



"As a teacher, we have the opportunity to be that adult who is understanding and might be that adult who can stop the student from joining the 43% of transgender suicides."

-Phillip Caston
(Yearbook Adviser)



"What makes these people so different from us? We are ALL people and sometimes, we all have to pee."

-Sarah Goody
(12)

TO THE RESTROOM

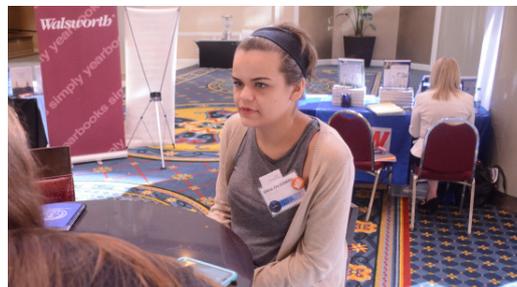
FROM VP TO GSA

Q: Have you personally been involved in the community with the issue or in your school?

A: I try to be involved as much as possible. I mean I go to a bunch of parades and I speak out when people bring it up to me. But I'm not like actively like hey no we need to stop this. And I guess it would be better if I did.

Q: What do you do in your GSA meetings?

A: In our meetings, we start out with introductions, if there are [any] new people. We say our names, but recently we've been working on our power points. Typically, if we're just talking about a topic, we will have open discussion. We'll make a circle, using the desks, and just talk.



Waiting for the next question, Emma Fagerberg awaits her interviewer. Fagerberg addressed her role as vice president of the Gay Straight Alliance. Photo by Chloe Little.

Q: What kind of events do you do in your schools GSA?

A: We do events with in the club we did tie-die t-shirts once for pride , we are also going to do a power point about why it's important to know about the LGBTQ community. We are trying to get that through to our journalism staff. Were also trying to work together with our Make A Difference club and make rainbow cupcakes.

Q: How do you feel about the transgender bill being passed?

A: When I first heard about it I was out ragged because to me it was not okay. I do not see why it bothers people so much when they're not hurting anyone. I mean their intention is not to hurt anybody they just want to go to the bathroom. People always say we got to keep out girls' safe or whatever, but that's not what it's about.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE...

Students share personal stories involving bathroom bill

The controversy of the bill, that guaranteed the rights to the preferred gender's restroom facility, caused an uproar in the people of the LGBTQ community. People apart of this community faced obstacles including gay marriage rights, transgender restroom policies and several other categories revolving around their everyday life. Controversy over transgender people using the correct public facility drifted into the life of students in every school. Senior Tai Van Dyke, a student directly affected by the situation, never faced a problem while using the restroom he prefers.

"I pass as my gender so I've never really had a problem. But I feel that females have more of a problem when it comes to using the restroom they want," Van Dyke said.

Students of SIPA's newspaper program wrote an article on a transgender student by the name of Logan Corrigan. Corrigan was biologically a female, but transitioned to a male. Bianca Wolf wrote the story about Corrigan's use of the public facilities and how his life had changed over time, due to his transformation in gender.

"I come from a pretty open-minded school and I am very fortunate for that. I still wouldn't say that it would be safe for him to use the boys' bathroom. I think they might have to still use the staff bathrooms, as much as I would love to think they would be able to, I don't think it would be safe," senior Bianca Wolf said.

Not only students were affected, teachers and administrators felt the change the bill brought to the

classroom and noticed a difference in some students. Newspaper advisor Marisa Atkinson shared some of her thoughts and concerns on the topic.

"To me, everyone's human. That's a part of life, you need to use the bathroom. I can see both sides of it. I can see how some parents are concerned that someone who identifies as another sex would be a predator toward their child. I don't think that is necessarily true because, to put it plain and simple, a bad person is a bad person regardless of which sex they identify with or as. The bill does bother me because it shouldn't matter what because everyone needs to go to the bathroom. If something bad is going happen or bad evil person is going to do something like that, it will happen regardless of which bathroom they can go to," teacher and advisor Marisa Atkinson said.

When Van Dyke used the restroom, he never faced the overwhelming fear or lack of comfort others might. One transgender female in the school came to an agreement with the school counselor stating the student could use the restroom in the counseling offices while they felt uncomfortable using the general restroom, complying with their classmate's request to use their birth-given gender's bathroom.

"We don't really have a rule, I am a transgender guy and no one has really stopped me. I used to feel at risk but now recently I've felt better and more confident with how I present myself. There's definitely reassurance knowing the principle is on my side as well as overall support from my friends helped," Van Dyke said.



Senior Tai Van Dyke

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