



## I Pledge My Husky Pride: A Problem with The Sentinel

By Kellie Doc Gordon

In the wake of a recent article, Monadnock is under scrutiny once again. The Sentinel, it seems, feeds on opportunities to slam Monadnock and this is no exception. Going back to mid-March, a student found herself being “punished and humiliated” for not standing for the pledge. While humiliation is the opinion of the person, punishment is pretty well defined. When a teacher asks that a student step outside to support his/her beliefs so the said teacher can support his/hers in the classroom, it is a class rule, which teachers are allowed to make themselves. This student was simply told to respectfully step out during the pledge. A resulting compromise was made: take 30 seconds to step outside so as not to offend those who have fought for our country and the ones who love them. Freedom of speech is all well and good, but disrespecting the wishes of others is impolite.

The Sentinel article goes on to describe other instances when students were punished for practicing their right. One example detailed a student being denied medical attention by a nurse and another student was forced by the teacher to say the pledge. Our teacher in question simply made an arrangement which would satisfy both parties.

In an article titled, “The Origin and Meaning of The Pledge of Allegiance” by Ken Lynn, Lynn describes how the pledge was first created in 1892 to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. While it was initially only intended to be recited that one day, it was quickly adopted

by the whole country. Its sole purpose was, and is, to represent the efforts by those who did, have, and will dedicate their lives, to freedom for this country we call home. Without the sacrifice, bravery, and love provided by the men and women of our armed forces, the USA would not be what it is today. American freedom to say and do as we please is our right and ours alone because of the incredible allegiance these individuals have to our home... Remember that.

For The Sentinel and Meghan Foley to call out Monadnock in an irresponsible way, reporting just from one side and one point of view, is wrong and inconsiderate to say the least. Freedom of the press allows that news be reported in a timely and unbiased manner, which means the validity of this article is questionable. An article such as “A problem with the pledge” or May 13<sup>th</sup>’s headline “Keene High nabs top-10 spot: Monadnock falls out of report’s annual NH ranking” is not only slanderous and unhelpful, but crippling when Monadnock students, faculty, and staff need community support most. Even in the shadow of recent arguably biased reporting, Monadnock Regional Middle High School will rise above and show Husky Pride no matter the circumstances.

