

"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn **HORN**



A Publication of The Unicorn Motorcycle Club / Cleveland, Ohio / Est. 1971

March 2019

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046

Saturday April 13th

UNICORN MC PRESENTS

Sin & Absolution
9pm to Midnight

Jell-O Shots!

Door Prizes!

\$3 Suggested Door Donation Benefiting Unicorn Charities

2205 SATTIC CLAIR AVENUE, CLEVELAND 216.589.8588 LEATHERSTALLION.COM

Oh Ye Sinners Come...

Receive thy Penance & Absolutions

Cleveland, February 17th - The Unicorn MC Herd met for their first gathering of the year and immediately began planning the mischiefs, rites, and gatherings for the 2019 year. First up, the will be, **'Sins and Absolutions'**, slated for Saturday, April 13th, a Sub committee met to set the procedure for Absolution. The Event will be held on Saturday, April 13th, here at the **Leather Stallion Saloon**.

Upon entry to the Hallowed Grounds of the **Stallion** and the offering of Alms (*a \$3 Donation for the Benefit of Unicorn Charities*) to the beggars at the Door, ye Pilgrims will by random drawing receive a Sin Card, which will direct you to the proper Penance Station, where you will experience one of the delightful punishments for your Sins. Please pay particular attention to your Sin Cards, as some of them will contains a mystical symbol entitling the bearer to a **'Just Reward' (aka Door Prize)**.

There will be four Penance Stations set up, Electro, Flogging, Hot Wax, and Paddling, and each one will be providing Demonstrations in which you may voluntarily participate, upon completion your Sin card will be punched, but beware, should you choose not to participate and your card not be punched when the roving wraths ask for your card to be present-

ed, you shall receive a sharp rap on the knuckles from **'The staff of education'**. After attending to your assigned station you may also attend the others, the more Card punches you receive the more Absolution you shall be Blessed with.

It is Decreed to be a Hell of a Good Time for One and All, so come enjoy the Delights of this Earthly Hell, wear your **'Sack-cloth and Ashes'**, Give your Alms, Receive your Absolution, and Indulge your Earthly Vices. Which of the Seven Deadly Sins have you Indulged in? And which are your Favorites? Remember what happens in the Dark becomes everyone's Gossip! Additional Fundraisers have been planned for June 'Pride', August 'Flea Market'. And October's 'Fetish Night', details will be announced in future issues.

The Rangers Celebrated 30 Years of Brotherhood



Cleveland, March 2nd - Other Brothers in Leather and Uniforms, the **Rangers, Inc.** recently Celebrated their 30th Anniversary here at the **Leather Stallion Saloon**, on one of the milder Winter Days that Mother nature has provided us this Month to date. While there may have been a chill in the air, there were plenty of warm wishes and comradery on the Patio, as the **Rangers** were Welcoming Guest from far and near.

In a rare display of Brotherhood the **Rangers** were giving back to the community with the passing out of hundreds of door prizes, there were drawing at 10 o'clock, 11 o'clock, and Midnight, consisting of **Giant Eagle** Gift Cards, **Starbucks** Gift Cards, **Ranger** Coffee Mugs, **Claw** Gift Bags, **Ranger** T-shirts, and **LSS** Bar Tabs. Plus there was Cake for everyone in attendance.

It was a wonderful evening of comradery, sharing stories and memories with friends, and making plans for the coming season.

Several from the **Unicorns** were in attendance and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, as well as everyone who were there. Additional Pictures may be seen on our Club's Facebook Page: **Unicorn MC Club Cleveland** or our Facebook Group Page: **Cleveland Unicorn Motorcycle Club**

Congratulation on 30 Years of Brotherhood!



State Department To Combat Homophobic Laws

The Administration is planning to launch a worldwide effort to end the criminalization of homosexuality. **U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell**, the highest-profile openly gay person in the administration, will reportedly lead the effort, which will be kicked off in Berlin Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

"It is concerning that, in the 21st century, some 70 countries continue to have laws that criminalize LGBTI status or conduct," a U.S. official involved in organizing the event said. When asked about the report at a briefing Tuesday afternoon, State Department spokesman **Robert Palladino** said **Grenell** met in Berlin with 11 activists from different countries. **"This really is not a big policy departure,"** **Palladino** told reporters. **"This is longstanding and it's bipartisan."**

When asked whether he would describe the meetings as a **"new initiative,"** **Palladino** replied: **"I would say that this is a good opportunity to listen and to discuss ideas about how the United States can advance decriminalization of homosexuality around the world. And that's been our policy."**

The U.S. official said that the plan will likely involve collaboration with other countries who have decriminalized homosexuality, the **United Nations**, the **European Union** and the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**. The plan is reportedly aimed at denouncing **Iran** over its human rights record.

Grenell has been a public critic of **Iran**, but has struggled to convince European nations to reimpose sanctions on the Middle Eastern nation following **President Trump's removal of the U.S. from the Obama-era Iran nuclear deal**.

According to a 2017 report from the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, 72 countries still criminalize homosexuality, including eight where it is punishable by death.

The new campaign will allegedly focus on criminalization, not broader issues such as same-sex marriage.

