

Capitol Hill High School Press Conference - Commentary

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*“Who are we?”*

*“The good guys!”*

It is extremely ironic that on the same Monday afternoon high school journalists came together to embrace journalism and free speech that a rally supporting President Donald Trump occurred only moments away on the steps of the State Capitol. Elements regarding Trump’s administration and the attacks upon the press by the president himself were some of the key concerns from many of the student journalists who attended the conference today, including myself.

The dichotomy these two groups create is astounding—yet it is also intriguing to compare the rhetoric between the two groups, and how similar they can be:

Today we came together in support of our passion for journalism, to embrace our beliefs and rights to free speech.

The attendees of the Trump rally did the same. Utilizing their rights of free speech to support the man who they believe will “make American great again”.

The question is: What is the difference? If our intentions are the same, how am I different from one of the many Trump supporters who stood on the steps of the Capitol embracing the new administration?

It's another question in the growing blurred political landscape which has taken hold in the United States—one which leaves voters and lawmakers unsure of where they stand, or how to proceed.

As a journalist, I wish to bring forward the truth so that all Americans can see, without obstruction, what is happening within our very own government. Trump supporters, theoretically, would like the same.

The difference seems to be how each group goes about promoting their campaigns. Each group places some blame on the other, but supporters of Trump seem to particularly blame, and make fun of those who hold differing opinions.

I do not wish to place blame upon a group who shares different political views from myself. Because I know that there will always be someone, a group, an organization whom I disagree with. However, I cannot sympathize with someone who blatantly lies in order to advance their personal agenda—whatever that may be.

Donald Trump, and his respective administration, has demonstrated that they are willing to obscure the truth in order to forward their objective.

For me, this is not acceptable.

As a journalist, this is not acceptable.

We cannot, and do not deserve, to live in a country where creating lies and major political scandals are the norm.

We do not deserve to live in a country where diversity is frowned upon, and where minority groups are discriminated against.

So who are “the good guys” that Trump supporters claim to be? For me, it depends on whether you would rather obscure, or promote the truth.