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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Toxic tax bill will hurt democracy

Dec 11, 2017

If Congress passes the tax reform bill as it exists today, we can expect extreme consolidation of conservative political power. The wealthiest individuals and corporations, with the largest tax breaks, will have even more money available to bend conservative politicians to their wills. The health care system will be undermined by the rescinding of the mandate that all citizens have health insurance. The increasing gap between the healthy and the sick will further strengthen power on the right. If you're ill and can't afford health care, how can you fight for your rights? With tuition waivers for graduate students taxed as income, the economically disadvantaged will find it harder to complete higher education, skewing our educational system and eventually all scientific research, political will and national economy toward the wealthy. With a system so securely rigged to favor the already wealthy and powerful, how can we continue as a democracy?

Linda Churchill

Tesuque

Franken should stay

Al Franken should not resign. The women senators in the Democratic Party who demanded his resignation are cutting off their noses to spite their faces. Sen. Franken, D-Minn., did not deny the allegations and was ready to submit to an ethics investigation in which he said he would be redeemed. He is a progressive leader who fights for feminist causes.

There is a strong chance that ultimately a Republican will capture his Senate seat when an election occurs in Minnesota in 2018. The Democratic Party, indeed, the American people, will lose if a Republican wins. The only politicians who should resign are the ones who repeatedly deny their multiple allegations, such as President Donald Trump and Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore. The latter is, unbelievably, expected to win a Senate seat. We need Al Franken to remain in the Senate.

Cindy Burton

Santa Fe

We're all one

Thank you, Joni Miller, for calling out the almost unconscious prejudice sometimes expressed in society ("Class distinctions," Dec. 7). As a white woman, I've had to examine my lack of awareness of the privileges I have enjoyed. What your customer might not be aware of is that all kinds of people do all kinds of work. In fact, there are those with master's degrees working in grocery stores; people with doctorates who drive trucks; and a rocket scientist might be the gentleman on the street who is selling you the newspaper. More importantly, we must be open to receive the wisdom that our fellow humans would share. Whether from literacy or from life experience — it is to be valued.

Caitlin Thomas

Santa Fe

What we want

Santa Fe voted 10 years ago to implement ranked-choice voting (“S.F. wants to avoid contested election,” Dec. 6). Now that state District Judge David Thomson finally decided it should be used for the next election; the City Council is again questioning if it is constitutional. The City Council is also considering a measure to eliminate the reporting of expenditures of outside groups that spend big bucks to influence ballot referenda. Why is the council doing everything it can to stop the will of Santa Fe voters? It appears city councilors might be trying to mirror the new style of government in Washington. We have to start getting what we voted for on the local level. Please call your city councilors to ask them to support our will.

Walter Thommes

Santa Fe

Facts, not propaganda

Ruth Moss’ Opinion piece (“Israel not to blame for suffering of Palestinians,” My View, Dec. 10) is so loaded with errors that it qualifies as “fake news.” To wit:

- It was Israel’s Cabinet that voted to go to war against Arab states June 4, 1967, not its parliament. No elected body would vote publicly to launch hostilities intended to be a surprise attack.
- The massacre of Arabs by two extremist Jewish organizations, Menachem Begin’s Irgun and Lehi, in April 1948 is no hoax. At least 107 Arabs were killed and 12 others wounded.
- The boycott movement did force closure of the SodaStream plant in an Israeli industrial park in the West Bank, but only about 500 Arab workers were dismissed, not 1,000. SodaStream tried to hire other Arabs, but Israel denied work permits for them.

Best to use facts when criticizing others.

Richard C. Gross

Santa Fe

A preference for violence

The My View by Ruth Moss should have been on the front page of *The New Mexican*, not the Opinion page (“Israel not to blame for suffering of Palestinians,” Dec. 10). She was stating irrefutable facts about the Israel/Palestinian conflict. The institutions in Santa Fe should check facts before encouraging speakers to delude the public with false historic information. Moss’ statement of the situation is backed up by an accurate accounting of the problem and is a powerful assessment. If Palestine wanted peace, it could have had it many years ago. The people just needed to replace their leaders with those who wanted peace and prosperity for their citizens. They have consistently preferred violence.

Joette O’Connor

Santa Fe