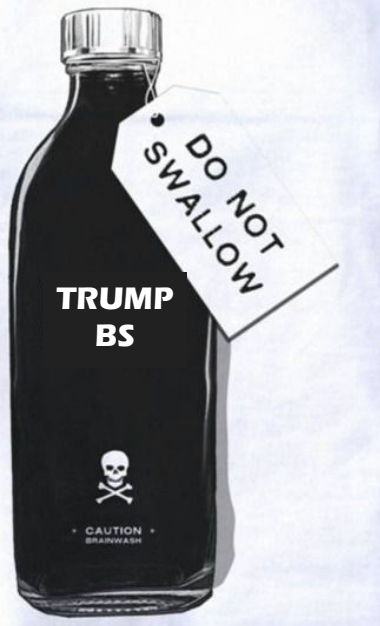


Local Politics Matter

The Trump Effect

And The Clinton Antidote



I began following politics in the early 70's during the Watergate Hearings. In the forty plus years that followed I became quite the political junkie. Needless to say I was excited by the prospects of the 2016 presidential campaign until Donald Trump entered the race. I can honestly say that I have never been as disgusted by a politician as I have been by Donald Trump. He started his campaign by calling to our darker angels and unfortunately there are many who've answered. I literally have a visceral reaction to the sight of him. I can not watch him on TV or even listen to his voice without fell-

ing a profound sense of outrage. His behavior is so disturbing that it makes my blood pressure and heart rate rise.

Thanks to cable news media, I have been bombarded with the angry vitriolic antics of Donald Trump and his supporters for more than a year. Cable news media couldn't get enough of this horror. For the better part of a year they covered Trump's rallies from beginning to end day after day whether he said anything of substance or not. When they weren't showing his rallies, they were talking to him on the telephone or interviewing him at Trump Towers. He was everywhere and be-

coming more outrageous and more abusive as his campaign took hold.

Cable media's wall to wall coverage of Trump would have been bad enough with a normal candidate, but with Trump, I felt as though I was being emotionally abused, death by a thousand cuts. Through the media Trump and his supporters brought racism, sexism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, physical assault, emotional abuse, blatant dishonesty, bullying, bigotry, harassment, and humiliation into my home on a daily basis. It got to the point where I would change the channel when he came on. I even stopped watching certain programs because the pundits on those programs were normalizing his hateful and divisive rhetoric. He dredged up old fears and painful memories and the mainstream media was so enamored with ratings that they ignored the negative effect that he was having on the country.

I've finally come to terms with Trumpism because I'm finding that my feelings about him are not unique to me. That has

made me feel better. Also when I would see Secretary Clinton on the debate stage with him calmly, professionally and efficiently kicking his butt despite his attempts to intimidate, debase and humiliate her, I knew without a doubt that she has what it takes to be POTUS. She slayed the dragon and has become my hero. However, I'm anxious. I can't wait to cast my vote in favor of Secretary Clinton. This will be my way of rebuking him, you see, it's become personal. It's so personal that I don't just want to punish him for the damage that he's doing to our country I want to punish all those in the GOP that have put ideology before country and have exposed it to ridicule throughout the world. They all must go. Maybe this will be the time that they get the message and rebuild their party into something that they can be proud of.

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