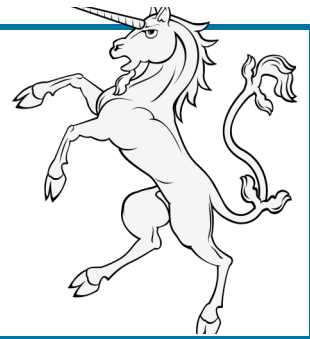


"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

# The Unicorn HORN



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2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046

## UNICORNS SPOTTED THROUGHOUT NORTHEAST OHIO

**Cleveland** - Summer is almost over, and for those of you who have been keeping up with the Club's High-jinx through reading the *'Horn'* or attending the *'summertime events'* to catch up on everyone adventures, I thought I would take this opportunity to keep everyone informed.

**June** - found the *Unicorns* here at our *'Home Bar, the Leather Stallion Saloon'*, with our first of two summertime fundraisers for the *Unicorn Charities Fund*, and to celebrate our club's *'48th Anniversary.'* Theme of the event was, *'Unicorn Pride,'* as it wrapped up a week of Pride Activities here in the Greater Cleveland Area.

Then it was *'time to ride,'* as the Club headed to the Manse of Bill M. and Robert M. in *Hiram, Ohio*, for the first of our summer cook-outs and meetings, and while the weather did not want to co-operate with our plans, a good time was held by all who attended.

Our Host provided for a delicious meal of Grilled Sausages, while the other attendees provided all of the sides. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

The following weekend found several of our members representing at



Group Photo of August Cookout (backrow) Noel, Dennis, Jack, Tom, Robert (front row) Bill, Bob, Derryk

the *'All Club Campout and Picnic,'* hosted by the *'Rangers'* at *'Circle JJ Campgrounds,'* in *Scio, Ohio*. The event was attended by clubs from throughout all of Ohio, and included the following clubs: *The 12-step Club, The Rangers, The Iron Eagles MC, Trident MC, Unicorn MC, Three Rivers MC from Pittsburgh PA, and The Scorpions from Cincinnati.* With all of the clubs present, only the

*Unicorn's* remembered their Banner, (ahem, I won't mention who forgot the hosting club's Banner) which flew high at each event.

While some of us arrived early Thursday afternoon, other slowly arrived throughout the Day on Friday and ever a few on Saturday morning.

The Official Opening of the Picnic started on Saturday Morning with the *Dedication of the Tree planted Last year in Memory of those we have lost in the Community.* A plaque was place marking the significance.

On Saturday afternoon, the *'Rangers'* provided a Free Poolside Cocktail Party for everyone proceeding the Annual Picnic., at 3 PM.

*Circle JJ,* provided all of the plate, cutlery, condiments, and Tube Steak. (Hot dogs), while Seasonal Campers, and the Various Clubs provided for all of the side dishes.

Later that evening the Camp hosted a *'Boots and Boxers Party'* in the poolside dance hall featuring *Valerie Valentino.* The House DJ kept the music pumping and the energy high well into the night.

When not dancing, swimming or using the other facilities (hot tub, sauna, and play areas) of the campground one could sit around the fire rings in the Tenting and Cabin campsites and share stories and gossip. It is interesting the things one can learn if you just take the time to listen, for instance did you know, an Ohio Leather Title Holder used to be a Top Female Wrestler?

June also saw, several of our members taking to the roads on their own. Our President, Tom Johnson, ventured to *Disney World* (which was covered in last month's *Cyclops' Column*), Associate, Tim Tavcar was off in Maine doing theater work (I look forward to hearing about his adventures there). And the Jims, H & B, took to the roads on their Bikes (I am sure we will have future articles of these trips soon).

**July** - found us once again joining up together for our *'Great Annual Unicorn Steak Roast,'* hosted this year by Jim H. & Jim B. At their home in *Columbia Station, Ohio*, while the weather was sweltering the shaded grounds and fans in the coach house were a welcomed respite.

Of course even though we are adults some of us have never grown up, and a water gun fight ensued resulting in Jim H. bringing out his big guns the Garden Host, let's just sau our Road captain loss the fight and was thoroughly soaked. Later in the evening when Jim B. tried to light a Bonfire for us let's just say it was

### 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:

**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.**

explosive, but petered out as all of the wood had been soaked in the previous few days when it stormed.

In the excitement of the day, there was not business meeting, so we all could enjoy the company and antics of those who wanted to play.

**August** - once again found the **Unicorns** meeting at a member's home (*summertime meeting held away from the Stallion facilitates the bars Patio Schedule, as not to conflict*). This time we met at Jack and Dennis' in **Wil- lowick, Ohio**. Our Host provided Grilled Hot Dogs and Boston style Baked Beans served from a Crock. Additionally Derryk Paramore brought Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast, which was also BBQed on site.

Road Captain, Noel Walters wants to Thank everyone for contributing to the cookout; Tom J. for the Peach Cobbler? And Whipped Cream, Robert M. for the Chocolate cream pie, and Bill M. for the Ice Cold Watermelon, it really hit the spot. One thing you can always say about the **"Unicorn's Cook- outs Nobody leaves Hungry!"**

Sunday, August 11th, found the herd wandering back to the **Leather Stallion Saloon** for the **'Annual Great Unicorn Flea Market'** Which featured homemade can goods from the Jim's Kitchen and Homestead, Daddy Jack's Home Baked Peanut Butter Cookies, Antique Silverplate and pottery, kitchen wares, clothing. There were bargains galore.

