

Kitchen Politics

I started out in the kitchen on Aug 11, 2017. I noticed that they have segregated the races. I seen more Latinos in the Scullary, Blacks on the serving line, Whites in Veggie prep, pots/pans, warehouse, clerical. Also Co-workers try to prey on the weak by harrassing them. Many have been fired from the kitchen because they drew too much heat.

I have tried to make the kitchen a safe place where people can feel comfortable. I told myself 3 yrs ago that I wouldnt work there now I am enjoying it because not only I get to eat, but I can get away from the adroom politics. I get asked "Why are you not going to work to inmates demanding me to work harder."

Many of them are just there as a magnet. The demographics of the kitchen tend to be older. There's lots that have been in the kitchen over 10 yrs. I have never worked in a kitchen. The concept was new to me. I spent my time working in grocery stores cashiering or working in customer service. I did a stint in food prep, deli, marketing, canvassing, substitute teaching. I had to find my place. It seems that everywhere I go, I have to deal with a lot of drama. The people I want to hang around refuse while the people I dont want to associate with push themselves on me.

I come in exhausted and the first thing I want to do is shower and rest. A lot of times it is impossible. I am ripping and running. I start my day at the law library, drop my materials off, head to work, stop at the pull window and go back to work. People try to stop me. I tell

them that I'm at work. They get mad because they feel that I'm ignoring them. Everyone craves attention. Tom barred from working on the floor due to being too social. It is hard to balance the two. When I spend a lot of time talking, I get easily distracted. I felt a knot on the right side of my neck and it went down. I'm not sure if its stress related.

I just can't wait until the end of 2017. Then going on 2 years. I don't know if I want to work in the kitchen at a restaurant. If so, maybe Whole Foods, Panera Bread, Chili's, Trader Joe's or some progressive company. I do plan on writing to different restaurants and asking if they will hire felons. I think that I should learn how a kitchen operates. I noticed that theres allergens around too. Most of the comrades don't eat their vegetables. It is an epidemic. They have served fatty food. They serve a lot of pork, starch, etc. Many in prison are overweight. On the Pitt for Health they still serve white rice, pasta, etc.

I had a crazy Friday being bothered as usual by the people Tom not attracted to. When will this going to end. I do plan on finishing my last 3 years in the kitchen without apology. I hope that it will get better. Maybe work in a queer based kitchen in the freeworld.