



Carmage Walls
Commentary Prize

2019 Entry Form

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**What is the subject/title of the entry? It takes community to solve community problems;
Greenwood's scourge belongs to all of Greenwood**

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Is your newspaper under 50,000 circulation or above 50,000 circulation? Under 50K

Please give a brief explanation of issues discussed and the results achieved. (This space will expand as you type in your comments.) A spate of shootings in our community caused us to devote time and space to a series of stories exploring our city's gun violence, with each story under the moniker "Greenwood's Scourge: What's the cause? What's the cure?" In introducing the series, we published both a front-page and editorial page editorial on the topic.

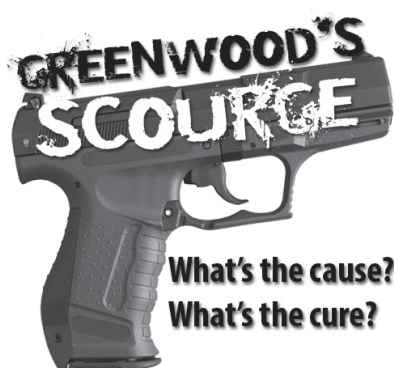
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OUR VIEW



It takes community to solve community problems

There have been far too many shooting deaths and seemingly random shootings taking place in and around the city of Greenwood, and something must be done. But doing something is not the responsibility of any one segment of Greenwood's population. It's not up to law enforcement or city and county councils to remedy.

We firmly believe the solution to curbing gun violence lies within the entire community — so much so that we were compelled to publish an editorial on today's front page. If you missed it, please take the time to read and act upon it.

So often — and thankfully so — this space is used to point to many positive aspects of what makes the Greenwood community special. We do have much to celebrate with respect to the growth and diverse opportunities Greenwood offers its residents.

"Greenwood Grows Greater" was once heralded atop the Grier building in what was then downtown. It's a phrase we and others have brought back. Why? Because, overall, it's absolutely true.

However, we cannot grow greater if we do not come together to address the rash of gun violence that seems to be plaguing our community. We hope that through an ongoing series of stories — Greenwood's Scourge — What's the cause? What's the cure" — the community can and will move beyond wringing its collective hands and work together.

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All the president's lies

"He's been lying all week, he's been lying for years. ... I don't see how he has any credibility."

Exactly. Rudy Giuliani, the president's current lawyer, was talking about Michael Cohen, the president's former lawyer. But if Cohen is so sleazy, and I don't disagree, why did Donald Trump keep the self-described fixer around for so long?

As recently as April, Trump was calling Cohen a "good man." As recently as May, Giuliani called Cohen "an honest, honorable lawyer." Cohen's character didn't change. The damage he could inflict on Trump did.

And here's the bigger problem with Giuliani's argument against Cohen: It applies to his own client. Trump lies — constantly, flagrantly, provably. You might think that a smart lawyer, capable of seeing around a looming corner, would think twice before labeling someone else a "pathological liar."

Especially since Trump's lies include the very subject on which Giuliani now claims that Cohen's alleged account should be discounted and Trump's credited. If Cohen tells you the sky is blue, check the color. In a swearing contest between Cohen and Trump about the Trump Tower meeting, Cohen's word alone isn't reliable. Still, if there are motives to lie on both sides, whose is bigger? I'd wager the one whose presidency may hinge on the outcome.

And the one who has the longer track record of prevarication on this topic.



RUTH MARCUS

WASHINGTON POST COLUMNIST

Trump is implicated in — he is the architect of — the original lie, about the contents of the Trump Tower meeting with a Russian lawyer. It was adoption, sure! Trump and his lackeys then lied about the lie, denying Trump's involvement in writing the initial misleading statement about it.

"I do want to be clear that the president was not involved in the drafting of the statement," Trump lawyer Jay Sekulow said last July. That untruth was quickly overtaken by misleading spin from White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders: "The president weighed in, as any father would." Any father with zero fealty to the truth. Any father with political — and perhaps criminal — exposure of his own.

It is no stretch, then, to imagine Trump lying about whether he knew in advance about the meeting he then lied about. In fact, that would be perfectly in character. Sometimes it is hard to understand why Trump bothers to lie, when the truth is so provable and obvious. But often Trump's lies simply reflect the primitive instinct of the cornered toddler with chocolate smeared on his face, insisting that he had not just raided the cookie jar.

Deny first, with accompanying, if not convincing indignance. Deal with the consequences later. As Giuliani said of Cohen, "If his back is up against the wall, he'll lie like crazy. Because he's lied all his life."

We saw this on display with Trump's handling of the Cohen-facilitated payments to porn actress Stormy Daniels. Asked in April about whether he was aware of the \$130,000 to ensure Daniels' silence, Trump denied any knowledge. "You'll have to ask Michael Cohen. Michael is my attorney." The next month

found Giuliani and Trump himself acknowledging that Trump had reimbursed Cohen for the payment he had just denied knowing about.

