

# Bully on the trail

“Would you please restrain your dog?” my husband asks.

“My dog just wants to play with your dog! Leave him alone, you geezer!” is her response.



by  
Janet E. Rechtman

The author is a retired University of Georgia faculty member who moved to Chico in 2018 to be near her grandchildren.

Red-faced with seeming rage, she grabs her dog’s collar, takes two steps, then lets go. Her dog bounds back and starts circling and barking at our dog, who crouches and whines, clearly not equal to nor interested in its approach.

“Please leash your dog. Can’t you see my dog is afraid?” he repeats.

“Go on, you old fart! I’m yelling really loud so I know you hear me.

It’s all your fault! You upset my dog by telling me to put him on a leash! Take your cane and get out of here! This isn’t a place for old people!”

Regularly, we take our dog, Bonny, to

Upper Bidwell Park for a chance to go AWOL—on A Walk Off Leash. She is a Nervous Nelly who loves to run across a beach or wide-open fields, and is deadly afraid of strangers and other dogs. In the park, there is an unspoken etiquette for those with dogs going AWOL: If you see someone with their dog on a leash, control yours until they pass. In these cases on the trail, folks normally say, “Thank you,” and smile. This is why our recent morning encounter was so shocking. Such disrespect and bullying is simply not part of the Upper Bidwell experience.

We are a pair of white middle-class retirees who have become accustomed to not being harassed in public. We understand many people don’t enjoy such privilege. This morning’s collision of young vs. old was a minuscule taste of what others may face every day.

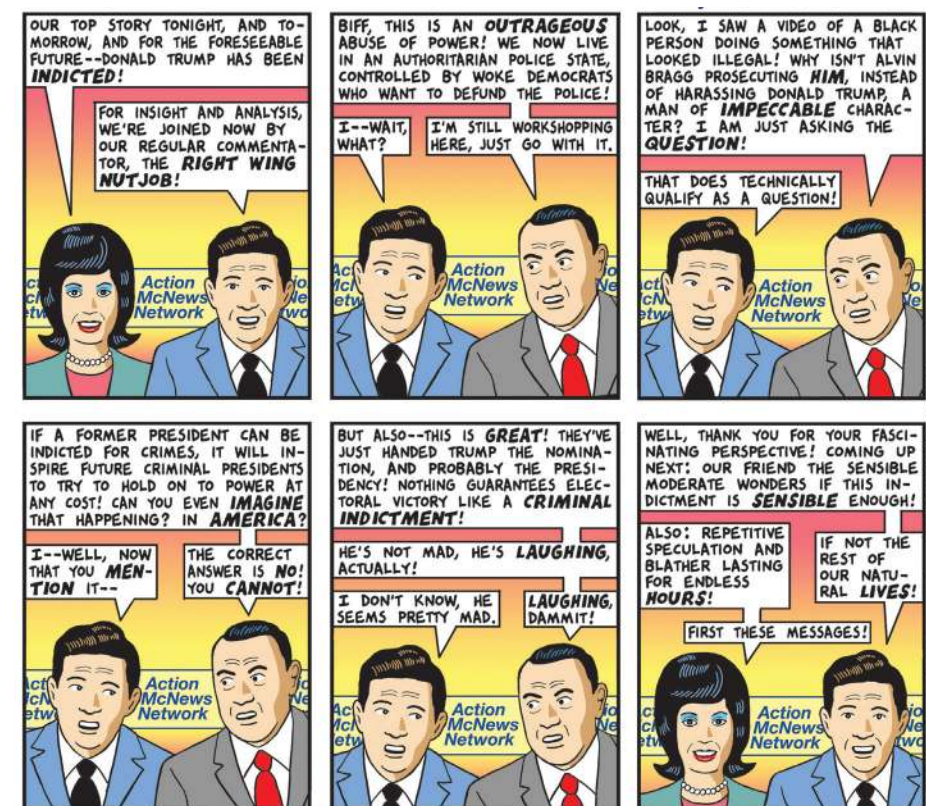
So, I have to ask: *What is going on that makes a person believe it’s okay to yell at another person and see them as having less of a right to be in a place?*

Hopefully, for Chico’s sake, this incident

GUEST COMMENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## THIS MODERN WORLD

BY TOM TOMORROW



## Atticus Amick Stites



It is with great sadness that the Amick family relates the death of Atticus Amick Stites. Atticus died on March 30, 2022 of fentanyl poisoning. He was 22. Easy-going and big-hearted, Atticus was born and raised in Chico, CA, and leaves behind many people in the community who cared deeply for him. He was a graduate of Chico High School, and had dreams that included a college degree in business and construction management, and running his own business. He was a great worker, companion, storyteller, and outdoor enthusiast. He is survived by his father, Kevin Stites, of West Liberty, IA, his aunt, Micki Amick, of Denver, CO, his uncle and aunt, Aaron and Cari Amick, of Yelm, WA, and his grandparents, Roger and Claire Amick, of State College, PA. He will be forever missed by his cousins Madeleine, Jack, and Andy Amick.

For those concerned about or who wish to learn about the prevalence of fentanyl in their community and the devastating effects it is having on especially young people, the Amick family encourages the review and/or financial support of the following resources: [www.songforcharlie.org](http://www.songforcharlie.org) • [www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone/index.html)



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Kathleen Elliott  
925-209-7702

[mountainviewlandscape2020@gmail.com](mailto:mountainviewlandscape2020@gmail.com)



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