Friday, September 8, 2017

volume 98, issue 2

Student written. Student edited

HATE GROUPS ACROSS OHIO



SOURCE: SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER HATE MAP AU officials condemn hate

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The events of Charlottesville elicited an emotional reaction from people all over the country and Ashland is no different.

The general reaction has been negative as the Unite the Right rally turned violent injuring dozens of people and killing one.

Jonathan Locust, AU's Director of Institutional Diversity and Director of Student Conduct, was shocked when he saw the events of Charlottesville.

"Honestly I couldn't believe it," Locust said. "It was like a scene in a historic kind of racism, KKK, type movie. I first thought really? Are we really doing this now? Still? Continuously?"

As an African American man, Locust took the rally personally and, like most minorities, was upset by the rallying hate groups.

"The people marching don't re-

ally realize, and they won't realize, how it feels to be the 'other'," Locust said. "I think that's the most hurtful thing."

To further explain his point, while buying his most recent car, Locust actually did some research to figure out which car is less likely to get pulled over.

Living in an all white neighborhood, driving a car that isn't typically driven by African Americans, Locust did in fact notice a decrease in getting pulled over.

"I don't think someone marching would even have to think about something like that," Locust said. "Which car do I drive so I don't have to be pulled over or possibly harassed by the police? These are things that people just don't think about that people who are the 'other' typically have to think about. I think it's a situation that people just don't know how good they've got it."

Locust was not alone in his nega-

tive response to the rally.

Similarly, President Carlos Campo described the events as "darkly familiar" remembering the times of his childhood.

"I was a very young boy during the civil rights era, but the images were still ingrained in my mind and of course that's what it went back to for me," Campo said. "I think part of it was just what I saw initially in the media that reminded me of that some of this chanting and certainly the torches and those kind of things were all horrible and familiar from those times."

This kind of hate filled behavior and way of thinking that was shown in Charlottesville is not

Hate groups are not a thing of the past and are not a rare thing today. In fact, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) identified 35 hate groups in Ohio alone.

"I think it's something that we need to call out as a state and we

will call it out as a university and we will say that there will be no place for hate here," Campo said in response to the SPLC's findings.

Campo believes it is important for the university to make a public stance against hatred making it perfectly clear that it will not be tolerated on the campus.

"As a place that fosters education we have to stand up against hatred because hatred in almost every form is about ignorance," Campo said. "It can be traced to so many things, but it really is about ignorance. It's through that very deep idea that if you hate something it's generally through a lack of understanding of it."

Both Campo and Locust agree that one of the best ways to stand up to hate and ignorance is through communication and understanding.

"The most important thing is really just to dialogue and have a conversation," Locust said. "I think being able to have a conversation where for one, everyone's opinions and views are respected, but also I think it's always important to realize why people have specific perspectives."

STATEWIDE GROUPS NOT INCLUDED.

Locust believes it is important to try to figure out why a person hates the things that they hate by getting an understanding of their background and experiences they have been through to make them feel the way they do.

"If you can understand where a person is coming from, then you can have a foundation of which to exchange views," he said.

Moving forward from this, both individually and as a university, will take work. In the aspect of the university as a whole, Campo believes it is important for the staff, faculty and students to communi-

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Iurricane Harvey relief: How to help

AVAERIE FITZGERALD AND **KASEY SICILIANO** @AUCollegian

Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 storm, dumped 20 trillion gallons of water on Texas last week. With rainfall topping at fifty inches. This storm has left homes destroyed, created gas shortages, kept people without access to clean water, and created devastation making Hurricane Harvey one of the costliest storms in history. At least 47 deaths have been recorded as floods begin to clear and rescue efforts are underway. The people of Texas have begun to speak out in this time of loss.

A resident of Texas and elementary school teacher, who asked to remain anonymous said, "We have two [local] schools that are damaged. Thankfully my school was not damaged. Amazingly, enough needs are being met. So many people have come together. People are donating things. People are cooking meals, restaurants are donating meals to the first responders, police, national guard, etc. Community members are helping with housing needs as well as the dirty work of repairing homes. I have never in my life seen a community

rise together like this." In this time of great need, everyone can come together to aid the rescue effort. Many stores in Texas are taking full advantage of the needs of the residents. People have reported bottled water prices rising up to \$90. Many people are relying on these donations to sustain them until the price drops back down.

Some tips on donating: Always make sure that the money is going to a reliable organization. Some donation websites don't give any of the money to the victims of the hurricane. Find out if the charity is providing direct aid or collecting money to send people from other organizations down to help.

Make sure to donate wisely. The residents of Texas have asked for water, and some have asked for food, even the schools are asking for books. Any extra materials will most likely not make it to those af-

One reliable organization to donate to is the American Red Cross. To donate call 1-800-RED CROSS or text HARVEY to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

It is easy to get involved right here at Ashland University through the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio on the Gofundme page, Kindness Matters from Ohio to Texas. These donations will help students, just like those of Ashland, affected by the hurricane. See your University email for more information.

Wings for Texas is another event being hosted at AU to raise money to donate to those in Houston who have lost their lives,



Members of the Texas national guard move to help people affected by flooding caused by hurricane Harvey.

homes, and clothing.

The event will be held in the Quad on Sept. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be food provided, games to play, and a raffle for Ashland University Gear. Also being sold will be Wings for Texas tshirts and sweat shirts. Five dollars of the cost of your t-shirt or sweat shirt goes to the funds we will be raising for Houston.

It is not required to give money to participate in this event, however, anything you may be able to donate to those in need will go a long way.

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