

On Monday afternoon, March 16th, 2020 at Keene State College, Residence Director Jessica L'HommeDieu knocked on my room door with campus safety officer Mike Gomez. I was barely awake/throwing up so it took me a second to get to the door. At that time I had already been throwing up, dehydrated and discombobulated for 3 hours and was pretty out of it which I told both the RD and Mike Gomez. I proceeded to try and tell them why I was in that state and pass on the explicit instructions I had received from Keene State's Health and Wellness Center earlier that morning to self quarantine until further notice. I had woken up that morning with a cough and called my uncle, Malic Fall, who is a doctor on the front lines of COVID-19 and he told me to contact the health and wellness center and they said they wanted to monitor my symptoms in accordance with state officials. The nurse made some calls then called me back and said that she did not want me to go to the E.R to risk exposing myself or others. They told me to quarantine and monitor while they brought medication over to me twice. I was not trying to conceal Tyler's presence in my dorm or I would not have told the nurse that he was going to come take care of me. When they dropped off medication for the second time she saw Tyler grab it then told us to both quarantine until I knew it was just a cough and for him to watch my temperature. I took the Robitussin the nurse brought over not realizing I still had an empty stomach, I threw the medicine up 30mn later then could not stop throwing up. At this point, I called Keene's Health and Wellness center and the nurse confirmed that it probably was taking the medicine on an empty stomach that was causing me to be sick and she said to keep hydrated and it should be out of my system soon and I should feel better once it was out. I could not stop throwing up or retaining liquids after 3 hours and my (medically-diagnosed) anxiety was spiking and I wanted to sleep. I had a little weed in a pipe so I stepped outside and hit it to help me ease my anxiety and

sleep. Upon entering my room I did hit the residual weed in the pipe but did not light it then tossed the whole thing in the trash and crawled into bed. I take full responsibility for this isolated action because I do respect the rules I assigned and I was honestly not in the right mind or I would not have done this and have not done this before. Now back to when the RD knocked on the door, later that day. I was just getting to sleep so I was flustered by the knocks and was trying to answer the door in a timely manner because they knocked about 6 times in 30 seconds. Tyler had been in and out to get me fluids and meds and on his computer with headphones on because I was mostly just rolling around in and out of sleep and throwing up trying to stay hydrated so when I went to answer the door I didn't glance to check whether or not Tyler was presently in the room. Once I opened the door the RD and Mike Gomez said they had smelled marijuana in the hallway and were knocking on doors to check. They noted that there was a smell coming from my room and I told them that I did smoke outside but not in the room. Then I remembered I did hit the residual smoke in the pipe before throwing it out when I walked in and I told her I did hit in the room and apologized for the confusion. She asked if anyone else was present in the room and I said no, not having noticed Tyler when I went to open the door earlier. This was literally an honest mistake not me trying to hide Tyler's presence because I figured if Tyler had even come back any moment they would be able to see that he was taking care of me and practice human decency by not kicking him out while I was on the floor gagging knowing full well we were ordered to quarantine. When I took down the tapestry, Tyler was standing inside in the middle of the room turning volume down on the tv so that Jessica and I could talk, and I told the RD he had been in and out and I was clearly very out of it and apologized again for the mistake and explained he had been taking care of me and was advised by the school to quarantine with me. I