Noel wishes to **Thank his Committee and all of the membership who worked to make this one of our more successful events of the year.** Robert, Bill, and Tom Did an excellent job with displaying all of the Items in the **Stallions Pool Room**, with Tom being the Salesman Extraordinaire, and his assistants Derryk and Wade, for the runway modeling the wares throughout the crowded patio. Derryk also was responsible for the sales of **Jell-O Shots**, Dennis (*whom we all know enjoys being on his knees measuring crotches*) and Noel sold the **50/50 Raffle Tickets**, while Eli took on the Emcee duties all the other spelled each other collecting **Donations for the Unicorn Charities at the Door**, and we all kept our Treasurer Robert busy with his duties as cashier and making change for the rest of us.

As always **The Unicorns** would like to thank **Ken Myer's Jr. and all of his staff here at the Leather Stallion** for extravagant welcome and effort they put into each event. Thank you for providing such Great Service to the LGBTQ Community in the Cleveland Area.

In this Day and Age when the trend is for LGBTQ Bars to be closing and competition for Gay Dollars continues to increase, we **Appreciate and Celebrate that the Leather Stallion Saloon is the Oldest continuously owned and operated LGBTQ Business in Ohio.** We look forward to helping you Celebrate **The Leather Stallion Saloon's Golden Anniversary** next year.

**September** - Will find the Unicorns back in the Stallions Clubroom for our monthly meetings, usually held on the Third Sunday of each month at 6 PM, visitors and prospective members are welcomed (*however they may be asked to leave during executive sessions*), and the Club always socializes after our meeting with the patrons afterwards.

The Club is currently planning our 2020 Event Calendar and we ask that you watch for our announcements here in the Horn, as well as on the Stallions webpage.

Our next Charities Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2019, 9 PM, on the Stallion's Patio, **"Fetish Night"**, we are currently looking for persons to demonstrate various fetishes, as well as trying to contact vendors for the event. Watch for future announcements.

**Nominations** for the **2019 Unicorn Charities** are still being accepted until Saturday, October 12, 2019. They may be submitted to:

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

Any Non-profit which benefits the LGBTQ Community in Northeastern Ohio is eligible. Requested information is; Name of Organization, Contact, Address, Phone Number, and description of how they benefit the Community.

The 2018 Beneficiaries were: **The John Brittain Food Drive, Pilgrim**

**Congregational UCC Pantry, The Jack Munhall Sober Center, and the B. Riley Sober House.** Who will be this year's Beneficiaries?

## ***A Letter from the Heartland***

Welcome to Sameville, USA. If you're one of us, you're going to like it here. It really doesn't matter what state you're from, as long as you live in the Red parts of it. That's the key. If you're one of us, we're not going to have any trouble.

There is so much we have to offer you here in Sameville. Once you're in, you'll never want to leave. Now, understand, we don't go in for a lot of showy, fancy stuff around here. Most of us live in similar little houses. There's not much to them and they aren't much to look at, but they keep us dry, as long as we keep the roof patched. A good warm fire in the wood stove and some good country cooking in the kitchen is about all we need. Of course, we've got a satellite dish so we can watch Hannity on the Fox News. God bless that man. Around here, we reckon he's the only news man we can trust. He cares about our kind, bless his heart. Those of us who don't have the dish can always go down to Kate's Kountry Kafe and watch. Good ol' Kate's always got the Fox on her tv. So does the Billy Bob's Barber shop. Man, that's the place to go if you want to get all the latest. There's always some good ol' boys down there chewing the fat. For my money, if you really want to fix this country, put some of those boys in charge of the government, they'd get things shaped up lickety-split.

One thing I think you'll like about Sameville is that we don't do a lot of bickering over politics. Sure, we talk about it a lot, but we don't squabble because we all pretty much agree on most everything. Fact is, you'll find signs in most of the yards around here that support our President—they're right under our rebel flags. We all agree that this country was in serious trouble after eight long years with the awful Muslim from Africa was done with it. How that man isn't in prison—or in a grave—somewhere is beyond me. But I'd better not say too much more about him, I might get hateful and that wouldn't be Christian. Here in Sameville, we like to say "love the sinner and hate the sin", I guess that even goes for "Obummer"—sorry, that kind of slipped out. But there sure are a lot of sinners these days. Seems like this country has taken God out of everything. That's why we love Trump so much. Now, finally, there's a president who isn't afraid to lead this country back to God Almighty—praise the lord. We finally have a man of God in the White House and he's working hard to make us into a great Christian nation again, like we used to be back in the good ol' days when everyone knew their place—before we started mixing everything together—before all this diversity stuff, that's an ungodly road to ruin and we've been on it too long if you ask us around here.

Seems like everyone from outside Sameville is always pushing for change—squawking all this trash about acceptance and tolerance. That's what got us into this mess we have in the first place. Now they're pushing for more. They want us to accept the murder of babies just minutes from being born. They want us to accept the abomination of men lying with men and women with women—they even suggest we should welcome these freaks into our churches. Can you even imagine that? Just open the doors wide and let sinners like that come marching in? What would Jesus think of that?

