

February 29, 2016 - HILLARY

Camille Paglia lets loose on Hillary. Done there, she lays waste to higher education. Given her milieu we'll have to overlook her Bernie flirtation.

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Democrats face a stark choice this year. A vote for the scandal-plagued Hillary is a resounding ratification of business as usual—the corrupt marriage of big money and machine politics, practiced by the Clintons with the zest of Boss Tweed, the gluttonous czar of New York's ruthless Tammany Hall in the 1870s. What you also get with Hillary is a confused hawkish interventionism that has already dangerously destabilized North Africa and the Mideast. This is someone who declared her candidacy on April 12, 2015 via an email and slick video and then dragged her feet on making a formal statement of her presidential policies and goals until her pollsters had slapped together a crib list of what would push the right buttons. This isn't leadership; it's pandering.

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As college became accessible to a wider and less privileged demographic following World War II, many state legislatures were initially generous in their funding. But that support rapidly diminished after the recession and oil embargo of the 1970s. Instead of prudently retrenching and economizing, public universities charged ahead and began raising tuition, in tandem with increasingly expensive private schools. Colleges became overtly commercialized and consumerist in their pursuit of paying customers. The annual college ranking by U.S. News & World Report, which began in 1983, triggered a brand-name hysteria among upwardly mobile parents and turned high school into the nightmarish, gerbil-wheel obsession with college applications that it remains today.

The steady rise in college tuition, leading to today's stratospheric costs, began in the 1980s and was worsened by a malign development of the 1990s: the rapid swelling of a self-replicating campus bureaucracy, whose salaries exceeded those of most faculty. The new administrators, with their corporate and technocratic orientation, had an insular master race mentality and viewed faculty as subordinate employees. The flagrant corporatization of the university was outrageously ignored by the faux Leftists of academe, trendy careerist professors who sat

twiddling their thumbs, as they played their puerile poststructuralist and deconstructionist word games. As a consequence, faculties nationwide have fatally lost power and are barraged by dictatorial directives from tin-eared campus bureaucrats enforcing a labyrinth of intrusive government regulations. ...

While we're on the subject of higher ed, [Red Alert](#) tells us the average of college prez pay is more than twice the average of the hated CEO's.

High pay for CEOs attracts annual attention and recitations about the immorality of capitalism, but when the focus is on average CEO pay, they make less than half the annual earnings of college presidents, according to CBS News.

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Americans outraged and indebted by high college costs will be quick to draw the parallel between college president pay and their tuition bill. Correlation, though, doesn't imply causation. Often, college presidents aren't even the highest-paid college employees; athletic coaches earn more.

Regardless, college presidents "are well into the 99th percentile of compensation for wage earners in the United States," Peter L. Hinrichs and Anne Chen noted for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

The median cost of presidential salaries per student is \$138.85. Slashing presidential pay could free up some money for student scholarships or additional staff hiring, but students aren't overburdened by presidential salaries, as easy a scapegoat as it might be.

Overall staff salaries, however, might be a different story. ...

Back to Hildebeast with a post from [Craig Pirrong](#) on her emails.

Hillary's email excuses get more lame by the day. For months her story—and she has stuck to it—is that none of the emails were marked as classified. Yesterday, when (miracle of miracles!) George Stephenopolous called her on this, her excuse became even lamer. And if I were Cheryl Mills, Huma Abedin, or Jake Sullivan, I would be afraid, very afraid, after hearing it.

Specifically Stephenopolous asked about a non-disclosure agreement Clinton signed before becoming Secretary of State, which states: "classified information is marked or unmarked ... including oral communications." That is, marking is a sufficient, but not necessary, condition for establishing whether something is classified. The mention of "oral communications" points out the obvious issue: if marking was necessary, verbal information could never be an official secret, which is obviously absurd.

Hillary's response? Here's to you, Cheryl, Huma, and Jake!:

Clinton pointed to her aides, saying: "When you receive information, of course, there has to be some markings, some indication that someone down the chain had thought that this was classified and that was not the case."

Someone down the chain is apparently responsible for establishing whether something sent up the chain should be classified.

There's only one little problem with this. ...

And **Nat Hentoff** writes on her failure to protect boys from conscription in third world totalitarian states.

If there is one policy issue that most Americans can agree upon, even in our hyperpartisan political times, it is that child slavery should not be tolerated. President Barack Obama gave voice to this principle in a 2012 speech before the Clinton Global Initiative.

"When a little boy is kidnapped, turned into a child soldier, forced to kill or be killed -- that's slavery," Obama told the audience, which included his then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. "It is barbaric, and it is evil, and it has no place in a civilized world."

Later that week, Clinton's State Department implemented "national interest" sanction waivers that authorized millions in military assistance, training and arms sales to countries that allow the use of child soldiers in their armed forces or allied militias. It was the third year in a row that the administration had waived sanctions imposed by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (CSPA). ...

How corrupt is the media? Read this article from **WaPo by Erik Wemple** about what was revealed by a FOIA request.

... Though Ambinder will bear most of the smirch from this Beltway bucket of slime, the episode speaks to the inadvisability of encouraging journalists to flout the SPJ code of ethics. Sure, Reines secured a bit of positive coverage for the speech and perhaps deepened his relationship with a prominent journalist or two. The term "muscular" scooted around the web in connection with Clinton, as Gawker pointed out. And perhaps the secretary came away satisfied with what Reines had orchestrated.

The boost, however, was just as transitory as the Ambinder article itself. And the risk of insisting on conditions with ball-playing journalists is now emerging: The Clinton camp was so desperate for praise that it went to extremes to place a single positive adjective in coverage. Also, Reines's insistence on secrecy about the "blackmail" was a reckless bet against the very industry he dealt with each day; via the FOIA process, journalism outed his part in rancid sausage-making.

Erik Wemple has more; this time focusing on the egregious bias of CNN as they shill for Hillary.

... Here's an example CNN's disclosure approach in practice. On Feb. 17, during his daytime program, CNN lead political anchor Wolf Blitzer turned, as he often does, to the 2016 race.

Hillary Clinton, noted Blitzer, was engaged in a tight race against Bernie Sanders, as polling indicated a “dead heat” in Nevada (which Clinton eventually won). The esteemed anchor introduced a pair of commentators to hash things out: “Let’s bring in our CNN political commentators, Democratic strategist, Maria Cardona, and Republican strategist, Tara Setmayer.”