told them to call the the health and wellness center again to not risk exposure and show them I was not trying to conceal Tyler, at this point though I was feeling pretty weak again and was barely able to talk and they were arguing with Tyler and I to call an ambulance and I explained several times I could not afford it, I did not need it, AND WE WERE TOLD TO QUARANTINE; Eventually both the RD and Mike agreed not to call. RD Jessica at this point agreed to leave Tyler to care for me and said she would write up a report on the weed and tapestry which we agreed to since those were violations. This is when Tyler went to enter the women's bathroom and was stopped. The RD said she had received reports of people using bathrooms that "they were not supposed to" and told Tyler he was not allowed to use the women's bathroom. Tyler then explained very calmly that he identified as nonbinary and that was why he was going in there, it was not a disrespectful action and he was actually just going to wash his hands this time. The RD then went on to tell Tyler that she was "pretty sure" he wasn't nonbinary because she did not hear me refer to him in a different pronoun during our 10 mn interaction or use a different name. Then they went on to say he had to have his pronouns registered with the school in order to use the bathroom of his preference and he has not gotten to doing that yet in his stage of transition. My neighbor at the dorm was also a nonbinary male who only use to women's bathroom daily but he has never been asked to justify his gender preference before entering the bathroom. However because Tyler is a tall muscular, black male and does not look nonbinary or act nonbinary in RD Jessica's definition of the word he was treated differently. Do you understand that for Tyler's entire life he has been stereotyped or type casted because of his physical appearance? Do you understand how hard it is for black men in today's society to be able to identify as something other than a male and be taken seriously? No I did not call Tyler by

his other preferred pronouns during our interaction with her because he switches from he/she when HE deems it fit not when I or Jessica deem it fit. The proper definition for nonbinary is -Non-binary, or genderqueer, is a spectrum of gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine—identities that are outside the gender binary. Non-binary identities can fall under the transgender umbrella, since many non-binary people identify with a gender that is different from their assigned sex. If Keene State College has a list of requirements that allow a person to identify as nonbinary and use the bathroom that makes them feel comfortable I would love to see it. If that is the case than I would like to make sure that my neighbor, who is a white male unlike Tyler and uses the women's bathroom as a nonbinary person is subject to those rules as well. If Keene State College is not comfortable with their nonbinary students using different gendered bathrooms than that rule should apply to everyone or their should be gender neutral bathrooms in place like many other progressive Universities such as the one Tyler transfered from, the University of New Orleans. Title IX requires schools to adopt and publish grievance procedures for students to file complaints of sex discrimination, including complaints of sexual harassment or sexual violence. This incident was nothing short of sexual discrimination by RD Jessica and Campus safety officer Mike and should be handled as such. We will be filing a case of sexual discrimination to the Title IX office of Keene State College against RD Jessica and campus safety officer Mike..... At this point I had nothing in my stomach but could not stop throwing up so I was in a lot of pain and even more dehydrated and experiencing cramps due to it. Then I heard the RD say to tyler while laughing "you don't even know your fiance's name?". As someone who is supposed to be deescalating the situation properly, this was a rude, childish and unnecessary comment to make that only made the situation worse, anyone with any type of

leadership or intuitive skills would not have said this to a person you are in a heated conversation with. Tyler then answered Jessica “fuck you, that was extremely rude, of course I know my fiancée’s name” and then they started going back and forth again. After telling Tyler he could not use the bathroom, he got rightfully offended because this is something he has been hearing his whole life, but he kept trying to communicate to the RD how insensitive she was being, but she was just mocking him at this point and when she decided she no longer wanted to listen to him she asked him to leave. I would like to reiterate that this is after she went to leave and already allowed him to stay to quarantine and take care of me. The decision to ask him to leave made no rational sense and was clearly only coming from a place of emotion and bias. Tyler asked for the legitimate reason why he was now all of sudden being asked to leave when she knew I was still not feeling good and the RD had no legitimate reason but that it was within her prerogative and authority to have him leave if she wanted and she was not going to change her mind unless he started talking nicer. She could have easily walked away and diffused the situation like it’s her job to but chose to stay and antagonize him and further escalate the situation while they could very clearly hear me sick in the room. I heard the RD and Mike tell Tyler that he should’ve been checking on me instead of “arguing” with them and he told them that I would be ok if I could just rest and that this has happened before because I have something called intractable vomiting so he was not fearing for my life at the moment but did need to come take care of me soon. At this point the campus safety officer asks me again if he can call the ambulance and I said no and that I could not go to the hospital and he insisted that if they came they would help me on the spot and I didn’t have to go to the hospital and I still politely asked him not to call them. As Tyler is trying to figure out why he is being kicked out for being nonbinary, the RD and campus safety

