

Breaking Free

The LGBT community faces many difficulties in the world of employment. Some employers judge people by their sexual orientation and because of that, deny promotions or higher wages. Those who identify with the community have rough times acquiring jobs and face prejudice in their workplaces. Many have to deal with harassment from consumers and co-workers. It is obvious that these people are being discriminated against, but luckily there are those who are striving for change.

AMBER LI Staff Writer

Unity of LGBT History

DEREK WU Staff Writer

The LGBT community has been present in many ancient civilizations like Egypt and Greece, however the term LGBT was not in use until the 1990s. The term LGBT had replaced the former term "gay community" because it did not accurately depict the people it represented; a community that consists of, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. However, some states still do not allow same sex marriages or do not have laws against hate-crimes against members of the LGBT community. In fact, LGBT military personnel were not allowed to be enrolled until president Bill Clinton signed a law in 1993 establishing the, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", policy which allowed members of the LGBT to serve as long as their sexuality was to not be revealed; the policy has since been repealed; however, people who are transgender are still banned from the military. In today's society, some of America is very accepting towards the LGBT community, excluding some states. However, hopefully in the future, the LGBT community will have the rights and freedom that they deserve.

Working Behind a Mask

ELTON HO Copy Editor

Despite a trend of increasing support toward the LGBT community in the U.S. and new anti-discriminatory laws, LGBT people may still struggle to find security in a major facet of everyday life: the workplace.

The past few years have seen steady advances in the legal protection of LGBT workers. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act designed to provide the same securities, was passed by the Senate with bipartisan support and awaits approval from the House of Representatives. However, these laws and their promises of justice may not always depict the stark reality for many LGBT workers.

According to a 2013 report by the Williams Institute, 21 percent of LGBT workers and 47 percent of transgender workers reported experiencing discrimination at work. Compared to non-LGBT workers, they are paid less, experience greater levels of psychological problems, and have lower job satisfaction.

Although full equality and acceptance is still unachieved, the new laws create a framework for a better future for LGBT Americans.

A Continued Fight

JADE LIEU Features Editor

Today, the community "envisions a society that celebrates diversity, acknowledges the dignity of LGBT people, and embraces full human rights for all people," according to The Community of LGBT Centers.

"In my personal experience, it's not hard coming out to friends, and even my classmates, [people] usually seem to just be accepting and supportive. [My friends] even back me up when people give me hate," junior Citlali Flores said.

Several campaigns and movements have been dedicated to promote LGBT rights such as the NOH8 campaign, the Human Rights Campaign and the It Gets Better Project. This inspired many not only in the gay community, but in society itself. The Human Rights Campaign works to fight for LGBT rights, being the largest civil rights organization to represent the community.

"I can finally be who I truly am and show my true colors. I will admit I was scared of coming out but once I did, I was immediately accepted by many," junior Daniel Ruiz said.

The It Gets Better Project is mainly directed toward the LGBT youth to assure them that "it gets better." Although many teens of this community could not see a future for themselves, this project inspired them to view their position in a different light.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG

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