

SHIFTING THE SPECTRUM



On June 26th, 2015, The United States Supreme Court effectively ended state bans on same-sex marriages. This was a victory for all in the LGBTQIA community, but by no means the end of the fight for equal rights. Gender neutral bathrooms and clubs like GSA are helping schools across the country improve how students of every sexuality and gender identity are treated at school. Education about the issues facing the transgender community is helping give a voice to those who are so often silenced.

Proudly *Different*



Photo by Violet Frohlich

"GSA has established a positive place that is judgment free. The GSA club is not just supporting its members, but wants equality for all and fights against any discrimination."

Chase Moralez
GSA President



Photo by Violet Frohlich

"[GSA] creates a space for kids that have identities that traditionally have been marginalized to come together and support each other."

Kevin Gillion
GSA Sponsor

Breaking the Mold

The trials and tribulations of being a transgender teen

Senior Rowan Dickey is many things. He is an actor, an athlete, a boyfriend, a son. He also just so happens to be transgender. Being trans is just one piece of the person he is, but it is a piece that he wears proudly. Rowan is very active on social media and in Feminism Club, fighting for and representing trans youth everywhere.

Transgender: to describe people whose gender identity differs from the sex the doctor marked on their birth certificate.

-GLAAD

"People are always nervous to ask questions," Rowan said. "I'd rather you know. I'd rather speak for everyone who won't speak about it."

Being trans affects many things in Rowan's life, most notably his participation in school activities like basketball and choir.

"I actually don't play [basketball] because I got paralyzed freshman year by a bully on the team," Rowan said.

After being verbally and physically bullied during his first year on the team, Rowan was forced to reevaluate his position on the team. Before, in middle school, similar instances had been occurring in the locker rooms as well.

"Sports is kind of weird, because people in middle school didn't want to change in front of me," Rowan said.

In choir, he faces a totally different set of obstacles.

"I can't do men's [choir] because not being on testosterone at the moment," Rowan said "My voice range can be a guy's range, but because men's vocal cords are naturally just thicker their tones are different, so my tones can't match in a choir."



Photo by Audrey Ashburn

Despite these setbacks, Rowan still keeps a positive attitude about participating in other activities like theatre.

"The thing is when I'm acting," Rowan said. "I can play a part. I can be a guy, a girl, I can be a dog. I don't care, that's why it's acting."

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-Senior Rowan Dickey

In school, Rowan sees a need for more authority figures to support trans students, and wants to highlight these issues so they are no longer swept under the rug.

"[Teachers] wear the sticker and support gays but they don't support other parts," Rowan said. "I think it should be more specific. If they wear a sticker, or whatever they do, they should say they support everything, not just this one part of it."

He was instrumental in the push for a gender neutral restroom on campus, and cites the need for one from his own experience in high school.

"I get made fun of in the girls bathrooms, but if I walk into the boys bathroom, I'm going to get made fun of in the boys bathroom [too]," Rowan said. "I try not to ever go to the bathroom, and that's why we need the gender neutral ones."

While self-discovery can be an exciting and scary process, Rowan implores anyone questioning their gender identity or sexuality to do one thing.

"Don't be scared to go back on it, because it change[s] everything," Rowan said. "It changes jobs, it changes friendships, relationships. Relationships to your family too, not just to your friends. You gotta be careful with it, definitely. It's better safe than sorry."

Kyra Hernandez
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