

To a degree, I have always heard about the Watergate incident in school, but never fully understood the weight of the events, nor that of the consequences, or what the whole thing necessarily entailed. The only things that ever remained apparent in what I was taught, were that there was a robbery, and a scandal, which then followed the events that led former president Richard Nixon to resign from the presidency. Watching this film has taught me that the events leading up to this very particular scandal were filled with so much political espionage and governmental corruption, to such a degree that I did not think was necessarily possible. Just like what was present in “The Post,” this film showed me how necessary the press is, in terms of holding those who have power accountable.

But much more than that, this film showed more of the clear and present danger that the press interacts with. In class, it has been mentioned about how those in power try to limit the presence of the press, in any way that they deem necessary. In this film, it becomes as apparent as possible with individuals like “Deep Throat” who feel that the information that they release to the press could cost them their lives. And yet, they feel a civil duty to do so, and say what needs to be said, to keep the authorities in check.

This film showed a lot of the process behind the formulation of controversial stories. There were multiple instances where there was a requirement for more information on request of the editor. There was a lot of the process being shown, in the gathering of information, the interviewing of individuals to gather more information, and the process of putting it together despite drafting stories against the United States government. It is also remarkably interesting to see the fact that the story, despite its controversy, was pushed out with great enthusiasm by the Post, especially given the elevated threat level associated with the controversy of events.

I was genuinely surprised when watching this movie, compared to the Post, as the stakes felt larger. I was surprised to see the length to which the agencies of the FBI and the CIA would try to cover their tracks, even going as far as to install spyware in the homes of all those involved. Granted, we have all heard evidence of such things before—little rumors here and there about isolated incidences—but to see the threats that one’s own government can impose upon the voice of truth/reason is a compelling sight to witness.

This movie is particularly good at showing the weight of the role of the press, in the mere fact that they can pose a threat to the very institutions that we consider invincible. Further, it is interesting to see the backlash and threat that the United States government can consider the press, even going as far as what we consider in dictatorships. But most of all, this movie is exceptionally good at showing the process of the work that is necessary—that being the interviewing, the information gathering, and the formulation of the entire process.