3 reasons why Trump's plan to decriminalize homosexuality worldwide seems sketchy AF:

The Administration has announced that it will lead a global campaign to decriminalize homosexuality worldwide. That may sound great, but there are reasons to suspect the president's motives. Here's why:

1) Key LGBTQ groups have been left out of the planning.

The Washington Blade pointed out that the campaign's planning meeting in Berlin, didn't invite **OutRight Action International**, the **Human Rights Campaign**, the **Council for Global Equality**, the **Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany (the country's largest non-governmental LGBT rights group)** or the **International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association-Europe** to the table.

If you're really trying to get rid of homophobic laws internationally, why would you exclude some of the world's leading experts in international homophobia?

2) Trump has repeatedly turned away refugees seeking asylum from anti-LGBTQ countries.

Remember **Chechnya**, the **Russian region** that has been kidnapping, detaining, torturing and killing queer people for about two years now? Yeah, **the U.S. hasn't issued visas to any Chechans feeling violence there. The U.S. also recently sent a trans woman fleeing violence in El Salvador back to her home country—she was promptly murdered upon**

returning.

Lots of **South and Central American** countries have widespread **anti-LGBTQ violence**, but **Trump has characterized any immigrants fleeing there as rapists and criminals**. So why the sudden change of heart? **If he's serious about this, let's see some asylum visas.**

3) Trump has used anti-LGBTQ politics to push for racist policies in the past.

During the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign, Trump said, **"I will do everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens from the violence and oppression of the hateful, foreign ideology, believe me."** He said this immediately after the **Pulse nightclub shooting**, and the statement suggested that he'd oppose queerphobia Muslim-majority countries while ignoring anti-LGBTQ sentiment at home.

This is an ideology known as **"homonationalism,"** a term defined as:

Whenever a person or group claims solidarity with the LGBTQ community as a way to justify racist and xenophobic policies, especially ones against people of color, immigrants, Muslims or other countries. **Homonationalism** often takes the view that other people, cultures or countries are inherently homophobic and that Western countries are more culturally, morally, and politically advanced and egalitarian (**that is, they believe that all people deserve equal rights and opportunities**).

Several outlets have noted that the new campaign seems mostly to be a way to shame any country still doing business with Iran. Considering that the campaign will mostly focus on the Middle East, African or the Caribbean (and likely won't touch Russia) it seems a bit too geo-targeted to not have an ulterior motive behind it.

Russian LGBTI activist at risk after reporting torture in Chechnya

Pro-government groups threatened activist Igor Kochetkov after he reported the alleged torture of LGBTI people in Chechnya

Russia must protect activists and journalists who report crimes against LGBTI people, **Human Rights Watch** warned on Friday, February 15th.

Leading **Russian LGBT Network** activist, **Igor Kochetkov**, has faced intimidation after reporting the latest **anti-gay purge in Chechnya**.

Authorities have arrested more than 40 people on suspicion of being LGBTI since December 2018, according to the UN. **Two people have also reportedly died from torture.**

At the end of January, **Kochetkov** filed a complaint with **Russia's Investigation Agency**. He then gave the names of **14 people that authorities unlawfully detained and tortured in Chechnya's capital, Grozny**.

He also reported the name of one man who police allegedly killed in January.

After the complaint, however, the leader of a pro-government group in **Chechnya** uploaded a **YouTube video threatening Kochetkov**.

Ali Baskhanov called **Kochetkov** a **'son of the devil'** and warned that if he came to **Chechnya** it would be his **'final stop'**, according to **HRW**.

Kochetkov says authorities did not take his complaints of the threat seriously. He is now planning to sue the Investigative Department

'The threats against Igor Kochetkov are very serious and deserve a prompt reaction by the Russian authorities,' said **HRW**.

A spokesperson for **Chechnya's** government last month said: **"This is an absolute lie, there is not a single grain of truth and it is completely baseless."** **"There were no detentions on grounds of sexual orientation in the indicated periods in the Chechen Republic"**. But then again according to the President of the Chechen Republic, **"There are no LGBTQ people in Chechnya, they do not exist!"**

And still the US has done Nothing to Help!

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

—Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence

Faith and the Pursuit of Happiness

BY SHANE PHIPPS

Without a doubt, these are the most well known words in the history of the United States—our solemn creed written so prominently on our national birth certificate. Yes, we hold these words dear. We also have abused them from the very beginning and have never even come close to living up to them. *The Declaration of Independence* is a lofty target at which we have been aiming for more than 240 years. Yet, that target sits in nearly pristine condition as we’ve missed the mark time and time again. Because of the egalitarian message of *Jefferson’s* words, there was a premium placed upon individual freedoms by many of the founding fathers when the *Constitution* was being constructed. That *Constitution* would have never come to pass without the promise of the *Bill of Rights* to further ensure that nobody can stand in the way of our pursuit of happiness, so long as our efforts don’t harm others or interfere with their rights. Yet, even with those safeguards in place, we’ve still managed to butcher the whole thing more often than not. How can that be? As I see it, the culprit is the use of faith as a weapon.

