



National Association of
Black and White Men Together
Resist Racism & Homophobia

WELCOME TO Q VISIONS the NABWMT NEWS

STOP PRESS

Just Released: Movie with Posters of Bayard Rustin (one of the 1st NABWMT members)

Be sure to see Denzel Washington in "Roman J. Israel Esq."

The story of an activist attorney trying to stick to his Social Justice roots.

Look for the shots of Rustin posters on the wall along with other luminaries of the Civil Rights era.

IN THIS ISSUE : Conventions, Regional and Chapter News, Health, Remembrance, Co Chairs Article



FEATURED NEWS

James Credle is our Program Manager for the next three Conventions. (Reno, Washington DC and ?)

James is one of the longest serving members of our organization, and had attended ALL of our conventions

SUBSCRIBE TO QVISIONS

ABOUT US,
The NABWMT is:
Gay
Multiracial
Multicultural

WE ENGAGE in:
Human Rights Struggles
Political Issues
Cultural Education
Social Events

WE FIGHT:
Racism
Sexism
Homophobia
HIV/AIDS discrimination

OUR CHAPTERS Identify as:
Black and White Men Together (BWMT),
Men of All Colors Together (MACT),
Men of all Colors and Cultures, or
People of All Colors Together (PACT)

We welcome people of all racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

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nabwmt@nabwmt.org

CONVENTION 2018 and 2019
TO REGISTER FOR EITHER CONVENTION OR BOTH
PLEASE VISIT
OUR NEW [WEBSITE](#)

The Eldorado Resort in Reno, NV will be the host hotel, July 18 – 21 of our 2018 Convention.

The convention theme is Rockin' our Relationships – relationships with each other, relationships with other social justice organizations and relationships with the gay community. Work has already begun on the program!



The registration rate is \$175.00 until December 31st.

The guest-room rate at The Eldorado is \$72.00 Sunday through Thursday and \$130.00 Friday and Saturday nights.

We are pleased to announce the location for our 2019 convention in Washington, DC! The Hilton Crystal City (across the river from DC) will be the host hotel, July 31 – August 3, 2019.

Come to the nation's Capital to see the new African-American Museum and many other attractions.

Convention Registration per person



Now through August 31 2018	\$150
Sept 1 -December 31 2018	\$175
Jan 1 -March 31 2019	\$200
April 1 -June 30 2019	\$225
July 1 through the Convention	\$250

We are excited to share that the 2020 Convention will be in New Orleans, LA. Exact dates and how to register will be available soon.

The 5th Annual West Coast Regional was held in Palm Springs with attendees from Phoenix, Fort Lauderdale, Portland, and Los Angeles/Long Beach.



BWMTSC and MACT Phoenix had another enjoyable Annual Western Regional from 11/3/2017 through 11/5/2017.

Organized by Kelvin McAdory, co chair of BWMTSC and NA Board member.

This is the 5th year of alternating venues between the Palm Springs area and Phoenix. Both chapters came together once again to meet, have fun, relax and fortify the alliance of the chapters in the west.

This year the event returned to the resort in Palm Springs where the original event was held. In addition, this year Palm Springs Pride changed the location of the festival to the streets of downtown, close to the bars, and free of charge.

Some of the attendee's arrived as early as Wednesday to make it more of a extend their vacation. We had the pleasure of 3 visitors joining in on the celebration. We were happy to have 22 people signed. This included Keith from Portland, Or., Xander from Denver, Co., and Patrick all the way from Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., Austin from Fullerton, Ca., Duane from Phoenix, Az. Guy from Los Angeles also joined in.

We kicked off the weekend on Friday with pizza and nibbles in the host unit. After that Pride offered 5 entertainment stages for those who wanted to take part. On Saturday Mexican food was served.

The route of the Pride Parade on Sunday was changed this year. The staging area was in front of the resort. Some of us were able to sit on the patio and watch each entry start the parade.

Plans are underway for the 6th Annual Western Regional in Phoenix over the Veteran's Day holiday November 9, 2018 thru November 11, 2018 with the holiday on Monday the 12th. Booking will start March 15th 2018.

