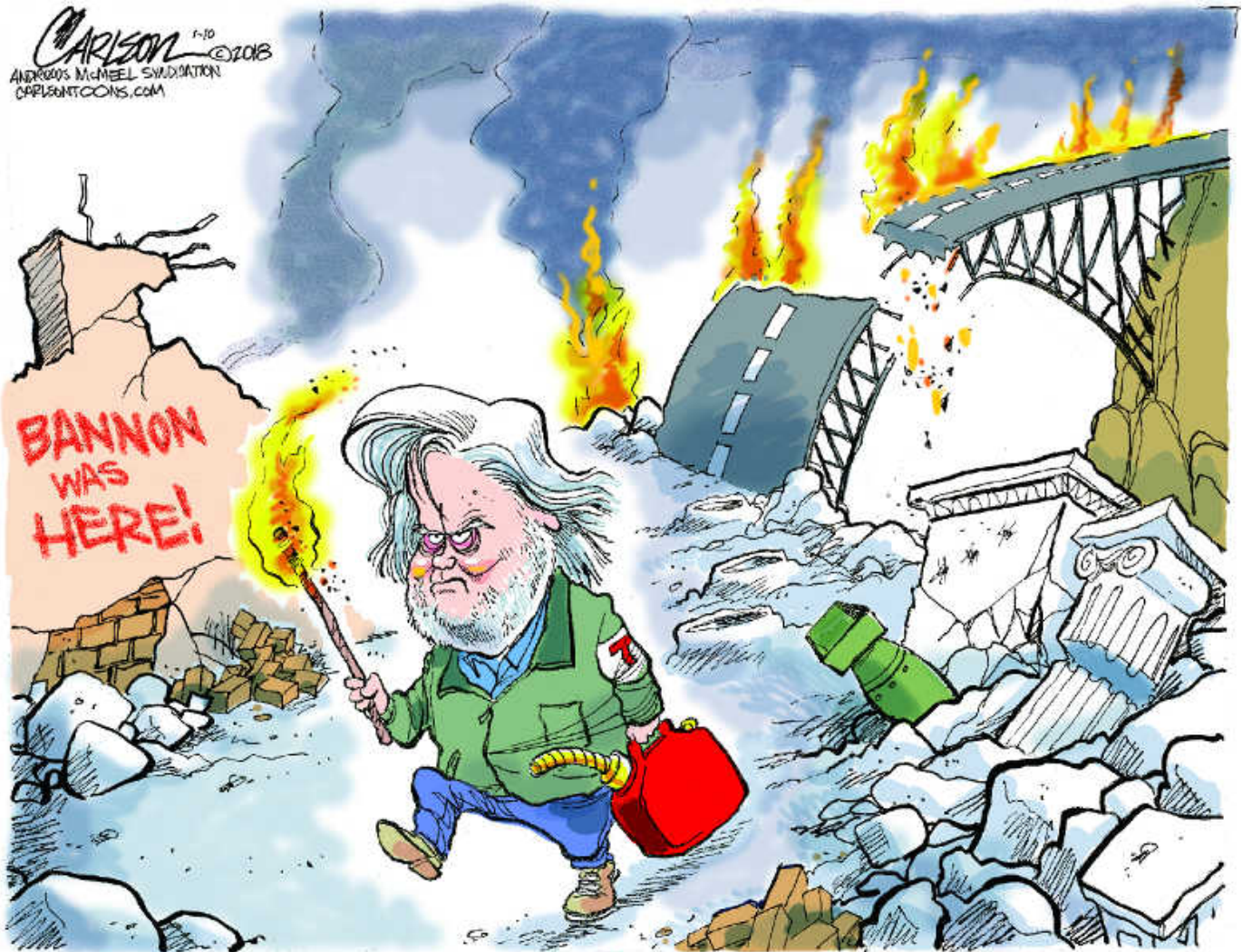


## Opinion



by Dennis Coday

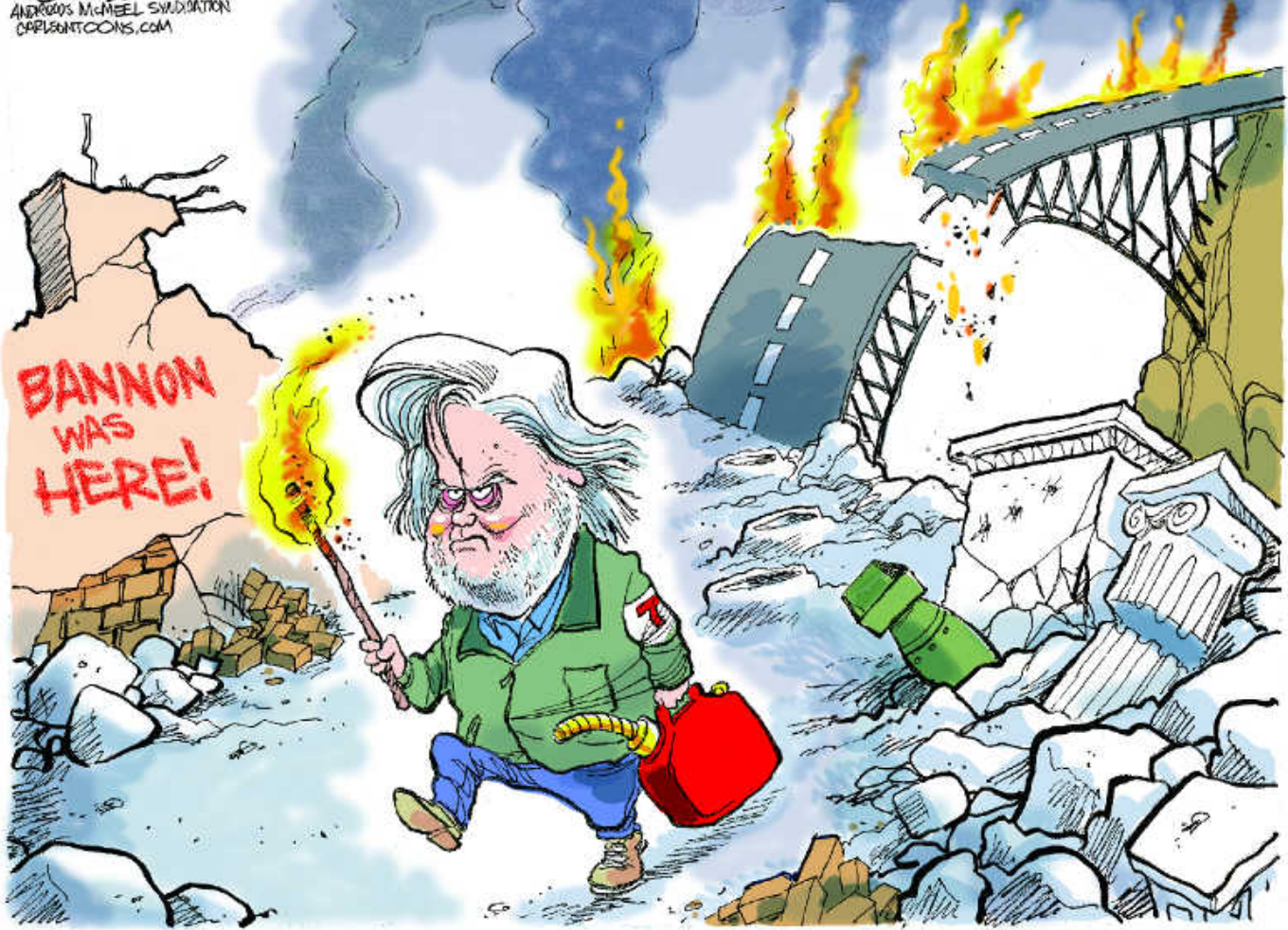
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One commentary labels this a "low point for our nation"

President Donald Trump on Thursday questioned why the U.S. should allow more immigrants from "shithole countries" after senators discussed revamping rules affecting entrants from Africa and Haiti, according to three people briefed on the conversation.

- [Reaction to Trump's comments on Africa and Haiti](#) (Video and text)
- ['Here is what my #shithole looks like': African countries and Haiti react to Trump's remark](#)
- [Trump appears to deny using vulgar term to describe immigrant countries after backlash](#)
- Commentary: [Time to Say It: Trump Is a Racist](#)

In a rare extended interview, Barack Obama tells David Letterman that social media and the increasing personalization of many Americans' information streams has led to the reinforcing of biases. ["Innovations that helped elect me now dividing the country."](#)

Philadelphia -- [Firm will plan sale, development of St. Katharine Drexel property](#)

You might have missed this: [Survey of US Catholics shows refreshed enthusiasm among women](#). Also you might want to refresh your memory with the earlier survey story [about voting trends among Catholics](#).

Twenty-five years after the outbreak of hostilities in the Balkans that led to years of bitter conflict, church leaders have said [that the root causes of conflict have not yet been resolved](#).

Next Monday, Pope Francis heads to Chile and Peru for a pastoral visit. Here's a few things you'll want to read to prepare for that.

