

## Note from Safe Space

Re "Walmart decides" (Downstroke, June 6):

While we at Safe Space Winter Shelter are deeply saddened by Walmart's decision regarding financial support for the Orange Street Shelter, we remain committed to our mission and will continue to strive for solutions that benefit the entire community.

We hope the organizations to which the money was allocated move forward swiftly with low-barrier shelter options. We need immediate, accessible shelter for those with the greatest needs. Without ready access to shelter and services for these folks, their problems and our problems as a community will continue to escalate. Low-barrier shelter offers the most humane, compassionate solution for those in need, and the most pragmatic solution for the broader community.

We'd also like to pause to thank the many supporters of our project. So many of you have bolstered us with your kind words and deeds.

You've written letters, helped share the project with the community, volunteered for Safe Space ... it's beyond words. This has truly been a community project, and what a community we have.

Lastly, we need to thank Graham Hutton. We were beyond lucky to have found such a patient and supportive landlord as we worked on this project. His openness and unwavering support meant the world to us.

Angela McLaughlin  
Chico

## More about Orange Street

Re "NIMBY cowardice" and "Deadly status quo" (Second & Flume, by Melissa Daugherty, May 30 and June 6):

Editor Melissa Daugherty has courageously illuminated the dismal performance of CSUC President Gayle Hutchinson and Jesus Center Executive Director Laura Cootsona—both instrumental in dashing hope for a centrally located homeless shelter.

Thwarting progress on the Orange Street Shelter was a human rights violation: When we prevent a class of people from residing among us—precisely what we did—we remove their fundamental right to exist. I know of no other class of people experiencing this level of discrimination, especially discrimination blatantly countenanced by a university president and a high-profile homeless "advocate."

While it was heartening to see Orange Street garner support from a swath of citizens, justice for the visibly poor remains elusive. As of now, even our "progressives"—while making a show of supporting diversity, from LGBTQ to XYZ—support geographic segregation for those without affordable shelter. As of today, Chico's current "consolidation" plan rests firmly on coercive criminalization and deprivation, as promoted by the most authoritarian among us.

Lastly, it should be said, in no uncertain terms, that Safe Space board President Angela McLaughlin

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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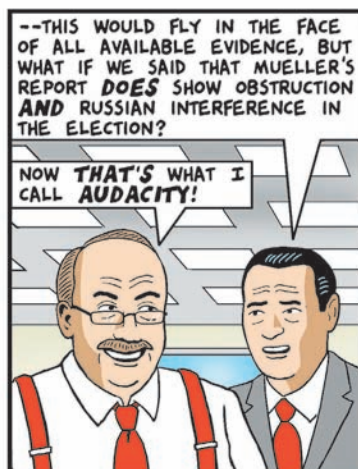
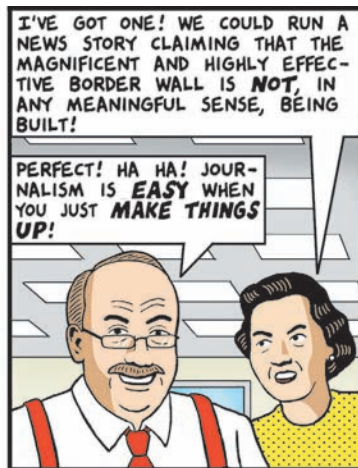
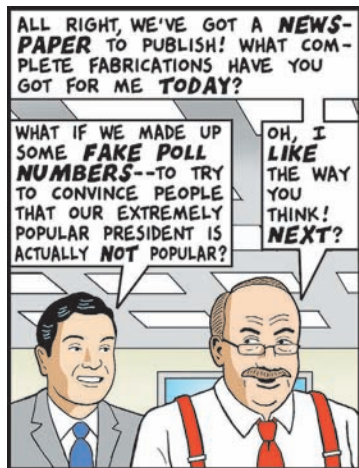
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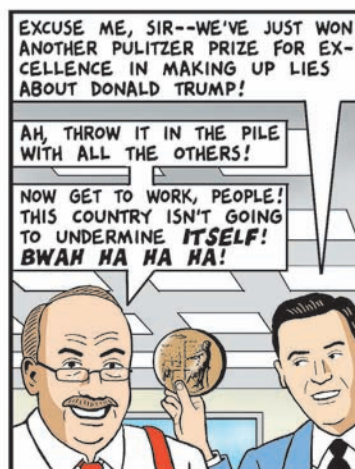
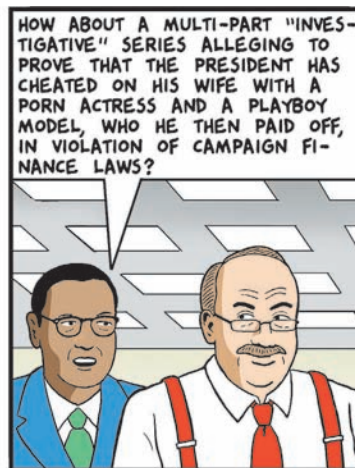
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