



ENQUIRY

A publication of the AHI Undergraduate Fellows
Free thought and discourse

VOL. III No. 3 | CLINTON, NY. MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

- ① "Burn, Motherf—, Burn" ② Democrats Despair ③ Thousands Protest Iran Deal at Rally

"Burn, Motherf—, Burn"

By **MIKE ADAMO**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
and
DEAN BALL
CLASS OF 2014

On September 17, Hamilton's Dean of Faculty Office, along with other departments and organizations, will sponsor a screening of the film *Birthright?* by Rhodessa Jones.

Consider the following excerpt from a (positive) review of the film in the San Francisco publication *SFGate*. "In a scene late in the second act," the reviewer writes, "the lighting goes dark red, and the dozen women begin to chant: 'Burn, mother—, burn.' It is not a quiet chant — it is screamed, yelled, escaping primarily from the women's vocal cords. Projected onto the back of the stage is an image of the White House, and then picture after picture of Republican political figures — Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum, Ted Cruz."

Screaming obscenities at pictures of people you don't like? Is that how we discuss politics at Hamilton College?

Whatever your opinion of those politicians—we don't particularly like them—you have to wonder what it says about Hamilton that our college's leaders see this as serious intellectual fare. Screaming obscenities at pictures of people you don't like? Is that how we discuss politics at Hamilton College?

Too often, it is.

For a school that prides itself on excellence in written and oral communication, Hamilton has more than enough students who choose to get their point across by yelling as loudly as they can. Take, for instance, last year's Ferguson protest. There is a vital and vigorous debate to be had over policing practices in modern America, and in many cities across the country that debate is happening. Here at Hamilton, a hundred or so students shouted

platitudes while blocking traffic on College Hill Road.

The screening of *Birthright?* is yet another demonstration of the constrained political climate on this campus. Hamilton, like most elite colleges, has a marked prejudice against right-of-center thought. So be it. Publications like the one you're holding right now make it clear that the free exchange of ideas can persist regardless of the administration's preferences.

We wish that the other side of the exchange, with so much financial, faculty, and institutional support at its disposal, could communicate a little more intelligently. The problem with this event is not that it's unabashedly left—it's that it's so unapologetically dumb.

The victims of this environment aren't, ultimately, the right-of-center students. You might notice that they aren't the

continued on back page

Democrats Despair

By **WILL SWETT**
STAFF WRITER

Regardless of the Republicans' woes with respect to the Trump phenomenon, the one thing the critics cannot fault the party for is a lack of young Republicans willing to run the presidential gauntlet. The same cannot be said about the Democrats. The shortage of serious candidates, the weak leadership by the Democratic National Committee (DNC), and Hillary's impenetrable conglomerate of money and influence create a sorry state and grim future for the Democratic Party.

Despite each new wave of scandals and setbacks in the Clinton campaign, Hillary remains the chosen champion. She has not, however, been exalted for the virtue of her policies, respect for her accomplishments, or trust in her honesty. She has routinely proven herself to lack those attributes which would be essential for any other candidate to become as dominant as Hillary appears to be.

Hillary remains the party's "chosen one" because she is their only viable choice.

This Week's News in 140 Characters

EDITORIAL REPORT

AP **The Associated Press** @AP · 5h
BREAKING: Interior minister: Germany introducing temporary border checks on border with Austria.

159 63

Will Antonin @Will_Antonin · Sep 10
If you're engaging in Victorian cosplay and you're not in a deerstalker cap injecting cocaine, you're doing it wrong. #themoreyouknow

18 35

Brandt @UrbanAchievr · Sep 11
if you think those deaths in Mecca are some kind of divine retribution for 9/11, you've adopted the mindset of a jihadist

112 133

James Pethokoukis @JimPethokoukis · Sep 12
" ... without a credible prime minister, cabinet, policy programme or funding stream, Labour has ceased to be a political party" - Telegraph

3 4

Jonah Goldberg @JonahNRO · Sep 9
Maybe if Ed Snowden apologized for taking an office hard drive home, all would be forgiven? That was "discouraged" too.

