

M. Hampton Oral History LGBTQIA+ Interview

Interviewer: Emily Johnson

December 10, 2021

00:00:00-00:09:30

START

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Emily Johnson: -and with these and any of the questions you only have to answer to your comfort level. So, we'll start out with your name and pronouns?

M Hampton: Oh thi- oh, okay, I'm Hampton. They/them.

00:00:18

EJ: Okay and then how do you identify?

MH: Like as a person.

EJ: Okay

MH & EJ: [laugh]

00:00:24

EJ: And then, do you have any insection- intersecting identities we should be aware of?

MH: I have no idea what that even means.

EJ: Okay.

MH: [laugh] Like-

EJ: Do you want to share a fun fact about yourself?

MH: I can't smell.

EJ: Oh! [laughs]

MH: Like I have no sense of smell, that's a weird thing.

00:00:52

EJ: Okay and then well just get right into the main questions. So, the first one is, have you heard of any controversies- controversies having to do with the LGBTQIA+ community during your time at Stout?

MH: Yeah, there was freshman year, which was 2017, fall 2018 spring, it was in the fall though, it- the Street Level Ministries put out a like one of their publications with this article about someone praising conversion therapy as a great way to reconnect with god or something. And so, everyone just started taking them, like everyone just started taking all the Street Level pu- like journals or whatever and they just threw them away. And so, I remember the school sent out a bunch of emails like *that's theft blah blah blah* and so that happened. And then this year that was that guy on campus doing his general hate speech thing but, that was pretty cool.

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EJ: And then, were you personally affected by said controversies?

MH: Not, like really. I wasn't like, injured, or like made unable to do anything, it was just annoying you know, yeah. So, like I think the biggest thing was it was just a huge annoyance, and reminder of, like, people suck sometime, you know? So, like I don't think, there wasn't like any financial, downsides or like, I didn't lose a job, but it sucked but-

00:02:52

EJ: Yeah, and then, did you notice if the controversy impacted the community at Stout at all?

MH: The journal one with Street Level, I don't think I noticed any big difference. I know people were talking about it and you could tell that everyone liked to do it because it was kind of like a fun vandalism thing. But I don't think anyone was like, there wasn't like a clear *us* and *them* happening. The other one, there was some *us* and *them* happening where there was obviously everyone outside crowding around this guy and then, everyone, like then on the other side of the street people started showing up, with like their Trump flags and, they started just kind of they started off pretty tame, but they started shouting slurs a little bit but, so there was some *us* and *them* for a little bit after that I noticed.

00:04:05

EJ: Okay. Did you notice the controversy-, controversy, impacting the LGBTQIA+ community on campus?

MH: I think after both of them, people were mostly just like, annoyed, you know? I don't think, we didn't have any like big, tearful moment or anything. I think we all just kind of dealt with it. And were like *okay, let's go move on*, you know?

00:04:43

EJ: Yeah. [The] next question is, was the controversy resolved?

MH: No, neither of them were resolved, I think. So, you know that was pretty cool.

00:04:59

EJ: So, did you agree or disagree with how the controversies were handled?

MH: I think for the first one, they handled it poorly because those are free, you know. Those publications they put out are free so I should be allowed to take as many as I want, so I think having police stand out there with the journals and stuff, that was little, little overkill. And the second one, they- they should have changed some kind of rules about what public assembly on campus can be because it was kind of, it- it kind of felt dangerous out there a little bit, with everyone standing across from each other on that street, but you know I think the school kind of handles things as little as possible.

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EJ: So, did you think that Stout did anything well with either of these?

MH: They addressed them; you know. Like they addressed like *hey, we noticed that Street Level put out something that you guys don't like, just so you know free speech* and then that was kind of the end of that. And then they addressed the other one. and they had like a talk, like that everyone could go to I remembered I didn't go because I didn't care. I felt like it was- so like I- I don't know it might have been really awesome to go to that, but I was just like I don't want to take space from people that are apparently having a terrible time because of this, you know. So, yeah, that was I guess good that they're trying to support students. But at the same time they're like that guy has free speech, you know, and it's like his free speech is literally like just being mean, you know. But, you know, so I think yeah, I guess they, they noticed is about as good as I can say they did.

00:07:19

EJ: Mhm. So, do you have any advice for faculty or ideas of how they could have handled it better?

MH: Well, I think they should try listening to the students, like I- I noticed that the admin doesn't listen to students about a lot of things. Like they- they should listen, one, try and make new resolutions out of these awkward moments, you know? Like, maybe Street Level shouldn't be allowed to put things on campus if they're going to be, you know, spreading violent kind of ideology. That maybe people shouldn't be allowed to have any sort of public assemblies that

revolve around religious belief on campus. That's a little far maybe, but like maybe you aren't allowed to have public assemblies where you are trying to convert, like that. Maybe conversions aren't allowed on campus, you know. Like that kind of assemblies, but I don't know, they- they need to start talking to students better because, you know, I've tried to talk to Deans, and I've tried to talk to the Chancellor, and nothing comes of it, you know. I don't even know if they even get emails from me so, you know. It's- they should listen better.

EJ: Yeah

MH: I guess is my advice.

00:09:01

EJ: And then, lastly is there anything else you would like to add before we end the interview?

MH: I don't know if I have anything else, you know. Listen better, you know, like that's about all I got.

EJ: All right, well thank you for doing the interview.

MH: [thumbs up] No problem.

EJ: Hope you have a good rest of your day.

MH: You too. Adios.

END

00:09:30