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MOVING FORWARD FROM THE MISTAKE OF SHANTYTOWN

The Shantytown Retreat was a gross oversight that never should've happened the way that it did. If you haven't been paying attention to the myriad of posters around campus you may have missed Shantytown. The Shantytown Retreat was an attempt to bring back what was formerly a homelessness awareness week in a new form. While there is no question that homelessness is an important issue that could benefit from increased awareness and education, this modern incarnation not only failed to effectively benefit the community that it sought to serve but went so far as to cause harm. This iteration took place over two days and involved participants volunteering at a shelter one evening and having a panel of speakers who have worked with unhoused populations speaking at the next—both positive and potentially productive events. However, in addition to the questionable name choice of "Shantytown Retreat," the "retreat" also included a homelessness simulation component that involved sleeping outside of Slayter in cardboard boxes and asking friends for meal swipes to eat for the 2-day duration of the retreat. Participating students were promised that they would be provided with dinner both nights and access to bathroom utilities, including showers. They were also assured that the simulation would not interfere with coursework.

This simulation, which notably and thankfully did not happen, was the most heavily emphasized portion of the event in all of its advertising and represented a glamorized and quite frankly offensive imagined portrayal of what homelessness looks like. In real world homelessness situations, there are no guarantees of dinners, access to showers, or a lack of interference with school, work, or other obligations. Unhoused individuals are not surrounded by a community of their friends and peers willing to lend them "meal swipes." Homelessness also does not end after a quick, unobstrusive two-day experience. Several students expressed concern over this event which was organized by a student and was co-sponsored by CLIC and DCA. Understandably, events that are endorsed by a university organization such as CLIC are expected to face a higher level of scrutiny.

All of this being said, when a couple of concerned students, including myself, met with Susie Kalinoski, the CLIC coordinator for the event, she was incredibly receptive to the concerns that were posed and apologized for the role she played in the event not facing the level of scrutiny that it deserved. It is crucial going forward to avoid something like Shantytown happening in the future. The organizers of Shantytown were not nor have been, to the best of my knowledge, members of the population they sought to represent. This was not for a lack of access. Many students on this campus have experienced poverty or have been unhoused at some point in their lives. This event should've been put on in collaboration with those willing to contribute. The difficulty comes in CLIC finding ways to reach out to those populations. I entirely acknowledge that this isn't a simple task. Denison is a hard campus on which to disseminate information. Not to mention students in marginalized communities tend to have the least amount of free time and emotional energy to spare. That being said, it is critical that we find productive ways to bridge that gap and make sure members of affected communities have a say and collaborative role in the way Denison and its programming attempt to serve them.

STUDENT SUBMISSION

- Sarina Balraj '20 with edits from other concerned students

SHANTYTOWN IRL: PHOTOS FROM THE ICONIC EVENT



HAPPY NATIONAL...CARBONATED BEVERAGE WITH CAFFEINE DAY!

Happy almost Thanksgiving Break, Denison! It's less than one week away y'all. We can do it. In the meantime, we've got today to celebrate—
November 19, National Carbonated Beverage with Caffeine Day!

Can I get a hell yeah? Or a heck yeah, if you're a square. But if that's the case, this holiday isn't for you. Go drink a Zevia, nerd. For the cool kids out there—the chillers, the ballers, the kings, queens, and gender critical royalty of the playground—HELL YEAH. Cheers, all! This one's for us, and also rescomm. Looks like sober curiosity won out in the end after all.



get it Gertrude

NEWS

- Isabella Puccini, Senior Editor

DAY 17: BROOM STILL MISSING. THE SEARCH CONTINUES. FAMILY PLEADING FOR A SAFE RETURN.

I used this broom for The Rocky Horror Picture Show on November 2nd in the Slayter Auditorium. I forgot it and it is now missing.

Maybe someone grabbed it, maybe it was put in a janitor's closet? I do not know.

It cannot have gone far.

Please let me know if you know the whereabouts of this broom by emailing me at blumen_b1@denison.edu

I know it is just a broom, but you've got to understand--it is a wooden broom, with a nice, splintery handle, and honestly, it's just a nice looking broom. I am not interested in rebuying things. We buy too much stuff and if we could just take care of what we own, there would be a lot less stuff in the world. Obviously I made this mistake. I really don't want to buy another broom. Who wants to keep buying brooms?

Our kitchen floor is covered in garlic skins and breadcrumbs and I'm losing my mind.



police sketch

AMBER ALERT

- Bebe Blumenthal '20 "Please keep the ad running. Our floor is so dirty." - Zach Correia, Head Writer, Bebe's roommate



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y'all remember that lilo & stitch sandwich stacker game??? simpler times