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Democratic Campaigns Attempt to Differentiate at Fall Barbecue

NOVEMBER 16, 2015 BY [AVERY GREGURICH](#)

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Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaking at the Central Iowa Democrats Fall Barbecue in Ames, Iowa.

"Central Iowa Democrats Fall Barbecue"

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Ames, Iowa – Just 18 hours after the second Democratic debate at Drake University, presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Martin O'Malley shared the same stage in Iowa.

Bernie Sanders did not attend the event, but did speak at Simpson College in Indianola later in the day.

The Central Iowa Democrats Fall Barbeque, held in an agriculture building on Iowa State's campus usually host to cattle judging and dog shows, saw two candidates in quite different situations.

The Clintons take the stage



The Clintons onstage in Ames, Iowa at the Central Iowa Democrats Fall Barbecue.

Hillary took the stage accompanied by her husband and former president Bill Clinton.

"I watched the debate, and I think I'm going to vote for Hillary," the former president joked with the crowd of more than 600.

When Hillary took the microphone, she began by speaking about the Friday terrorist attacks in Paris, furthering her statements from the debate.

"Attacking Paris, the city of light, reminds us that there is no middle ground in going after these terrorists," Clinton said.

"We have to be rallying our partners and allies, pulling countries off the sidelines so that they work with us and they contribute to this ongoing struggle against radical jihadism," Clinton said. "I know America has to lead it, but we cannot and should not do it alone."

Much of her half hour address was a mixture of her standard stump speech with carryover from the debate.



A Clinton supporter brandishes his book collection.

"I was the only one on the debate stage last night who would commit to doing everything I can to raising your wages, not your taxes," Clinton said in response to Sanders' proposed tax increases.

As the frontrunner in the polls throughout the campaign season, Clinton's speech was careful to highlight the strength of the party as a whole, and not dwell on the differences between her and her competitors. She said that the Democrats were having "real substantive debates and differences," while the Republicans were not.



A Hillary supporter sitting front row.



Former President Bill Clinton watches as his wife Hillary delivers her speech Sunday.

O'Malley attempts to gain traction, takes on Clinton

Former governor Martin O'Malley seemed a desperate man on Sunday.

"I know when a guy stands in front of you and he says he's got five percent national name recognition and he's running for president and it's going really well, that there is a fine line between illusion and imagination," O'Malley joked with the crowd.

O'Malley, who's been consistently polling at or below five percent in several [national polls](#), did his best to differentiate himself from the other two candidates. His most pointed remarks, however, did not come on stage, but in a press conference following his speech.

"I don't believe we need to scrap capitalism and replace it with socialism as Senator Sanders indicates," O'Malley said. "And I don't believe that we should engage in continued practice of crony capitalism where the big



Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley speaking at the Central Iowa Democrats Fall Barbecue on Sunday.

banks of Wall Street tell our Congress and tell our President how far they can go and how far they can't go."

O'Malley leveled criticism at Clinton over her ties to Wall Street, calling [her response at the debate](#) about the topic "very, very distasteful."

"She tried to pump out a smokescreen for her coziness with the big banks of Wall Street by invoking the tragedy of 9/11 and those attacks, especially so fresh after so many were murdered in Paris," O'Malley said.



Presidential candidate Martin O'Malley in a press conference following his speech.

Sanders' right-hand man

Dr. Cornel West served as the most fervent speaker of the day, speaking in support of the Bernie Sanders campaign. By the time he spoke, though, much of the media and a fair number of the 600 plus crowd had already departed.

West, a Princeton professor of philosophy and a civil rights activist, took on Clinton's campaign in more pointed remarks than

Sanders himself has been able to conjure to date. He continually attacked his "dear sister" throughout his 20 minute speech.

"I'm glad to hear my dear sister Hillary Clinton sounding so progressive. I salute her effort," West said. "But it's lip service if you don't come to terms with your actions."

West took Clinton to task in regards to her shifting stance on marriage equality.

"There are certain issues that oughta cut so deep that you don't need to be a thermometer, you can be a thermostat," West shouted.

He invoked what he called the "Jane Austen test" in comparing Sanders' and Clinton's political histories.

"What is constancy but a willingness to act for integrity, sustained moral engagement, and always subordinating political calculation to deep convictions?" West asked the thinning crowd.

"There's a struggle in the Democratic Party between the neoliberal corporate wing and the radical populist wing and I stand with Bernie Sanders."

Ames resident Selden Spencer said that while he will caucus for Bernie Sanders, he is encouraged by all of the party's candidates.

"We are very fortunate to have such good people out there. It's just funny, I suspect a lot of other Iowans are like me, you just kind of go with your gut at the end of the day," Spencer said.



Dr. Cornel West speaking on behalf of the Bernie Sanders campaign in Ames.



The buffet line at the Central Iowa Democrats Fall Barbecue in Ames.





The Democrat dessert table.

The crowd watches on at the Central Iowa Democrats Fall Barbecue on Sunday.

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