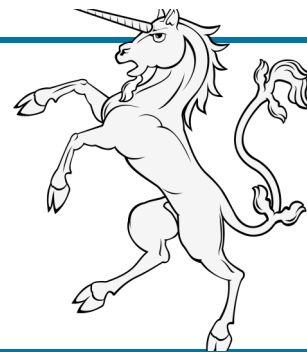


"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn **HORN**



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

August/September 2020

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046



Unicorns Met in Willowick

August 8 - The Club Members gathered for the August Meeting in the Home of Jack Giles and Dennis Sherrill where the final plans for the next days Fundraiser were completed. It has been difficult doing any fundraising this year due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in fact two planned events have had to be cancelled to date, and due to restrictions the August Event will be limited. Instead of holding the Great Annual Unicorn Flea Market, one of our more successful events that everyone looks forward to, it has been decided we will select a limited number of items for those in attendance to bid upon in a 'Silent Auction'. Robert and Bill brought along a number of items that we choose while we socialized after the business portion of the meeting.

Design work for next years 50th Anniversary Pins and other items continue but actually ordering and production has been placed on hold, as Tony is currently unable to travel internationally to place the orders and select the products desired at this time.

Additional ideas were discussed how to raise funds due to the pandemic to help Our Charities during the Pandemic, as their needs continue and have actually increased. We have noticed that there have been increased appeal via the internet over the past few months, and are sure there will additional request of our Charity Fund this Fall when we distribute what funds we have collected. As to not to attract attention to our home Bar, the Stallion has not been advertising any events held, that is why it is important that we share any events we hold through word of mouth to all of our friends and acquaintances. All proceeds from the August Bar event will go towards our Charity Fund.

The October Event which is to be held on Halloween is questionable at this time and dependent upon the State's Covid Restrictions. We are working with the Stallion Staff and will keep everyone informed.

After the Business Meeting those gathered enjoyed a repast of Beer-steamed Hot Dogs, Chips, Hungarian Cucumber Salad, Italian Broccoli Pasta, Brownies, and Watermelon. Group Photos were taken (see above).

It was good to see that Tom Johnson and Bob Kirsop were able to join us, as we have missed the presence, and I want to thank Tony Rotell for providing their transportation.

Supreme Court sets Nov. 4 to hear if adoption agency can reject LGBTQ parents

Chris Johnson is Chief Political & White House Reporter for the Washington Blade. Johnson is a member of the White House Correspondents' Association.

The U.S. Supreme Court has set Nov. 4 as the date when it will hear oral arguments on whether a taxpayer-funded, religious-affiliated adoption agency can lawfully reject same-sex couples — a case that could have significant impact on policies and laws prohibiting discrimination across the board.

The court on August 19, 2020 designated the Nov. 4 date for the hearing on the docket for the litigation, *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, which was filed by Becket Law on behalf of Catholic Social Services. Justices had agreed to take up the case in February.

The case came about after the City of Philadelphia learned in March 2018 that Catholic Social Services, which the city had hired to provide foster care services to children in child welfare, were refusing to license same-sex couples despite signing a contract prohibiting agencies from engaging in anti-LGBTQ discrimination. (*Breach of Contract*)

When the city said it would terminate the contract, Catholic Social Services sued on the basis it can maintain the contract and refuse placement into LGBTQ homes for religious reasons under the guarantee of free exercise of religion under the First Amendment.

Because the case is based on First Amendment claims, a decision in favor of Catholic Social Services, if granted on those grounds, may have implications on non-discrimination policies and laws across the board — whether at the local, state or federal level — based not just on sexual orientation and transgender status, but also race, religion, national origin, sex and any other protected characteristic.

That means adoption agencies could legally refuse placing children into Black families or families of a minority religion. It's not just adoption; civil rights laws for employment, housing and health care would also be compromised. Although the Supreme Court ruled in favor of LGBTQ rights in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, a decision in favor of Catholic Social Services would undermine that in the name of religious freedom.

The case history hasn't been favorable to Catholic Social Services. A federal judge in Pennsylvania and the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals denied a preliminary injunction in favor of Catholic Social Services. The Third Circuit, which declined to revisit the case "en banc" before the full court, based its decision in part on the 1990 ruling in *Employment Division v. Smith*.

But in the aftermath of President Trump restructuring the Supreme Court with the appointments of U.S. Associate Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, there's no telling how the court might rule.

Although the Supreme Court had rejected injunctive relief to the adoption agency in response to an emergency request, Gorsuch as well as U.S. Associate Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas signaled they would have ruled for Catholic Social Services — before any briefing had even taken

place in case.

