Pastor urges voters to support traditional marriage standard

Letter to the Editor:

On April 5, Kansas voters will decide whether the State Constitution should be amended to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, while banning any other marital arrangement. Supporters on both sides of the issue have hopes and fears, truths and myths. Recently, I received an email from a stranger who discovered and disagreed with my Biblebased position that marriage is only a union between a man and woman. The person opinioned on why Defense of Marriage Amendments (DOMA) discriminate against homosexuals. Here are the stranger's assertions and my responses for your contemplation in making a decision at the voting booth.

Stranger: "Why shouldn't people who pay taxes be able to share in the benefits of social contracts?"

Me: "I agree. People that enter into social contracts should take responsibility for them and reap any benefits. This is law in all 50 U.S. states. People of any race, gender, color, origin or sexual orientation have that right. Homosexuals are already covered in what you call social contracts. The problem is that marriage is not a 'social contract.' In world history, marriage is a religious contract established and administered by God. Governments agreed that God's set-up of marriage was most beneficial for society and allowed churches to administer it. Some people argue that marriage is a 'social contract' but it is not. It is a Judeo-Christian God command that is being challenged."

Stranger: "If gay and lesbian couples are not allowed the same consideration as heterosexuals, and they are paying the same taxes, then they are being discriminated against."

Me: "I absolutely agree. No taxpayer ought to be discriminated against. However, churches do not receive tax monies. Taxpaying homosexuals, heterosexuals or in betweens don't have any say over

Letter to the Editor –

tion. Marriage is a religious bond, not a social contract. Taxes have less you confuse civil unions with marriage as defined by God.

Me: Churches have every right to discriminate against individuals or groups that do not conform to the mandates of God and the Bible. allowing homosexual marriage is Why? It's not a social issue; it's a church issue. Just as you insist that homosexuals should not be discriminated against because they pay taxes (although, there is more to a person's worth than paying taxes), the same logic needs to be applied to Churches: They should not be discriminated against by forcing them to accept social issues that violate their God-given and government accepted right they have had since the origin of man. Do you that it is not okay to oppress or perthink that is fair?

Me: "I know many homosexual people. We dine, have fun, joke, go equal is not true. A 9-year-old to movies and even pray together stealing a piece of gum from sometimes. I don't label them as mom's purse is a sin but is it equal anything but family or friends. Neither do I discriminate, persecute or confront them. We have great times together. Guess what? They accept my opposition to homosexuality and homosexual marriages that is based clearly on God and the Bible. Many of my alternate-lifestyle friends are wonderful people but not all of them. The idea 'They're all responsible, loving people' is false. Homosexuality has tremendously higher disease, depression, molestation, suicide, abuse and crime rates than the general population."

Stranger: "What right does anyone have to violate the rights of homosexuals?"

Me: "None. I may not agree with mosexuals but FOR God." their lifestyle but it is none of my business. They can do what they want - unless it encroaches my lifestyle and rights. Isn't that fair? Isn't that why we build fences around our homes and properties, to

what a church does or does not sanc- let people know where their rights end and ours begin?"

Stranger: "I feel the legislation is absolutely nothing to do with it un- hateful and hurtful. Jesus loves all and states that all sins are equal. Why single out homosexuality? Christians who persecute gays use God to promote hate."

Me: "You are right. Legislation hateful and hurtful to God, the Bible, Christians and others around the world. After thousands of years of marriage ordained as one-man/ one-woman, along come radical, hate-spewing, minority groups like NAMBLA, GLAD, WFF and others demanding revocation of this God-given edict sacred to millions of people throughout history. Why is it suddenly okay to oppress Biblebased people? I think you'll agree secute anyone.'

Me: "The statement all sins are to a 19 year-old sexually abusing a child? Of course not. Jesus points out some sins are more deplorable, detestable and hated by God. One such sin is active homosexuality. He also says that true God-followers will not have anything to do with the support of homosexuality. 'You can't serve two masters," He said.

Me: "Homosexuals should not be persecuted, nor should anyone else. Christians standing up for God's demand of marriage being one-man and one-woman is not about persecution but about love for God. My support of DOMA legislation is not AGAINST ho-

I pray that the registered voters of Kansas will choose to support the Defense of Marriage Amendment on April 5. Thank you.

Pastor Richard Garcia St. Francis, KS

Book Review

Book review by St. Francis Library Trace By Patricia Cornwell

Trace is the heart-stopping new Dr. Kay Scarpetta thriller from America's number-one-bestselling crime writer.

Now free-lancing from South Florida, Scarpetta returns to the city that turned its back on her five years ago. She travels to Richmond, Va., at the odd behest of the recently appointed chief medical examiner, who

claims that he needs her help. When she arrives, however, she finds that nothing is as she expected; her former lab seems neither as organized nor as well run as it once was; the inept current chief is driven by an agenda he will not reveal: her former assistant chief has developed personal problems he won't discuss; and a glamor-

ous FBI agent whom Marino instantly dislikes begins meddling in the case.

