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## **A REFLECTION**

So I know that this publication is usually funny and satirical but today I am going to mix it up. This is more of a serious sheet... but still **please read it**. I am a sad senior who wants to be appreciated.

As a second semester senior, I have caught myself in many moments reflection during these past months. There are so many people, places, and things I am going to miss. Denison provided me so many moments of hardships and stress, but it also showed me great happiness, laughter, and fulfillment. As much as we all complain about Denison, I am truly going to miss this wonderful, quirky, beautiful home.

First, let me talk about my favorite parts of Denison. Granville feels the seasons in full: the winters are snowy and freezing, the springs are rainy and warm and full of blooming flowers, and the autumns are colorful, beautiful, and bright. Falls have always been some of my favorite times at Denison: the colors of the trees are absolutely beautiful. I know there are beautiful autumns elsewhere but there is nothing like taking a walk or a drive by the Bryn Du Mansion and feeling the crisp air as you pass the golden leaves. Other moments I love happen when it is pouring rain. Picture this: midday rain storm and you are in the library and you look out the window; A-quad is bright green, the grass soaking up the rain. I love rain and it is so just so nice and soothing on campus during a big rain storm. But don't get me wrong. There is literally nothing like a warm, sunshine day spent with friends on the IM fields. I literally love in the spring when it gets warm and EVERYONE is outside on Silverstein deck, A quad, East quad, or the IMs. It is so peaceful and everyone is interacting. I love it. I will miss the way weather is here. The campus is so beautiful that every season and type of weather (regardless of sun, snow, rain, or clouds) lights up the campus with vivid colors and brings out specific memories for me. I will miss driving loops around campus for hours, the weather really doesn't matter. Windows down, music blaring when it is warm and sunny. Windows up, mellow music when it is raining. Those loops are my best times. Also, walking loops are my favorite. When you walk around campus and Granville, whether alone or by yourself, you notice so much and you really just get to appreciate

I have met so many wonderful people at this school. My peers push me in class to work harder, they teach me new things, and they help me in moments of academic struggle. My freshmen year roommate and hall neighbors turned into my best friends. They became my friends of 4 years; they are people I still call to hang out, for help, and for laughs. My next door neighbors freshmen year ended up being my neighbors for 3 years; and I literally could not live at Denison without them. Not only have I borrowed so much shit from them, but also I go to them for so much: fun, support, love, motivation, and procrastination. And my groups of friends, well those are my best friends. They are rays of shining light in my life. These are the people who make me laugh, even on the bad days. They are the people who are always down to play: hang out on the IMS, drive around campus doing loops for hours, laying on the floor just talking, and being absolutely ridiculously silly. They are the people who push me to go to different events on campus so I can try new things. They welcome me into their homes all over the country without hesitation. My friends are wholesome, kind people with big hearts. Within this group are my roommates this year. They are strong, intelligent, committed, hilarious, adventurous, unique, silly, loyal, kind leaders. They teach me how to be a better version of myself. They make me more confident. They push me to work harder. They are proud of my accomplishments and I am beyond proud of them. The people that I have met during my four years here are such extraordinary people. From my Shorney neighbors to my Silverstein roommates, I have so much fun Denison brought these people into my life and I know that they are here to stay.

## THIS REFLECTION IS MAKING ME SAD

I am so thankful that I decided to play volleyball in college and I am even more thankful that parents convinced me that Denison is the place where I should play vball. I was apprehensive at first, but it ended up being the greatest decision of my life. Volleyball has taught me so much and brought me so many wonderful, intelligent, hilarious women. Volleyball brought me to Granville, Ohio. I have grown so much by playing here. I have learned about myself, my leadership skills, the commitment it takes to do this for four years, my work ethic required, and I have become so much stronger mentally. The people on this team mean so much to me. They are all such incredibly strong, talented, intelligent women, all of whom will do absolutely wonderful things in this life. They will always make me laugh and smile. They are always down to play Catan or Bananagrams. They (well most of them) will watch Harry Potter with me. We play on IM teams together (and sometimes win). We have had so many countless memories and I am very thankful for this team and this sport, I will miss it all greatly.

I am so happy to experience this school with my best friends. My friends (whether they are on my team, my roommates, or my friend group) make me love this school so much. We have a fricken ball with everything we do. They are all incredibly smart and strong and talented and dope af. We support each other and are there to cheer each other on in games, at academic events, and for the big moments in life. Like literally, my friends are the literal best and I really really really hope that all of you are lucky enough to find such a wonderful group of people to love. This brings me to a sadder memory tho. As hard as this year was, I would argue that junior year was even harder. I was on campus in the fall for vball but the majority of my friends were abroad. This was pretty shitty, I won't lie. It was so hard to see your best friends hanging out in Europe while you were in Ohio. I will so sad that I wasn't experiences Denison with most of my best friends and I was jealous of their experiences in Europe together. That being said, I adjusted. I met new friends and I had a ball of fun. I turned around my attitude and broadened my horizons and I am so thankful I did because it brought many wonderful people and experiences into my life. That is the thing about Denison, there are so many wonderful people and groups to meet, you just have to be willing to put yourself in new situations to meet them.

This year was incredibly difficult and it definitely had ups and downs, but we made it! We did it! We made it through 2020 and the first half of 2021. We made it through college in a pandemic. It was so hard and not fun at times but I think that everyone at this schools knows how to make their own fun and that was evident during this year. There were so many fun things to do even when we didn't realize it. I literally haven't played outside this much since I was like 7. And now it is even more exciting to actually go into town and eat at restaurants and go to Taco Dan's (only the new outside area of course). It makes it so much more special to do these things now because we couldn't for so long, and I think that is pretty dope. This year just made me appreciate so much. Think about it. As hard and sad and devastating as the pandemic has been, it has led to some good things. We appreciate things so much more: times with family and friends, vacations, in-person work, concerts, etc. I just urge everyone to find the silver linings and push yourself to do new things because when you do that, you will experience so much more and be more appreciative of the small things.

I have some stuff to say about the Bullsheet but I will do that at a later date..... I promise!

~~~~No matter how sappy I get about Denison, I will NEVER think it is okay to call this place "Camp Denny doo." Please don't do that. I hate it so. "Denny doo" ICKY. choose a different nickname please. Just "denny" is fine. But we aren't 8 years old at a summer camp doing crafts, we are at an academically difficult university so let's stop with the "camp" and the "doo"!!!!!!! I don't care how sentimental you get about this place, that term will never ever be okay. ~~~~~~

This is such a simping love letter to Denison. and I simply don't care. I think it is incredible to have such a special place that you love so much and are so sad to leave. Thank you Denison, our little corner of the world. *-Katie Kerrigan, Head Writer & Sad Senior <3* 