The “Democratic strategist” contributed this comment when asked what had happened to Clinton’s vanishing lead in Nevada. It must be quoted in full:

I think what happened is we have a real primary on our hands. I’ve been saying from the beginning is actually great for the Democratic Party. Look, her campaign absolutely needs to focus on the fact that she needs to continue underscoring her message of lifting barriers for everybody, of making sure that this economy works for all communities of color. The speech she gave in Harlem yesterday was fantastic.

And those, I think, are the themes that will resonate in communities like Nevada, which has a lot of Latino voters there. Latinos have traditionally been backing her, and I think will continue to back her. And she needs to continue to focus on this message of economic prosperity for everybody. That’s where I think she’ll start to get the younger voters and also focusing on how to actually get things done as opposed to just talking about what everybody likes and sounds good. But how are you going to deliver for everyday Americans. That’s where I think her strength is.

It’s right there that Blitzer might have said, Viewers should know that you and your colleagues, Maria, have various financial ties to the Clinton campaign and groups seeking to assist it. Instead, Blitzer passed the baton on to Setmayer, and the context-deprived discussion continued.

The minimalist disclosure is ho-hum outrageous — which is to say that it’s an outrage made routine by prevailing TV industry practices. ...

Turning our attention to a couple of blowhards, Kyle Smith compares Cam and Donald.

Cam Newton may be the best player in football, but as a man he has a lot of learning to do. He needs to study the virtue called humility.

Newton is a braggart, a showboat and a clown. He says things like, “Hear me out. I’m just saying that so much of my talents have not been seen in one person.” (“Just”!) He does elaborate end-zone dances right in the faces of opposing players. (“If you don’t like it, keep me out of the end zone,” he later said.) Even getting a simple first down inspires him to strike a pose. He named his son “Chosen,” he says, because he didn’t want the kid to carry the awful burden of being known as Cam Newton Jr. Apparently those were the only two options. “Saint” was already taken. ...

... Rudeness goes with selfishness and obliviousness: Football is very much a team sport, so no one person should act like he made a play on his own, but so is life. Donald Trump’s boasting about his wealth is off-putting not only because it seems intended to remind us that we’re relatively poor compared to him but because he’s delusional to attribute his fortune to his own

hard-nosed business acumen. The source of his wealth is simple: He inherited a New York real-estate empire just as New York real estate was about to go on a dizzying upward climb.

He should thank not only his father but Wall Street, “Seinfeld” and Rudy Giuliani for driving up New York real-estate values.

As Trump made clear in his comical attempts to make himself sound like a student of the Bible while campaigning in Iowa, the only altar at which he bends the knee is his own tacky, brass-lined headquarters. ...

John Tierney in Instapundit contrasts the two quarterbacks in the Superbowl.

The vaunted Cam-Peyton quarterback match-up in the Super Bowl didn't amount to much on the field (the game was all defense), but the contrast was clear after the game. Cam Newton made headlines by abruptly walking out of a press conference after uttering a total of 18 words. Yes, it's tough to lose, but Peyton Manning endured a much worse defeat in the Super Bowl two years ago (a 43-8 shellacking by the Seattle Seahawks), and look at how he performed after that game (the press conference starts at 2:24). Manning put on a suit and tie, looked reporters in the eye, answered questions and graciously gave credit to the victors. Earlier this season, when Newton's team was winning, he too appeared at post-game press conferences in a coat and tie and happily answered questions, but when the going got tough, he showed up in a hoodie and sulked — a performance that one former fan described as Pig Newton.

Salon

Fight the soulless juggernaut: Big money, machine politics and the real issue separating Sanders and Clinton

Democrats face a stark choice: A money-mad, scandal-plagued establishment, or the potential of decency and change

by Camille Paglia

Despite Bernie Sanders being tied with her for pledged delegates after last weekend's Nevada caucuses, the media herd has anointed Hillary Clinton yet again as the inevitable Democratic nominee. Superdelegates, those undemocratic figureheads and goons of the party establishment, are by definition unpledged and fluid and should never be added to the official column of any candidate until the national convention. To do so is an amoral tactic of intimidation that affects momentum and gives backstage wheeling and dealing primacy over the will of the electorate. Why are the media so servilely complicit with Clinton-campaign propaganda and trickery?

Democrats face a stark choice this year. A vote for the scandal-plagued Hillary is a resounding ratification of business as usual—the corrupt marriage of big money and machine politics, practiced by the Clintons with the zest of Boss Tweed, the gluttonous czar of New York's ruthless Tammany Hall in the 1870s. What you also get with Hillary is a confused hawkish interventionism that has already dangerously destabilized North Africa and the Mideast. This is someone who declared her candidacy on April 12, 2015 via an email and slick video and then

dragged her feet on making a formal statement of her presidential policies and goals until her pollsters had slapped together a crib list of what would push the right buttons. This isn't leadership; it's pandering.

Thanks to several years of the Democratic party establishment strong-arming younger candidates off the field for Hillary, the only agent for fundamental change remains Bernie Sanders, an honest and vanity-free man who has been faithful to his core progressive principles for his entire career. It is absolutely phenomenal that Sanders has made such progress nationally against his near total blackout over the past year by the major media, including the New York Times. That he has inspired the hope and enthusiasm of an immense number of millennial women is very encouraging. Feminists who support Hillary for provincial gender reasons are guilty of a reactionary, reflex sexism, betraying that larger vision required for the ballot so hard-won by the suffrage movement.

The Democratic National Committee, as chaired since 2011 by Clinton sycophant Debbie Wasserman Schultz, has become a tyranny that must be checked and overthrown. Shock the system! Here are the flaming words of one of my heroes, Mario Savio, leader of the Free Speech Movement at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1964, he declared from the steps of Sproul Hall to a crowd of 4,000 protesters: "There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart that you can't take part! You can't even passively take part! And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop!"