Thank God we don't have to worry much about that in Sameville—at least not for now. But if you'd listen those bleeding heart liberals they'd have you believe that we have those kinds of people living here already. Ha! I'm pretty sure if that were true, we'd have sniffed them out a long time ago.

Yes sir, we've got it good here in Sameville. You'll feel mighty safe here, just about every last one of us carries a gun wherever we go. Also, you won't have a bunch of people trying to change your mind or challenging your thinking all the time, none of that nonsense. We see eye to eye with our neighbors here and, as long as we have anything to say about it, it's going to stay that way. It's the weak and feeble minds that change.

Now, I'm not saying we've got it perfect here in Sameville. Fact is, there's not much work to be found here these days and there's a lot of folks that have



been unemployed for a long time. Thank God for Walmart and Dollar General. They provide some jobs, at least. But it's caused a good many good people to have to make meth and grow marijuana to sell in order to put food on the table. And a lot of us don't have much health care insurance. We had it for a while, but that was that awful Obamacare junk. Thank God Trump's going to fix that mess and bring us real health care—but I do wish he'd speed it up a little—I guess he's got other stuff that's higher priority, like building that wall and cutting the bloated education budget and the frivolous Special Olympics nonsense. I'm sure he'll get to us after that.

We are proud of the power we still have here in Sameville. Can you believe some of those libtards are actually flapping their gums about abolishing the Electoral College? It's true. Why, without that Electoral College, we here in Sameville might as well not even vote. The president would be elected by the majority of people and we all know what they want. You get rid of the Electoral College and you're going to have a fight on your hands, I can assure you of that. Meanwhile, you can thank us here in Sameville that the she-devil called Killary isn't ruining this nation right now. Can you imagine the laughing stock we'd be if she were in charge?

Come join us in Sameville. You'll love it here—if you're one of us.

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

The Supreme Court announced that it was taking cases to decide, once and for all,



whether sexual-orientation discrimination is protected under Title VII.

As the Supreme Court prepares to take up LGBTQ employment discrimination, plenty of equality supporters have weighed in — in addition to the expected activist groups, they include doctors, religious leaders, major corporations, and even Republicans.

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, LGBT folks can be fired or otherwise discriminated against for no reason other than their sexual orientation or gender identity. That may change though, as yesterday the Supreme Court agreed to hear three cases that could fix this problem — or possibly set anti-discrimination law back decades.

How is it that anti-LGBT job discrimination is still allowed? 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.

On October 8, the high court will consider the cases of two men (Donald Zarda, a skydiving instructor, and Gerald Bostock, a social worker) who say they were fired for being gay and a woman (Aimee Stephens, a funeral director) who was fired for being transgender. At issue is whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans sex discrimination, also applies to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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 first week of July was the deadline for filing amicus curiae, or friend-of-the-court, briefs. Such briefs are filed by individuals and groups that are not directly involved in a case but want to offer an opinion on which party should prevail.

A wide variety of organizations have filed friend-of-the-court briefs urging the justices to find that federal law already bans anti-LGBTQ bias in the workplace.

These briefs are important because they show the justices *and* average Americans just how broad support for LGBTQ nondiscrimination is. In this case, 200+ companies, 30+ CEOs and hundreds of conservatives, people of faith, and others have told the Court that they agree no one should be fired, denied work or harassed on the job because of who they are or who they love. Their voices hold a lot of weight.

In the cases of *Zarda v. Altitude Express*, *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, and *R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*, numerous organizations have filed briefs supporting the position that anti-LGBTQ discrimination should be — indeed, is — covered by Title VII, and urging the court to rule in favor of the employees.

A brief filed by the American Medical Association, in which it was joined by 15 other health care organizations, applies to all the cases but deals primarily with issues of gender identity. Citing more than four dozen health care studies and papers, it argues that protecting transgender people from employment discrimination is crucial to their physical and mental health.

“Being transgender implies no impairment in a person’s judgment, stability, or general social or vocational capabilities,” the brief states. But, it notes, “employment discrimination against transgender people frustrates the treatment of gender dysphoria by preventing transgender individuals from living openly in accordance with their true gender identity and impeding access to needed medical care.” Discrimination often results in loss of income and health insurance, the brief points out.

“Beyond exacerbating gender dysphoria and interfering with treatment, discrimination reinforces the perceived stigma associated with being transgender,” the document continues. “Such stigma, in turn, leads to psychological distress and attendant mental health consequences.”

The brief mentions the high rate of discrimination and harassment experienced by trans people, and the fact that many hide their identity at work rather than put themselves at risk. This adds to the stress they face. But when they can be themselves in all aspects of their life, including on the job, the outcomes are positive. “Transgender individuals in states with explicit employment protection for LGBTQ people experience fewer mood disorders and self-violence than those living in states where employers remain free to discriminate against them,” the AMA and its partners note.

Religious bodies are represented in a brief filed by the Episcopal Church, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the United Church of Christ, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and more than 700 individual faith leaders. They “unite in believing it is both morally wrong and not constitutionally required to permit blanket discrimination in employment against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people based upon the personal religious beliefs of their employers or customers,” their

brief states.

