

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There are no 'safe' fireworks this year

The smell of smoke fills the air. We are sitting on a tinderbox, surrounded by fire. To the man who says, "I am only going to set off 'legal' fireworks this year," I say, if you have to strike a match, don't do it.

Take your family to Pancakes on the Plaza, make some real lemonade (with lemons), cut up a watermelon, fly the flag, but please, I implore you, *don't use fireworks.*

Ann Dowdle
Santa Fe

I wonder why our governor says she thinks it is against the law for her to forbid sale and use of fireworks in this extremely dangerous time. She did not hesitate in a number of cases to act against the citizens' interests and let the courts decide later, like firing the environment committee members, line-item veto, etc.

I wonder why she won't just ban fireworks clearly in the citizens' interest and let the chips fall as they may, after the Fourth of July.

John Baumgartel
Santa Fe

When it comes to Pilger film, truth will out

I attended the screening of *The War You Don't See* at The Screen, followed by a Skype question-and-answer session with

the filmmaker, John Pilger. This unsparing film mounted a powerful case against the British and American media as they beat the drums for war and paved the way for the military-industrial war machine to roll on. As to the abrupt cancellation of his Lannan appearance, Pilger stated, "The official explanation (low ticket sales) doesn't wash. It sounds to me like somebody has gotten to Patrick Lannan or the Lannan Foundation."

And who might that "someone" be? The film takes to task President Barack Obama's tepid leadership on war-zone withdrawals, including his crackdown on whistle-blower protections, and the ruthlessness of the Israeli state comes under well-documented fire.

As with any cover-up, this one backfired. "The film is going to be shown all over the United States," said Pilger, "Whatever Patrick Lannan thought, he got it wrong."

Barbara Allen Kenney
Santa Fe

Lannan not due criticism, but thanks

I am dismayed by *The New Mexican's* over-the-top coverage of the cancellation of the John Pilger and David Barsamian event and the editorial that fanned the flames of this non-issue. Patrick Lannan and his foundation have done so much for the arts, for education, for sane and

thoughtful political dialogue in this country, and for our community.

The Lannan Foundation has made it possible for outstanding authors to meet with my students; I have seen these events change students' lives. As a community, we should be thanking Patrick Lannan and the staff of his foundation, not indulging in wild conspiracy theories.

Let's focus the energy of community action and investigative journalism on the real and pressing issues that need our attention and give the Lannan Foundation thanks for all they do.

Monika Cassel
Santa Fe

An echo of Nathan Hale? Not quite

Now that two more staffers have abandoned an erstwhile speaker's quest for the presidency, with the consequence that the size of his entourage is rapidly approaching negative territory, it's tempting to wonder how long it will be before a "newtered" Gingrich begins thinking anew about his patriotic duty.

In view of what has been reported about Callista's role in his floundering campaign, it's tempting to wonder if he now regrets that he's lost but two wives for his country.

John F. Andrews
Santa Fe