The Trump administration, in the form of a legal brief in June from former U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco, argued before the Supreme Court the City of Philadelphia “impermissibly discriminated against religious exercise” by requiring Catholic Social Services to abide by its contract.

However, the Justice Department brief heavily relies on the Supreme Court decision in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case, which was a narrow ruling in favor of a Colorado baker who refused to make a cake for a same-sex couple, in an apparent attempt to link the issues to Catholic Social Services in Philadelphia and avoid a wide-ranging ruling applicable to other scenarios that may compromise the U.S. government’s authority in making contracts.

Acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall has made a formal appeal before the Supreme Court for time for the U.S. government to participate in oral arguments. Although justices haven’t yet responded to the request, they’re likely to allow the acting solicitor general to participate given the federal implications of the case.

Philadelphia City Solicitor Marcel Pratt, in a brief before the Supreme Court signed by her and other attorneys, argues the city “acted within broad scope of its managerial authority” by requiring Catholic Social Services to abide by its non-discrimination rules.

“[Catholic Social Services] may resume certifying foster parents for the City at any time,” the brief says. “The City ‘strongly desire[s]’ that it will do so. But the Constitution does not entitle CSS to perform those services on the City’s behalf, with City funds, pursuant to a City contract, in a manner that the City has determined would be harmful to its residents and the thousands of children it has a duty to protect.”

Becket Law, in its brief filed in May before the Supreme Court, maintained the City of Philadelphia targeted the adoption agency in violation of the First Amendment “under any standard,” but takes pains to make the case the city didn’t take the right administrative procedure before cutting off Catholic Social Services.

“In its rush to penalize this religious exercise, the City failed to figure out whether CSS actually violated any law, much less a neutral, generally applicable one,” the brief says. “Instead of a law, Philadelphia had a preferred outcome: the Archdiocese of Philadelphia should get with the times, accept that it is ‘not 100 years ago,’ and start endorsing same-sex relationships for foster care.”

The American Civil Liberties Union, which has intervened in the case, argues in a brief filed last week the City of Philadelphia’s contract applies to “all contractors, both religious or secular,” therefore should survive judicial review even under a higher level of scrutiny.

“The requirement imposes no substantial burden on CSS,” the brief says. “It does not require CSS to endorse any same-sex marriages, but merely to certify that families meet Pennsylvania’s statutory criteria.”

The Supreme Court announced the date for oral arguments on the same day the House Ways & Means Committee issued a report on the waiver the Trump administration gave to South Carolina from non-discrimination rules on federal funding. The request was based on Miracle Hill Ministries seeking to place children consistent with its religious beliefs.

The committee report, titled “Children at Risk: The Trump Administration’s Waiver of Foster Care Non-Discrimination Requirements,” found the Department of Health & Human Services permitted discrimination within the child welfare system based on religion and sexual orientation and failed to recognize its negative impact on LGBTQ families. Further, the report found the Trump administration didn’t consult policy experts on the decision and instead relied on political appointees.



‘If We Get It, We Chose to Be Here’: Despite Virus, Thousands Converge on Sturgis for Huge Rally

Tens of thousands of motorcyclists roared into the western South Dakota community on Friday, lining Main Street from end to end, for the start of the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

STURGIS, S.D. — Tens of thousands of motorcyclists roared into the western South Dakota community of Sturgis on Friday, lining Main Street from end to end, for the start of an annual rally that kicked off despite objections from residents and with little regard for a public health emergency ravaging the world.

It could have been any other past summer rally in Sturgis, with herds of R.V.s, bikers and classic cars converging for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, a 10-day affair that was expected to attract roughly 250,000 enthusiasts this year — about half the number who attended last year but a figure that puts it on track to be among the country’s largest public gatherings since the first coronavirus cases emerged in the spring.

Save for a few hard-to-spot hand-sanitizer stations, it could have been any other major festival in pre-pandemic times.

“Screw Covid I went to Sturgis,” read a black T-shirt amid a sea of Harley Davidson and Trump 2020 outfits sported by the throng of people walking along Main Street. Their gear did not include face masks, and social distancing guidelines were completely ignored.

South Dakota is among several states that did not put in place a lockdown, and state officials have not required residents to wear masks, giving attendees who rode in from outside the state fewer restrictions than they may have had back home.

