Gender-Neutral Bathrooms: Continued from Page 1

It’s great that handicapped restrooms, and are 'single-stalled' on the official Lehigh directories. The eight others are ‘single-stalled’ gender-neutral bathrooms. 73% of 340 Lehigh students, Elizabeth Pines, ’16, found that sentiments of the Lehigh community perceived gender-neutral bathrooms as a positive change. After an extensive survey of 340 Lehigh students, Elizabeth Pines, ’16, found that sentiments on campus are encouraging of gender-neutral bathrooms. 73% of participants reported knowing what gender-neutral bathrooms are, and 63% would be in support of implementing more gender-neutral bathrooms on campus.

Although the survey results did not prove to be unanimous, a majority is in support of this change, which means there is ample support to begin taking action. That being said, what steps can be made to improve the approval rating to above 80%?

The first step is easy; we can educate the 14% of students who are unaware of what gender-neutral bathrooms are and change the minds of the 23% opposed. We can talk until we’re blue in the face about the benefits to the transgender and gender non-conforming community, but that probably won’t attract much attention. We need to educate those who are not aware of these issues in a way they will understand and value. We need to make them see the personal value of implementing gender-neutral bathrooms, such as convenience. Students and faculty who would no longer need to navigate the hallways of Chandler Ullman or trek across the length of the UC to find an appropriate restroom. Convenience is key for everyone.

So how do we educate? November is Transgender Awareness month and Spectrum will be hosting events to further the understanding to the Transgender community. In addition, Spectrum will be petitioning for more gender-neutral bathrooms on campus, with the support of hundreds of Lehigh students and faculty. The petition, along with the results of Elizabeth’s survey, will be presented to Lehigh administration to display the support garnered by the greater Lehigh community. Our proposal to convert all single-stalled gendered bathroom into a gender-neutral bathroom may not seem earth-shattering and will more than likely go unnoticed by the common student, but it will make a world of difference to many members of the LGBT community.

Gender-neutral bathrooms at Lehigh: why Lehigh should listen

Eryne Boyle Elizabeth Pines Class of ‘15, Class of ‘16

On a crisp November morning, I scurried from Lewis Lab to Rauch, where my Introduction to Accounting course was held. Given my impending exams and other obligations, I ingested one too many sips of Red Bull that morning and needed to use the restroom. For the typical person, the thought of using the public restroom wouldn’t cause much unrest, but given the responses I receive toward my gender non-conforming physical appearance, I am apprehensive to use multi-stalled public restrooms. However, this particular urge was too much to ignore, so I put aside my anxiety and opened the door to RBC 134. To my relief, there were no other females in sight when I entered the bathroom and I ducked into a stall. A minute later, I threw my backpack over my shoulder, undid the latch on the HinyHiders stall, and dashed to the sinks.

At this point, another female had entered the restroom and was applying mascara in front of the mirrors. I smiled at her timidly in the reflection of the mirror while lathering my hands with soap. Instead of engaging with me in the same kindness, she shot a disgusted look in my direction and asked, “You do know this is the women’s restroom, right?”

“I know,” I replied. And as quickly as I entered, I shuffled out of the women’s restroom, thinking to myself, This is exactly why I avoid using public restrooms– Eryne Boyle, ’15

To give a little background about the subject, Eryne identifies as female but has short hair and dresses in masculine clothing. Because of her physical appearance, she is classified under the umbrella term, “gender non-conforming.” She has faced these issues since she first cut her hair short at the age of eight and continues to face the same struggles. These uncomfortable confrontations don’t only occur in bathrooms; the faces other daily struggles, the most common of which is being referred to by the incorrect gender pronoun. Unfortunately, the adversity Eryne faces goes in regards to her experiences in public restrooms is nothing compared to the insulting and assaulting language received by other gender non-conforming individuals. It is certainly minimal when compared to the physical assault faced by some transgender individuals. Eryne represents one of approximately six gender non-conforming/transgender students or faculty on Lehigh’s campus, all of whom have anxieties and fears of using public restrooms both at Lehigh and in other public capacities. These experiences, fears, and anxieties are in no way Lehigh-specific, however, if steps can be taken for these individuals to feel comfortable doing something as simple as utilizing a public restroom then the Lehigh community has an obligation to engage in an exploration of how this could be accomplished. A successful way to foster an inclusive environment in all spaces Lehigh offers is through the implementation of gender-neutral bathrooms. Commonly misunderstood, gender-neutral bathrooms are simply restrooms that are available to all people, regardless of gender identity or expression. They range from ‘single-stall’ restrooms to restrooms with both stalls and urinals. Currently, Lehigh has less than ten gender-neutral bathrooms. Commonly received by other gender non-conforming individuals. It is certainly minimal when compared to the physical assault faced by some transgender individuals. Eryne represents one of approximately six gender non-conforming/transgender students or faculty on Lehigh’s campus, all of whom have anxieties and fears of using public restrooms both at Lehigh and in other public capacities. These experiences, fears, and anxieties are in no way Lehigh-specific, however, if steps can be taken for these individuals to feel comfortable doing something as simple as utilizing a public restroom then the Lehigh community has an obligation to engage in an exploration of how this could be accomplished. A successful way to foster an inclusive environment in all spaces Lehigh offers is through the implementation of gender-neutral bathrooms. Commonly understood, gender-neutral bathrooms are simply restrooms that are available to all people, regardless of gender identity or expression. They range from ‘single-stall’ restrooms to restrooms with both stalls and urinals. Currently, Lehigh has less than ten gender-neutral bathrooms.
Being a woman in Army ROTC: embracing femininity

