

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/forever-grateful-to-councilor-dominguez/article_71a11477-2268-5f57-a2d1-1c80f1b91079.html

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forever grateful to Councilor Dominguez

Dec 7, 2017

I want to thank Councilor Carmichael Dominguez for his service of nearly 20 years to this community. I have had the great pleasure of working with him for over three years. I did not predict that Councilor Dominguez would be the colleague who would be so generous of his time and spirit to help a newly elected councilor from District 1 — but he was. We agreed and we disagreed; the disagreements were always respectful and neither of us nurtured resentments to be aired on new topics. He was thoughtful and relentless as the chairman of the Finance Committee.

I will be forever grateful for Councilor Dominguez's insight, help, guidance and friendship. He has donated more hours to this community than anyone could believe. I certainly hope he will take a break, refresh and find a new position of public service. Thank you, councilor, you have truly made a difference in our beloved city.

Signe I. Lindell

City Councilor District 1

Santa Fe

Dismayed yet tolerant

I was dismayed to read Jeffrey Haas' My View ("Learn about the children of Gaza," Dec. 2), a completely one-sided screed by a known anti-Israel rabble-rouser. That your newspaper is used to advertise activism is shameful and worrisome. Santa Fe is a tolerant, accepting and diverse community.

Rachel Cogent

Santa Fe

The big question

Based solely on the current state of the U.S. economy and markets in light of Paul Krugman's statement on election night: "If the question is when markets will recover, a first-pass answer is never," I am willing to bet that what Krugman opined as the "biggest tax scam in history" is actually likely to benefit most U.S. taxpayers, not just the rich.

Scott Karns

Santa Fe

Museum makeover

I went to the New Mexico Museum of Art ("Celebrating the Museum of Art," Our View, Nov. 24), assuming they'd honor the iconic New Mexico art creators who people come here to see. However, there were few classic New Mexico installations on view. What was there was a lot of pretentious nonsense you could see in any low-budget museum. Exhibits by artists with different perspectives might be necessary, even interesting, but they shouldn't consume the entire space. Hopefully, this stuff will be housed at the new site for those who "get it."

My “favorite” was a long rope of fake hair hanging from the ceiling with two plaster feet dangling (representing what?). There is also a butterfly exhibit. It looks like doors to bathroom stalls in a cheap bar or maybe porno booths. Go in. Insert the coin. The shade rises. You see tropical plants, but no butterflies. They’re all dead, we’re told. A sad metaphor for the entire endeavor.

Patricia Victour

Santa Fe

Tax bill a hustle

Most Americans agree the U.S. tax code needs reform. However, why is Congress hustling to reform taxes with no serious efforts at transparency, debate or citizen involvement? Sadly, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell forgot his promise [sic] that if he was in the majority, legislation would be drafted in committee, bills would go through committee, everyone would have an opportunity to participate, and there would be full transparency.

“Fast” Eddie Felson in *The Hustler* would be impressed. The statutory U.S. corporate tax rate is about 39 percent, but the actual rate is about 19 percent, on par with Europe. While the proposed reform’s 20 percent corporate tax rate deviates little from the current 19 percent rate, loopholes in legislation likely would lower it. The upper 5 percent in the U.S. will do well. If average Americans expect money to trickle down — well, welcome to the hustle.

Douglas Dasher

Santa Fe

Toxic tax bill

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