

To watch, indeed

Re "Whom to watch" (Cover story, by CN&R staff, Jan. 3 2019):

I agree, the executive director of the Jesus Center is someone to "watch" in 2019.

With the firing of former Jesus Center Executive Director Bill Such in 2015 (see CN&R's Oct. 25, 2018, guest comment), a red flag should have gone up. Now, three years into the tenure of the new executive director, hired by the business-friendly board that fired Such, we see the following: The director recently sat on the board of a downtown business booster association, while the Jesus Center morphed into an increasingly punitive place, avoided when possible by people on the streets.

Perhaps worse, under the banner of "consolidation"—hand-in-glove with a conservative city government—the Jesus Center has gone full tilt toward removal

of our only downtown source of food and clothing. (To be replaced by what? At this point we have nothing more than a committee process, heavily influenced by the man who brought us containment expert

Robert Marbut.)

The Jesus Center dazzles with marketing, but we ought to see through the smoke screen. The center now executes poorly on its traditional, core mission and serves the interests of the haves, as much as the have-nots. We should indeed be "watching" this very carefully.

Patrick Newman
Chico

'Other rotten forces'

Re "U.S. in peril" (Letters, by Roger Beadle, Jan. 3):

I appreciate Roger Beadle's awareness, keen mind and expression. His dislike of President Trump, however, is blinding

him to other rotten forces and assaults to humankind embedded in Washington, D.C., long before Trump arrived.

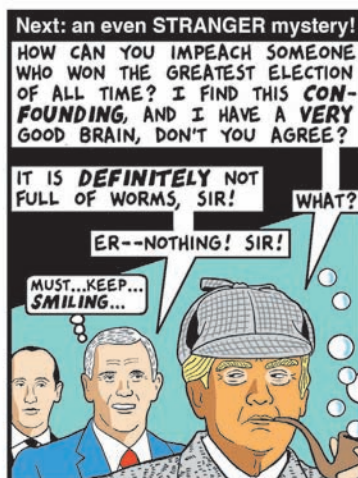
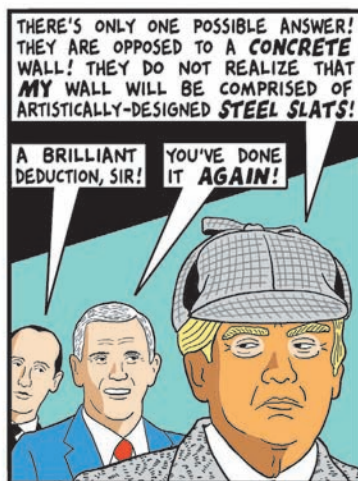
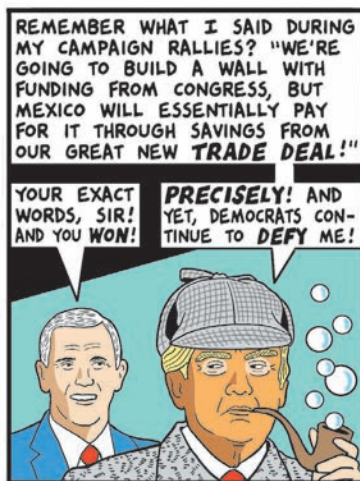
I urge Roger and all CN&R readers to reach out to sites like Consortium News, Truthdig and Information Clearing House, where independent foreign policy experts have their work published. It's a far cry from what the standard mainstream media NYT and Washington Post major investors allow the U.S. public to read.

Let me just say "hallelujah!" to Trump's bringing our troops home from Syria. It's the only way we can start healing the area and rectifying some blunders the U.S. has made since our invasion of Iraq. (Already, negotiations are going on among the Kurds, Syria and Turkey.) Learn more at: tinyurl.com/ussyriawithdrawal.

Linda Furr
Chico

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