

## **The Ignorance of Trump Supporters Everywhere**

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While coastal and metropolitan areas reel from the election of Mr. Trump, most rural communities celebrate. Most prominent amongst them are white males not in possession of college degrees, and surprisingly, white women. We've all heard the misogynistic and racist comments Mr. Trump has made, so why are people ignoring these moral and racial issues?

"Illegal immigrants shouldn't expect anything less than deportation." "Honestly, Trump is right about China; we need to move those jobs back here." These are things I've heard people say on campus about Trump—things that appeal to the common white man. Mr. Trump expertly plays on the hearts of the people by saying things that appeal to the majorities. If that majority wanted a wall on the border with Mexico, then Mr. Trump would support building a wall on the border. He specifically presents policies tailored for the support of the majority.

During the presidential debates, Mrs. Clinton was pretty much only good at coming up with names for Mr. Trump such as "The Donald" or "Racist". She consistently pointed out his flaws as a human being instead of directly addressing the policies she would be focusing on as president. When she did present her ideas, she rarely addressed the concerns of the majority of voters. She banked on the morality of the people to win her the election, not on her own value as a politician.

Conversely, Mr. Trump often presented reasons as to why the policies Mrs. Clinton had previously supported were economically faulty, which effectively countered her name-calling. He relied on the fact that the majority of voters were white non-educated males, and that they felt alienated by Clinton's support for minorities and labeling of racism. It seemed to many voters as though the Democratic Party's main argument against the election of Mr. Trump was, "Vote for us because we are better people," while Mr. Trump's argument was "I can help our economy better than she can."

Of course, it is nice to see that a presidential candidate is formulating policies catered towards the needs of the minorities, but sadly they are called minorities for a reason. And the reality of the condition of the United States is that this is a country where large portions of voters are white males with no college education, who are living in areas of stagnant economic conditions. Even at Deerfield, we see a largely white male community (of educated individuals) dominating the other students. When Mr. Trump presents his arguments, (which are mostly about the economy), the common white man looks up to that. The common man doesn't care if Mr. Trump is an absolutely misogynistic, racist and xenophobic liar, because they believe he has a better solution for their lives.

But why are there white, one percenters at Deerfield Academy supporting Mr. Trump? His words and actions have affected a large majority of the school including girls and minorities. Furthermore, these one percenters aren't poor, they don't struggle with unemployment, and they aren't affected by the outsourcing of jobs from the Rust Belt to China or Mexico. So why? Perhaps it is for logical and practical reasons: dealing with illegal immigrants and lighter taxation. Or perhaps more personal reasons: beliefs on homosexuality or abortion. And yet recent rises in hate crimes point to another source. White privilege.

It is not incorrect to say that white privilege exists in even the highest circles of society. It affects all of us in every aspect of our lives from where people might sit at lunch or how people are treated when they move to a new neighborhood. This election drew very clear lines on how the splits of privilege would develop following the election of each candidate. It was clear that electing Mrs. Clinton would lead to a more equal world in which white privilege existed in a less severe form, and the converse with Mr. Trump. Obviously not everyone who supports Mr. Trump agrees with all of his policies and world views but by supporting him they are also supporting increased white privilege and all of what he stands for whether they know it or not. Moreover, by supporting Trump they demonstrate intentional ignorance of his worldviews that alienate women, non-whites, and other victims of his verbal abuse.

Most people are well aware of the kind of person they just put into office. Unfortunately, it is that they would rather have a morally questionable person who has plans to fix their problems over a slightly less morally questionable person who doesn't seem to be too focused on helping them. I'm not saying all white people are automatically a bunch of racist schmucks. But a majority did, after all, elect Mr. Trump. How can one claim to not be racist even after knowing that Mr. Trump is a racist and a xenophobe, and still support him?