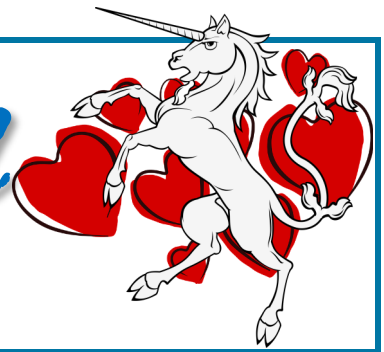


"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn

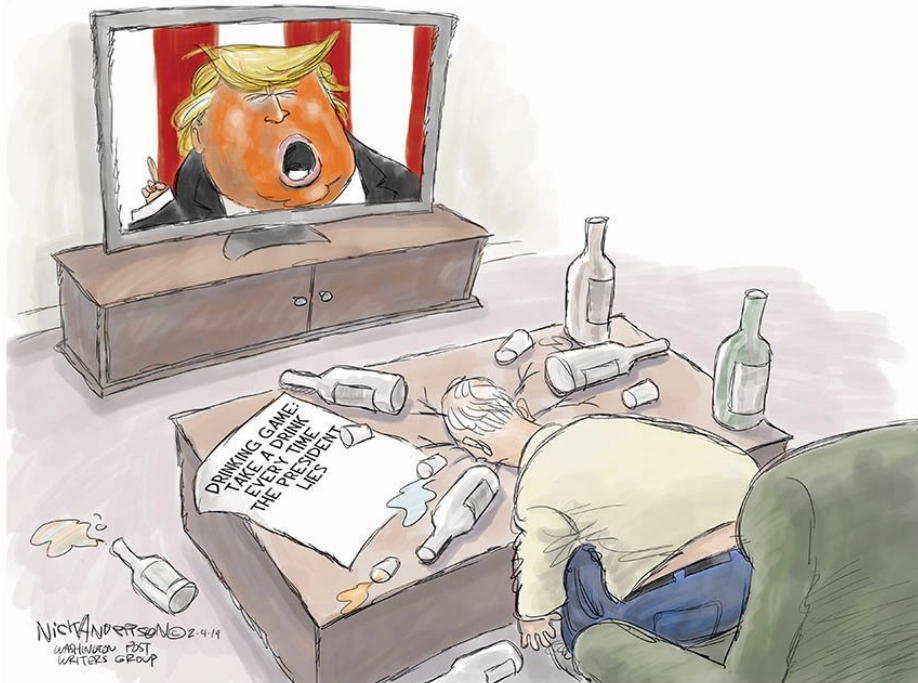
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## The Tangerine Generalissimo's State of Hate Address

The Tangerine Generalissimo's State of the Union speech February 5th, was marked by high-flying rhetoric about American greatness and unity, rhetoric that was at odds with many of his policies, while he also erased large swaths of the American people.

We're entering Year Three of donnie's administration, and once again, President Drumpf has shown his real agenda: Rather than finding ways to lift the American people and unify them across party lines, donnie returns to his core messages of racial division and hatred.

### The State of the Union Address was no different.

He praised the nation's military and veterans but never mentioned his plan to kick out thousands of service members simply because they are transgender. There were six trans military members in the audience as guests of Democratic members of Congress, including two invited by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Whether it's feigning praise for our servicemembers while kicking out tens of thousands of dedicated soldiers for their gender identity or HIV status, touting his border wall, a literal monument to his cruelty, or gaslighting people with disingenuous pledges of support after spending the last two years taking aim at the federal programs and policies most effectively serving and protecting those living with HIV..

The expected announcement of a plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2030 consisted of a couple of vague lines that included the promise of increased spending. Specifics may come in the next few days, but it's worth noting that the current administration in the past has proposed cutting expenditures on HIV and AIDS, that the president has dismissed his entire advisory council on the issue, and that the administration supports health care providers who would deny care that violates their religious sensibilities. **(Several LGBTQ groups have pointed out Trump's poor record on HIV and AIDS, as has the Democratic National Committee, which found the speech marked by empty promises on the issue.)**

(Continued pg. 2)

### How much it HURTS...

to say the Pledge of Allegiance before all Party functions and meetings...as we all must.

