This is a rest...

The purpose of the Albuquerque TRial Balloon is to gauge support of Duke City area citizens for a second news daily. The number of tax-deductible contributions generated by the shredding of the FOAT will decide whether a second daily is feasible.

A larger version of the TRial Balloon is online at www.FriendsoftheTribune.com. The proposed daily would have more features and more content that is time-sensitive. A well-written edition is being considered as a supplement.

When the Albuquerque Tribune's future was in doubt, a group of readers formed Friends of the Albuquerque Tribune (FOAT). Since the shutdown of the Tribune, FOAT has been exploring the feasibility of a replacement. The Albuquerque TRial Balloon is the latest step.

If you wish to support a second news daily, send a donation to FOAT. Also, watch our web-site for public planning meetings. FOAT is a registered non-profit corporation. To receive a tax deduction, write the check to QUOTE...UNQUOTE, INC. and put FOAT in the lower left space on what they want umbrella with QUOTE...Unquote, Inc. until our own is ready.

The future of this effort depends on your support. It is a choice to bring the community together with a daily publication serving our diverse interests.

Nuclear Power, Too Costly to Matter

By Peter Nell

Los Alamos Study Group

With increasing acknowledgment of climate change, the fossil fuel industry is facing unprecedented trouble. In the US, all but the comatosic US nuclear power industry. The successful effort of Sen. Domenici to have nuclear power industry declared a "private” entity and energy source in the 2005 National Energy Policy Act is just one sign of that change.

The stampede to embrace nuclear power as an economically attractive component of a strategy for our energy future should not proceed without careful examination of important considerations that too often seem to be ignored or even dismissed.

The first is defining nuclear power as a renewable. Since uranium is the primary fuel and it is a limited and finite breeder reactors are still an expensive pipe dream, defining it as renewable is disingenuous at best, or, at worst, dishonest if one is sincere about addressing climate change.

Let's look at the amount of uranium it would require to make a meaningful reduction in greenhouse gases. If global nuclear capacity were to double by 2050, it would reduce greenhouse emissions by about 5%, less than one tenth of the reductions required to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, and at least 90 years too late.

Since this is hardly sufficient, let's assume a ten-fold increase in capacity. That would exhaust reserves of high grade uranium in just 5 years, and all known reserves in 20, rendering the massive investment (up to $4 billion per plant) such construction would require absurd. Moody's Investor Servicess' estimate on the cost of a nuclear power plant, about $540 billion, is the current cost of a nuclear plant each $10,000 of investment carries a $132 million.

Why should taxpayers support an investment that is so risky when it is not risky for major investors? The oft quoted MIT study that concluded nuclear must play a role in our energy future did not even look at the economics of the proposed conservation initiative, nor alteratives like concentrating solar, or wind power. Beating around the scope of the study”. Does this sound like someone who had an idea of what they wanted to study to concluade when they funded it?

Further, the government already on the hook for both the decommisioning of the nuclear industry and its insurance, as well as the disposal of their waste, why does the nuclear industry need further subsidies? Does this really represent a level playing field when comparing the costs of vital options for our future energy? Or, to put it differently: How are citiess supposed to make choices about how to proceed into a precarious energy future without accurate analysis of the real costs of our options?

If nuclear power is really a viable, enterprise, and now it enjoys a monumental 50 year public in investment, isn't it time to ask the industry to stand on its own in the energy market... to run with the big dogs or curl up on the porch?

Dealing with nuclear waste will be expensive in both the long and short term, and we cannot guarante that the sites in which we dispose of nuclear waste will be secure for the duration that they remain a threat to human health. There is simply no way to assure the maintenance of institutional controls for 10,000 years.

Finally, civilin nuclear power is a pathway to nuclear arms. Of the 60 countries which have built nuclear power or research reactors, 20 are known to have nuclear materials for covert weapons research, and 10 for production. In some cases we have nuclear knowledge of the UN and our nuclear weapons treaty.


deadly by replacement with slave labor in other countries. There are thousands of public works jobs in cities and towns that America needs to have done, before our infrastrustructure crumbles.

And wouldn't older Americans be reasurred to know that a decent public service job was open to them should the economy tank farther than it has and empty their saving accounts.

