

Communication is key

Re "Missing in action" (Newslines, by Ashiah Scharaga, Feb. 28):

Your basic assumption and compassion for the homeless community will have an impact on what you do as a community and as an individual. —Lloyd Pendleton, director of the Utah Homeless Task Force on the Oct. 12, 2016, Without a Roof radio program on KZFR 90.1 FM

The Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) mission is to end homelessness in Butte County. This governing body manages various state and federal grant funding streams, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the biennial Homeless Point in Time Survey and all other federal, state and county requirements attached to the execution of grant allocations and data collection within Butte County.

It's vital that the general public, stakeholders and policy makers understand and respect the dire challenges, hard work

and dedication of the CoC toward eliminating homelessness in Butte County and how to connect to the CoC to assist with its endeavors. I'm happy to champion the development of a CoC communication plan and look forward to helping to educate community members, of all persuasions, to the facts on the ground and the need for all of us to feel grateful for having a roof.

Bill Mash
Chico

Beds versus housing

Re "Omission" (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, Feb. 28):

"We need shelter beds, and we need them yesterday." This makes sense, with a few caveats: 1) We must remember that "beds" are not housing and housing is the honorable solution. 2) Unless the homeless are supplied with materials needed for survival on the streets, they are vulnerable to deprivation-based coercion. That is, to being forced into a shelter at the

point of a "deprivation gun"; this is de facto incarceration. 3) As long as we continue to criminalize the life-sustaining actions of the homeless, they are vulnerable to legal coercion, with shelters serving as county jail annexes. 4) Many on the streets would respond well to a supportive housing approach, but would not respond well to life in a high-density homeless shelter. Mental illness is rampant on the streets and shelters are typically inappropriate settings for the mentally ill. 5) There is strong interest in getting poor people out of sight—and human rights be damned. That's why authoritarian types enthusiastically support "consolidation"—a one-size-fits-all compound for the homeless.

To guard against this direction and all it implies, the citizens of Chico will have to be vigilant: Not all shelter is created equal; Hitler provided "beds."

Patrick Newman
Chico

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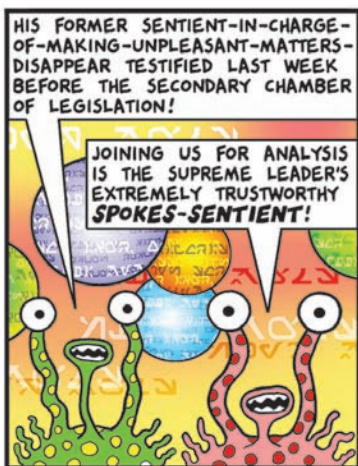
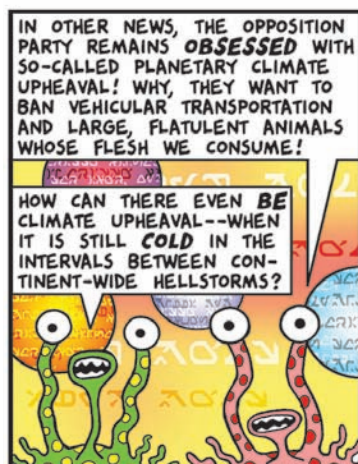
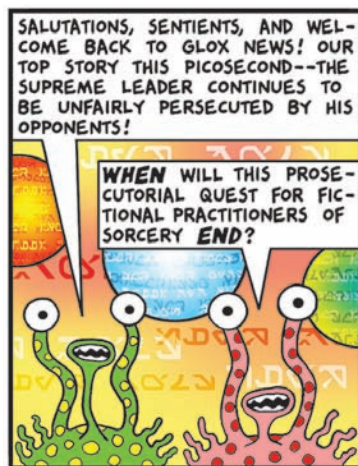
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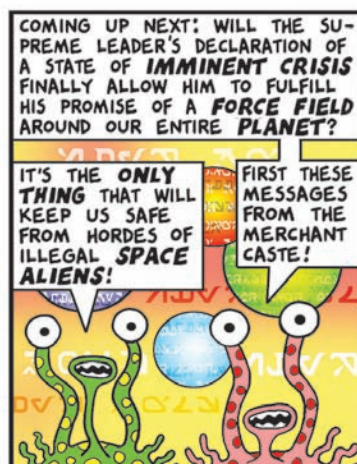
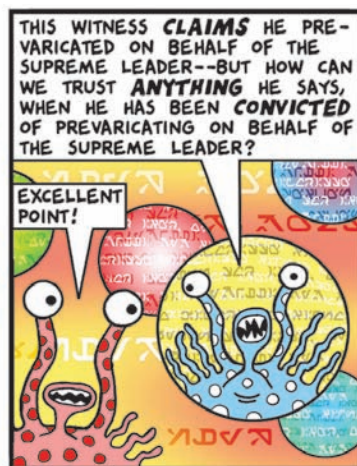
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THIS MODERN WORLD



BY TOM TOMORROW



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