MEN OF ALL COLORS (MACT) PHILLY



Steering Committee Meeting and General Meeting

Friday, November 17th...6:00-9:30 PM at William Way LGBT Community Center

NOT ONE MORE...Rally & Silent March

Monday, November 20th...4:30 to 6 PM

Thanksgiving Dinner...at J J's Home in Berlin, NJ...Thursday, November 23rd, 2 PM

Holiday Pot Luck Dinner...at the Farm...Saturday, December 16th...2 PM

[CONTACT MACT PHILLY](#)

Gay Men's Relationships

By Ken Scott Baron

I recently attended a Gay Men's Health Forum in Long Beach, CA. The most interesting presentation was from a Los Angeles therapist Ken Howard who talked about Gay Men's relationships. He kicked off by saying It's OK to be single and described many types of relationships were in order.

When you look at our community the talk about monogamy and non-monogamy seems to present a binary view, but Mr. Howard reminds us the various definitions of these arrangements, which can change over the life of relationship. They are also informed by family of origin, past relationships, values, priorities, and traumas. And let's not forget that as Gay Men we are very "male competitive" which influences our roles.

And finally, we must be aware of the risks and benefits of each chosen path.

So, if you are looking for the building blocks of a relationships, he advocates the "3 C's".

- Commitment – Desire, Timing, Function, Barriers, Support.
- Communication – Verbal, Non-verbal, cultural, language barriers, family of origin, education,
- Compromise – "Giving to Get" in behavioral terms (conflict resolution, "union negotiations")

So, if you are lucky to find such a relationship, with or without the "3 C's", then making a relationship work on 4 Levels is the next challenge:

- Emotionally – love, safety, humor, stability
- Physically – sex, affection, proximity
- Domestically – finances, household chores
- "Managing 'The Other'" - Boss, jealousy, illness, and many more

However, Mr. Howard did not elaborate on the topic of Interracial Homosexual Couples which can be a double whammy. Research shows that Interracial couples have lower levels of support from their social networks than same-race couples. And, both suffer the social stigma associated with race and homosexuality, evolving from "violation of a family norms". Individuals in interracial same-sex relationships may belong to several stigmatized groups suggesting a cumulative negative effect. But, limited research on this may not occur. So, what might explain this?

Experiences as a result of their minority status may be key. Couples who ignore or overcome negative sanctions from family or friends have a better chance of maintaining a satisfying relationship. One common coping strategy: limit exposure to network members who disapprove of their relationships and to network with like-minded people who support the relationship (e.g. other interracial gay couples).

Simply put, daters hang out with others who make them feel good about their life choices and avoid those who don't.

Individuals learn coping skills to help deal with their minority status then transfer these when they enter an interracial same-sex relationship. This is not to suggest that the couples never experience negative reactions from parents or friends. There is a strong need for research on interracial or same-sex relationship, which is difficult.

Not all couples perceive opposition to their relationships from family or friends. Those that do, many are able to overcome initial opposition (e.g., once family gets to know their partners) and go on to have happy and satisfying relationships.

Based on the presentation by Ken Howard, MSW, LCSW www.GayTherapyLA.com and other research.



[CLICK HERE FOR
Robot Video](#)

Part of a series “White Fire on Black Fire”

Are You Really DDF and Clean?

Mark Behar, Co Chair Emeritus

Two gay robots seeking hook-up sex meet and discuss what is meant by “DDF” (“drug and disease free”).

Their conversation is quite revealing, and is apparent that one of the robots seeking sex is stubbornly uninformed and ignorant about his risk and stupidly relies on the assertion that his desired partner must be “DDF” or “clean”. When this robotic video was first released around 2011, medical researchers knew, but the general public was unaware and the federal government’s own health guru’s at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were reluctant to advise us that “U = U” (“undetectable = untransmittable”). HIV positive persons effectively on medication and having undetectable HIV viral loads means there is virtually no risk of their sex partner getting HIV. (“Virtually,” because nothing is absolutely 100% or 0% in science; near 100% or near 0% is all medical scientists will ever say.) And of course we’re talking about HIV, not syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes, etc.