How do you pay for this all stuff? Convert money wasted on a nuclear war into the funds for an economic reconstruction of the American middle class. Tax dwindling resources like gasoline. Make corporations pay their fair share of taxes, while lifting the tax burden on the middle class and the small investors. Restructure health care and health insurance so it isn't wasting our personal and national fortunes. Conserve. What you don't spend you can waste.

Americans need jobs that pay a decent wage. They need a government that cares about them, not about CEO's and billionaires who can care for themselves. Stuart Udall is right, "Be steady fast against waste.‘ And the first place to start is not reducing a strong American workforce to penury.

V. B. Price is an Albuquerque freelance writer, author and commenator.
Politicians should not be allowed to utter the phrase “Support Our Troops” — unless they actually do.

None have shouted this phrase more insistently than the Bushes, yet the culture of US military service and again and again shortchanging our troops on everything from protective gear to functioning equipment has resulted in the abysmal failure of Bush & Company to honor war veterans with adequate treatment here at home, and two recent cases show how empty their words really are.

First is the important, bipartisan proposal made by Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., to establish a new GI Bill for veterans of Bush’s war. The original version, signed in 1944 by FDR, was an enormous success, not only moving millions of vets into the middle class, but also democratizing America’s college system. Just in financial terms, the investment paid for itself seven times over, not only moving millions of people all over the country in enlisting in the military without having an opportunity to hear the myths and realities behind the recruiter’s sales pitch.

In May 2005, the New York Times reported nearly 20% of US Army recruiters were under investigation in 2004 for improperly in their interactions with young people, including “threats and coercion...[and] false promises that applicants would not be sent to Iraq.” Things got so bad for recruiters that spring, that the military held a “stand down” on May 20 during which recruiters were suspended across the US and recruiters received additional training.

“...from the outset, an unequal power dynamic at work,” between military recruiters and high school students, says Green. “Recruiters come to schools—uninvited—looking for enlistment bonuses or college tuition, job training, travel, adventure. It’s hard for young people not to get caught up in that excitement.” But when the military won’t tell you, Green adds, that status, pay, allowances, benefits and responsibilities of military personnel can change without notice. That means that, although a recruiter is bound to his or her end of the contract, a recruiter is not and an enlistee is guaranteed nothing. For example, while promises of signing bonuses are common to the sales pitch, only six percent of enlistees who were offered bonuses actually received a bonus in 2005, according to a GAO report.

Young people have a right to know and as adults, it is our responsibility to make sure they have access to all the information they need to make a good decision about their future.

And what about money for college? According to Todd Ensinger of Citizen Soldier, 65% of recruits who sign up for the Montgomery GI Bill never receive any money for college, and only 15% actually earn a college degree. Green has many other examples like these and she and her colleagues have been taking this message directly to young people in the schools. Over the last three years, Another Side, led by vet- erans, including those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, has gone to thousands of stu- dents across New Mexico.

“Young people have a right to know and as adults, it is our responsibility to make sure they have access to all the information they need to make a good decision about their future.”

What we have today is a prov- erty draft, not a volunteer mili- tary,” says Green. “When you look at who is joining, it is not the children of the elites, it is the children of the working class who see the military option as a way out of poverty.” But in reality, Green is quick to point out, the military often ends up trapping people in poverty. Green says, “As members of the military by the Department of Defense, almost half reported having financial difficulties, and 20-25% of 200,000 veterans sleep on the street.

Another Side is also the found- er of the New Mexico GI Rights Hotline. The NM GI Rights Hotline begins operation in March, joining the national network of the GI Rights Hotline, a coalition of nonprofit, non-governmental organizations. New Mexico members of the military can call the hotline to receive information about their rights, conscientious objection, grievance proce- dures, sexual harassment, benefits and other civil rights issues affect- ing active duty soldiers, veterans and their families. Callers to the hotline, 505-404-6427, will reach a live counselor 12 hours per day.

