

"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn

HORN



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June 2019

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Unicorn Flea Market
Sunday, August 11, 2019
4 PM until 9 PM
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NEW AND LIKE NEW USED ITEMS**

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*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:

June 21/23, 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', Willowick 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

How the Supreme Court Case on LGBT Rights Could Set Us Back Decades

The Supreme Court announced on Monday, April 22nd, that it would decide whether the Civil Rights Act of 1964 guarantees protections from workplace discrimination to gay and transgender people in three cases expected to provide the first indication of how the court's new conservative majority will approach L.G.B.T. rights. They are taking cases to decide, once and for all, whether sexual-orientation discrimination is protected under Title VII.

It's been almost four years since the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage for everyone, and yet, anti-LGBT discrimination remains a real problem in much of this country. *In a majority of states, we LGBT-folk can be fired or otherwise discriminated against for no reason other than our sexual orientation or gender identity.* That may change though, as the Supreme Court agreed to hear three cases that could fix this problem, *the first concerning LGBT Rights since the retirement last summer of Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, a champion of gay rights.* Or could possibly set anti-discrimination law back decades. His replacement by the more conservative Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh could shift the court's approach to cases concerning gay men, lesbians and transgender people.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has said the 1964 act does guarantee the protections. How is it that anti-LGBT job discrimination is still allowed? *The Trump administration has taken the opposite position, saying that the landmark legislation that outlawed discrimination based on race, religion, national origin and, notably, sex, cannot fairly be read to apply to discrimination based on sexual orientation or transgender status.*

Well, we can blame Congressional Republicans for that. Every time Democrats have attempted to change Title VII — the federal law that protects against discrimination in employment — to include sexual orientation and gender identity, they have been met with fierce opposition from Republicans.

That hasn't stopped creative lawyers from trying to protect their clients. When Title VII became law in 1964, it included "sex" among the categories that were off-limits for employers to consider. Much still needs to be accomplished for there to be true equality at work, but it is undeniable that the law has been transformative for women in the workplace.

Without language in the law specifically protecting LGBT people, advocates have argued something quite clever — that the law *already* protects LGBT folks. Sure, it would be nice if it were specifically spelled out, but the language prohibiting discrimination based on "sex" already does the work.

The reasoning is actually quite simple. When a gay person is fired at work because of his sexual orientation, the employer is firing him because he is romantically or sexually attracted to other men. However, the employer would not fire a man attracted to women; thus, the employer is firing him because he is a man, which is plain old sex discrimination.

The argument is similar for trans people, though more based on the idea of sex stereotyping. The boss who fires a trans man is firing him because the boss thinks that someone assigned female at birth should act a certain way. The trans man, however, is not conforming to sex stereotypes, thus the firing. **Firing someone because they don't live up to sex stereotypes is also sex discrimination.**

These arguments have not been universally accepted by the federal courts, but they've been taken up in some notable cases. In particular, the federal appeals court in New York ruled that a sky diving instructor who was fired because he was gay was entitled to sue under Title VII. But a federal appeals court in Atlanta ruled the opposite in a case involving a gay county advocate who was fired because of his sexual orientation. On Monday, the Supreme Court announced that it was taking both of these cases to decide, once and for all, whether sexual-orientation discrimination is protected under Title VII.

The court also took a case involving a trans woman who was fired from a funeral home because of her gender identity. That case, out of Ohio, will decide whether trans people are protected under Title VII.

This series of three cases has the potential to do what Congress should have done a long time ago – protect all LGBT workers in this country from discrimination on the job. The argument that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is a form of sex discrimination seems odd to some people at first, but is in reality a very straightforward application of the law. After all, it is impossible to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity without taking sex into account. The legal argument is that simple.

The problem with these cases, of course, is that the ability of LGBT people to earn a livelihood without being treated discriminatorily is a political issue and not simply a basic issue of human decency. That means that the conservative Justices will be torn between interpreting simple statutory language and adhering to their own ideology.

The hope here is that Chief Justice Roberts and even Justice Brett Kavanaugh will draw on their time among the D.C. establishment and maybe their sense of the historical importance of this issue and steer the court in the right direction by protecting LGBT folks across the country. **However, if they join the other three conservatives on the court, it would be a huge setback for LGBT civil rights. Even worse, they could chip away at important sex discrimination precedents, such as the 1989 case that protects against sex stereotyping at work.**

Given how conservative this Supreme Court is, these cases are dangerous. **Not a single conservative Justice currently on the Court has ruled in favor of LGBT rights, and Justice Kavanaugh never ruled on a related issue in his time before joining the Court.** In a sense, then, these cases are uphill battles. **However, given the stakes involved – allowing people to earn a living free from discrimination – and the fact that popular opinion is on the side of LGBT folks on this issue, ruling against LGBT rights might be too risky for the Court's legitimacy.**

Most federal appeals courts have interpreted Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to exclude sexual orientation discrimination. But two of them, in New York and Chicago, recently issued decisions ruling that discrimination against gay men and lesbians is a form of sex discrimination.

