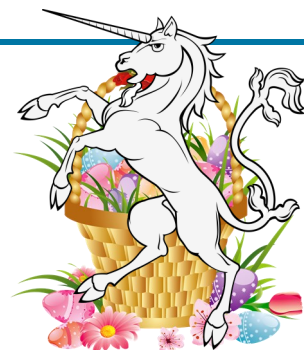


"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

# The Unicorn HORN



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

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## Spring has Sprung

As I am writing this, I can hear the chattering of the house wrens, and the chirping of the other birds out in the yard, including the song of the Blue Jays. Also the yard and flower beds are once more starting to show signs of things yet to come. Crocuses, Daffodils, and Forsythias are in bloom, the Daylilies are sending up their tender leaves, as well. Soon the yard will be alive with the colors of spring. And the Deer in my neighborhood will be well fed on the bounty of all my hard work. Just like Mother Nature awakens in the spring so does Humanity, we are or should preparing for the fun ahead.

For those who ride their trusty steel steeds, be they Harleys, Indians, Hondas, or even Suzukis, that means Spring Maintenance. A labor of love for riders, for who wants to be out on a run and have issues with their bike? For everyone else who shares the road it means we need to increase our diligence when driving, road and traffic conditions are a major contributor to accidents, what might seem less than critical to us can be extremely dangerous to those on a bike. While most Bikers are well aware of their surroundings, most auto drivers get distracted easily. Pay Attention to the Road, put down the cellphones, Do not eat while driving, turn down the radio, stay in your lane, signal change of lanes and turns, and watch for motorcyclist!



## 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:

- 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
- June 21/22, 2019 - All Club Leather Weekend & Cookout, Circle JJ Ranch Campground, RSVP with Circle JJ
- July 20, 2019 - UMC Annual Steak Roast, Jim B & Jim H, Columbia Station OH, 3PM
- 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.

## Thank You, Thank You & Happy Easter!

**Cleveland** - The Unicorns would like to take this opportunity to Thank the Management, Staff, and Patrons of the Stallion for helping to Kick-off our 2019 Charities Drive by supporting and attending our **Sins & Absolutions Event**, held on Saturday the 13th. Giving everyone one last chance at sinning and paying a penitence before the Celebration of this years Holy Week. All Door Donation goes into the **Unicorn Charities Fund** which are distributed in December and support LGBTQ friendly causes. Our 2018 Awardees included the **John Brittain Food Drive, Pilgrim UCC Food Pantry, the B. Riley Sober House, and the Paul Mulhall Sobriety Center.** Nominations for 2019 funding may be submitted to this publication at:

[editor.unicornhorn@gmail.com](mailto:editor.unicornhorn@gmail.com)

Additionally, thank yous go out to the members of the Unicorns who worked and volunteered throughout the evening. Everyone who worked the Door collecting Donations, Jack, Jim B, Jim H, Robert, Dennis, Eli and his boy Phillip. Bill Metzger for manning the Electro Station with his Violet Wand, Dennis Sherrill and Tom Johnson for manning the Flogging, and Paddling Stations, Noel Walters for hbing his subservient self, Derryk & his boy Michael for manning the Hot Wax Station. And most of all Tony Rotell for his excellence at being a Jell-O Shot purveyor.

There were several new faces at the Stallion and we hope we created a Welcoming atmosphere and they will return, not only to support the Unicorn's but all of the Organizations that call the Stallion Home.

Prior to the Event, the Club's membership met in the Upstairs Clubroom and enjoyed a repast of BBQ Pulled Pork supplied by Bill and Robert, Pine-apple Cole Slaw, from our own Cruel Chef Tom Johnson, and Walnut Brownies baked by Tony, Buns and Chips were supplied by Noel, Dennis, and Jack. As it is never good to work and event on an empty stomach.

During our meeting Birthdays were acknowledged, reports given, and plans laid for our upcoming **Post-Pride in the CLE Event**, Sunday, June 2, 2109, 4 PM, on the Stallion Patio, which will feature Jell-O Shots and a 50/50 Raffle, as well as cake. As it also will be the Unicorn's 48th Anniversary. Additional ideas were suggested to workout with the Stallion's management on making this the event to attend Pride Weekend!!! Hope to see everyone there.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** *The Great Unicorn Flea Market will be held Sunday, August 11, 2019, here at the Leather Stallion. There will be Bargains Galore, Homemade Baked Goods, Housewares, Clothing, and Memorabilia. So mark your Calendars Now, and plan on coming for Savings on thing you did not know you needed!!!*

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday May 19th in the Clubroom of the Stallion, this will be our last meeting at the bar until after the Summer rounds of Cookout Meetings hosted by various members of the Club. June's Cookout will be hosted by Bill M & Robert M in Hiram. July's Steak Roast will be hosted by Jim B & Jim H in Columbia Station. Finally, August's Cookout will be hosted by Jack G & Dennis S in Willowick. A covered side is required, as well as, BYOB, so sharpen up those cooking skills, and drag out all of those old favorite family recipes. September will find us back in the Stallion's clubroom.

# The LGBTQ Equality Act heads back to Capitol Hill

*In an Advocate op-ed, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. David Cicilline announce the re-introduction of the historic Equality Act.*

Washington DC, March 13 2019 - Today, the **House Democratic majority** took a momentous step toward securing the full blessing of **equality for the LGBTQ community** and our country.

Led by the vision and values of our diverse, dynamic new members and inspired by your courage, we are bringing our nation closer to its founding promise of full equality by introducing the **Equality Act** — to finally, fully end discrimination against **LGBTQ Americans**.