The CDC’s own educational campaigns now incorporate the “U=U” as well as “TasP” (“treatment as prevention”) for those who are positive. Since many so-called educated people still think the flu shot can cause the flu (it can’t), it doesn’t seem likely that everyone will ever be totally convinced. But we Americans are full of paranoid ideas and sometimes delusions, and the government hasn’t helped in reassuring or protecting us (Tuskegee syphilis study, Henrietta Lacks’ cervical cancer cells, etc.), and President Trump’s (I still shutter when saying that) successful media diversions and “fake” news assertions help to keep us paranoid yet uncritical and uninformed. How’s that for a paradox? (CONT)

(From previous page)

Risk is ever-present from the time we are sleeping (car crashes into home, killing sleeping occupant; Google search for examples in media), to the moment we once again return to bed after a risk-filled day of auto traffic, crossing streets, eating, choking on food, slipping on ice, stray bullets, flying tires and even vehicles crashing into unsuspecting bystanders. Sex of course, is included in this list of risky activities, perhaps even solo-sex (if you believe news assertions—Google it!).

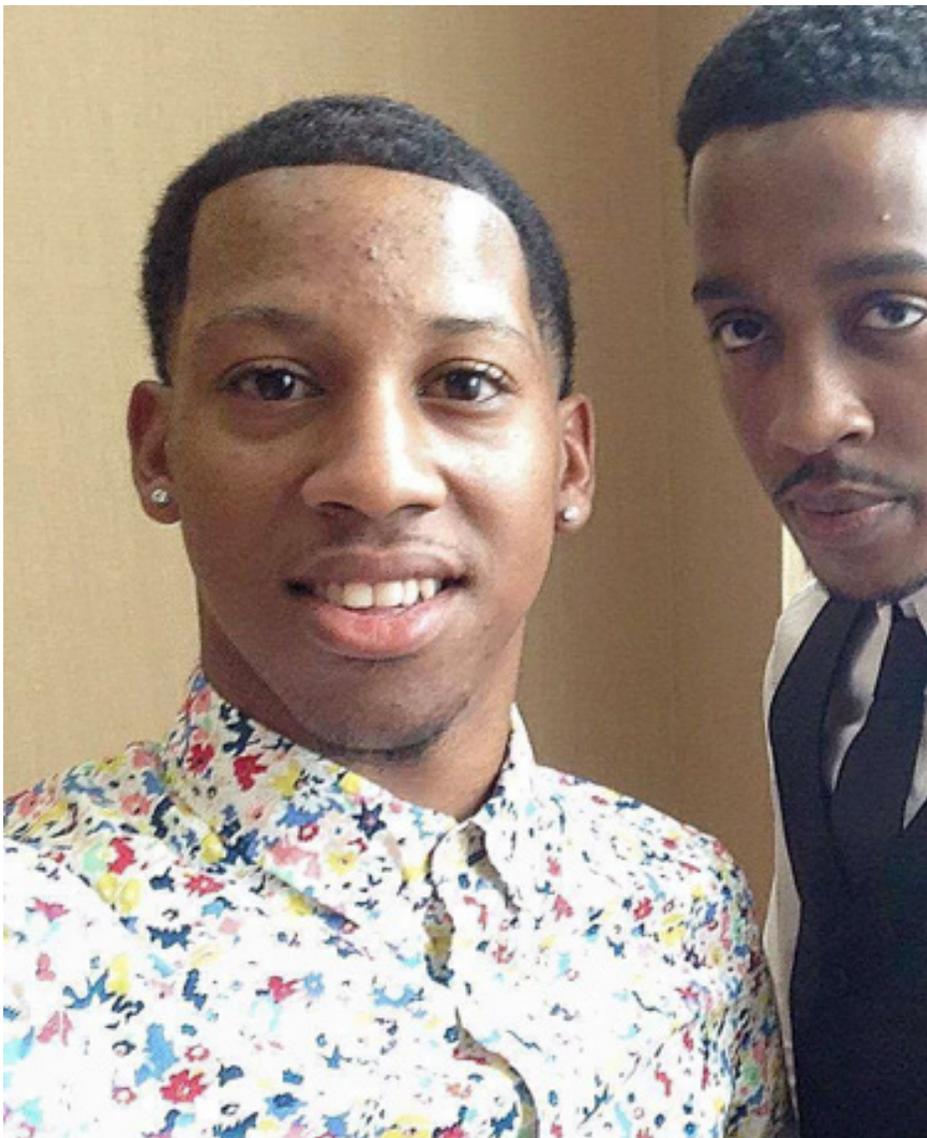
Understanding that “risk” is all around us, and nothing is 100% safe is helpful in understanding that certain perspective about risk and may help unparalyze us as we encounter our day’s activities. Some risks may be more acceptable than others. Jumping out of airplanes or riding a motorcycle without a helmet can be mediated by using parachutes (or condoms if we return to our robotic sex metaphor), or avoiding rainy, slippery days or riding fast, and these may all be sorted on a continuum of greater or lesser risk.

