

Immigration march hits Downtown Memphis

By Adreonna Williams and Maisa Jabir
news@dailyhelmsman.com

Protests have erupted all over the country since President Donald J. Trump signed executive order banning travel from seven predominantly-Muslim countries, and now Memphis has joined the nationwide protesters.

A pro-immigration march sponsored by the Refugee Empowerment Program and the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition traveled from the Clayborn Temple to the National Civil Rights Museum Wednesday chanting "no ban, no wall," "the people united will never be divided" and "I will not be quiet - I will not be silent."

Trump signed an executive order Jan. 27 to ban travel from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. His executive order cut the cap of refugees let into the United States in half, suspended all refugee resettlement for 120 days and suspended all "immigrants and non-immigrants" from the seven countries for 90 days and issued a review of the visa issuance process. Some people from those countries were detained at airports across the country in the days immediately after the order went into effect.

"I am angry - I can't handle this," said Khairunissa Shaikh, a Syrian woman who has been in the U.S. for 30 years. "Last night, my niece from London had a dream that she got stopped at the airport and was refused by officials. It's heartbreaking."

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THE DAILY HELMSMAN

Memphis LGBTQs skeptical of Trump

By Nick Lingerfelt
nicholaslingerfelt@gmail.com

President Donald J. Trump announced he would continue to enforce an executive order from 2014 then-President Barack Obama that bans LGBTQ workplace discrimination.

Trump pledged to protect the LGBTQ community from violence and oppression in his Republican nomination acceptance speech. He is the first GOP nominee to mention the LGBTQ community in his acceptance speech.

"President Donald J. Trump is determined to protect the rights of all Americans, including the LGBTQ community," the White House said in a statement. "President Trump continues to be respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights, just as he was throughout the election."

Members of the LGBTQ community are not convinced he is the champion for LGBTQ rights he claims to be.

Trump promised to sign the First Amendment Defense Act if it passed through Congress during his 2016 Presidential campaign. FADA prevents the government from "taking discriminatory action against a person on the basis that such person believes or acts in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction that: (1) marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman, or (2) sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage."

This bill would legalize discrimination against the LGBTQ community on the grounds of "religious freedom."

Brandy Wilson, professor of women's studies and English at the University of Memphis who is married to a woman with whom she has a son, is not sure Trump's stances on the LGBTQ community are sincere.

"I hope he will not live up to his campaign promise to overturn all of Obama's executive orders, including those protecting LGBTQ rights, and I don't think he is a champion of our cause," Wilson said.

Wilson does not think the LGBTQ community is safe and believes members should take all legal precautions necessary to protect gender identity, finish adoption by same-sex parents and secure life-planning documents, among other things.

"Many of the strides the LGBTQ rights movement has made could be in jeopardy, and the movement's current issues, such as fighting for federal protections for LGBTQ people from discrimination in their place of employment or housing, could also be facing a more difficult battle," Wilson said. "I think we need to keep speaking up, keep fighting, marching, protesting, calling our

representatives, whatever we can do to make sure our voices are heard."

LGBTQ students at the U of M, like Dalton Schultz, also are not convinced Trump will be a crusader for the LGBTQ movement in the future.

"I think this is a way for Trump's administration to try and pass off as a pro-LGBTQ administration, without actually doing anything for us," Schultz said. "I don't think we should reward him for not taking protections away."

Schultz thinks the community needs to be engaged and united in the next four years. He said the community needs to pay attention to what the government is doing and be ready to stand up and fight for their rights.

"We must do all that we can to fight the bigoted, discriminatory policies that will try to be forced upon us," Schultz said.

- Jonathan Capriel**
Editor-in-Chief
jonathancapriel@gmail.com
- Gus Carrington**
Managing Editor
agcarrington94@gmail.com
- Mitchell Koch**
Managing Editor
mjkoch@memphis.edu
- Alex Ellington**
Design Editor
llngton2@memphis.edu
- Alana King**
Design Editor
aking11@memphis.edu
- Megan Gibson**
Design Editor
mrgibson@memphis.edu
- Kristina Marlow**
Design Editor
kmarlow1@memphis.edu
- Brittany Wolfe**
Design Editor
bnwolfe@memphis.edu
- Nick Lingerfelt**
Copy Editor
nicholaslingerfelt@gmail.com
- Katie Sipple**
Copy Editor
kgsipple@memphis.edu
- Jon Bell**
Sports Editor
jmbell3@memphis.edu
- Candy Justice**
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- Bob Willis**
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Contact us
3711 Veterans Ave.
113 Meeman Journalism Bldg.
University of Memphis
Memphis, TN 38152

news@dailyhelmsman.com

Newsroom 901-678-2192
Advertising 901-678-2191

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Destiny's children: What would you name Beyoncé and Jay Z's twins?