73 94

David Burge @iowahawkblog · Sep 10
I'd like to have a government so small, boring, and competent it's not even worth paying attention to.

709 660

DEMOCRATS DESPAIR cont.

With her bottomless campaign fund of \$68 million, one-fifth of the convention pledges needed to win the nomination, incomparable name recognition among voters, and an ability to wipe scandals and criminal investigations from public memory like an IT professional, Hillary will probably secure the Democratic nomination.

Hillary remains the party's "chosen one" because she is their only viable choice.

Although Clinton has showed weakness, dropping 15 points over the past two months, the Democrats have still failed to find an electable replacement for the former NY Senator should her campaign fail. Either because of obscurity, incompetence, or fear of Hillary, the party has failed to find anyone within their congressional or gubernatorial ranks who could take down Goliath.

Although Bernie Sanders may appear to be a David, establishment Democrats are reluctant to back the Independent Vermont Senator for fear that he might turn his sling-shot against

continued on back page

Thousands Protest Iran Deal at Rally

By **AMY ELINSKI**
STAFF WRITER

Thousands filled the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol on September 9 to protest the Iran deal. The crowds were drawn by the big names scheduled to speak. The lineup included Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Michelle Bachman, 2008 vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, and radio personalities Glen Beck and Mark Levin, among others.

I stood among the several thousand spectators—a large crowd despite the 93 degree heat and humidity, and not the crowd you would typically expect at a rally with the names on the ticket. They ranged from very young to the elderly, holding signs bearing examples of hostile remarks by Iran's supreme leader.

Nearly every speaker addressed Iran's financing of terrorist organizations, the deal's misclassification and how as a treaty it should have to garner 60 votes to pass, the lack of transparency when it comes to details of the deal, the dangers to

continued on back page

ones demanding trigger warnings on everything. They're used to feeling that their views are unwelcome and unfit even for debate at Hamilton College.

The unfortunate irony is that Hamilton does the greatest disservice to the brilliant left-of-center students who wish their school would support a level of discourse higher than what the *Birthright?* screening has to offer. They want their school to provide outlets for quality political debate. It doesn't. Instead, each year we graduate more and more students with little more to contribute to the world than adolescent posturing.

And when one realizes that Hamilton is not at all unique in this regard, the unfortunate irony becomes tragedy.

Last Tuesday, before writing this article, we reached out to Dean of Faculty Patrick Reynolds and Dean of Students Nancy Thompson for comment. We received no reply. We also contacted Phyllis Breland, head of the Days-Massolo Center, asking how the screening affects Hamilton's reputation and the quality of political discussion. The full extent of her reply: "In order to be a responsible and productive member of society, the sharing of knowledge and information is critical. Our ability to move forward, engage in debate and discuss issues is essential to our development." Indeed.

W. SWETT *cont.*

them once crowned. Party elites are concerned that Sanders' history of speaking out against party leadership would limit his effectiveness as a Democratic president, and that, as a democratic socialist, his policies may be too radical for many progressives to stomach.

Luckily for them, despite his recent surge in polls, Sanders is still trailing Hillary by 25 points and will need a miracle to overcome the deficit he faces. That such a radical, anti-establishment candidate has 25 percent of the vote is not the sign of a healthy party—a problem to which the GOP can attest.

Looking inward, the only new talent in Congress noted by left-leaning pundits is the 66-year-old freshmen senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren. But the Democratic elites are wary to embrace Warren as their white knight because of her occasional resistance to party doctrine. The freshman senator, for example, challenged the party's uniform support of President Obama by speaking out against the Obama

administration for its failure to attack big businesses and CEOs. While many Americans saw Warren as a refreshing new face for the party, some establishment Democrats saw a rogue element who doesn't know what's good for the party.

After failing to find any new candidates within the establishment, Democratic playmakers have tried reevaluating their discarded former nominees. When Al Gore was discussed as a possible candidate, many potential backers voiced their strong support for the former vice president, but Gore dismissed these rumors as "groundless." John Kerry also recently met with billionaire David Rubenstein, sparking rumors that the Secretary of State might consider running, but friends say this too is unlikely.

