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# MANIFESTO OF ANTI-TOXIC MASCULINITY

A spectre is haunting Denison – the spectre of toxic masculinity.

Now contrary to the beliefs of the alluded to Marx (which I largely agree with, but that's beside the point), this spectre is not being exorcised rigorously. Indeed, toxic masculinity in many forms is spreading, festering in campus organizations and driving away countless students. I know of students who have left Denison to escape the pressures of toxic masculinity, of organizations that have driven away longtime members because they have developed horrific atmospheres where entitlement and arrogance run rampant. I know of mismanagement of sensitive information, of blatant disregard of students' mental health. I know of alienation of those who don't buy into the mindset, of the cultivation of self-destructive habits to try to comply with the demands of toxic masculinity. And I'm not even considering the harm that fraternities (both aboveground and underground) can cause.

This needs to end. Students, faculty, administration: we all must band together to combat this plague.

I have wanted to publish this article for months, but I've honestly been too scared of the potential backlash to publish it with my name attached. Now that I have the opportunity to make my voice heard without the risk of judgement, I feel that it is critical to bring this issue into the foreground and spark campus discussion on how best to combat toxic masculinity.

We need to end the stigmatization of male emotions and vulnerability. We need to ensure that specialized mental health services are available for those struggling with the pressures of toxic masculinity. We need to fight back against male entitlement and the culture of violence and physicality. We need to work to create a Denison where those who do not fit into the "masculine" mold feel safe and welcome, and where those who have been influenced by this mindset can grow beyond its walls and become better people.

This is not to say, of course, that toxic masculinity is the only issue plaguing Denison's campus. Racism, sexism, sexual assault, homophobia, transphobia, religious prejudice – all have been proven in recent years to be very much present at Denison. I merely want to encourage conversation about one further issue – toxic masculinity – and provide resources for all affected by this harmful culture.

Denisonians of all backgrounds, unite!

#### **ANONYMOUS PIECE**

-Marx's Lesser-Known Cousin, Sparx

# **INTERVIEW WITH JAMES DUNSON '02,** FORMER MANAGING EDITOR OF THE BULLSHEET

Jim Dunson '02 is a Denison alumni and Associate Professor of Philosophy at Xavier University of Louisiana who was on campus recently to give the talk "Hate Speech: Nazis, Trolls, and the Perils of Democracy." He is also a former managing editor of the Bullsheet in the before time (surprisingly, Bullsheeters are employable) and Jay, Jax, and I were able to sit down with him in our office for an interview about his time on the 'Sheet and, well, other stuff...

> 1. From what timespan did you serve on the Bullsheet staff? "Four years total, with one year as managing editor."

2. Has The Denisonian always been Like This<sup>TM</sup>? "What's that? No, but seriously, I'm comfortable simply assuming that it hasn't improved."

Continues on back...

### CONTINUE INTERVIEW FROM FRONT

3. Describe your experience on the Sheet in three words. "Wacky, time-consuming, and inspiring."

4. Over the course of your time on Staff, do you recall if anyone ever cleaned the office? Even just ran a paper towel down the counter to pick up dust?

"Why would you do that?"

5. What was the Bullsheet's relationship with campus administration like?

"If I recall, we never got any pushback on what we published. But if it's true that you're not permitted to run anonymous submissions anymore, then I think that's a huge problem. There are obvious instances where an author deserves, even requires, anonymity (e.g. whistleblowers, people who've experienced discrimination, etc.). And publishing a mailbox number clearly isn't the same as publishing anonymously.

6. What was the biggest challenge you faced while being on staff?

"It was a grind to get it out every day. You wanted it to be funny but not force it, so you were constantly looking for new ideas and hoping that they'd work out. They often didn't."

7. What was the biggest controversy when you were editor?

"I don't think we had any big controversies. It was more an attempt to promote humor and foolishness as best we could. I got some kind of award senior year and someone had written a letter for me to get the award, and in the letter they said they were happy about how I improved the quality of the Bullsheet, which I did not think I did nor intended to do."

8. What are your fondest memories of being on Staff?

"Working with people smarter and funnier than me. Staying friends with them almost two decades later. Hosting a Bullsheet radio show and getting to improvise on air (if that show doesn't exist anymore, it needs to, and right now). Great parties. Getting to work with Larry, our pet office printer, who would spit out random letters and numbers instead of what we asked him to print. I miss him everyday."

9. Any advice for our staff now?

"Yes. Do what you want, when you want to do it, in the way that you feel like doing it. The Bullsheet is a venerable institution, and plenty of other people (and publications) have already cornered the market on self-seriousness."



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