.

The St. Francis Equity in cooperation with Auctioneer Sherlock is making arrangements for opening a real sales yard at the Equity yard near the railroad.

Doctors G. A. Benkelman and J.H.A. Peck have been moving and are about settled in their respective offices in the Quigley block at the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and Benton Street.

The erection of a new gas and oil service stations was started Monday morning at the southeast corner of Washington Avenue and Benton Street.

There is a new owner of the Cheyenne County Cleaners on the job this week. The new owner is Jerry Hallacy, formerly of Goodland. Mr. and Mrs. Witmer who have operated the place for some time, enjoyed a good business.

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Mrs. Rose Lawless, Cheyenne County's oldest living resident, will celebrate her 100th birthday on Nov. 18.

Receiving Bobcat pins at the Cub Scout Banquet were Darrell Busby, Randy Rueb and Alan DeGood. Special services are being planned

at the First Christian Church in St. Francis on Sunday morning as the congregation will witness the burning of the church mortgage.

Tackle Ken Krien and guard Gordon Orth were named to the All-Area first team by the Topeka Daily Capital. Roger Hamala received honorable mention.

Sales of Series E and Series H United States Savings Bonds in Cheyenne County totaled \$240,014 by the end of October.

45 years ago - 1962

Lettermen on the St. Francis Community High School football squad and the coaches will be honored with a trip to the Denver Bronco-Dallas Texan pro-football game in Denver.

Adelina Walter won the race for county treasurer in the recent election. Arthur Lueschen is Probate Judge, Emil Zimelman is sheriff and Francis Bowans won the commissioners race.

Hangin' With Marge

Getting Ready For Christmas

By Margaret Bucholtz



This past week we had company and the topic of Christmas came up and I replied that this year Kurt and I are skipping Christmas. Darrin's friend looked at me and said "That's not a good idea. You might not have many more." I was a little shocked that he would tell me that, but then he went on to say that we should all

enjoy every day. I really think he was thinking about, at my age, I should enjoy everything. He was right!

After they left I looked at Kurt and said, "Let's get all the Christmas things together and start decorating. We started checking all the boxes in the barn and found several full of Christmas things, then we went to the garage and got the rest of them.

I took all of them to the shop and started going through them. Knowing that it wouldn't be possible to use them all, I picked out the trashy ones and started carrying the others to the house.

Now we have one tree decorated and one Nativity scene up. However we have two rooms with boxes in them. You can't get through the back porch, we can't sit down in the kitchen to eat and I am already wondering what to carry out, furniture or boxes.

Someone told me that if somebody breaks into your house and it is a mess they will just leave so I am thinking that this is an upside to the project so I might just leave them and enjoy Christmas just the way it is.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Gerald Bier, St. Francis; Brenda Benhower, Angola, Ind.; Charles Oldenberg, Flower Mount, Texas; Mike Petitjean, Hutchinson; Ruth Petitjean, Arapahoe, Neb.; Ryan Weeks, Wamego; Carol Weems, Gladstone, Mo.; Eugene Lillich, Goodland; W.C. Boyson Bird City; Dale Wishon, Haigler, Neb.; Mrs. William Rabas, Russell; Larry Schultz, St. Francis; James Witt, Oberlin; Lynn Query, Bird City; Roland Query, Bird City; Fleda Raile, St. Francis; Penny Raile, Los Angeles, Calif.; Eric Fiala, St. Francis; Gaylord Loyd, St. Francis; Rick Reeser, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. **Luke 2:6-7**

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Casey's Comment

By Casey McCormick



By Casey McCormick
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This time of year you never know when you might be surprised with a holiday gift. One came my way at the recent Yuletide Festival held at the St. Francis High School last Sunday.

Working for the newspaper, the staff tries to cover just about everything that happens in the area. Sometimes the assignments work in harmony with an event we would go to anyway.

This was the case as our daughter, Lexi, was performing with some of the older girls of Teresa Porter's Dance Ranch.

So, mixing business with plea-

sure, I snuck backstage before the program and snapped a few pictures for the paper. As the show was beginning, I settled into my seat in the second row waiting to take pictures of the show.

I hadn't time to see the printed program sheet before it started and it was too dark in the auditorium to cheat. So I didn't know what to expect.

This added to my surprise when a group of young dancers performed "Christmas in Killarney."

The second grade girls wore kelly green and white dresses with a large shamrock on their capes. Their nibble feet were adorned with black, patent leather, tap shoes and

they waved tambourines with bright ribbons.

The song is sort of a wild, Irish jig and tells of all of the folks being together back home in Ireland.

"It's nice, you know, to kiss your beau While cuddling under the mistletoe And Santa Claus you know, of course

Is one of the boys from home!" How unexpected it was to get "a wee bit o' Ireland" so far away in Kansas!

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.

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

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: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

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

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
St. Francis Community Church 332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday eve Bible Study 7 p.m.

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