The **Equality Act** is simple. It says, unequivocally, that **LGBTQ Americans** deserve the full protections guaranteed by the landmark **Civil Rights Act of 1964**. To dismantle the discrimination undermining our democracy, **we must ensure that all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are treated equally under the law, not just in the workplace, but in education, housing, credit, jury service and public accommodations as well.**

The **Equality Act** clearly and consistently ensures that the same protections extended to Americans based on characteristics like race and religion are equally available to **LGBTQ Americans**.

States across the country have already led the way to provide full civil rights protection to their **LGBTQ** citizens. Yet 50 percent of the national **LGBTQ** community still live in states that fail to provide clear legal protections to their **LGBTQ** citizens. While these states try to stand against the tide of progress, the **Equality Act will guarantee a nationwide standard to ensure that no American is ever forced to lose their job or home or live in fear simply because of who they are or whom they love.**

**Ensuring full civil rights protections for LGBTQ Americans may be inconceivable for some, but it is inevitable to us.** Enacting this legislation will shorten the distance between the inevitable and the inconceivable. When we bring the **Equality Act** to the floor of the **House**, it will pass. We have the **bipartisan support of members of Congress** and the strong support of the **business community**. And most importantly, we have the overwhelming support of the **American people: 71 percent of whom support the Equality Act**. Once we pass this bill, and we will, we won't stop there. **We will never rest until full equality has been achieved for the LGBTQ community.**

We will be relentless in our work to **defeat the president's discriminatory, anti-LGBTQ agenda** and hateful attacks on the transgender community. **The president's transgender service ban** is a cruel and arbitrary decision designed to humiliate patriotic transgender Americans who have stepped forward to bravely serve our country, and it will not be allowed to stand. **Liberty, justice, and equality are America's guiding values, not bigotry and discrimination.**

This summer, we will mark **50 years since LGBTQ Americans took to the streets outside New York City's Stonewall Inn** to fight back against brutality and discrimination, and demand an end to harassment, persecution, and hate. In the half-century that has followed, **LGBTQ Americans** have turned their frustration and pain into tireless action, winning extraordinary progress in the fight for freedom, justice, and equality.

But to pass the **Equality Act** and succeed in the many fights ahead, **we need the continued organizing and mobilizing of grassroots groups and Americans like you.** We must draw strength from the decades of progress we have made together: passing historic, fully inclusive hate-crimes legislation; tossing the hateful **"don't ask, don't tell"** policy into the dustbin of history; defeating the discriminatory **Defense of Marriage Act** and ensuring **marriage equality** for all Americans; and **ending the hateful ban on transgender military service.**

**The road from Stonewall may be long, but our march toward justice, toward freedom, and toward equality will not be denied.** Hatred will never defeat pride. As we continue this progress, let us remember the words of Harvey Milk: **"Rights are won only by those who make their voices heard."**

There is mass support for the **Equality Act**, both from legislators as well as the American people.

In Congress, **280 legislators support the bill**, while across the US, a recent survey revealed nearly **70% of people support nondiscrimination protections for LGBTI people.**

Further, **hundreds of businesses and organizations**, at both state and national levels, also support the bill.

Democrats have long fought for the passage of this bill. They recently met with parents of transgender children to discuss the Act and also passed their own protection rules.

**The Campaign of Southern Equality** praised the bill for its importance to **LGBTI** people living in the South.

**'Right now, more than a third of LGBTQ people in the United States call the South their home, but no Southern state has passed statewide protections from anti-LGBTQ discrimination,'** said Executive Director Rev. Jasmine Beach-Ferrara.

**'On top of this, most of the anti-LGBTQ bills filed each year are filed in Southern states, and we continue to hear story after story of LGBTQ people who are fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes, and denied service because of who they are.'**

**All Democrats currently running in the 2020 presidential election** are vocal about their support for the **Equality Act** as well.

## History of the Equality Act

**In the face of a discriminatory and cruel administration, the Equality Act feels more critical than ever.**

Legislators introduced **the first version of it in 1974**, only including sexual orientation in Employment. Previously, the **Equality Act as it exists today**, including both sexual orientation and gender identity, **has been introduced to Congress twice. The first time was in 2015 and then again in 2017.** Both years the bill died in committee.

With the **Democratic majority in the House**, **it is very likely the Equality Act will pass** there. **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)**, however, has to call a vote in the **Senate** for it to pass. **It is unclear if he will do so.**

When the **LGBTQ Equality Act** was first introduced in 2015, three companies publicly supported it: **Apple, The Dow Chemical Company and Levi Strauss & Co.** Now as the bill, which would expand the **Civil Rights Act of 1964 to ban discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity**, heads back to **Capitol Hill**, it has **161 corporate backers.**

**"More and more companies have come to realize just how important it is to have a nationwide standard that treats all employees equally, no matter where they live,"** said Stephen Peters, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer civil rights organization.

The **HRC** announced Friday that support has been growing over the years, and now 161 companies have joined the organization's **Business Coalition for the Equality Act**, a group of leading U.S. employers that support **LGBTQ** people in anti-discrimination laws. **"The harsh reality is that right now LGBTQ people face a patchwork of protections based on what side of a city or state line they live on,"** Peters said.

The **Equality Act** has faced a tough legislative climb in its effort to extend anti-discriminatory protections for **LGBTQ** people across the **U.S.** A similar bill, **introduced in 2015 by Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon and Democratic Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, died in committee, then suffered the same fate in a 2017 effort.**

Nearly 50 percent of LGBTQ Americans currently reside in the 30 states that lack statewide legal protections for LGBTQ people, according to the HRC. The supporting companies, which now include *Twitter, Amazon, Google and Facebook*, have operations in all 50 states and total more than \$3.7 trillion in revenue, according to HRC.

**"The more than 160 leading American companies that have joined HRC's Business Coalition for the Equality Act are sending a loud and clear message that the time has come for full federal equality,"** said HRC President Chad Griffin.

