Talk show gets flak for conservative views

STATE WHITES

It's hard enough to be a conservative when the country is awash with Democratic euphors, the year of the woman, and a resounding stance by black voters for a liberal-led America. No one wants to hear you cry about the demise of a 12-year Republican reign or the fracture of family val-

ues.

But to be a black female conservative today can be an even truer test of the firmness of one's principles. Marie Kaigler ought to know.

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Kaigler, who hosts a community-oriented talk show which airs weekly on local Boott Communication and Continental Cablevision West Channuls, has lived through more than a decade of receiving phone calls and letters threatening her life, having her office ransacked, losing jobs and even been the target of gunshots.

Her show, "Marie Kaigler's Perspectives" which airs at 10 pm. Mondays on Booth Communications cabbe Channel 11, however, is not the source of her strife, says Kaigler. While her conservative stance may come out during the show, the forum serves as discussion of current issues concerning all of metropolitan barbones with the source of her strife, says Kaigler. While her conservative stance may come out during the show, the forum serves as discussion of current issues concerning all of metropolitan between the strife, says the stripped of the proposition of the prop

A native Detroiter

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But the 48-year-old who was born, raised and now lives in Detroit knows better. It might be her lack of focused attention on the black community in her show, or re-public stance against abortion, affirmative action and schools of choice which have brought about her conservative moniker.

moniker.
But, in Kaigler's opinion, it is her vocal opposition to the black liberal and separatist sentiment, which she says reigns in Detroit, that has brought on those groups'

wrath.

Detroit, in her opinion, has spent too much energy focusing on race relations and not enough on improving the lives and education of black families.

"I don't want to see the fate of black America focused on hating white people," she said, "it's my personal belief that we need to look at ourselves and focus on goals like being good parents and working to get off of welfare."

It is this approach of blacks in Detroit, Knigler said, that is tear-

ing the community apart. And it's when she began expressing this view back in the 1970s that she began taking heat for it.
"The dissension didn't start with my show," she said. "It started with James Reese and 'People Want to Know'— when we didn't support Coleman Young."

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"People Want to Know" was one of Knigler's first ventures into the world of broadcasting. From 1974 to 1979, she co-hoated the hourlong talk show on radio station Wills with Jim Rese. She made the move to this type of programming, she said, as a result of her work with sexually abused children. children.

children.
"You can't look at these little
babies who have been abused and
close your eyes for very long," she
said. "I needed an outlet for my
anger and my concern."

No more love

Kaigler had been a part of the Civil Rights movement as a college student majoring in sociology at Fisk University in Tennessee in the 1960a. It was also the change she saw in the movement after she left that sparked her ansers.

"After Jim Crow fell in 1965, Stokely Carmichael took over as "After Jim Crow fell in 1965, Stokoly Carmichael took over a leader and the movement took on a very militant, vident and separatist approach," Knigler said, adding the racial hatted that she saw taking over was not serving these little childron shows the saw taking over was not serving these little childron shows worked with in Detroit.

"When I was there, it was a movement of brotherly love and human respect," Knigler said, "Now oppression exists within the black community and its caring us apart. One look at these bables and you can see

these babies and you can see that."

Since Knigler returned to Detroit from Tennessee, she has received a master's degree in quidance counseling and is a dectoral candidate in developmental and behavioral psychology at Wayne State University. It has been in the years since she left Tennesse, while working with abused children, working as community agent with Detroit Public Schools and teaching and counseling at local community colleges, that Knigler has developed her public voice.

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In 1972 she worked on a radio talk show called "For My People", from 1974-79 she focused her efforts on "People Want to Know" and from 1980-1992 she had a television talk show called "Ask Your Counselor."

In 1990, however, she made the move to a wider audience with a Sunday night call-in program on radio station WXYT which focused on local issues in general and last year's birth of her cable television program. Next January, Kaigler has plans to debut a pro-

Trouble starts

Her move to an expanded focus on metropolitan communities is a natural outgrowth of her non-separatist position on black-white relations, Kaigler sold, but her views have always brought her. trouble.

She has lost more than one job because of her outspoken rejec-

tion of Detroit black inversits one has had her offices ransacked. When she chaired President Ronald Reagan's inaugural ball in 1981, the threats on her life be-

in 1931, the threats on her life be-gan.
Even recently, Kaigler wonders
if someone might be trying to scare her into silence. One eve-ning, after returning home from the cable studios last September, Kaigler went back out to her car. As she approached her car, four or five gunshots rang out very near-

by and Kaişler dove under her car in fear. Kaişler said ahe never saw anybody, but her baby sitter who came running out after her, said he saw someone riding off on a bike. "I magine if they (the bullets) were meant for me I'd be dead right now," said Kaişler, who doean't let the continuing calls and lutters bother her as much at ter all these years. "But the dete-tive who I've talked to said to take everything seriously."



November is... National Hospice Month at died at home after e at died at home after e at lengthy illness th survives

LOVE STORY

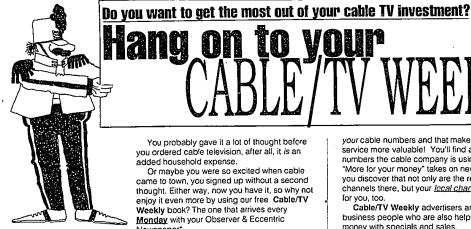
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