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Utah State University Residence Life Behind Closed Doors New RA 2018

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Liberty Davis
Logan, Utah
November 2018

Behind Closed Doors-New RA 2018
Occupational Rite of Passage

Informant:

Liberty Davis is an RA in Merrill Hall on the 2nd floor west side. She is majoring in journalism and political science and minoring in criminal justice. She hopes to be a journalist for the Air Force. Her experience as an RA has been a good one. It has helped her step out of her comfort zone, and it's improved her people skills. She is short and has a mischievous smile.

Context:

This story was given to me while Hannah and I sat in the Lundstrom student center in the back couches. We were sitting so that she was facing forward off the couches, and I was facing Hannah. Hannah is a third year RA and went through her stories by year. We were with a couple other resident assistants, and I asked about what everybody still remembered about participating in Behind Closed Doors (BCDs) from the beginning of the semester. We have all participated in the event and were just telling casual stories with various highlights and points that really stuck out to us. Liberty showed up about halfway through and sat in the row of couches in front of us and twisted around to listen and talk to us over the back of the couch. She was sitting so that we could see a smushed cheek and up of her head and one hand.

Liberty talked about BCDs with only having gone through them, and she only recalled the very memorable parts of her going through it. She doesn't list all the incidences she would have encountered, which is a common thing about talking about going through them. She also doesn't really talk about who her partner going through was or which returners/Prostaff she encountered, which is normally something that people mention.

Text:

So I think behind closed doors are really important. Because, I don't know, it helped me a lot in becoming an RA. Because I've had a few situation that were brought up in the BCDs that I wouldn't dreally have known how to handle otherwise. So I think they really helped me there just because I had that training to just apply it in, like, in the moment and I didn't have to stop and be like, 'Oh let me text my boss and figure out how to do this, because I don't know how to do it.' I just already have the training. So that was very important.

Oh, I was like, to go through, okay. So it was kind of stressful, especially the one with the underage drinkers are like, just like the drunk people when they were trying to hand us the bottles and we're not supposed to touch it, you know? I was like, no, like, you keep it. You keep it. They're like no, take it, take it. Like, because I don't know, it was just, It was very, like, stressful in a good way. I think. Because, like, I've never been in, like, situations that were brought up. And I really had to, like, think on the spot and be like, how do I actually help this person? So it's very good. I think. So going through is very stressful.

Texture:

Liberty was sick when she spoke and so her story is very stuffy sounding. She had very sharp movements to emphasize her points about it being good, and her hands drew small circles when she ran out of words and paused to think ahead on most of her 'like's. She kept looking to the returner RAs like she was checking that she was saying the right things.

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