On Thursday, *IBM* CEO Ginni Rometty wrote a letter addressed to Rep. Cicilline and Sen. Merkley detailing her **support for the Equality Act** on behalf of the *Business Roundtable*, an association of CEOs from the leading companies in the U.S. In the letter, Rometty argued **that most American companies already included sexual orientation and gender identity in their nondiscrimination policies long ago, and now it is time for the federal government to do the same.**

Although the bill has a chance in the Democratic-controlled House, it most likely will face scrutiny in the Republican-controlled Senate, said Jonathan Lovitz, senior vice president of the *National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC)*. Lovitz said that recent rulings by the *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* covering sexual orientation discrimination based on existing civil rights regulations, as well as a similar ruling from the *Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals*, stress the value of legal efforts supporting equal LGBTQ opportunities.

**"Our economy simply does not achieve all it can unless everyone is included ... and the protections of the Equality Act bring us much closer to the inclusion we need for the American Dream to be accessible to every LGBT American,"** Lovitz said.

The *Equality Act* does not include provisions that would include *LGBT-owned businesses in federal contracting opportunities*, an effort that has been taken up by three states and recently introduced in cities like *Nashville* and *Baltimore*, Lovitz said. **If passed, the act would cover employment, education, housing, public accommodations, jury service, federal funding and credit.**

**"A level playing field ensures that merit is the only factor that allows someone to succeed in business,"** said NGLCC Co-Founder & CEO Chance Mitchell. **"Think of the endless opportunities to contribute to the economy that await the LGBT business community when they are no longer afraid of being fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes, denied service in restaurants and shops simply for being who they are."**

## What the Equality Act Means for Us In the LGBTQ Community

If you're one of the **42 percent of LGB Americans** who have experienced discrimination, the **78 percent of transgender Americans** who have, or even one of the straight or cisgender folks who rarely encounter bias, the *Equality Act* has something to offer you.

The legislation, introduced in Congress, would amend federal law to provide a wide range of protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It goes far beyond its predecessor, the *Employment Non-Discrimination Act*, which never became law. *ENDA* dealt with employment only. **The Equality Act would ban discrimination not only in employment but in housing, credit, public accommodations, education, federal financial assistance, and federal jury service**

Also, while *ENDA* was a freestanding bill, the *Equality Act* would amend existing law, including the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, the *Fair Housing Act*, the *Equal Credit Opportunity Act*, and the *Jury Selection and Service Act*. It also would clarify that the *Religious Freedom Restoration Act* could not be used as a defense for discrimination on any basis.

In employment, the *Equality Act* would apply to the same employers as the *Civil Rights Act*: any private- or public-sector employer, including labor

organizations, **with at least 15 workers**, according to documents supplied by the office of Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island. **It would maintain an exemption allowing religious corporations, associations, educational institutions, and societies to hire only individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with their religious activities.**

It includes exemptions in some other areas; **in housing**, for instance, **it would keep the Fair Housing Act's exemptions for owner-occupied rental housing that has four or fewer units and for individual roommate arrangements.** Under *public accommodations*, it would maintain exemptions for religious organizations or private clubs that limit rentals or services to their members. Contrary to the myth that it would somehow threaten religious freedom, **it would not regulate what ministers can say from the pulpit or require them to participate in any ceremony that goes against their beliefs.**

The approach of amending existing law helps to **"assure reasonable people that religious protections are going to operate the same way they always have,"** says Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign.

Even with the exemptions, the *Equality Act* would offer **sweeping prohibitions on discrimination** and cover many **more Americans** than those currently protected under state and municipal laws. **Only 21 states have laws that explicitly ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, and only 20 of those also include gender identity. Fifty percent of LGBTQ Americans live in states without such laws.**

In surveys, **42 percent of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, and 78 percent of transgender people, have reported experiencing discrimination or harassment on the job because of who they are.** The *Equality Act* does offer protections for **straight and cisgender people** as well, though, while discrimination on the basis of being cis or heterosexual is rare, the act would make it **illegal to refuse a job, housing, etc., to someone simply because he or she is straight.** And discrimination and harassment can take place because of someone's perceived identity in addition to their true one, or because of their association with someone of a certain identity. **So if you're experiencing trouble at work because you're perceived to be lesbian or you're standing up for LGBTQ rights, the act would provide redress.**

The legislation would also **clarify the definition of sex under Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, which bans sex discrimination.** It would assure that discrimination on the basis of sex **includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, including sex characteristics and intersex traits, as well as on the basis of sex stereotypes** or on the basis of **pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.** The *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* and several federal courts have embraced this expanded definition of sex discrimination, but the *U.S. Supreme Court* has yet to rule on the issue, so the definition is not yet enshrined in federal law, which is what the *Equality Act* would do. There are a couple of places in existing civil rights law where there aren't prohibitions on sex discrimination, those covering **public accommodations and federally funded programs**, and the *Equality Act* would add **sex discrimination there**, Warbelow points out.

In addition, the act would **expand the types of public accommodations covered by antidiscrimination law.** This would include those listed in recent civil rights laws, such as the *Americans With Disabilities Act*, **retailers, health care providers, transportation services, and adoption agencies**, among others. *The Civil Rights Act*, Warbelow notes, reflects the types of venues where there were concerns about discrimination in the **1960s**, such as **restaurants and public swimming pools, but worries about discrimination in retail establishments, taxi services, and other areas have surfaced in more recent years.**

As for small businesses where discrimination is a concern, such as **wedding photographers or bakers**, they **could not turn away customers simply because of who they are**, although these businesses would remain **free to determine what goods and services they sell.** For example, a

*bakery could limit its business to birthday cakes, but if it sells wedding cakes, it would have to provide them to all customers.*

And the act would *ensure that transgender people have access to the gender-specific facilities they need*, which does not, as anti-trans activists would have it, put cisgender women and girls at risk. *Hundreds of anti-violence organizations and numerous studies have states that trans-inclusive public accommodations policies do not lead to sexual or physical assault and that anti-trans discrimination does nothing to prevent such assaults.*

The *Equality Act*, however, does nothing to address the *Trump administration's ban on military service by transgender people*, which the administration *plans to implement April 19, 2019*, even as court challenges to it proceed. That's because *the military is not subject to federal civil rights law*. Other bills have been introduced to fight the ban, in addition to the four lawsuits filed against it.

