

About the Red Cross

Re “#RedCrossFailure” (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, Jan. 17) and “Shelter no more” (Newslines, by Meredith J. Cooper, Jan. 17):

I agree, there is something amiss with the American Red Cross, an organization recently described by NPR and ProPublica as “so consumed with public relations that it hinders the charity’s ability to provide disaster services.” I’ll never understand why we place blind trust in charities with highly compensated administrators (ostensibly serving the poorest of people) and an infatuation with self-marketing. Yet, we do.

Fact is: The Red Cross is pulling out of Chico on Jan. 31. This will leave several hundred people without shelter—in addition to the thousands already on edge. In light of this: Why is not one square foot of Chico city land available for use by fire survivors?! I’ve asked this question of the Chico City Council at four meetings since

Nov. 8. Yet, not one FEMA trailer is in place (while tiny Orland has 70 and Gridley is slated for 350). And, we have not one camp site or a single legal parking space available for nighttime use.

For years, our city manager—“Skipper,” as Councilman Sean Morgan affectionately calls him—has been getting gold stars from a council obsessed with government minimalism. I hope the Skipper will chart a new course.

Patrick Newman
Chico

It is easy to find fault with any organization as large as the Red Cross. I am sure it is not always run as efficiently as desired, especially since a large proportion of its workers are volunteers. I have volunteered a few times at the Red Cross shelters both in Orland and Chico and have nothing but admiration for the regular volunteers who sign up for a minimum of two-week stretches at each disaster event. The ones I talked to came from all over the United States

and were probably reimbursed for travel but not paid for their time. So, if the travel expenses are part of the overhead, so be it. Their living quarters are large tents with cots for beds just as the evacuees.

Hendrik Feenstra
Orland

What’s the job of the Red Cross? It is primarily disaster relief, including providing shelters to evacuees in conjunction with the county. Regardless of what we wish, it is not sheltering the homeless.

The Red Cross has shown us that it is possible to muster resources and provide shelter to hundreds. Through intense comprehensive interaction with all who seek shelter at the fairgrounds, hundreds of evacuees at the shelter have been given the financial resources and personal care necessary to relocate. Those in RVs, mostly without hook-ups, who are not evacuees deserve to be housed, as do hundreds more on our streets and parkways. Other

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THIS MODERN WORLD

ON AND ON AND ON IT GOES

1. AT THE MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS

SHUTTING DOWN GOVERNMENT IN PURSUIT OF AN UNATTAINABLE SOLUTION TO AN IMAGINARY PROBLEM IS **GOOD**, ACTUALLY!

WHO NEEDS FOOD INSPECTORS OR AIRLINE SAFETY, REALLY?



4. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

I HAVE NOT READ THIS “EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE” OF WHICH YOU SPEAK!

IN THE **CONSTITUTION**, YOU SAY? I’LL HAVE TO STUDY UP ON THAT OBSCURE DOCUMENT!



2. IF ONLY THERE WERE AN OBVIOUS VISUAL METAPHOR INVOLVING A WALL

SORRY, LOSERS AND HATERS! I AM **NOT** GOING TO BUDGE!

WHAT COULD **POSSIBLY** GO WRONG?



5. WHEN WE GET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

HERE WE ARE, MR. PUTIN--TWO POWERFUL WORLD LEADERS HAVING A FRANK, UNMONITORED EXCHANGE!

DA. NOW, PLEASE SHINE MY SHOES, DONALD FREDERICK-OVICH!



3. TOP MARGINAL TAX RATES, HOW DO THEY WORK

ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ WANTS A 70% TAX RATE ON INCOME OVER TEN MILLION!

SO IN OTHER WORDS, IF I HAVE TEN DOLLARS--SHE’LL TAKE **SEVEN!**

I AM GOOD WITH MATH.



6. THE MONSTER AT THE END OF THIS CARTOON

WHAT? I DON’T SEE ANY **MONSTER!** JUST A DISTINGUISHED ELDER STATESMAN WHO ENABLES THE PRESIDENT’S EVERY MERCURIAL WHIM, CONSEQUENCES BE DAMNED!

HONESTLY, THESE CARTOONISTS ARE **SO** OVER-WROUGHT!



BY TOM TOMORROW

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