It hurts like hell that I pledge allegiance to a country that hates me and my kind. A country that I love, because of what it is supposed to stand for, yet which does not love me back...and which seems to cheerfully and gleefully REFUSE to live up to those ideals that are supposed to make America the greatest nation on Earth.

I wonder what meaning any of the values we claim to cherish really have. I am discriminated against in just about every aspect of my life. It hurts so much that I want to die...and my government refuses to stand up for me.

My government says that murder is a crime, yet every day, many of my sisters and brothers are murdered...murdered by proxy. Murdered by discrimination. My government could stand up for us, and protect ALL of her citizens, as she is supposed to do...but she will not.

My government tells me and people like me that we cannot serve in the military. That it is okay to deny us jobs, housing, dignity...and even life itself. Let's face it...in this country, you work...or you die. And what do you suppose happens when you single out a group of people and deny them the ability to economically sustain themselves? They die, that is what happens.

If you come at me with a gun or a knife, it is murder and it is illegal. But if you come at me with economic deprivation...I am every bit as dead. But it's legal. It is no less murder, though.

My country does not value me, does not love me, does not support me...does not grant me the rights that ought to be mine by birth-right. My country treats convicted criminals better than it treats me. In fact, my country forces many of my transgender people into crime...into the underground economy...just in order to survive. A world full of danger, imminent violence, disease, death, encounters with law enforcement...all of which make it even more unlikely we can join the regular economy and hold down traditional, dignified jobs. Yet nobody will stand up for us... because employment discrimination continues to be allowed. Murder by proxy.

(Continued pg. 4)

## We aren't buying it

He applauded the record number of women in Congress, many of those attending the address wore white in honor of the women's suffrage movement, without acknowledging that most of them were elected in a backlash to his policies. He also did not mention the record number of LGBTQ people in Congress, nor did he even utter the term "LGBTQ" or anything similar.

El Presidente' was surrounded by the most racially and gender-diverse group of elected representatives in Congressional History. Openly transgender active servicemembers, including brave US Navy Petty Officer Second Class Megan Winters, sat in attendance in the House Chambers among their fellow soldiers. For the first time in history, a black woman took the national stage to offer her party's response to the State of the Union.

In a statement unlikely to win him any fans among women, except perhaps on the religious right, he asked Congress to ban late-term abortions. He condemned a recently enacted New York law, saying, **"Lawmakers in New York cheered with delight upon the passage of legislation that would allow a baby to be ripped from the mother's womb moments before birth."** The law does not do that, although it loosens some restrictions on late-term abortions. He also made the bizarre claim that Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam **"stated he would execute a baby after birth,"** which is also not true, although Northam did give an awkward and confusing answer to questions about late-term abortions.

Drumpf further contrasted abortion with **"the beautiful image of a mother holding her infant child,"** not remarking on the contrast between that image and the separation of immigrant children from their families because of his administration's policies.

All of these things show that we are making real progress. But even as we celebrate this progress, we know that the Administration intends to keep fighting us with everything they've got.

He continued to claim that immigrants are bringing a crime wave into the U.S. through its southern border because of Congress's refusal to build the wall he wants, when in reality there is no such crime wave and that experts of immigration have said there are many better ways to keep criminals and illegal drugs from coming into the U.S. He stopped short of declaring a national emergency (**he has since done so, on February 15th**) to allow him to build the wall, although a standoff between him and Congress could result in another government shutdown. **(Thankfully avoided)**

He also touted the booming economy, although the boom started well before he was president, and made some fact-challenged claims about strengthening the military, which was already quite strong before he took office (**and in which, as of the last year of Barack Obama's presidency, trans or HIV-positive service members didn't have to worry about being kicked out just because of who they are**). He went on to assert that if he hadn't been elected president, the U.S. would now be at war with North Korea.

There was another strange statement that stood out. In calling for Republicans and Democrats to come together to address the nation's problems, *El Caudillo del Mar-A-Lago* said that progress cannot be made amid **"ridiculous partisan investigations."** That was an obvious reference to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election, and possible collusion by his election campaign.

