

'Flaccid leadership'

Re "Partisan jabs convolute the debate" (Editorial, Feb. 6) and "Contentious and divisive" (Letters, by Scott Huber, Feb. 27):

Partisan jabs convolute the debate?!? Politicians, bureaucrats, the ruling elite, petite bourgeoisie and professional-managerial class refuse to accept the imminent threat of ecological, economic and social collapse, and the existential threat climate change poses. Neoliberal fundamentalism is a bipartisan affair that ignores the social costs of unrestrained capital. Moreover, this naive desire for civility and both-sides-isms obscures the spectacle of an astroturf political stunt bordering on a lynch mob. That kind of irrational fear is manipulated to some pretty horrific ends, and it's your job to undermine it.

On the subject of flaccid leadership, Huber's letter last week was a sad technocratic defense of the indefensible. What services can we conjure without funding? Will housing magically appear because

the business community finds a heart? Yeah, right.

As an affluent white man, Huber can't see how police terrorize the exclusively poor (especially black and brown) underclass. Criminalizing poor people is wrong, even dressed with platitudes. His vote was a grotesque betrayal of his supporters who wanted a humane approach to the housing catastrophe. He's a fool who played right into the mob's rope-burned hands.

Steve Breedlove
Chico

For many reasons, Councilman Scott Huber's support of sit/lie isn't surprising. After all, he helped attempt to unseat Mayor Randall Stone months ago. A staunch proponent of landlords' rights to evict tenants on a whim, Huber keeps us renters at risk of homelessness.

Moreover, sit/lie defies the U.S. Constitution (Martin v. Boise). Huber's stance thus opens Chico to costly lawsuits, while further

criminalizing human beings for being extremely poor.

The maneuver ruins Chico's reputation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—increased homelessness, the logical result.

Plus, Huber broke council protocol by stating during the meeting that an email he'd just received swayed his vote. He was promised \$10,000 for shelter, he announced.

Huber suggests that social workers [should] partner with police to fix the problem, yet this is already happening. All levels of social services are stretched far beyond capacity. In fact, nearly 3,000 people are still on a waitlist for Camp Fire case managers.

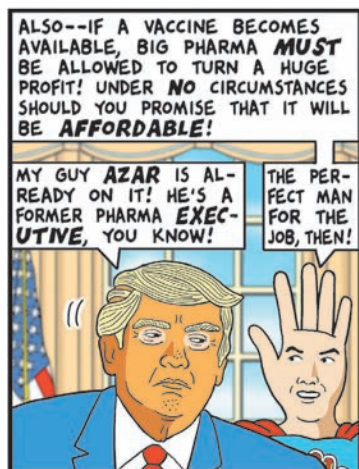
It's incumbent upon Huber to respect council protocol and Chico leadership, and abide by the U.S. Constitution—at minimum.

His failure to do so creates a bill we can't afford.

Far more devastating, higher numbers of human beings will

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THIS MODERN WORLD



BY TOM TOMORROW

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