Indeed, fears that the rally could be a superspreader event did not appear to scare riders from attending. Bikers flocked to tents featuring tattoo artists, apparel, gear and food. As of this writing, more than 19 Cases of Covid in Minnesota have been traced to the Sturgis Rally. The lure of the Rally is strong even one of our own had to stop by and witness the even. While traveling to see a sick relative Derryk took a day to visit the Sturgis Rally. Following is an article by another brother who has attending in the past.

In a Place and Time Far, Far Away!

By Jim B (The Bad Boy from Detroit)



In 1990, George Y. on his Gold Wing, went with Albert F and me to pick up our second 750 Yamaha Virago. Now both of us had separate bikes and were getting the itch for a long bike trip. Since we had ridden with George to Colorado for The Rocky Mountaineer Run that year, and back, we felt we were ready for a real ride somewhere, anywhere.

We had talked about going to Sturgis in 1990 for the 50th Anniversary but we decided it might be too crowded and from what we heard it was, with large crowds and long lines everywhere.

Albert and I decided to take two weeks off from work in 1991, and ride out to Sturgis 51. We did not know anyone who had been to Sturgis in the past, so we decided to make reservations at a hotel in or around Sturgis, months in advance of us leaving. We got a room in a town called Lead, in South Dakota. We would take the backroads on our ride out there and stay off the freeways as much as possible. We wanted to experience the terrain and ride through the small towns and meet local people on the way out. Stopping at family owned restaurants, where friendly farm boys waited on us,

refilling our coffee and asking us how the weather was from where we had been, on our ride. They were paying close attention to their radios, listening to what the latest prices of their crops out in the fields, waiting to be harvested. They were timing their harvest to the best price they could get, for their crops.



and a shower without having to get back on the bike to go anywhere!!!



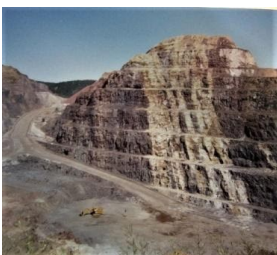
hurt their cattle!!!



We opened the door and walked inside to find a bartender standing behind the bar.



the ceiling tiles.



Once passing through Davenport, Iowa, which is a story in itself. We eventually made it to the Hacienda Motel in Nebraska, out in the middle of nowhere, that had a restaurant and lounge attached to it. The perfect place to spend the night after riding four to five hundred miles, a long day of travel. Once I get off my bike, all I want is food, drinks, a clean bed

While we were eating our dinner in the restaurant, we stuck up a conversation with two guys sitting across the aisle, dressed in camouflage. They said they were hunters, and they hunted goffers. "GOFFERS?" I said?? Yes, apparently ranchers in the area had a bounty, to rid them of the goffers and the holes they leave behind in the ground, that potentially

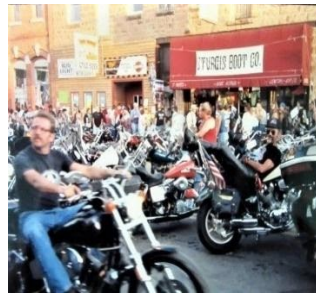
The hunters gave us valuable tips, for a fantastic route through the Bad Lands, with their surreal colorful landscape, which often required stops and exploration and photo ops. We arrived at a small village called Scenic, in South Dakota, that consisted of a few wooden buildings, a couple of bars, a general store, a church and three T-pees. We parked in front of the horse hitching post, that was in front of the Scenic Longhorn Saloon.

We were flabbergasted by our surroundings. It looks like something out of an Old West Ghost Town. Was Clint Eastwood about to come out from around the corner of the building? And was the Saloon open? We did not see a soul in sight except for another bike parked beside ours bikes in front of the Saloon, at the hitching post.

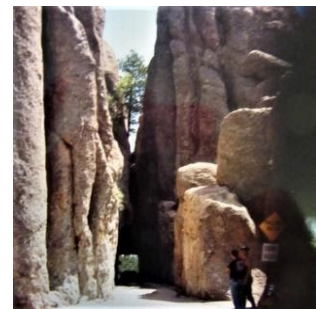
The entire floor was covered with a foot of sawdust including spittoons at the corners of the bar on the floor. Bar stools consisted of metal milk cans with metal tractor seats welded to the tops. Notice in the photo, the horned skull hanging on the column behind me, in juxtaposition, (Which made me look horny, ha, ha). You might be able to see markings on the ceiling above me which are the brands of all the local ranches burned into

After our brief stay in Scenic, we left to get to Sturgis, traveling North on Route 44. We had a room reserved in the town of Lead, just West of Sturgis. When we reached Lead, we found ourselves riding on the edge of an open pit gold mine, where Lead sits on the brim. We found our hotel and settled in. Outside, the parking lot was filled with campers and

RV's with tailors for hauling their bikes. In the morning, all the bikes were gone riding the area.



ing parks and monuments like Mount Rushmore and The Crazy Horse Monuments. We rode out to Needles State Park.