The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case from New York, *Altitude Express Inc. v. Zarda*, No. 17-1623, along with one from Georgia that came to the opposite conclusion, *Bostock v. Clayton County, Ga.*, No. 17-1618.

The New York case was brought by a skydiving instructor, Donald Zarda, who said he was fired because he was gay. His dismissal followed a complaint from a female customer who had voiced concerns about being tightly strapped to Mr. Zarda during a tandem dive. Mr. Zarda, hoping to reassure the customer, told her that he was "100 percent gay."

Mr. Zarda sued under Title VII and lost the initial rounds. He died in a 2014 skydiving accident, and his estate pursued his case.

Last year, a divided 13-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit allowed the lawsuit to proceed. **Writing for the majority, Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann concluded that "sexual orientation discrimination is motivated, at least in part, by sex and is thus a subset of sex discrimination."**

In dissent, Judge Gerard E. Lynch wrote that the words of Title VII did not support the majority's interpretation.

"Speaking solely as a citizen," he wrote, **"I would be delighted to awake one morning and learn that Congress had just passed legislation adding sexual orientation to the list of grounds of employment discrimination prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I am confident that one day — and I hope that day comes soon — I will have that pleasure."**

"I would be equally pleased to awake to learn that Congress had secretly passed such legislation more than a half-century ago — until I actually woke up and realized that I must have been still asleep and dreaming," Judge Lynch wrote. **"Because we all know that Congress did no such thing."**

The arguments in the Second Circuit had a curious feature: **Lawyers for the federal government appeared on both sides. One lawyer, representing the E.E.O.C., said Title VII barred discrimination against gay people. Another, representing the Trump administration, took the contrary view.**

The Georgia case was brought by a child welfare services coordinator who said he was fired for being gay. The 11th Circuit, in Atlanta, ruled against him in a short, unsigned opinion that cited a 1979 decision that had ruled that **"discharge for homosexuality is not prohibited by Title VII."**

The justices also agreed to decide the separate question of whether Title VII bars discrimination against transgender people. The case, *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*, No. 18-107, concerns Aimee Stephens, who was fired from a Michigan funeral home after she announced in 2013 that she was a transgender woman and would start working in women's clothing.

"What I must tell you is very difficult for me and is taking all the courage I can muster," she wrote to her colleagues. **"I have felt imprisoned in a body that does not match my mind, and this has caused me great despair and loneliness."**

Ms. Stephens had worked at the funeral home for six years. Her colleagues testified that she was able and compassionate.

Two weeks after receiving the letter, the home's owner, Thomas Rost, fired Ms. Stephens. Asked for the **"specific reason that you terminated Stephens,"** Mr. Rost said: **"Well, because he was no longer going to represent himself as a man. He wanted to dress as a woman."**

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, in Cincinnati, ruled for Ms. Stephens. Discrimination against transgender people, the court said, was barred by Title VII.

"It is analytically impossible to fire an employee based on that employee's status as a transgender person without being motivated, at least in part, by the employee's sex," the court said, adding, **"Discrimination 'because of sex' inherently includes discrimination against employees because of a change in their sex."**

John J. Bursch, a lawyer with Alliance Defending Freedom, which represents the funeral home, said the appeals court had impermissibly revised the federal law.

"Neither government agencies nor the courts have authority to rewrite federal law by replacing 'sex' with 'gender identity' — a change with widespread consequences for everyone," Mr. Bursch said in a [statement](#). **"The funeral home wants to serve families mourning the loss of a loved one, but the E.E.O.C. has elevated its political goals above the interests of the grieving people that the funeral home serves."**

James D. Esseks, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union, which

represents Ms. Stephens and Mr. Zarda's estate, said the cases concern elementary principles of fairness.

"Most of America would be shocked if the Supreme Court said it was legal to fire Aimee because she's transgender or Don because he is gay," Mr. Esseks said in a statement. *"Such a ruling would be disastrous, relegating L.G.B.T.Q. people around the country to a second-class citizen status."*

There is a second issue in Ms. Stephens's case, one that could allow her to win however the Supreme Court might rule on whether Title VII applies to discrimination against transgender people. *In 1989, the court said discrimination against workers because they did not conform to gender stereotypes was a form of sex discrimination.*

The Sixth Circuit ruled for Ms. Stephens on that ground, too, saying she had been fired *"for wishing to appear or behave in a manner that contradicts the funeral home's perception of how she should behave or appear based on her sex."*

All three cases present the question of how courts should interpret statutes whose drafters might not have contemplated the sweep of the language they wrote.

In January, in a minor arbitration case, Justice Neil M. Gorsuch wrote that courts should ordinarily interpret statutes as they were understood at the time of their enactment. In a concurring opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said that was not always so.