officer decided to call the police and escalate the situation instead of trying to listen to Tyler or just leave us alone. Two police officers showed up and asked Tyler to leave which he agreed to even though there was no legal or legitimate reason he was being asked to leave now and not before, Tyler explicitly said to the police officer that he was not wearing a shirt under his sweater and needed to change his pants before leaving because it was freezing outside. The officer told Tyler he was not allowed in the room alone and I told him I would go with him and the officer refused. This was a very reasonable request of privacy that was denied for no apparent reason. I did not know when but at some point the campus safety officer called the ambulance against my wishes. I understand he was trying to help but I explicitly and repeatedly asked him not to call them and all they did was add more people to an already heated situation in a tight space. The EMTs arrived and started questioning about my state on the staircase. During this, Tyler and the police officers were still arguing because Tyler was saying he would leave but he had human rights and that does not change in any situation. Tyler told the police officer he was going to call his uncle who was a lawyer to which the police officer replied that he didn't believe his uncle was an actual lawyer. I could not focus on the questions the EMT was asking because all I could hear was the cop being patronizing and rude to Tyler so I turned on my camera and put it down to record the conversation. The second I took out my phone Jessica yelled to the police officers "just so you guys know she's recording" which I found odd specifically because she had not yet said anything to diffuse the situation. I told the EMT exactly what was wrong with me and why and I told him that I was told by my doctor that the only thing that would help is an IV and anti-nausea medicine. The health and wellness center has already brought me Zofran that morning an anti-nausea medication and told me to quarantine so I asked them to please give me

an IV which I have had given to me by an EMT in Keene without going to the hospital before but this one refused and said he would have to take me in if he did which is not the case. The EMT asked me to go outside so they could better hear me and I asked him for IV fluids again and he denied again at which point I asked what they would be able to do for me outside and he said nothing and that I had to go to the hospital which I had already told him I would not and could not do. He then yelled something to Tyler about being an asshole, for defending himself, which was not his place and had me sign off on not going to the hospital. The interaction with the EMT's was futile and expended energy I did not have and it went exactly as I told the campus safety officer it would. All of a sudden I heard the police officer say "Alright i'm done with this I'm arresting you" and Tyler said he still didn't change his clothes and the two cops just move towards him, put both of their body weight on him which was unnecessary force so I got up grabbed my phone and yelled to them that I was recording, One of the police officers was trying to put the handcuffs on him and the other started choking Tyler on the left side of his neck and proceeded to dig his finger into the back of Tyler's ear to which he screamed out in pain. I could barely move a second before but the second I saw Tyler's life in danger my adrenaline went up and I knew I had to do something or he would be another black victim to police brutality by excessive force. I did not put my hands on the police officer choking tyler, I jumped in between him and Tyler so he would stop. Campus Safety officer Gomez took my phone, gave it back, then walked over and grabbed the soles of my feet and literally started dragging me away. I told him he had no right to drag me and to let go of my legs which he did not do so I had to kick my legs free. He was not holding the fabric of my pants at all and the only reason I kicked was to get free of his hold on the arches of my feet. At this point I got up, turned around and saw a number

of police officers running up the stairs as if this was a raid. One of the officers ripped my recording phone out of my hand and then 6 cops proceeded to immediately tackle me to the ground. RD Jessica and KPD officer Mike were standing there the whole time and put in their report that I was gently laid down. The officers put in their police report that I was “escorted” to the ground. I was slammed on the ground and my right shoulder was dislocated and I screamed in pain and was completely ignored as they continued to put handcuffs on me. Then Tyler was slammed down by multiple police officers and his face was next to mine asking if I was okay while he was bleeding from his mouth. RD Jessica stood there and laughed saying to someone “I’m just here to watch” and let this show of unnecessary excessive force continue. I was then stood up by the police officers and walked downstairs, the police officer called the EMT to meet us at the station for my shoulder but kept me in cuffs, irritating the pain. The next day Tyler and I went to the convenient MD in Keene due to our multiple injuries and my still being sick made worse by the situation. Tyler had a swollen left wrist and a bruised and swollen right wrist that required the provider to give him a wrist brace, swollen ankles from cuts and bruises, his trapezius muscle was bruised and they suggested a shoulder sling then decided to forgo it because it would make it worst, his ear was also irritated from the police officer trying to knock him out by pressing on a pressure point. I have to wear a shoulder sling and go back into physical therapy for it and my shoulder is bruised. The doctor said we looked like we were “just assaulted” and “beat up” and that’s because we were. This is all a direct result of RD Jessica L’Hommedieu and KPD officer Mike Gomez’s gross misuse of power, inability to diffuse a situation, and the blatant disregard of the safety of Keene State Students. This situation did not need to escalate to this point at all and it was their responsibility to make sure it didn’t. I’m

