

## Unfair Ruling

Being discriminated against is possibly the worst thing that could happen to you. After being hurt, the natural human instinct is to want revenge or want to hurt them back. This can't be right, can it? If you have something that hurts something you love, wouldn't you be angry? Someone I know watched as they and their mom were beaten, over and over again. This all happened a long time ago, so the person who hurt them wasn't arrested or even put in front of a judge. My great-grandmother's side of the family tried to fight for her, and Goshen never took the case and didn't promote equality and freedom from discrimination.

Going backwards, that is something that can't lead to good. It was 2022 when I heard that my own grandfather was abused as a child, just for being mixed, and his love for his own mother. As he was telling me his story, I was thinking about why I never heard of this story. He was different after his dad passed away, and this wasn't the best change. He had to love his father even though this traumatic thing happened. It all started a very long time ago. My great-grandmother has been 5 feet 2 inches tall, and 120 pounds her whole life, and my great-grandfather was 6 feet 2 inches tall and 250 pounds. My great-grandmother was getting beaten by her husband, my grandfather's father. She didn't even do anything wrong, he was drunk. My grandfather was about 9 or 10 and decided to jump in to attempt to save his mom from danger. My great-grandfather was never equal and yelled at my great-grandmother slurs about her being half Puerto Rican.

My Great-Grandfather started to beat my grandfather and his mother at the same time. They couldn't do anything, it fell over. After that my great-grandmother and her kids got divorced and they thought it was over. Goshen continued to not believe our family when they tried to go to the police about the child abuse, they didn't understand how it happened, so just dismissed all the complaints and reports. When my grandfather was 19, he came to my great-grandfather's house and knew that he was bigger and stronger than his father. My grandfather came and decided to fight for his mother's and his own well-being. He beat his father for 20 minutes and then the police arrived and arrested my grandfather immediately. The judge understood why he did it but didn't do anything about his father. My grandfather got charged for one year, but that was all worth it for him. Now, both my grandfather and great-grandmother live their best life that they can.

I know that discrimination of any kind is horrible. If Goshen were to help my family, my grandfather could have been there for his grandmother when she died. Instead, the city dismissed them, and he had to make a decision to fight for what the city didn't. If we worked as a community to make our city more available and outcoming, we would help the stopping of discrimination in Goshen. Fighting in Goshen should be easier, the court should never discriminate and we as a city should show that we aren't our past, we evolved. Goshen could be the best city in Elkhart County if we just proved our care for everyone and that we could claim our past as a sundown town and move on.