Faith, like most everything else, comes down to individual perception. No two people share an identical set of faith-based beliefs. Sure, we find others who are similarly inclined and give our groups names, but within those groups of people, there are no two individuals who have identical beliefs, understandings, interpretations, or convictions. So sects form within our groups. Then, as sects, we go around claiming the moral high ground and demanding conformity. The *Pilgrims left England* because they refused to conform to the church there. Then as soon as they got on their feet in *America*, they started demanding everyone conform to their way here, thus people were ostracized and sects formed and split. Consequently, new colonies formed. Our very map reflects the truth in what I write. And not much has changed.

We have a dark history of using faith to justify atrocities and denying rights to people who don’t conform to our faith-based sect’s norms. We killed or drove out millions of *Native Americans* because they were “*godless savages*” who would not conform. We enslaved millions of *Africans* and justified it because we made them conform to *Christianity*. We strong-armed *Mexico* into giving up nearly half their country in the name of *Manifest Destiny—the hysteria-driven notion that God wanted America to spread from coast to coast.* The *Civil War* finally brought an end to slavery and the *13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments guaranteed equal rights* to those freed blacks. But men and women in the South, under the guise of their Christian faith, put on white robes and hoods and began years of terrorism to keep the newly enfranchised blacks from their pursuit of happiness. But hate, fear, and bigotry know no borders and soon, what began in the South had infested the entire nation.

Faith, weaponized, in the name of nationalism—does this sound familiar?

As America continued to diversify and the non-conformers began to fight for real equality, using faith as a weapon went out of fashion—at least out in the open for all to see—and lost its social acceptability. *Between the 1950s and the 2000s, America appeared to have made great strides toward finally beginning to live up to our creed.* Many of the most hateful bigots climbed back under their rocks as more people than ever seemed to be free to pursue happiness without someone bludgeoning them with their faith. We saw *women’s rights* take many steps forward. We saw *the Civil Rights Movement* bring black Americans far up the social ladder. *Thur-*

good Marshall became a Supreme Court Justice, Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier, soon opening the doors for black athletes to compete in all sports. Black actors and actresses began to find real roles in movies. Big steps forward in the high profile limelight, which served as a beacon of hope for others, but much work remained for the vast majority of minorities. Later, *LGBTQ people began to score major victories in their pursuit of happiness*, even winning the right to marry (*at least in some places*). *To cap it all off, we got to witness one of the most iconic moments in all of US history, the inauguration of Barack Obama, the first black president*, who went on to preside over 8 years of tremendous economic growth, bringing the nation from the brink of financial ruin back to prosperity.

But all the while, beneath the surface, bubbled a cauldron of stagnant hate and bigotry. It began to slowly resurface through the *conservative vents of talk radio, Fox News, and social media.* This vitriolic magma began to force its way up to the surface and became the lava of misinformation and mendacious propaganda. That lava became a weapon and faith was at its core. Hateful whispers about the “*Muslim from Kenya*” turned to shouts. One of the leading shouters was none other than *Donald Trump*, who began to hint that he was going to throw his hat into the ring for a presidential run in 2016. Everyone laughed back then, but no one is laughing now.

Trump masterfully gained a stranglehold on the religious right although a thorough and *meticulous review of his history would turn up not one iota of evidence that he had ever been a man of faith.* Yet, inexplicably, his largest support base became white, rural, conservative Christians. The remarkably unfair Electoral College process did the rest and, despite losing the popular vote by 3 million, *Trump convinced his religious minions to do his bidding and weaponize their faith.*

Today, our president honors the man whom *Native Americans consider the American Hitler, Andrew Jackson*, by hanging his portrait in the Oval Office. Today, we vilify *African Americans* for peacefully demonstrating during the *National Anthem* in order to shed light on the injustices they see and live with every day—conform or get out, they are told. *Today, we attempt to wall out our neighbors to the south when they try to seek refuge in the lands that we took from them.* We separate the children from their parents destroying families because, *after all, God wanted us to have that land* and those people will try to destroy everything we’ve built. Today, *people use their faith in an attempt to deny LGBTQ couples of even the most basic of services and demand their loving marriages to be nullified and that they be barred from pursuing the happiness of raising children.*

Faith is once again being weaponized in an effort to blast away at rights gained through more than a century of sacrifice under the cover of MAGA hats and the slogan of “America First”.

When we see people of faith lauding the president for trying to “*make America great again*”, it doesn’t take a genius to figure out what they are really saying. The “*good old days*”, for them, harkens back to a time when using faith as a weapon was widely accepted and gained them status at the expense of millions who didn’t conform to their norms.

Using faith as a weapon serves only to deny others their right to pursue happiness.



As the nation lurches closer towards being ruled by a tyrannical dictator with unwavering support from the Republican Party, the American people are ignoring an even greater threat to their waning secular democracy – rule by tyrannical theocrats.

