

August Galeazzi Oral History LGBTQIA+ Interview

Interviewer: Erin Kenealy

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EK: All right. So, the first question is, most of these are pretty open-ended so you that can answer however you want. You cannot say whatever you don't want to say, perfectly fine. But in general, how would you describe your experience as someone who's part of the LGBTQIA+ community at UW Stout?

AG: I think my experience has been good. Very- community is just very welcoming and open and [pause] Stout makes sure- makes sure that they- that they- that the students know that, so I think it's been- it's been good. Yeah.

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EK: All right. And kind of going off of that, how do you think the- how do you think UW Stout could do better to be supporting of the community?

AG: [pause] Honestly, I have no clue. I mean, like, I have had- I lived on the Out@Stout floor my freshman year and I had like a bad experience and so I moved out but like that's something that they couldn't control.

EK: [nods] Mhm.

AG: But from what I know, she didn't really- she- she got away with a lot of stuff that probably shouldn't have gotten- she shouldn't have gotten away with on an LGBT floor. So, I mean, maybe just stricter rules on that part but other than that, I don't see anything else they could change.

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EK: All right, is that- was that like a housing issue? Or...

AG: Yeah, yeah. My roommate was just awful. She was just- she never used my correct pronouns. I found out that she was talking about me to other people in a negative way and she basically said that I didn't look "non-binary" enough, which I'm like *that's not how that works but okay*.

EK: Yeah.

AG: And then I left, and she was like harassing other people and would, like, invade their privacy and it's just not a great person. So, yeah.

00:02:48

EK: Right. So, more action to help with things like that.

AG: Yeah, yeah.

00:02:57

EK: All right. Moving forward a little bit: do you feel represented by the available curriculum offered at Stout?

AG: [pause] Hmm.

EK: Like in- maybe not classes specifically for queer studies even though we do have that now- in like your normal classes, do you feel like there's any representation or any like room for queer education in there?

AG: Well, so, I'm a social science major.

EK: [nods]

AG: And I think that we could definitely benefit from that. I mean I know we talked about gender in my anthropology class and just how it's different around the world and really that's like the only like thing I've really heard of with LGBT in my courses. I think there could probably be more. I think they could squeeze it in somewhere but yeah.

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EK: Kind of tied into that, how do you think current curriculum handles like queer education like, I guess especially in your major that would be relevant, like for where that information is put into the course.

AG: Yeah. [pause] Could you say the question again?

EK: Yeah. How do you think current curriculum- if you've had any about LGBTQ+ education- how do you think it handles talking about it?

AG: Well, in that- the only time that we've really only talked about it was in my anthropology class. And it was- I think- I think it went well. I mean some people were like- like people- like everybody was kind of just like *okay, cool* but some people were like *wait, that doesn't make any sense*. Almost like, they were like, *oh, I don't know what this thing is. I thought there were only two genders*. Like, *no, that- no. That's- that's not how that works*. But like my professor handled it really well and was like *nope, it's a spectrum*.

EK: [laughs]

AG: And she was just really good about it. So, yeah.

00:05:46

EK: Good [?]. As someone who is part of the community, do you feel like the current administration supports or values you?

AG: I think they do. I- I do- I think they do. But sometimes I do feel like I'm just like diversity points almost. Like, I'm in a group chat at work and our- we're called the diversity hires because we're all LGBT and we've had to like deal with some stuff there but like I think- I think they tried their best but sometimes it comes off the wrong way.

EK: [nods] I see.

AG: Like intent versus impact. So.

00:06:47

EK: Yeah. You mentioned a little bit earlier but how was your experience with campus housing in relation to your queer identity like specifically as a student?

AG: Yeah. Well, this year it's been good. Everybody's like *oh, yeah, they/them pronouns* and I'm like *yep* [thumbs up] and then everybody uses them and so it's good. Whereas- like last year- like first semester, everything was good at first and then it just all kind of went downhill. And then when I moved into South Hall second semester, everybody was like *oh, you use they/them pronouns, cool*. So, it's been- it's been good. I haven't received like, any like harassment from people, really, so.

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EK: Right. And then as a- I know cause this year- as a staff member for housing how has that experience been different or how has it been like in general?

AG: I don't think it really has been that different.

EK: [nods] Mhm

AG: I think, I- I mean it's kind of nice being an RA [resident advisor] who uses- like I think it's good for there to be someone who like, uses they/them pronouns especially on our floor as a RA because I have like some residents who do use alternative pronouns and so they are like *oh, so that's okay* so that's kind of nice. Yeah.

EK: And to be like a person in authority to that can like represent.

AG: Yeah, yeah. I can be like *hey, that's not okay, stop it so*.

E: Yeah.

00:08:56

EK: So, I believe that was all the questions- we just had about six so is there anything else you'd like to add about your experience as a queer individual at Stout?

AG: [pauses] Hmm. I'm not sure. I don't think so.

EK: All right. I'm going to be stopping the recording now.

END

00:09:26