"Congress," she wrote, *"may design legislation to govern changing times and circumstances."* Quoting from an earlier decision, she added: *"Words in statutes can enlarge or contract their scope as other changes, in law or in the world, require their application to new instances or make old applications anachronistic."*

The Path to LGBTQ Equality Is Through the Constitution

After Pride celebrations wind down, my family gets ready to enjoy the annual July 4 celebration in my small town. My wife and I will join our neighbors at the village green, where a replica of the Declaration of Independence is center stage and our kids run around in red, white, and blue blasting horns.

But when my son and daughter gaze up at the fireworks alongside their peers and celebrate living in the land of liberty and justice for all, I always pause knowing that our family is unjustly not equal to the other families surrounding us.

Since taking the helm of GLAAD, I have experienced the extraordinary win of marriage equality and a significant increase in visibility and acceptance for the LGBTQ community. I have also had a front row seat to the constant stream of rollbacks and daily threats that we face as a community.

As I stand shoulder to shoulder with my neighbors on July 4, they remain unaware of the discrimination my family faces. They are unaware that LGBTQ people can be legally fired from their job in 28 states just because of who they love or who they are, or that over the past three years we have had to battle over 300 anti-LGBTQ bills in all 50 states. And in our land of the free, LGBTQ youth can still be forced into conversion therapy in 37 states.

My neighbors don't see how opponents have weaponized freedom of religion in an effort to allow businesses open to the public to deny services to my family. They don't feel the daggers to my dignity that come every time a court debates just how free and equal we get to be at a particular point in time.

On this July 4, I can finally see the dawn's early light.

There is a path forward. But we must start at the beginning.

The only way to correct the baseline and cement LGBTQ legal gains with-

out fear of slipping backwards is for the ***United States Congress to pass and the states to ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that includes the welfare of all Americans, independent of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.***

An amendment to the Constitution is the permanent change that ends the rigor of court decisions and removes the formidable possibility that current or future administrations can chip away at LGBTQ progress.

A previously proposed Equal Rights Amendment focused on gender equality was nearly ratified in the 1970s. The tenets of that legislation are still in need today and should be expanded to include all forms of sex discrimination, including against LGBTQ people. Earlier this year, a pair of federal court decisions affirmed that discrimination against LGBTQ people is, indeed, sex discrimination, with the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit insisting that "sexual orientation discrimination is a subset of sex discrimination."

The wording of the new amendment would be simple and embody the spirit of America that is found throughout the rest of the document: ***"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity."***

Equal rights. No more, but no less.

Amending the United States Constitution is a long and difficult process, as it should be, and an amendment that protects against sex discrimination and makes LGBTQ Americans equal once and for all will not be a short or easy road, but it is the only road that leads to full and undeniable protection.

The conversation for this next step in American history has already begun and our country is primed to have the necessary 38 states ratify an amendment after the previous Equal Rights Amendment fell four states short. Justice following the #MeToo revelations is part of the conversation. Landmark decisions in favor of LGBTQ rights are leading that conversation. Outrage over equal pay and the proposed ban on transgender service members are all adding to the momentum. The public relations headache that Amazon, Apple, and any major brand face when they eye a new office in one of the 28 states without LGBTQ protections also spotlights the need for more permanent and sweeping protections. And perhaps most importantly, nearly 80 percent of Americans believe that LGBTQ people deserve equal rights.

The Supreme Court's opinion in the Masterpiece case, which leaves the door open for businesses to turn away LGBTQ families by citing their religious beliefs, most recently spotlighted exactly why LGBTQ and allied groups need to turn our attention and resources towards taking equality over the constitutional finish line.

No matter how many wins or losses, the rights of LGBTQ Americans will continuously be debated until equality is written into the fabric of this nation. I can indeed see the dawn's early light, a future July 4 where my family can proudly stand next to our neighbors knowing liberty and justice for truly all is enshrined in the Constitution and is the law of this great land.

LGBTQ Equality Act passes House, pushing back on Trump's Religious Freedom Policies

Democrats and advocacy groups are attempting to counteract these policies through the courts and legislation.

Growing tensions over the Trump administration's policies that aim to strengthen religious freedom protections for health care workers have led to a partisan tug-of-war playing out in the House.

The Trump administration has tried to strengthen religious liberty

protections through numerous policies over the past several months. Those include providing federal funds to religiously affiliated foster agencies who don't allow LGBT people to adopt children and broadening religious and moral exemptions for employers who do not want to cover birth control.

The Department of Health and Human Services also finalized another rule that would expand exemptions for workers in medical offices who don't want to participate in abortions, assisted suicides, or care for transgender people. Advocates worry that someone who schedules appointments or cleans medical instruments could object to assisting with an abortion or serving LGBT people.

Democrats and advocacy groups are attempting to counteract these policies through the courts and legislation.

For instance, in a bipartisan vote, the **U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Equality Act, 236-173, which would broaden the definition of protected classes to include sex, sexual orientation and gender identity. The Equality Act is an essential bill that spotlights the pervasive, unjust, and unacceptable discrimination facing our community. Democrats say this would ensure that an LGBT individual would not be denied care, which could include counseling, well exams or hormone treatment.** Debate over the bill has been partisan.