BY SHAYNE DOTSON | STAFF

Pop queen Beyoncé announced on Instagram Wednesday she and husband Jay Z are expecting twins. The couple, married in 2008, already has a 5-year-old daughter, Blue Ivy, who was born in 2012.

With the power duo releasing this news, many people on social media have been speculating what the surely unique name of the newborn Carter twins will be.



"They should name their kids Houston and Brooklyn, because it's where Beyoncé and Jay Z are from."

Vikki Krueger, 21, psychology



"Bobby and Whitney because they are an iconic duo."

Jon Wesley Wright, 20, business management



"Tina and Jackson because Tina is [Beyoncé's] mom's name and Jackson sounds like Jay Z."

Kennedy Staigler, 20, musical theatre



"God and Jesus because Beyoncé is everything."

Madelyn Marshall, 18, social work

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►► MARCH

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Many U.S. citizens attended the march to show support for immigrants and their families.

"I think the order is ridiculous, and immigrants should be welcomed," said Sydney Gould from New Jersey. "I know people detained in JFK. I think this is a dangerous thing to start off this administration."

Rebecca Rhodes, from Memphis, said she disagrees with Trump's executive order because it is unconstitutional and against the Christian faith.

"(My family is) Christian, and because of that, we have a responsibility to welcome people and create a safe space for everyone here to be a community," Rhodes said.

Many Muslim citizens raised their voices to show their disagreement with the executive order.

Nadeen Elyan, who is also an American citizen of immigrant parents, said she feels sad for the people who can't see their family because of the stoppage.

Ayat Ayesh is an American citizen born to Palestinian immigrant parents.

"Every human being should be allowed to come to the United States or any other country no matter their religion or their race," Ayesh said.

Yasir Qadhi, a professor from the Islamic Center of Memphis, addressed the crowd of protesters.

"The time is always right to do what is right - tonight we're doing what is right," Qadhi said.

As Qadhi continued speaking to marchers, he expressed his feelings by saying not only does this ban affect the ones from those countries, but it affects him as well.

"I am not Latino, but I will stand with the Latino community," Qadhi said. "I am not a refugee, but I stand for all the refugees."

Mitchell Koch contributed to this story.



Yasir Qadhi, a professor from the Islamic Center of Memphis, addresses the crowd of marchers in front of the National Civil Rights Museum. Qadhi commended the group for attending the march saying, "Tonight we're doing what is right."

Check out more march photos on our website: dailyhelmsman.com



March attendees trek from the Clayborn Temple to the National Civil Rights Museum Wednesday in support of immigrant and refugees. The march was organized in response to a Donald Trump executive order temporarily shutting off immigration from seven Middle-Eastern countries.



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Memphis signs best football recruiting class outside Power 5

By Jon Bell
jmbell3@memphis.edu

WELCOME TO THE TIGER FAMILY

The University of Memphis led all schools in a non-Power 5 conference and set a school record for the second year in a row for highest ranked recruiting class.

The Tigers head coach Mike Norvell said they were able to put together an "incredible group of young men."

"That's what makes this group special," Norvell said.

Norvell, who just finished his first season as the Tigers head coach, proved his coaching abilities and brought in talent to strengthen the team's weak spots from last season.

"We wanted to focus on size, speed and playmaking ability," Norvell said. "We were able to address a lot of needs that we had and got guys we feel can be instant impacts."

Memphis ranked No. 89 in the country last season in passing yards allowed, giving up almost 250 yards per game.

Norvell and his staff brought in six secondary players in the 2017 recruiting class. Three defensive backs signed on National Signing Day and three were mid-year signees and enrollees.

Terrell Carter, from Nashville, was a two-way player at Stratford High School and is the top rated defensive back in the state. Carter is ranked in the top 20 in the state and is a top 50 defensive back in the nation.

