

# OPINION

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### ANOTHER VIEW

# Trump's very bad day

We'll leave it to history to sort out President Donald Trump's legacy, but Tuesday was an infamous afternoon.

Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, was found guilty of eight counts of fraud in a Virginia courthouse, while his former attorney, Michael Cohen, pleaded guilty to eight criminal counts in New York. Cohen's plea includes a claim that he paid hush money to two women "at the direction of a candidate for federal office." That candidate was Trump.

Two of Trump's trusted advisers, different members of his team, exposed as criminals in a single day. What rings in the ears is the boast Trump made during the campaign that "I'm going to surround myself only with the best and most serious people."

What sticks in the craw is the unseemly edge to Trump's personality: his vicious Twitter attacks of political foes, his angry rants to campaign crowds and the 2005 recording of his ugly talk about assaulting women. Now there is Cohen's salacious tale, acknowledged in his guilty plea, that he violated campaign laws by paying money to two women to keep stories of alleged affairs with Trump out of the news before the 2016 election. The two women were identified in news reports as adult film actress Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal.

In the 19 months of Trump's presidency, a parade of administration members has left under a cloud. Former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about conversations with a Russian diplomat. Scott Pruitt, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, resigned amid numerous ethics investigations. These things shouldn't happen, but they do, during every administration. We get the link between power and corruption. We live in Chicago.

For Trump and more of his "best people," the story is still unfolding in the guise of the Russia investigation. Special counsel Robert Mueller is probing Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and whether Trump committed obstruction by trying to shut down the probe. We await Mueller's conclusions. Other developments have come from Mueller's investigation, including Manafort's conviction on fraud charges related to his business activities in Ukraine and Cohen's case, which was handed off to federal prosecutors in New York.

Two cases against Trump advisers in one afternoon, while Mueller's independent investigation continues. Tuesday was not the final word on Trump's presidency. But it spoke volumes.

Chicago Tribune

### WRITING US

We welcome Letters to the Editor, Vents and Views, and Guest Opinions that are mindful of civil discourse. Example: Don't call out fellow writers by name. Letters should not exceed 250 words; Guest Opinions, 600 words; Vents, 40 words. Include your name, hometown and a daytime number. We do not accept thank you letters, poetry, classroom assignments, replies to replies, letters to third parties, consumer complaints, or organized campaigns. Repeat writers should cover new ground. Limit: First consideration given to those who haven't been published in previous 30 days. Documentation or sources might be required. **Email:** letters@couriertimes.com or vent@couriertimes.com

### VENTS AND VIEWS

Liberals claim Trump is threatening freedom of the press. Has he closed CNN, MSNBC, the Washington Post or the New York Times? Unlike other presidents he is fighting back and exposing the mainstream media's biased monopolization of news content and public opinion.

**Rick Staedtler,** Holland

Former Trump employees and current White House staffers pontificating on TV political shows have NDA's they prevent them from criticizing him, and no one told us. Now, that's really fake news.

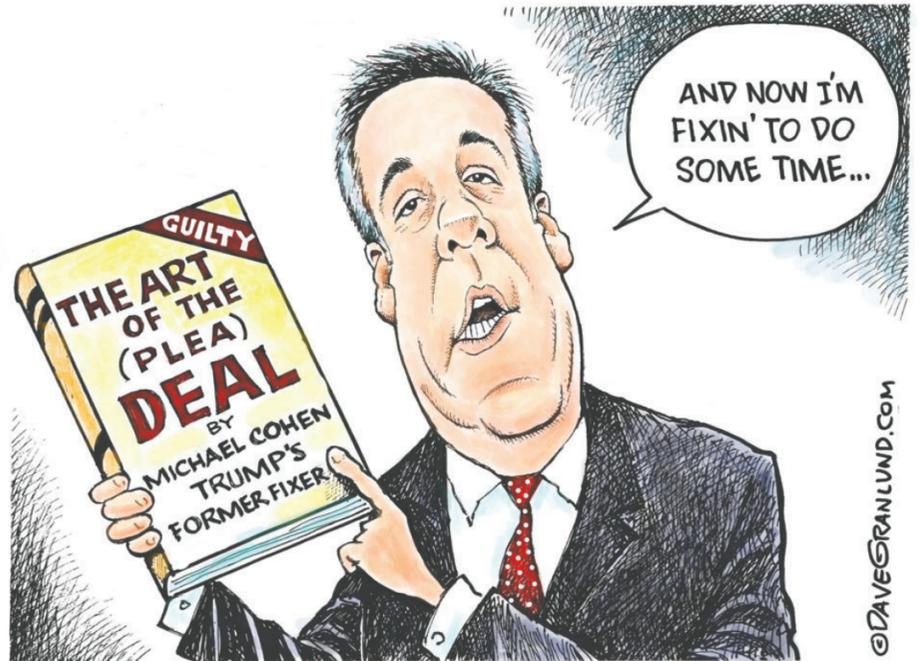
**Larry Haft,** Langhorne

A recent vent connecting aggressive driving, which has been an issue for decades, to President Trump stretches credulity beyond anything I have ever read in these pages. Take a breath folks!