The rise of *theocrats* in powerful positions of authority is particularly disconcerting because not only was *America created as a secular nation with a secular Constitution*, but because the theocrats running the federal government represent a very small minority of the population. And now *Trump has given that vicious minority what they elected him to do in the first place; another radical Christian extremist, William Barr, in a powerful federal government position.*

J. Beauregard Sessions was a legitimate threat to America's secular government as Trump's attorney general, but his theocratic aspirations paled in comparison to Trump's latest theocratic cabinet member – a conservative Catholic malcontent who is unlikely to ever defend the U.S. Constitution because it is a secular document. It is noteworthy that *Sessions* only stated that, according to his mind, the 'separation of church and state' in the *Constitution* is a concept that is *unconstitutional*. However, his replacement ardently believes that *America's government is duty-bound to enforce god's laws because there is no place for secularism.*

In a 1995 essay, *Barr* expressed the extremist Christian view that *"American government should not be secular;"* secularism is an abomination in *Barr's* theocratic mind despite the law of the land is unmistakably secular. Furthermore, *Barr contends America's government is supposed to be imposing "a transcendent moral order with objective standards of right and wrong that flows from God's eternal law;"* eternal law best dictated by the *Vatican* and taught in public schools at taxpayer's expense.

It is true that as attorney general William Barr will defend Trump's criminality and corruption; it is one of the only reasons Trump nominated him. However, the real danger to the nation is *Barr's belief that the government's primary function should be defending and enforcing his god's moral edicts while ardently opposing any legislative branch effort to make secular laws according to the secular Constitution.*

As noted by Michael Stone a couple of weeks ago, in addition to the racism and misogyny one expects from a radical conservative Christian, *"Barr is also a bigot when it comes to non-religious people and others who respect the separation of church and state."*

Barr epitomizes the typical extremist religious fanatic by blaming everything from crime to divorce to sexually transmitted diseases on what he alleges is *"the federal government's non-stop attacks on traditional religious values."* In fact, he joins no small number of *Republican evangelical extremists who demand that taxpayers fund religious instruction*, specifically Catholic religious instruction, in public schools. *Barr, as a matter of fact, has called for the United States government to subsidize Catholic education and categorically called for federal legislation to promote Vatican edicts to "restrain sexual immorality;"* an explicit reference to his religion's ban on homosexuality, extramarital sex, and "artificial" birth control. Don't believe it?

In an address to *"The Governor's Conference on Juvenile Crime, Drugs*

and Gangs," Barr condemned *the idea of adhering to the U.S. Constitution's mandated separation of church and state in the public education system.* The theocrat said: *"This moral lobotomy of public schools has been based on extremist notions of separation of church and state or on theories of moral relativism which reject the notion that there are standards of rights or wrong to which the community can demand adherence."*

Barr also penned an article in *The Catholic Lawyer* where he complained vehemently about what he asserted was *"the rise of secularism;"* something he claims is anathema to a nation he believes should be ruled by theocrats. *Barr* attempted to give an answer to *"the challenge of representing Catholic institutions as authorities"* on what is considered right and wrong, or morally acceptable in a secular nation. In discussing what *Barr* termed was *"The Breakdown of Traditional Morality,"* the new attorney general complained thus: *"We live in an increasingly militant, secular age... As part of this philosophy, we see a growing hostility toward religion, particularly Catholicism. This form of bigotry has always been fashionable in the United States. There are, today, even greater efforts to marginalize or 'ghettoize' orthodox religion..."*

Barr is also a bigot when it comes to people who respect the Constitution's separation of church and state in providing equal rights for all Americans whether theocrats agree or not. *Barr's* belief that government is bound to enforce Vatican dictates is what drives his assertion that, for example, equal rights laws demanding that colleges treat homosexual groups like any other student group is inherently wrong.

He claims treating LGBTQ people like everyone else is detrimental because: *"[Equality] dissolves any form of moral consensus in society. There can be no consensus based on moral views in the country, only enforced neutrality."*

It is noteworthy that what *Barr* considers *"enforced neutrality"* is what *most Americans understand is the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal rights for all Americans.* If this country was not plagued with religious extremists, bigots, misogynists, and hate-driven conservatives there would never be a need to *"enforce neutrality,"* or protect all Americans' equal rights guaranteed according to secular law. There is no such thing as equality in *Barr's* theocratic mind and the idea of the government not enforcing the privilege and superiority the religious right has enjoyed for too long is abominable, and now he wields federal government authority to right that abomination.

It is too bad that *Barr's* religious mind incites him to believe the federal government's job is enforcing his religion's concept of *"morality,"* and that the purposely-conceived *"secular"* law of the land is *"militant"* and *"hostile toward religion, particularly Catholicism."* If any American believes *Barr* will defend the Constitution, or equal rights, or freedom from religious imposition, they are deluded beyond belief. *As the religious right's attorney general, Barr will be the de facto enforcement arm of the evangelical extremists and aid in implementing all of the horrors a theocratic dictatorship entails – beginning with an increased government assault on women.*

