

## Lies predate Trump

Re "Russia plunders while Trump babbles" (Guest comment, by Roger S. Beadle, May 16):

William Binney, former director of the National Security Agency, said of the neocons in the U.S. State Department who got us into the Iraq War: "They're a group of people who never had to make a thing work in their lives." John Bolton was one of those neocons. Neocon Victoria Nuland in Obama's State Department orchestrated the 2014 bloody overthrow of Ukraine's elected president. Today, neocon Elliott Abrams, signatory to the infamous neocon Project for a New American Century—touting U.S. "exceptionalism"—is leading the attempted regime change in Venezuela.

Roger Beadle, open your eyes. Lying, callow people were running things in Washington, D.C., a long time before Donald Trump came to town.

Linda Furr  
Chico

## Bravo, CN&R

Re "Above and beyond" (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, May 9):

The sacrifices made by journalists covering breaking stories, often in horrifically trying and stressful situations, is an invaluable form of heroism. The CN&R's unwavering dedication to your craft connects us all and demonstrates the power of community awareness. Bravo to the entire staff of the CN&R.

Bill Mash  
Chico

## Stumping for tax hike

Re "Secondary effects" (Cover story, by CN&R staff, May 9):

The article states that "based on year-over-year analysis, Chico had gained over 19,000 residents" after the Camp Fire.

This figure is based entirely on estimates, there are no "hard numbers," as Mark Orme claims. I read the [California Department of Finance] press release. "Estimated

occupancy of housing units and the number of persons per household further determine population levels. Changes to the housing stock are used in the preparation of the annual city population estimates. Changes in city housing stock result from new construction, demolitions, housing unit conversions, and annexations." So, they not only "estimate" the number of houses occupied, they also "estimate" how many are living in each house.

Furthermore, "These population estimates are produced annually by the Department of Finance for use by local areas to calculate their annual appropriations limit."

There's no science; they just make up numbers to get money from the state. City staff is also using these numbers to stump for a local sales tax increase, proposing to use the proceeds to finance bonds. They're trying to play on our sympathies for the evacuees to get us to raise taxes, and the

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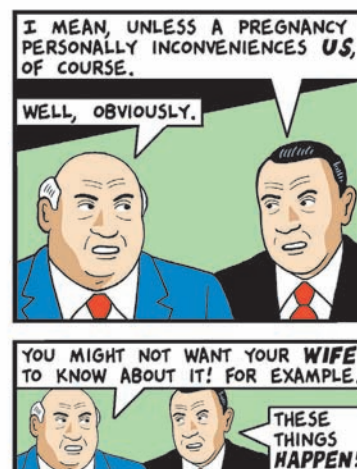
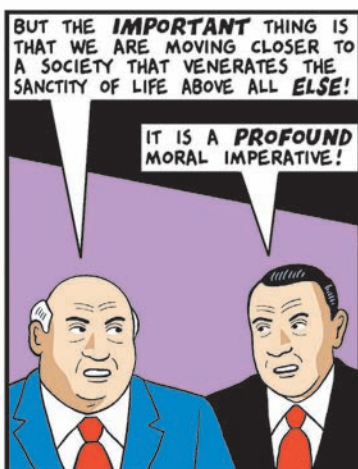
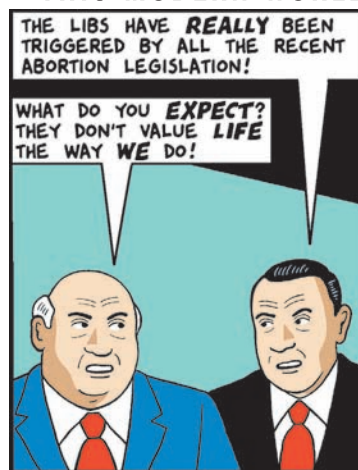
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or [sandra@actionctr.org](mailto:sandra@actionctr.org)