constantly hit with flashbacks of being tackled by 6 police officers and don't know if they will ever stop. Tyler and I are now in counseling for the trauma from this incident. We do not consider KSC safe for students of color based on the behavior of these two individuals along with KSC President Melinda Treadwell. I have attached a sound video of me being tackled in which you can very clearly hear me say "why are there 6 of you on me" with no one trying to diffuse the situation or help me in the background, this is what RD Jessica describes as me being "laid down" by the police officers that proves how blatant and disgusting of a lie this is. I have also attached a video of the condescending nature of the police officers towards Tyler as soon as they arrived. After being arrested and taken to the police station, which was heavily adorned with Trump 2020 paraphernalia, they gave us back our phones, and after awhile they took us to the Courthouse to arrange our court dates. We got back into the police car to be escorted to the school campus and the officer pulled over behind a building, took our phones and said he would give them back once we got to the campus. We arrived at the campus and the officer refused to give us our phones and offered no explanation for keeping them and when we asked the officer if he had a warrant to keep our phones he said "he was going to get one" . To which we replied that he needed one present to keep our phones and he said "call the cops" SMILED AND DROVE AWAY. We immediately wanted to tell our story and warn people against Keene State College and Keene Police Department. We were advised by our lawyers to not tell anyone yet so we could not go to social media or the press until now. Keene State College's response to this happening on their campus was to reprimand and fine Tyler and I. We filed a complaint on the RD and campus safety officer and were told they were looking into it but never heard anything back. After receiving an email from the president about Black Lives Matter during the protests in

the wake of George Floyd's murder about the college's hypocritical stance I was so enraged I emailed her and she asked for a zoom meeting with Tyler and I on June 8, 2020. We told her what happened, she told us she had no idea this happened and was horrified at the actions of her employees. She apologized and CRIED at this injustice happening on her campus and promised she would do anything in her power to make it right and promised a follow up meeting the next week. After reschedules, emails from our lawyer, and lies we finally met with her again on July 20, 2020. She invited two staff members that were both black, Dr. Dottie Morris and Dr. Kemal Atkins, to join us for very shallow reasons and told us the RD Jessica resigned and the campus safety officer was under investigation. During this meeting we expressed once again our ideas for improvement, as requested, and that we expected direct action from the college in response to what they did to us which had not happened. On the contrary, The President told us that the situation happened because of bad school policy and not because of the racism and sexism that's been at the root of America's identity since its birth. The president also told us she would write to the Keene Police Chief in our favor to drop the charges and never did so. She also told us the college would be re-evaluating its relationship with the police and making new policies for training and de-escalation and wanted our help with it, which we offered. We told her we were glad to help if they were actually genuine about making things right which they were not. Dr. Kemal Atkins who was vice president of student affairs at Keene State and present at the meeting, told us he would be personally looking into the investigation of the campus safety officer. He then resigned a little time later and we have not heard from the president. We were supposed to have another follow up meeting in which she was supposed to have concrete answers after all this time but she has ignored mine and my lawyers emails and has not reached

out since our last meeting on July 20, 2020. She has not written to the police chief or fulfilled any of the promises she made to us. After speaking to a staff member I was told our incident was not an isolated one. At this point we are reaching out because Keene State College does not care about its black students and has made that very clear by still employing that campus safety officer and ghosting us. If you are a black student considering attending this university, DONT. If you disagree with this treatment and think Black Lives Matter you can call 603-358-2000 or email president@keene.edu. Thank you for taking the time to read this.