

## To watch, indeed

Re "Whom to watch" (Cover story, by CN&R staff, Jan. 2):

Kasey Reynolds is not forging connections between cause and effect. If she had, maybe she'd be self-aware about how her use of fear-mongering and race-baiting in her campaign literature, which I've used several times as a prop in the City Council chambers, illustrates her culpability in crafting that narrative.

"Ice cream fascist" is a term describing those people who harbor a morality that denies the existence of injustice, hides its inhumane agenda behind innocent appeals to tradition, and asserts subjective experience as objective fact. Albeit more individualistic than Italian fascism, it brands itself as protector of civic order. It seeks to remove barriers to capitalist exploitation of land and labor and impose strict law and order.

This paper's write-up on



Reynolds exposed some of these themes in her own words. When supporting police means refusing to discuss even minor reforms like de-escalation and implicit-bias training, Reynolds reifies this

monopoly on violence. When arguing that CEQA is the barrier to affordable housing, she elevates the falsehood that enriching speculators and developers through market-rate housing will solve our housing catastrophe. If she can't connect the dots on these no-brainer issues, can we trust her proposal for a substance abuse treatment center?

Steve Breedlove  
Chico

## Reasons to hesitate

Re "Looming deadline" (Newsline, by Andre Byik, Jan. 2):

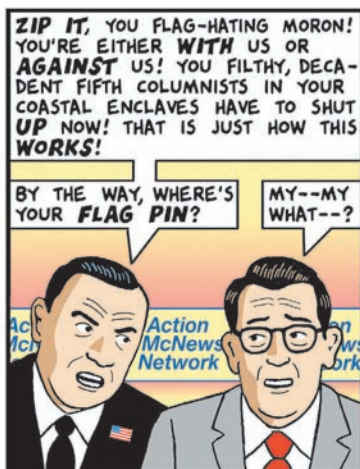
Why are right-of-entry (ROE) contracts for removing "hazard" trees on private properties

unpopular? Perhaps it is the defining of trees to be removed as hazards. There is a fear that living green trees that survived will be included for removals. Why else are we told there will be no debate?

Other concerns arise within the ROE contract. First, we are *mandated* to comply or face liens against our properties, and by signing agree to: 1. Allow all government (fed, state, county and town) and associated subcontractors to enter our properties. 2. Accept removal of *all* trees deemed a hazard to public thoroughfares by officials from above entities, using criteria we do not have a right to question. 3. Accept the costs of cleanup of all tree waste, as well as damages to land, driveways, etc., caused by heavy equipment. 4. Allow up to three years for the work to occur. 5. Accept that damages, even due to negligence, to any improved property (i.e., houses, fencing) may or may not be addressed at the sole discretion

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## THIS MODERN WORLD



## BY TOM TOMORROW



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1. US Department of Education 2017 | 2. United Way: Illiteracy—A National Crisis