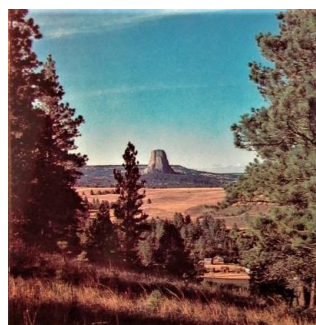


found the rock formation that the Needles Park is named for. It looked like the eye of a needle.

Another park we visited was Custer State Park.



No barriers or fences to separate you from the buffalo or the donkeys. Here I am on the left giving greetings and salutations to our woolly bison. And on the right Albert is getting acquainted with the local donkey!!



Tower, an ancient volcano core. The whole trip was a huge adventure!!

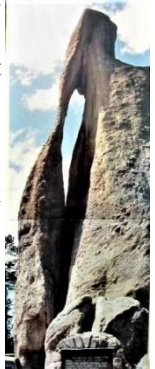
The local authorities in and around Sturgis could not shut this event down because of coronavirus!! The event is so huge that it spills over into neighboring states, with towns, cities and campgrounds, parks and western monuments dotting the whole area, it is hard to stay at home. Besides, what better way to self-distance, then to ride a motorcycle. Try telling a bunch of guys who don't want to wear their helmets to wear masks and self-distance or stay home, WTF!!!! I have friends who want to go to Sturgis, but aren't able to go for one reason or another!!! I feel blessed that I had the opportunity to go!!!

Ride Safe and Be Safe!!!

That day we left for Sturgis and parked our Yamahas amongst the Harleys and other bikes. Here is Albert (figure on the right), laying across his Virago watching the parade go by. The Sturgis Motorcycle Event encompasses the whole area around Sturgis and includes towns like Deadwood, Lead and Rapid City. Amongst the towns are camp sites where hordes of bikers congregate. We ventured out to explore the surround-

Passing through a rocky tunnel on the bike, a passenger could hold out his arms and touch both sides of the tunnel.

Once you were on the overlook you could walk around and see the different formations while you climbed the rocks. I went exploring and



Recent Federal Court Actions....

Court orders Trump admin to recognize U.S. citizenship of Child Born to married same-sex couple !



This myth that impeached president Donald Trump would be just fine on LGBTQ+ issues because he congratulated Elton John on getting married and once appeared in a weird skit with a dragged-up Rudy Giuliani was one of the most irresponsible lies spread by irresponsible journalists in 2016. The Trump administration has in fact spent the last three and a half years steadily attacking the rights of LGBTQ+ Americans.

And attacking the rights of their families, too. Last year, Trump's State Department refused to recognize the U.S. citizenship of a child born to a married same-sex couple, even though both men "are U.S. citizens and children born abroad to heterosexual married U.S. citizens are automatically considered U.S. citizens themselves," Lambda Legal said. The couple was forced to take the administration to federal court, where they won their case this week.

Even though Derek Mize and Jonathan Gregg have been married since 2015 and are both listed on Simone's birth certificate, Lambda Legal said Trump's State Department "disregarded" their marriage "[b]ecause only one of Simone's fathers has a biological connection to her." The girl, now 2-years-old, was born via surrogacy in England. The administration instead "treated Simone as though she was born out of wedlock, a classification which requires more stringent requirements for recognition of her citizenship."

The couple then sued last year. "The Immigration and Nationality Act states that children of married U.S. citizens born abroad are U.S. citizens from birth so long as one of their parents has lived in the U.S. at some point, but the State Department routinely denies that right to same-sex couples and their marital children," Lambda Legal said. "While different-sex couples are automatically presumed to both be parents of their children, same-sex couples are subjected to invasive questioning about how they brought their child into their family."

Last year, another same-sex couple sued Trump's State Department for also refusing to recognize their daughter's U.S. citizenship. Roe and Adiel Kiviti noted at the time they'd had no issues when their first child was born via surrogacy in Canada in 2016. "We got Lev's passport within two days," Kiviti told CNN last year. "We did the exact same process with our daughter Kessem earlier this month, and then received a phone call indicating that this was being treated as an out-of-wedlock birth, and as such, there are additional requirements that need to be met."