The House bill passed with the support of all House Democrats, but is unlikely to be taken up by the Republican-controlled Senate. **We know the Equality Act faces an uphill battle in the Senate. It shouldn't. But the fact is, the fight for full equality no matter your sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status has been a long one.**

Now, we call on the Senate to give the Equality Act the full, fair, and comprehensive consideration it deserves – and not only that, but to pass it.

The Trump administration's policies build upon the **Religious Restoration Freedom Act of 1993**, a bipartisan law that seeks to ensure that religious freedoms are protected. **Some conservatives worry that moves by Democrats to expand protections for individuals such as those that identify as LGBT could violate that law.** Supporters of the bill the House will vote on counter that the law will still be upheld but the bill would prevent instances of discrimination.

A number of **Christian and Evangelical leaders led by the Family Research Council** wrote a letter to lawmakers over concerns with the legislation, calling it **"riddled with threats to religious liberty and the sanctity of human life."** The group raised concerns over how it could restrict faith-based adoption agencies and expand access to abortion.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins also joined House Republicans and advocates in a press conference condemning the bill.

"The Religious Freedom Restoration Act will be committed to the 'memory hole,' and we will then experience a catastrophic loss of religious freedom in America, and, as a result, every American, those who believe and do not believe, will suffer the consequences," said Perkins.

However, Robin Maril, associate legal director at the LGBT advocacy organization **the Human Rights Campaign**, said that the bill would simply extend civil rights protections.

Gillian Branstetter, a spokesperson for **the National Center for Transgender Equality**, also emphasized the need to pass the bill before the Supreme Court is expected to hear a case related to LGBT employment discrimination next term.

Some political science experts suggest that the debate has grown too heated.

"There are ways to balance religious liberty and LGBT rights, but the concerns of both sides need to be kept in balance," said Amy Black, a political science professor at Wheaton College. **"In today's politically charged climate, it is difficult to balance these competing concerns. Activists often create all-or-nothing, doomsday scenarios, ignoring the**

many examples of balancing religious liberty and LGBT rights."

Liberal advocates are most at odds with two major health care actions the administration took this year that could impact marginalized groups and individuals with strong religious convictions.

The first is a wide-ranging rule, finalized by HHS in May, that would expand moral and religious protections for workers in health care. The move was previously announced by President Donald Trump on the National Day of Prayer.

"Everyone agrees that the right to believe is fundamental. The access to lifesaving care is just as essential," said Maril, who worries that hospitals will preemptively deny care if a worker resists providing a certain service **"even if a conscience exemption they are asking for isn't covered by the law."**

"It really moves away from the foundation of how HHS regulations have always been designed. It moves patients away from the center of the discussion," Maril added.

Progressive advocates also pushed back on an HHS decision earlier this year to allow a faith-based South Carolina foster home to receive federal funding. The Protestant agency said placing children with LGBT families or families of other faiths violates their beliefs.

At the time, Steven Wagner, the principal deputy assistant secretary for HHS' Administration for Children and Families, wrote in an approval letter that denying this exception would have left the agency **"substantially burdened by application of the religious nondiscrimination requirement."**

Trump addressed the issue at the National Prayer Breakfast in February, hinting that more states would likely be granted similar waivers.

"We will always protect our country's long and proud tradition of faith-based adoption," he said. **"My administration is working to ensure that faith-based adoption agencies are able to help vulnerable children find their forever families while following their deeply held beliefs."**

The administration also is encouraging workers who feel their religious or moral beliefs have been violated to report that to the HHS Office of Civil Rights.

"We've seen an uptick in claims that the religious freedom of one group or another has been abridged. Some of that is to be expected at a time when hitherto marginalized groups are finally, and belatedly, being assured their full rights," said Randall Balmer, a professor of religion at Dartmouth College. **"Some of these groups regard this guarantee of rights as a kind of zero-sum game: Because the rights of others are expanding, ours must be contracting."**

Sara Hutchinson Ratcliffe, vice president for Catholics for Choice, which supports abortion rights, has concerns about some of the recent policy decisions.

"This administration had made a concerted effort to pay back their political allies that helped get them in office," she said. **"It's a fact these really super conservative groups and allies, many of whom are driven by the Catholic hierarchy and U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops, are driving policy based on religious hierarchy."**

Black, of Wheaton College, said religious organizations should not run the government, nor should the government dictate what religious organizations do.

"We have long allowed practices that protect religious freedom, accommodating individuals' deeply held beliefs without causing long-term harm to others," said Black. **"Some of the rhetoric around recent proposals suggests doomsday scenarios if an individual health care provider opts not to perform a particular service. But other providers can offer services. We've had religious freedom accommodations for decades, and it has worked for the common good."**



Be Gods!

