

THESE STUDENTS HAVE IT COVERED

By SHANNON SLATER
and ANDREW HOENIG

RINDGE, N.H. — Over the past week, 14 New Hampshire high school students gathered at Franklin Pierce University for the Presidency and the Press program, a collaborative effort with the Boston Herald, to learn how to cover politics in the first-in-the-nation primary state.

The students interviewed New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu at the statehouse in Concord and had sessions with Herald Editor in Chief Joe Sciacca and Investigative Editor Joe Dwinell.

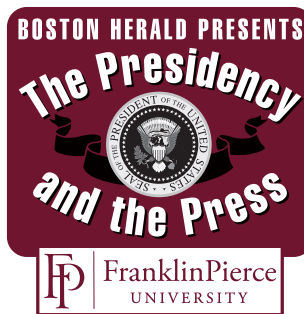
The students toured the New Hampshire Union Leader and WMUR-TV 9 in Manchester.

Media bias was a key issue discussed at each event during the program.

Active media professionals shared personal experiences of how they try to avoid bias in their own work.

Longtime White House radio correspondent Peter Maer told the students, “Just say it straight.”

Alison Kaiser, a senior from Pinkerton Academy, said she learned about the importance of civility in the media, saying, “It is important in the media because you don’t want to get



into a position where it’s just people fighting back

and forth. I believe that it’s important for political figures to maintain the maturity that they’re expected to by the public and to do their duty to be polite and respondent with the press.”

Jackson Morgan, a Pinkerton sophomore, said, “I learned more about what questions to ask and to not make them so broad, to get the ingredients of the story in order, to get the meal, so to speak. I really thought

this experience helped me know how to better collect my thoughts.”

This is the program’s 13th year being run by the Fitzwater Center for Communication at Franklin Pierce University.

Andrew Hoenig of Rindge, N.H., is a Franklin Pierce University senior. Shannon Slater of Stafford, Conn., is a Franklin Pierce University junior.



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER EVANS

ONGOING: This is the 13th year of the Presidency and the Press program at Franklin Pierce’s Fitzwater Center for Communication.

No easy answer to regain Generation Z’s lost faith in media

With everything that has been happening in the news recently, many youth seem to have lost faith in their local and national news sources.

They’ve seen both parties bashing articles that they don’t like, and calling them “fake news.” This generation has also seen people writing bent truths or full out lies, labeling them as “alternative facts.”

Politicians and public figures who try to disparage all news or all media sources push teens away from reliable sources. Teens tend to seek updates from social media and often neglect



**Eostar
TARBOX**

to fact check. This also leads to a disinterest in politics or events altogether because we don’t know who to trust.

When watching the news as a Generation Zer, I am constantly thinking: What aren’t they telling me? What here isn’t completely true? Where can I find the whole truth?

I think these questions show

the lack of trust that has been taught to this generation in recent years.

Journalists and citizens on social media who either intentionally leave out the truth, or don’t care enough to look into things, are seriously jeopardizing the name of the media and press. This causes me distress because growing up, watching the news, local and national, was a major part of my family.

Finding sources that are trustworthy can be a difficult for the younger members of Gen Z, and the older members of other generations who haven’t been

taught how.

Mistrust in journalism is troubling, and I’m not sure what to do about it. Gen Z has had many expectations placed on them to “fix” everything wrong with the media. And many of us accept the responsibility. However, I don’t believe we can do this on our own. Previous generations tell us that we need to fix things now, but we need time to learn and work, and help from them in order for it to work.

Eostar Tarbox is a junior at the LEAF Charter School in Alstead, N.H.

Gender, skin color should not dictate how we see others

By KUSUM ARYAL

If I was running for political office, I wouldn’t want to be treated differently.

But I have two strikes against me — I am a woman and my skin is brown.

Too often we look at a political candidate through the lens of gender and color. People should be judged based upon what they are capable of.

In my experience, skin color does affect the way someone sees you. For my freshman year of high school, I attended a school where the majority of the student body was white. On a day-to-day basis I was asked, “Why are you showing your hair?” or “Were you a part of 9/11?” I learned to ignore these remarks, yet it still has impacted some of the things that have gone on in my life.

At the national level, we’ve seen people of color being attacked.

Even though former President Barack Obama was successful, he still went through discrimination and crude remarks based upon his race.

Obama was also attacked by the birther movement. Obama had to disclose his birth certificate because of this.

Being a woman in politics is just as intimidating as being a different skin color.

Former Fox News host Megyn Kelly confronted then-candidate Donald Trump about the belligerent way he talks to women. In return, Trump posted debasing comments about Kelly on Twitter.

“Wow, @megynkelly really bombed tonight. People are going wild on twitter! Funny to watch.” Following that tweet, he wrote, “I really enjoyed the debate tonight even though the @FoxNews trio, especially @megynkelly, was not very good or professional!”

In the future, I don’t want to be targeted based upon what my skin color or gender is.

I want to be judged based upon my abilities.

Kusum Aryal of Jaffrey, N.H., is a sophomore at Dublin School.