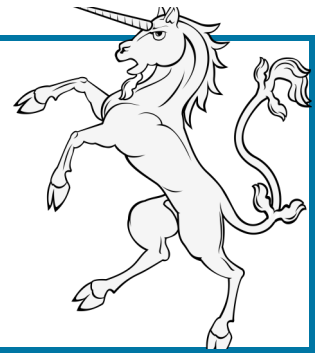


*"Nunc Aut Nunquam"*

# The Unicorn **HORN**



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

COVID-2020 Edition

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046

## UNICORN HERD SPOTTED

**CLEVELAND** - Once again the Unicorn's graced the Upper Club Room of the **Leather Stallion Saloon** for the first meeting of 2020, and immediately began making plans for the upcoming Celebrations. The planned **49th Anniversary Celebration of our Brotherhood**, which had been scheduled for, **April 18th, at 9 PM**, at **The Stallion** having been **CANCELLED**, will be rescheduled at a future date.

The members present have voted to Honor our home bar with a **'special gift'** upon reaching it's **Golden Anniversary**. This Gift has been purchased and is currently in the possession of the Club President, we are just waiting to see how the **State Imposed Restrictions** effect future events.

**The Leather Stallion Saloon** was established in 1970 by Al Brightman, and continues today under the ownership of Ken Myers, Jr. **The Leather Stallion Saloon** currently enjoys the status of being **Ohio's Oldest Established Gay Business in Continuous Operation**. Over the years it has maintained itself as a gathering place for many in our Community. Being one of the first Gay Bars in Ohio catering to the **Gay Motorcycle Riders**, as both being gay and riding motorcycles as a group carried bad connotations in those days. Customers who rode their Bikes to the Bar would enter through the back gate off of the ally and park their Bikes where the Patio Bar is currently located, This is also the reason the Stallions Saloon Street facing façade is so understated, it was all about the safety of the patrons.

Other Club news; all committees previously set remain the same. **I have been asked by the Treasurer to remind everyone Dues were to have been paid in January, (Due to the Current Coronavirus Pandemic, the Executive Committee has Voted to Reduce the 2020 Annual Dues to \$20, essentially 50%. Dues will now be required to be paid in July)**

I am glad to announce that **Brother Bob Kirsop** has been released from the Cleveland Clinic Rehab Facility and **is now safely Home**, if you get the chance please give him a telephone call to let him know how much he has been missed. We look forward to seeing him as soon as the weather improves and we start our summer schedule of meetings, where he doesn't have to contend with steps.

**Unicorn Charities Fundraising for 2020 will begin in June!** Kindly have all of your Ideas ready for presentation at our next meeting as time for planning is growing short.

**Special Notice to Our Members: The March Meeting has been CANCELLED Due to the continuing COVID-19 Virus Pandemic, according the April 18th Meet and Greet has been Cancelled as well. Conditions Permitting we will Celebrate Our 49th Anniversary during Our June Fund-raiser, if conditions Permit.**



## HATE REARS IT'S UGLY HEAD IN NORTHEASTERN OHIO AS LGBTQ SUPPORTING PASTOR RECEIVES THREATS

**MEDINA** - As a person of faith, the Rev. Luke Lindon took a stance in favor of Medina City Council passing nondiscrimination ordinances aimed at protecting the city's LGBTQ community.

Police are now investigating a threat aimed at the religious leader and the **United Church of Christ, Congregational**, where Lindon has served as senior pastor since April 2017. Lindon has said he is an LGBTQ ally who believes LGBTQ persons shouldn't be fired or evicted because of their sexual orientation. Discriminating because of sexual orientation harkens back to the days when African Americans could not work and live in communities just because of the color of their skin and when biracial marriages were deemed illegal, he said. It is his stance not as the pastor, but as a concerned citizen.

Since Council approved two separate pieces of legislation in July, the issue of LGBTQ protections has been divisive in Medina, resulting in lawsuits and pitting neighbors against neighbors.

That came to a head at noon Feb. 9 when a man called the 200-year-old church, located within eye shot of Medina's public square, and left a **"hateful and vile"** threatening voicemail. Church officials discovered the message the following morning and called police.

**"The man proceeds to unleash a hateful diatribe that says I'm a white-trash, gay lover. But he doesn't say 'gay,'"** Lindon said from the pulpit on Feb. 16 when he first spoke publicly about the incident. Lindon said the man identified himself as a Pentecostal Christian **"and it goes downhill from there."** The caller said, **"the minister and his thinking could be brought down and the church could be burned down."**

After calling police, the church was locked down to protect the staff and children of the **Hobby Horse Preschool**, which operates on site.

Medina Police Lt. Scott Marcum said a police report was made and extra patrol was provided to Lindon's home. **"We're still actively investigating it,"** he said Wednesday. **"What we need to do is determine who made the call and what they meant by it. Some hurtful comments were made. We'll see if a criminal offense occurred."** Marcum said police are trying to trace the call. **"We're taking it seriously,"** he said.

Medina Ward 3 Councilman Eric Heffinger said he recently met with Lindon about the threats.

**"This may be just one man, but the ideas and messages that this person spoke of in his threat are repugnant and completely unacceptable to what our community stands for,"** he said. **"We are lucky to have brave leaders like Pastor Luke in our community and I am so sorry for the stress and anxiety he has felt recently. This is not Medina. Let's show everyone that this is a community of love."**

City Council passed LGBTQ Ordinance 112-19 on July 8. Almost immediately afterward, there was an unsuccessful effort to get an issue on the

ballot for a citywide vote with petitions circulating calling for a referendum to reverse the ordinance.

