



## Diverse crowd welcomes Sanders

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By Daniel Mollenkamp, Staff writer



(Sentinel photo by Daniel Mollenkamp) Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders spoke to a crowd of about 1,150 on Monday evening. Sanders criticized Trump and addressed issues as wide-ranging as campaign finance and hourly wages.

**SIOUX CITY --** At a rally Monday evening at the Sioux City Convention Center, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders tore into Republican frontrunner Donald Trump.

Sanders argued Trump is a demagogue who is praying on insecurities, also labeling Trump a "pathological liar."

A group of about 50 people, mostly young adults, stood on a raised platform behind the podium. The group took up various chants before Sanders was brought out, ranging from "Bernie San-ders" to "We Want Bernie" to "U.S.A."

Sanders also mentioned candidate Hilary Clinton's comment from the recent Democratic debate, "Well, I think we all want to be liked by everybody."

"I don't need to be loved by everybody," Sanders said. "Your love will get me through."

"If we're gonna stand up to the greed and recklessness and illegal behavior of Wall Street, if we're gonna stand up to the greed of the billionaire class, and the greed of corporate America, I

accept their not liking me."



(Sentinel photo by Daniel Mollenkamp) Monday evening Sanders rallied a crowd at the Sioux City Convention Center.

Last week's endorsements of the Communications Workers of America labor union and Democracy for America, a progressive political action committee, were also mentioned by Sanders.

He talked about his campaign strategy and his avoidance of SuperPACs, calling the state of campaign finance "corrupt" and "pathetic."

"What a SuperPAC means is that millionaires and billionaires can contribute as much money as they want into your campaign... We thought about it and concluded early on that I do not represent the billionaire class. I do not represent corporate America. I do not want their money," Sanders said.

He reported that, as of Sunday, his campaign had raised about 2.3 million contributions from supporters, more than any other candidate in American history.

As Sanders spoke, the crowd often broke into cheers, with many holding up signs that read "A future to believe in."

The line that garnered the largest applause was "We're gonna stand together."

Sanders labeled income inequality as one of the great moral, political and economic issues of our time.

He recounted a meeting with someone who worked in an emergency food shelter, who had told Sanders that about 90 percent of the people who go to the food shelter are working people.

"Why is it that working people around America, people working more than 40 hours a week or more, have to go to an emergency food shelter in order to get the food that they need to feed their families? The answer is pretty simple... wages in our country are just too damn low," Sanders said.

Sanders labeled the \$7.25 hourly minimum wage a "starvation wage."

On the question of national security, Sanders said he recognizes the seriousness of the issue, but thinks that America is intelligent enough to consider more than one issue at a time.

"I will never stop talking about the needs of working families. I will never stop talking about poverty. I will never stop talking about how millions cannot afford to send their kids to college," Sanders said.

Sanders also said the income disparity between men and women is old-fashioned sexism. He also promised to expand funding to Planned Parenthood.

The lack of paid family and medical leave for Americans was described by Sanders as an international embarrassment.

The size of the crowd was estimated at about 1,150 people.

This was Sander's first campaign appearance since Saturday's Democratic debate.

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