For an idea of how an avowed anti-choice theocrat leading the Justice Department will be the enforcement arm of the evangelical extremist cult, consider *Trump's latest evangelical edict forbidding medical professionals from giving women medical options the religious right and Vatican oppose. Trump and Pence issued a gag order banning the term "abortion" as a woman's option to carrying an unwanted pregnancy to term.* The order will certainly face lawsuits, but instead of defending a medical professional's ability to practice medicine, or exercise their freedom of speech, *the theocratic-led DOJ will defend the religious right's assault on women and medical professionals' free speech because such speech is opposed by evangelicals.* *Trump's latest theocratic edict was, by the way, a direct result of the evangelical right's strict adherence to Vatican dictates banning women's bodily autonomy and self-determination regarding reproduction.*

There is no good outcome going forward with an avowed theocrat serving

as the nation's top law enforcement official. *This is particularly true since Barr has made no secret that he considers the secular government "militant" and "bigoted" for not promoting "god's eternal laws" of right and wrong.* The very inconvenient truth for Americans is that long after Trump and Barr are out of power, the *theocratic authorities will continue unimpeded because Trump has dutifully created a hard-line conservative judiciary specifically to ensure that America as a secular nation is, for all intents and purposes, coming to an end after resisting theocracy for over two centuries.*

ills, including the six-week abortion ban, which would outlaw abortion before most people know they're pregnant. **This harmful bill was voted out of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee yesterday afternoon and moments ago received a full floor vote, passing out of the Ohio Senate. The six-week ban will now go to the Ohio House for consideration. Contact your state legislators and demand they stop this bill.**

Make no mistake – this ruling and these attacks are unethical and downright dangerous for Ohio. Please rest assured that Planned Parenthood will never stop fighting for its patients and the communities that it serves. It is our commitment to continue what Planned Parenthood has always done – protect Ohioans' ability to receive expert reproductive health care and education services



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:

- 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.



EQUALITY OHIO

You know *Equality Ohio* as the champions for *LGBTQ equality* in policy and law. I'm proud to share that we're growing a bit and adding something new to the work we do every day across the state.

We've been hearing more and more stories from *LGBTQ Ohioans* who need legal help, so we are doing something about it—we're launching the *Equality Ohio Legal Clinic*.

Over the last several months, we've travelled the state and asked *LGBTQ Ohioans*: if *Equality Ohio* were to offer legal services, how should we do it? What would make you feel like it was made for you?

We heard it needed to be cheap. **So we made it free.**

We heard it needed to be easy to access. So we put our intake online and setup an easy phone number at **855-LGBT-LAW**.

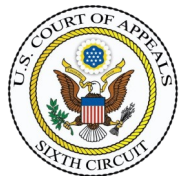
We heard it needed to be informed by the needs of *LGBTQ* people. So we hired attorneys who are champions for *LGBTQ equality*.

Equality Ohio's Legal Clinic offers many *legal services, such as consumer law (fraud and identity theft), family law, civil rights, administrative help (like SSI or disability) and more. This free service is available to people who are within 300% of the federal poverty line.* We will also seek to refer folks we cannot represent directly to a culturally humble attorney who can help.

Equality Ohio's Legal Clinic would not be possible without funding from the *Ohio State Bar Foundation*, the *Cleveland Foundation*, and a *Victims of Crime Advocacy grant* through the *Ohio Attorney General's office*. Thank you!

We are excited for this new venture, and we hope that while we work to modernize Ohio's laws to reflect LGBTQ people, we can minimize the harm the community experiences in the meantime.

Will you support this new program with a donation of \$6? Your support will help us get the word out to those who need access to this free legal resource most across the state.



Appellate Court Ruling 6th District

Cincinnati OH, Tuesday March 12, 2019 - The full Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a law that will drastically restrict access to critical health care and education in Ohio.

This is a devastating blow for people across Ohio. This 2016 law signed by *Governor John Kasich* stripped funding that helps Planned Parenthood provide 70,000 *free STD and HIV tests*, cancer screenings, domestic violence education through the Violence Against Women Act, and *Planned Parenthood's Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies* program that works to reduce Ohio's alarming infant mortality rate, especially among African American babies.

Last year, a three-judge panel for the Sixth Circuit unanimously ruled this law unconstitutional. Then *Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine*, unhappy with the outcome, appealed and asked for a full court hearing. **This is part of a nearly decade long of attacks on reproductive health care and education from Ohio politicians like Mike DeWine.**

Yesterday's ruling found it constitutional to block the most at-risk communities in our state from accessing lifesaving health care and education. People facing discrimination, including *LGBTQ people* people of color, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, and women will be the ones to bear the brunt of this law. **This is a giant step backwards for Ohio.**

This comes as state legislators continue to push a number of anti-abortion

**Equality Ohio Education Fund
118 E Main St. Ste 200
Columbus, OH 43215
United States**



*(a division of the Kushner Group, Plasters, Bail Bonds, and Sushi
We're Dealin' New York, Kyoto, Palm Beach)*

REALLY BEWARE THE IDES OF NEXT MONTH

'cause that's when our income tax is due and constitutionally fair game for the literati and glitterati among our genital readers who fairly pant for the release of those for Big Daddy, Big Mama Transylvania, Boy Jared, and Little Glory all of which have been top secret for years. If such undoubtedly moped-up drivels ever see the light of day I would react like that glorious moment in the film **"Soapdish"**, when Whoopie Goldberg, as the writer for a television soap opera, seeing the male and female principal actors fling away her script and begin to confess their true hideous infidelities and cruelty to each other, turns and confesses to the cameraman: **"Why Can't I write shit like that?"**

