'Business as usual'

Re "Drastic measures" (Cover story, by Judy Lin, April 4):

CN&R's recent cover story on the coming wildfire season included comments by California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Picker. His comments were so incredibly casual and stupid they should have activated the CN&R editor to write something about the role and power of the CPUC and how strong CPUC leadership could force PG&E to be more responsible so that their equipment sparks fewer horrendous fires.

PG&E's equipment was responsible for 17 of the 21 major fires in 2017. And PG&E said that its equipment probably caused the Camp Fire.

The state Public Utilities Commission has the responsibility to regulate services and utilities, protect consumers, safeguard the environment, and assure Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services.

The CPUC is known for enabling PG&E's focus on profits

and its lax safety culture.

With Picker president of the CPUC, it is likely business as usual, and people should care, unless they just want to accept wildfire tragedies as inevitable.

I doubt that the large majority of people blaming climate change for the Camp Fire acknowledge their role in climate change, nor are they willing to make the sacrifices to stop climate change.

Blaming climate change for the Camp Fire is just too easy.

Lucy Cooke Butte Valley

CSUC pres disappoints

Re "Unbelievable opportunity" (Newslines, by Ashiah Scharaga, April 11):

As a 20-year employee of Chico State, I have been proud of the efforts the university has made toward transparency and progressive engagement with the community.

President Gayle Hutchinson's bombshell letter opposing the location of a homeless center on Orange Street leaves me questioning that progress. After a week spent promoting "courageous conversations" and community engagement through Great Debate events, this administration, without campus consultation as far as I am aware, has shamed us all, with this NIMBY condemnation of the efforts to provide a safe and dignified alternative to sleeping on the streets, in the name of public safety. Clearly, the homeless are not the population whose safety is of concern.

I have close family and friends who volunteer their time and energy at the Safe Space Winter Shelter, and I know from them that those needing these services pose no more danger to the community than do other citizens. I am appalled that despite the claim to not "disparage a population as criminals," this is exactly what this letter does. Demonizing the homeless for society's problems is no solution.

The homeless are here, they live in our neighborhoods, the need is present, but alas compassion is not.

> George Thompson Chico

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