Another Side acknowledges that some people have good expe- riences in the military, but a bad experience, especially in wartime, could mean a lifetime of struggle, or worse. “By allowing this to be the trend, our society has decided that a certain portion of our popu- lation is expendable,” says Green. “When we no longer passively accept this idea, we will be free to more actively pursue alternatives to military intervention—alterna- tives to war.”
The American public is allowing the media to make its points through the use of magic words and phrases. It brings in the mind of the game of Orwellian doublethink; no to newsworthy events, no to newsworthy views. Here's my favorite example: "Judas out and hanged himself." "Go and do thou likewise." "What they do is quick and direct." The Bible doesn't really say that. All three verses do indeed appear in the Bible, in three different contexts, but they don't mean what the person quoting them is pretending them to mean.

The media is doing the same thing with old sermons from Barack Obama's pastor. In a somewhat glib way, Obama's pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, says that God as a God of justice would approve of slavery, lynching, segregation and unprovoked invasions of other countries, which America has done a lot of in the last several decades.

"He doesn't mean that God hates all of us. He is mocking those who think that a God of justice would approve of those things. He is saying that if we ignore what the Bible says, God will damn us. He is mocking those who think that "God bless America!" He doesn't mean that God blesses all of us. He is mocking those who think that a God of justice would approve of slavery, lynching, segregation and unprovoked invasions of other countries, which America has done a lot of in the last several decades."

But out of context, "God damn America" sounds quite dreadful to many Americans, especially those who don't know much recent history and can't see through the lies, "right-wing" propaganda, requiring the local judge to be a lawyer, creating a system of public utility corporations, and implementing Ranked Choice Voting in municipal elections.

"Where a charter authorizes initiatives, the system must be of much more than a state's constitution. It serves as the overruling law. Colorado is one of the only states to require a popular vote for charter amendments. The city council must be consistent with provisions of the charter, and the charter can only be amended by the people, not by a vote of the council. With this in mind, Santa Fe's municipal charter is reviewed every ten years for possible amendments.

In 2005, a charter review commission was appointed by the council, and the charter was audited and amended in 2006, and came up with seven amendments. These amendments will take effect in one year once approved by voters. The city council must be consistent with provisions of the charter, and the charter can only be amended by the people, not by a vote of the council.

 Ranked Choice Voting was adopted in 2006. The city council determined to open in September 2008.

Santa Fe joins a dozen other jurisdictions that have adopted Ranked Choice Voting in the past four years, including San Francisco and Minneapolis. Most have done so in order to eliminate expensive traditional runoffs, which costs the city and the candidates a great deal of money and time, generally results in very low voter turnouts.

Ranked Choice Voting replaces the traditional runoff in a simple way, by allowing voters to rank their first, second and third choices on their ballots. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, electoral administrators then perform another runoff using the original ballots, instead of having to conduct another election.

 Ranked Choice has other benefits as well. In San Francisco, we have seen more collaborative campaigns, with candidates vying for second choice rankings of similar candidate’s voters, instead of waging a yes/no negative and smear campaigns.

And Ranked Choice effectively eliminates strategic voting, especially in plurality voting systems, that is, the system of representation and a true multiparty system of democracy. Rick Lass is a director of Voting Systems Laboratory and president of the non-profit RCV Project for energy, we need a system that is "unquestioningly promoting the safety and security of the nation," with no faculty, no students, no admission eligibility, the new high school was the sole survivor. Five had withdrawn after receiving negative evaluations of the applications, and four were rejected by the Public Education Commission. (One has since appealed to the State Education Commission, who reversed the denial.)

The statute refers to us as "followers," a word we refer to ourselves as "founders." To "grasp" it's something different.

Who Needs the Context?

The March 4th municipal elections, Santa Fe voted for seven amendments to the municipal charter that will bring better government and cleaner elections. Changes to the charter include increased access to initiative, reference and recall, giving the majority of registrants the right to force a popular vote requiring the local judge to be a lawyer, creating a system of public utility corporations, and implementing Ranked Choice Voting in municipal elections.

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TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDIES; WHO'S REALLY ON WELFARE?

By JW Madison, Rails, Inc.

There are several major arguments against passenger rail and rail transit, arguments still heard all over New Mexico. While all these arguments are wrong, several are at least plausible. One is percussive. We call it The Subsidy Gambit.

