



The Bullsheet, a forum for news, humor, and community dialogue, is funded by DCGA, Jack killed a man overseas in 2017, and is printed each day that classes are in session. Submissions must be sent before our editors shamble into the office for next day submission via e-mail to:bullsheet@denison.edu. Submissions herein solely reflect the opinions of the authors.

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Delivered this morning by: Ellie
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A RESPONSE TO DCR'S LOVE LETTER (CW; A LOT OF WORDS)

1 As the managing-editor of the Bullsheet, I believe in free press. Yesterday in the sheet, a dear editor of mine and her friend published an article about the very admirable Mike Pompeo. We have received a response, as well as responses to articles not published by us, on behalf of the Denison College Republicans, but as I said, I believe in free press! Thus, I will be discussing DCR, the decision to invite Pompeo to campus, and the subsequent defense of this decision by this organization.

I began this response by looking through their Instagram, (@denisonrepublicans), and something a little bit ironic stood out to me that I want to touch on before I get into their love letter to us. I want to address their commitment to “bipartisan” politics. However, “bipartisan” is sadly not synonymous with political freedom. You can’t claim to have everyone’s interests in mind if everyone is not being represented (Green party erasure!!!!). Also, labelling yourself specifically as a member of one of those parties, you can’t pretend that you are actually approaching issues in a “bipartisan” way if you are simply a Republican. Anyway, let’s get into their response. **DCR’s note will be italicized, while my annotations and responses will be in normal font, with numbers to ensure proper chronology.**

2 *On behalf of the Denison College Republicans*
It seems like we ruffled some feathers, so we thought we would take the time to respond to some of the criticism we have received. First of all, thank you to you all for expressing your opinions and outpouring of love. There was plenty of hate and harassment, which was a fun change of pace this year, however these incidents only further substantiated our claims of systemic intolerance on campus. Every year since our founding in 2015 there has been some form of harassment of Conservatives on campus. Whether that is in the classroom, amongst our peers, or whenever I’m driving around campus in my daddys \$150,000 Porsche that he purchased with White Privilege Dollars, students never cease to remind us of how horrible and disgusting we are while simultaneously advocating for community discussion and diversity. Therefore, it was no surprise to see three consecutive articles about our organization and the hosting of Mike Pompeo to be purposely vague and taken out of context, perhaps in an attempt to slander our organization and those involved.

3 First of all, they used Arial, single-spaced font. Use Garamond double-spaced like the real political machines you are! Second, I think it’s interesting to claim that they have faced “systemic intolerance,” as if intolerance that Republicans face is actually a systemic issue (because personally, it’s just a hobby). They also say that they have been facing hate since their founding in 2015. Donald Trump was spewing racist, sexist (all the -ist/-ism words that people nowadays love to use, right?) shit since day one, so that’s on y’all to form a club as that sad deplorable excuse for a human is starting his campaign, and choosing to continue to be associated with the club when he was elected to represent the Republican party. They also claim to have faced discrimination for being Republicans on campus, as if literal hate crimes against people for things out of their control in systems in which they don’t hold power (i.e. not political ideology) aren’t occurring on Denison’s campus. DCR’s exec board is all cisgendered, white men, so honestly it’s no surprise that being told their views can be problematic, or being pushed at all to challenge their own positionality, is considered harassment. If the harassment you face is that intolerable to you, maybe consider rethinking your own politics instead of expecting those around you to accept your beliefs that disenfranchise people around you (and if the free market is what you actually care about, Denison Libertarians exist for a reason). Also, using “White Privilege Dollars” as a punchline was an interesting and unfunny word choice. The point of satire is that the sarcasm is apparent! But I guess that’s why I run this publication and they run DCR.

4 *One article in the Denisonian claims that Pompeo implied that the Chinese government was involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. Pompeo did not imply that China was involved with the Black Lives Matter movement; what he stated was that China was pointing at the weaknesses in our democracy for all political disruption in America, which happens to include BLM. They do this to undermine democracies, particularly multiracial ones. This is well documented in the US intelligence community. Knowing this, it was even more surprising that a separate opinion article claims Mr. Pompeo undermines multiracial Democracy. This claim was supported by more inaccurate information. The author ran with similar statements to the previous article that Pompeo framed efforts for racial and gender equity as a national security threat. As mentioned above, Pompeo claimed governments abroad, such as China and Russia, search for ways to take advantage of these efforts in hopes to further divide our country. The claim*

DCR FAN MAIL, CONT.