Any answer to that above subversion is utter malarkey in the opinion of that nameless pundit who, in addressing the recent **CPAC** delegates announced that he has it on divine authority that Jesus Christ personally selected Donald Trump to be President. He didn't say of What, but if that has a glimmer of truth, then I'm the love child of Iris Adrian and Millard Fillmore. The late Ms. Adrian was a character actress in films of the forties and fifties, endeared to us for her most oft-quoted line: **"Hey buddy, gotta butt?"**. Fillmore is famous as the first President to install flush toilets in the White House, none of which seems to be operative since 2017: the massive, record inaugural mob simply overtaxed His plumbing.

Although **"Agent Orange"** might eventually surprise us (I frankly doubt it!) I hark back to good old Harry Truman who was the butt of many jokes about his supposed inability to succeed Franklin Roosevelt in the final months of WWII. Still he certainly risked personal conscience by authorizing the using of the atomic bomb against Japan. Later, during the Korean War, he locked horns with the iconic Douglas MacArthur who wished to invade China which many thought would lead to World War III, but did lead to the rise of demagogues like Joseph McCarthy. During my heedless youth in Bexley, Ohio, we all used to hang out at the **Glass Bowl**, a restaurant, in the shape of an Inverted sherbet goblet, made of industrial glass building blocks; gobbling hamburgers and listening to Phil Harris wailing **"Smoke Smoke That Cigarette"** or, worse, **"Monster Mash"** on the Rock-ola. Soon, pro-MacArthur Republicans took up the pop-music banner with **"Old Soldiers Never Die; They Just Fade Away"**. The Democrats, not to be undone, countered with **"Old Soldiers Never Die; They Just Smell That Way."** Unfortunately, we chose tobacco over common sense, with 3.2 beer at the Airport Inn as a sickening bracer.

The lines today, are less clearly drawn. Lies are trouncing truth, profit has trumped patriotism. Mr. Trump has turned the Presidency into a curious parody of the office against which two thirds of the country are clearly opposed. The remaining third is confusedly speechless, merely prayerful, that might just be not quite enough.

So now, just for fun, and THAT's what I'm supposed to be about, let's turn to the worlds of pop and real culture.

NUTS TO YOU When I was a tot, during WWII, everybody brought peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in sack lunches to school and, give or take one or two unruly miscreants thrown under the school bus in lieu of detention, nobody died of them. Today, as civilization progresses toward boredom from incipient cellphone overdose, thousands are dropping like flies from tree nut poisoning. How on earth did my generation get this far. And how

does the young, eager-beaver home baker deal with the problem of after-school treats and potluck munchies, excluding opioid canales ala Bordelais,, home-grown weed Bavarian, and heroin lollies? If one does bake for a crowd, there's bound to be a nut-case or two on the receiving end. Big favorites in this department are brownies, blondies, and chip cookies, so here are some smashing alternatives to nuts which you might consider Salted Caramel Chips which I discovered at **Kroger** supermarkets, I'm certain are available at like emporia. Another sensational ingredient, if one can refrain from eating them all before mixing them into the dough, are baking M&M's. These have a slightly thicker shell than their familiar counterparts. If you choose one of these alternatives to nuts, the quantity should be doubled. For example if the recipe calls for a half cup of nuts, I recommend a full cup of chips or M&M's. One word of caution: unfortunately chocolaty English toffee brickle, which is available under the Heath label while marvelous, does contain almonds. Just buy a bag and nosh them yourself while baking for others. After all, who deserves it more.

While on the subject of chocolate, my most informed pet loving friends tell me that this wonder substance is verboten for dogs and in some cases could prove fatal. As for cats, they will let you know, probably throwing up on your pillow or in your favorite spot for sex; and if one is lucky enough to be having it, immediately prior to your settle into it.

Remember, freshness counts AND is great for settling scores. Well at least that's what cats think.

SPEAKING OF MIND BENDERS.....The newest fad for the Millennials is ordering everything from a comfort-pit furniture ensemble to **"chef inspired"** gourmet meals on their I-pads which provides them with additional free time to stare into their electronic mail boxes waiting for Godot, or God-only-knows-who to call them, probably via robot to sell them something else, like seat covers, hand-woven, well sorta, marketed by a lost tribe in the impenetrable Andean foothills, from designs by Inca superstar Chichi Castanango. The latest wrinkle is for cute little young women outsmarting their cuter little men playmates in the TV ads by purchasing a car by phone from the comfort of their Warfare sofas, without even having the strain of kicking the tires. (Warfare has a hassock for that!) This frees them up for a few minutes of doing the funky chicken around a gigantic Macy's shopping bag, before checking their latest carton from The Mauve Apron for any possible infestation of cockroaches, or worse.