They note that in the Harris Funeral Homes case, a brief taking an anti-transgender position argues that some customers, because of their religious beliefs, would suffer “trauma” by dealing with a transgender funeral director in a time of grief. But that brief does not cite any cases in which someone was traumatized in this way — or why a business should be allowed to discriminate because certain customers object, the pro-LGBTQ religious leaders write. On the whole, sustaining LGBTQ employees’ right to be free of discrimination will not interfere with the fundamental right to religious belief and practice, they say.

Another brief filed by religious organizations in support of the employees comes from several Muslim groups, including the Muslim Bar Association of New York, Muslims for Progressive Values, the Muslim Caucus of America, and the Muslim Public Affairs Council. They point out that Muslims in the U.S. face a disproportionate amount of discrimination and “thus have an interest in vibrant workplace protections for all disfavored groups, including LGBTQ individuals, to ensure that all Americans can achieve their full potential under the protections afforded by law.”

On the business side, a supportive brief was filed by 206 companies, including such major names as Amazon, AT&T, Bank of America, Ben & Jerry’s, Coca-Cola, Disney, Facebook, Goldman Sachs, IKEA, Microsoft, Nike, Prudential, the San Francisco Giants baseball franchise, and Xerox.

“Laws forbidding sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination are not unreasonably costly or burdensome for business,” they state. “To the contrary, recognizing that Title VII prohibits these forms of sex discrimination would strengthen and expand benefits to businesses, such as the ability to recruit and retain top talent; to generate innovative ideas by drawing on a greater breadth of perspectives, characteristics, and experiences; to attract and better serve a diverse customer base; and to increase productivity among employees who experience their workplace as a place where they are valued and respected.”

Another supportive brief from business interests came from a group of women CEOs, and another from business groups including several regional chambers of commerce. Organized labor is represented in briefs from the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO, and lawyers in one from the American Bar Association.

Among politicians, Ken Mehlman, the former chair of the Republican National Committee, led a group of GOPers, included several former members of Congress, who filed a brief calling on the court to rule against discrimination. They even made a conservative “textual” argument, saying the text of Title VII clearly bans sex discrimination, and that there was clearly sex discrimination against the gay and transgender employees in the cases.

“Two men were discharged because they were gay, which necessarily means that they lost their jobs because they were men who were attracted to men,” the brief states. “Had they been similarly situated women — that is, women who were attracted to men — their employers would not have discharged them for such attraction. The other plaintiff is a transgender woman whose employer discharged her for representing herself as the woman she understood herself to be. ... Had the plaintiff been assigned female at birth (or had the employer otherwise believed her to be female in essence), she would not have been discharged for representing herself as a woman.”

No currently serving Republican members of Congress were represented in the brief, but many currently serving Democrats — more than 150 — filed their own. “Title VII prohibits sex-based discrimination, and it is impossible to divorce an employee’s sexual orientation or gender identity from their sex,” their brief says. “Thus, discrimination on all bases that are related to a person’s sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity and nonconformance with sex stereotypes, is prohibited.” There’s also a brief from numerous former executive branch officials, from both Republican and Democratic administrations.

And briefs have been filed by almost every imaginable LGBTQ and general civil rights organization: American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal, Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, PFLAG, Trevor Project, Family Equality Council, Transgender Law Center, Modern Military Association of America, Transgender

American Veterans Association, National Women’s Law Center, GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Southern Poverty Law Center, National LGBT Bar Association, Advocates for Intersex Youth, various antiviolence groups, and many more. Add these to briefs from academics — scholars of history, philosophy, linguistics, and law among them.

No one knows how the court will rule, and it will be considering oral arguments by the parties’ lawyers, precedent, and other factors along with the amicus briefs. And there have been briefs filed supporting the right to discriminate. But the many supportive briefs before the court present a host of powerful arguments against discrimination.

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. (*The Decision was written by the Late Justice Anthony Scalia*)

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.

Even if we win this case, we won’t be done working for actual federal legislation that protects every single LGBTQ American from discrimination. A Court victory just isn’t enough.

Why? These cases focus on a section of federal law that leaves a big gap in protections: Public places. That’s everywhere we go when we’re not at work or home, places like restaurants and stores, parks and public transportation.

LGBTQ Americans shouldn’t have to face this kind of discrimination. The Court must uphold prior rulings that have said anti-LGBTQ discrimination is wrong. Then, we’ll need Congress to finish the job by enacting express and enduring protections of the Equality Act. Which currently is being held Hostage by Moscow Mitch McConnell.

It is especially important that the Senate can see and hear broad public support for nondiscrimination. Most Americans believe, and Polling shows that 7 in 10 Americans want LGBTQ people protected from discrimination in employment, as well as in housing and public spaces like restaurants and shops.

There will also be plenty of fearmongering against transgender people — a tactic that’s always used to undercut LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections.

We also know these arguments run contrary to what other courts and government agencies have already decided: That firing someone for being LGBTQ is unlawful sex discrimination.

## ***Justice Department is Arguing that Federal Employment Discrimination Law Doesn't Protect Transgender Workers***

**Washington** - The Trump administration reiterated to the Supreme Court on Friday that it does not believe that federal employment law that bans discrimination based on sex also encompasses discrimination based on transgender status.

The Justice Department’s argument was included in the latest filing in one of the most important cases of the upcoming Supreme Court term. The issue, coupled with whether the law also protects claims of discrimination based on sexual orientation, is of critical importance to LGBT rights supporters who are seeking broadened protections.

