

1 Worker B

Okay passengers, are you ready to “Get Your Pride On” (trademarked)? That’s right everyone, this year Apis Industries is “Coming Out” (trademarked) as an ally to everyone whose orientation or gender is a little outside conservative norms and thus a perceived danger to outdated ideals. Forget everything we said twenty years ago about family values and, quote, “the good old days”, end quote; the world has changed, and we’re changing with it! This month, we’re celebrating you!

But don’t take my word for it! In support of our diverse consumer base, we asked some of our more colorful employees to share their stories of how Apis Industries has supported them in a segment I like to call “Happy Pride” (trademarked)!

(FX: BIG BAND MUSIC AND CHEERING.)

Our first interviewee is everyone’s favorite non-binary head engineer aboard the *L. T.S. Mellifera*, Mx. Ray Seneca!

2 Ray

Thanks, I guess. Is this live, or are you recording it to send out later?

3 Worker B

Oh we’re definitely live! These interviews will be more intimate and emotionally compelling that way.

4 Ray

Uh–

5 Worker B

So Ray! Is there anything you would like to tell our listeners about your identity and/or lifestyle?

6 Ray

It’s just kinda... I like going by they/them? There’s not a lot more that I want to discuss with everyone on the ship, no offense. I mean, I get that you’re trying to help, but maybe this isn’t the best way to do it.

1 Worker B

Oh? But surely you want to be reminded of the support we, as Apis Industries and the Apis Industries consumer base, offer to you, the queer individual?

2 Ray

No, I appreciate that part. It's nice having my correct pronouns used on forms and stuff, but the thing is... for starters, saying that you're "coming out" as an ally isn't great. You're trivializing the actual struggles of the people you're trying to help when you act like—

3 Worker B

Thank you Ray Seneca, but that's all the time we have for your interview! So, let's move on to our next Happy Pride employee spotlight: you've definitely seen her on patrol in the halls and may have even spoken to her— if she wasn't too busy doing a FANTASTIC job as our Head Security Officer! Let's give a warm welcome to Mrs. Felicia Tomer!

4 Tomer

(a bit more cheerful than usual) Thanks B.

5 Worker B

Don't mention it, Officer Tomer. Now, I noticed in your insurance documents that you list your spouse as a Martha Brown?

6 Tomer

Yeah, Martha and I have been married for, oh... thirty-four years?

7 Worker B

Wow! It just goes to show you that gay people are not a new fad!

8 Tomer

Uh. No, we're not.

9 Worker B

And they are here to stay!

1 Tomer

(a little awkwardly) Yeah.

2 Worker B

So! Could you tell the consumers about how Apis Industries has supported you and your hip, queer relationship?

3 Tomer

Well it's really nice that Martha can benefit from my insurance now. Back in the day it was a lot more "don't ask, don't tell", so getting basic medical care for her was really tricky. Even on the documents that didn't matter legally, just the information stuff, I'd list my spouse as "Martin" so people wouldn't ask questions. We hated that, but it was easier to act like she was a guy than to pretend she didn't exist in conversations.

4 Worker B

I didn't realize you worked at another company before Apis Industries! What an intolerant cesspool it must have been!

5 Tomer

That was here, B.

6 Worker B

(interrupting a little) THANK YOU OFFICER TOMER! On to our last interview: you know him best as the extremely masculine captain of the *L.T.S. Mellifera*, but did you know he's also part of the queer community? That's right, I'm talking about your fearless leader, Captain Arthur Gabriel Winnipeg!

7 Winnipeg

(not super enthusiastic) Hey everyone. I'm trans.

8 Worker B

Yes, yes he is!

1 Winnipeg

Being trans is crazy. Wow. I love it so much. Are we done?

2 Worker B

Ah ah ah, Captain! I'm interviewing you because we all want to hear about your experiences, especially regarding how they intersect with the support you've received from your loving family at Apis Industries.

3 Winnipeg

Yeah, right up until I say something you don't like.

4 Worker B

Captain—!

5 Winnipeg

No, come on B. Everyone heard you cut off Ray and Tomer.

6 Worker B

But I explained that we ran out of time for both of their interviews! *Surely* you don't think I had ulterior motives.

7 Winnipeg

Then how much time do I have left to talk here? I want to make *real* sure I don't run over.

8 Worker B

Well— ah. Let me check our schedule—

9 Winnipeg

Because I just want to say one thing: I didn't have corporate support back when I worked the docks, and with the government looking the way it is—

10 Worker B

Captain—

1 Winnipeg

– I might not have support from Apis either before long. What people like me, Tomer, and Ray need is to watch each others' backs as a community, because it's thanks to other queer people that I'm still alive today, not a corporation.

2 Worker B

Now that sounds like one of your organic hyperboles.

3 Winnipeg

(Grimly) I wish I was exaggerating. So... we're done now? I can get back to my job?

4 Worker B

(Awkward pause) Well... what could we do to help?

5 Winnipeg

What?

6 Worker B

What could the consumers and Apis Industries do to help you, the queer individual, thrive in a world you clearly find hostile to your existence?

7 Winnipeg

Uh... honestly, the easiest thing that you can do is just listen to us. When we think something's unfair, when we're talking about ourselves and the problems we face, don't discount our experiences just because you don't understand our point of view. It's one of the simplest ways to make us feel seen. And I mean, that doesn't just apply to queer people but like... I can't speak for everyone.

8 Worker B

...Well you heard it here first, folks! "Listening" is what the queer community wants, and for the low low price of 5 credits a letter you can give that to them! Take your Happy Pride merchandise to our EmbroiderThatThing (trademarked) booth and get "Hashtag I Am Listening To You" sewn onto your shirt, flag, beach towel, seat cover, fanny pack, or any other Apis-produced pride month memorabilia you may own!

1 Winnipeg

Welp, I tried.

(FX: WALKING AWAY)

2 Worker B

“But B!” you ask, exasperated and confused, “I do not currently own any Happy Pride merchandise that I could get embroidered!” Do not worry yourself, listener, because our storefront kiosks will carry various rainbow-emblazoned merchandise through the end of pride month! But DO worry yourself if you plan on waiting until AFTER pride month to purchase anything, because at that time all the colorful queer friendly coasters and keychains will be replaced with their original designs. Don’t wait! Don’t overthink it! Don’t look at the pile of rainbow colored souvenirs in your cabin and say “no I probably have enough actually”! PROVE YOU’RE NOT A MONSTER BY PURCHASING OUR PRODUCTS TODAY!

Happy Pride: because today we’re just saying gay!

4 Apis soundbyte

I’m Mr. Apis, and I approve this message.

END