On the positive side there is an advantage buying a car on line and that's avoiding buying one in person. My dear friend The Craftsman, still in trauma from having his van die on northbound I-71, at rush hour, in the scenic stretch between the Norfolk Southern Railroad yard and Hopkins International Airport, fell into the lap of one Lewis N. Clarke, aka, The Barracuda, on the Bedford Auto Mile resulting in almost permanent shock. Now let it be known that the Craftsman is one helluva hard sell: that's almost like calling the Gobi Desert a sand pile! It took the Craftsman two and a half years of constant shopping to find the right stockpot. (His lecture on welded handles, versus screw-ons, and the danger of disfigurement by boiling liquids, given to a

hapless sales clerk who probably barely knew how to operate a can-opener on a tin of Campbell's consomme, landed the poor soul in therapy for months!). But in Lewis N. Clarke (**"Call me Lew!"**) the Craftsman met his match. Oh, the Craftsman didn't fall prey to such old bull as "Gee, I wanna see ya behind the wheel of this thing", or **"You're gonna really impress your friends driving that"** (Now, the Craftsman is more selective than that about his friends, other than me, and he'll probably boot me out when he reads this.) but he had found the van he wanted, gently (so they say) used or **"pre-owned"**, which is the new euphemism for a nicely detailed older vehicle. It was the add-on luxuries that derailed his otherwise finely tuned sense of business, These undoubtedly included the likes of six, twelve, eighteen, twenty-four (and up) months of replacement, free service, parts and labor, maintenance deals and surcharges on the van. Then there are the taxes, including federal, state, Bedford, Cuyahoga County Arts Funding fees, disposal of toxic waste materials, heat for the salesroom, free coffee,

Lewis N. Clarke's retirement pension fund, **YOU NAME IT**.....but poor Craftsman really took a beating as do we all.....it's part of the game we must all endure in a city with totally inadequate rapid street or rail transit for the enormous space occupied by greater Cleveland. And the state we live in ranks forty-seventh in the country for its support, or lack thereof, for public mass transit. One must have a car or one is lost in the state of Ohio. It's NOT all farmland and we are not all farmers. Consider, maybe, a fifty-first state called Western Reserve!

EYESORE.....Saint Peter's Episcopal Church on the southeast corner of Detroit Avenue and Clifton West was once a charming sandstone church built in traditional Norman

style. Centered on its elevated lot, surrounded by a green lawn, it was a model of symmetry and balance. No more. It has now added an annex, probably for religious education and social activities, built in a non-descript, non-style, like a chain motel or a fast food stand on what is left of its lot to the East. Gone are both style and a look of sanctity, replaced by a really bum job. The architect(s): he, she, or they, and the Saint Peter's Vestry should all be given well deserved penitential Lenten floggings. I have the phone number of a guy in Hiram, expert in cat or single-tail, who will do the job for free.

GRACE NOTES FROM ALL OVER....New York's Metropolitan Opera has had several highlights this season, including two pairings of Russian superstar Anna Netrebko with last season's most talked about Met debutante, the Georgian mezzo Anita Rachvelishvili. They opened this season together in Verdi's "**Aida**", both earning a virtual firestorm of critical and popular acclaim. Recently they refueled their little frenzy in sell-out performances of Cilea's warhorse for two divas, "**Adriana Lecouvreur**;" a story, based on historic fact, set in eighteenth-century Paris about is a princess poisoning her romantic rival, a celebrated actress, over the love of a social climbing not-so-hottie. These two ladies hung new flesh on the opera's old bones and really ignited the stage. One critic remarked, we needn't mourn the passing of the so-called Golden Age of Opera. It's going on right now!

Popping off to New York for the Metropolitan Opera is probably a stretch for most of us, even the most fanatic opera queen, but for several Saturdays during the season, one can attend a live performance transmitted via satellite to cinemas locally and in more than seventy countries around the world. (Taped performances are repeated the following Wednesday evenings.) They present the live performance as a more cinematic rather than proscenium experience with perfect sightlines, close-ups, the subtitles in the national language where shown, and vivid HD projection and sound. While not exactly cheap admission, they are a great savings over a special trip. A full schedule of these satellite airings and the cinemas where they are shown can be seen on the web at www.metopera.org. Right now I know that locally, they can be seen at Valleyview (Yes Virginia, there's multiplex virtually hidden behind Quaker Steak and Lube.), the Cedar Lee, and Richmond Mall.

Very occasionally, PBS presents one of these performances, taped from the live performance, on our local stations. Cyclops recently enjoyed, on **WVIZ**, the Met's co-production with London's English National Opera, of a new modern opera called "**Marnie**", composed by Nico Muhly with libretto by Nicholas Wright, from a novel by Winston Graham. Now, it all that's not too daunting, "**Marnie**" was also a flop movie directed by Alfred Hitchcock quite a few years back. This opera is going to be a revelation to people who don't like modern opera: no weird political slants (We're saturated with those anyhow!), no atonal or rap music, no electronic special effects, just great singing, a fascinating mystery story, rapid-fire staging, and a beautiful American singer in the title role. Her name is Isabel Leonard and she's hot! The mystery is about why Marnie is a compulsive thief, changing identities, looks, and robbing each new employer of thousands in cash and stolen property. The clothes she wears are countless and gorgeous. Between acts, in addition to the eye candy of watching squadrons of hunky stage hands erect, build, and, really putting their backs into it, shoving and

rolling scenery about the vast Metropolitan Opera backstage at this performance, there was a special demonstration of Ms. Leonard's twenty-some rapid costume changes, plus accessories, shoes, and wigs, and the teams of people who help her accomplish these, sometimes in less than a minute, between scenes. **Bravi!**

