

Pensions over the public

Re "The problem is pensions" (Letters, by Dave Howell) and "Mark of austerity" (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, March 28):

Bidwell Park has suffered deferred maintenance since massive layoffs of park staffers over the last six years. The park division was absorbed into Public Works. Like Dave Howell said, the problem is "the unsustainable cost of government employee compensation." I'll add, top-heavy management. Twelve management positions overseeing the park cost over \$1 million in total compensation. The park division has only five "maintenance workers," amounting to less than \$300,000 in total compensation. While staff defers maintenance in the park, they continue to pay almost \$20 million a year toward their pensions, about \$8 million of that toward the pension deficit.

At the April 2 City Council meeting, staff recommends renewal of the CalPERS agreement,

requiring employees to pay only 11 percent of the cost of their pensions. As long as the council and staff continue to place the pensions ahead of the public, infrastructure will continue to be shortchanged, including Bidwell Park.

Juanita Sumner
Chico

Academic hot air

Re "Hot flash" (Greenways, by Evan Tuchinsky); "Savor the flap" (Chow, by Jason Cassidy); "Poetry, Stonewall art and the airport choir" (Arts DEVO, by Jason Cassidy); and "Mark of austerity" (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, March 28):

After reading the customary environmental "tipping point" musings of local academics—(enviably) able to pay their mortgages by saying silly things about peddling around under the leafy canopy of Dear Old Chico—I flip a few more pages and see that beef (flap steak?) is rhapsodized in "melt in your mouth" language. Gosh, I thought beef was

the most environmentally objectionable food product on the planet.

Next, we have a flock of high-school-age songbirds, burning barrels of oil winging to the Emerald Isle for a choir gig. Isn't that the first thing we'd teach our young 'uns not to do, if all this talk of environmental mayhem was more than so much methane escaping the trousers of affluent liberals?

And speaking of the leafy canopy, it should be noted that while the loss of 27 oaks is being rightfully scrutinized, all of our local parks and waterways are being defoliated at ground level; this being yet another campaign in the war on the homeless. We live in a country where homeless men are routinely incarcerated and coerced into providing slave labor. In some cases, clearing the same parkland that might provide minimal refuge when, once again, they are dumped onto our streets.

Patrick Newman
Chico

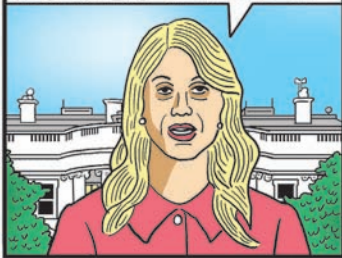
LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

THIS MODERN WORLD

ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE

THE FOUR PAGE SUMMARY OF A REPORT NO ONE HAS SEEN, WHICH STATES THAT IT "DOES NOT EXONERATE" THE PRESIDENT--**CLEARLY** EXONERATES THE PRESIDENT!

THAT'S OUR STORY AND WE ARE **ABSOLUTELY** STICKING TO IT.



SETTING A LOW BARR

ONE THING WE CAN INFER FROM BARR'S SUMMARY OF THE MUELLER REPORT IS THAT TRUMP IS NOT **PROVABLY** A CRIMINAL! AT LEAST, IN THIS ONE SPECIFIC INSTANCE.

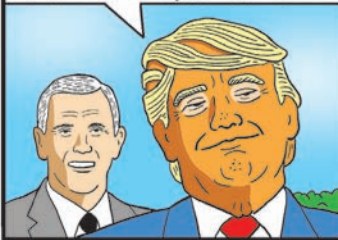
WHAT MORE CAN WE EVEN **ASK** OF A SITTING PRESIDENT?



WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER

OF **COURSE** I SUPPORT THE RELEASE OF THE REPORT! JUST AS SOON AS THAT **IRS AUDIT** IS COMPLETE!

THE WITCH HUNT HOAX THAT I TRIED TO UNDERMINE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY **TOTALLY** VINDICATES ME AND IS GOOD, ACTUALLY.



NOTHING TO SEE HERE

WE **DEFINITELY** DID NOT DO ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, EXCEPT FOR ALL THOSE SUSPICIOUS THINGS WE DID THAT ARE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD!

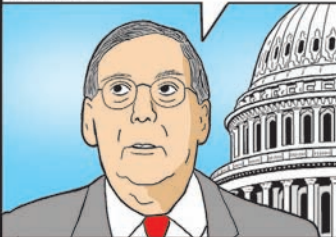
THERE WAS **NOTHING** TO HIDE, EXCEPT FOR ALL THE THINGS PEOPLE LIED ABOUT IN ORDER TO HIDE!



FULL TRANSPARENCY

THIS SECRET REPORT **COMPLETELY** **CLEAR**S THE PRESIDENT AND **UTTERLY DISCREDITS** HIS CRITICS IN THE MEDIA AND THE DEMOCRAT PARTY!

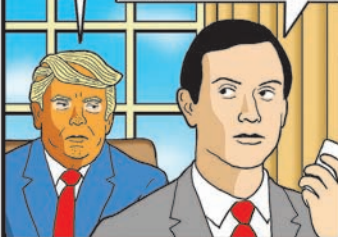
ALSO, I WILL FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL TO KEEP IT FROM EVER BEING RELEASED.



PIVOTING TO MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS

IT'S TIME FOR THE D.O.J. TO DEVOTE ITS RESOURCES TO THE **TRUE** SCANDAL--THE **CLINTON EMAIL SERVER**! DON'T YOU AGREE, WEASEL-FACE?

SORRY, WHAT? I WAS JUST CHECKING MY WHATS APP MESSAGES.



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BY TOM TOMORROW

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