**The Concerned Citizens of Medina City** and Marie J. Nauth, of Medina, filed a lawsuit Feb. 3 in **Ohio Supreme Court** against the **Medina County Board of Elections** and Medina Finance Director Keith Dirham. The lawsuit alleges the local elected officials did not act properly to ensure voters would have the right to vote on whether the legislation should exist by holding and the invalidating petition signatures.

Medina's Sandy Varndell, founder of **OutSupport** and the parent of LGBTQ children, spoke out: **"I was absolutely horrified,"** she said. **"I was shocked beyond belief that someone from Medina or somewhere else would do that. If he is a Medina resident, that scares the daylight out of me."**

She said there was an **OutSupport** meeting following the incident at the **Medina Library** and she alerted Medina police. **"It scared me,"** Varndell said. **"If someone could threaten a beloved pastor, his home and church, what are they going to do to a group that supports LGBTQ? We didn't have any incidents, but the fear was there."**

She said hearing the news of the threat was painful. **"I don't understand these people,"** Varndell said. **"My children could be targets of these people's hatred. I'm not sure what they are trying to prove."**

Medina Mayor Dennis Hanwell, also the city's safety director, said he was saddened by the news. He said, **"He was unable to comment on the threat as it remains under investigation by Medina police."**

## OUR RIGHTS ARE GOING TO COURT AGAIN

The Supreme Court Monday, February 24, 2020 agreed to hear **Fulton v. City of Philadelphia**, a case about whether or not taxpayer-funded foster care agencies have a constitutional right to discriminate based on the agency's religious requirements.

**Catholic Social Services (CSS)** sued **Philadelphia for the right to discriminate against prospective foster families headed by same-sex couples**. The **Support Center for Child Advocates** and **Philadelphia Family Pride**, represented by the **American Civil Liberties Union** and the ACLU of Pennsylvania, intervened in the lawsuit.

**Fulton v. City of Philadelphia**, is straightforward on its facts. In March, 2018, the city of Philadelphia stopped working with Catholic Social Services (CSS) because of that organization's refusal to place foster children with qualified same-sex couples.

The real power behind the case is **Becket**, formerly known as The Becket Fund, a hard-right activist group that has spearheaded several **"religious liberty"** cases, including **Hobby Lobby**, which eventually enabled corporations to deny contraceptive coverage to employees if doing so violated the company's religious beliefs.

**The case is less about religious liberty and more about sending an ugly message to same-sex couples and the LGBTQ community in general.**

Becket and organizations like it aren't really fighting for religious liberty. They're fighting for religious hegemony; they want LGBTQ and women's rights to be less equal than, say, civil rights. (No one is arguing that taxpayers should fund an agency that discriminates on the basis of race, after all—although conservatives argued exactly that in the '70s.)

**They want a world in which my husband and I may be legally married but still not equal to legally married straight couples. A world in which we can be denied service, denied rights, and denied equality. A world in which we are second-class citizens.**

Both the district court and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals rejected CSS' claims, saying instead that Philadelphia can require agencies that accept tax dollars to provide foster care services for children to accept all qualified

families.

The Court Filing presented states: The City of Philadelphia chose to exclude a religious agency from the City's foster care system unless the agency agreed to act and speak in a manner inconsistent with its sincere religious beliefs about marriage. **The Third Circuit upheld that action under Employment Division v. Smith.**

The questions the Court are to answer are:

1. Whether free exercise plaintiffs can only succeed by proving a particular type of discrimination claim, namely that the government would allow the same conduct by someone who held different religious views, as two circuits have held, or whether courts must consider other evidence that a law is not neutral and generally applicable, as six circuits have held?
2. Whether *Employment Division v. Smith* should be revisited?
3. Whether a government violates the First Amendment by conditioning a religious agency's ability to participate in the foster care system on taking actions and making statements that directly contradict the agency's religious beliefs?

**Note that the case includes, in its questions presented, asking the court whether *Employment Division v. Smith* should be "revisited," which could make this an even bigger case.**

The justices will review an appeals court ruling that upheld the city's decision to stop placing children with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's agency because it would not permit same-sex couples to serve as foster parents.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia ruled the city did not target the agency because of its religious beliefs but acted only to enforce its own nondiscrimination policy in the face of what seemed to be a clear violation.

Taxpayer-funded foster care agencies in a number of states, such as South Carolina, have asserted a religious objection to accepting families of different faiths, families that do not attend church, same-sex couples, or unmarried people. This case is to be placed on the Fall Docket.

**With *Fulton*, the Supreme Court is poised to require cities and states to provide such waivers as well, effectively forcing all localities in the country to fund anti-gay discrimination with taxpayer dollars. The parties hoping for a ruling against the city have worked hard to bring it to this point. Not because of any logic, but because of their desire to enshrine homophobia and right-wing evangelical supremacy into law.**

But mark my words. A ruling that religious-based entities have a "right" to LGBTQ tax dollars while discriminating against LGBTQ people would be one of the biggest travesties in the history of the American judicial system.

## SCOTUS DELAYS HEARINGS

In keeping with public health precautions recommended in response to COVID-19, the Supreme Court is postponing the oral arguments currently scheduled for the March session (March 23-25 and March 30-April 1). The Court will examine the options for rescheduling those cases in due course in light of the developing circumstances.

The Court will hold its regularly scheduled Conference on Friday, March 20. Some Justices may participate remotely by telephone. The Court will issue its regularly scheduled Order List on Monday, March 23 at 9:30 a.m. The list will be posted on the Court's Website at that time: <https://www.supremecourt.gov/orders/ordersofthecourt/19>.

The Building will continue to be open for official business, and filing deadlines are not extended under Rule 30.1. The Court is expanding remote working capabilities to reduce the number of employees in the Building, consistent with public health guidance. The Building will remain closed to the public until further notice.

