

Cheers to rebuilding

Re "Starting over" (Cover story, by CN&R staff, Feb. 20):

Starting over was an invigorating companion for the precious things in life: including reporters covering post-Camp Fire stories on the Ridge. Wow, Coldplay's "The Scientist" just came over the loud-speakers at Bidwell Perk—"Nobody said it was easy. No one ever said it would be so hard. I'm going back to the start."

Indeed, and all realized by go-getters intoxicated with their indelible *Butteiful* spirit.

Bill Mash
Chico

'Contentious and divisive'

Re "Protests continue" (Newslines, by Ashiah Scharaga, Feb. 20):

There should be no place outside the City Council chambers for the big Trump banner. It read, "Keep America Great." Great for whom? The very wealthy? Corporations?



At whose expense? The poor who sleep in our streets? People who have to work two jobs and still can't make ends meet? The troubled people of Iran? The

beset peoples of China? Our allies throughout the world?

No, that banner is contentious and divisive at a time when we all need to pull together to solve our many problems. It's time to choose our candidate. Pick Amy, Mayor Pete, Elizabeth, Bernie, any of whom will move us toward peace and common purpose.

The world can't afford the politics of divisiveness at this critical time. Cast your vote for truth and moral leadership. Reject the purveyors of hate and discrimination. We can have our better world.

Robert Woods
Forest Ranch

Some are puzzled by my position on the sit/lie ordinance in light of

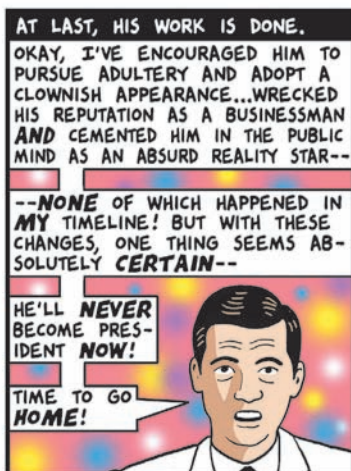
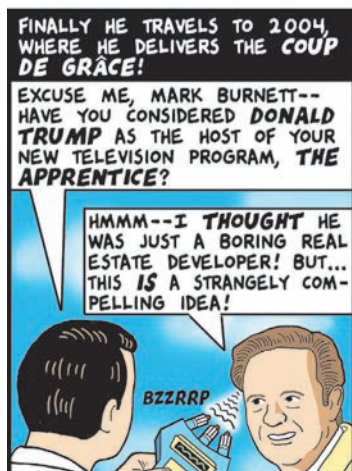
my past proposals for a warming shelter, 24-hour hour toilets, a homeless jobs program committee; and my vocal support of low-barrier shelter, more humane treatment of unhoused people, and housing first.

By conditionally extending sit/lie, a few tangible results are accomplished: My motion removed all financial penalties associated with the law (formerly \$100-\$300 per citation), eliminating the cycle of fine/failure to pay/failure to show/warrant/arrest. It replaced fines with referrals to social services—services widely regarded as the reciprocal of housing in recovery from homelessness. And it obligates the city to assure that there is always a social worker present when our [police] Target team makes contact with those found sitting or laying in the public space. Rescinding sit/lie would not have mandated service referrals or social workers.

In terms of housing, the conditional extension also allows local business leaders to "walk the talk."

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