Speaking of lawsuits: *Opponents of LGBTQ-inclusive antidiscrimination legislation often contend it would lead to a flood of lawsuits, but that has not been the case in states with such antidiscrimination laws*, according to the Williams Institute, a research organization at the University of California, Los Angeles. *The rate of suits filed over sexual orientation discrimination was about the same as that of suits filed over racial discrimination*, the Williams Institute found.

If the *Equality Act* becomes law, its mere existence would not eliminate all discrimination, but it would certainly deter it, Warbelow says, as that has been the experience in states with similar laws. *If discrimination happens, the injured party could file a complaint with the EEOC, which is able to help settle complaints without the parties going to court*, she says. And then a last resort would be a lawsuit. *With the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in civil rights law, the U.S. attorney general would be able to intervene in equal protection lawsuits involving discrimination on those bases.*

The *Equality Act* has much support from corporate America. There are 164 businesses that have endorsed the legislation as part of the *HRC's Business Coalition for the Equality Act*. *They represent \$3.8 trillion in revenue and 8.7 million employees, and they have operations in all 50 states, with headquarters in 27 states.*

*"For corporations, this is a common-sense next step,"* Warbelow says. Many of them already have LGBTQ-inclusive antidiscrimination policies in place. *"But they know their employees have to live in the real world," she notes, finding housing and other services. And they're concerned not only about LGBTQ employees, but workers who have LGBTQ children. Nationwide antidiscrimination protections will make a company's workers more comfortable with moving from one state to another, she says. As it is now, corporations "are concerned about the patchwork of state laws that makes it harder to attract top talent,"* she explains.

Kevin Walling, chief human resources officer at the *Hershey Co.*, explained his company's support for the legislation in a statement supplied by HRC: *"At the Hershey Co., we recognize that our talented employees are our business edge, and that retaining our place as the market leader in our category requires the best talent. To help us achieve our goal of recruiting the nation's top employees, we know that we must foster a business culture that is welcoming to all, regardless of sexual orientation, or gender, or race, or other status. By the same token, if our nation is to compete on a global stage, our federal laws must ensure that all employees are treated with the same respect."*

The bill's introduction came with bipartisan support, and it reportedly has *230 cosponsors in the House of Representatives and 46 in the Senate. Passage in the Democratic-controlled House seems almost assured, while the Republican-majority Senate will likely be more of a challenge, as will getting the signature of the president, Donald Trump.*

But the *Equality Act's* supporters are determined. *"Speaker Pelosi has*

*made the Equality Act one of her top priorities,"* Warbelow says. *"The Senate is much more challenging, and we're really going to have to double down. If we can't get it over the finish line, we'll be back in the next session of Congress."*

## **Right-Wingers Panic Over Equality Act: 'Bill Threatens Women, Religion'**

*The far right is trotting out scare tactics about transgender people and "anti-Christian bias."*

The far right is trotting out scare tactics about transgender people and *"anti-Christian bias."* The *Equality Act*, will endanger women and threaten *religious freedom*, according to commentators on the far right.

The backlash to the bill, which would *amend existing civil rights law to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, came quickly and focused on the right's favorite arguments, that transgender people are predators and that people with "traditional" religious beliefs are victims.*

The *Equality Act* *"would undermine women's equality and force women and girls to share private, intimate spaces with men who identify as female, in addition to denying women fair competition in sports,"* said a statement released by Kristen Waggoner, senior vice president of the *Alliance Defending Freedom's* U.S. legal division. *"Like similar state and local laws, it would force Americans to participate in events and speak messages that violate their core beliefs."*

Waggoner further called the legislation *"intolerant"* and *"deceptively titled,"* and said it would *"undermine human dignity by threatening the fundamental freedoms of speech, religion, and conscience that the First Amendment guarantees for every citizen."* Waggoner's group, designated a hate group by the *Southern Poverty Law Center*, made similar arguments when representing a Colorado baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. The baker won a qualified victory at the *Supreme Court*.

Terry Schilling, executive director of *American Principles Project*, appealed to transphobia in his statement on the bill. *"Forcing young girls to shower with men. Telling abused women they have to room with men in battered women's shelters. Allowing men to compete against, and typically beat, women in women's sporting events. This is what 'equality' looks like as defined by the radical Left. This is what 'equality' would look like under the so-called 'Equality' Act,"* he said.

*"The reality is that this bill isn't about equality — it's about enshrining supremacy into the law for one ideology over another,"* he continued. *"And the result will be the widespread erasure of women, prohibition of dissent, and sexualization of children."*

In a column for *The Daily Caller*, Schilling doubled down on the anti-trans arguments, writing, *"Not only would the Equality Act nationalize such policies and make it 'discriminatory' for any sports league to restrict competition by biological sex, the bill would disadvantage women and take away fundamental freedoms in a host of other ways, many of which are far more dangerous than being disenfranchised at athletic competitions."* He also cited *Donald Trump Jr.* as a champion of women's equality, as the president's son recently called it a *"grave injustice"* that transgender women can compete against cisgender women in sports.

