

December Safe Place E-Newsletter:

As we close the fall semester and reflect, we have been fortunate to share resources and educate faculty, staff and students. We will always have different recommendations and new cutting edge education for allies.

Listed are a few “Ways that Heterosexism & Homophobia hurt LGBT People” from Diversity Works, Amherst, MA

For Those In The Closet

- Never really feeling close to someone or safe because of this secret. Having to lie and pretend constantly.
- People assuming you, and everyone else, are heterosexual.
- Never feeling like you fit in, constantly feeling uncomfortable.
- Feeling panic about being found out and feeling like a coward or dishonest.

For Those Coming Out

- Rejection from friends, roommates, hall mates, family or teachers.
- Having to deal with fear and anger toward you from nearly everyone, including those who have been your best supporters on everything else.
- Losing your job, your living space, and financial support.
- Rejection of other things that are important to you -- your work, interests, etc.

For Those Who Are Already Out of the Closet

- Dealing constantly with homophobia and heterosexism.
- Encountering emotional abuse in the form of anti-gay graffiti, jokes and defaced posters.
- Having outright legalized mistreatment by having children taken away, being denied access to your lover, not getting benefits that are given to opposite sex partners.
- Dealing with put-downs, slurs, homophobic jokes, and being talked about or stared at by others.

Here at Michigan Tech we had a GLBT Issues Review Committee. The goal of the IRC was to provide a set of recommendations that would address issues of impact and concern to the GLBT community. Attached is the list of actions and I would like to note the Van Pelt Opie Library as well as Wadsworth Residence Hall have gender-neutral restroom facilities.

Finally I want to mention that in theaters now is a movie entitled, MILK, the story of Harvey Milk, a gay civil rights hero, from the 1970's. Sean Penn plays the role of Milk in his political work in California. There are also many books, websites and other media that inform us and provide different perspectives that you can check out this holiday season.