We generally think of the court's calendar as having two different constraints: April is the last month for arguments, and June is the last month for decisions. But the court can change that schedule as it wishes. In the past, it has held arguments in other months as emergencies required.

The Court's postponement of argument sessions in light of public health concerns is not unprecedented. The Court postponed scheduled arguments for October 1918 in response to the Spanish flu epidemic. The Court also shortened its argument calendars in August 1793 and August 1798 in response to yellow fever outbreaks.

With no perfect precedent to go by, the Spanish flu probably does present the best model for the court to handle the coronavirus pandemic. The current data indicates that non-symptomatic individuals—including court staff and law clerks—can transmit the virus.

Coronavirus is most dangerous for older people. For a justice to become sick—potentially, to die—would be disastrous.

**Update:** Changes in the Courts' plans since this article was written and being Published, the Court held one on April 10th, in a Closed Setting with only the absolutely necessary personnel present and no spectators, to ensure Social Distancing. Since that time the Justices have been telecommunicating and Conferencing from their individual Offices.

In breaking precedent, the Justices announced on April 13th they will be holding Arguments on ten Different Cases, over six Days during the Month of May, via Telephone with Live Streaming for the Press and the Public. This is Precedent Setting as usually the Court does not permit access to Argument Audio to the Public until the Friday after the Hearings. The Courts still will not permit Video.

The Argument Dates are May 4,5,6, 11,12,13. Cases of interest: The Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania (a Contraception Case ) and Trump v. Mazars (the attempt to Block his Taxes from State Prosecutors and Congress)

There are still twenty-two Case which have been argued waiting for Opinions and Decisions to be Announced. Opinion and Orders are scheduled for every Monday during the Month of May at 10 AM, with the exception of Memorial Day , Opinions will be Tuesday that week . As of this writing the Courts' Calendar is mostly Open for June, with Opinions and Orders every Monday and Conferences on Thursdays.

Unless the Court changes their expected procedures the Opinions and Orders of Major Cases of the Term are released on the last possible Day, June 29th this year. However Justice Stevens (retired) who had a Tradition of Releasing the Last Three Major LGBTQ Rights Decisions on June 26th for continuity, we will have to see if the Court keeps this Tradition when releasing [R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#), the LGBTQ Workers Rights Case to end Employment Discrimination.

## AMID COVID-19, COULD SCOTUS RUSH A RULING ON LGBTQ DISCRIMINATION?

It's nearly five months since the U.S. Supreme Court hear arguments in three cases brought by LGBTQ Americans who have faced employment discrimination. Now in context of this devastating coronavirus pandemic, the supreme Court has stopped hearing cases, so deliberations on those they have heard will be accelerated. We could be hearing very soon from the Justices on this critical question of LGBTQ discrimination protections.

Whichever way the rung goes, it will have far-reaching impact. A decision affirming that federal law protects LGBTQ people from employment discrimination will be transformative, clarifying to millions of Americans that they must be respected in the workplace no matter who they are or who

they love. A decision in the other direction would be a serious blow but urgently underline for lawmakers that it is time for them to pass LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination protections.

This topic is personal to me, as a gay man who has experienced discrimination numerous times throughout my lifetime. I was fortunate that these experiences did not carry devastating financial losses, as I was in a position on which I could rely on my family for survival. But these experiences were emotionally debilitating.

Many LGBTQ Americans are not as fortunate as I am. Many have been forced to hide their identity, shield others from their most authentic hopes and dreams. That's because in Ohio and 29 other states, and at the federal level, there aren't explicit laws protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination. Without these protections, LGBTQ people are vulnerable. That must change.

I am grateful to Aimee Stephens for blazing a trail at the U.S. Supreme Court by sharing her story of being fired from her job after coming out as transgender. Her case is the first ever about transgender equality to be argued before the Justices.

Everyone deserves a safe, welcoming community. It's time for all LGBTQ Americans to feel safe in the communities they call home.

## AMERICANS AREN'T POLARIZED ON LGBTQ EQUALITY SURVEY FINDS

There is broad support for LGBTQ equality across the U.S., despite how polarized the nation is on many other issues, according to [survey results released today](#) by the Public Religion Research Institute.

The survey, conducted from March through December of last year, found an overwhelming majority of respondents favoring inclusive nondiscrimination laws, while support for equal marriage rights is at an all-time high. There is majority opposition to allowing small businesses to refuse service to gay and lesbian customers, but that opposition has waned somewhat.

"Seventy-two percent of Americans — including majorities of both political parties, religious groups, and nearly every major demographic group — favor laws that would protect LGBT people against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, and housing," notes a PRRI press release. The level of support has remained largely stable since PRRI began asking the question in 2011.

"Support for LGBT rights continues to be strong and expansive in all 50 states. Issues that in the recent past demarcated major political and religious fault lines now find broad agreement," PRRI founder and CEO Robert P. Jones said in the release. "However, this landmark survey also finds some erosion in opposition to allowing business owners to refuse to serve gay and lesbian people based on their religious beliefs."

In most states and the District of Columbia, at least two-thirds of survey respondents of respondents favor for nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people (the PRRI survey uses the term LGBT rather than LGBTQ). At its lowest levels, support dips below two-thirds in of Alaska (59 percent), Montana (62 percent), Louisiana (63 percent), Oklahoma (63 percent), Kentucky (64 percent), Alabama (64 percent), Wyoming (64 percent), West Virginia (64 percent), Tennessee (65 percent), and Arkansas (66 percent).

This support comes when only 21 states have laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; Virginia will join this group in July. The Equality Act, which would ban such discrimination nationwide, is stalled in Congress; the House has passed it, but the Senate has not voted on it and appears unlikely to, and Donald Trump has said he would not sign it. The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Joe Biden, has endorsed it and said he would make it a priority, a stance shared

by all those who sought the Democratic nomination.

