

Sainty makes the news through television show

Well, thanks A & E!!! You and your film makers managed to drag St. Francis and it's people through the mud!

The show "American Justice" which told the story (or should we say, PART of the story) of Dr. Stan Naramore who was a doctor in the community in 1991 and 1992 before he was charged, tried and convicted of murder and attempted murder. The show made the people of the community, the jury and the judge look like a bunch of narrow minded, conniving horrible morons who went out with only one purpose in mind and, that was to drive this innocent, more-than-excellent doctor out of business and out of town.

The television documentary took parts out of the whole story, using only what would sell the viewers on the fact that St. Francis was terrible and full of terrible, stupid people. Granted, not everyone in St. Francis is a genius and not everyone is an angel but — come on now! St. Francis is just like any other community with an equal share of its good and bad. Those film makers could do the same to any other community if they took only what they wanted to make a film that would make people shake their heads in wonder and, better yet, people would watch. In today's world, most people don't want to watch the "good doers." There are probably many people in other communities who thought, "glad they didn't pick our town."

Well, St. Francis is once again back on the map! We made it again!

The A & E web site has numerous letters, some from as far away as Canada and Florida supporting the doc and a few supporting St. Francis. Imagine, there were a few who even wanted the doctor

to come practice in their town.

A jury found Naramore guilty based mostly on the fact that he had administered the paralyzing drug on Chris Willt even when he knew that another doctor was coming in just a few minutes to give a second opinion. Yes, Willt and Ruth Leach would have died sometime and maybe the doctor was doing what he thought was the humane thing — this writer is not trained to know but the facts "appeared" as though he was playing God, picking and choosing the time these people were to die.

There are several things to think about: Maybe if the patient were a very close loved one, the family would be hesitant to let them go. Maybe a little boost toward death happens a lot when the family is not around. Maybe the boost is the humane thing to do rather than watch that loved one lay suffering. These "maybes" are something most people will have to deal with sometime or other.

In the meantime, St. Francis is faced with pulling its reputation out of the mud again and, yes, St. Francis does have another doctor — much better, much nicer and much more caring.

Maybe it is time to look at ourselves — are we narrow minded vicious individuals? Are we becoming hardened to looking the other way? Who is playing God? Who really cares? And, who stops to find out the facts but, instead, listens to gossip and untruths?

In some of the A & E correspondence which appeared on the web site following the program, one person said something about in the next world, people will have to answer to God. Guess each and everyone will need to answer some day.

—Karen Krien

Learning from painful criticisms

A true friend always stabs you in the front. Oscar Wilde

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

Proverbs 27:17

I still have not seen the A&E Justice feature on a former local doctor and St. Francis televised nationwide last week. By now the scuttlebutt has made its rounds here, as have the town-damning e-mails sent to the A&E web site. Allegedly, at least one came from an angry local newcomer. Whether or not one accepts the nastiness leveled at our community, lessons can be learned from the painful criticism if we are willing. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

We recently viewed, "The Sandy Bottom Orchestra," about a woman and her family that moves into a small town in Wisconsin; she never feels "accepted." A talented speaker and musician, she tries assimilating by joining groups, leading worship at her church and being extra kind to the town folk. In return she gets grief from the mayor, a couple of church members complain that her music is too much, and is fired by the pastor. Crushed, she protests to hubby that the town is full of cliques, is unaccepting of newcomers, and is not worthy to live in. She then goes into a depression and recoils from everyone. Hmmm! sounds like the A&E email writer. (In the end she realizes that, while some of her perceptions of the town were correct, her self-pity contributed greatly to her frustration.)

Churches represent their commu-

Letter to the Editor

Studies reveal thousands of church-shoppers report feelings similar to the A&E-mailer and the woman in the movie. "Closed," "Unfriendly," "Unaccepting," "Cliquish," and "Tradition-minded," are recurring complaints. While there is truth in their complaints, do visitors "set-up" the church (and community) with their own framework of expectations? Of course! Unhappiness is the result of not having personal expectations met. Are expectations wrong to have? Of course not! We all have them! Yet, there must be a fair exchange of grace and reality. We can't always have it our way.

My wife and I ran into major "culture shock" transitioning to St. Francis. Falling in love with the people and the area required maturity to recognize that the world does not revolve around us; we are not the center of the universe. People need time to accustom to our culture as we to theirs. What has helped our transition has been: the friendliness of the community; the willingness of people to answer our questions

and explain details; being heard without being judged; invitations to participate; receiving leeway and grace in our cultural mistakes; a willingness on our part to learn the culture of this country, and the courage to gently and fairly confront ("bring light and truth to") those things that appeared to be an affront to our system of thinking and understanding.