A major fact as well will be that Justice Anthony Kennedy, who often voted in favor of the LGBT community, is no longer on the court, and has been replaced by Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Title VII, of the Civil Rights Act, that bars discrimination based on sex "does not bar discrimination because on transgender status," Solicitor General Noel Francisco argued in a brief filed with the Supreme Court Friday evening.

Lower courts -- and the federal government -- have split on the issue of whether Title VII provides such protections.

During the Obama administration, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, an independent agency responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate based on sex, took the position that federal law does encompass protections for gender identity and sexual orientation. That is the position of the agency today, as posted on its website.

But in 2017, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memorandum stating that Title VII's protections on sex discrimination do not encompass such protections. After that memorandum, the Justice Department took that position in court. That means -- as things stand -- the position of the Justice Department, which represents the government at the Supreme Court, is different than that of the EEOC.

Notably, the Justice Department's brief filed Friday was not signed by members of the EEOC. Regardless, when the agency will be bound by however the Supreme Court rules.

Francisco emphasized in his brief that the case does not concern whether "as a matter of policy, Title VII should forbid discriminating on the basis of transgender status."

"Congress has made that policy choice in other statutes," Francisco wrote.

Twenty-two states, plus the District of Columbia, have statutes protecting workers based on sexual orientation, according to the Williams Institute at UCLA. Twenty-one states plus DC have statutes protecting workers from discrimination based on gender identity.

The justices will hear three consolidated cases in October. Two concern sexual orientation discrimination and one targets gender identity.

In one case, Aimee Stephens worked for six years as a funeral director before announcing that she was transitioning. She informed her boss in 2013 and two weeks later was fired.

Her boss believed that "coming to work dressed as a woman was not going to be acceptable." Stephens filed a charge of sex discrimination with the EEOC, the commission brought suit and won. Before the Supreme Court she is represented by the ACLU, whose lawyers argue in court papers that under Title VII sex must be "irrelevant" to employment decisions.

"Any exception to Title VII permitting sex discrimination against transgender employees would have to come from Congress, not this court," they wrote.

Critics of the Justice Department's position say that it could slam the door shut on claims regarding sex stereotypes and gut court precedent.

"For instance if a woman is fired for not acting feminine enough at work, or wants to wear pants, she could not prevail in her claim unless she can show that men are allowed to violate sex stereotypes at work," said Jon Davidson, chief counsel of Freedom for All Americans. "So if the employer requires all employees to conform to sex stereotypes, the DOJ says there is no Title VII violation."

But lawyers for the funeral home (Alliance for Defending Freedom, [ADF] an Anti-LGBTQ 'Christian' Law Firm) argue in briefs that it is a "wrong" to compare Stephens to a "biological female who wants to dress as a female."

"Stephens is a transgendered biological male, so the proper comparator is a transgendered biological female," lawyer John Bursch argued in court papers.

"Here, Harris Funeral Homes would have responded to a female employee who insisted on dressing as a man while working with grieving families the same way it responded to Stephens," Bursch argued. "Because it does not

disfavor one sex compared to the other, Harris does not discriminate based on sex."

## ***A Brutal Culture War Trump's Only Path to Re-election***

A desperate Trump will pull out all the stops - including homophobia - if that's what he thinks he needs to hold onto the White House.

By John Gallagher

Polls have never been Donald Trump's friend. Unlike any of his predecessors, Trump has never won the approval of even 50 percent of Americans. Trump's divisiveness, coarseness, and dreadful policies have combined to make him the least popular president of modern times.

That's why Trump plays so hard to his core supporters. Without their enthusiasm, he has no chance of re-election.

But Trump has had one thing going for him that traditionally counts for a lot when a president is seeking re-election: a strong economy. Indeed, that's the one area where the public is willing to give Trump credit. A Washington Post-ABC News poll from last May found that the economy is the single issue where a (slim) majority of Americans think Trump has done an okay job.

Which makes the market's wooziness over the past week a major threat to Trump's re-election efforts. If the economy goes south, as some indicators are suggesting, then Trump's support will erode even more. That's why Trump is fulminating against the Federal Reserve, Europe, and virtually anyone else he can blame, without having to take responsibility for the trade war jitters that he unleashed.

If the economy slides into a recession, Trump is going to have to work even harder to convince his base of supporters to turn out in force at the polls. There's really only one strategy available to him: double down on the culture wars.

You can see that already in Trump's racist rants. He's appealing to his supporters' sense of aggrievement that America's changing demographics means that a Great Replacement is taking place, at the expense of whites. Racial resentment was the single biggest predictor of support for Trump in 2016, so Trump will try to repeat that winning (and disgusting) formula.

But it's not just race. You can bet that attacking LGBTQ rights will also be part of the strategy. It's hardly a coincidence that in the midst of bad economic news and Trump's disastrous response to two mass shootings that his administration announced it was rolling back anti-discrimination protections that federal contractors had to follow. That was a blunt reminder to his base -- especially white evangelicals -- that he was delivering on their wish list.

Already the Trump campaign is going out of its way to make the culture wars the focus of Trump's re-election effort. As a thumb in the eye to environmentalists, the Trump campaign is selling plastic straws emblazoned with the president's name.

"It's part and parcel of his long-running effort to energize his base at the expense of those who were not for him before and who are not for him today," said Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster, told the Washington Post. "Part of his appeal to his base is that he is famously and proudly not politically correct."