Same-sex couples have had the legal right to marry throughout the U.S. since the Supreme Court's 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision, and since then public support for this right has increased dramatically, the PRRI survey found. Sixty-two percent of respondents in the latest survey backed marriage equality, up from 53 percent in 2015 and 36 percent in 2007.

PRRI also noted that the intensity of support for marriage equality has risen, while the intensity of opposition has waned. Support is greater among women than men, among Democrats and independents than Republicans, and among younger people, although the 2019 survey marked the first time a majority of people age 65 and older — 51 percent — supported equal marriage rights.

PRRI did find a modest decline in opposition to “religious refusals.” Respondents were asked if they strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose the right of small businesses to refuse to provide products or services to gay and lesbian customers if doing so would violate their religious beliefs.

In the latest survey, 56 percent opposed this right. The number has fluctuated moderately over the years PRRI has been asking the question, with 59 percent opposed in 2015, 61 percent in 2016, 60 percent in 2017, and 57 percent in 2018. The decline was most pronounced among groups that had generally opposed religiously based refusals, such as young adults and self-identified liberals.

PRRI did not pinpoint a cause for the decline. “Causes for opinion shifts are difficult to identify,” the survey notes. “This policy taps into three distinct areas of opinion that could change over time: Attitudes toward LGBT people, views on how small businesses should be regulated, and religious attitudes.”

The survey was conducted via telephone, with more than 40,000 interviews on specific issues. PRRI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that conducts independent research at the intersection of religion, culture, and public policy.



*This legislative session, we saw exactly why we need nationwide non-discrimination protections. In more than a dozen states, legislative attacks on LGBTQ people surged.*

**Idaho** became the first state ever to pass a law banning transgender students from participating in sports. **Tennessee** considered *more than 10 anti-LGBTQ bills*. And even as we grapple with this pandemic, and many state legislatures are in a temporary recess, these bills are ready to be brought back up as soon as they're back in session.

**LGBTQ Americans confront these attacks on our dignity and freedom every day.** But in states with nondiscrimination protections, we at least know the law is on our side.

### **Could you use some good news?**

Coronavirus has hit our country so horrifically, it's hard to find any silver lining. But there is at least one: With state legislatures across the country in recess, anti-LGBTQ bills are stalled. But we can't get complacent.

**South Dakota** defeated a bill that would have denied best-practice medical care to transgender youth. In **Missouri** all anti-LGBTQ bills are **DONE** for the year. A similar crush of bills is halted in **Georgia, Iowa, and Tennessee**. An anti-transgender athlete bill that was moving fast in **Arizona** is stalled too. This won't last; many legislatures will reconvene. **Tennessee and**

**Georgia** have already scheduled lawmakers to be back at work in June.

In this unprecedented health crisis, every American can relate to what it's like to worry about suddenly losing a job, or being unable to access health care when it's most needed, for reasons beyond their control—fears LGBTQ people navigate everyday.

***That's why our mission to end discrimination is more critical now than ever. A lot is still happening.***

Any day now, the **Supreme Court** will hand down decisions in three cases that could strip existing federal workplace nondiscrimination protections from LGBTQ workers. When these decisions come out, we'll rally via webinar with our state partners to make sure everyone has the information they need about next steps, while staying safe at home.

We'll also **urge you to immediately call and email your state and federal lawmakers**, because no matter what happens at the Court, Congress and state legislatures will need to close gaps in the law. Our face-to-face meetings with members of Congress about federal nondiscrimination legislation will need to happen online too.

### **Support Nationwide Nondiscrimination Protections for LGBTQ People**

***Ohio's Fairness Act hearing are currently placed on Hold, let your State Representatives and State Senators know How Important this Legislation is to Protect your Right Not to be Discriminated Against in Housing, Employment, and Public Discrimination! Share your stories and examples of how you have been discriminated in your Life!***

***Nationally , the Equality Act is currently sitting on Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) Desk (a.k.a. the Graveyard). It will sit there until the end of this Term so that it will expire and need to be Reintroduced in the Next Congress. But that doesn't mean to give up. Remember: "Seventy-two percent of Americans — including majorities of both political parties, religious groups, and nearly every major demographic group — favor laws that would protect LGBT people against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, and housing," Keep calling, writing, and emailing your Senators and Representatives.***

***Support those Candidates that will support our Right in the Next Congress. Work to get them Elected, Volunteer to Canvas, by Phone, Email, and with your Campaign Donations. This November 3rd, "We the People" will be voting on Presidential, Congressional, State, and Local Offices, as well as local issues.***

## **NATIONWIDE COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS**

Cancellations and Postponements of Pride Events and other Large Gatherings have been reported throughout the entire Country and the Various States due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. I apologize for not keeping an entire up to date list, but most if not all Large Events have been Cancelled for the Summer of 2020, with tentative Dates, for those that have been rescheduled starting in In September. The Editor would urge you to contact the Organizations of the Events for more information.

### **SAN FRANCISCO'S FOLSOM STREET FAIR CANCELED IN FAVOR OF VIRTUAL EVENT**

***When it comes to Kink, 2020 is the year of the Voyeur!***

San Francisco's leather and kink celebrations, the **Folsom Street Fair** and **Up Your Alley** fair have been canceled and will be replaced with virtual events.

Organizers confessed they considered simply shutting down the long-running street festivals but felt obligated to provide an online alternative. San Francisco's leather and kink celebrations, the **Folsom Street Fair** and

*Up Your Alley* fair have been canceled and will be replaced with virtual events.