A vote for Bernie Sanders is a vote against the machine, the obscenely money-mad and soulless juggernaut that the Democratic Party has become. Perhaps there was a time, during the Hubert Humphrey era, when Democrats could claim to be populists, alive to the needs and concerns of working-class people. But the party has become the playground of white, upper-middle-class professionals with elite-school degrees and me-first values. These liberal poseurs mouth racial and ethnic platitudes, acquired like trophy kills at their p.c. campuses, but every word rings hollow, because it is based on condescension, a patronizing projection of victimhood onto those outside their privileged circle. There is no better example of this arrogant class bias than Wellesley grad Hillary Clinton lapsing into her mush-mouthed, Southern-fried dialect when addressing African-American audiences.

Sanders is no Communist, bent on seizing centralized control of business and industry. He is a democratic socialist in the Scandinavian mode, where social welfare is predicated on cooperation and shared sacrifice. Whether such a system can work in the vastly larger and more culturally diverse U.S. is another matter. The financial viability of his proposals would certainly be stringently vetted by Congress, which holds the purse strings of the national budget. But Sanders' attack on the crass excesses and unpunished ethical lapses of Wall Street is a great awakening call, at a time when the U.S. has disastrously lost its manufacturing base and when the super-rich have accumulated proportionally more wealth than at any time since the Gilded Age of the late 19th century.

The Sanders theme that is closest to my heart is his call for free public universities. Thanks to the G.I. Bill, my father, returning from active duty as a paratrooper in occupied Japan, became the first member of his large family to attend college. I was born while he was still in school and meeting expenses by mopping the cafeteria floor. The State University of New York added Triple Cities College to its system in his final year; hence his class was the first to graduate from the newly named Harpur College, which soon relocated from the factory town of Endicott to Vestal, near Binghamton.

The public education that I received at Harpur College during the 1960s (I appear to have been its first second-generation graduate) was superb, not simply for its excellent faculty and cultural programs but for its dynamic student body with a large constituency of passionately progressive Jews (like Bernie Sanders) from metropolitan New York City. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, a liberal Republican, was pouring funds into the State University of New York in his attempt to rival the University of California. The cost to my parents for my four years of college was amazingly minimal.

It is an intolerable scandal that college costs, even at public universities, have been permitted to skyrocket in the U.S., burdening a generation of young adults with enormous debt for what in many cases are worthless degrees. The role played by the colleges themselves in luring applicants to take crippling, unsecured loans has never received focused scrutiny. Perhaps a series of punitive, class-action lawsuits might wake the education industry up. Until the colleges themselves pay a penalty for their part in this institutionalized extortion, things are unlikely to change.

As college became accessible to a wider and less privileged demographic following World War II, many state legislatures were initially generous in their funding. But that support rapidly diminished after the recession and oil embargo of the 1970s. Instead of prudently retrenching and economizing, public universities charged ahead and began raising tuition, in tandem with increasingly expensive private schools. Colleges became overtly commercialized and consumerist in their pursuit of paying customers. The annual college ranking by U.S. News & World Report, which began in 1983, triggered a brand-name hysteria among upwardly mobile parents and turned high school into the nightmarish, gerbil-wheel obsession with college applications that it remains today.

The steady rise in college tuition, leading to today's stratospheric costs, began in the 1980s and was worsened by a malign development of the 1990s: the rapid swelling of a self-replicating campus bureaucracy, whose salaries exceeded those of most faculty. The new administrators, with their corporate and technocratic orientation, had an insular master race mentality and viewed faculty as subordinate employees. The flagrant corporatization of the university was outrageously ignored by the faux Leftists of academe, trendy careerist professors who sat twiddling their thumbs, as they played their puerile poststructuralist and deconstructionist word games. As a consequence, faculties nationwide have fatally lost power and are barraged by dictatorial directives from tin-eared campus bureaucrats enforcing a labyrinth of intrusive government regulations.

Simultaneously in the 1990s began the redefining of college as a comfortable extension of the bourgeois living room. Parents expected a big bang for their buck—bright and shiny dormitories with single rooms; lavish exercise facilities; cafeteria buffets of restaurant range and quality. Meanwhile, many large second-tier schools began to rely on an army of poorly paid and exploited adjunct teachers, who had to migrate from job to job for survival.

The American fixation on the bucolic residential campus as the ultimate definition of education has produced our present impasse, where students expect a homey "safe space" monitored and secured by hovering parental proxies. European universities, in contrast, focus on education and are rarely concerned with providing luxurious amenities or supervising students' social lives. Similarly, there are few European parallels to the rah-rah campus sports ethos in the U.S., which began with Ivy League football in the late nineteenth century.

Perhaps the most serious problem in American education is the blind funneling of all high-school students into a now diluted and weakened college prep program. It's become a giant

boondoggle that is doing more harm than good, given this stagnant job market. Vocational high school lost favor in the 1970s, when college-for-all became the new credo. The educational reformer James Bryant Conant, who had promoted meritocracy in his tenure as president of Harvard (1933-53), opposed separate vocational facilities in his proposals for the "comprehensive high school."

As a career teacher at art schools, which are vocational in admission and structure, I must protest the snobbery with which vocational training and trade schools are treated by the educational establishment in the U.S. It is irresponsible for teachers not to be concerned about the future employment and lifetime welfare of their students. Classes in business and entrepreneurship should be offered in every high school, especially in the inner city, and vocational tracks should be available to students who have no interest in college but want to start supporting themselves immediately after graduation. We need to adapt elements of the German apprenticeship system, where industry contributes to specialized job training while students are still in school.

I applaud Bernie Sanders for putting the urgent issue of free public universities on the national agenda. Let the private schools gorge themselves with cash—their pretentious, sticker-shock tuition rates, which only pampered trust-fund babies actually pay; the obscene multimillion-dollar salaries of their presidents; their mammoth endowments (fattening on Wall Street) that are unknown in Europe. But before taxpayer money is invested again in the great cause of public education, American universities must embark on a program of radical austerity, stripping themselves of luxuries and booting three-quarters of their parasitic administrators out the door. Every precious dollar must be devoted to the central mission of teaching and learning.

Red Alert Politics

Greed: College presidents earn more -- a lot more -- than CEOs

For outrageous executive earnings, don't look to Wall Street – look to academia.

by Anthony Hennen

High pay for CEOs attracts annual attention and recitations about the immorality of capitalism, but when the focus is on average CEO pay, they make less than half the annual earnings of college presidents, [according to CBS News](#).

The average CEO earns \$176,840 annually, an amount that would make a university president into a pauper. In academia, college presidents earn \$377,261 annually.