By Abigail Ubelhode
Class of ’16

In high school I would have never considered myself a “girly girl.” Yes, I love to dress myself well, and I had plenty of female friends. But I figured I was just a girl of average “girlyness.” When I began college, this changed slightly. I decided as a high school junior that I wanted to join the Army. My father was an Army engineer for 26 years and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. So, upon enrolling in college, I knew I wanted to be in the ROTC program. In short, ROTC is the Reserve Officer Training Corps. The program provides students in college with military training similar to a service academy, but while enjoying a more “normal” college experience. After graduation, these ROTC Cadets commission into the U.S. Army as officers.

So, imagine me, a small girl with minimal arm muscle, unsure of how to wear my uniform, walking into a lecture hall for the pre-year briefing. Knowing no one, I sat by myself at the lecture hall for the pre-year briefing. I love to dress myself well, and I had considered myself a “girly girl.” Yes, I can do 50 pushups. That is more than some of the freshman men, and the same is true for sit-ups. These are instances where I feel I am better than a few boys my age. Even though the standards are lower, I am still doing more reps than them, and I believe I am respected for that.

Another example of this could be through our field training exercises. We are taught during class and lab how to react to certain things on the battlefield. We are also taught different squad movement techniques and the different types of possible actions one can beat the men. I have learned that as a woman, I have to be able to hold my own. I can do that, but in a way I also want to show I can do that while still being feminine. I don’t have to masculinize myself. But rather, I can keep my outer feminine shell whilehardening it to the elements of the Army life.

An example of this are the physical fitness standards in the Army. The minimum standard for women in my age group for pushup is nine. Nine pushups? Nonsense. I can do 50. That’s more than some of the freshmen men, and the same is true for sit-ups. These are instances where I feel I am proving myself. I am getting higher scores on our physical fitness tests than a few boys my age. Even though the standards are lower, I am still doing more reps than them, and I believe I am respected for that.

These problems are entirely within your power to solve. The complaint is NOT that all Greek students are racists, but that the Greek community - as well as everyone else, in every part of the Lehigh community - isn’t doing enough to condemn and discourage the intolerant among us. If we all start making noise whenever someone does something unacceptable, I think we can really improve things.

There’s another benefit to this plan: if enough of us start visibly and publicly calling out the creeps, the racists, and the homophobes, then we learn something about the people that are still not speaking up. Those are the ones to avoid.

Brenda Martinez: Founder’s Day speech excerpt

“I have to be honest and admit that I arrived on campus ignorant and angry. I had one worldview as a Latina from South Central and Lehigh challenged every part of my identity. Sitting in classrooms listening to professors such as Charles French introduce the teachings of Socrates, Edurne Portela recreating the struggles and victories of the Zapata movement, James Peterson speaking on the Prison Industrial Complex and the injustices we face today, or sitting in the offices of Seth Moglen, Margarida Arsenio, Rita Kashi, and Tyson Russell (to name a few) challenged me intellectually and gave me a new found love for education. Everything I learn in the classroom inspires my work outside of it. Some of the work I’m most proud of has been possible through working collaboratively and understanding the needs of marginalized students. I've worked with my Dream & Act LU team in bringing the first Mexican-American Pulitzer Prize winner, Jose Galvez, to campus, worked with my sorority Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. in establishing the Ladies of Tomorrow Mentorship Program, and worked with the Muslim Student Association in bringing the first Islam Awareness Week to campus. All of this has been inspired by the need to educate, as I’ve been educated.