***"Ultimately, we've chosen to hold Folsom Street Fair and Up Your Alley virtually, because we feel it is the ethical and the responsible choice."***

The virtual events will still happen on the previously scheduled dates. ***Up Your Alley weekend starts July 26 and Folsom Street Fair weekend begins September 27.***

***"I want to thank Folsom Street Events for their careful consideration of the current situation, and for making a decision that is in the best interest of public health but still allows people to celebrate virtually,"*** Mayor London Breed (D) said.

***"People come to [these events] to be in community, to see and be seen,"*** organizers said. They noted that there will ***"definitely be music and the productions from regular DJs and entertainers"*** and the adult themes of the event won't be tossed aside.

***"We're going to find a digital partner to work with to allow for adult content to be streamed on the event,"*** FSE's Interim Executive Director Angel Adeyoha said

Organizers say, ***"they will announce more details once they... work out the kinks"***

## VENTURING OUT DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Derryk Paramore



**Pittsburgh PA** - In light of the current covid virus I'd like to speak a little bit on the subject of misinformation.

I'm gonna start off with my recent trip to Pittsburgh. My husband and I decided to go to Pittsburgh to hang out with my best friend and to spend some alone time at a hotel. Pittsburgh is one of my favorite places to visit and we both enjoy a lot of the scenery there. As always, I wore my vest with my colors on it to represent the club I belong to and the love I have for you guys. We took the club's mascot Schtyunki Noodlz with us as seen in the attached pictures as well.

On the way there we noted the panic with the local and general public. And when we finally were able to settle and go out for a little while to view the scenery we noted there were less people around. We both kind of rolled our eyes and said OK we understand and went back to the hotel to call my best friend and ask if he wants to come to the hotel and hang out until bar time. In speaking with him, he was extremely panicked because his mother was telling him that every person out there had covid 19 attached to them and he was going to get sick and die if he left the house. God forbid he went to a hotel he'd get sick just from walking into the hotel because people travel and sleep there and he would bring it home and spread

it to his family. So, no luck on seeing my best friend at that time. Both me and my husband were confused at how it was safer to ride a bus that was public then to get into a car with 2 people and go to a hotel.

As the night went on and we carried on about our business, we learned that there were many misinformed people spreading misinformation. This misinformation from these misinformed people was causing mass panic. The most difficult thing to deal with, is these misinformed people honestly believe that their information is correct.

My best friend's mom never checked any of the news stations that are reliable she's a Fox Newser and she never ever looked into anything with the government website to check it out. No research done whatsoever by either my best friend or his mother or his family. So right there there's at least 6 people spreading misinformation. I completely understand that they are misinformed and that they have no ill will on misinforming others because they honestly believe that their information is correct.

Let's do a little math real quick, those 6 people tell whoever they come across in their lives daily.(we'll say 50 people each)((totaling out to 300 people hearing it just from this family)) and then the people they told telling everybody they come across in their lives daily (again using 50 people each as well)((totaling out to 150,000 people just in that first day)) See how quickly it becomes a mass panic?.

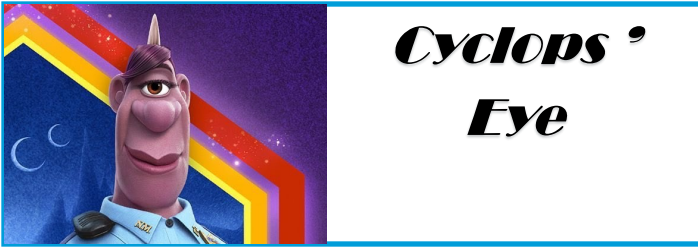
To end my story, We went to my favorite gay bar, the Blue Moon, and they closed within 15 minutes of us being there because the senator had shut down all the businesses where there would be more than 50 people at a time. The poor bar manager was so depressed because we had called about 15 minutes prior and he said that they were still open. He was watching CNN when we got there and profusely apologized because the senator had not originally shut all the businesses down when we called. He started to explain about the news and how many cases were local. We looked into everything he said and everything he was talking about was true. He was a little scared but not nearly in the amount of panic that my best friend and his family were in.

Here's the point of my entire story, even though it may be scary to do so, do your research before you accept things as factual. It might reduce some of your panic and help you prevent yourself from getting covid19. Not to mention It will help ease some of the mass panic by not adding to it in reference to using and sharing misinformation. If you cannot backup the things you are saying as true and factual with proof and evidence then you should not say these things. People are panicking enough. Besides the time wasted on the panic again could be used effectively to proactively protect yourself from this virus. From my house to yours, The House of Paramore, this is Sir Master Paramore speaking, be safe, be well, be educated and take care of yourselves. We will get through this.

***Derryk has also been industrious during this time of Pandemic and Isolation. He has been making Mask for those in need, and has made mask for all of our Bothers so that we may meet safely once the Quarantine Ban has been lifted. If you do not receive your mask in the mail shortly, Please Contact him at:***

[<derryk.paramoureortz@gmail.com>](mailto:derryk.paramoureortz@gmail.com)





## *La Peste, both of 'em*

It's just like college reunion *Deja vu*, recalling happier times when students locked horns with Albert Camus' plague classic in Philosophy 101 or French Lit 202. Here we are, like the rest of the world, give or take such non-U destinations as the Ross Sea Riviera, Spitsbergen, or Mount Healthy, Ohio, joining hands with mankind in combating the Coronavirus (covid-19). The United States, virtually alone, is months behind combating this world pandemic, due to the egotistical, inept political posturing of our over bloated Autocrat in Washington. And no, I don't believe that such creatures as our bobble-headed Vice-President or the Autocrat's son-in-law are mentally or technically qualified to head our scattershot, belated offensive against the virus. Mr. Autocrat, this is not a hoax created by Democrats or the Chinese, as you have maintained, it is a crisis fed by your brainless ineptitude. Fortunately, clearer, more humane heads have been at work these past months.