The president did not touch on issues of gun control, despite mass shootings in the past year, or of voter suppression. But Stacey Abrams, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate in Georgia last year, did mention these things in her response to Tangerine's address. The nation has acted **"timidly"** on gun safety legislation, she said, while politicians have described calls for every vote to be counted as a **"power grab."** **(The Georgia gubernatorial election was marked by accusations of the suppression of Democratic votes, but Abrams said she accepts the results of the election, which she lost.)**

Abrams, unlike Trump, also gave a shout-out to LGBTQ people. Talking about civil rights and the need to combat racism and other types of bigotry, she said, **"We affirmed marriage equality, and yet the LGBTQ community remains under attack"**

She addressed another issue the president didn't bring up, the government shutdown, which caused some federal workers, lacking paychecks, to go to food banks. **"Just a few weeks ago, I joined volunteers to distribute meals to furloughed federal workers,"** she said. **"They waited in line for a box of food and a sliver of hope since they hadn't received a paycheck in weeks."**

She added, **"The shutdown was a stunt engineered by the president of the United States, one that defied every tenet of fairness and abandoned not just our people -- but our values."**

Abrams's speech, which included support for workers, reproductive rights, and quality education for all, was far shorter than Tangerine's but also far more inclusive. His mention of education was limited to a call for **"school choice,"** usually meaning vouchers for private schools, which undermines public schools.

Abrams called on the president to **"respect the diversity that defines America"** and make a **"renewed commitment to social and economic justice."** She concluded, **"When we do so, never wavering, the state of our union will always be strong."**

When Drumpf claims to care about people living with HIV, forgive me for experiencing some whiplash (**and skepticism**) after watching T and P spend years undermining advocates' work, you know the truth: **His administration has gutted funding for lifesaving care and prevention programs like Ryan White and Medicaid and has gone after the Affordable Care Act (ACA); they pulled down the Office of National AIDS Policy website on the first day of his presidency; and they have refused to appoint anyone to lead the White House Office of National AIDS Policy -- effectively creating a void of advocates and experts in the room to advocate for people living with HIV.**

The Administration has worked **to cut Medicaid funding, to undermine the Affordable Care Act and to license discrimination against at-risk communities when they seek care.** And that doesn't begin to describe every other attack they've lobbed at LGBTQ, Black and Latinx communities, who are disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic and face significant barriers to healthcare.

## When this is your record on HIV, Mr. Trump, talk is cheap.

It's difficult to take seriously the President's professed newfound interest in eliminating HIV when this administration has seized virtually every opportunity to undermine the health and well-being of people living with HIV.

The American public deserves a **real commitment** from their government to end the HIV epidemic, and this isn't it.

**"If Trump wants to stop spread of HIV, administration must reverse attacks on Medicaid, Affordable Care Act and rights of LGBTQ patients' It's even harder to credit the President's calls for unity knowing as we do that his signature policies have sought to target and stigmatize people, whether they be immigrants, communities of color, Muslims, people living with HIV, or transgender children.**

This is a Commander-in-Chief who disrespects our transgender men and women in uniform, and has no problem quietly discharging servicemembers living with HIV just before the holidays.

And let's not forget his historic ignorance on HIV. After all, Bill Gates reportedly had to explain to Donald Trump (**twice!**) the difference between HIV and HPV. And he still slashed more than \$1.1 billion from international HIV-prevention programs ... tried to enshrine licenses to discriminate for healthcare providers under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ... and has said more than a handful of other ignorant comments throughout his career.

The Facts are Facts: The Trump-Pence Administration's record speaks for itself. Let's hold them to more than empty promises and demand a meaningful commitment to end the epidemic once and for all.

Through decades of experience in the form of court battles, policy work, and community education, we know the best way to combat HIV is through education and dismantling stigma – particularly in communities of color, gay and bisexual men, and transgender women. We know our troops deserve to be saluted for their service, not discharged for their identities.

## Trump's Hazy Plan to End HIV Comes Into Focus

Considering his disastrous policies of the past, most activists aren't convinced Trump's proposal has teeth. His Health Secretary argues otherwise.

Dehumanizing immigrants, undercutting the Special Counsel, taking credit for the strong economy — with President Trump's State of the Union speech on Tuesday night, it was mostly the usual grim affair. Amid all the old classics, Trump uttered four sentences that were truly surprising.

***"In recent years we have made remarkable progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS,"*** Trump said. ***"Scientific breakthroughs have brought a once-distant dream within reach. My budget will ask Democrats and Republicans to make the needed commitment to eliminate the HIV epidemic in the United States within 10 years. Together, we will defeat AIDS in America."***

Trump quickly moved on to another subject, childhood cancer, offering no details on how he planned to enact his ambitious HIV goal.