This little masterpiece of the brainwash-er’s art just won’t go away, despite abun- dant evidence to the contrary. Its proponents whisper, white or shout that passenger rail is SUBSIDIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT, that IT DOESN’T PAY FOR ITSELF! As a scare-tactic epithet, “Subsidy is the Liberal” or “Commie” of transportation debates. It’s also a big stinking red herring.

Subsidy—that is, public support—is the very food of transportation; but while pas- senger rail has to fight every year for scraps, our auto and air modes are stuffed so full that they can barely move literally (here are some examples:

Auto Subsidies:

• The costs of our roads, highways, sig- nage, etc are not nearly covered by drivers; ie, through road tolls and fuel taxes. They’re paid by everybody, driver or not.

• Same with the police, the courts, emer- gency personnel, ambulances and hospitals; roughly 25% of whose work is devoted to auto-related casualties and property dam- age.

• Same again with the health and economic costs of pollution, continuous road mainte- nance, road closings and traffic jams. We all shell out for these through lost wages, lower productivity, higher taxes, even higher med- ical bills, and in the cost of everything we buy that was made somewhere else (unfor- tunately is almost everything we buy).

• Airports, control towers and associated structures are built and operated by tax-fund- ed government entities, such as the FAA.

• Air traffic controllers and their support personnel are civil servants and public employees.

• As with highways, the often-prime real estate under our many vast airports has also been removed from the tax base.

• The results of government-funded research, prototyping, testing and mainte- nance plans for military aircraft provide a free system to the manufacturers and caretake- rs of civilian aircraft, parts and maintenance equipment, as many civilian aircraft are adap- tations of military aircraft.

• Airlines enjoy some exemptions from federal anti-trust laws, especially concerning the selling of fares.

These road and air subsidies are by no means at all. We think our air traffic control- lers and emergency responders should be public servants. And almost nobody thinks we should pay our rural and farm-to- market roads just because they’re not profi- table through user fees. The problem is one of unfairness and favoritism. The lopsided nature of our taxpayer-funded transportation support has led to the mess we’re making of our cities, suburbs and landscape—rampant (and subsidized) sprawl, gridlock, death, inju- ry, personal and public insolvency, prevent- able disease, a dirty environment, even war and global warming.

A Rail-anchored transportation system provides huge savings in fuel / energy con- sumption, very little death or injury, greater take-home pay, less ‘stress’, greater worker and business productivity, open space pres- ervation, ‘livable’ communities—trust us, this list goes on and on. Rail is also the per- fect complement to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note). Plus, people just like trains. All over the All American, car-loving West, local and regional Rail face opposition campaigns opposing to both renewable energy and the use of non-motorized transportation (biking and walking advocates take note).

Loco

Loco Every couple of years, when Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) wants to do something nobody except people who do it for a lot of money would, they hold “hearings” on envi- ronmental impact statements (EIS). Topics are presented as though the people had a choice, the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Safety Administration do what they had planned, using community objections to hone the document that avows no detrimental impact.

Despite citizens and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) saying no since 1970, the nuclear weapons establish- ment grows and has begun manufacturing new plutonium pits to trigger new weapons of mass death.

Last month LANL, aided by a huge damage-control ad agency, trotted out dozens of labs employees to counter objections by hundreds of people who have, over the years, called for no new pits or facto- ries. To have any impact beyond venting at faux hearings, we will have to get the attention of policy and lawmakers, the media, directing them to halt funding for pit production, the CMRR, and any new nuclear weapons, funding economic and environmental recovery through insulat- ing buildings, solar, wind and geothermal power instead.

Local

Mayor Martin Chavez on March 27 announced broad changes to the traffic code, to the comprehensive bike plan, and to the number of cycle riding police offi- cers to make Albuquerque more responsive to bicycle transportation and recreation. Included in his proposal is a 500 bike rental program, complete with 25 rental sites throughout downtown, Nob Hill, Old Town, and Uptown locations.

