

# OPINIONS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A ransom note for the holidays

Two columnists, Charles Krauthammer on the right and Bill Press on the left, are now calling President Barack Obama "The New Comeback Kid."

One way to appreciate what the White House achieved by its shrewd approach to "hostage-takers" is to revisit O. Henry's classic *Ransom of Red Chief*. Here a pair of kidnapers abduct "the only child of a prominent citizen named Ebenezer Dorset." Their plan seems sound, but they soon discover that their captive is so much trouble that they end up giving his father \$250 to take the boy back.

In early December, a party of greedy, obstructionist plutocrats laid claim to their "holy grail." In return they now reap shame every time they deny help for the needy in a hypocritical attempt to address the deficit they've done so much to expand. If their opponents are smart, they'll make sure that the Ghost of Christmas Past continues to haunt these Scrooges until they finally realize how dearly they (and the country they profess to cherish) are paying for the lucre they've extorted from the American people.

John F. Andrews  
Santa Fe

#### New tax, not cut

In his commentary, "Rich get richer, Teddy turns in grave" on Dec. 24, Tim Rutten of the *Los Angeles Times* states that the income "tax reductions... merely extends



...ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, WE'RE NOT USING ANY GAS...

ace Avenue averted yet another tragedy involving pedestrians and vehicles in downtown Santa Fe. An SUV screeched to a halt about 6 feet past the stop sign, very close to where this family was about to cross the street.

Not so lucky was a visitor from Baltimore, the mother of two young children, who was struck and killed at the intersection of Palace and Washington avenues a few years ago. After that tragedy, left turns from Palace onto Washington were prohibited. Not anymore.

I think that driving in the Plaza area should be banned and the Plaza

#### The past 100 years

From The Santa Fe New Mexican

December 31, 1910: Mayor Sellgman instructed Marshal Sena to request certain property owners to have their sidewalks swept or the city will take over the crossings.

#### OUR VIEW

### Governor takes leave, but he'll be around ...

It's Gov. Bill Richardson's last day in office. Whether it's also his last in elective or appointive politics isn't as clear — but for three decades, he's been a high-profile, high-power player on the New Mexico, national and world scenes.

He leaves the governorship on a note distinctly different from that on which he was sworn in eight years ago: At that time, he was putting his impressive résumé — effective congressman, conservation-minded energy secretary and persuasive United Nations ambassador — at the service of his benighted state.

Well aware of the challenges he was facing, the new governor focused on public education and economic development: raises — with responsiveness — for teachers, and tax cuts and incentives calculated to lure and keep business and industry.

At the same time, he used his persuasiveness and popularity on the Legislature to put tougher drunken-driving