

At the July 11th skills clinic, everyone was going around saying their name and pronouns. When it got to Mark Henry, he said, “He/him, I guess. I’m old, we didn’t really do this sort of thing.” Many people at the skills clinic heard it and it made multiple people uncomfortable.

From: Cooper, To: Mark Henry

July 11, 2024 9:23pm

Hey, Mark. I want to address the way you introduced yourself this evening at the clinic. After we all went around and said our name and pronouns, you introduced yourself with, “Mark Henry. He...he I guess. I don’t know. I’m old. We didn’t do all this.”

I know that you have been in this league long enough, and have attended enough events, that you are familiar with introductions using the Name and Pronoun format. I also know that you know your own pronouns. The only reasons I can think of to say what you said would be to let everyone know that you are uncomfortable or in disagreement with the inclusive practice of offering pronouns so that trans folks don’t have to experience as much misgendering at NFFLA events. As a trans person who has been misgendered often over the last three years in this league, including by you, this attitude is really painful, and angering. You were there in a leadership capacity tonight, representing the league as an expert. Your commentary after your introduction plays into common, painful messages trans people receive throughout society that our presence and our identity are confusing, burdensome, and/or an inconvenience to others. I responded with “it’s not that hard” in the moment that you said what you said, but I need you to know that your comment ruined my experience this evening.

Typically, I would pull someone aside and speak to them directly if I were upset by something they said or did. However, I believe that you know too much for your comment tonight to have been simply reckless. I believe that you were intentionally communicating to the group that you find the practice of offering pronouns inconvenient and uncomfortable. As such, I am copying Emily because I believe accountability is needed. If you were trying to communicate something else and I have misinterpreted, I would be grateful to hear from you what that was.

Cooper

From: Cooper, To: Mark Henry

July 11, 2024 9:37pm

PS It just occurred to me that it was important to my interpretation of your comment that you were smiling and chuckling when you said it.

From: Mark Henry, To: Cooper

July 11, 2024 9:38pm

I want to address the fact that you mis quoted what I said. I said I’m old so it’s he I guess. I never said “ we didn’t do all of this.” Sometimes people want to be offended. If you think I said that, I did not. I will not apologize for something that I did not say. I am aware of what triggers people as it pertains to the pronouns. If you want to be constantly offended then that is on you. I will be respectful to everyone. I believe that everyone is deserving of respect. I came out there on my own free will to help share knowledge and this is how you show appreciation. I do not accept what you describe that I said. You heard what you wanted to hear. I’m sorry about that. I

recall that you have been quite rude to me in the past as it pertained to the rules of the league about blocking. I believe that I was correct about something, your response was "OK, you are right, but still fuck you". I see your mindset toward me and there is clearly animosity. I can assure you that it only goes one way; you toward me. Don't try and paint me with a wide brush sir as I will not accept your criticism when I was there to help you. Again you can stir up all the hornets you wish. I've been here for twenty years and I'll be here twenty more if I want to. You will not discourage me by disparaging me and telling things that are not true. You try and have a nice evening and so will I. Good day.

Mark Henry; CWCP
Licensed Private Investigator
AL/GA/FL/TN
Other states via national network
Licensed Classroom Trainer
GA

MarkHenryPI LLC

From: Cooper, To: Mark Henry
July 11, 2024 9:44pm

Hey, Mark. It's possible I misheard the end of what you said. If I inadvertently misquoted you, I'm sorry.

Everything else in my email stands. Why did you say what you **actually** said?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mark Henry, To: Cooper
July 11, 2024 9:44pm

Your fingers must ache as the straws that you are grasping. I mean seriously....get ahold of yourself. You are so wrapped up in being offended that you are willing to commit cannibalism. That means eating your own. I am 50 years old young man and I've been through it. Stuff you read about in books are about my life. The life that the gay community has now is because of the sacrifice of the people that came before them. Leave me alone and I will leave you alone. It's that simple.