Of course, Schilling conveniently ignores that all available research indicates that allowing trans women into spaces designated for women does not endanger cisgender women, but trans women are in danger when forced to share intimate spaces with men. And in many sports there are regulations that deal with the supposed advantage held by trans women — the International Olympic Committee, for instance, allows trans women to compete in women's sports only if their testosterone is below a certain

level. Also, hormones and chromosomes are not the only factors that figure in athletic performance,

There's no word yet from some of the biggest names in *anti-LGBTQ activism*, such as *Family Research Council* president *Tony Perkins*. However, the *FRC* did tweet a link to an article published online Monday, March 11th, by the *Gospel Coalition*, an association of churches in the *Christian Reformed faith*, in anticipation of the *Equality Act's* introduction.

The article, authored by Andrew T. Walker, contended that the bill *"represents the most invasive threat to religious liberty ever proposed in America."* It *"would forever cement the legitimacy of sexual-revolution ethics into federal law," "accelerate the number of conflicts pitting Christians against their conscience," and "accelerate the pace of anti-Christian bias in society."*

However, *the bill maintains the religious exemptions of civil rights law*, and at any rate, many *mainstream Christian churches (and other faith bodies) have become big supporters of LGBTQ equality*. So it's not accurate to call it anti-Christian. *It just makes clear that one's religious beliefs cannot be used to justify discrimination in the public sphere, while churches and ministers would remain free to believe and preach what they please.*

But Walker nonetheless struck an apocalyptic tone. The *Equality Act's* *"sweeping effects on religious liberty, free speech, and freedom of conscience would be both historic and also chilling,"* he declared, concluding that if the bill passes, it will *"cement ... anti-Christian bias into American law."*

Similar statements are likely to come from many sources on the right as debate on the bill proceeds.

## **Equality Act Faces Lack Of GOP Support**

*The LGBTQ rights movement's top legislative priority could face an uphill battle.*

NEW YORK (AP) — *The LGBTQ rights movement's top legislative priority, a comprehensive nondiscrimination bill*, introduced in Congress on Wednesday, the excitement will be tempered by political reality: *The bill could well be doomed, at least for this year, by lack of Republican support.*

That dynamic mirrors the situation nationwide. *Twenty mostly Democratic-run states already have comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people, comparable to what the Equality Act would mandate nationally. The protections extend to employment, housing, public accommodations and public services.*

The other 30 states, where Republicans hold full or partial power, have balked at taking that step, *illustrating that LGBT rights is as polarized along partisan lines as abortion, climate change and other hot button issues.*

The result is a patchwork map in the U.S., with a *majority of states making it legal for an LGBT person to be fired, evicted or barred from public facilities because of sexual orientation or gender identity.*

*"No one's civil rights should be dependent on what ZIP code they live in,"* said JoDee Winterhoff of the *Human Rights Campaign*, a national *LGBT* rights group.

Opponents of nondiscrimination bills, meanwhile, say that such measures can infringe on religious and other beliefs.

*"The Equality Act would undermine the freedom to think and act according to our beliefs,"* said Emilie Kao of the conservative *Heritage Foundation*. Citing recent cases in the news, she said *faith-based adoption agencies should not be required to serve same-sex couples, and entrepreneurs such as bakers and florists should not be required to provide their services for same-sex weddings.*

*The Equality Act was first introduced three years ago; it would add gender identity and sexual orientation to existing federal nondiscrimination laws covering such realms as employment, housing, education, and public spaces and services. The new version specifies that the act would cover retail stores, emergency shelters, banks, transportation, pharmacies and legal services.*

In Congress, the bill has *near-unanimous Democratic backing* and seems certain to pass the House, but as of Tuesday *afternoon only one Republican, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania*, had announced plans to be a *co-sponsor*. In the GOP-controlled Senate, the bill's chances appear slim.

*"The path forward may require another election,"* said James Esseks, director of the *American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT & HIV Project*.

*(Ed. Note: All Democratic Candidates have stated that they will support the Equality Act)*

Esseks is hopeful that federal courts may broaden some protections for *LGBT* people, notably with regard to workplace discrimination. But he says the *Equality Act* eventually will be needed to *"fill all the gaps"* and *provide comprehensive protections in conservative states that are unlikely to enact LGBT rights bills on their own.*

*(Ed. Note: The Ohio Fairness Act, which would provide such protections, has been introduced in the State Legislature, March 14th of this year)*

This year, *LGBT nondiscrimination bills have been filed in more than dozen state legislatures* where the *GOP* either is in full control or, in the case of Virginia, controls one chamber. *Two such bills passed Virginia's Democratic-controlled Senate*, but *GOP leaders in the House of Delegates refused to consider them*. None of the bills in other states appear headed for passage.

Some examples:

*In West Virginia*, the state *Senate's GOP* leadership let an *LGBT* nondiscrimination bill die without a hearing, despite a plea from 12 mayors to consider it.

*In North Dakota*, a measure that would prohibit housing or workforce discrimination based on sexual orientation was defeated in the House by a 70-22 vote.

*In Arkansas*, the *State Supreme Court* refused to let the city of *Fayetteville* enforce a local ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. *The court cited a state law aimed at preventing local protections for LGBT people. (which was enacted after Fayetteville passed it's Ordinance)*

*In Arizona*, *LGBT* activists considered it a breakthrough when two *GOP* lawmakers signed on as *sponsors* of a nondiscrimination bill. But the measure failed to advance; it was denounced by the *Conservative Center for Arizona Policy* as a threat to individuals and organizations *"who have a historic understanding of marriage and gender."*

*For LGBT activists*, the biggest victory this year came in *New York*, where the legislature expanded existing nondiscrimination protections to cover transgender people. Republicans controlling the state Senate had long blocked that move, but Democrats took over the chamber in November's midterm elections.