But shockingly, there was no shortage of specifics on HIV.gov, the government website operated by the Department of Health and Human Services. Trump's Health Secretary, Alex Azar, who worked as a pharma lobbyist and executive, as well as George W. Bush's Deputy Health Secretary, was quoted on the site as saying, ***"[We have] a once-in-a-generation opportunity to end the epidemic, thanks to the most powerful HIV prevention and treatment tools in history and new tools that allow us to pinpoint where HIV infections are spreading most rapidly."***

***"Thanks to the HIV medicine antiretroviral therapy, individuals with HIV that take their medicine as prescribed and maintain an undetectable viral load can live long, healthy lives and have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to a partner."***

Then a statement, not attributed to Azar, touts the importance of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in combating infections. The website even mentions how HIV, which about 40,000 Americans contract every year, disproportionately affects groups like gay and bi men and People of Color ***(there's no mention of transgender women though, and approximately a quarter of trans women are HIV-positive, and more than half of Black trans women have the disease).***

HHS lays out its goals plainly, 75 percent reduction in new infections in five years, and an astounding 90 percent reduction in a decade. The administration plans to do this mainly by employing a technique the police departments in New York and Los Angeles used to drastically reduce crime, pinpoint the most troubled areas and swamp them with resources.

An expansion in testing, PrEP, antiretrovirals, and local teams to facilitate all these programs and medications is planned, with funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program beefed up. Pinpointing new "HIV clusters" with data and responding to their needs quickly is also part of the effort.

The government will focus on 48 "highest burden counties," Washington, D.C., and San Juan, P.R., since 50 percent of all new infections occur in these locations. Seven states with a substantial rural "HIV burden" are also being identified for assistance, with a major focus on areas in the South with sparse populations.

While Azar sees the South as a major HIV trouble zone, it's clear the issue of

Medicaid will complicate his efforts. Many Southern states have balked at expanding the federal health insurance program for low-income people, which would provide millions more with access to testing and PrEP. Deep South states like ***Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina,*** and ***Florida*** have all blocked or delayed Medicaid expansion, and all five states are identified as dealing with major "HIV burdens."

Another obvious reason for skepticism is that Trump's whole plan is a complete reversal of his previous stances, including an earlier proposal of his to cut funding for HIV research and prevention. In June 2017 six members of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS resigned, saying Trump simply didn't care about fighting HIV, and a few months later he fired the remaining 16 members without explanation. The administration has discharged military members with HIV when there is no medical reason to do so, and both Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have failed to mention the LGBTQ population in World AIDS Day observances. And the administration's current nominee for attorney general, William Barr, oversaw detention of HIV-positive immigrants at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, when he held that position in the early 1990s under President George H.W. Bush.

Considering the past (***and present***), local organizations are looking at Trump and Azar's plan with trepidation, and at least a little hope.

***"The President is taking a bold step to design an innovative program and strategy, and commit new resources, to end HIV in the United States,"*** Carl Schmid, Deputy Executive Director of The AIDS Institute, and co-chair of the president's re-staffed HIV advisory council, said in a statement. ***"His proposal to increase access to antiretroviral medications for people living with HIV and for prevention in those communities with the highest rates of HIV and where additional resources are most needed will translate into fewer HIV infections. Under the President's proposal, the number of new infections can eventually be reduced to zero."***

Raniyah Copeland, president of the Black AIDS Institute, said in a statement the president's past actions give major pause, including his threats to Medicare: ***"Actions speak louder than words and this president fired the remaining HIV/AIDS advisory panel (PACHA) last year with no explanation, allowing the panel to be unstaffed until last week. He has repeatedly sought to cut the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, better known as PEPFAR, a multibillion-dollar initiative which has been credited with saving more than 17 million lives around the world, only signing an extension to the program in December. Furthermore, the Trump administration's proposed changes to Medicare Part D would remove most of the protections that ensure people living with serious conditions, like HIV, can access the treatments they need."***

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi released the following statement to *The Advocate*:

***"While the President's call for ending HIV transmission in America is interesting, there is certainly skepticism given this Administration's assault on preexisting conditions and the ACA, policies against the dignity of the LGBTQ community, and history of proposing drastic budget cuts to crucial programs like Ryan White, PEPFAR and the Global Fund."***

***"With recent advances, we certainly stand on doorstep of ending HIV transmission as soon as 2025. Democrats will prioritize protecting preexisting condition protections, expanding Medicaid to ensure health care access, and prescriptions drug costs. We will support proven methods of prevention, including sterile syringe access and PrEP. We will recognize that to defeat this epidemic we must target our efforts where new infections are disproportionately occurring - especially in the South and among young, gay men of color - while protecting legacy communities. We will oppose the harmful proposed Medicare Part D rule that would push lifesaving drugs out of reach for peo-***

*ple living with HIV. And we will continue our efforts to ensure key investments in Ryan White, CDC prevention, and lifesaving research.”*

Ultimately, the success of Trump's plan will depend on budget allocation and follow-up. Also, Azar and Trump will need to move fast if they hope to achieve their ambitious goals; as Trump must be aware, his future in the White House, beyond even 2019, is far from certain.

## Mike Pence will never allow Trump's HIV pledge to become reality

The shorthand for the State of the Union address is SOTU, but when it's delivered by Donald Trump, STFU may be more appropriate.

Trump finally got to deliver the speech before Congress after Nancy Pelosi stopped him from doing so during the government shutdown. Republicans predictably cheered the president as if they were at a bullfight, which was fitting given the amount of bullshit that was thrown around. NPR has an excellent post Fact-checking the President's SOTU.

Worth singling out during Trump's address was the short, seemingly out-of-character promise to end HIV epidemic. Of course, it only amounted to a single, detail-free paragraph:

*“In recent years we have made remarkable progress in the fight against HIV and aids. Scientific breakthroughs have brought a once-distant dream within reach. My budget will ask Democrats and Republicans to make the needed commitment to eliminate the HIV epidemic in the United States within 10 years. We have made incredible strides. Incredible.”*

The irony of Trump making such a pledge is that he used to joke about avoiding STDs as his *“personal Vietnam”* and joked about forcing the late Princess Diana to undergo testing before he would have *“nailed”* her.

Setting that aside, the plan that Trump's staffers have sketched out to the press actually sounds pretty decent: a focus on the 20 communities where infection rates are highest, greater access to HIV medications, including PrEP, and widespread promotion of condoms.

Experts agree that it would be possible to dramatically cut HIV transmission rates in the U.S. by 2030, as Trump promised. The plan being floated could do the job.

### *Too bad it will never happen.*

There are two reasons why the Trump plan is probably nothing more than rhetoric.

One is that it flies in the face of Trump's own track record on health care. *This is the president that fired his HIV/AIDS commission without explanation and replaced it with a pale imitation. He stole money from AIDS programs to pay for his policy of separating migrant children from their parents. He also shut down HIV cure research.*

Trump and his fellow *Republicans have a track record of restricting access to care, not expanding it. In particular, Trump has done everything to cut back on Medicaid funding, which will need a lot more money to pay for the medications patients will need if HIV transmissions are to plummet.*

At the same time, *Trump has paved the way for making HIV a pre-existing condition that insurance companies can choose not to cover.*

That's policy. *Then there's Trump's base, the religious right, as embodied by Vice President Mike Pence. Does anyone really believe that the religious right is going to allow the administration to reach out to men having sex with men or people using intravenous drugs? Or talk about safer sex?*

The religious right has found a new life in refighting the 1990s culture war against LGBTQ people. That fuel for that war was the AIDS epidemic, which gave the right a chance to portray an entire community as both a social menace and a health threat.

There is zero reason to believe, in the current environment, the religious right has had any change of heart. If anything, it has doubled down on its calls to restrict LGBTQ people's rights. Just two months ago, *Mike Pence refused to even mention LGBTQ people during remarks about World AIDS Day.* Why would anyone believe that the administration is suddenly serious about HIV?

As Pence shows, in the Trump administration pandering to the base will always triumph over sound policy. We could eliminate HIV transmissions in this country in ten years. But not as long as Trump is in the White House.