Now comes Trump, on Twitter, doubling down on his denials about the Trump Tower meeting. "I did NOT know of the meeting with my son, DON jr. Sounds to me like someone is trying to make up stories in order to get himself out of an unrelated jam (Taxi cabs maybe?)"

Maybe. A smart prosecutor will seek corroborating witnesses — Cohen reportedly says they exist — and other indicia of truthfulness. In this case, what were the blocked numbers to which Donald Trump Jr. placed calls at key moments before and after the meeting? What motivated Trump to announce plans, the very day on which the meeting was arranged, for a "major speech," never given, about "all of the things that have taken place with the Clintons?"

What would it mean if Trump knew about and approved of the meeting with a "Russian government attorney," as Natalia Veselnitskaya was described? It would show that Trump, like his son ("If it's what you say I love it"), was eager to obtain dirt on an opponent being peddled by a foreign agent. "Most people would have taken that meeting," the president said last year. "It's very standard."

The dangled dirt was not forthcoming. That doesn't excuse a presidential candidate for seeking to procure it. Nor does it excuse a president for lying to the country for months about his role in this sordid transaction.

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Trump is using tariffs to advance a radical free-trade agenda

Give President Trump credit. When he chastised NATO allies over their failure to spend adequately on our common defense, his critics said he was endangering the Atlantic alliance. Instead, his tough stance persuaded allies to spend billions more on defense, strengthening NATO instead.

Now, Trump is doing the same on trade. At the Group of Seven summit in Quebec, Trump was roundly criticized for publicly berating allies over their trade practices and provoking a needless trade war. Well, once again, it appears Trump is being proved right. On Wednesday, he and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced a cease-fire in their trade war and promised to seek the complete elimination of most trade barriers between the United States and the European Union. "We agreed today ... to work together toward zero tariffs, zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies on non-auto industrial goods," declared the two leaders in a joint statement.

Zero tariffs. Wednesday's breakthrough with the European Union shows that, contrary to what his critics allege, Trump is not a protectionist; rather, he is using tariffs as a tool to advance a radical free-trade agenda.

In a little-noticed interview with Fox News's Maria Bartiromo earlier this month, Trump revealed that during the G-7 summit he made a sweeping pro-

posal. "I said, 'I have an idea, everybody. I'll guarantee you we'll do it immediately. Nobody pay any more tax, everybody take down your barriers. No barriers, no tax. Everybody, are you all set?' ... You know what happened? Everybody said, 'Uh, can we get onto another subject?'" Trump offered to eliminate all trade barriers — and his supposedly pro-free-trade allies passed. Right before his meeting with Juncker last week, he repeated the offer, tweeting, "The European Union is coming to Washington tomorrow to negotiate a deal on Trade. I have an idea for them. Both the U.S. and the E.U. drop all Tariffs, Barriers and Subsidies!"

Trump knows that most of our trading partners don't really want free trade; they want managed trade, where they can get access to U.S. markets while protecting certain industries from U.S. competition. Trump's strategy to get them to drop these protectionist barriers is to impose crushing tariffs. At a rally earlier this week, Trump explained his strategy for getting to zero tariffs. "You know, other countries have tariffs on us. So, when I say, 'Well, I'm going to put tariffs on them,' they all start screaming, 'He's using tariffs,'" Trump said. "I said [to the European Union], 'You have to change.' They didn't want to change. I said, 'Okay. Good. We're going to tariff your cars.' ... They said, 'When can we show up? When can we be there?' [Laughter.] 'Would tomorrow be okay?' Oh, folks, stick with us. Stick with us."

Now Trump's hard-line trade strategy is being vindicated. Not only is the E.U. negotiating zero tariffs, but also it agreed to immediately buy more American soy-

beans — which helps Trump in his trade battle with China. After Trump imposed tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods, China responded with retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products, including soybeans. Beijing knows that China is the single largest importer of U.S. soybeans, and that about 96 percent of U.S. soybeans are grown in 18 states — all but two of which voted for Trump in 2016. Their tariffs left soybean farmers none too happy with Trump and gave a political boost to vulnerable Senate Democrats in soy-producing farm states such as Heidi Heitkamp, N.D., Joe Donnelly, Ind., and Claire McCaskill, Mo.

Now, Trump has enlisted the European Union to help U.S. soybean farmers to counteract the repercussions of Chinese tariffs, in addition to the \$12 billion in aid he has promised for U.S. farmers. That's three-dimensional trade chess.

Earlier last week, Trump tweeted, "Tariffs are the greatest! Either a country which has treated the United States unfairly on Trade negotiates a fair deal, or it gets hit with Tariffs. It's as simple as that." Well, maybe it is and maybe it isn't. Trump is a long way from a final deal. And in trade, nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to. But this is a surprisingly positive first step. If Trump succeeds in using trade wars to bring down European and Chinese trade barriers, he may end up being one of the greatest free-trade presidents in history.

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