Re-read that last paragraph. I see something very familiar — the list reflects the same thing Jesus Christ did when He came to meet humanity on its own terms. Americans that saw the A&E program and read the acidic e-mails about our town will have an ugly, unfair and unjust view of us. That's the way it goes. Hopefully, though, there will be locals, like the e-mail writer, that might read this column that will encourage them to reassess their own hurts, prejudices and expectations to see that how we view life depends on the color and cleanliness of the lenses through which we look at life.

Pastor Richard Garcia
St. Francis

GOD SAYS
The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable; but the mouth of the wicked speaketh forwardness.
 Psalms 10:32

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Uninsured is a real concern

To the Editor:

Today, there are more than 41.2 million Americans without health insurance, and nearly four out of five uninsured people are in working families. Kansas residents are no exception. In Cheyenne County there are many dedicated health care providers who are all too familiar with the plight of the uninsured.

In Kansas, almost 245,000 residents live without health insurance. Lacking this coverage, they may find no other option than the emergency room as their primary source for health care. Uninsured people are more likely to go without prenatal care, well-child care, preventive services and important screenings for cancer and heart disease. They often delay necessary medical or dental treatment and live, sometimes in pain, with untreated illness. Even when the need for care becomes critical the choice is either to go into debt or to go without. Health care bills are cited as the primary reason for one-half of all personal bankruptcy filings.

With these concerns in mind, I am writing to call attention to "Cover the Uninsured Week." This project is an unprecedented nationwide public awareness campaign beginning with a televised press conference in Washington D.C. on March 5, 2003. Events will take place from coast-to-coast beginning Monday, March 10-16, 2003 as *Cover the Uninsured Week* in Kansas.

The Cheyenne County Health Department would like to urge ev-

Letters to the Editor

everyone to join in this observance. It is time to establish the issue of the uninsured as a top priority! Additional information about the problems faced by the uninsured, or about the activities related to *Cover the Uninsured Week*, is available on

the internet at: www.CoverTheUninsuredWeek.org.

Sincerely,
Susan Roelfs, RN Administrator
Cheyenne County Health Department

Resident appreciates caring community

My wife was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and the outpouring of support and love from this caring community has been incredible. I've always been one to shy away from saying anything to a family found in the same situation as me, just not feeling comfortable or knowing what to say. I'd love to take back all those times I walked

on by or turned away from you. I now know how warm it feels to have someone say they're with you or thinking of you. I told Mary Beth if community love and support can beat cancer, she's got it made. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers.

Terry Miller
St. Francis

Georgia takes note of Sainty

To the Editor,

After seeing the report by A and E television last night of how the provincial, narrow-minded, bigotted "citizens" of your tight-knit little community ruined the life of Dr. Stan Naramore, I can

only conclude that your community does not deserve a real medical doctor.

Perhaps a veterinarian would better serve you.

Charles R. Gruner
Athens, Ga.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Terry Holliman, Clackamas, Ore.; Verna Miller, Flagler, Colo.; Patti Lawrukiewicz,

Caldwell; Willard Peter, St. Francis; Donna Armstrong, Edwon; Susan Dinkel, St. Francis; Zina Nelson, Larned.

Worship Warms the Heart

<p>Wesleyan Church Hwy 36 • 734-2727 Pastor Scott Baker Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church 202 N. College 332-2928 Pars. 332-2308 Pastor David Rossbach Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>First Christian Church 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Pastor Richard Garcia Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:30 a.m. Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Arlin Cochran Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Beryl Gibson Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p>Living Water Fellowship Ministry Pastors: Terry & Tiffany Gleason Box 310; Bird City 785-734-2363 Sunday: Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship & Word 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Last Friday of Month: Healing Service 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>United Methodist Church Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, Pars. 332-3170 512 S. Scott Pastor Nel Holmes Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 2nd & Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wednesday prayer service, 6:00 p.m. Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Clough Valley Baptist Church Pastor Al Davis D. Min. 12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF 332-2506 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. CT Worship 10:00 a.m. CT</p>
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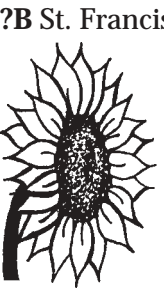
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At Home