Over 100 cyclists gathered to hear the mayor and Jay Hart, director of the city’s Parks and Recreation Dept. announce the bike program. Hart quipped that when
by Joran Viers
Ibarrallo County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Agent

Botanist, horticulturist, ecologist. I am anything but an economic local food advocate. Long steeped in the honorable tradition of knowing next to nothing about handling money, at least it terms of making it grow as if by magic. I confess that our modern American economic successes have not made me, and it seems like we’ve traded in any real production for naught with the exceptions of wild gambling and personal disposition. The same is true when the local communities were self-sufficient and self-sustaining. Food has become a commodity best suited for production halfway around the world and then subsequently shipped to all points on the globe. Why would anyone choose to farm, to grow food for themselves and their community? Does anyone have a definition of survival other than the economically successful? Is making it grow as if by magic. I confess that our modern American economic successes have not made me, and I want to think beyond our own pocketbooks, often only a few steps. We must grow food which does not require chemical pesticides, and consider the common good?

Will the pursuit of purely personal gain always take precedence over the needs of the whole community, and of those yet to come?

The Food 2008-compost pile. Gather your leaves and green fresh, unprocessed vegetables. For instance, most of the produce grown outside the city of urban industrial model - the general public know little if nothing about the bio- logical fundamentals that underpin our modern food production system. What is necessary to bolster local food production? Several things are true. The most obvious being land, water, people willing and able to work the land, and consumers willing to buy from farmers. Locally, there is land, especially in the South Valley; there is water; though, it will always be a limiting factor here in the arid southwest and due to the disappearing aquifer and subsequent use of river water. For many, the pursuit of a good life is willing to farm, although often they approach the venture with an unrealistic view of the journey from process-to-product. A much more efficient way of farming may make sense with farmers is a primary concern. Access to land is becoming more difficult, with the huge increase of houses built on good, arable land. Are we willing to think beyond our own pocketbooks, often only a few steps. We must grow food which does not require chemical pesticides, and consider the common good?

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Here are a few basic concepts: Buying directly from farmers at farmer’s market or farm stand is often much more rewarding and exciting than running to a grocery store and spending money on processed goods. Why would anyone choose to farm, to grow food for themselves and their community? Does anyone have a definition of survival other than the economically successful? Is making it grow as if by magic. I confess that our modern American economic successes have not made me, and I want to think beyond our own pocketbooks, often only a few steps. We must grow food which does not require chemical pesticides, and consider the common good?

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By Joran Viers

I have found the Terrorists of the Garden, and they are the Squash Bugs - aka Anasa tristis of the family Corbiculidae, as in ‘Que Triste! when you get them. You can look for them when your squash are disturbed or crushed! You may watch in horror as your healthy cucumbers, squash and melons - all members of the cucurbit family wilt and die if you don’t get rid of them quick. The squash bugs are so abundant in New Mexico for the last 34 years, I’ve learned to deal with these creatures through a multi-pronged strategy that includes organic pesticides, biological control, and cultural practices.

1. Grow local varieties adapted for climate. Seeds from native New Mexico varieties give the competitive edge to plants that are already acclimated and selected for this climate over general ones. You can order native varieties online from Native Seed/SEARCH http://www.nativeseeds.org/.

2. Don’t plant cukes or squash until mid-June! By holding off planting CUCURBITS until the second week of June, you can avoid squash bugs almost all together. Planting when the moon is waxing, and in a month of a vote on May 4 involving the eastern state of Santa Cruz, an opposition strong- hold that seeks greater au-

3. Three other opposition-controlled eastern states, present, where Boyle is wealthy healthiest provinces, are planning to cast votes on autonomy issues later this year. Mr. Morales, Bolivia’s first indigenous leader, wants to break up the large land holdings of eastern farmers, many of whom are of European descent, and equitable distribution of the property among indigenous groups. He also wants to redistributethe nation’s 5% of land wealth, which is centered in the east.

Some information for this report was provided by AFP and Reuters.

Leftist Latin American Leaders Sign Deal on Food Security

Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba and Nicaragua have launched a food security arrangement to improve food security as the Food 2008-compost pile. Gather your leaves and green fresh, unprocessed vegetables. For instance, most of the produce grown outside the city of urban industrial model - the general public know little if nothing about the bio- logical fundamentals that underpin our modern food production system. What is necessary to bolster local food production? Several things are true. The most obvious being land, water, people willing and able to work the land, and consumers willing to buy from farmers. Locally, there is land, especially in the South Valley; there is water; though, it will always be a limiting factor here in the arid southwest and due to the disappearing aquifer and subsequent use of river water. For many, the pursuit of a good life is willing to farm, although often they approach the venture with an unrealistic view of the journey from process-to-product. A much more efficient way of farming may make sense with farmers is a primary concern. Access to land is becoming more difficult, with the huge increase of houses built on good, arable land. Are we willing to think beyond our own pocketbooks, often only a few steps. We must grow food which does not require chemical pesticides, and consider the common good?

