

Handout

Unite the Right Rally Big Paper Sources

Big Paper (Group 1)

Unite the Right rally on August 11, 2017:

“To watch hundreds of torch-wielding neo-Nazis march up the Lawn in a long, awful procession, chanting their nauseating racist and anti-Semitic slogans—some taken directly from the Third Reich—was otherworldly. I was struck by how young many of them were, how regimented they were—suggesting lots of preparation.”

— Larry Sabato, University of Virginia politics professor

Candlelit unity march on August 16, 2017:

“That was a very powerful impression to see the number of lights because it was dark and there was just this sea of candles. It is in some ways an understandable idea, reclaiming space, and in other ways a kind of odd idea, a weird ritual. It was really heartening to see that crowd, I think that was very powerful, but it was certainly a weird occasion. We were in the footsteps of the other march, with lights in the same space.”

—Kyrill Kunakhovich, University of Virginia history professor¹

¹ Both quotes from *Cavalier Daily* staff, “One month after events of Aug. 11 and 12, U.Va. community members reflect on their personal experiences,” *Cavalier Daily*, September 14, 2017, <http://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2017/09/one-month-after-events-of-aug-11-and-12-u-va-community-members-reflect-on-their-personal-experiences>.

Big Paper (Group 2)

Unite the Right Rally on August 11, 2017:

"I felt empty and a little stressed because I was going there for college for my first year, and I didn't want to associate myself with a place that had horrible events happening. I don't want it to be unsafe. I wanted to come to U.Va., but I wasn't excited for the mess and stress that was happening."

—Saumya Sharman, University of Virginia first-year student

Candlelit unity march on August 16, 2017:

"I thought it was interesting, like 'they came with torches, we'll come back with candles.' It was a way to bring people back together."

— Joe Montante, University of Virginia first-year student¹

¹ Both quotes from *Cavalier Daily* staff, "One month after events of Aug. 11 and 12, U.Va. community members reflect on their personal experiences," *Cavalier Daily*, September 14, 2017, <http://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2017/09/one-month-after-events-of-aug-11-and-12-u-va-community-members-reflect-on-their-personal-experiences>.

Big Paper (Group 3)

Unite the Right Rally on August 11, 2017:

"The car crash happened right after we arrived home . . . I immediately felt utter horror that this could be happening in a town where I was born and raised. I have a deep connection with this place and a deep love for it. I found myself feeling grief for the loss of life and those who are wounded, grief also for the loss of a certain idea of the University and of Charlottesville because of this utterly vile intrusion into our lives and into our town."

— Jahan Ramazani, University of Virginia English professor

Candlelit unity march on August 16, 2017:

"At first I thought, well, this is what Charlottesville is going to turn into—it'll be a race war, a supremacy war, but after I went to the memorial and the candlelight service, I saw the real Charlottesville . . . It's not judgment and hate and discrimination, it's unity and peace and love. Downtown they've put up a huge banner that says 'Love.' That's Charlottesville."

—Evan Kiernan, Charlottesville resident¹

¹ Both quotes from *Cavalier Daily* staff, "One month after events of Aug. 11 and 12, U.Va. community members reflect on their personal experiences," *Cavalier Daily*, September 14, 2017, <http://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2017/09/one-month-after-events-of-aug-11-and-12-u-va-community-members-reflect-on-their-personal-experiences>.

Big Paper (Group 4)



Getty Images

White Nationalist protestors marching at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 11, 2017.



Getty Images

Charlottesville community members holding a candlelit vigil on August 16, 2017.

Big Paper (Group 5)

Unite the Right rally on August 11, 2017:

“For half an hour, three men dressed in fatigues and armed with semi-automatic rifles stood across the street from the temple. Had they tried to enter, I don’t know what I could have done to stop them, but I couldn’t take my eyes off them, either. Perhaps the presence of our armed guard deterred them. Perhaps their presence was just a coincidence, and I’m paranoid. I don’t know [. . .] When services ended, my heart broke as I advised congregants that it would be safer to leave the temple through the back entrance rather than through the front, and to please go in groups.”

— Alan Zimmerman, president of Congregation Beth Israel in Charlottesville

Responding to events after August 11-12, 2017:

“John Aguilar, a 30-year Navy veteran, took it upon himself to stand watch over the synagogue through services Friday evening and Saturday, along with our armed guard. He just felt he should [. . .] A frail, elderly woman approached me Saturday morning as I stood on the steps in front of our sanctuary, crying, to tell me that while she was Roman Catholic, she wanted to stay and watch over the synagogue with us. At one point, she asked, “Why do they hate you?” I had no answer to the question we’ve been asking ourselves for thousands of years [. . .] At least a dozen complete strangers stopped by as we stood in front the synagogue Saturday to ask if we wanted them to stand with us.”

— Alan Zimmerman, president of Congregation Beth Israel in Charlottesville¹

¹ Alan Zimmerman, “In Charlottesville, the Local Jewish Community Presses On,” ReformJudaism.org, August 14, 2017, <https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2017/08/14/charlottesville-local-jewish-community-presses>.