Vice President Joe Biden is waiting until the last minute to decide on his candidacy, but he seems to be laying the groundwork for a candidacy if an opportunity appears. A 2016 run would be Biden's third attempt for the Democratic nomination after failing in 2008 in part due to his racist comments toward his opponent, Barack Obama. Biden also sought the nomination in 1988, but withdrew after a plagiarism scandal tanked his polls. The effort to recycle the party's discarded candidates in an attempt to scrap together an electable ticket in the event that Hillary fails reveals the party's lack of leadership.

Since the establishment Democrats do not see Sanders as an electable alternative to Hillary, they have resorted to protecting Hillary from her opponents. The DNC announced that they have restricted the number of debates to only half the number faced by GOP candidates and a quarter of the number faced by Democratic candidates in 2007-08. DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz also enacted a new restriction on candidates, barring them from participating in any unsanctioned debates or else risk exclusion from sanctioned ones.

Both Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley have criticized the DNC for rigging the Democratic primaries in favor of Clinton, but Wasserman Schultz has not backed down from her stance. In needing to protect Clinton from opponents within her own party, the Democratic leadership reveals how helpless it is in finding its candidate. The Democratic Party believes that only a candidate with resources like Hillary could take on a Republican, so they must shield

her from any further public controversy.

If this email scandal takes down the great Hilldebeest, the Democrats may have nowhere to turn for the 2016 election but Bernie Sanders, which would have drastic consequences for the Democratic Party and further undermine the influence of the party's leadership.

A. ELINSKI *cont.*

Israel, the inability of American inspectors to evaluate Iran's facilities itself, and the potential for nuclear war with Iran.

Ted Cruz was amongst the hottest tickets at the event. Every word received a reaction from the audience. "This Iranian nuclear deal is catastrophic," he began. "It is the single greatest national security threat facing America." Cruz went on to say that should the bill pass (it since has), the Obama administration would become the leading financier of terrorism, as the bill unfreezes \$150 billion in frozen Iranian assets.

Sarah Palin targeted Hillary Clinton, who previously opposed allowing Iran to have nuclear capabilities and has since turned into a fierce supporter of the deal. Palin said that Clinton's position on the deal "spins faster than one of those thousands of Iranian centrifuges."

Above all, speakers highlighted Iran's continued hostility towards the U.S. despite the negotiation efforts

For most, the highlight was Donald Trump, who used the event as an opportunity to appeal to his voters. Trump said that out of all of his years in business, the Iran deal is the worst one he's ever seen, and criticized President Obama's negotiating skills for not insisting on the return of four Americans who are being held hostage in Iran.

But Trump's speech, like all of his other speeches, lacked substance. He rambled about his vague plans for when he takes office. "We will have so much winning — if I get elected — that you may get bored with winning," Trump boomed. The least surprising moment of the rally was the mass exodus of the crowd after Trump spoke, not even a quarter of the way through the event.

Above all, speakers highlighted Iran's continued hostility towards the U.S. despite the negotiation efforts. On the morning of the rally, the Supreme Leader of Iran said that after the conclusion of the deal, he would no longer negotiate with the "Satan" America, and vowed that in 25 years Israel would no longer exist.

Naturally, media attention to the rally focused more on Trump than on the actual substance of the event. The media were looking so hard for a right-wing circus that they missed the conversation going on, right in front of them, about a very serious matter of foreign policy.

vol. III

ENQUIRY

Mike Adamo
Editor in Chief

Michael Levy
Layout and Design

STAFF WRITERS

Alex Klosner	Amy Elinski
Will Swett	Phil Parkes
Ryan Glenn	

The opinions expressed in these articles are the views of their authors and do not represent the views of Enquiry or the Alexander Hamilton Institute.

Enquiry accepts articles of 500 to 800 words at madamo@hamilton.edu. Please be aware that we do not accept anonymous submissions.