Will the pursuit of purely personal gain always take precedence over the needs of the whole community, and of those yet to come?

By VOA News

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez launched the deal Wednesday in Caracas, saying the food security arrangement was present, where Boyle is wealthy healthiest provinces, are planning to cast votes on autonomy issues later this year. Mr. Morales, Bolivia’s first indigenous leader, wants to break up the large land holdings of eastern farmers, many of whom are of European descent, and equitable distribution of the property among indigenous groups. He also wants to redistributethe nation’s 5% of land wealth, which is centered in the east.

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Leftist Latin American Leaders Sign Deal on Food Security

Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba and Nicaragua have launched a food security arrangement to improve food security as the Food 2008-compost pile. Gather your leaves and green fresh, unprocessed vegetables. For instance, most of the produce grown outside the city of urban industrial model - the general public know little if nothing about the bio- logical fundamentals that underpin our modern food production system. What is necessary to bolster local food production? Several things are true. The most obvious being land, water, people willing and able to work the land, and consumers willing to buy from farmers. Locally, there is land, especially in the South Valley; there is water; though, it will always be a limiting factor here in the arid southwest and due to the disappearing aquifer and subsequent use of river water. For many, the pursuit of a good life is willing to farm, although often they approach the venture with an unrealistic view of the journey from process-to-product. A much more efficient way of farming may make sense with farmers is a primary concern. Access to land is becoming more difficult, with the huge increase of houses built on good, arable land. Are we willing to think beyond our own pocketbooks, often only a few steps. We must grow food which does not require chemical pesticides, and consider the common good?

Will the pursuit of purely personal gain always take precedence over the needs of the whole community, and of those yet to come?...
The former Yugoslavia is back in the news. Most people don't realize just how dark it is, still in the dark as to the background circumstances. The people arising in this former eastern European country. They are literally a poor country, that provided refuge for its highly literate citizens, evolve violence destroyed group of antagonistic ethnic groups? Do you know? A great deal of insight into the unfolding of events in Yugoslavia is explained in Hidden Agenda: how potential animosities were encouraged in the age-old divide-By Sally-Alice Thompson

out, and how a special court was formed for the purpose of convicting Slobodan Milosevic, the president who desperately tried to hold his country together. It illustrates the collaboration of the media in the case and also exposes the antipathy, the interference with the use of allegations that were never refuted when they turned out to be false.

The fact that no American lives were expended in the aggression is one of the reasons that America was not concerned as to the nature of the situation. Many eastern European lives and much infrastructure were sacrificed.

This book, a compilation of the International Center, is a compilation of essays and documents about the breakup of the country, abetted by NATO and the US when they no longer needed the country as a buffer between Western Europe and the Soviet Union. It includes chapters by Ramsey Clark, Michael Parenti, and Sara Flounders. It is available on loan at the library of the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice, 202 Harvard SE.

Hidden Agenda-U.S./ NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia

By Donald Gutierrez

Noumi Wolf's book The End of America begins with these words: 'I am writing because we have an emergency!' (1). This warning is preceded by a quote from Justice William o. Douglas: 'A nightfall does not come all at once, neither does oppression. In both instances, there is a twilight where everything remains seemingly unchanged. And it is in such a twilight that we all must be aware of change in the-howerer slight-to become unwitting victims of the darkness.'

Douglas's warning goes to the heart of Wolf's book, which is that a society can be in the process of moving from a democratic to a fascist one (that "twilight") without most people realizing it. Wolf uses parallel examples from Fascist Italy and Germany to show that dictators like Mussolini and Hitler came to absolute power within democratic institutions. She terms this process a "fascist shift." Both Italian and German fascisms came to power legally and incrementally in fragmenting democracies; both used legislation, cultural pressure and baseless imprisonment and torture, progressively to consolidate power...both aggressively used the law to subvert the law: (21).