However, one of our biggest challenges I fear, is failing to communicate effectively with our prospective sex partners, spouses, our friends, associates, colleagues, students, family members, fellow BWMT/MACT brothers-- essentially everyone in our lives. As most educators know, effective communication is a two way street, requiring hearing a message, understanding and restating in different words what that message was, and acknowledging in some way. This requires setting aside certain feelings, assumptions and other filters both people may have regarding one another. President Trump and his supporters provoke such a filter in me, that limits how I can understand messages from “their” side. How are we all contributing to greater understanding and better communications? Hopefully, it will not be re-defining “DDF” and “clean” to suit our needs!

In the next issue of White Fire on Black Fire in Q-Visions: Accusations of Gay Sexual Misconduct: House of Cards’ Kevin Spacey and Star Trek’s George Takei.

We Remember Tre'Darius Anderson
Sadly, Tre'Darius passed away this month at 24 years old. Please take a moment and hold David in your thoughts and prayers as he goes through this difficult time.

Please read a tribute to Tre'Darius from Co Chair Scott on the next page



Tre'Darrius (left) and husband David

Editorial Note:
JOYS AND SORROWS

Our organization has a proud and long history. Many of our members, heroes, and allies have celebrated the joys of life. Many have endured sorrows and some passed on.

We need to ensure we all do our part to keep in touch with our members to uplift and support.

For example, this week we learned that long time MACT members Steve and Art are undergoing surgery. Hold them in your thoughts.

Shooting Stars Cross in Cyberspace by Scott Duty

For those who had the pleasure of attending the 2016 Memphis convention, my personal favorite, you heard the inspirational messages from David & Tre'Darius Anderson. D&T, as we have come to refer to them, flew from their hometown of Memphis, TN to Washington, DC and married on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on January 18, 2013. In doing so, they became the youngest known same sex married couple in the United States. Their wedding, and subsequent Memphis reception with family and friends, was captured as a part of My Teenage Wedding, Season 2 for Slice TV.

For over an hour, these young men were gracious in sharing their life and love story. How, while in high school, David started following Tre'Darius on Twitter and found the courage to send him a message. That first message led to many more messages, meetings, kisses and eventual love. The group gave them a thunderous standing ovation for their courage and determination to make their love win against all obstacles.

For many years, NABWMT has looked for ways to connect with new members of the LGBTQ community interested in our Statement of Purpose. The Co-Chairs and Board of Directors immediately looked for ways to support D&T's energy and message. We helped them incorporate Guys with Pride, their new organization for LGBTQ youth to promote self-affirmation, dignity and equal rights. In February 2017, D&T attended the Creating Change conference with Paul Hawkins in Philadelphia, PA as great exposure to the myriad of LGBTQ organizations that present workshops.



Unfortunately, after returning from Creating Change, Tre'Darius began having health issues that led to his untimely and tragic passing on November 2nd at 24 years young. Many adjectives describe Tre'Darius including dedicated, friendly, loving, hardworking and charming but the most meaningful is husband. If you would like to make a donation towards Tre'Darius' funeral expenses, please go to the Go Fund Me page that was created in his honor.

We will continue to support and love David as he embarks on his new and uncertain future.

The NABWMT Co Chairs are Gavin Morrow-Hall (left) and Scott Duty.

Their updates are featured in our Q Visions each quarter. This time it is Gavin's turn!



Giving Thanks and Forward Movement

In the season of giving thanks we are most grateful to the hard work and dedication of the NABWMT Board of Directors. The Board met the weekend of October 13th in Kansas City. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to social justice and to reforming the NABWMT. Here are some highlights;

The Board approved James Credle of MACT NY as the NABWMT Convention Manager who will be the chief organizer of conventions in 2018, 2019 and 2020. James Credle is the perfect choice to lead our next three conventions, as James has dedicated his life to the cause of social justice, has chaired two fabulous national conventions and has the connections and vision to ensure the next three conventions will be unqualified successes.