Americans outraged and indebted by high college costs will be quick to draw the parallel between college president pay and their tuition bill. Correlation, though, doesn't imply causation. Often, college presidents aren't even the highest-paid college employees; [athletic coaches](#) earn more.

Regardless, college presidents "are well into the 99th percentile of compensation for wage earners in the United States," Peter L. Hinrichs and Anne Chen [noted](#) for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

The median cost of presidential salaries per student is \$138.85. Slashing presidential pay could free up some money for student scholarships or additional staff hiring, but students aren't overburdened by presidential salaries, as easy a scapegoat as it might be.

Overall staff salaries, however, might be a different story.

"To the extent that colleges employ other administrators or support staff and to the extent that salaries and compensation for such employees are high, reducing salaries or the number of employees more broadly might help contain college costs," Hinrichs and Chen wrote.

It's important to remember that the higher costs of higher education don't come from one source. It isn't only lavish buildings, expanded campuses, staff salaries, athletic programs, or on-campus entertainment. It's all of the above, sometimes driven by (popular) federal mandate, other times by the students and their parents desiring certain amenities. Presidents and college bureaucrats have become a popular target of populist angst, but they can't account for the surprising costs of a college degree.

As Megan McArdle [wrote](#) for *Bloomberg*, "Most of those administrators have been hired for two much simpler reasons: The faculty wanted to outsource their administrative responsibilities to professionals so they could focus more on teaching and research; and the demands placed on a university are much greater than they used to be."

College costs run amok because what Americans expect from higher education in 2016 is a drastic change from what Americans expected in 1970. Many colleges make questionable decisions in how to deliver an education and "the college experience," but the rot is systemic, not limited to top executives.

Streetwise Professor

[The Buck Stops With Hillary? Unless It's From Goldman, You Must Be Kidding](#)

by Craig Pirrong

Hillary's email excuses get more lame by the day. For months her story—and she has stuck to it—is that none of the emails were marked as classified. Yesterday, when (miracle of miracles!) [George Stephenopolous called her on this, her excuse became even lamer](#). And if I were Cheryl Mills, Huma Abedin, or Jake Sullivan, I would be afraid, very afraid, after hearing it.

Specifically Stephenopolous asked about a non-disclosure agreement Clinton signed before becoming Secretary of State, which states: "classified information is marked or unmarked ... including oral communications." That is, marking is a sufficient, but not necessary, condition for establishing whether something is classified. The mention of "oral communications" points out the obvious issue: if marking was necessary, verbal information could never be an official secret, which is obviously absurd.

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Clinton pointed to her aides, saying: "When you receive information, of course, there has to be some markings, some indication that someone down the chain had thought that this was classified and that was not the case."

Someone down the chain is apparently responsible for establishing whether something sent up the chain should be classified.

There's only one little problem with this. Per an [Obama Executive Order on classified information](#) (which parallels EOs of previous presidents), *Hillary* was an "original classify[ing] authority."

Sec. 1.3. Classification Authority. (a) The authority to classify information originally may be exercised only by:

- (1) the President and the Vice President;
- (2) **agency heads** and officials designated by the President; and
- (3) United States Government officials delegated this authority pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) Officials authorized to classify information at a specified level are also authorized to classify information at a lower level.

(c) Delegation of original classification authority.

(1) Delegations of original classification authority shall be limited to the minimum required to administer this order. Agency heads are responsible for ensuring that designated subordinate officials have a demonstrable and continuing need to exercise this authority.

The "classification authority", as the title suggests, has the authority and responsibility to classify:

Section 1.1. Classification Standards. (a) Information may be originally classified under the terms of this order only if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) an original classification authority is classifying the information;
- (2) the information is owned by, produced by or for, or is under the control of the United States Government;
- (3) the information falls within one or more of the categories of information listed in section 1.4 of this order; and
- (4) the original classification authority determines that the unauthorized disclosure of the information reasonably could be expected to result in damage to the national security, which includes defense against transnational terrorism, and the original classification authority is able to identify or describe the damage.

In brief, Hillary was the ultimate classification authority in the State Department, and everyone else in the Department was exercising that authority because it had been delegated by her to them. Further, Hillary had the authority to determine whether "disclosure of the information reasonably could be expected to result in damage to the national security." The power to make these determinations was explicitly vested in her.

In other words: the classification buck should have stopped with Hillary. She cannot escape the authority and duties assigned her by statute and implementing executive orders.

But of course, the only bucks that stop with Hillary are those donated to the Clinton Foundation for "speaking fees" from Goldman, etc., or extracted from tuition paying college students by political sycophant university administrators.

Hillary is clearly preparing to throw her closest aides to the wolves. "I was failed by my subordinates who failed to mark properly this information that should have been classified." It's the Clinton way.

It's also a legal travesty. The woman who believes that it is her right to be a successor of Harry Truman definitely does not live by his motto: "The Buck Stops Here." It stops with the patsies who have to take the fall in order to protect Her Highness's political viability.

Jewish World Review

Washington Warlord: Hillary's child soldiers

By Nat Hentoff

"Let us render the tyrant no aid; let us not hold the light by which he can trace the footprints of our flying brother." -- Frederick Douglass

If there is one policy issue that most Americans can agree upon, even in our hyperpartisan political times, it is that child slavery should not be tolerated. President Barack Obama gave voice to this principle in a 2012 speech before the Clinton Global Initiative.

"When a little boy is kidnapped, turned into a child soldier, forced to kill or be killed -- that's slavery," Obama told the audience, which included his then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. "It is barbaric, and it is evil, and it has no place in a civilized world."

Later that week, Clinton's State Department implemented "national interest" sanction waivers that authorized millions in military assistance, training and arms sales to countries that allow the use of child soldiers in their armed forces or allied militias. It was the third year in a row that the administration had waived sanctions imposed by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (CSPA).

Josh Rogin, whose column appears on JWR, writing for Foreign Policy in 2010, described a conference call between Samantha Power, then a senior National Security Council aide, and a group of human rights NGO officials who were outraged by the issuance of the first child soldier sanction waivers earlier that year. Rogin, who heard a recording of the call, said Powers "promised that if these countries don't shape up, the administration will take a tougher line when re-evaluating the sanctions next year."