CLOSER TO HOME.... on the musical front, the amazing Joyce DiDonato, of the Metropolitan Opera and just about anywhere else in the world where she wants to descend from musical heaven, recently put on a little get-together in Oberlin's Finney Chapel. In her touring show entitled "**Songplay**", the statuesque blonde mezzo-soprano, backed-up by five classical musicians, using what she described as a beginning singing student's time-honored bete-noir, a dog-eared, yellowed book of Italian art songs, demonstrated the foundations for musical relationships, such as that of baroque song with modern jazz. Since Oberlin boasts one of the country's preeminent musical conservatories, half the sell-out crowd were students. They treated her like a rock star. She responded, for example, by singing a Vivaldi aria against a hot jazz accompaniment, Outside Finney it was freezing cold; inside it was red hot!

Speaking of hunks, again, filling in for our fashion editor, Bob Kirsop, who is recuperating well, I must tell you that last Thursday was the final week of the collections for fall in Paris. Since the **New York Times**, dumped the story on the last two pages of its "**Thursday Styles**" section, even with all that weeping and boo-hooing over the death of Karl Lagerfeld, the week otherwise must have laid an egg. Instead, clear across half of the front page was an enormous photograph of the Stanley brothers, Colorado-based growers of CBD, a marijuana alternative. Believe me, things are looking better than ever in the "**failing**" NYT. From left-to-right; Jared, Joel, Jon, Jordan, J Austin, Josh and Jesse are showing something for just about all of us, and I don't mean dope. What they've got needs no alternative!












Speaking hotties, which is a good thing, Texan Beto O'Rourke, or Beta Carrotine, or whatever his name is, is the latest to join the starting line up of hopefuls for the upcoming

Democratic presidential nomination. He talks fearlessly and incessantly, also a good thing. Hates Trump which is a risky thing for a Texan, speaking in Iowa or Nebraska where I heard him on television. He has already demonstrated excellent English, both spoken and syntactical which is iffy, especially in Trump country. or almost anywhere else these days. (He is also fluent in Spanish which didn't seem to help mucho, in Texas which Trump claims is overrun with evil invading Latinos!) But to me, the most fascinating thing about Beto is that he seems to be a natural born stripper. Perhaps it's time-lapse photography, or that he boasts an unusual metabolism, or a delicious thyroid imbalance but I've noticed with mind-boggling anticipation how he sheds clothing while ranting on about something which I probably think essential: impeachment, perspiration, man-reek. First, off comes the jacket, or coat. Then off with the sweater or vest, and then imperceptibly, the necktie if he has worn one. The shirt sleeves are slowly rolled up, one fold every four minutes. Then, as his act continues, button,-by-button, his shirt is opened to the waist. The question arises: is he wearing an undershirt? And as summer approaches and the temperature rises (we hope) will he shed more. Will the fainting women be carried out on stretchers. Does he use some dreadful deodorant or will I be carried out on a stretcher? **Boom-tiddy-boom!**

On the serious side, I checked out Elizabeth Warren on "**Morning Joe**" last week and found her intelligence prodigious, her grasp of situation enthralling, her delivery inspiring. With Warren, it's all about issues. She's fearless and gives every indication of stamina and the intention to mean what she says. I doubt that she can win because she has lots of whatever it takes to scare the hell out of the average voter. That why we've got what we got!

Ride easily, CY

April 2019

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

- April 1, 2019 - "April Fool's Day" & "Cleveland Indians Home Opening Game"
- April 1, 2019 - "Vibe Bar's 8th anniversary Party", 4 PM until Close.
- April 2, 2019 - "National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day", Guess we all know What's for Lunch!
- April 3, 2019 - "Empire City MC General Open Meeting", NYC
- April 7, 2019 - "Iron Eagles General Meeting", Cocktail 2.0, Akron, 6:30 PM
- April 9, 2019 - "Leather Stallion Saloon Pot Luck Supper", Happy Hour Prices, 6 PM.
- April 12-14, 2019 - "KC Pioneers Run/ MACC Spring Meeting", Kansas City MO
- April 13, 2019 - "Unicorn 's Sin & Absolution", Leather Stallion Saloon, Meeting 6 PM, Bar Event 9 PM until Midnight
- April 14, 2019 - "Palm Sunday"
- April 21, 2019 - "Easter"
- April 23, 2019 - "Leather Stallion Saloon Pot Luck Supper *Appetizer Competition". Happy Hour Prices, 6 PM
- April 26-28, 2019 - "CLAW", Cleveland
- April 27, 2019 - "David Reed's Birthday"
- April 27, 2019 - "Iron Eagles Project Runway Bar Night", Cocktails 2.0, Akron, (tentative)
- April 28, 2019 - "Empire City MC Hogs 4 Hope Ride"

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