

About forced treatment

"Deteriorating on the streets"
(Cover story, by Jocelyn Wiener,
Jan. 9):

Though it's a sad story, James Mark Rippee is fortunate to have such a loving family. Many out in the streets are not so lucky. As one who has worked in a state hospital in the 1970s and who has witnessed 5150s stemming from bad drugs, I have watched the debate between mandated treatment and civil liberties and seen helpful and harmful effects of both.

One concept is at the crux of it: the continuum between freedom of choice and mandated treatment. Freedom of choice is available if one isn't a danger to themselves or others. Mandated treatment protects one from doing harm and provides medical help. This has always been the stated circumstance for a 5150: danger to self or others.

While civil liberties are a birthright, they stop when one does harm. The concept of freedom



always pairs with personal responsibility. Mandated treatment helps an individual to gain the tools of education and self-advocacy leading again to

self-sufficiency.

For either the medical community or law enforcement to release someone into the community who has been known to inflict harm is absolutely shirking the very responsibility they have been vested with and sworn to uphold.

Mary M. Nordskog
Paradise

For many concerned about homelessness and unhoused humans in our community, there's a profound conundrum: What is most humane?

Is it more humane to leave a mentally ill individual to sleep under a bush in wet clothing, or to compel them into case-managed

treatment? Is it more humane to leave addicts passed out in alleys, or to require they enter treatment to overcome their addiction?

To "compel" and "require" are to coerce. Coercion is to wield control over another's freedom, and as such comes with grave responsibility. Coercion should never be taken lightly or applied as a blanket remedy; it requires careful consideration of an individual's situation, and the likelihood of them harming others or themselves.

Alternatively, housing first paired with supportive services, adopted by Butte County, the state of California and numerous other jurisdictions around the country, has been proven to assist many mentally ill and addicted individuals in addressing their challenges. Because it removes them from the daily struggle to survive on the street, it allows them and their service providers to focus on recovery rather than where they will sleep that night, how to

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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THIS MODERN WORLD

**LIFE IN THE STUPIDVERSE
SPECIAL SORT-OF WAR EDITION**

**THE DEEP STATE IS GOOD,
ACTUALLY**

THE PRESIDENT WAS ACTING ON
TOTALLY REAL INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY THE INTEL COMMUNITY!

HOW **DARE**
ANYONE **EVER**
DISPARAGE OUR
BRAVE, DEDICATED
INTELLIGENCE
PROFESSIONALS!

CAN YOU EVEN
IMAGINE?



VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

WAR WITH IRAN WOULD BE A
CAKEWALK, ARI FLEISCHER! WE
WOULD BE GREETED AS **LIBER-
ATORS!**

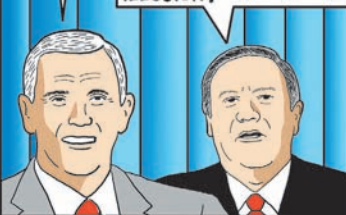
I COULDN'T AGREE
MORE, KARL ROVE!



**EXTREMELY PLAUSIBLE
EXPLANATIONS**

WE HAD TO KILL SOLEIMANI--
BECAUSE OF 9/11!

ANYWAY, WHO CAN SAY
IF AN ATTACK WAS
"IMMINENT"? WHAT IS
TIME, REALLY, BUT A
SHARED, CONSENSUAL
ILLUSION?



**POTUS ADDRESSES THE
NATION**

HE MUST BE **EXHAUSTED** FROM
THE WEIGHT OF HIS AWESOME RE-
SPONSIBILITIES!

THAT WOULD **DEFINITELY**
EXPLAIN HIS SLURRED
SPEECH, WEIRD MISPRO-
NOUNCIATIONS, AND CON-
STANT SNIFFING!



SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES

DEMOCRATS OPPOSE THE PRESIDENT'S
ACTIONS BECAUSE THEY **LOVE IRAN**
SO MUCH THEY WANT TO **MARRY IT!**

I SAW DEMOCRATS AND
IRAN KISSING IN THE
BROOM CLOSET!



**JUST AS THE FOUNDING
FATHERS INTENDED**

I CAN'T THINK OF **ANYTHING**
DUMBER THAN NOTIFYING CONGRESS
IN ADVANCE OF A MILITARY ACTION!
YOU CAN'T TRUST **THEM!**

HINTING AT IT TO RANDOM MEMBERS
OF **MAR-A-LAGO** IS AN ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT MATTER, OF COURSE.



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