The Tigers continued to help their defense by bringing in two linebackers and defensive linemen. Both linemen and one linebacker signed on Wednesday. Outside linebacker J.J. Russell was a mid-year signee.

Norvell was able to lure Russell away from other school, including two SEC schools. Russell is from Grenada, Mississippi and is rated as a top 25 player in the stat and a top 75 OLB in the nation.

Desmond Dawkins, former Craigmont High School player and a



Obinna Eze

Hometown: Nashville

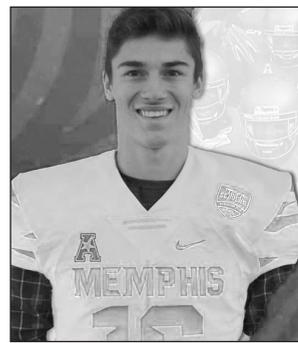
Position: Defensive Lineman



J.J. Russell

Hometown: Grenada, Mississippi

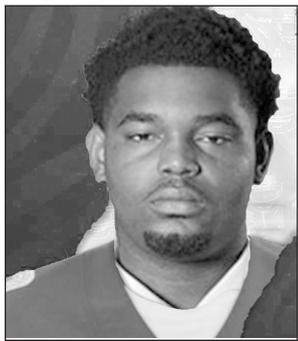
Position: Linebacker



Riley Patterson

Hometown: Edwardsville, Illinois

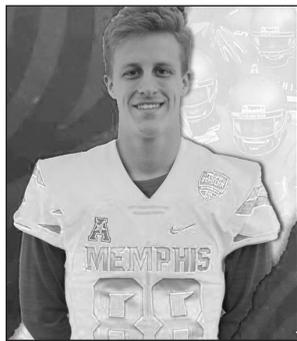
Position: Kicker



Desmond Hawkins

Hometown: Memphis

Position: Defensive Line



Connor Choate

Hometown: Coppell, Texas

Position: Long Snapper



Terrell Carter

Hometown: Nashville

Position: Cornerback



Connor Adair

Hometown: Trussville, Alabama

Position: Quarterback



Timothy Taylor

Hometown: Memphis

Position: Running Back

transfer from Hinds Community College, earned Mississippi JUCO All-State second team honors his sophomore season with 28 tackles - three for loss and a sack.

With the loss Jake Elliot, who is the Tigers' all-time leader in field goals, extra points and points, the Tigers recruited Riley

Patterson.

Patterson is ranked the No. 4 kicker in the class of 2017 by Kohl's Kicking and Punting. He is also ranked in the top 10 by 247Sports. His career high school stats feature 81 made PAT's, 120 points, and 13-17 field goals with a long of 54.

The Tigers also got one of

the top long snappers in the nation to complement the kicking game. Connor Choate is ranked No. 5 by Kohl's and No. 7 by ESPN. While long snappers go unnoticed until they make a mistake, a good long snapper can help the kicking game tremendously.

The offensive line had their ups and downs last

season, but the running game struggled and Riley Ferguson was sacked 33 times. Memphis brought in four offensive linemen to help protect the quarterback and improve the run game.

Obinna Eze leads the way as the Tigers top overall recruit. He earned a 4-star rating from 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals. The 6-foot-8 290-pound lineman had 76 pancake blocks his senior season and had offers from top programs such as Alabama, Michigan and LSU.

The Tigers recruited more help for Ferguson at wide receiver and tight end. Memphis signed two receivers and three tight ends in the class of 2017.

Tyce Daniel and Jared Edwards are both three-star prospects according to 247Sports. Both players have good size at 6-foot-4 and more than 230 pounds. They also played basketball at their respective schools, showing their athleticism.

Rounding up the recruiting class Wednesday was two quarterbacks, a running back and an athlete. The two quarterbacks contrast in style with Connor Adair reminding Norvell of Ferguson and La'Andre Thomas being mobile and athletic.

Running back Timothy Taylor and athlete Zay Culens are playmakers who can spread the offense and force the defense into tough positions. Norvell likes to run his offense at a fast pace and rotate a lot of players, and they are able to fit that style.

This is Norvell's first true recruiting class after being forced into a tough situation last season. He was able to form connections with players and coaches and bring in a quality class that can keep Memphis competing with top-level programs.

"To have a year to build those relationships was really important to us, then they got to see us play out this past season," Norvell said. "It was great for our prospect and the guys that ended up signing today"