

The K.F. Stone Weekly

(Formerly "Beating the Bushes")



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EVERY BREATH HE TAKES

Damn Donald Trump. Every time you think he's finally sunk about as low into the primeval ooze as is humanly possible, he descends yet further. Every time you figure he's sucked up the last milliliter of political oxygen, he somehow manages to inhale one more mini-particulate. Every time you believe he's finally gone too far - that he's finally going to crash and burn - his poll numbers inch up just a bit more. And now, in addition to the naked bigotry and racism, the xenophobia and unutterable braggadocio, the neo-fascistic corporatism, high-grade fear mongering and ludicrous coiffure, he has adopted the Mussolini pout. Goodness knows he does it more convincingly than Jack Oakie's "Benzino Napaloni, Dictator of Bacteria" in Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*.



And while we're at it, damn the media which persists in giving Mr. Trump wall-to-wall coverage, thus turning what should in reality be an undercard bout, into the main event. As is said in the mother tongue, עס ס'א שרעקלעך וועלט - "It's a frightening world." I mean, this is a guy who recently told a gathering of robotic acolytes:

"Would I approve waterboarding? You bet your ass I would – in a heartbeat. And I would approve more than that. Don't kid yourself, folks. It works, okay? It works. Only a stupid person would say it doesn't work. Believe me, it works. And you know what? If it

doesn't work, they deserve it anyway, for what they're doing. It works." (Emphasis added)

For reasons I cannot fully fathom, this bit of breathtaking lunacy - which flies in the face of international law - somehow managed to go largely unreported by the mainstream media here in America. It was, nonetheless, fully reported in the international press, thus becoming yet another recruiting tool for ISIS (or ISIL or DAESH or however one wishes to call it). What Trump and the majority of Republicans currently duking it out for the nomination fail to grasp is that such thumb-in-the-eye bellicosity, such virulent hatred for members of the world's largest religion, will make it incredibly difficult - if not downright impossible - to form the working alliances required to rid the world of this terrorist enterprise. For as sure as God made little green apples, the ultimate victory over DAESH will require a huge force of Sunni warriors . . . who happen to be . . . you guessed it, MUSLIMS.

In the process of making it possible for Trump to suck up just about all the political oxygen in the universe, the mainstream media have utterly neglected what, in a saner, less "man-bites-dog" world, would be headline stories. One such 16-point underlined in *italicized bold* story is the recently concluded climate conference in Paris, in which nearly 200 countries agreed to get serious about global warming. If the media weren't so hell bent on serving as The Donald's collective flacks, they would have given a lot of ink, airtime and oxygen to this story, not to mention reporting on all the various Republican attempts to make sure it fails. How many have the slightest idea of [what was agreed to](#) in Paris? Of the agreement's stated goals; of the framework and financial promises that were made; of the seriousness with which a majority of the countries of the world take this threat? Unbelievably, not a single question about climate change or the Paris gathering was posed in this week's nearly four-hour Republican presidential debate. As the *New Republic's* Rebecca Leber [noted](#), the only mentions of the issue were short, garbled asides from a few of the candidates about why climate change is a distraction. "The biggest problem this world has today is not President Obama with global warming, which is inconceivable," [Donald Trump sputtered](#). "The biggest problem we have is nuclear—nuclear proliferation and having some maniac, having some madman go out and get a nuclear weapon"

And if the media weren't so terribly concerned about covering Trump's every sneeze and wheeze, they might have reported on the recent Congressional hearings in which both the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology (chaired by Texas Rep. Lamar Smith) and the Senate Subcommittee on Space, Science and Competitiveness (chaired by Texas Senator - and presidential hopeful Ted Cruz) gave unlimited time to professional climate change deniers, "

. . thus remind[ing] the global community what an embarrassment our leaders can be, in the words of Slate's [Phil Plait](#). (It should be [noted](#) that Senator Cruz is the single-largest recipient of campaign contributions from the oil & gas industry.) A couple of days before hearings in the House, Committee Chair Smith wrote an op-ed piece in which he stated "We should rely on good science, not science fiction, when we evaluate climate change." His handpicked scientific experts, [Judith Curry](#), [William Happer](#) and [John Christy](#) are all well-known climate change deniers. The fourth, [Mark Steyn](#), is not a scientist, has no scientific expertise on climate (by his own admission) and is [being sued](#) by actual climate scientist Michael Mann for defamation due to his [appalling attacks](#) on Mann personally.

Chairman Smith most generously permitted Democratic minority got to call a single witness. For their single witness, they empaneled retired Navy Rear Admiral [David Titley](#), who has long been a clear voice about the dangers of climate change, even rightly calling it [a threat to national security](#). Also, as a high-ranking military man it's harder for the GOP to paint him as an "alarmist" Throughout his testimony, Republican members of the committee repeatedly referred to him as "Dr." Titley, as if that title meant he was just another "pointy-headed effete intellectual snob." (Admiral Titley did, by the way earn a PhD in meteorology from the Naval Postgraduate School).

But none of this was reported on by the mainstream media. Nor have they reported that at most, [only eight Republicans in Congress](#), (out of 278 in the caucus), have made on-the-record comments accepting the reality of man-made global warming. They were too busy shining 24-hour-a-day spotlight on The Donald, a man who loves himself far more than Romeo ever loved Juliet or Orpheus Eurydice. And what for much of 2015 has been both diverting and unthinkable - Trump actually becoming the GOP nominee - is now hauntingly within the realm of possibility. Damn Mr. Trump. Damn the media. And while partisan Democrats may think it would be wonderful for Hillary Clinton (or Bernie Sanders) to square off against Trump next November, his candidacy would terribly tarnish America's image around the planet. We would look like a once-great nation whose voters were actually considering electing a political slug-nutty president.



So what is to be done? How can thinking people cut off the oxygen supply from this billionaire Archie Bunker so we can get back to issues that really, truly

matter? It seems to me that at this point, the only thing that stands a chance of defeating Donald Trump - of taking him out of the race - is Trump himself. And by this I do not mean a scandal, an unfortunate slip of the tongue or anything of the sort. For we have seen time and again just how expert he is at turning plastic into diamonds and sewer water into Courvoisier. What I do mean is that people attack what is most valuable to him: his name, which is, after all, worth billions upon billions of dollars. Take away the value of his name, his brand, and even his \$100 million penthouse (view above, at right) and he will hopefully cease to exist - at least as a presidential aspirant.

Do yourself a favor and check out the [vast empire](#) that is Donald Trump. His name affixes everything from golf courses and hotels to furniture, clothing, jewelry, bottled water and even toilet paper. And that's just the beginning. [Familiarize yourself](#) with all he sells and then make a personal promise to boycott anything carrying his name. Let's collectively take away his oxygen, for until we do, every breath he takes will continue suffocating the rest of us.

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