Of course, decrying LGBTQ rights as a form of political correctness has long been a conservative theme. In the Trump era, it's been taken to extremes not seen in a quarter century, with Straight Pride parades and special rights for religious conservatives.

The prospect of losing is the one Trump fears the most, so he will pull out all the stops in his effort to get re-elected. Racism, homophobia, xenophobia -- sure, the president has exhibited those in unprecedented volume.

But just wait until the actual campaign gets underway. You ain't seen nothing yet.





We have just received a call from our friend Clint Rohrbacher in Elyria to remind us that today, the 9th of August, has been designated by some well meaning soul out there in the void as National Book Lovers Day. Moreover the occasion has been brought to Clint's attention by his newly adopted cat Cicero (aka. SOS, acronym for "Spawn of Satan"), who during a break in sitting reasonably still while being immortalized in oils on canvas by Clint's husband, the celebrated society portraitist David Pavlak, had just chosen to tear several dozen priceless first editions from the shelves of Clint's enormous library. I beam with joy as it is I who taught Cicero this naughty little procedure by rubbing onto the gilt fore-edges of these priceless volumes, my index fingers dipped into tiny, alluring tins of "Humanely-Chopped, Testicular Lobes of Organically-raised, free-gliding (in Fiji Water), Signet in Succulent, 3-Star Bistro Recipe Tsarina Sauce", available, full price at Poopsey's Petique and in the End-of-Harvest clearance bin at Marc's.

The dynamic Elyria duo are having a busy summer, dodging the capricious rainy or scorching weather, repainting a Pavlak mural on new spaces, after the original's loss from a building torn down to make way for a new city library for which ground has yet to be broken. In the meantime, they tend shop at the Elyria Arts Council's gallery, spearheaded the Garford Arts Fest which in its 2019 edition, drew many Elyrians and out-of-town visitors such as the Craftsman and I to the exhibition held beside the fallen timber choked, otherwise beautiful falls of the bubbling Black River. Under the direction of Elyria's dynamic Mayor Holly Brinda, the Pavlak-Rohrbachers work an amazing Instagram program on city-wide events which has dramatically increased public awareness of the comprehensive excitement of city life and virtually catapulted these two guys, seen with their I-pads, everywhere and at everything, into well-earned celebrity status of their own.

Adieu to one of Cleveland's last remaining treasured reminders of its Slavic heritage. Marta's the beloved little restaurant at 800 East 222 St. in Euclid is closing. With the exception of her husband, largely confined behind the small bar in the dining room, Marta seemed to run an awesome one-woman show from her small kitchen, to the delight of generally packed houses. The poor lady is probably exhausted: I cannot think of anyone else comparable who deserves a rest more than she. Yet, we grieve, because in this age of bean-counting, phony baloney, corporate dreariness, and generally bad food, Marta's unpretentious but genuine cuisine, was the real thing. Marta, we love you and people of taste and knowledge who knew, will treasure the memory of your bountiful and honest table.

Higgledy-Piggledy Department, Rash Political Section....We are always fascinated by the self-serving antics of the Evangelical Right, and its members' individual and unquestionably selfish motives of achieving personal salvation, whatever the moral cost to their victims might be. The latest in a long line of this political nut cracking recently came from Iowa's well known white supremacist Republican Congressman Steven King who in "witnessing" to the anti-abortion cult, postulated the divine biological necessity for both rape and incest to maintain the balanced population growth of Mankind. My-oh-my, that Iowa corn is certainly growing tall. Suddenly I was transported back to my old teaching days of cooking classes and the evening when I announced to my loyal kitchen assistants that from that moment on, no matter how grave the crisis, I would abandon any outbursts of profanity and henceforth promised to use such words as "balderdash". The very patient darlings clamored to know its exact meaning to which I succinctly belted: "bullshit"!

More of the same.....Friends who are quite addicted to that electrified bastion of mediocrity, cowardice, hatred, and vituperation (to name a few

of its lesser virtues) which I have long chosen to call the anti-social media, recently got a snoot-full from Ms. Candice Keller, Republican State Representative from Butler County, who in the wake of the recent tragic shootings in Dayton squarely unloaded on Face Book, the blame upon such popular scapegoats, favored by many nut-cases which she clearly see as culprits. These include: gay marriage (I thought they still threw plates!), transgendered people, drag queens, recreational pot, open borders (One assumes she means with Kentucky or Indiana.), and violent video games. I'll concede about the video games, especially the ones the Thing in the White House plays on Twitter. As to the trans-gender issue, I have limited knowledge and what I have, latest postings render incomplete. If you are excited by this woman and her opinions, she has a telephone number: 614-644-5094. One suspects that callers will receive a busy signal, or be advised that something is out-of-order. Just say Balderdash is on the line!

Regrettably, Blossom Music Festival is probably the only such venue of any world renowned musical body which, once off a freeway, must be driven to on small, narrow country lanes. Of course, one could parachute in, or arrive by gas balloon, no more dangerously than driving the lanes inside Blossom which are far too narrow in the age of SUV, poorly lighted and indistinctly lined. The highly competitive post-concert exodus is virtually kill-or-be-killed. Hell (oops), Ravinia, summer home to the Chicago Orchestra, even has railway trains from the city and back!