However, the administration didn't take a tougher line the next year, or the year after that. Jo Becker, advocacy director for the children's rights division at Human Rights Watch (HRW), told Rogin in 2011 that "the White House said last year that they were putting these countries on notice, but now it's a year later and the U.S. is still handing over taxpayer money to countries that use child soldiers with no strings attached." In 2012, Becker told Rogin that in "South

Sudan, Libya and Yemen, the U.S. continues to squander its leverage by giving military aid with no conditions."

Jesse Eaves, then-senior policy advisor for child protection at World Vision, told Rogin at the time: "The intent in this law was to use this waiver authority only in extreme circumstances, yet (the annual sanction waiver) has ... become the default of this administration."

Two years later, Eaves was still condemning the Obama administration for the robotic issuance of sanction waivers to nations who permitted the enslavement of child soldiers with impunity.

"We must ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars do not contribute to ... increasing the use and suffering of child soldiers," Eaves said in a 2014 World Vision press release. "The bottom line is the use of these waivers is dangerous for children." HRW's Becker and Rachel Stohl, of the nonpartisan think tank Stimson Center, wrote a September 2015 op-ed for CNN.com in which they released the results of a joint study on the administration's use of child soldier sanction waivers. According to Becker and Stohl, "during the five years the (CSPA) law has been in effect, President Obama has invoked 'national interest' waivers to authorize nearly \$1 billion in military assistance and arms sales for countries that are still using child soldiers."

They said that their analysis "found that only \$35 million in military assistance and arms sales -- a mere 4 percent of what was sanctionable under the law -- was actually withheld from these abusive governments."

Charles Taylor, the former President of Liberia and one of the most infamous warlords in Africa, was convicted in 2012 by a U.N.-backed tribunal of aiding and abetting the recruitment and use of child soldiers by rebel forces in Sierra Leone. Taylor was never charged with directly recruiting or using child soldiers. Instead, Taylor's indictment charged him with giving "financial support, military training, personnel, arms ammunition and other support and encouragement."

Nebraska Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, the original sponsor of the CSPA, has described the administration's "national interest" sanction waivers as an "assault on human dignity." He told Foreign Policy that "(g)ood citizens of this country who do not want to be complicit in this grave human rights abuse must challenge this administration."

Hillary Clinton did not challenge the administration's child soldier sanction waivers. Instead, she embraced the policy; just as she embraced the administration's child-killing drone program, the U.S. military surge in Afghanistan (which doubled the number of child casualties from 2010 to 2011), and an immigration policy that has left thousands of undocumented children in detention facilities and thousands more children with U.S. citizenship in foster care after their undocumented parents were deported with little warning or due process.

Anyone who cares about social justice and still supports Hillary Clinton must ask themselves the following question. If Clinton did not stand up and fight to protect the victims of child slavery when it was her job to do so, why should they expect her to stand up and fight for anyone else once she no longer needs their votes?

Washington Post

Corrupt journalism doesn't pay. Nor does abetting it.

by Erik Wemple

Former Atlantic contributing editor Marc Ambinder is showing appropriate contrition for having participating in some dubious journalistic practices back in July 2009. As exposed by some [Freedom Of Information Act documents secured by J.K. Trotter of Gawker](#), Ambinder was pursuing a copy of the speech that then- [Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was to make at the Council on Foreign Relations](#). So he emailed renowned Clinton advocate and spokesperson Philippe Reines.

The back-and-forth confirms anyone's worst suspicions about access journalism. The transaction went like this:

- Ambinder asks for a copy of the speech;
- Reines says he'll send it, with conditions;
- Ambinder writes back, "ok";
- Reines lays out the conditions:

- 1) You in your own voice describe them as "muscular"
- 2) You note that a look at the CFR seating plan shows that all the envoys — from Holbrooke to Mitchell to Ross — will be arrayed in front of her, which in your own clever way you can say certainly not a coincidence and meant to convey something
- 3) You don't say you were blackmailed!

- Ambinder writes, "got it."

The story, it turns out, rated Clinton's speech "muscular" and indeed made reference to the seating thing: "The staging gives a clue to its purpose: seated in front of Clinton, subordinate to Clinton, in the first row, will be three potentially rival power centers: envoys Richard Holbrooke and George Mitchell, and National Security Council senior director Dennis Ross," wrote Ambinder, completing his compliance with Reines's conditions.

In a series of remarks to Gawker, Ambinder lamented making the deal. "It made me uncomfortable then, and it makes me uncomfortable today," said Ambinder. "And when I look at that email record, it is a reminder to me of why I moved away from all that. The Atlantic, to their credit, never pushed me to do that, to turn into a scoop factory. In the fullness of time, any journalist or writer who is confronted by the prospect, or gets in the situation where their journalism begins to feel transactional, should listen to their gut feeling and push away from that."

That's a dash of knowledge seasoned by seven years of perspective: Who remembers Clinton's July 15, 2009, speech before the Council on Foreign Relations? And even if it was a consequential address, what lasting contribution or analysis did Ambinder contribute with his piece on it? The story was a quick-hit classic, incorporating the elements required by Reines, plus some further analysis and some block quotes from the speech's text. Of course, Clinton eventually issued the speech, meaning that the rest of the journalism field gained access to it. An "[ego scoop](#)," as New York University Professor Jay Rosen would say. Maybe it drove some traffic that day.

Though Ambinder will bear most of the smirch from this Beltway bucket of slime, the episode speaks to the inadvisability of [encouraging journalists to flout the SPJ code of ethics](#). Sure, Reines secured a bit of positive coverage for the speech and perhaps deepened his relationship with a prominent journalist or two. The term “muscular” scooted around the web in connection with Clinton, as Gawker pointed out. And perhaps the secretary came away satisfied with what Reines had orchestrated.

The boost, however, was just as transitory as the Ambinder article itself. And the risk of insisting on conditions with ball-playing journalists is now emerging: The Clinton camp was so desperate for praise that it went to extremes to place a single positive adjective in coverage. Also, Reines’s insistence on secrecy about the “blackmail” was a reckless bet against the very industry he dealt with each day; via the FOIA process, journalism outed his part in rancid sausage-making.

