



The Bullsheet, a forum for news, humor, and community dialogue, is funded by DCGA and is printed each day that classes are in session. Submissions must be sent before 6:30pm for next day submission via e-mail to:bullsheet@denison.edu. Submissions herein solely reflect the opinions of the authors.

Edited last night by: JAX
Delivered this morning by: WILLIAM KELSEY
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YOUR RESUME “SKILLS” SECTION, IF YOU DECIDED TO TELL THE TRUTH

-Communication

(Skat-singing to the tune of an EDM song you heard at a pregame once but don't remember the name of so well that your friend actually knows which song it is)

-Resourcefulness

(Smuggling desserts out of the dining halls with the urgency and stealth of a feudal peasant)

-Research

(Stalking a sexual partner's Venmo history to determine whether or not they're sleeping with an ex)

-Time Management

(Swapping dry shampoo and a neutrogena wipe for a shower nearly every Thursday morning before your Geo-science lab)

-Teamwork

(Trivia at Moe's)

-Problem-solving

(Picking up the bar tab for your friends on a night out and actually remembering to Venmo request them the next day)

-Confidentiality

(Shhhhhhhhh)

-Jax Preyer, Managing Editor

THE PASSING OF ACE MORGAN

February 7 has developed a deeper meaning for me than just the title of an Avett Brothers' song. The day is deeply and forever tied to one man in my mind – Ace Morgan. Today, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you all a little about him.

Leroy “Ace” Morgan was a student at Denison in the 1940s. A native of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, he had attended Iowa State University his freshman year. But during his summer vacation at home, Ace took part in a theatrical production in the nearby Cain Park Theatre. It was here that Ace became acquainted with Prof. Ed Wright – Denison professor of Theatre at the time. Prof. Ed Wright (the man that instructed students such as Tony and Emmy award winning actor Hal Holbrook) was impressed by Ace. So impressed, in fact, that Prof. Ed Wright convinced Ace to transfer to Denison in the fall of 1942

Ace quickly made a name for himself on campus, directing a one-act play entitled Box and Cox in his first semester. The play was met with good reviews, so Ace was quickly asked to direct a full-length production. With World War II raging overseas, the number of men on campus was low, so Ace chose to direct Letters to Lucerne – a play centered around a group of young women shortly after the bombing of Poland by the Nazis. Prof. Ed Wright, in his evaluation of Ace's talents, wrote, “I would prophesy that ten years from now Ace Morgan will be one of the country's most prominent and successful directors either in New York or Hollywood, and that the 13 members of this cast will be boasting that they were so fortunate as to have worked under the direction ‘way back when.’” But it wasn't just directing – Ace also shared the stage with the likes of his friend, Hal Holbrook, wrote a column in The Denisonian, and was selected as a member of the Blue Keys honorary. But in May of 1943, while helping as assistant director on yet another production, Ace Morgan was called up to serve in World War II.

On February 7, 1945 – 75 years ago exactly – Ace earned the bronze star for running through enemy fire to save wounded members of his squad. Just hours later, Ace was killed by a German shell. He was 21 years old.

The friends Ace left behind mourned his untimely death, and quickly began organizing to memorialize him. On the one-year anniversary of his death, a check for \$2,500 dollars was presented to the university of behalf of the Leroy “Ace” Morgan Memorial Fund Committee. Fundraising events popped up across campus, from theatrical performances by students and Prof. Ed Wright, to movie screenings, and donations from students, faculty, campus administrators, and the citizens of Granville. The fund grew to \$20,000 (roughly \$187,000 in today's money) - a sizable portion of the \$350,000 that ultimately went into the construction of the Theatre Arts Building.

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FROM FRONT

The contribution led to the new stage being dedicated to Ace in 1956. Hal Holbrook even wrote a speech for the occasion that was read by another of Ace's friends, as Holbrook was tied up with TV work in New York. I would share the entire thing here if possible, but here is just an excerpt of Holbrook doing his best to describe the difficulty of recounting his friend:

"How does one really explain to others the personality of one admired so much when all the shadings must be omitted and all the small details that mean so much in memory be left out? When I think of Ace I think of sunshine and thunder and all the moods in between, the ebb and flow of all seasons in a personality always bursting with action. He was the kind of person one meets so seldom in a lifetime, and when you do, your whole life is enriched. It is a rare privilege for which one must ever thank his God."

For generations of Denisonians, the stage within the Theatre Arts Building served as a place to hone their craft or just enjoy a show – from the likes of John Davidson '61, Steve Carell '84, Jennifer Garner '94, and even Michael Eisner '64. But in the summer of 2019 – with the nearing completion of the Michael Eisner Center for the Performing Arts – Ace Morgan's memorial was torn down to make room for a parking lot.

But just because the building is gone, it doesn't mean Ace has to be forgotten. While there may not currently be something in the Eisner Center to pay tribute to one of Denison's own who lost his life far too soon, I hope that may change some day soon. Until then, I'll be learning all I can about Ace and telling his story to anyone that will listen.

-Ben Bowers, '20



Ace Morgan (standing, far right) and Hal Holbrook (seated) in a production of "Ah, Wilderness!" (photo credit to the Denison Archives)

GO TO THIS



Staff "Post Grad?" Box

Jax "Nah" Preyer, Former Managing Editor
Isabella "Nope" Puccini, Senior Editor
Sophia "Nahhh" Menconi, Senior Editor
Charlie "Not my problem" Schweiger, Junior Editor
Zach "Real World Ready" Correia, Head Writer
Jay "No thank u" Huff, Senior "Writer"
Elizabeth "Politely declines" Arterberry, Junior Writer
Jack "Young, Wild, Free" May, Sophomore Writer
James "Shut up!!" Whitney, Sophomore Writer
Katie "Nein." Kerrigan, Foreign Correspondent



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