

Letters: Health care, books, crash

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Health care

Regarding "Poverty level near 20-year-high" (Page A1, Wednesday), again, Texas has the dubious distinction of being No. 1 in the nation. The Census Bureau released 2010 data showing Texas has the highest rate of uninsured in the nation - just as it did in 2009. The rate of uninsured is lower than it otherwise would be thanks to government-run CHIP, which covers many Texas children.

Our Russian roulette, employer-based, for-profit health insurance system puts all of us at risk of being uninsured. Special interests, who make billions by exploiting our fears, will be the losers if we adopt national health insurance - not us. Their disinformation tells us that universal health care would mean dangerously inferior health care. The opposite is true according to trustworthy organizations with no political axe to grind nor financial stake in the data conclusions.

Year after year, the U.S. comes in behind all industrialized nations with national health programs on most measures of health outcomes. Nations with national health programs are not inferior to ours. They have lower infant and maternal mortality rates, more doctor visits, higher life expectancies, longer hospital stays yet spend half as much as we do on health care.

To save our health care system from ruin, thus safeguarding our health, we need our own, uniquely American, national health program.

- Christine Adams,

Houston

Bookstore plus

Regarding "Despite disheartening trends in the business, local literary bookstores survive and thrive" (Page B6, Aug. 5), thanks for mentioning the River Oaks bookstore in the editorial about independent literary bookstores. I have been a customer and friend of the store for more than 30 years, and each visit has been a joy.

In the box stores, the employees know how to receive money and give change.