Speaking of conventions, for the first time in NABWMT history, we have a three-year convention plan. As previously announced we will be in Reno in 2018 and in Washington DC in 2019. The Board also approved the site for the 2020 convention in..... New Orleans!

One thing that has vexed NABWMT since the beginning is membership. What is a member? What does one "get" for their membership and how can we get more members. The Board tackled questions head on by approving the concept that anyone who donates money in excess of \$30, or by registering for a national convention will be considered a member of NABWMT. The Board will submit official language for approval at the General membership meeting in Reno 2018, and has taken steps to change our standing rules in the interim.

Additionally, the Board approved funding for our future technologies. NABWMT's RESIST Racism App is currently available on Google Play. The Board allocated funds for the app to also be available through Apple's App Store as well. The Board also approved funds for a website redesign which will include a space for personal ads

All of the aforementioned activities were part of an intentional plan that we anticipate will broaden our visibility and increase our relevancy to our communities.

We ask that you join NABWMT's efforts to recreate our future by creating a more socially just world.

This is a new series of articles from guest contributors on issues of our time. This article will be serialized in three parts and comes from Dr. Michael Lyde.



“The content of your character is your choice. Day by day, what you choose, what you think and what you do is who you become. Your integrity is your destiny; it is the light that guides your way.” -Heraclitus

Michael and the Law (or The Boys in Blue Are Making Me Blue)

The privilege of childhood idealism erodes with time for many of us. The tint of the lens in our rose-colored glasses fades away, becomes clear, and, for some, the tint fades to black. Certainly my lenses have transitioned from rose to black and back again over my lifetime. The moments and experiences that notably lightened and darkened my lenses are like red letters burned into my soul. Things change, people change, and even the prescription of my lenses change.

What follows is a brief stroll that highlights the most salient moments that altered my prescription. When I think about my history with agents of law enforcement, it is a storm of emotions.

A cacophony of echoes with conflicting voices and narratives. I hear the voice of my inner child who admired the police. They were Long Beach's Finest and that is what the boy in me believed. These were the guys who picked me up when I went screaming down the street when I could not get into the house after school one day. I had forgotten that my Mom would not be home that day and told me to stay with my neighbor after school. The police scooped up my 1st grade self and took me in search of my Mom. I even got to ride in the back of the patrol car. I recall riding across the playground of my school and many of my classmates looking at me with a weird look in their eyes. I later learned that sitting in the backseat of a patrol car is not an enviable place to be. I can do without that brand of street cred. My perception of police officers began to shift when the police raided my father's home when I was about 7. They were not so kind and helpful that night. They called my father everything but his name that night. I recall them ransacking his home and stepping on my toy police car—how ironic. (CONT.)

Michael owns a business consulting firm, is a faculty member in Corporate Education at Cal State University Long Beach, and a budding author.

He joined the Southern California BWMT Chapter in 2012 and enjoys the camaraderie. Michael advocates for healthy relationships and the prevention of intimate partner violence in the African American and Black Immigrant communities as a public speaker and a community educator.

He resides in Long Beach, CA and is writing his first novel.

You may read more of his writing at .

www.michaellyde.com

(From Previous Page)

My father betrayed no discernable reaction to the officers' threats and intimidation that were sandwiched between duels of profanities, obscenities, and clever retorts. Dad had a gift for language. They did not find the drugs they sought that night (but they did find one of Dad's five weed stashes three weeks later). Dad took me to McDonald's to cheer me up—well, settle my young, disturbed mind as best he could—and that was the first time that I began to understand his snide utterances about "Long Beach's Finest." The way that he said it always conflicted with the emblem on the side of their black and white cruisers. He never called them the police, but often called them "Tilly". I can only imagine the origin of that creative moniker. I never heard my dad refer to them as pigs, but I'm certain that he did at some point. He was one of Angela Davis's many pen pals during her incarceration and he was down with the struggle. Ironically, he sold significant amounts of weed.