I have never been a supporter of Ohio Governor Michael DeWine, but the Government of Ohio, under his leadership, appears to have taken valuable steps in advance preparation for this medical challenge. Yesterday, all of our NPR stations, at least those which we could hear in the Western Reserve area carried a lengthy noontime broadcast by the governor and his wife in which he demonstrated fine leadership in explaining the nature and progress of the Corona Virus, steps which we all should follow to combat it, spoken in terms which both the young and the mature could easily comprehend. Mrs. DeWine gave a special talk for mothers and children along similar lines about safety and projects to fill the home-bound adjusting their lives, taking special note of the challenge to children made by closed schools, and to normally working moms, now staying at home during the suspension of their jobs. It was a program by the DeWines that was clearly and gently spoken in plain English, comprehensive, very well intended. Some actions predate Ohio's new restrictions, from states like Washington and Oregon where our action began. The trend is spreading. Earlier this week New York's Governor Cuomo gave a long talk on television about his state's uniting on a program of health enforcement with the neighboring states of New Jersey and Connecticut. Hopefully, such cooperation will continue among the more sparsely populated states. As for the Autocrat's dismissal of Michigan's Governor's inadequacy, it can simply be dismissed as more of his misogynistic twaddle. In my estimation she speaks with knowledge and logic, in both of which he is in piteously short supply.

Ohio is currently moving slowly and methodically in a program of closing gathering places, including restaurants, bars, hair salons, nail salons, barber shops, and most recently tattoo parlors. (This last will be a major hardship to those who are not aware that visiting cards are the essential medium upon which one inscribes one's telephone number.) Among the most lamented closings are concert halls, theaters, cinemas. The Cleveland Film Festival is a major casualty, added to the fact that Cleveland Cinemas is not renewing the Festival's lease for their Tower City theaters effective 2021. Professional and collegiate sporting events and even the Boston Marathon are among more of the major athletic casualties. The Cleveland Rock Hall of Fame's annual induction party is also toast. The Cleveland Museum is temporarily closed as are the city and county Public Libraries, except for the vital boxed food programs for needy children. Wary of possible lightning strike, Cyclops is unable to communicate the exact availability of admission

to one's chosen or favorite venue of worship. As usual, surgical masks are recommended for use on RTA bus lines or Rapid Transit. Ear plugs are no longer necessary because most riders have silently buried their faces into cell phones for the duration of their rides.

Although the Transit Police Force are few and far between, their presence is needed to keep order in Rapid Stations at which young kids are currently making do for playgrounds during the temporary (we hope and pray) closure of those at schools and recreational centers. Perhaps the city can augment the RTA's ranks by lending a few of our Finest to assist. Better yet, more of those gigantic posters of TV lawyers like Tim Michy or wheelchair-bound Friedman whose terrifying images adorn countless bus shelters or whole sides of moving transit vehicles, guaranteed to stop errant little boys and small animals dead in their tracks. Cyclops too! Make Them Pay!

We should also be very proud of our local medical establishments for their grasp on what the public might need generally or specifically at this time of pandemic. Not waiting for the unqualified medical prattle from the Autocrat and his ever revolving White House staff, the meds stand peerless, prepared and programmed as always. (And yet, I will fondly remember always the networks' repeatedly running Kellie Ann Conway, bursting into the Waffle House Rose Garden, bellowing, over and over: "It's Contaayned; it's Contaayned!!!")

The Cleveland Clinic appears to set the pace for preparedness, both here and abroad, and even in such neighboring cities where they direct Akron General Hospital and at Rochester General in New York state. More than abreast is University Hospital with a network of medical establishments extending from the Pennsylvania line to the Firelands. Now in a gigantic expansion program, Metro General operates the state's largest trauma center while, close to my own heart, the personnel at Stokes/Cleveland Veterans Administration Hospital at Wade Park, with its branches in Ohio City and Parma work tirelessly and stand ready under superlative military and medical guidance, to face any pandemic challenge to the well being of our veterans. Cleveland has its world renowned great medical tradition. Be thankful, very thankful.

So what does one do in the face of so much closure and with all this time on my hands? Well, if you remember from last month, there's always reading. One of the great treats this month, after a five year wait, is Hillary Mantel's "The Mirror and the Light", the 750-page final volume in a trilogy about Thomas Cromwell, who was minister to Henry VIII, England's notorious sixteenth-century monarch noted both for girth and for his six wives. Ms. Mantel's first two volumes in the trilogy, "Wolf Hall" and "Bring Up the Bodies", both won the Man-Booker Prize, Britain's equivalent of our Pulitzer Prize. They detail factually the remarkable saga of Cromwell, a man who rose to great heights in a royal court quite akin to a savage jungle of lust and political grabbing not unlike our Washington D.C. today. While Henry's power was absolute, I don't think the Autocrat we have will quite achieve that, at least one can hope and pray not.

This final novel begins with a very detailed, gruesome account of the beheading of Anne Boleyn, Henry's second wife and the mother of the first Queen Elizabeth. Anne was convicted of treason, adultery, and incest. From this sanguinary wild out-of-the-gate beginning, the pace never slackens. Happily, Ms. Mantel writes not in the Middle English of Henry's day, but in our modern English, so you're in for every grizzly detail and morsel of gossip and intrigue; a must read for fans of factual, highly detailed history.

By the bye, our local bookstores, such as Loganberry in Shaker Heights, the Half-Price Books stores which are stocking the new Mantel book, or Mind-fair at Oberlin, while all closed to physical traffic, will be glad to ship you a copy of current books as available.

