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"didn't have to outrun the flames." You rode, into the fire. And you kept doing that. You know what happens to war correspondents. The same thing is happening to you.

And you're not moving on. Every week, you're back in the fire. In the stories you write, oversee. Others may play at shiny happy people. You won't. Because you won't forget. Or let others, forget. And you're to be honored. In that.

I wish it weren't so. But it is. You're one of us. You're burned.

Know that it won't always be like this. Someday, there will be something, other than the fire. Someday.

Kevin Jeyes
Paradise

Marred by racist graffiti

White supremacy is alive and well in Chico, Calif. This is occupied Mechoopda Maidu land. Ali Meders-Knight is a Mechoopda Maidu indigenous woman, a mother of five indigenous girls, and an amazing artist. She is painting a mural celebrating Mechoopda culture at Second and Cedar streets with fellow artist Christian Garcia. Over the weekend someone vandalized their art with racist graffiti including swastikas and "White Power."

Saturday was Chico's "Pioneer Day Parade." Romanticizing pioneers is whitewashing the history that colonizers murdered, raped and tortured indigenous people, and stole the land.

Sunday was an international day to honor all the countless missing and murdered indigenous women in North America. Native Women are the most likely of any demographic to experience sexual assault, domestic violence, police violence. Today I ask you to think deeply about the systemic and daily terrorism and trauma that native women live with for simply existing.

Rain Scher
Chico

Twenty-twenty hindsight

Re "PG&E's outrageous plan" (Letters, by Walter Ballin, May 2):

Don't get me wrong, I'm not picking on Walter Ballin, I don't know the man from Adam. That said, I'd like to ask what he would do if he could turn the clock back a few minutes prior to the time the Camp Fire broke out.

PG&E operators at the Table Mountain substation were aware of a problem—strong winds—in the vicinity of where the fire started. Their choices at the time were to either shut the transmission line down or keep their fingers crossed that no problem would occur, and I'm certain the last thing on their minds was the absolute catastrophe that ensued when they chose the latter.

Additionally, the fire started on private property. I know the rugged terrain in the area, and logistics prevented any rapid-response access.

Putting myself in the shoes of the operators at the time, I probably would have agreed to keeping power on to what Mr. Ballin refers to as "5 million people in Northern California."

Twenty-twenty hindsight makes geniuses out of all of us. I'm sure that if the operators had realized that even one life was in danger, not to mention the devastation involved, they undoubtedly would have shut the line down. Just something for Walter Ballin to think about. What a horrible disaster.

Ray Estes
Redding

Retort to a retort

Re "Commentary comeback" (Letters, by Peter Bridge, May 2):

Mr. Bridge said, [in response to Clancy Callahan's guest comment on being kicked out of her rental]: "... to pay an average of \$935 a month for eight years? That says more about the renter than the rental." What it really says is that Mr. Bridge must not be aware of rental prices in the Chico area.

I, however, am, due to checking rental prices for various family members over the years. Even before the Camp Fire, a medium-quality "studio" apartment started at about \$950 to \$1,000 and has for several years. (Ever heard of college-town rental marketing? Wonder why there's been no rental price-gouging since the Camp Fire? No need: Rent prices were already sky high.)

So what Ms. Callahan was being charged for rent for a house was not anomalous enough by any means for her to be foolish, as Bridge seems to suggest. (Sure, she might've found lower rent prices within commuting distance, like Paradise, for instance.)

Please, Mr. Bridge, consider an apology to Ms. Callahan for your insulting comments about her, and please don't start bashing Camp Fire evacuees next. I had six family members who had to evacuate and find new places to live. Don't make me have to write another letter.

Lynn Marler
Chico

Speak of the devil

Ms. Callahan was upset after being given 60-days notice to vacate, after her home of eight years was sold out from under her. I responded that "FYI: rapacious landlords could sell the rental, enter escrow, and give just 30 days notice."

The News & Review followed the letter with this footnote:

"Editor's note: In the state of California, landlords are required by law to give 60 days' notice to tenants who've lived in a rental for at least a year."

However, here's Ca. Civil Code 1946.1(d) paraphrased. A landlord who is selling his or her house to a person that wants to live in it may wait until entering escrow and then lawfully serve the tenant a 30-day notice.

I think my statement was informational and the editor's note only served to confuse the issue—in more ways than one. Read the note again. By the time you're 25, you've probably lived in "a" rental for at least a year. What if that's not "the" rental you've been living in for only the last nine months?

I jest. But please understand. That 30-day notice, even after eight years in the rental, may in fact be lawful.

Peter Bridge
Ord Bend

Joking about lawyers

Just north of Chico, alongside Highway 99, stands a billboard that reads: "Fire Lawyers." In this particular case, most folks would agree.

Kenneth B. Keith
Tehama

More letters online:
We've got too many letters for this space. Please go to www.newsreview.com/chico for additional readers' comments on past CN&R articles.