I often wondered how he reconciled these antithetical passions in his mind. Was this one of the reasons that he left us too soon? As an adolescent, I grew weary of the police. Police were omnipresent to counter burgeoning gang activity. I often saw boys my age and older seated on the curb with their knees tucked to their chests and hands cuffed behind them. Perhaps there was a bike in the vicinity—"I ride one of those"—or a duffel bag—I used to carry one of those when the seams on my backpack failed. The anxiety of waiting for my turn to be cuffed on the curb stirred and stirs my guts. It's possible that some of those guys broke a law or two, but what harm could a father do when he was on a walk to the store with his son? Yes, I saw that scenario play out one more than one occasion. Let them tell it, he did or would do something. Perhaps he did, but the experiences of many of my brothers suggest that we do not always do something worthy of these experiences. I recall an encounter with the police during my undergraduate years.

An officer stopped me for riding my bicycle against the flow of traffic. I was riding in the bike lane, was the only cyclist in sight, and had a bag of groceries hanging from either handlebar. He drove his cruiser across three lanes of traffic to cut me off and inform me that I was riding on the wrong side of the street. I informed him that I had been hit twice on my bike and I like to see any oncoming traffic to have a chance at avoiding being hit again (that didn't always work out planned as I got hit a third time during my graduate studies in Ohio). The officer made a snide remark that escapes me at the moment and eventually we parted ways.

While I understood his position, he expressed no concern for my safety and offered no suggestions that qualified as protection or service. While teaching at a local university many years later, I had the opportunity to teach courses at local police precincts and academies. My time working with these officers provided me with an opportunity to view them outside of their uniforms. These men and women were really cool people. I gained insight into the realities of their jobs and a bit of police culture. I learned that many of them had military backgrounds which often informed their interaction with the public. I learned that they had the daily goal of protecting the public and helping out when they could. Most importantly, I was reminded that they want to get home safely just like the rest of us. During my time working with these officers over a couple of years, I noticed that my anger and anxieties associated with police officers were barely noticeable. Many of these officers had become my friends and colleagues as each of us was in the business of helping people. I even considered doing a ride along with a couple of the officers, but ultimately decided against it because I had no desire to be in the backseat of a police cruiser. This period of good and hopeful relations would come to a halt one rainy evening a couple of years later.

(TO BE CONTINUED in the next edition of QV)

Michael owns a business consulting firm, is a faculty member in Corporate Education at Cal State University Long Beach, and a budding author. He joined the Southern California BWMT Chapter in 2012 and enjoys the camaraderie. Michael advocates for healthy relationships and the prevention of intimate partner violence in the African American and Black Immigrant communities as a public speaker and a community educator. He resides in Long Beach, CA and is writing his first novel. You may read more of his writing at .

www.michaellyde.com

Out of darkness, hope by Scott Duty

The night of November 8, 2016 still haunts me. I can vividly remember the shock and bewilderment as I tried to go to sleep that evening. How could anyone think that a President Trump was better for the country than a President Clinton? That was a restless and nightmare filled night.

I was in a long and dark dream, lacking hope and then 364 days later I woke. On November 7, 2017 the region and country were introduced to Danica Roem. She is the first openly transgendered woman elected in the United States.

Previously two transgendered people had been elected, but both had hid the fact they were transgendered. What makes Danica's victory that much sweeter was that she trounced Bob Marshall who had served for 25 years in the seat and proudly called himself "Virginia's chief homophobe." In January 2017, Delegate Marshall introduced the "Physical Privacy Act" better known as the bathroom bill. Fortunately, the bill died in committee. Danica soon after launched her campaign.

Danica was previously an award winning journalist for two local papers, The Gainesville Times and Prince William Times. Her campaign was about local issues. Traffic on local Route 28, schools and community was her platform.

Our 2019 convention will be in Washington, DC – nearby to Danica's district. We will be reaching out to her to see if she can participate in some way.

Referring to the community in general, we tend to quickly rattle off the letters L-G-B-T-Q, sometimes for inclusivity there are other letters thrown into the mix like I and A. An honest reflection on where the focus and energy has been, you would have to admit that until recently, the letters could have been LGBTQ. Lesbians and Gays were the focus and the others were invited to the party, but not encouraged to speak too loudly.

It's the time of the T, and not the gossip kind. With the courage and grace shown by Danica and others, perhaps people who are transgendered in private will find it easier to stand tall and proud in their truth in public.