*(HURT from pg.1)*

My country tells me that it will not protect me against attacks in bathrooms, and in some cases, will try to force me into the place that is most dangerous for me...and most likely to get me attacked, raped and even killed. My country commits outrage after outrage against my transgender family...and I see nobody caring. Because the hurt and the outrage go on, and on, and on...like the Energizer Bunny.

My country tells the CDC they can no longer use the word "transgender." This means they can no longer report on how many of us are attacked in bathrooms and other places, for the mere fact of our being trans. They can no longer report on all the cases (estimated at over 2,000 per year) of trans who experienced medical problems so severe that they required medical attention...because of bathroom avoidance. Problems ranging from UTI's to bladder spasms...to even kidney damage due to dehydration, when we deliberately dehydrate ourselves so that we can avoid bathrooms.

My country tells me that they will count us in the Census...then rescinds that...in effect telling me I do not count. I love this country. I only wish that the love did not hurt as much as it does. And that my country would love me back.

*Editors note: The above commentary was submitted anonymously by a Transgendered member of the Community.*

*Discrimination is wrong, and every single person deserves to be treated equally under the law. That's a fundamental value we all share in this country, and it's why I am asking you to consider signing this HRC Petition. the Equality Act, it is crucial we have enough votes in the House of Representatives to pass this legislation establishing full equality for LGBTQ people. And Speaker Pelosi has vowed to do just that.*

*In the coming month, House members will formally introduce the Equality Act with historic support. Already, hundreds of organizations and leading companies have endorsed the Equality Act, and we know that at least 70 percent of Americans support these key civil rights protections for LGBTQ people.*

*If passed, this legislation would be monumental. Currently, 30 states lack comprehensive legal protections, leaving LGBTQ people at risk of being fired, denied housing, refused services, rejected from adoption agencies and more simply because of who we are.*



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<https://act.hrc.org/page/38343/data/1?>

**Thankyou!**



## BEWARE THE IDES OF NEXT MONTH

**EVERYBODY'S DOIN' IT**.....Mind you, I don't mean the Turkey Trot or the Castle Walk, but as of this writing, Massachusetts' Senator Elizabeth Warren is the latest Democrat worthy to throw her hat in the ring running for the party's nomination for President of the United States in the upcoming 2020 election. Let's get reasonable, folks, the bases are already overloaded to the saturation point. Who's gonna mind the store? I grant you, Senator Warren is one tough cookie, dazzlingly bright at her job, and full of interesting ideas as are so many of her colleagues, male and female, each waiting in the wings like (*All About*) Eve Harrington, butcher knife clenched in her teeth, waiting for the star to fall prey to mena- or ma-na-pause. Meanwhile, back at la Maison Blanche, Agent Orange and simpering Old Prayer Crotch are most assuredly watching! Which reminds me, why don't some of the nice hopefuls, declare for the nod to run against Pence for Vice President! He too is one of the things dreams are made of - bad ones!

Agent Orange, during his predawn ranting and tweeting from Cheeseburger Hell in the White House, should be reminded, that the real Pocahontas (Princess, daughter of the aboriginal chief, now a bigoted nickname he frequently uses to slur Senator Warren) welcomed with open arms newcomer Captain John Smith when he arrived at Virginia in 1607, regardless of the fact that he was a foreigner, of a different race, nationality, language, and religion. THAT was the beginning of American hospitality, plus the popularization of lacrosse, and though some unpleasant problems would arise, it was a start and the white newcomers were NOT afraid! During the ensuing weeks, many more hopefuls have jumped on the bandwagon; actually, more of a merry-go-round! To say the least, there have been some serious boo-boos: eg. Congressperson Ilhan Omar, Islam's ambassador from Dearborn, Michigan with her little ill-timed crack about her fellow Semites, the Hebrews. If all these anxious newcomers would seize the opportunity, take pen or computer in hand, and apply for admission to Miss Pelosi's Finishing School. SHE knows the rules of the game, the perfection of deportment, and how to get things accomplished. Just look how she recently maneuvered the President into making a complete ass of himself about the Wall and subsequent government shutdown; not that he really needs much help with such an achievement! Calm down young ladies and, gentlemen, (Miss Pelosi's is co-ed!) and pay attention to a proven pro who is in charge during your first year as Swamp Thangs. T'aint fittin' to run amok in the muck.

