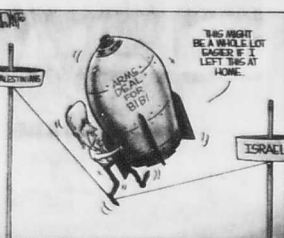
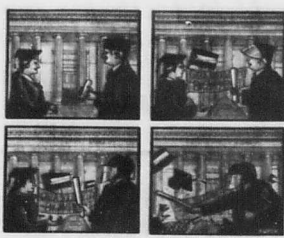


DRAWN & QUARTERED



THE PUBLIC FORUM

All commentary, letters and cartoons on The Salt Lake Tribune Opinion pages represent the views of the identified writers and artists and are not necessarily those of The Salt Lake Tribune. The Our View editorial board, which is separate from the newsroom.

Honoring mothers all over

As we reflect on recent Mothers' Day celebrations with our loved ones, we must also pause to honor the strength and resilience of mothers who struggle without the benefits and freedoms we enjoy. They fight for their kids every day, in spite of oppressive regimes that marginalize them while restricting basic human rights.

Having grown up in Iran, let me tell you what I know of these struggles. During the past two years, Iranian mothers have lost young children in the Woman, Life, Freedom movement—children like Kian Firfak, Nika Shokri, and Sarina Esmailzadeh.

Many like Majidreza Rahnamai, and Mohammad Hosseini, were executed without a fair trial. Other mothers' sons await execution on death row; rapper and songwriter Tommy Saleh's crime was using art to be the voice of those who have no voice.

Mothers like Mino Majidi sacrificed their own lives to ensure a better future for their daughters and all women.

The struggles faced by mothers extend beyond Iran. In conflict-ridden regions like Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, Ukraine, and elsewhere, mothers make agonizingly brave choices every day. The war in Israel and Palestine painfully reminds us of the vulnerability of mothers and children in conflict zones. As bombs fall and supplies dwindle, mothers grapple with the unimaginable.

Thus, as we reflect on our own Mothers' Day celebrations, cherish all of the remarkable women who carry the essence of motherhood in their hearts. Draw inspiration from the incredible resilience, unwavering strength, and determination of mothers around the world who struggle under formidable oppression, conflict, and poverty. Stand in solidarity with them as they tirelessly strive for a brighter future for their children. Together, let's build a world where every mother and child can thrive in peace and dignity.

Maryam Radpour



Sgt. Aaron Reynolds plays taps during a Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Douglas Cemetery in 2019.

Veterans remember fellow veterans on Memorial Day

"Where have all the soldiers gone? Gone to graveyards everyone..."
—Where Have All The Flowers Gone?
(sung by The Kingston Trio)

Memorial Day is a special day for many Americans who have worn a uniform in our Armed Forces. Some of us who are members of veterans organizations, like the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), decorate military graves with American flags. We also attend ceremonies like those held at Fort Douglas and the state Capitol.

Some veterans get together, and hoist a beverage in remembrance of those they have known who have passed before them. This year, I will especially remember two friends whom I knew at East High School in Salt Lake City: Wayne Feinauer, Nick Miller, and I graduated 60 years ago in 1964. Four years later we were all serving in Vietnam.

Wayne served as an MP (military police), and died in-country escorting a convoy.

Nick was a combat medic with the 101st Airborne. He came home with ailments acquired from exposure to Agent Orange, and died a little over a year ago. Another casualty of the Vietnam War where, "All gave some, and some gave all."

Also this year, I will travel to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to meet with some of my Vietnam buddies. We get together every now and then for Memorial Day. A few years ago we met in Washington, D.C., where we saw President Barack Obama place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was quite memorable.

We Vietnam vets are fewer in number every year, and know that it may not be long before we are all but a name on a grave stone. Until that time we will recall how young we were so long ago, and cherish the memories of our friendships. We ask all Americans to join us in remembrance of those who served.

Luciano S. Martinez

The stadium burden

Gov. Cox said Salt Lake City locals and not Kanab residents should pay for the hockey stadium. Why should Salt Lake City residents be forced to pay? Stadiums are used by people from all over the state including tourists.

Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall continues to say residents will benefit but stadiums are private and require an expensive ticket to get in. A public park or trail is open and accessible to nearly everyone.

If public funds, to the tune of \$212 a resident for the next thirty years, are to be used for this development, the burden should not be solely on Salt Lake City residents, who are already dealing with rising costs of living downtown, including the headaches from the constant construction.

In addition, the recent debate involving the Salt Lake Bees stadium relocation should give the Salt Lake City Council pause in approving any tax raise for a stadium.

Joe Bateman

Treat water as you would money: Make the most of it

Money and water are essential to our lives, and managing each requires similar principles and values.

Water.org estimates that 50% of the world's population will live with "water stress" by 2025.

Today Bogotá, Colombia, a city of 9 million people is rationing water, with household water being cut off for 24-hour periods. New Orleans, St. George and Mexico City are three of many cities running out of water.

Each day we are faced with important decisions regarding our family budgets, and now we face similar decisions with regards to water. Between the challenges facing the

Great Salt Lake, feeding a growing population, and meeting the needs of our tech industry (e.g., water to cool server farms and to produce microchips), our water demands continue to grow.

As we move into summer, coming out of another snowy winter, we face collective and individual decisions regarding water use. BYU professor and water expert Rob Sowby has great advice regarding our collective (e.g., businesses, schools, government entities) and individual use of water: live with it in our means.

Andrew Watt

Curtis has kissed the ring

Few can dispute the fact that the Republican candidates running for office represent a motley crew (no offense to the musical group). The most disappointing of the group, however, is John Curtis.

At one time he was a voice of reason — a moderate Republican. Now he has drunk the Kool Aid, joined the MAGA cult, and kissed the ring. At the first sight of his commercials I can't hit the mute button fast enough.

I can only hope that the silly grin on his face is not due to the zoology he tries to portray but is, in fact, that of despair.

Sandra Williams

To appear in the Opinion section

The Salt Lake Tribune encourages readers to submit their own commentaries for publication. These essays should address timely topics of general interest and should not exceed 800 words.

Authors should include a recent photograph and a sentence or two of biographical information that includes any experience or expertise in the subject matter addressed. They may be sent to Sara Weber, Voices editor, at sweber@sltrib.com.

Sending text in the body of an email is preferred, as attachments do not always arrive in a usable form. We accept one commentary per person in any 45-day period.

Submissions may also be mailed to The Salt Lake Tribune, Editorial Dept., 90 South 400 West, Suite 600, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.

LETTER POLICY

The Salt Lake Tribune welcomes letters of up to 300 words on a single topic of general interest. If published, they become the sole property of the newspaper, may be edited for length, grammar, accuracy or clarity, and be stored or reproduced by electronic means.

Letters must include the writer's full name, street address and daytime telephone number, though only the name and the city of residence will be published. Letters by email are encouraged.

They should have the word "letter" in the subject line and not include attachments. Only one letter per writer can be published in any 30-day period.

Send letters to letters@sltrib.com or mail to The Public Forum, 90 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, Suite 600, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

OPINION PAGES ONLINE

The Tribune's online Opinion section includes additional commentary, cartoons and features. > See sltrib.com/opinion/