*Until 2015, when the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, marriage was the dominant issue animating opponents of LGBT rights.* Since then, *LGBT* nondiscrimination laws and full civil liberties for transgender people have taken center stage. Opponents of the latter say they can be problematic in terms of access to public restrooms and locker rooms, as well as transgender women's participation in some competitive sports.

*Your Support is needed, Call your State Reps. And Senators to support and vote yes on Ohio's 'Fairness Act'. And do the same with your Federal Reps. And Senators for support and a Yes vote on the 'Equality Act'!*



## APRIL FOOLED

**IT'S SAD TO ADMIT IT**, but Cyclops got fooled big time winding up a five-page April column in the bustling newsroom of the "Horn" which in actuality is the majestic dining room table of our Editor and our Secretary in welcoming Willowick-By-The-Sea. Immediately after a sumptuous repast of Faux Le Road-Kill Nature, Haché, au lard fumé, sambal de gherkin, sauce Heinz de tomate piquante, sur bun; les Haricots Marines, au Four, manière de Boston, all washed down with a bottle of Chateau Tête de Mouton, sans année; I clumsily pressed an as yet unidentified button on this frequently mysterious albeit inspired machine, thereby erasing the entire article, so rife with vital social and cultural notes while Jack, as usual tends to the detritus du jour. Bless him, for I can't keep it all straight. Truth to tell, I can't keep much of anything straight anymore, with all this nasty business of collusion, confusion, confession, contusion, covers-up, and frankly, genital reader, kurr-rap! Worst of all (Oh the shame,) it's been years since the last time I was inappropriately touched, during the Presidency of William Howard Taft, and that was only part of an urgent attempt to shove him up that treacherous, too narrow staircase to the second-floor Club Room of the Leather Stallion Saloon. (He didn't make it! Ha Ha.)

**ON THE SERIOUS SIDE OF THE COIN**...and perhaps the most pathetic April Fool of them all is the uninformed dolt in Her Majesty's Immigration Service, who admitted and turned all all-around bad-guy and former White House adviser to the President, Steve Bannon loose in Great Britain. Bannon, whose looks are as beastly as his Nazi-like, white-nationalist political philosophy, is freely spreading civic havoc wherever he goes, especially during all of the Brexit turmoil. It must not be working, because this week Mr. Bannon has refocused his hatred on Pope Francis for excessive liberalism and overwork on behalf of the world's poor and disenfranchised; hardly Bannon's cup of hemlock. Cyclops is not a Roman Catholic or an active participant in any organized religion, even his own but, YE GODS. Bannon on-the-loose and on an anti-Papal, pro-Brexit, white supremacist crusade is utterly preposterous. If there really is a God, where the hell are the lightning bolts!

I have always made respect for other peoples' sacred beliefs a top priority and, aside from the occasional human sacrifice or public stoning out of women of thought. I neither condemn or proselytize for or against those folks who worship differently from me. I support their constitutional right to their faiths, and that includes the right to politely disagree with them. (A full lobotomy, frontal and anal, will never persuade me that Donald Trump is the new Messiah!) Meanwhile, we have the pleasure of watching Trump's newest, and most obvious minion, Attorney General Barr, squirm in his undoubtedly soiled drawers over the predicted cover-up of the Mueller report. Over to you, Jack!

I almost didn't make it to our last meeting which was held on Saint Patrick's day. Had to park down at 18<sup>th</sup> street and hoof it back to the bar. Oddly enough, the Stallion was not packed; the mob scene was taking place across the street at what the myth-makers had once billed as a nightclub for the elite! Well now, I don't want to sound like Peggy Noonan in "The Wall Street Journal", but that crowd over there looked like plain old street typers, definitely NOT of our station. (We did have two or three of those we could have spared them!) The yelling, fist fighting, and frequent visits by the cops kept the view from our side of the street lively. Although I haven't read the most recent issue of "Ohio Tavern News", the journal of the Ohio watering hole business but, I suspect they were risking a license suspension with all that chaos. Luckily, since they "own" nearly two blocks of the south side of Saint-

Clair for "valet parking" five nights of the week, one or more of the principals over there must have really big-time suck at City Hall.

On the flip side, one of the nicest celebrations since our last issue was the Thirtieth Anniversary Birthday Bash of fellow leather club, the Rangers, of Cleveland and Akron. I arrived early in the evening and chatted up old times with Greg Lakota, one of the Rangers' founding members and a great mover and shaker of this great club during its first thirty years. The excitement increased with the arrival of Ms. Azzura Bowers, the Rangers' President and a paragon of brotherhood and hospitality, bearing a magnificent anniversary cake, it's frosting crowned in vivid frosting, the club's colors. With her, big hugs all around! After knocking off my superb, David-allowed single martini, I headed home to enjoy my latest attack of the vapors. LSS regulars especially my pal Blue Jay (He's so elegant he drinks only tank-car champagne!), as well as Unicorns present were quite awed by the generosity and full of praise at the Ranger's, charging no admission, passing out mugs and gift certificates to all in attendance. An evening rich in fun, friendship, and real brotherhood...and WHY NOT?

