

# Salute, Melissa

I met Melissa Daugherty in fire.

Even when I wasn't reading the thing, I would haul home great stacks of the CN&R, as firestarter.

And this, it was one of those times. Bob Speer, he was serving one of his numberless terms as editor, and I had so been there, done that, I wasn't really reading. Also, I'd heard Speer was leaving—again—this time to be replaced by some woman who'd worked for the E-R. *Sheesh*, I thought. Back in my day, there at the CN&R, the E-R had hated us with such fire and fury it wouldn't even mention our name. When we absolutely had to be referenced, there in its pages, we were but "another local newspaper." The E-R worked like 12 bastards, for so many years, to put us out of business. And now, one of the paper's spawn would, at the CN&R, uber alles.

So I'm sitting there, before the wood stove, feeding into it firestarter. CN&Rs. And, as I'm crumpling them, I see that the face of the paper, there in the lead editorial column, it has changed. No more Speer. Some woman, there, now. Must be the E-R woman.



by  
Kevin Jeys

The author, a former CN&R staff writer, is a Paradise resident who stayed on the Ridge throughout the Camp Fire and its aftermath.

And, as the fire starts, I commence—what the hell—to read.

Wait a minute, I begin to dawn, this is not an E-R woman. For she wrote like no E-R person I had ever known. And so, in the course of things, I became a regular reader.

And then, like, a fan.

I called up Derish, long-ago Wildcat/CN&R compañero, and I said: "Seth, listen, there's this woman editor of the CN&R now, who goes after the cops like nobody since we were there."

"No," he said. "No way."

But it was true.

She seemed to give no shits. If somebody was wrong, she would just say so. Didn't matter who, what they were.

She was like those "When You Awake" people: "And if I thought it would do any good/I'd stand on the rock where Moses stood." It didn't matter whether it would seem to do any good, or not. She would. Still. Stand. There.

And you know how Dylan chimes for "the aching ones whose wounds cannot be nursed/for the countless confused accused misused strung-out ones an' worse/an' for every hung-up person in the whole wide universe"? That's who she was for.

GUEST COMMENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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MEANWHILE, WE'VE ONLY GOT TEN YEARS BEFORE CLIMATE CHANGE BECOMES CATASTROPHICALLY IRREVERSIBLE.

SOMEBODY SHOULD PROBABLY DO SOMETHING!

SERIOUSLY THERE'S A CLIFF! WTF IS WRONG WITH YOU

## BY TOM TOMORROW

REPUBLICANS ARE GONNA DO THEIR BEST TO STEAL THE NEXT ELECTION.

WELP! WHAT CAN YOU DO.

ANGER! CLIFF AHEAD

MANCHIN AND SINEMA WOULD RATHER PRESERVE THE FILIBUSTER THAN SAVE DEMOCRACY.

THAT DOES SEEM TO BE THE CASE!

WHAT PART OF "CLIFF AHEAD" DO YOU FAIL TO COMPREHEND

AAAAAAAAAAAA

OH ALSO, THERE'S A CLIFF AROUND HERE THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WATCH OUT FOR.

YEAH, I THINK I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

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