**HEADLINE OF THE YEAR, SO FAR**.....Eugene Robinson, in the *Washington Post*: "The National Emergency IS Donald Trump"

**COOKIE OF THE MONTH (Edible, NOT Elizabeth Warren)** .....Coffee-Chocolate Chip Cookies. Chocolate and coffee are a combination in which each flavor enhances the other; a marriage made in Heaven! Rich, delicious, and worth the rather steep price. At Heinen's which, alas, will probably never make them again; corporate-abandoned as have been so many outstanding confections-of-the-month during the past year. But have heard, our *Horn* Editor and President Emeritus Jack Giles has his own recipe for them. Be good, VERY GOOD, and he might share them, and/or his marvelous recipe.

**LET US KNOW YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS**.....As more and more LGBT people read the *Unicorn Horn* for the latest is pertinent news of the community, be sure they know of your upcoming events and special occasions. E-mail our EDITOR at <[editor.unicornhorn@gmail.com](mailto:editor.unicornhorn@gmail.com)>. We are pleased to hear from you. There is no charge for listing in our Calendar of Events.

**OH, THE HORROR**.....During the winter months, here in the Great Lakes (We are NOT the Mid-West; Columbus is, and Cincinnati is really Appalachia masquerading as the Ole South.), I rarely make long road trips away from the city. Traditionally, all road construction has been completed or shelved for winter by Labor Day and the roads are well cleaned and de-iced for intra-city driving during the long, inclement months. Well, genital readers, NO MORE! Not only are the Interstate Highways under construction all twelve months, but city and suburban street and road projects also continue year round. Cement barriers, posted lower speeds (almost always ignored and unpoliced) are in effect. Since very few workers ever seem to be on the job, construction vehicles and heavy equipment are simply abandoned creating disagreeable hazards in clement weather and great danger to autos, trucks, and whatever workers' lives during rain and snow days. All of the projects are late in completion or at best, half completed. Months on many projects are stretching into years. Then, because of today's hideous driving habits of many of my fellow citizens, accidents are rampant, and traffic jams are a daily feature of the commute from what seem to be our endless suburban areas, Cleveland, itself is no longer the largest city in Ohio, but the population of Greater Cleveland is enormous, now encompassing six counties and stretches from Ashtabula County to the cities of Lorain and Elyria, for over fifty miles along Lake Erie. Other than the Interstates, any attempt to move vast numbers of people, many of whom contribute taxes from high salaries into the Cleveland and Cuyahoga County tax pools have failed. The Rapid Transit, with the exception of the Shaker line do not serve these high wage earners. The Red Line into the airport is a boon to workers there, but convention authorities do not urge visitors to use this unpoliced, often deserted line into the city's heart. There is no commuter rail service in the Cleveland area; the Federal grant to develop Amtrak service between Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati was rejected by Republican Governor John Kasich as not affordable to run. The money went to the state of New York. Commuter rail service between Lorain and downtown Cleveland, run by RTA, using the former Nickel Plate main line, now the Norfolk Southern, was vetoed by the Mayor of RTA member city, Westlake, no doubt because they wished to promote the growth of office buildings in the suburbs which if successful, spells the end of downtown as a commercial center as is the case in such retrograde cities as Detroit which is now ringed by suburban skyscrapers, located in more progressive municipalities. The city of Beachwood, even though it doesn't know how to spell its own name, is getting retail, medical, and office development by the tons along the west bank of I-271; ditto Woodmere and Orange on the East Bank. City Hall in Cleveland, while noting that RTA gets about one percent of its operating monies from the State of Ohio, (The state itself ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the country for state support of public transportation.) remains otherwise mute on the subject, placing its gamble on such operations as the Medical Mart and the Jack Casino for urban development, or simply holding its head above the water. In the meanwhile, mumm's the word.....and I don't mean the famed French bubbly.


Now, as if all this harangue hasn't depressed you enough, there's always the driving habits of the twenty-first century. Have you tried driving with strict attention to the posted speed limits? Absolutely everyone else passed me! Many unkind souls honk, yell, cheer, or jeer me; some bestow upon me their erect middle finger, either a notation of IQ, or number of known parents! To paraphrase actress Greer Garson, once remarking on film: "There are no bad bastards, just bad drivers." Other popular fads include: non-use of direction signals, non-observance of solid lines prohibiting passing, passing across four lanes to exit the road, texting, of course, Some folks guided by some crackpot sense of divine radar, have been refusing to turn on their lights at twilight, of course in full defiance of state motorist laws. It has

grown worse. These miscreants now haunt the highways and byways with no running lights on after dark. The police are rarely to be seen, having almost totally thrown in the towel. Can the impoverished State of Ohio afford to periodically re-test its licensed drivers? God only knows; certainly not our public servants downstate in the Muddle West!