**WHY-NOT!** Was also appended to a recent "New York Times" article in the music pages concerning the appoint of Yannick Nézet Séguin as Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera. Coming to us from Montreal, via Philadelphia, along with his musicologist lover of twenty-some years, Pierre Tourville. It's a combination like the dynamic new Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, both directors are making big waves and getting rave reviews, delighting old fans and thrilling so many new ones. WHY-NOT indeed. Ira Siff, co-host of the Metropolitan Opera's Saturday radio broadcasts, was recently asked why he had disbanded his world famous drag Grand Opera Schena, to which he replied that there was no longer anyone to make fun of; the diva has gone the way of the dodo bird. Today, Siff continued, the ladies act like the girl next door, come to work on time, do superlative work, "play well with others", then go home, or off to sing elsewhere, here and abroad, where their superlative talents and good behavior are much in demand. (Even sacked bad-girl Kathleen Battle was allowed back at the Met, once this year for a Sunday night solo recital of Negro spirituals!) Teamwork is the hallmark of the new opera work ethic and it certainly paid off in a recent radio broadcast live from the Met of Saint-Saens "Samson et Dalila" with American tenor Gregory Kunde and the sensational Georgian superstar Anita Rachvelishvili, both utterly blistering the airways, especially in the seductive second act, where Samson gets the haircut! Here, unable to see the rather kitschy setting and production, the listener could focus solely on the orchestra, the blistering fury of the two singers and the intensity of the drama, not simply about sex, but the eternal Old Testament battle between Jehovah and idolatry. Pretty life changing afternoon. I hope to g/God, somebody recorded it!

DR. SPOCK, the faux-Rousseau and probably the behavioral despoiler of the infants of the Me Generation; some years ago during his residence in Cleveland, made the famous pronouncement that Appalachia ends at the foot of Cedar Hill, taking great care to emphasize that this was a geological, not sociological fact. (Or did he?) Well, anyhow, right now, that spot has moved a few blocks north, into the Focus Gallery, on the main floor of the Cleveland Museum of Art, where the Landscape Drawings, 1915-1920, by Eastern Ohio artist Charles Burchfield who studied art in Cleveland, have newly emerged from their their storage drawers and are drawing gasps of excitement from viewers. From fantasy works such as "Hiawatha Leading the Indians into a Forest", with pale colors reflecting in the shimmering creek beside them, to the anguish of "Miner's House in Winter", and an astonishing series of church bell tower studies this small show contains thirty drawings which range from colorful fantasy to a then new to America style of social realism coupled with abstraction. This small surprise will run through the fifth of may, but as word spreads, it could possibly be extended like the William Morris show was. \* A word of caution, the Focus Gallery, directly across from the gift shop, has automatic doors which open very slowly, so watch where you're going lest YOU create an abstract fantasy with your nose on the glass. Bonk!

Down in the lower depths, the museum, is showing a great collection of the photography of early works by the celebrated African-American photographer Gordon Parks. Entitled "The New Tide, Early Work, 1940-1950" these works reflect Park's ingenious skill in making the ordinary seem exceptional, the drab beautiful, and his art and political belief, visionary. How we need this now! Imagine a sheet of photography in one's hand which takes on the visual dimension of sculpture and nobility. Not to be Missed. A suggestion, directly across the hall in another set of rooms, is the museum's Japanese show "Shinto". Both of these exhibitions are of such importance, they should not be seen at the same time. Allow your mind to digest each one separately.

Finally, the Biggie, entitled "Shinto: Discovery of the Divine in Japanese Art" is a rather ponderous title, appropriate to a large, complex show of art based on the native, shamanistic beliefs of the Japanese and their blending into the "new" religion of Buddhism, It is a highly intellectual show of sacred philosophical painting, sculpture, fabric, and metalwork. The works of art are shown in a twilight setting, appropriate to the fragility of the materials themselves. Objects are lent from American museums such as the Cleveland, New York's Metropolitan, the Minneapolis, Vassar College and the Chicago Institute of Art. In addition, many actual sacred Shinto shrines in Japan have entrusted their treasures to Cleveland. Because of the sacred nature of many of the objects sent from Japan, photography is prohibited, and loud conversation is discouraged. These conduct rules are enormously helpful for the average viewer, as are large wall mounted background information panels at the entrance to each room, a boon to many who have little or no information about the exhibition's subject. The lavish catalog is far too large and heavy to be carried through the gallery. (One is available on two large tatami platforms in one of the rooms. It is probably the most distinguished Asian exhibition since the Cleveland presented "Buddhist Treasures from Nara", in 1998. It is certain to draw distinguished visitors from the entire country and from around the world. Viewed slowly, carefully, and quietly, many of my readers, like I, will find "Shinto" enthralling. IMPORTANT NOTE: "Shinto" will be shown 9 April through 30 June. Owing to the fragility of many of the lent objects which are deemed National Treasures, the Japanese government has mandated that the show close briefly 20-22nd May, for re-setting with a totally different set of objects for the remainder of the exhibition. Visitors who are non-members and wish to see both parts of the exhibition, should retain their ticket stubs from the first viewing for free admission to the second half. CMA members, of course, are admitted free at all times.

IT PAYS TO SAY HELLO: In our sadly fragmented country, where our leaders either are urging hatred, or at best, complete indifference to others, performing good works such as showing simple courtesy by holding a door for someone, or sending a smile or hello to a complete stranger, even if sometimes these are not acknowledged, can still bring great personal satisfaction. This afternoon, while sitting at the back entrance to the Wade Park VA Hospital where I do a bit of volunteer work, I noticed beside me, a gnarled old vet with a scowl on his face, but my hello did the trick. So we chatted. I noticed that he had a beautiful metal cane in a holster attached to his wheel chair. I inquired if it were brass and was told it was solid copper. He unsheathed the cane. It was gleaming and magnificent. He allowed that he makes these canes out of new, un-recycled copper in several styles and they range in price from one hundred dollars and up. We also discussed keeping copper well shined without lacquer. His formula involves cleaning with something called Mother's Aluminum Powder, then after rinsing and drying, giving it a very light coating of Carnuba wax. "Voila". My shuttle was approaching and he gave me his card: "Custom Copper Canes, Made in the USA by handicapped veterans.....AL.....330-208-7975."