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS.....that we have received news of the disbanding of the famous New York state leather/Levi club the Rochester Rams, of which some us have had the privilege of being associate members, and honor this club whose colors hang prominently in the billiards room of our home bar, the Leather Stallion Saloon. We shall cherish fond memories of the famous Ram's Runs at Camp Whitman, on the shores of beautiful Seneca Lake in the heart of the celebrated wine country of the Finger Lakes. We will always remember Bob Foley's hilarious, diabolical people games; the endless and creative cocktail parties; the delicious, sinister goings on in Cabin Four; thrilling dramatic and musical competitions one of which, bereft of any legumies (sic.), the Unicorns aided and abetted by some Ranch hands once won. Those on two wheels joyously joined the annual Jack Dyke Bike Ride through the hilly countryside above the lake. And who could forget the inspirational master-slave sex demonstration, enacted by two Unicorns which became an inspiration to music lovers everywhere. The food, produced under the direction of Chef Mike, aided and abetted always by Cal, was great. The weather seemingly perfect, always rainless, and the location ideal. But most of all, the men, mainly from the U.S. and Canada, found a common bond of brotherhood and fellowship which made these occasions unforgettable. Time moves on, deaths and re-locations take their toll and the old leatherhood ideals have seemed to break down considerably, everywhere. The Rams Associates, headed by Dan and Albert, Chip, Chaz, and KK, took over some traveling and representing the mother club at some fetes at home and across the Canadian border, even winning awards in the name of the Rochester Rams which was a great pleasure for us. The older Rams eventually became tired of carrying the whole load of a club, while the younger Rams, as in so many clubs, just don't quite understand the old values, or the dedication which any club demands. It's a story sadly being repeated nationwide in a society grown less personal and more electronic. With enormous respect and brotherhood, we hope to keep the Rams colors proudly, and with love, hanging here in Cleveland, as always, bar management permitting. Tom Johnson, President, Unicorn M.C. and former Associate Member, Rams.

THE BUTTERY.....Most people instantly recognize the Heinz label shape which is a keystone, proud symbol of Pennsylvania. The world-wide Heinz food corporation, originally founded and still going strong in Pittsburgh, is now a division of Kraft Foods; itself a major arm of the Philip Morris tobacco conglomerate which includes such other comestible appendages as Campbell Soups with its subdivision, Pepperidge Farm Bakeries, which has as one of its offspring, Godiva Chocolates. If you're not already totally confused by the globalism of this new math, or the multiplicity of "now", just imagine what it's like to work in all this mayhem. Well, little boobos can occur and according to Zlati Meyer writing in the increasingly esteemed "USA-Today", Heinz has got itself a lulu of a quandary with its newest condiment Mayochup. The Heinz newbie, following in the questionably grand tradition of Hellman's Dijon-aise, is quite obviously, to us, a combination of mayonnaise and tomato ketchup. But not to our fun loving Canadian neighbors to the north who both love their ketchup and esteem their native Canadians, including the Cree tribes of the Algonquian nation.

In the many subsets of the native language, the "Mayo" part means solid excrement (*and we all know what THAT is*) and the "chup" business means eyes or face, depending on which Cree family says it. Hottie Canadian Premier Trudeau recently started a big fad in the United States by wearing hot socks to a one-on-one visit with Donald Trump. If the Cree-chup story builds, expect fun-loving, stoned collegians or painlessly over-medicated teenyboppers racing up the condiment aisles at Heinen's, or Whole Foods, yelling: "Get Shitface". Are they expressing a vengeful displeasure, announcing a party, or could they be looking for that exotic new Canadian goodie to slather on their wieners?

COFFEE TABLE COOK BOOKS.....are those monstrosities, usually measuring at least 12-inches x 9, which most kitchens, certainly not mine, can even accommodate in its wee work area, that is unless one has one of those studio palace-size affairs, including sunken pool, sauna and theater seating-cocktail area to watch your culinary genius at work, or play, I suspect that excludes most of us. So in they go to powder rooms, twin-bedded guest rooms used for sleep only, or off to one's favorite charity bazaar, Mine went the way of the dodo bird years ago, except for a few of mine. These have endured AND are assuredly treasured. Here's why.....

Anne Willan, "From My Chateau Kitchen". Willan, who generally produces the best of this elephantine genre, was the English-born cook who came to Paris and established LaVarenne cooking school primarily, it seems, for upper middle class, well-heeled American women. This successful enterprise was eventually closed in Paris and moved to Burgundy, and Chateau du Fey, the new home of Anne and her husband. It's all about bucolic life in the deep French countryside, Burgundian regional cookery, the province itself and the locals, both colorful and drab. As usual, in Willan's books, the recipes are wonderful, well tested, and quite workable, give or take the availability of things like infant lamb, or a whole wild boar at your local supermarket. The photography is dazzling and the decorative effects wonderful if sometimes a bit quizzical. In this book, there is an antique English porcelain creamer, called a low Chelsea ewer, that keeps popping up in a number of unrelated settings, excluding sanitary rooms, like the never described, enormous, cardboard window display for the novel "Lolita", a constantly recurring joke never described, for readers of Penelope Fitzgerald's novel "The Bookshop". Is it Lowestoft, Caughley, Worcester, and just what-the-hell does a cardboard window display for "Lolita" look like? My dear friend Betty Rosbottom often complained that during on-site photos for her magazine articles, a crew of alleged taste makers in the art of "dwell" invaded her house and completely rearranged everything. I told Betty to relax; it's probably for the best anyhow, and these photographers and stylists are undoubtedly homosexual and that's what we like to do.