Speaking of which, a month or so ago, while in a borderline state of terror during rush hour traffic, on our spacious new eight-lane bridge downtown, I was so terrified at keeping the posted 50 mph speed limit, that I, a Protestant, was actually and fervently praying the Rosary. Suddenly a car-full of nuns roared past me going approximately 75 mph. They did NOT give me the finger!

Verily Ride Warily, CY

**Editor mea Clupa:** We attempt to have Unicorn MC Club News on the Front page of every issue, even if it is just a single column, however due to the temperamental weather there were no events or meeting to cover. No one submitted anything since the Holiday Party, hence NO NEWS. Remember this is your Club's newsletter and everyone is interested in all the Gossip you wish to share about your self, if you do not send something in they'll just talk about you anyways, it may as well be truthful. (LOL)



## Unicorn MC Meeting Dates 2019

After many hours of contemplation, conciliation, and deliberation, imbibing in salacious amounts of libations, and in a delirious moment of weakness the following Dates have been set in Stone:

- March 17, 2019 - St. Patrick's Day, UMC Meeting, LSS, 6PM
- April 13, 2019 - UMC Meeting, LSS, 6PM, & Bar Night, LSS, 9 PM
- May 19, 2019 - UMC Meeting, LSS, 6PM
- June 2, 2019 - UMC Post-Pride Bar Matinee, LSS, 3PM
- June 15, 2019 - UMC Meeting & Cookout, Bill & Robert's, Hiram OH, 3PM
- July. TBA, 2019 - UMC Annual Steak Roast, as yet unarranged
- Aug 10, 2019 - UMC Meeting & Cook-out, Jack & Dennis', Willow ick OH, 3PM
- August 11, 2019 - UMC Annual Flea Market and Circus, LSS, 3PM
- September 15, 2019 - UMC Meeting, LSS, 6PM
- October 12, 2019 - UMC Meeting, LSS, 6 PM, Bar Event, LSS, 9PM
- November 17, 2019 - UMC Annual Meeting and Election of Officers to Overthrow the Tyrant and Return Jack Giles from Exile, LSS, 6 PM

December Meeting and Christmas Party TBA.



# March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2 
3	4	5 	6  Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins	7	8	9 
10 	11	12	13	14 	15 	16 
17 	18	19	20 	21 	22	23 
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- March 1, 2019 - "National Pig Day", Let's get Piggy!!!
- March 2, 2019 - "Rangers, Inc. 30th Anniversary Party", Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM
- March 5, 2019 - "Mardi Gras"
- March 6, 2019 - "Ash Wednesday"
- March 9, 2019 - "Panic Day", Stay Calm and Remember your towel! Cleveland Puppy Contest, LSS, 9 PM
- March 10, 2019 - "Daylight Savings Time Begins", Spring Forward and change you Smoke Detector Batteries
- March 14, 2019 - "National Steak & Blowjob Day", Treat your man to some Meat!
- March 15, 2019 - "The Ide of March", Watch your Back, especially among Friends!
- March 15-16, 2019 - "Mr. Cleveland Bear Contest", Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM
- March 17, 2019 - "St. Patrick's Day", "Dennis Sherrill's Birthday", "Unicorn Meeting", Leather Stallion Saloon, 6 PM
- March 20, 2019 - "International Earth Day", "Vernal Equinox", "1st Day of Spring"
- March 21, 2019 - "Mike Samolis' Birthday"
- March 23-24, 2019 - "Bootblacking Seminar", Leather Stallion Saloon
- March 24, 2019 - "Jim Broginski's Birthday"

**Notice: To add your Club's Dates and Events to this Calendar  
Please send them to Jack at:  
[editor.unicornhorn@gmail.com](mailto:editor.unicornhorn@gmail.com)**

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Deadline for inclusion on the Calendar is the 15th of the month, in advance of the event.

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