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...that Pompeo views racial and gender equity as a national security threat is not only wildly inaccurate, it's grossly negligent of the columnist. Furthermore, Pompeo discussed the importance of the Abrahamic Accords and other Peace agreements brokered by the United States. These agreements are the stepping stones to create stable multiracial democracy in the Middle East but also across the world. The final article claimed that Josh Mandel, a speaker at the OCRF convention endorsed white supremacists. Perhaps this claim is based on Mandel not returning a \$1500 campaign donation from Earl Holt, a white nationalist, or his defense of Mike Cernovich being labeled a white supremacist. If this is the basis of being a white supremacist then what does that make Joe Biden (a former segregationist), who eulagized a former Ku klux klan member and was endorsed by David Duke, the organizations former leader. This highlights that the focus by The Denisonian has been on small and inaccurate statements, not the gigantic speaking event that was hosted.

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To be honest, I don't care enough about what DCR has to say in defense of Pompeo to split hairs over these specific instances, but I will say that it says a lot about them to go to such lengths to defend someone that has: claimed that all Muslim leaders that don't denounce terrorism in the name of Islam are complicit (2013), supported the conviction that homosexuality is a "perversion" (and pushed for legislation that reflected such beliefs), and publicly espoused the Sino-phobic and racist narrative that COVID-19 originated in a lab (2020). In this case, you must let the negatives outweigh the positives (not that he has many of those), because if people consider identities to be "perversions," or their sole existence as complicity to terrorism, they should not be in power at all. I also want to emphasize the fact that these instances are just what I thought of off the top of my head, and that they do NOT come close to encapsulating his other career highlights.

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It was mentioned in one of the articles that Pompeo blames China for Coronavirus. Pompeo did not discuss coronavirus at all, although Governor DeWine gave us exciting news about vaccine availability in Ohio directly after Pompeo spoke. Furthermore, DeWine and other candidates spoke about reducing poverty in both rural and urban areas, issues which affect a broad coalition of communities. If your takeaway from our events was Pompeo=bad, then you a) did not listen to Pompeo's address and b) you did not listen to the following candidates that are actively pursuing change for all communities. We aren't embarrassed of this event, we are proud of it.

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These screenshots are from FOX News. I would be happy to provide a link, because the fact is that he did make comments and baseless speculations on COVID-19 before coming to campus and upheld this narrative that has led to so many assaults/deaths, including the recent shooting in Atlanta. But, you ARE correct in assuming that I didn't listen to Pompeo's address. I know that my tuition is also currently going toward me staring at myself on a computer screen, but the difference is that I'm pretty. Why would I listen to him speak when he fed into racist sentiment that's leading to racially-targeted hate crimes? That is part of the tone-deafness of DCR that the student body has been emphasizing. Also, if you care so much about "issues which affect a broad coalition of communities," like poverty, do you support universal healthcare? Do you support wealth redistribution? How do you feel about unemployment payments and stimulus bills, especially during the pandemic? What about gerrymandering and other forms of voter suppression?

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As a group, we promote a belief in freedom and equal treatment of everyone. That may shock some people, but those who attend meetings regularly know this well. We reject and condemn instances of hate against all communities. We are disappointed that our goals and missions as human beings are being convoluted in a way that personally attacks us because we think differently. Lastly, rather than attempting to shut down those who you disagree with, it would be more productive to listen and critique rather than criticize and dismiss.

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Ahhh, the final paragraph. If you truly believe in freedom and equal treatment of everyone, then I would love to see you act on that. Be more active as people that claim to believe in equality, and advocate for things that reflect it, like showing up at events that support non-white voices. If you want to see equality, then stop supporting people like Pompeo, and the systems that actively reinforce inequality. Stop expecting other people to accommodate you when every institution in the United States already does that. You denounce instances of hate, but I have yet to hear or see anything about DCR advocating for anything or anyone other than your own instances of "systemic intolerance." **Prove that your ideology and promises to promote "freedom and equality" extend to aspects of your life outside of statements that claim to promote such values, and that they aren't just sad attempts to canonize yourselves when you receive backlash for inviting a de-praved politician to campus in the midst of surging hate crimes against a community that he helped to demonize** (and that's only the tip of the iceberg). Finally, I would love to see your voting records from the 2020 Presidential election. Do those reflect freedom and equality? I want to end this response by saying that I prefer not to give a platform to "horrible and disgusting" people, but if anything, now at least you have paper receipts to prove that you've faced hatred. At the end of the day, I would hate to remain complicit like you do, but rather than shutting you down, here I am, listening and critiquing. I can't say that DCR is made up of horrible people. I hardly know anyone that's on exec. But, I take issue with your decision to continue identifying with a party that does things like place profit over people, uphold systems that reinforce discrimination, and at best remains silent on matters in which others' freedom and equality is being suppressed, all while you benefit. To show that you truly believe in these values, use your voice and act on your words; put your money where your mouth is.

-Charlie Schweiger, Managing-Editor



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 - Maggie "a break" Bell, Junior Writer
 - Blythe "a new waterbottle" Dahlem, Sophomore Writer
 - Ellie "a soft Taco Bell taco" Schrader, Sophomore Writer
 - William "to abolish the state" Kelsey, Sophomore Writer
 - Emma "a lobotomy" Rutherford, Sophomore Writer