Anne Willan, "Chateau Cuisine" This very informative book was written, most likely as a fundraiser for and in association with the Friends of Vieilles Maisons Francaises and is a look at how the "gratin" dwells in many diverse kinds of grand houses from the past, including the super elegant to the more modest. One family, of great taste, but perhaps modest means, even dines in the kitchen, seated in canvas director's chairs; probably a life long labor of love which restoration and architectural upkeep mandate. The great lesson learned from the lovely recipes herein is that people of taste and learning usually dine simply but well. There isn't a touch of flash, or faux grand manner here at all; just a type of homage to Willan herself, or the beloved English writer, Elizabeth David. The formerly ubiquitous low Chelsea ewer is nowhere to be seen.

The ghastly men South Carolinians send to the U.S. Senate withstanding, the people of such coastal cities such as Charleston have otherwise splendid taste in their lifestyle and their culinary excellence. It is all on delicious display in John Martin Taylor's "Hoppin' John's Charleston, Beaufort, & Savannah Dining at Home in the Low Country". The photos are as beguiling as the cuisine which frankly, puts New Orleans' to shame. There is also the best recipe for lemon squares ever, worth double the price of the book! Beaufort, of course, is locally there pronounced "Bew-fert". We all have our tiny flaws.

The Paris restaurant Arpege, recently restored to its 3-Star rating is sometimes credited with the fusion of southeast Asian spice and savour into contemporary French cookery. But it has taken Chris Salans, the French-American Balinese (that's Indonesian) chef to clarify such goings on in "Mosaic, French Cuisine, Balinese Flavors" a wonderful book gifted me by a pair of my world-traveling mates, Chaz and KK, which clarifies the whole affair, ingredient, by ingredient. Of course the style, augmented with flavors from meso-America, has spread to the United States, sometimes with alarming results. I recently read the dinner menu for Doug Katz' Provenance, the decidedly upscale restaurant at the Cleveland Museum of Art in which many of the seasoning highlights are revealed in all their unnecessary mystery. Katz is a wonderful cook, so why not just fling the exotica in and let the compliments and comments flow afterwards, rather than scare the bejesus out of the uninformed. Sometimes, this cross-breeding of ingredients occurs by happenstance or whim. Once in a restaurant, crafting a lentil soup which I found rather ponderous on the palate, I flung in some freshly grated ginger to liven things up. A plate of the soup was served to the aforementioned Ms. Rosbottom who enjoyed it, requested the recipe, and published it in her syndicated newspaper column. It was a lovely gesture on her part, based on a totally serendipitous moment of mine: tasting, need, and solution. "Mosaic" is the eponymous name of Salans restaurant on Bali. Unfortunately I have never seen a copy of his lovely book for sale in the United States. The publisher is Didier Millet in Singapore, whose web site is <www.edmbooks.com>.

THE GREAT WALL OF MART..... recently announced that it will start a program of contributing to it's employees' college tuition. Better hurry, because if Trump hits China with all those tariffs, there won't be much left on the shelves for Walmart to sell. Besides, they'll have to work fast getting most of their floor staff past the eighth grade.

THE BREXIT MESS.....just keeps meandering on, like molasses in a snow drift. Will the U.K. leave the E.U. or won't she? Is union with other countries better than standing alone on our carnivorous planet? It's hard for most Americans to determine since the image of our great, once mother country has been positively shaped, more or less, by the films of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, or negatively by the efforts of Britain's hapless leaders to mollify the likes of Donald Trump: the dear old Queen, forced into being polite, enduring a state visit from Trump and his passel of crypt-o-fascist brats, or the hapless P.M., working diligently, 'round the clock preventing the despised Donald Trump from seeing the massive wave of public protests against his very presence on British soil. One might wish them a firmer hand at the helm, like a Churchill or Margaret Thatcher despite the brevity of their lasting track record. To prove it I remember that once, years ago, I had a close friend in Columbus who swore that he wanted to be Dictator of the World. Astonished and close to speechless, I asked him exactly what form such a paragon might take. He replied: "Well, you know, sort of a benevolent prince," I quickly replied: "Why take a salary cut, you're already a vicious queen!"