The Blossom seasonal program is quite varied from classical to rock music, movies shown accompanied by the live playing of the original soundtrack score, sometimes ballet or choral works, and of course, the explosive and sky rocketed Fourth of July extravaganza. Within its huge shed and outside, on an enormous hillside enormous crowds are delighted. The hillside is picnic heaven and wines are encouraged. New this year are several enormous screens and live cameras revealing the various goings-on being performed, including close-ups of the conductors, face-on, or the hands of the soloists, especially pianists like those of Jose and Amparo Iturbi in those silly old MGM musicals back in the 40's and 50's. Along with the visuals has been a new amplification system all of which are thrilling to those on the margins of the shed and to those outside. Perhaps the traffic problem will be next on the schedule. I'll even risk eating all that high fructose corn syrup and return to buying Smucker's jams and jellies, when my own run out, if they kick in more bucks to solve the traffic situation. (The J.M. Smucker Company is a major underwriter of the Cleveland Orchestra. Richard K. Smucker is currently Chairman of the Board, which includes the orchestra, Severance Hall, and Blossom. In gratitude, I should buy more of their products. However, Smuckers now distributes Crisco and I always have two separate tins on hand!)

This summer I've been to Blossom twice. On July 13, I attended an all-Russian program conducted by the much beloved Jahja Ling. Mr. Ling was an assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra for many years before assuming the directorship, for sixteen years of the San Diego Symphony, of which he is now Conductor Emeritus. Age just might tell (a very few less than strenuous attacks). With Cleveland Orchestra no conductor need worry. The musicians are so individually excellent and always so well prepared, any conductor will appear great. Because of the intense heat, the orchestra played all evening in open collared shirt sleeves. The guest soloist, Conrad Tao, an American hottie of Chinese ancestry played in a black Tee-shirt, black trousers, and bare feet! His work was anything but cool, the Prokofiev Third Piano Concerto, one of my favorite examples of pianistic fireworks. The audience, and members of the orchestra responded in a ten or fifteen frenzy of cheering for Mr. Tao who then brought a miraculous hush over the entire estate with a simple excerpt from Bach's "Well Tempered Clavichord". It was only that week I had read in a late 19th-Century history of music how performance of a major piano concerto will cause the muscles in the pianist's hands to ache unbearably. If Mr. Tao's hand muscles ached, his pains were well rewarded. His choice of encore was in poetic contrast to his showcase piece and well served to underline his young mastery. This is one of the glories of Blossom for it is a perfect first look or hearing of rising stars early in their careers.

Two weeks later, on the 27th of July, the concert even more emphasized youth. For it was the annual outing of the Kent Blossom Chamber Orchestra, first playing alone, and finally side by side with the Cleveland orchestra, both daunting and thrilling for young serious musicians who are finishing their studies in the Music Department of Kent State University. The first section of the evening belonged to the students, conducted by Vinay Parameswaran, featuring works by Mendelssohn and Ravel.

After an intermission, the stage, belonged to the Clevelanders who owing to the illness of the scheduled conductor, were led by the substitute, New Zealand-born Gemma New, a young woman who is music director of the Hamilton (Ontario) Philharmonic Orchestra and also enjoys close ties with orchestras in Saint Louis and Dallas. She had made her debut with the Cleveland Orchestra the previous evening at Severance Hall. She held the stage with supreme confidence and great authority. She was, as I've already supposed, undoubtedly thrilled and professionally assured to stand before the Cleveland Orchestra. Seeing her on camera on the large electronic screens was a great revelation and an enormous asset. In turn, the expected love of the audience for her as a woman, quickly turned to awe for her mastery as a conductor.

Her first performance was the Sibelius warhorse "Finlandia" which sounded fresh and stimulating. Ms. New gave it a glossy articulation to which we have lately become unaccustomed. Next on the program was the subtle and highly romantic Cello Concerto No. One, in A Minor by Saint-Saens. The soloist was the French cellist Gautier Capuçon who wrapped his arms and enormous hands around his instrument and for the next twenty or so minutes proceeded to make love to us. This is not so simple as the open air venue of Blossom is not as useful in catching the subtle nuances of this essentially expanded chamber music as is a closed auditorium. The audience applauded deliriously and endlessly. The soloist got a big fat kiss from the conductor - a first in my concert going, while the chirping birds in the shed's rafters were obviously entranced. Monsieur Capuçon then took his seat in the orchestra's cello section and together they all jammed an encore with affectionate brotherhood.

The evening's musical festivities concluded mightily with the combination of the Kent Blossom Chamber Orchestra, side by side, in appropriate sections, with the Cleveland Orchestra in a rousing performance of Elgar's dazzling "Enigma Variations", a very special treat

for those of us fans of English symphonic music played by the Cleveland. All in all, Edward Elgar, the two orchestras, and Gemma New created a sensation. Fellow students applauded their seniors as if at a rock concert.

**NOT TO BE MISSED** The Cleveland Museum of Art's spunky summer show "Medieval Monsters"; on the lower level and, best of all, Free! This very special show of priceless, exquisite, hand-decorated missals, breviaries, and books of hours are on loan from New York's Morgan Library" a major shrine of art, at which our CMA Director and brother William was once in charge. They are enhanced by prints, metalwork, sculpture, and architectural enhancements from the Middle Ages which belong to the Cleveland Museum and the Boston Museum of Art. The show is in three sections: Terrors, Aliens, and Marvels and the specific theme is Control by Terror, both religious and autocratic. Do not look for Dracula, Frankenstein, or the tacky trash monsters of the 50's Drive-In cinema. There is nothing campy or funny here. The only real scare in the whole show is the sudden realization of its parallel with control in our own age. Sly Boots!

