

FIRST PERSON

Gay, lesbian couples deserve equal benefits



I want to tell you a little more about a couple I know, "Darryl" and "Jack" who are no more very a fairly typical Emory couple as you will see. Darryl is a native of Chattanooga, and Emory Emory employee, a writer for the health services publications office. Jack is a native of Berkeley, has a PhD in philosophy from Tulane and a library degree from Emory. He works as a private secretary school in addition to holding an adjunct appointment at the Atlanta College of Art. Together they own a home within walking distance of Emory.

Common with other Emory couples, but there is one significant difference: they are gay. "Darryl" is actually "Darryl" and "Jack" is Jack Miller, Darryl's partner of the past four years. Darryl points out that both he and Jack have always been open about their relationship with their colleagues at work and have never experienced any problems as a result. "In the last year Jack and I have been together," Darryl says, "we've both made it a point to open about our relationship with our colleagues at work and we've never experienced any problems as a result. In fact, we've been invited to go and lesbian couples, the lesbian parties. We feel very accepted on a personal level. That's a definite benefit of working at Emory for which we're very grateful."

Like most other gay and lesbian couples who are part of the Emory community, Darryl and Jack have very closely followed the Domestic Partners Benefit Proposal that was put forward by the President's Committee on Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Concerns. When I came here five years ago, there was none of this. We've come very far in a very short time. Like many other gay and lesbian couples who are part of the Emory community, Darryl and Jack have very closely followed the Domestic Partners Benefit Proposal that was put forward by the President's Committee on Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Concerns. When I came here five years ago, there was none of this. We've come very far in a very short time.

Couples deserve equal benefits

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Darryl and Jack express concern that in having broadened the definition of "eligible dependent" without having thoroughly examined the consequences and costs of doing so, the Employee Council may have inadvertently subtended the feasibility of the LGBB Committee's proposal, which considered those issues in depth. As a gay man in a relationship with another gay man, I've been in my partner's shoes as much or more as you have.