This process, Wolf asserts, is what is happening in the United States today.

"Hey President Bush, whatcha doin' to us? We been through hell, man, it's time to come home!" wails Larry Kirwan, voicing many's the US soldier'sanguished plea in "Star's and Stripes," the opening song on Black 47's new album, Iraq, (www.UP0music.com). Black 47 sings with the authority of the many fans who have been emailing Kirwan from the Iraq battlefront since that fatal St. Patrick's Day, 2003 when Bush launched his ill-fated invasion. No small number of Black 47 fans themselves have ended up in the thick of the fighting. A working class band's fans have lives like that. Black 47 (aka The House Band of New York, Compass Rose) is comprised of working class bands from their Manhattan base, retaining a fierce fan base—every lyric known and every chorus shouted—no one is a stranger here.

Frontman Kirwan knows his audience's moods as well as he wears his own Irish-born heart boldly on his sleeve. Didn't war-weary Irish themselves come to America desperate for freedom and peace only to get sucked into fighting rich men's wars against people like themselves—better left alone. kirwan and Black 47 stood against rich man GW Bush's Iraqi War from day one. But US war mafia raged—insults and threats were hurled at them by former fans and feelings were hurt, to say the least when Kirwan received a letter by Baghdad Blues in those dark months. GW and his war were then very popular in America. Still, Black 47 held their ground. They kept speaking out, onstage and in press interviews and on the barstools after each show: "Will some- body tell me what the hell we are doing here [in Iraq] in the first place?"

Well, times have changed. It's ratings in the toilet and hell will be lucky to get out of office unimpeached. The Iraq War drags on, with no end in sight, and it is NOT popular. Still, it is being enlarged with a grand opening this summer. Other buildings include the chil-der's museum, called Pueblo House, and a cultural center. A large new wing was opened in 1976. The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Situated on Indian land at 12th and Menaul, the Center is owned and operated by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico The opening 32 years ago was celebrated with art and Crafts Fair, where 140 artists showed their work. Speeches were made by Senator Joseph Montoya and Pete Domenici, Representative Manuel Lujan, and Archbishop Robert Sanchez. Fifty-six dancers performed from Acoma, Laguna, San Juan, and Taos Pueblos. A commemorative coin was designed by Joseph Lone-sche, the noted Native American artist. It is being enlarged with a grand opening this year to cultivate interest in Pueblo Indian life and history. The friends are also dedicated to the growth and develop-ment of the Center. Some friends work in an archive preserving documents and other records of Pueblo history and traditions. They work with community groups or in other activities to help the staff.

The original kiva-style building houses the museum, a video theater, the archive, gift shops, and the Harvest Café.

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Unsavoury Connections of "Immigration Reform" Group

A leading "immigration reform" group has been connected to ethnic hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center. FAIR, an American Federation for an Immigrant Reform, was founded in 1979 by John Tinton, who warned of a "Latin onslaught." He and other FAIR leaders have apologized for the group's history of breeding better humans as the Nazis proscribed. FAIR accepted $1.2 million from the Pioneer Fund, founded in 1937 to promote the racial stock of the early North American colonists. In 2006, FAIR hired Joe Mathews of the American Journalism Review. Turner refused to dissociate himself from neo-Nazi skinheads, who often demonstrated at his rallies. FAIR's president has disputed the impression on CNN's "Lou Dobbs Tonight." (Reported in SPLC Report, Vol. 37)

By Roberto De Costi Rodriguez

For close to 40 years, my memories of journalist, Ruben Salazar, have been of smoke, fire, riots, rampaging police, and his premature death in East L.A. on Aug. 29, 1970. Seared into my memory is running home every day to see the Inquest held into his death. What is actually seared is not the fact that he was killed by a nine-inch tear-gas projectile, fired into the Sil- ver Dollar Café by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy, but rather that no one was ever brought to justice. Neither was anyone brought to justice for the deaths of Angel Diaz or Lyn Ward, who also died on that day.