Deprived of assistance from col- be more than she can beat.

leagues Benton and Lucy because they are embroiled in what at first appears to be an unrelated attack by a stalker, Scarpetta is faced with solving the death of a 14-year-old girl despite the smallest pieces of evidence, traces that only the most thorough hunters can identify. It's up to Scarpetta to follow the twisting leads and track the strange details in order to make the dead speak, and reveal the sad truth that may

Roberta Rose O'Leary Sept. 5, 1925 - March 16, 2005

Roberta Rose O'Leary was born on the family farm at Indianola, Neb., Sept. 5, 1925. She was the daughter of Ferdinand and Rose Ostdiek. She died at the Cheyenne County Hospital on March 16, 2005. Roberta was the ninth child of 16 children. Roberta attended elementary country schools and went through her junior year at Indianola High School.

Her family moved to a farm near Benkelman, Neb., in 1940, and Roberta and her sister Irene went their senior year graduating from Cheyenne County Community High School in 1942. After graduation, Roberta taught in country schools in Cheyenne County living with the parents of students she taught.

Roberta married Paul O'Leary on Aug. 5, 1943, and to this union were born their three children, Jim, Janice and Ronnie. Paul and Roberta farmed in the St. Francis area until 1946, when they moved to Anton, Colo., until 1954, and to Woodrow, Colo., until 1956. In 1956, the family moved back to St. Francis where Roberta worked for the Good Samaritan Village in the laundry. In 1957, they moved to Parkston, S.D., where both Paul and Roberta worked for the Colony of Mercy Nursing Home.

In 1958, they moved back to St. Francis purchasing the Dr. Peck Hospital which had been converted into a nursing home. They also opened a nursing home in Cheyenne Wells, Colo., in 1963, operating these homes until their closures in 1974. Paul and Roberta then moved to Sharon Springs where they were administrators of the Prairie Manor Nursing Home. Roberta continued to operate the Prairie Manor until her retirement in 1995. Roberta's passion in caring for others over her 79 -plus years enabled her to fulfill her achievement in life. Anyone who ever came into contact with Roberta came away with the feeling of meeting a very special person.

Roberta moved back to St. Francis after her son-in-law Ron Krien and grandson Wade Krien completely remodeled her house in which she greatly enjoyed. Roberta at this time cared for her son Jim until his ments

death Aug. 7, 2001. Roberta never forgot a birthday, a wedding anniversary or any special day of any of her relatives, friends and especially the little kids. She settled quite a few discussions with her memory of

Thursday, March 24, 2005

bituaries

Roberta was preceded in death by her parents; two infant brothers, two infant sisters, brothers Gerald, Alvin, Raymond, Walter; sisters, Lorraine Stevens, Irene Reining, husband Paul, son Jim and great-grandson Michael Krien.

Survivors include daughter Janice and husband, Ron Krien, St. Francis, son Ron of Topeka; six grandchildren, Jauna and husband, Jeff Lopp, Dodge City, Wade Krien, St. Francis; Ronda Krien, St. Louis Park, Minn., Paul O'Leary, Denver, Lydia O'Leary, Fort Morgan, Colo., Travis O'Leary, Topeka, and three greatgrandchildren. Also surviving are three step-grandchildren, Joyce and husband, Craig Kerbs, Fort Morgan, Lenny Weber and wife, Christy, Mike Weber and wife, Dede and nine step great-grandchildren. Surviving brothers are Louis Ostdiek and wife. Darlene. Northglenn, Colo., J.D. Ostdiek and wife, Marilyn, Fresco, Calif.; Irma Johnson, sisters. Benkelman, Kathleen Ham and husband, Paul, Benkelman; Vyonne Eggers and husband, Johnny, Bird City; brothers-inlaw, Joy Stevens, McCook, Neb.; Bunt Reining, Benkelman: sisters-in-law, Agnes Ostdiek, Benkelman, Arrilla Zimbelman, St. Francis, and many nieces and nephews.

Father Beryl Gibson conducted Rosary services at Knodel Funeral Home at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 20. A funeral mass was conducted by Father John Walsh at 10 a.m. on Monday, March21, in the St. Francis Catholic Church.

Pallbearers were Wade Krien, Paul O'Leary Travis O'Leary, Jeff Francis Lopp, O'Leary and Gabe Walz. Interment in the was Benkelman Cemetery alongside of her mother and father

Memorials may be made to the St. Francis Senior Center or Cheyenne County Hospital. Arrangebv

Knodel Funeral Home. Margie Lee Underwood

Nov. 3, 1922 - March 19, 2005 Margie Lee Snider Underwood was born Nov. 3, 1922, in Bird City, Kan., to Bertha Mabel Elliott Snider and William Wesley Snider. She was the middle child of three children and had two brothers.

She graduated from Bird City Rural High School with the class of 1940. She taught rural schools for four years then worked in a grocery store for four years.

On Jan. 30, 1949, she married Elmer W. Underwood. They operated an insurance agency for 54 years. They also did bookkeeping and income tax work. She was the city treasurer (Bird City) for 46 years and also the Bird City Cemetery treasurer for 34 years. She was a member of the United Methodist Church.

Her parents and husband preceded her in death, also a niece and nephew.

Those who mourn her passing are her two brothers, Harold and wife, Veronica of Greeley, Colo., and Merle Snider of Bird City and three nieces and two nephews.

She wrote her own obituary prior to her illness.

Margie died March 19, 2005, at the Rawlins County Health Center in Atwood. There will be no services. Inurnment was in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird Citv.

Memorials can be made to the Cheyenne County Hospital in her honor.

Knodel Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