The most obvious other things to do are just that. So far, the television movie channel, especially Turner Classic Movies, have given us a parade of stinkers during the day, quite unaware that captive audiences have long memories. For example, take an early film with Mary Pickford, once dubbed America's Sweetheart. Anyone who has had to sit through

“Coquette” her Oscar winning performance in that early talkie might dub her Lina Lamont’s Baby Sister, sired by Elmer Fudd. But then, she was one of three eponymously United Artists who owned the studio, and the wife of another. Aside from regular TV, the news is mostly ghastly. Spread your wings, head for the kitchen, and cook something. You should eat!

Things awaiting us in a better future: William Griswold, the tireless and inspirational Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art has just announced an astonishing gift of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art from the collection of Joseph and Nancy Keithley with an estimated value of over one hundred, forty million dollars, the largest material gift since that of Leonard Hanna Jr. in 1958. All but 17 promised works are now in the hands of the Cleveland museum. A planned preview of many of the works has been postponed until the current health crisis has abated. For further details, visit the CMA web site, or visit the Plain-Dealer or the New York Times recent archives for more information.

Also, fascinating news from Cap City, the Columbus, Ohio Museum of Art, once affectionately known as COMA, has sprung into exciting new life under the tireless leadership of Executive Director Nannette V. Marciejunes, aided and abetted by the Columbus Foundation, former Director of the Ohio Arts Council, Wayne Lawson, and a whole new generation of young, monied Columbusites who realize at last, the importance of art as a viable force for greatness in their city.

During a recent trip to Columbus, I spent a Sunday at the art museum with the late and enormously missed Jay Suiter and was amazed that the dull, dusty old “Gallery” of my childhood was thronged with young people, crowds of them; the place filled with modern art, luminous lighting and innovative presentation. It was thrilling to see that the museum had skipped a wealthy generation uneducated to the intrinsic value of art as a vital nerve of civic life. The kids of the dullards have picked up that dropped torch and it’s blazing.

Recently, the “New York Times” did an article saying that Columbus was one of America’s leading LGBT cities. This is being richly confirmed by the Columbus Museum of Art whose groundbreaking presentation of the year is entitled “Art After Stonewall. 1969-1989”. This Columbus created show which debuted in New York was inspired by the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in that city! It has come home to Columbus from which it will travel throughout the midwest, ending its tour in Miami, Florida. Major support for the show has been provided by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Keith Haring Foundation, Ohio Magazine, and Prizm Magazine. Alas, it will be judicious to contact the CMOA (614-221-6801) about opening days during the plague.

Another way to chase the blues, or someone else, is exercise such as calisthenics or long walks in decent weather. In an apartment building one can circle the place several times like an Apache war party, or in bad weather, tramp the halls or climb the stairs. Yesterday, having emerged from my flat to fetch the mail, I rode back up in the elevator with a lovely new resident. We locked eyes and both flashed our best smiles, holding them like loonies for four flights up. He winked and before I could overcome my painful shyness, the door shut and I continued on to seven. Quieting my nerves with a generous nod of Shooting Sherry, I decided that I was desperate for some exercise, so I tramped the halls and descended to four. I wondered where he lived and then I saw his pair of running shoes, turned doorward on a welcome mat. Trembling, I hesitated to rap the tiny brass door knocker. Then I remembered all those health warnings. I had no sanitary wipes. I fled in terror, the thought still haunting me that he might be contagious. And how! You should eat! xxx, CY.

## Letters to the Editors

**THE WORLD HAS LOVED, HATED AND ENVIED THE U.S. NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE PITY IT** from the Irish Times

Over more than two centuries, the United States has stirred a very wide range of feelings in the rest of the world: love and hatred, fear and hope, envy and contempt, awe and anger. But there is one emotion that has nev-

er been directed towards the US until now: pity.

However bad things are for most other rich democracies, it is hard not to feel sorry for Americans. Most of them did not vote for Donald Trump in 2016. Yet they are locked down with a malignant narcissist who, instead of protecting his people from Covid-19, has amplified its lethality. The country Trump promised to make great again has never in its history seemed so pitiful.

Will American prestige ever recover from this shameful episode? The US went into the coronavirus crisis with immense advantages: precious weeks of warning about what was coming, the world’s best concentration of medical and scientific expertise, effectively limitless financial resources, a military complex with stunning logistical capacity and most of the world’s leading technology corporations. Yet it managed to make itself the global epicentre of the pandemic.

As the American writer George Packer puts it in the current edition of the Atlantic, “The United States reacted ... like Pakistan or Belarus – like a country with shoddy infrastructure and a dysfunctional government whose leaders were too corrupt or stupid to head off mass suffering.”

It is one thing to be powerless in the face of a natural disaster, quite another to watch vast power being squandered in real time – wilfully, malevolently, vindictively. It is one thing for governments to fail (as, in one degree or another, most governments did), quite another to watch a ruler and his supporters actively spread a deadly virus. Trump, his party and Rupert Murdoch’s Fox News became vectors of the pestilence.

The grotesque spectacle of the president openly inciting people (some of them armed) to take to the streets to oppose the restrictions that save lives is the manifestation of a political death wish. What are supposed to be daily briefings on the crisis, demonstrative of national unity in the face of a shared challenge, have been used by Trump merely to sow confusion and division. They provide a recurring horror show in which all the neuroses that haunt the American subconscious dance naked on live TV.

If the plague is a test, its ruling political nexus ensured that the US would fail it at a terrible cost in human lives. In the process, the idea of the US as the world’s leading nation – an idea that has shaped the past century – has all but evaporated.

Other than the Trump impersonator Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, who is now looking to the US as the exemplar of anything other than what not to do? How many people in Düsseldorf or Dublin are wishing they lived in Detroit or Dallas?

It is hard to remember now but, even in 2017, when Trump took office, the conventional wisdom in the US was that the Republican Party and the broader framework of US political institutions would prevent him from doing too much damage. This was always a delusion, but the pandemic has exposed it in the most savage ways.