After years of memories of injustice, I instead choose to remember him this year on his birthday: Felix culpaemus – Hap-

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After years of memories of injustice, I instead choose to remember him this year on his birthday: Felix culpaemus – Happy Birthday, Ruben. On March 3rd, this pioneering journalist from Juarez-El Paso should have gotten 80 candles. Instead, on April 22, he will get a belated birth-

day present – his 42-cent U.S. postal stamp. Also being honored are four other "Progressive Populist" pieces by Ted Rall, to place half a million dissidents in concentra-
campAmerica.

Paramilitary Forces suggest both Musso-
live and Hitler's gigantesque of thugs increas-
ingly organized to commit targeted violence among and against their fellow citizens.

Wolf connects this parallel with material from Jeremy Scahill's brilliant work on the Black Cells stretched around the world. "Progressive Populist" piece by Ted Rall, to place half a million dissidents in concentration camps in America.

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...
I live in New Mexico, where every other person is running for political office, thanks to the fruit-basket-like turnover created by the retirement of Republican Senator Pete Domenici, who’s been aging in place at the Capitol Hill since 1973. The debate between Republican aspirants for the Senate -- both current members of the U.S. House -- is already heating up. In their first encounter, they predictably tried to “outconservative” each other. Heather Wilson, representing urban Albuquerque, labeled herself a “commonsense conservative.” She attacked Steve Pearce, a down-stater with more rural constituents, for his vote against expanding children’s health insurance. Pearce countered that he is the “true” conservative, and said giving poor kids insurance would be “Hillary Care Lite . . . the beginning of socialized medicine.”

W-a-a-a-t a minute. Socialized medicine? What, that remark, Pearce shows he’s clueless about medical care, and so are lots of other candidates. Not to mention conservatives Rush Limbaugh clones who are out of context in cybersphere, raving about the government controlling your private medical decisions. Maybe they need a little lesson on what “socialized medicine” is — and is not. And maybe they’d be surprised to learn that the United States already has one form of socialized medicine. But I’m jumping ahead.

Many people, including Pearce, evidently equate “universal coverage,” which Hillary Clinton does advocate, with the dreaded “socialized medicine.” Universal coverage means just that -- everyone would have access to medical care. Some would have it through employers, some through privately purchased plans, and some through government programs if they’re too poor to foot the full bill. Universal coverage does not mean the government would provide health care as a “welfare” or “entitlement” benefit to everyone, regardless of income or employment status.

Though having insurance would be mandated, type of coverage would be up to the individual. Choice of doctors and hospitals under universal coverage would remain the same as it is now -- controlled by the type of plan the individual is covered under -- and in no small part dictated by insurance companies. In some scenarios, insurance companies would be required to cover pre-existing conditions, stopping the practice of “cherry-picking” only the healthiest patients for inclusion in their plans.

Another term we hear a lot about is “single-payer.” Single payer means a system of health care that provides universal and comprehensive coverage, with the government as the insurer issuing the payments. Everyone’s health care would be paid for out of one publicly administered trust fund (paid for by taxes on both individuals and “business”) which would replace our current multi-payer insurance company system and its premiums. In single payer, the government would not be the primary provider of health care. It would just the primary payer. There would still be freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities, and services.

Doctors would remain in private practice and would be paid on a fee-for-service basis from government funds, just as they’re paid now by insurance companies. The government would not own or manage medical practices or hospitals. Single payer is what we have now with traditional Medicare.

Insurance companies are eliminated -- no more hassles with gatekeepers, denied coverage, and trying to find doctors “in network.” Ask any senior who has been through Medicare MA plan and you’ll see how easy and popular single payer would be if everyone had it.

If “socialized medicine” is none of these -- just what the heck is it? Simple. It’s a system of health care in which all health facilities are owned by the government. Doctors and other health care personnel work for the government and draw their salaries from the government. This is the model used in the U.S. Veterans Administration and the armed services, where the government owns the hospitals, and medical professionals are government employees. It works pretty well for vets, but red-hot rhetoric notwithstanding, none of the candidates -- nor either political party -- advocates socializing the entire medical system of the United States.

So the next time you hear a candidate tout “socialized medicine” around like a flame-thrower, ask them if they have any idea what they’re talking about.