Washington Post

[Report: The media aren’t telling you about ties of pro-Hillary Clinton pundits](#)

by Erik Wemple

The Intercept’s Lee Fang had a lonely experience in [reporting a story](#) about how TV networks fail time and again to disclose the financial conflicts of interest of their guest pundits. “We reached out to NBC, CBS, CNN, and ABC News, but did not hear back,” noted Fang in his piece.

Yet reporters at all these networks will be happy to drone on about the importance of transparency in government.

With the question of hypocrisy thus dispensed, let’s have a look at what Fang discovered: Television networks routinely invite guests to comment on politics without telling viewers that, *Hey, this person does business with the candidate she’s praising on our airwaves*. Fang looks at problems across various networks: NBC News’s “Meet the Press,” for instance, gathered pro-Clinton punditry from former Obama campaign spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter but failed to note that her firm, Precision Strategies, was doing business with the Clinton campaign. She was introduced as a former Obama campaign aide.

A good chunk of Fang’s reporting focuses on CNN, a channel whose nonstop political coverage drives a bottomless demand for talking heads. Consider the case of Maria Cardona, who has appeared frequently on CNN to talk about the 2016 campaign. It’s a topic in which she is steeped: Her colleagues at consulting outfit Dewey Square Group fund-raise for the Clinton campaign, the firm has been paid by Clinton Super PACs for consulting services and Cardona herself has maxed out her contribution to the Clinton campaign, as Fang reports.

Fang plumbs the resulting conflict:

The Intercept reviewed transcripts for 50 television segments, from August 2015 through this month, in which Cardona has appeared on CNN to discuss Clinton. In five of those appearances, she was identified or she identified herself as a supporter of Clinton. In another five, she identified herself as someone who advised Clinton during the 2008 campaign. The other 40 appearances presented her as a neutral Democratic strategist or CNN contributor. And in none of her appearances was it disclosed that her firm, the Dewey Square Group, has been

retained for consulting work by the Clinton Super PACs or that her colleagues at the firm are working on behalf of the Clinton campaign. Cardona did not respond to a request for comment.

Here's an example CNN's disclosure approach in practice. On Feb. 17, during his daytime program, CNN lead political anchor Wolf Blitzer turned, as he often does, to the 2016 race. Hillary Clinton, noted Blitzer, was engaged in a tight race against Bernie Sanders, as polling indicated a "dead heat" in Nevada (which Clinton eventually won). The esteemed anchor introduced a pair of commentators to hash things out: "Let's bring in our CNN political commentators, Democratic strategist, Maria Cardona, and Republican strategist, Tara Setmayer."

The "Democratic strategist" contributed this comment when asked what had happened to Clinton's vanishing lead in Nevada. It must be quoted in full:

I think what happened is we have a real primary on our hands. I've been saying from the beginning is actually great for the Democratic Party. Look, her campaign absolutely needs to focus on the fact that she needs to continue underscoring her message of lifting barriers for everybody, of making sure that this economy works for all communities of color. The speech she gave in Harlem yesterday was fantastic.

And those, I think, are the themes that will resonate in communities like Nevada, which has a lot of Latino voters there. Latinos have traditionally been backing her, and I think will continue to back her. And she needs to continue to focus on this message of economic prosperity for everybody. That's where I think she'll start to get the younger voters and also focusing on how to actually get things done as opposed to just talking about what everybody likes and sounds good. But how are you going to deliver for everyday Americans. That's where I think her strength is.

It's right there that Blitzer might have said, *Viewers should know that you and your colleagues, Maria, have various financial ties to the Clinton campaign and groups seeking to assist it.* Instead, Blitzer passed the baton on to Setmayer, and the context-deprived discussion continued.

The minimalist disclosure is ho-hum outrageous — which is to say that it's an outrage made routine by prevailing TV industry practices. And even though CNN and others wouldn't comment to Fang, there's some on-the-record material in the history books. Eons ago in cable-news time, [CNN launched a rebooted version](#) of the old warhorse fight show "Crossfire," anchored by the likes of Newt Gingrich, Stephanie Cutter, Van Jones and S.E. Cupp. The program covered a range of topics, and in so doing got itself in trouble. The nouveau "Crossfire," for instance, welcomed Sen. Rand Paul as a guest — [a guy to whom Gingrich had steered money](#). CNN issued this blog a statement over the matter:

Crossfire hosts have never been required to disclose their contributions regarding guests on the show because their political support and activism are there for all to see. It's obvious they support liberals or conservatives.

Especially liberals or conservatives with whom they do business. Of course, it isn't obvious. The very same networks that deploy commentators with stakes in their topics also bill themselves as independent voices. Without extensive and detailed disclosures, viewers may well assume that everything they hear is untainted by cash (unless, of course, they have the Erik Wemple Blog archive memorized).

The only thing that's "obvious" is the inability of CNN and its competitors to distance themselves from Beltway green. The networks want to fill their airtime with players — people who have been on the inside of campaigns, who have racked up countless TV appearances, who continue to receive whispers from other players in Washington. Just so happens that these players make a living in ways that strip the independence and objectivity out of everything they say on air. No wonder news outlets are hesitant to make all necessary disclosures.

CNN and NBC News provided no answer to our question about whether they didn't know about these ties or just felt that viewers didn't need any further disclosure.

NY Post

[Cam Newton, Donald Trump and the lost virtue of humility](#)

by Kyle Smith

Cam Newton may be the best player in football, but as a man he has a lot of learning to do. He needs to study the virtue called humility.

Newton is a braggart, a showboat and a clown. He says things like, "Hear me out. I'm just saying that so much of my talents have not been seen in one person." ("Just"! He does elaborate end-zone dances right in the faces of opposing players. ("If you don't like it, keep me out of the end zone," he later said.) Even getting a simple first down inspires him to strike a pose. He named his son "Chosen," he says, because he didn't want the kid to carry the awful burden of being known as Cam Newton Jr. Apparently those were the only two options. "Saint" was already taken.

After Sunday's game, win or lose, a remarkable event will occur in the vicinity of Peyton Manning: Opposing players will line up to shake hands with him. That's the respect that comes with not only being a legendary player but a good man. Manning never humiliated his opponents, never trash-talked them, never forgot the value of sportsmanship. He is the only player ever to win five MVP awards and the only one to beat Tom Brady three times in the postseason. Yet he never acts like he is The Man because he never forgets that he is a man. No one calls him arrogant.

Manning knows the importance of humility.