Also, in the Atrium is an abstraction of a West African village square, filled with enormous pillows and cushions covered with hand woven African fabrics. With special Nigerian music. Come wallow and refresh. Arthritics, take note. There are also higher benches covered with the same colorful fabrics. Completing the scene, by the moving stairs, is an enormous multi-fabric covered tree, the salver-like branch terminals of which look as if they should be holding very special delicious pastries.

The New York City' Police Department's forensic experts have concluded, after extensive study of Jeffrey Epstein's remains, that the accused sexu-

al predator of under-age girls and their pimp to the nouveau riche and cafe society, died by hanging himself in what appears to have been a questionably neglected, so-called high security, suicide-watch jail cell. The billionaire is said to have left a document listing the names of prominent citizens who were clients of his extensive shabby little procurement enterprise. The document is now in the hands of the Federal Justice Department headed by Attorney General William Barr which, insofar as public information is concerned is like flinging the missive into a bonfire. Recently an article from the "Columbus Dispatch", reprinted in the "Plain Dealer" revealed that Epstein had made a contribution of over fifty million dollars to a charitable fund set up by the wife of Columbus retail and real estate billionaire Les Wexner, the fund's sole contribution, later replaced in the Wexner Family Charitable Foundation, which is said to be widely beneficent in the capital city. Locally there, the article was dismissed by most knowing Columbusites as simply a rehash of the old fable involving the wolfe and the sour grapes. The following Sunday, the "New York Times" had a highly researched, lengthy article about Epstein's moving to Columbus and virtually taking over the financial and business reins of Mr. Wexner's empire which has only clouded he mystery. One thing is certain, with that document in the clutches of Mr. Barr; time probably won't tell. Cyclops still wonders how Epstein got his dirty hands on those little girls: where were their parents and from where did they all come. At least we can be glad that the slimy bastard is dead!

Mr. Barr has been joined as head of the Swamp's current Triumvirate of Evil by that woodland creature-looking chap called Moscow Mitch, and Vice President Pence, former Governor of Indiana, who is known in Washington these days as "Bobble Head" undoubtedly because of his obsequious, standing obeisance, hands folded protectively over his crotch, in the presence of Der Führer. We number among our acquaintances, a marvelous farm boy from northeast Indiana who also calls Pence some sort of "head", not bobbling but one involving a bodily function with a highly putrescent aroma.

Worst driving experience this summer. In a crowded field, it is shared jointly by the suburban cities of Lyndhurst and Beachwood (sic), although the blame falls squarely on the former. Most Clevelanders probably don't realize that the most crowded, terribly busy thoroughfare in the county is Cedar Road. The farther East one travels upward from University Circle, the worse it gets. It has been helped in no way this summer by a Lyndhurst sewer project on the north side of Cedar which has slowed to a crawl, especially in the Cedar-Richmond intersection with Lyndhurst's Legacy Village (the shopping enter which sounds like a rest home) catty-corner from the ultra swank Beachwood (sic.) Place (playground of the rich and, these days, the completely out-of-control). At rush hour, seemingly the longest in the county, traffic has soared to red alert status for dozens of maladies from heart failure or stroke, to incontinence. Ironically, these prosperous suburbs have not seen fit to station traffic police at this intersection, a mistake that has proven almost criminal in its negligence. Finally, Lyndhurst's mayor, last seen working the crowd with an open litter bag, at a ghastly, al-fresco community sing-along of 50's big hits, went into action. A Lyndhurst squad car was stationed smack in the middle of the turning intersection of westbound Cedar road and the down ramp to I-271. It involved a symphony of horns, curses, and clenched fists emerging from the windows of air conditioned luxury SUV's. A wizzened old man bravely emerged from the squad car. We made a successful leap onto the down ward ramp, not waiting to see the public stoning.

Cookies of the Month. (1) Gemma New and (2) Walnut-White Chocolate at the Cafe of the Cleveland Museum of Art, along with a promise, no more stuffed pumpkin cookies this fall! ~ *Ride Easily; Cy*

# September 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					

- September 2 - Labor Day
- September 4 - Empire City MC General Membership Meeting, NYC
- September 7 - Mr. Cleveland Leather Bear presents GEAR, Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM
- September 7-13 - Empire City MC 55th Anniversary Provincetown Run
- September 8 - Iron Eagles General Membership Meeting, Cocktail 2.0 Akron, 6:30 PM
- September 11 - 911 Day of Remembrance
- September 14 - R&J Leatherboy & Miss Cleveland Leather Competitions, Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM
- September 15 - Unicorn MC General Membership Meeting, Leather Stallion Saloon, 6 PM
- September 19 - "Arrg..." Talk like a Pirate Day
- September 21 - Iron Eagles Annual Leather Swap Meet, Cocktails 2.0 Akron
- September 21 - Mr. Cleveland Leather Competition, Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM
- September 24 - Roger Gee's Birthday
- September 26 - Johnny Appleseed Day
- September 28 - Bill Metzger's Birthday

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