IN THE MARKET PLACE.....If Trump can successfully start a trade war with Mexico, Florida tomato growers will be dancing with joy because their share of the U.S. retail market has fallen to about 10% while Mexico's has risen to about 90%. The reason for this disparity is that Mexican growers vine ripen their tomatoes which allows them to bear some resemblance to the real thing. Florida growers pick their thick-skinned, highly durable tomatoes early, to be gas-revived and dumped on any unwary American food shopper who has lost his or her sense of touch. So, who wants the wretched second-rate product from Florida growers? After all, this is Ohio and we know a thing or two about tomatoes here, passing on Florida's tasteless product in favor of a quality Ohio-canned product such as Dei Fratelli. (Incidentally, gentle reader, the aforementioned Heinz has a ketchup factory right in the middle of commercial tomato country, at Fremont! Alas, I don't know where the mayo bushes are located.) Of course Trump and his stable of sweeties would undoubtedly dismiss all of this as fake news: they should know. This morning President Trump an-

nounced that the trade treaty with Mexico has been signed, sealed, and delivered. Not so say the Mexicans who claim they never signed or saw such a thing! As usual, the White House is probably just putting out more Mayo-chup or a major ingredient of it!

Speaking of the Sunshine State, Cyclops returned from a brief sojourn there, several weeks back and was stunned by the retail grocery prices, and these at a quite ordinary supermarket called Publix. Even the pasteurized OJ in the dairy department was much higher than here in Cleburgh. For example a container of Florida's Natural, the re-named product for which Anita Bryant once shilled, is far more costly than it is here. Even those pool-ball-hard Florida-grown tomatoes, sold quite unripened, were more. I asked one of the roaming produce men if they had any tomatoes that were ripe and ready to eat that evening for dinner, He recommended that I try the tomatoes-on-the-vine: "They're from Canada!"

Speaking of Anita Bryant, on one recent Saturday morning, Turner Classic Movies, for a fifteen-minute filler in its kiddie hour, between "Mandrake the Magician", Chapter 75, and its line up of highly dated oaters, ran a fascinating docu-promo history of, the Tupperware Corporation. During the part about what that company calls a Vendor Jubilee, that's convention or sales rally kiddo, we were treated to Ms. Bryant, slamming out the Tupperware anthem, with words set to the music of "Blues in the Night": "My mamma dun toll me, when I was in pig-tails....." Well, my mamma, bless her watchful lille-ole heart, back when I was in pig-tails and she didn't quite understand why, would have turned the TV off, not because Ms. Bryant can't sing well, but rather, to protect us from the violence and suggestiveness of Ms. Bryant's delivery of her material and just how to market it!

AND NOW, A FOND FAREWELL TO..... Petunia Pig and her departure from the White House Press Corps podium. Actually her job had more or less disintegrated under her; this year, she had held only two meetings by the time she left. So savage had been the reaction to her constant lying and groveling on behalf of the Trump that one function seemed to have devoured the other. So what's to become of her. She doesn't even use the Huckabee family name any more. A highly educated, militantly anti-Trump gentleman friend of mine feels that she'll be snapped up immediately by some one or thing in the Washington right-wing cesspool simply because she has done her job brilliantly, with almost unbearable clarity and nary a trace of conscience. I guess that's what it takes to make it along the banks of the great, green, greasy Limpopo, er, Potomac river. At least someone has kindly and nicely re-done Petunia's make-up which will make her appear a wee bit prettier and slightly less porcine. As an alumnus of the Ohio ag business, I firmly believe that it's all in how one markets the Other White Meat.

Next Month: Cyclops Goes to Disney World!

Ciao, CY



Ohio Ranks Among Worst States For LGBTQ Equality

By GABE ROSENBERG

A new report from the Human Rights Campaign ranks Ohio among the worst states for LGBTQ equality.

The 2018 State Equality Index, released on Thursday, grouped Ohio along with 27 other states that are a “high priority to achieve basic equality.”

“In these states, advocates focus on raising support for basic LGBTQ equality, such as non-discrimination laws,” the report explains. “These states are most likely to have religious refusal or other anti-LGBTQ laws.”

Critically, Ohio lacks state laws that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. An anti-discrimination bill proposed last year by state Rep. Nicki Antonio (D-Lakewood) failed to advance in the Republican-dominated legislature, despite support from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

The state also lacks laws protecting LGBTQ youth from conversion therapy, laws protecting health care benefits for transgender people, and laws allowing gender updates to birth certificates.

One area that HRC applauded was Gov. Mike DeWine’s recent executive order prohibiting housing, public accommodation and employment discrimination against LGBTQ state employees. The order was first signed by John Kasich soon before he left office.

“Today, by continuing these crucial non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ state employees, Governor DeWine did the right thing, and we hope his administration will push for the fair treatment of all LGBTQ Ohioans over the next four years,” said HRC Ohio state director Shawn Copeland in a [statement](#).

Despite Ohio’s low ranking, many of its cities perform strongly in the HRC’s annual ranking of [municipal equality](#). Last year, Columbus, Akron, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo and Cleveland all scored a [perfect 100](#) for LGBTQ inclusion.