**George Sweeney,** Levittown

Perhaps the news media should not cover President Trump for a few days and see how he reacts when he's not in/on the news anywhere. His statement that the news media is the enemy of the people is ridiculous.

**Robert W. Flowers,** Richboro



### GUEST OPINION

## We don't need another superfund site

By Barbara Stakes

The assault on our environment by former Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, continues under Mr. Trump. "76 Environmental Rules on the Way Out Under Trump", N. Popovich, L. Albeck-Ripka and K. Pierre-Louis — July 6, 2018 — <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/05/climate/trump-environment-rules-reversed.html>.

This administration seems to think that the EPA was created to protect polluters, rather than its real purpose: to protect American citizens from pollution.

During the industrial age, sewage and carcinogens from manufacturing along the Delaware River were permitted to flow into its waters. In the '70s and '80s the government created "superfunds" to clean up polluted areas caused by companies. Until the early 2000s, the money came from the companies. Now, it's mostly from taxpayers.

Of the 1,343 superfund cleanup sites still remaining, Pennsylvania has 94. <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-priorities-list-npl-sites-state>.

ELCON Inc. currently seeks approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to build a wastewater treatment plant for chemically contaminated water. This is a perfect recipe for

**ELCON's owners assure us that the waste-water they treat will be "evaporated" by special means and will not "escape" into the air we breathe. But how air is "contained" is a mystery to me. The list of harmful chemicals is so long and the process is so complex that only specialized chemists/scientists can really understand it all.**

a superfund of the future. It will be built about a mile from the Delaware River and our most precious source for life: water.

ELCON's owners assure us that the waste-water they treat will be "evaporated" by special means and will not "escape" into the air we breathe. But how air is "contained" is a mystery to me. The list of harmful chemicals is so long and the process is so complex that only specialized chemists/scientists can really understand it all. How often will the EPA inspect the premises? Will the results of those inspections be made public or kept "under wraps"; as is so often the case.

Even more concerning, and often overlooked, is that 20 tanker-trucks a day, from parts unknown, will travel through our area carrying this chemically contaminated water. Just like pipelines, no matter how companies reassure us, there will be accidents.

Will the trucks be owned and operated by ELCON or by outside contractors? If not ELCON, the company will not be held responsible to clean-up or pay for the clean-up of spills.

Picture how quickly water will gush from a tanker and

flow into our sewer drains, down to the water table, and eventually into the Delaware River — or other waterways.

Will the truck drivers be responsible as the first responders? If in an accident, how does that happen? How does one man mop up a tanker of fluid in any case?

Statistics cited by Sharon Furlong in her letter (Aug. 5), dispute the argument that projects such as ELCON's create valuable, long-term jobs. With all the potential for irreversible catastrophe, after completion of the building, what long-term jobs remain? Certainly, some to watch over the gauges, knobs and switches on its built-in technology, and, of course, "great-paying" jobs for guards, grounds-keepers and janitors. Not a real windfall.

There will be more public hearings before approval. Please, put the place, date, and time on the front page, in large type, every day, a week before the hearing(s). The public should make plans to be there to protest this terrible proposal.

We're selling our souls to the devil while we kill ourselves, our children, and our children's children.

Barbara Stakes is a resident of Oakford.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Dangerous Democrats

It is crystal clear. Liberal Democrats in Washington and their media accomplices are attempting to unseat our duly elected president. Their misleading and false personal attacks on President Trump will not produce a better government or a better country. It will create more chaos and civil unrest. Their false and hateful rhetoric is ripping this country apart to satisfy their personal ambitions.

They criticize efforts by the Trump administration to make America better. They obstruct every attempt to improve the lives of working class Americans. Lower

taxes, responsible immigration policies, fairer trade agreements and no nukes in North Korea are good ideas and yet they obstruct their implementation. These are ideas that make America better and safer. Why do Democrats fight against these ideas? Their efforts to link President Trump with Russian communists is stupidity unchained.

Besides being as phony as a \$3 bill, these Washington demagogues are destructive and dangerous. They are charter members of the Washington "SWAMP." Socialist Democrats couldn't care less about you or me. They no longer try to improve the lives of

hard working, tax paying Americans. Listen very carefully to their comments and ask yourself this question, will that idea make America better or is it just more negative obstructionism? Please pay close attention to their ill-conceived socialist policies that have not and will not work — think Venezuela, Greece and Cuba. Keep in mind that Socialism is one step away from communism.

Don't let their propaganda machine deceive you. All they do is tell you lies and take your money. They will destroy the American dream.

**John Carr**  
Washington Crossing