It also stems from the need to address the Lehigh culture and the issues that are often swept underneath the rug. Are you aware of the Lehigh bubble? Are you aware of the prejudice that many students face on campus? This pandemic spreads beyond the Lehigh hills and into the real world. If we cannot challenge our own institution then how are we supposed to challenge society?”
She's Got Game
By Jimil Ataman
Class of '14

I say ‘dude’, ‘man’ and ‘bro’ a lot when girls talk like that. “You say dude a lot...it’s not attractive...”

Healthy Body Image at Lehigh
By Emily Prendergast
Class of '15

Routinely objectification and sexualization of men and women in the media and other cultural institutions can lead to anxiety, shame, self-disgust, undermined confidence and discomfort with one’s own body. However, this is especially prevalent amongst young adults who are in the process of forming their own lives. To help combat this issue and promote a healthy, unitary sense of self, the Women’s Center will be hosting Love Your Body Day on October 17th. The purpose of Love Your Body Day is to celebrate all people — regardless of size, age, skin color, ethnicity, ability or gender identity.

During the month of October Post-its with inspirational quotes on them will be displayed all over campus, from academic buildings to first year dorms to Greek housing, to remind students and faculty that everyone is beautiful and that they should accept themselves for who they are. This project provides anonymous compliments to Lehigh’s community throughout the day and will make the campus a little bit brighter, happier, and more accepting of different body types.

You’re invited to come to the UC Front lawn on Love Your Body Day, October 17th, from 11-12pm and then join us again in the Upper UC from 12-1pm to tell us what you love about your body. Lehigh’s Dietician, Carrie Gerencher, will also be giving a special presentation on healthy eating habits and how to be mindful of one’s body at 5pm.

If you’d like more information about Healthy Body Image events or would like to help out, please contact luhealthybody@gmail.com. And don’t forget to LOVE YOUR BODY!

Anonymous Lehigh women share their stories and opinions
Meghan Barwick, ‘15, has created an anonymous entry form online via google docs for Lehigh’s women to post stories of any type of harassment: sexism, racism, etc. These entries and more will also appear in The Goblet online magazine at www.thegobletmagazine.blogspot.com. Look for the link on The Goblet’s Facebook page!

I say ‘ude’, ‘man’ and ‘bro’ a lot because that’s the way my way and my friends from home talk and once I was talking to a guy at a party and he said “You say dude a lot...it’s not attractive...”

Upon discovering that I received a leadership position in a Lehigh organization, I am heavily involved in, a male member competing for the same position confronted me. He looked at me and said “The only reason you got the job is because you’re a girl, you know that right? You didn’t deserve it!”

I hear guys call girls ‘sluts’ all the time as the walk around at night just because of the clothes they are wearing. It’s heartbreaking and makes me wonder a million times a day if I am being considered for an opportunity because of the way I dress. I can’t help what I look like.

“A lot of the time when I’m walking to a party with my friends a car full of guys will pass by and yell ‘sluts’ out the window because they’re harmless words, but it’s still bothersome.

What are you talking about? You wanted this.”

This is a testing conversation with a boy I had made out drunk the night before. I was not very receptive to the fact that I did not wish to sleep with him and even though he kept trying to convince me, he thought it was funny. He told me “No means yes and yes means anal” after I told him he needed to learn the meaning of the word “no.” When I told him he was a douchebag, he responded with, “I’ll take that as a compliment.” This was a year after he had graduated from Lehigh and he still acts like this.

V-Day at Lehigh: why it’s so important
By Emily Poche
Class of '16

“Outgoing. LOUD. Confident. Leading. Invaluable. These are words that commonly have described me in the past. These are the strong, tough characteristics of someone you’d expect to take the helm of a Women’s Center event, and to champion for rights for everyone. Undeniably, there is truth in these descriptions; time and time again I’ve been reminded of how inexorable these characteristics are from my personality. That being said, they’re not the reasons that pushed me into V-day as an organization in the first place. The truth is much darker and much more hushed, something I mention once a year at Take Back the Night or in times of utmost duress to my closest friends. Funny, brash and smart...”

Harrassment in the Lehigh community
By David Tench
Class of '13

“Her reaction was the punchline.”

That guy expected me to laugh. He thought I would make a joke at a time when he didn’t know I would not know

I was at a small party at an acquaintance’s house off-campus last year and there were a few people there whom I didn’t know. We were swapping funny stories about some of the guys I didn’t know started telling me about a girl he had seen in Ahart’s. After describing her body in detail to me (I forget a lot of the details but he used the phrase “dick-sucking lips”), he told me how he had made creepy, vaguely sexual comments to her. He laughed as he described her confused and uncomfortable reaction, and suddenly it became clear that that was all there was to the story - her reaction was the punchline. As he ended it he was grinning expectantly at me, like he expected a high-five. I kind of disregarded from conversation with him but didn’t say anything about it. The thought of confronting him about it was uncomfortable, and I let it go.

