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First presidential debate: Trump not a winner among Wagner College students

by RACHEL SHAPIRO

The Hofstra University crowd watching the first presidential debate Monday night may have only broken the rules and applauded three or four times, but a much smaller crowd gathered at Wagner College on Staten Island included some very enthusiastic Hillary Clinton supporters who made known their dislike for Donald Trump throughout the hour and a half long debate.

About 50 students gathered at Wagner College to watch the first debate held on Long Island.

Some students joined the group after the debate began but the group of initial debate viewers included about half registered Democrats and about half registered independents. There was one registered Republican, not unusual for a college campus.

The people in the room made clear their thoughts when Clinton said, "I call it Trumped-up trickle down theory" [chuckles] and when Trump, responding to Clinton's tongue-in-cheek suggestion that she be blamed for everything, said, "Why not?" [boos and laughter]

Student Robert Fischetti, 20, stomped his feet in frustration several times, shouted at the screen occasionally and gestured wildly any time Trump said something he disliked.

Kimberly Landstrom, 21, laughed throughout the debate at many of Trump's comments.

Toward the end of the event, one student, frustrated with the two, asked them to be quiet, to which another student said to the shusher, "Take a chill pill."

Fischetti is from Long Island and will be voting via absentee for Clinton.

He initially supported Bernie Sanders, but took to heart the Vermont senator's plea with his supporters that they back Clinton after he lost the nomination.

"That basically sealed the deal for me who to vote for," he said.

During the debate, Trump brought up the Democratic National Committee email hacking that leaked information showing the organization had undermined the Sanders campaign in favor of Clinton's.

"I was very, very angry when I heard that happened," Fischetti said. But he got over it and supports Clinton.

Landstrom is from New Jersey but registered to vote on campus and will also be casting her ballot for Clinton.

Unsurprisingly, the two Clinton supporters thought their candidate's performance beat Trump's.

Of the Republican, Landstrom said, "All of his attacks were so out of place. He had to force them into the conversation."

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/trump_not_a_winner_among_wagne.html