

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, February 12, 2016

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Article Title: **Generations spar over women's duty to vote for Clinton**

Section: Main, A1

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **septuagenarian**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

"Young women, in particular, have been drawn to the **septuagenarian** socialist from Vermont, and the dynamic has disappointed feminists who dreamed of Clinton's election as a capstone to the movement."

Comprehension Questions

1. As Democrats consider Hillary Clinton's candidacy for the second time, women are wrestling with a difficult question. What is it?
2. And with her opponent, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, outdrawing her in support among young women, Clinton's candidacy has turned into a generational clash, one that erupted over the weekend when two feminist icons, Madeleine Albright and Gloria Steinem, called on young women who supported Sanders to do what?
3. While introducing Clinton at a rally in New Hampshire on Saturday, Albright, 78, the first female secretary of state, talked about the importance of what?
4. Women were expected to help power Clinton to the Democratic nomination, but as she struggles to overcome a tough challenge from Sanders and trails him in New Hampshire polls, her support among them has been what?
5. Young women, in particular, have been drawn to the septuagenarian socialist from Vermont, and the dynamic has done what?
6. Many female supporters of Sanders took issue with both women's remarks on social media, accusing them of _____ feminism.
7. According to a Wall Street Journal/NBC/Marist College poll of Democratic voters in New Hampshire last week, _____ percent of women under the age of 45 supported Sanders, while only 35 percent backed Clinton. By contrast, women over 45 backed Clinton by 9 percentage points.
8. Clinton's campaign has recruited young female celebrities to build a following among millennial women. Who are they?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

Steinem, 81, one of the most famous spokeswomen of the feminist movement, took the sentiment a step further Friday in an interview with talk-show host Bill Maher. Explaining that women tend to become more active in politics as they become older, she suggested that younger women were backing Sanders just so they could meet young men.

“When you’re young, you’re thinking: ‘Where are the boys? The boys are with Bernie,’ ” Steinem said. Realizing that this was potentially offensive, Maher recoiled. “Oh. Now if I said that, ‘They’re for Bernie because that’s where the boys are,’ you’d swat me.” But Steinem laughed it off, replying, “How well do you know me?”

“Shame on Gloria Steinem and Madeleine Albright for implying that we as women should be voting for a candidate based solely on gender,” Zoe Trimboli, a 23-year-old from Vermont who supports Sanders and describes herself as a feminist, wrote on Facebook. “I can tell you that shaming me and essentially calling me misinformed and stupid is NOT the way to win my vote.”

With backlash growing, Steinem issued a retraction Sunday morning. “In a case of talk-show interruptus, I misspoke on the Bill Maher show recently, and apologize for what’s been misinterpreted as implying young women aren’t serious in their politics,” she said in a post on Facebook. “Whether they gravitate to Bernie or Hillary, young women are activist and feminist in greater numbers than ever before.”

- Why do you think Steinem said the things she did on the Bill Maher Show?
- Did you feel her statement was anti-feministic? Why or why not?
- Why do you think more young women voters aren’t as interested in Clinton?

“This generation has a rather optimistic worldview, which is probably not deserved by the way things have been going for women in this country.”

- Do you agree or disagree with the statement above?

Essay

During her debate with Sanders last week, Clinton pushed back against his suggestion that she was part of the “establishment” by reminding voters that her election would be the end of a long road for women.

But even young women who would like to see a female president elected someday do not necessarily want to base their vote on that single factor.

“While the historic aspect of the first woman president is hugely powerful and important and would set a really powerful image for young boys and girls to look up to, she might not be the right first woman,” said Dana Edell, executive director of SPARK Movement, a gender justice advocacy group.

- Do you think Clinton is the right first woman for this country? Why or why not?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.

- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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