“Victim.” My foray into the Act of gender violence that have affected all us. I let it go.

The acts of gender violence that have affected all us. I let it go.

Their commitment to ending gender violence and helping victims through their healing process made me feel safe and at ease for the first time in years. Not every day during V-day is so serious; sometimes we’re polishing off trays of cookies or holding sex trivia, but the underlying message is the same: that the violence has to stop and support must continue endlessly. I feel like a part of two global communities because of the V-day foundation. On one hand, V-day has helped me as a victim, to realize how many others there are like me and that I am not to blame. On the other hand, V-day is making a difference, making a change and making an impact as a leader, a voice and now, as a producer.
Confessions of a “Non-Gineer”: being a journalist at Lehigh
By Jackie Tenreiro
Class of ’16

"What kind of engineer are you?" "The journalist kind."

The rest plays out like I’ve read ten times over: that confused crinkle of the brow, the sudden pining tone of voice as if my vocational future is doomed, the classic question, "but what are you going to do with that?"
The comedy is if you had asked me about what I wanted to do a year ago, I couldn’t have had a more polar-opposite response. Cardiothoracic surgery was my calling and science research not my cup of tea. But now, sharing those future career goals with my peers, I was met with skepticism. "A girl student?"

"What's interesting about this setup, though, is not what is on each level of the gym, but who. "I have no desire to go downstairs," Emily*, class of ’16, noted. "That's where the guys go." Upon questioning many gym-goers this seems to be the general consensus: The top floor is for females and the bottom floor is for males. This causes an issue, however, and stunts the breadth of many workouts. If a male is interested in lifting weights but is too shy to venture to the first floor, she is limited to a few hand weights in the corner of the balcony. Similarly, if a male is interested in cardio, he is limited to an elliptical or two on the bottom floor.

This segregation isn’t just taboo, and shyness isn’t the only aspect keeping each gender from crossing the boundary. In fact, there are many judgments passed among gym-goers when someone crosses the line. "I don’t really like it when girls try to come down here and lift weights," Mark*, class of ’13, stated. "They don’t know the etiquette. They leave weights lying around, and they don’t let others work in when they’re taking a break. Sometimes [girls] just re-work the same sets."

However, other men feel differently. “It’s awesome when a girl has the guts to come down here,” said Alexander*, class of ’14. “I’m really impressed when I see a girl benching or lifting weights.”

The gender separation dynamic is unique to Lehigh’s gym. Many women often fear venturing to the bottom floor to assimilate with the men and lift weights, there is no reason for them to. As long as everyone is respectful of workout weights and being aware of others, most people do not care who is on the bottom floor, so get down there! It shows confidence, strengthens self-esteem, and leads to a better overall self-image. Girls, what are you waiting for?*

*Names have been changed

Gender segregation in Taylor gym
By Carla Bagley
Class of ’16

The repetitive thumping of pink Nike sneakers on the barely-intact treadmill on the top floor of Taylor Gym drowns out the faint tune of “Call Me Maybe.” As the numbers on the odometer creep from 4.62 to 4.63 miles, my second set of lunges start to feel like cast-iron, but it is too shy to venture to the first floor, she is limited to a few hand weights in the corner of the balcony. Similarly, if a male is interested in cardio, he is limited to an elliptical or two on the bottom floor.

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Femininity in ROTC: continued from page 2

While I saw myself in high school as a girl of average femininity, I now see myself trying to embrace my femininity in order to stand out in a sea of men. That doesn’t mean I am acting stereotypically girly by giggling and wearing makeup, but that I am embracing my gender, showing that I can beat stereotypes and hang with the boys, and yet yet one of the few women able to perform above standards and beyond expectations.

Femininity in ROTC: continued from page 2

When reaching an objective on the battlefield. There is a stereotypical assumption that is men are better in battle action than females. Boys play war video games, watch war movies, enjoy violence, these things typically don’t attract a woman’s attention. Regardless of this stereotype, I still find myself performing better in field exercises than the male counterparts. I am able to stay level headed and remember the plan that was briefed at the beginning of the movement; I try not to get caught up in the action too much. I don’t follow the stereotype, and stray from a battle plan just because I’m scared of getting hit, or because trudging through the forest is too dirty for me. Because I follow the operations order and execute the plan as discussed, I have received praise and recognition for my part in the success of the operation where I have felt like I have proven myself as a woman among men.

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