Abject surrender. What used to be called mainstream conservatism has not absorbed Trump – he has absorbed it. Almost the entire right-wing half of American politics has surrendered abjectly to him. It has sacrificed on the altar of wanton stupidity the most basic ideas of responsibility, care and even safety.

Thus, even at the very end of March, 15 Republican governors had failed to order people to stay at home or to close non-essential businesses. In Alabama, for example, it was not until April 3rd that governor Kay Ivey finally issued a stay-at-home order.

In Florida, the state with the highest concentration of elderly people with underlying conditions, governor Ron DeSantis, a Trump mini-me, kept the beach resorts open to students travelling from all over the US for spring break parties. Even on April 1st, when he issued restrictions, DeSantis exempted religious services and “recreational activities”.

Georgia governor Brian Kemp, when he finally issued a stay-at-home order on April 1st, explained: “We didn’t know that [the virus can be spread by people without symptoms] until the last 24 hours.”

This is not mere ignorance – it is deliberate and homicidal stupidity. There is, as the demonstrations this week in US cities have shown, plenty of political mileage in denying the reality of the pandemic. It is fuelled by Fox News and far-right internet sites, and it reaps for these politicians millions of dollars in donations, mostly (in an ugly irony) from older people who are most vulnerable to the coronavirus.

It draws on a concoction of conspiracy theories, hatred of science, paranoia about the “deep state” and religious providentialism (God will protect the good folks) that is now very deeply infused in the mindset of the American right.

Trump embodies and enacts this mindset, but he did not invent it. The US response to the coronavirus crisis has been paralysed by a contradiction that the Republicans have inserted into the heart of US democracy. On the one hand, they want to control all the levers of governmental power. On the other they have created a popular base by playing on the notion that government is innately evil and must not be trusted.

The contradiction was made manifest in two of Trump’s statements on the pandemic: on the one hand that he has “total authority”, and on the other that “I don’t take responsibility at all”. Caught between authoritarian and anarchic impulses, he is incapable of coherence.

Fertile ground  
But this is not just Donald Trump. The crisis has shown definitively that Trump’s presidency is not an aberration. It has grown on soil long prepared to receive it. The monstrous blossoming of misrule has structure and purpose and strategy behind it.

There are very powerful interests who demand “freedom” in order to do as they like with the environment, society and the economy. They have infused a very large part of American culture with the belief that “freedom” is literally more important than life. My freedom to own assault weapons trumps your right not to get shot at school. Now, my freedom to go to the barber (“I Need a Haircut” read one banner this week in St Paul, Minnesota) trumps your need to avoid infection.

Usually when this kind of outlandish idiocy is displaying itself, there is the comforting thought that, if things were really serious, it would all stop. People would sober up. Instead, a large part of the US has hit the bottle even harder.

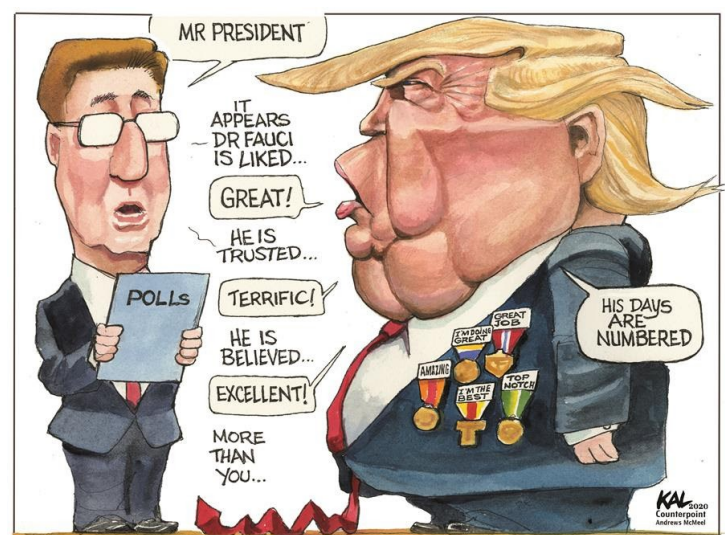
And the president, his party and their media allies keep supplying the drinks. There has been no moment of truth, no shock of realisation that the antics have to end. No one of any substance on the US right has stepped in to say: get a grip, people are dying here.

That is the mark of how deep the trouble is for the US – it is not just that Trump has treated the crisis merely as a way to feed tribal hatreds but that this behaviour has become normalised. When the freak show is live on TV every evening, and the star is boasting about his ratings, it is not really a freak show any more. For a very large and solid bloc of Americans, it is reality.

And this will get worse before it gets better. Trump has at least eight more months in power. In his inaugural address in 2017, he evoked “American carnage” and promised to make it stop. But now that the real carnage has arrived, he is revelling in it. He is in his element.

As things get worse, he will pump more hatred and falsehood, more death-wish defiance of reason and decency, into the groundwater. If a new administration succeeds him in 2021, it will have to clean up the toxic dump he leaves behind. If he is re-elected, toxicity will have become the lifeblood of American politics.

Either way, it will be a long time before the rest of the world can imagine America being great again.



## COVID-19 UPDATE:

Even though the Governor has announced the Opening of Bars, Clubs, and Restaurants in the State, effective May 15th.

We will be waiting until an Official Opening of the Stakkion is decided by Ken and His Staff before any decisions will be made by the Executive Committee of the Unicorn Motorcycle Club will resume meetings and planned Fund Raising Events .

We are fully aware that many of our current members have pre-existing conditions that make them more susceptible to the Coronavirus, and we chose to proceed with extreme caution for the benefit of everyone.

**STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE NOTICES**





***All Events are Current Cancelled***

***For the Duration of***

***Coronavirus Pandemic***

***Please Notify Editor when Your Events are Rescheduled!***

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