Leave Sarah Palin and her supporters alone.

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The vitriol surrounding Sarah Palin continues.

Liberals are aghast yet again. This time it was facilitated by another butchering of American history with the obligatory ‘martyred by ‘gotcha’ journalism’ from Ms. Palin after being challenged over her version of Paul Revere’s ride.

Indignation burned a bit hotter and brighter than normal after Palinites were suspected of revising Wikipedia to comport with Ms. Palin’s wandering ad lib.

If you do not like what people are saying about you, change the conversation. Or history.

But the uproar du la semaine is not the story. It is not news that Sarah Palin is polarizing or that her devotees and detractors are not fond of one another.

What is noteworthy is that Ms. Palin can still provoke such hostile incredulity.

Is it any kind of revelation that she is not erudite and that she responds to fact-based reality by shrieking an incorrigible non-sequitur? Certainly not if one has paid a modicum of attention over the last three years.

Perhaps the continued fascination with despising her comes from envying her rabid fan base. Or being mystified by it.

Whatever the reason, it is a tremendous waste of time and energy, not to mention a needless source of stress, and more importantly, harmless.

Sarah Palin is the embodiment of a large swath of people who feel marginalized, discounted and disrespected. She represents people insecure about their intellect, education and enterprise, people who have felt disdain and disrespect.

Ms. Palin has tapped into this resentment by selling a faux-populist story to people that redefines ignorance as authenticity and paranoia as patriotism.

It is a masterfully crafted vicarious circle of “I’m you” and “We are all Sarah Palin.”

Attacking Sarah Palin is thus attacking not only the patron saint of the dimly-lit disgruntled, but attacking those very people through her.

Whether it is constructive or condescending, it is above all fruitless.

She cannot be reasoned with, and neither can her supporters, because it is not about facts or ideas.

Team Palin is far more personal than that, as exhibited by the fervor of her support and the zeal with which they attack. If religion is the opiate of the masses, politics is their
narcotic, another refuge for frustrated citizens whose insecurities are exploited and allayed simultaneously by the same bluster.

Palinism sits near the apex of this opportunism while flirting with the nadir of political discourse.

It is aggravating to many, galling to some. The proper recourse, however, is certainly not to tell her to ‘shut up.’ And criticism only gives her and her sycophants a reason to howl.

So let it go.

Sarah Palin is not going to be president. She is not going to be your child’s history teacher.

She may be charismatic but she is not capable of expanding a dedicated but stagnant minority base. The GOP establishment considers her a sideshow, a loud gnat.

She is harmless. So leave her and her followers alone. They should be able to have their echo chamber of reassurance and you could do without the aggravation.