- [Pope Francis' trip to Chile, Peru may help restore trust in church](#)
- [In Chile and Peru, pope to see effects of Latin America's migration](#)
- The Vatican was so concerned about the fallout from Chile's most notorious pedophile priest that it [planned to ask three Chilean bishops accused of knowing about his decades-long crimes to resign and take a year's sabbatical](#).
- NCR correspondent Joshua McElwee and Soli Salgado of Global Sisters Report will be on the ground with Francis Jan. 15-21. [Read all of NCR reporting here](#).

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Speaking of immigrants and refugees, check out these stories:

- [Syrian refugee family lives, thrives on School Sisters' Connecticut campus](#)
- [Ending DACA will lead to 'humanitarian crisis,' says Archbishop Gomez](#)
- [New Trump refugee policies could close more than 20 Catholic Charities resettlement offices](#)

- Pope Francis is very clear on what he thinks and where he wants the church on this issue: ["In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the history of salvation is essentially a history of migration."](#)
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Start your day inspired with daily scripture reflections. Join NCR's sister publication, Celebration, for [Daily Bread](#), a series of short reflections written by four authors who meet regularly to share the readings.

Or reflect on [Pencil Preaching by Pat Marrin](#). Every morning Pat Marrin breaks open the Word with a pencil sketch and a short meditation.

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