Humility is good sportsmanship. It increases your value as a celebrity endorser, and it is simply a smart move in the rough-justice subculture of the NFL, in which a respected player simply gets pushed out of bounds but one who has angered the other team can find his knees being taken out instead. Ex-Chicago Bears defensive end Richard Dent, a Hall of Famer and MVP of Super Bowl XX, said if he was playing against Newton today, "I'm going to knock your ass out of the game. That would've been my approach."

Newton (and media outlets such as Deadspin) have suggested that criticism of his antics is racist. "I've said this since day one. I'm an African-American quarterback," Newton said. "That may scare a lot of people because they haven't seen nothing that they can compare it to."

Newton's contention that he is without compare is a slap in the face to all the black quarterbacks who led their teams to Super Bowls like Doug Williams, Steve McNair, Donovan McNabb, Colin

Kaepernick and Russell Wilson. Unlike Newton (so far), Williams and Wilson actually won the big one.

And if Newton is saying that being black gives you an uncontrollable urge to be a jerk, he's the one making unfortunate racial implications. No one is calling Russell Wilson a show-off, because he isn't one. Wilson doesn't humiliate the other team, he thanks God instead. He refuses to be a diva. Once, when Wilson got stuck at the back of the line to get into a bar during his University of Wisconsin days, a fellow player who was already inside urged him to present himself to the doorman.

Wilson demurred, fellow player Nate Tice recalled: He didn't want to play that card.

Unfortunately, our culture seems more Newtonian than Wilsonesque today. Popular music is full of boastful lyrics, and what is social media but an exercise in egocentricity? Here's what I own, what I look like, what I'm eating.

American culture celebrates success with a glad roar — we aren't Japan or Sweden — but there's a reason we grow uneasy when pride becomes excessive. On a sporting field in particular, the satisfaction of victory is reward enough. Preening seems untoward because along with the joy, which we like to see, there is an element of malice — the intent to insult or belittle others. Defeat feels plenty bad by itself, as we all know.

Rudeness goes with selfishness and obliviousness: Football is very much a team sport, so no one person should act like he made a play on his own, but so is life. Donald Trump's boasting about his wealth is off-putting not only because it seems intended to remind us that we're relatively poor compared to him but because he's delusional to attribute his fortune to his own hard-nosed business acumen. The source of his wealth is simple: He inherited a New York real-estate empire just as New York real estate was about to go on a dizzying upward climb.

He should thank not only his father but Wall Street, "Seinfeld" and Rudy Giuliani for driving up New York real-estate values.

As Trump made clear in his comical attempts to make himself sound like a student of the Bible while campaigning in Iowa, the only altar at which he bends the knee is his own tacky, brass-lined headquarters.

An increasingly secular society casts a suspicious eye on any quality regarded as having a religious basis, but there is a reason why liturgy resonates down the ages. Wednesday morning, thousands of Catholics will file through the doors of St. Patrick's Cathedral for the privilege be told, "Remember, O man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return."

Whether you worship the Christian God or the Superman Newton, you know that's true.

Instapundit

[A TALE OF TWO QUARTERBACKS:](#)

by John Tierney

The vaunted Cam-Peyton quarterback match-up in the Super Bowl didn't amount to much on the field (the game was all defense), but the contrast was clear after the game. [Cam Newton](#)

[made headlines](#) by abruptly walking out of a press conference after uttering a total of 18 words. Yes, it's tough to lose, but Peyton Manning endured a much worse defeat in the Super Bowl two years ago (a 43-8 shellacking by the Seattle Seahawks), and look at [how he performed after that game](#) (the press conference starts at 2:24). Manning put on a suit and tie, looked reporters in the eye, answered questions and graciously gave credit to the victors. Earlier this season, when Newton's team was winning, he too appeared at post-game press conferences in a coat and tie and happily answered questions, but when the going got tough, he showed up in a hoodie and sulked — a performance that one former fan described as Pig Newton.



I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO HELPING THE POOR

AND I'VE MADE A FORTUNE

RIGHT HOOKS

Apple, the FBI and Terrorism

By National Security Desk · Feb. 17, 2016



THE PATRIOT POST

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

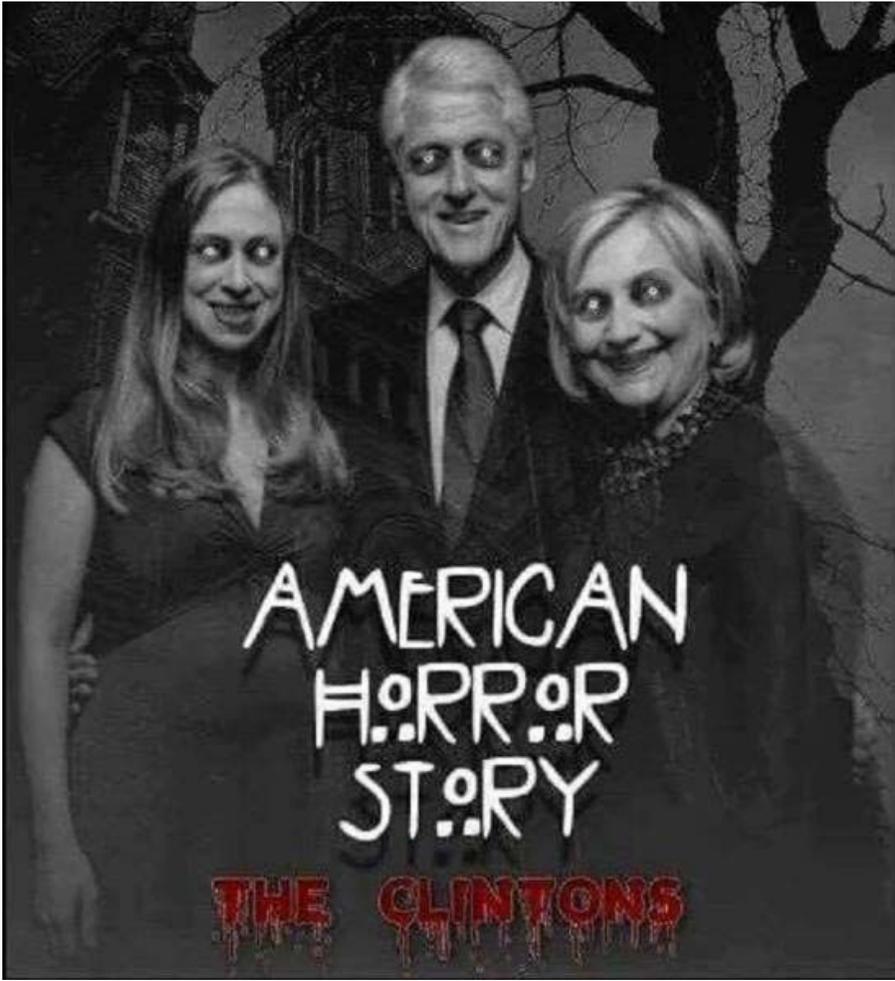
Hillary's Email Troubles Reach Beyond Benghazi