Mark Henry; CWCP

From: Mark Henry, To: Cooper
July 11, 2024 9:49pm

It may be common practice for you to stand in a circle and proclaim whatever but it is not for me. I don't think in those terms as that doesn't matter to me. Your gender doesn't matter to me. It is not a topic of conversation. I believe in a big umbrella that we all fit under. I see you as a person and I communicate with you based on what I see and how you have present yourself.

Accountability also has to include people that cry wolf. Now that your narrative has fallen apart, you have to find something else to be offended by. I don't have time for this. You are barking up the wrong tree sir. I have always been on your side. Stop coming for me.

Mark Henry; CWCP

From: Mark Henry, To: Cooper

July 11, 2024 9:59pm

May I ask, did you write an equally disappointed letter to [REDACTED] when he proclaimed himself She/Her? Was he trying to be funny? Did he have a smirk on his face when he said that? Or was he just uncomfortable and misspoke. It probably didn't matter to you because you like him. I myself took nothing from it. At least I said the correct pronouns even though that is the first time I've ever had to identify in that manner. Why didn't you write for his head to roll. As best as I can tell, his misstep was far more egregious than mine. But [REDACTED] doesn't represent what you don't like. What is it about me that triggers you in this manner? Why would you allow what I said to ruin your evening but not what [REDACTED] said? Why is that? I really want to understand your mindset. It intrigues me. I've never done anything to you, yet you've told me to go fuck myself to my face and you've tried to cause problems for me tonight when I went out of my way to show you that I accept you as a member of the league by being a teacher and passing on my knowledge to you. Are you sure that I'm actually the problem here? I'm not so sure.

Mark Henry; CWCP

From: Mark Henry, To: Cooper

July 11, 2024 10:07pm

Ohh, and I just read the part where you said that I've misgendered you. That is a bald faced lie. I will not be lied about by you. I take respect very seriously. I have NEVER referred to you by anything other than Cooper or in the male gender as that is CLEARLY how you present yourself. You have me all wrong. I wish that you had taken the time to get to know me as a person before you started lying about me. The Boogey Man I am not!

Mark Henry; CWCP

From: Cooper, To: Mark Henry

July 11, 2024 11:11pm

I referenced you misgendering me in the past—back when I looked very different than I do now—because that is **precisely** why the practice of introducing ourselves with name and pronouns came to be; sometimes it's not obvious to others what people's pronouns are.

Your comments tonight were slow and deliberate. They demonstrated what you have said here in your own words: that you “don't care” about my gender, and that you don't “stand in a circle and proclaim whatever.” These attitudes are not innocuous as you are trying to suggest; they are **hurtful**.

I want LGBTQ+ folks of all ages and generations in this league for the next 20 years. I want to support and understand one another. And also, I want all parties to behave in ways that don't cause harm to, or make it harder for the burgeoning contingent of trans folks, to feel safe and seen.

I'm hearing you loud and clear that you don't believe me that I was hurt by your comments tonight. My hope is that the Board will. I'm not responding again here.

From: Mark Henry, To: Cooper
July 11, 2024 11:27pm

It must be very difficult for you to have a good time anywhere when everything could possibly be said, you will find a way to be offended by it. Once again, you find offense in innocuous statements. I don't care about your gender means simply that. You are allowed to be whoever you wish around me. I pass no judgement. If that makes you upset then no one can help that. You are literally trying to cause an issue. I've been married 20 years and I've been successful by living by one rule. If you don't go looking for a fight, then you won't find one. You are in search of a fight. You found my statement to be so offensive that it ruined your evening and then conceded in the next paragraph that you misheard the part that upset you. The bottom line is when I'm around, you want to find something to be upset about. You are looking for a fight. I haven't done anything to you so you have decided to create it. It quite frankly is offensive that you attempt to use the board as a shield and a sword. That they should do your bidding because you don't like me. There will come a time when you will run out of people to fight with. I feel sad you. Angry all the time and looking for allies to take down because it makes you feel better about yourself.

Mark Henry

End of thread