“Single Payer” Beats Other Health Plans

Health Care in the South

- The infant mortality rate in the South is higher than the rest of the country, and in some rural areas it is higher than in Haiti — the poorest country in the world.
- Southern states paid 8.3% of their income for health care in 1980, and 11% in 1991; both are higher than the national average.
- Qualifying for medicaid in the South is difficult because the maximum yearly income for a family of three to qualify is $4,400.
- The low unionization rate in the South means if you want higher wages, you’ll probably lose your health plan. Also two out of three jobs are now temporary or contract labor (with no benefits).

(source: Former Georgia Representative, Ralo Valentino)

By Marc Kirch

Is the Clinton health care reform package a step forward for Americans, especially the uninsured poor, or could it be a step backward? Many progressive community leaders with this question at the recent NC Fair Share Convention held on October 5th in Raleigh. The problem demanded we support Clinton plan as a needed first step toward improving

1994, March

Let’s Eliminate the Sales Tax on Food

By Jim Jenkins

(or all the many ways in which the poor and the disadvantaged are treated unfairly. North Carolina’s sales tax on food is one of the worst. It is one of the few states that does not have a tax on foods sold in grocery stores. But in the grocery stores, the poor are more likely to buy foods that are nutritious and relatively healthy. But at a higher rate than nonpoor. Food is partly due to the fact that the poor spend a higher percentage of their income on food than other families do. A study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that the poor spend about 18% of their income on food, while the nonpoor spend about 12%.

1995, April

On the occasion of our fifth anniversary, it’s worth asking: What is the character of the Prism? We have always attempted to publish articles on local issues and activities or local aspects of national and global issues. However, we depend mostly on local people to volunteer in writing and it generally takes more work to do a local story. And what happens nationally and internationally is more and more related to what is going on locally. In essence, there is no separation between local and non-local. NAFTA is a good illustration of how local global can be.

Nevertheless, there’s been a noticeable pattern of The Prism doing an article about something strictly local one then several days later the same basic story comes out in one of the local newspapers. This happened with the article about the specific ways that the Smart Start program helps children. It happened with the article about the specific ways that the Smart Start program helps children. It happened with the article about the specific ways that the Smart Start program helps children. It happened with the article about the specific ways that the Smart Start program helps children. It happened with the article about the specific ways that the Smart Start program helps children. It happened with the article about the specific ways that the Smart Start program helps children. It happened with the article about the specific ways that the Smart Start program helps children. It happened with the article about the specific ways that the Smart Start program helps children.

I arrived at the hospital emergency room in shackles and chains, almost unable to walk.

breath had become so bad I had almost stopped eating. I quickly learned that if I lay on my right side, it helped the pain ease up and it seemed I could breath easier. I began to hurt so bad that I would refrain from getting up to eat.