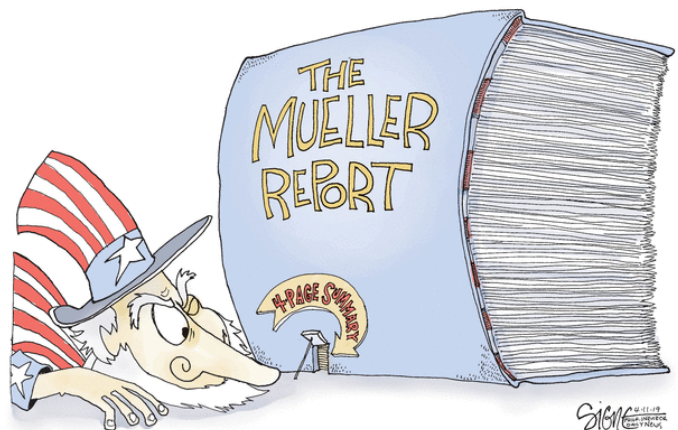
**RODENT SHORTAGE?** And it's no April Fool. The latest issue of the AARP "Bulletin" informs that a major breakthrough on drugs to effectively combat such dementia illnesses as Alzheimer's disease is being thwarted due to a shortage of laboratory mice for testing. Well, Cyclops knows of an entire Cabinet full of rats in Washington quite worthy of such a task. After all, they now have nowhere else to go and, they'll eat anything down the food chain,

no matter how putrescent.

**BRAVE OLD WORLD** Empire City Motorcycle Club's Chaz Antonelli and husband K.K. Kua, those inveterate world travelers, have recently spent quality time in Malaysia which is the country of K.K.'s birth, celebrating family birthdays, major festivals, sightseeing the gorgeous countryside, and stuffing themselves on some of the world's finest food which is an amalgam of Chinese, Indian, and native Malay cuisines. It's waiting its turn in the United States, but is extremely trendy on smart culinary tables as Toronto, London, and Paris. If one is especially lucky, have K.K. whip up some of his delicious home cooking for you. Chaz, on the other hand, returns to fetch Albert Rizzo, the Phineas Fogg of the Finger Lakes, for a special week-long leather-sex festival in Berlin, then, Heaven help us another week of "recovery" in Amsterdam. That should certainly do much damage control for NATO, or will it? Bon voyage, mates.

Ride easily and keep 'em shining **CY**

*(Ed. Note: Who knew that I could whip-up such fancy food? Cy made that Cheeseburger and left over Baked Beans sound spectacular)*





## Ohio's All-Club Weekend Camp & Picnic

**Sponsored by Circle JJ Ranch Campgrounds**  
 1104 Amsterdam Road SE  
 Scio, Ohio 43988  
 Phone: 1-330-627-3101

This year's All-Club Camp Weekend & Picnic will be held on Friday June 21st and Saturday, June 22nd, at the Circle JJ Ranch Campgrounds in Scio Ohio. Reservations are now being taken at the Campground for those who wish to camp with your Leather Brothers from throughout the State. For those just wishing to come only for the Picnic on Saturday, Day passes to the Campground are available. There will be Daily Poolside Cocktail Parties, an All-you-can-eat Cookout Buffet (bring a dish to share) on Saturday afternoon, and a Leather Ball held that evening in the Camp's Rec-hall. Along with all of the other activities you can think of while camping in the dark with your friends. Amenities include: A Limited number of Cabins, a Bunkroom, Tenting & Primitive Campsites, a Heated Swimming Pool, Hot Tub, Steam Room, Pee Wee's Playhouse w/Glory Holes, an Outdoor Sling, Hiking Trails, and Friendly Seasonal Campers.

**Circle JJ Ranch Campground is Clothing Optional  
 Call for Reservations. Today!**

# May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  	2	3	4 
5 	6 	7	8	9	10 	11
12 Happy Mother's Day!	13	14	15	16	17 	18 
19 	20	21	22	23 	24 	25 
26 	27 	28	29	30	31 	

- May 1, 2019 - "May Day"  
 May 1, 2019 - "Empire City MC General Meeting", NYC, NY  
 May 4, 2019 - "Leather Titleholders Turn-about Benefit Variety Show", Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM  
 May 4, 2019 - "Star War's Day", May the fourth Be with you!  
 May 5, 2019 - "Iron eagles General Membership Meeting", Cocktail 2.0, Akron, 6:30 PM  
 May 6, 2019 - "Jeff Anderson's Birthday"  
 May 10, 2019 - "Jack Giles' Birthday"  
 May 12, 2019 - "Mother's Day"  
 May 17-18, 2019 - "Ohio GLLA Competitions", Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM each night!  
 May 18, 2019 - "Iron Eagles Bar Night", theme to be announced, Cocktails 2.0, Akron, 9 PM  
 May 19, 2019 - "AIDS International Candlelight Memorial", Canton, 6 PM  
 May 19, 2019 - "Unicorn's Monthly Meeting", Leather Stallion Saloon, 6 PM  
 May 23-27, 2019 - "International Mr. Leather Competition", Chicago IL, all weekend  
 May 24, 2019 - "Empire City MC's 8th Annual Motorcycle Weekend", Cyclist Only, Contact: Chaz Antonelli, [www.chaz.nyc](http://www.chaz.nyc)  
 May 27, 2019 - "Memorial Day"  
 May 31-June 2, 2019 - "2nd Annual LGBT Motorcycle Weekend", Rainbow Mountain, Pennsylvania Pocono Mountains, Contact Chaz Antonelli for more information, [www.chaz.nyc](http://www.chaz.nyc)  
 June 1, 2019 - "Pride in the CLE", Public Square, Downtown Cleveland, All Day, Contact the Pride Committee at the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ Center for Details

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