Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Shane on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 22:31:17 GMT
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Although I don't really know most of the issues, I can maybe say a little on the midwest, especially KS, setting, so here's a complete incoherent rattling on that probably doesn't have anything to do with your discussion. Having lived in rural KS most of my 36 years, I can tell you that most of the people out "there" don't have much to do with anything that might relate to what they consider "city folks" morals, values, or troubles (seems like most like to deny that they have the same issues in the sticks as are in the city). I mean, the largest city from me when I was growing up was 25,000 people and it was 35 miles away. The only large cities in the whole state are Wichita, Topeka, and Kansas City. Nearly all the towns by my hometown are way less than 1000 people and that goes for 100 miles in every direction. This seems to provide some sort of individualism if you will from town to town. Some towns are very, very strictly religious and conservative. One town I worked in was nearly all Mennonite for instance. The next town 30 miles away is the major thoroughfare for all the drugs coming through the west part of the state and the thinking there is completely opposite of the previous example, but most are pretty much leaning toward the religious side and don't like anything that may interfere with that, never mind if it affects their income taxes, etc.... It's almost like you took a big city and split the damn thing up into 100 little cliques and spread them around. I think one explanation for the conservatism where I grew up is that the people didn't like the idea of any of that "city stuff" showing up in our town and went to the far side of that ideal. As far as people not liking immigrants in my neck of the woods: a lot of that has to do with it being mainly agricultural in nature, especially cattle. Most of the small towns are becoming a majority of Mexican immigrants due to the jobs available at the feedyards, hog farms, and packing houses. They are jobs that don't seem to ask a lot of questions about your status. For instance, I have an uncle who is high up in the sherrifs dept. and he's always telling stories of illegals being caught, detained, then released becuase there's not enough money to do anything with them. This trickles down into the school systems where it becomes a matter of national security for a lot of folks (english as a second language instead of a first and all that). Huge discrimination.