

# write back to ryan

universal healthcare: is it really worth it?

by Ryan Hutchison

Imagine this: You have worked hard all your life, hold a steady job with decent pay and benefits, and raise a family. You aren't rich, but you are comfortable and you make a fair, honest living. You would be part of America's working middle class, the largest group of Americans and the backbone of America's success.

The reason we are successful is because America is a capitalist nation. National healthcare,



also called universal healthcare or socialized healthcare, is blatant socialism and goes against all the principles our nation was founded on, like democracy and freedom. Mrs. Gavinski, an aide, said "I don't like this plan because it is similar to what they do in socialist societies where there is little room for individuality." Why reward the lazy and the illegal aliens at the expense of hard-working Americans? Unfortunately, I don't have an answer. You have to ask a congressman that.

Universal healthcare is not only socialism, it actually kills people as well. In the Netherlands and Denmark's healthcare plans, an infant born with even the slightest birth defect could be euthanized under this plan. If this were implemented years ago, there would be no John Mellencamp, Steven Hawking, or Peyton Manning. There are also death panels which determine whether senior citizens in need of medical attention deserve to die or not.

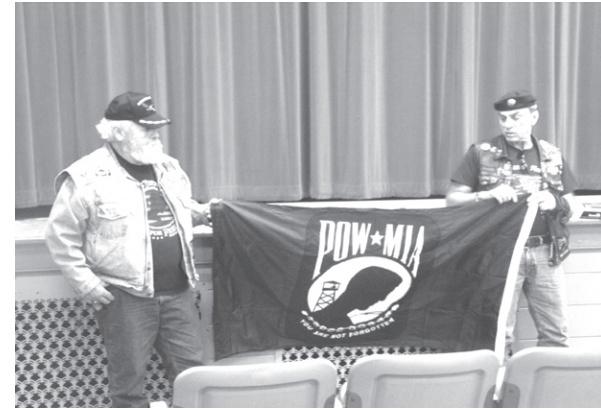
That is morally wrong to all normal people regardless of political ideals. There is no good reason to support this proposition. Despite all these drawbacks to the plan, people's views are pretty well mixed. In a survey of 20 people, 9 favored the plan and 11 opposed it. If you disagree with me, please write your opposing opinion to me at the Green Echo. The most convincing and well-written response will appear next to my regular column in next issue.

# rolling thunder

by Jessica Marascio

"When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost." These are the words of former Army Sgt. and Founder and Executive Director of Rolling Thunder Artie Muller (US Army.) Rolling Thunder works with our country's government to try to reduce the number of missing or not accounted for after a war's end. They also assist current service members, their families, and veterans in any way they can. Rolling Thunder has 99 chapters that cover three-fourths of our country, with over 15, 000 members.

On Monday, November 15, 2009, Sgt. Muller and a member of the foundation, Pete Kelly (US Navy Air), came to Pen Argyl High School to present our school with a POW-MIA flag and to tell about its significance to our country and importance to them. This flag was accepted by Mr. Earl Slutter, a custodian here at the high school. He was accompanied by Mr. Brett Kunkle. Both are veterans that have served our country. Mr. Kelly would like for PAHS to "fly the flag proudly over the school." In addition, he urges students to thank veterans for our freedom and for all that they do, and their service in the name of our country.



ARTIE MILLER AND PETE KELLY BOTH SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES AND PRESENTED PAAHS WITH A POW-MIA FLAG. PHOTO: J. CROSSEN, ECHO



# wacky news

by Emily Hernandez

"Welcome to McDonald's, may I take your order?" Morgan Glissmeyer, 17, Spenser Dauwalder, 18, Trevor Tolbert, 17, and Gage Christensen rapped their order through the speaker; but they didn't think any of them would get cited for it.

The four teenagers performed the 6,000,000-viewed Youtube video that night. For those who have not seen it, the lyrics are:

"I need a double cheese burger and hold the lettuce. Don't be frontin son — no seeds on the bun; We be up in this drive through order for two I gots a cravin' fo' a numba nine like my shoe; We need some chicken up in here, in this hizzle For rizzle my mizzle, extra salt on da frizzle; Doctor-pepper, my brothah, another for ya motha; Double-double supah size and don't forget the fries."

Apparently it was "disturbing the peace." The manager of the Utah McDonald's took down the license plate number and called the police. Officers found the boys outside a volleyball match and cited them. Citation for rapping your order? Unnecessary consequence, I think.

This is the only part of the situation that made sense. When the teenagers performed their rap from the Youtube famous video, the employee told them they were holding up the line and if they didn't make a real order, they had to leave, which they did. Sounds fair, doesn't it?

But, no, the manager had to blow this "teenage fun" out of proportion. Ryan Brandt, a senior, agrees. "The kids had the right to sing their order, and when they were asked to leave, they left, and that should've been the end of it."

According to Sharon Dauwalder, Spenser's mother, her son is challenging it. A bench trial is now set for January 29. Tyler Leighton, a sophomore, says, "He shouldn't even have to go to court because the manager telling on them was pointless."

Can you see how ridiculous this really is? Fun and games these days are taken seriously. The manager must have lacked a sense of humor. I highly doubt the kids rapped their order because their goal was to purposely anger a McDonald's manager into calling the police on them.



RYAN BRANDT EXPLAINS, "THE KIDS HAD THE RIGHT TO SING THEIR ORDER...AND THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN THE END OF IT. PHOTO: JAMES CROSSEN, ECHO