Other states in the lowest category are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

On the other side of the spectrum are states like California, New York and Massachusetts, which are “working toward innovative equality.”

LGBTQ Residents Testify For 'Ohio Fairness Act' Banning Discrimination

By ANDY CHOW

Several people identifying as LGBTQ went before an Ohio Senate committee to tell their stories of discrimination. They want lawmakers to approve the “Ohio Fairness Act,” a bill that would add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes under the state’s anti-discrimination law.

“I’m also a Christian, I’m also a mom, I’m also a wife who happens to be transgender,” says Jody Davis during her turn to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee. “I face discrimination from a majority of places from which I try to rent an apartment for identifying myself as transgender.”

She says she experiences this prejudice in a number of scenarios, such as when it came time to buy a wedding dress.

“After hesitation, some discussion with a manager, they were able to find one person, one person at the store who was willing to work with me and fit me,” Davis says.

Davis is testifying in support of [SB11](#), which would add gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of classes protected by the state’s anti-discrimination laws. The “Ohio Fairness Act” would [apply to](#) issues with employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Davis emphasizes the importance of creating these protections, which exist in some local municipalities but not statewide. She adds that this can send a message of support for the LGBTQ community, including young people.

“They’re still trying to figure out themselves and any kind of legislation that they can look to and say, ‘It’s safe for me to be here, it’s safe for me to be myself in my high school, in my college, in my jobs, in my family,’ I mean, it’s so important,” Davis says.

She was not the only one to share their story. One by one, LGBTQ people and allies stepped up to talk about how the bill could help them.

Tom Grote is an entrepreneur, whose family owns several businesses including Donatos Pizza. Grote – along with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO – discussed how important these laws can be for the business community and attracting workers.

“Having non-discrimination protections in place empowers our employees to perform at their best because they don’t have to be afraid every single day when they come to work,” Grote says.

The Senate committee only heard testimony from supporters. If this bill gets another hearing, it will likely be time for opponents to offer their stance.

Those against the legislation include Citizens for Community Values, whose president Aaron Baer says these changes can open the door to unnecessary lawsuits.

“When you look at a bill like this, that is as vague as sexual orientation and gender identity, how does a business owner know if one of their employees is gay?” Baer says. “The idea that you can be sued by somebody for firing them because they’re gay, that’s a plaintiff lawyer’s dream.”

He adds that there are a lot of groups and businesses against the bill that are too afraid to speak out.

“There is no doubt that the proponents of this bill have run a campaign of fear and intimidation to try and bully people to either support this bill or be quiet on the bill,” Baer says. “Nobody wants to be called a bigot. Nobody wants to be seen as anti-LGBT. But you can support and love your LGBT neighbors and still see this bill as harmful.”

Baer says he believes more people could come out in opposition to the bill when the time comes.

As for Davis, she says she’s privileged to have a place to live and work without discrimination. She says that’s all the more reason to fight for this bill.

“I know other people in the state don’t have the same privilege, don’t have the same access to bathrooms and health care and jobs and employment that I do,” Davis says. “Then I want to be here to speak out.”

The Ohio Senate is holding hearings on Senate Bill 11, the Ohio Fairness Act. Introduced in February by State Senator Nickie Antonio, the Ohio Fairness Act would outlaw discrimination in Ohio based on a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Senate Bill 11 has broad support among advocacy groups like the ACLU and EqualityOhio as well as business groups like the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the Ohio Manufacturers’ Association. However, the Ohio General Assembly has failed time and time again to pass the bill.

Please take a minute to send a message to State Senators that it’s time for Ohio to move forward and end legal discrimination. Click the Graphic:



July 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	31 			

July 1 - Happy Birthday to Our Neighbors Up North, Happy Canada Day!

July 3 - Empire City MC General Membership Meeting

July 4 - Happy Birthday America!

July 6 - International Kissing Day

July 7 - Iron Eagles General Membership Meeting, Cocktails 2.0, Akron

July 10 - National Teddy Bear Picnic Day

July 13 - National Barbershop Quartet Music Appreciation Day

July 14 - Iron Eagles' Christmas in July, Leather Stallion Saloon

July 19 - Empire city MC, Three Rivers Motorcycle Club Run, all weekend

July 19 - Rangers' Dog Days, Circle JJ Ranch, all weekend

July 20 - The Great Annual Unicorn Steak Roast, Jim Hitchcock & Jim Broginski Hosting, (Members and Guest Only)

July 21 - Iron Eagles' Christmas in July, Cocktails 2.0, Akron

July 23 - National Vanilla Ice Cream Day

July 27 - National Cowboy Appreciation Day, "Oh how I love a man in Chaps!"

July 28 - His Majesty President Tom Johnson's Annual Celebration of the Passing of the Years!!! Happy Birthday Tom!

July 31 - National Mutt Day. "Throw your pup a bone!"

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