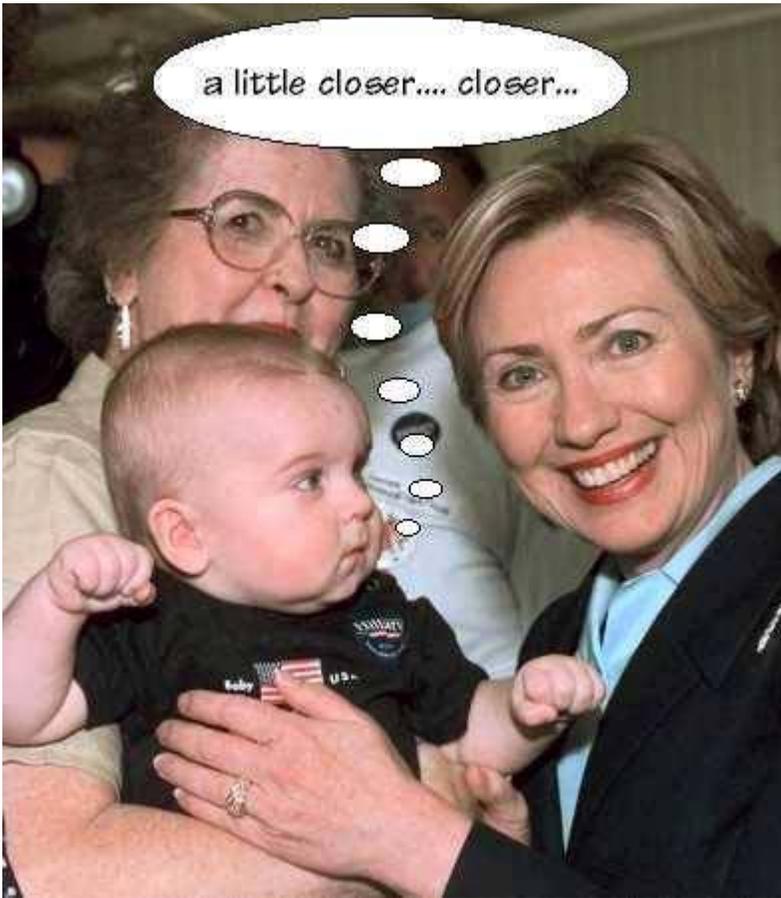
By Dan Gilmore · Jul. 2, 2015



THE PATRIOT POST

THAT AWKWARD MOMENT WHEN YOU REALIZE A TERRORIST USED BETTER DATA SECURITY THAN THE SECRETARY OF STATE





SENIORS NIGHT OUT!
DRUDGE REPORT



Drip... Drip... Drip... Drip... Drip...

Copyright Lisa Benson

Bill tried to cheer up Hillary this morning by reminding her that Nelson Mandela wasn't elected president until after he had served 27 years in prison.





Will You
Be Seeing
13 Hours?

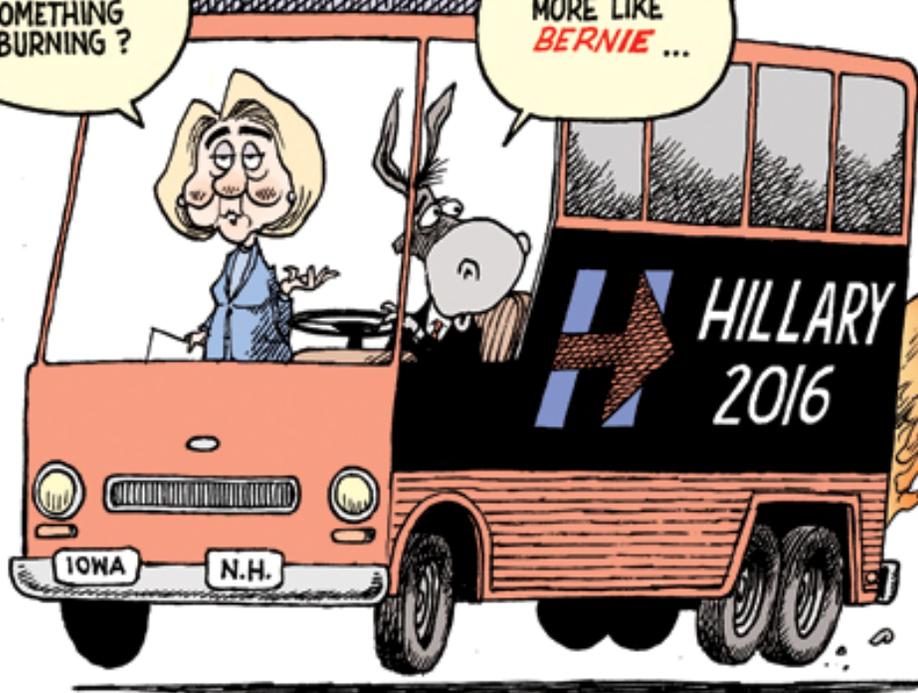


No ... I
Already Slept
Through It
Once.

YOU SMELL
SOMETHING
BURNING ?

MORE LIKE
BERNIE ...

POLLS



I SAID,
I'M READY FOR
MY CLOSE-UP...



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"I'M AFRAID OF HILLARY BECAUSE I DON'T THINK SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
I'M AFRAID OF BERNIE BECAUSE I THINK HE IS."

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I'M GOING TO
REVAMP MY
CAMPAIGN...



WHAT DIFFERENCE
at this POINT
DOES it MAKE?