Trump's attacks on the freedoms of LGBTQ+ Americans have in fact been carried out with an intentional cruelty. When the administration this past summer announced a new rule stomping out Obama-era healthcare pro-

tections for transgender Americans, it didn't just do it during Pride Month, but also on the anniversary of the Pride nightclub shooting. But remember, Trump waved around a Pride flag, so—oh wait, his administration also denied embassy requests to fly the flag during last year's Pride Month.

"We are so relieved that the court has recognized our daughter, Simone, as the U.S. citizen she has been since the day she was born," Mize said following the court's decision, which orders the administration to issue her a passport. "When we brought Simone into this world, as married, same-sex parents, we never anticipated our own government would disrespect our family and refuse to recognize our daughter as a U.S. citizen." Lambda Legal noted that the Kivitis, who the organization represented in court, also won their case this past summer.

"This is the second federal court this summer to rule against the State Department's policy to treat children of married, same-sex parents as children 'born out of wedlock' and not entitled to birthright U.S. citizenship," Lambda Legal's Omar Gonzalez-Pagan said. "It is time for the federal government to stop defending this unlawful and unconstitutional policy. No family should have to face the fear and uncertainty of having their child's citizenship status be held in limbo."

The State Department is in the process of appealing these decisions, the results of having a Religious Zealot as Secretary of State, who is more interested 'Natural Law' and hastening his Evangelical beliefs in the Rapture rather than standing for what is Right for the Country and it's Citizens. Yet another attack on the LGBTQ Citizens of the United States by the Trumpians and the Republican Party, so much for their 'Gaslighting' at the most recent RNC.

U.S. Appeals Court sides with Transgender Student Over Bathroom Access



WASHINGTON — A U.S. appeals court on Wednesday ruled that a Virginia school board acted unlawfully in preventing a transgender student from using a bathroom at his high school that corresponded with his gender identity.

The Richmond, Virginia-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on a 2-1 vote that Gavin Grimm, now a college student, is protected under federal law that bars sex discrimination in education and the U.S. Constitution's requirement that people be treated equally under the law.

Grimm's lawsuit dates back to 2015. Grimm sued the Gloucester County School Board after officials at a local high school refused to allow him to use the boys' restrooms. Assigned female at birth, Grimm identifies as male.

Judge Henry Floyd, writing for the 4th Circuit, said the school board's actions constituted "a special kind of discrimination against a child that he will no doubt carry with him for life."

The appeals court upheld a 2019 lower court ruling in Grimm's favor.

Bathroom access has become a major issue in the battle over transgender rights, and Grimm's suit has been the most prominent legal case on the subject.

Grimm's case was previously set to be argued in 2017 before the U.S. Supreme Court but was taken off the schedule after President Donald Trump's administration rescinded guidance previously issued by the administration of President Barack Obama regarding bathroom access for transgender students.

Trump-Appointed Judge Says It's Constitutional for Businesses to Refuse Gay Customers



Trump-appointed ***U.S. District Judge Justin Reed Walker*** ruled on Friday that it's perfectly constitutional for a Christian photographer in Louisville, Kentucky to refuse service to same-sex couples even though the city has an ordinance prohibiting LGBTQ discrimination and even though no gay couples have actually asked the photographer to take pictures of anything for them.

In his ruling, the judge wrote that ***"Christian"*** photographer Chelsey Walker cannot be compelled to take photos of same-sex weddings, even though she offers her photography as a public business, because her photos are ***"art"*** and art is a form of ***"speech"***. Therefore, no government can force people to make any speech against their will. The judge said that requiring her to take photos of gay weddings would also go against Walker's religious beliefs.

"Just as gay and lesbian Americans cannot be treated as social outcasts or as inferior in dignity and worth," the judge wrote, ***"neither can Americans 'with a deep faith that requires them to do things passing legislative majorities might find unseemly or uncouth.'"***

In 2019, Nelson asked the Louisville District Court to issue an injunction ensuring that she never has to comply with the city's Fairness Ordinance. She said she worried about being sued if she marketed her business and the city became aware of her refusal to shoot same-sex marriages. She was represented by ***Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)***, a right-wing Christian legal defense counsel that is regularly behind anti-LGBTQ lawsuits meant to challenge any expanse of non-discrimination laws or queer civil rights.

If the judge's legal ***"reasoning"*** sounds familiar, it's because it's nearly the exact same argument that the Trump Administration used in a U.S. Supreme Court amicus brief in defense of the Masterpiece Cakeshop, the Colorado bakery that in 2012 refused to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple.

"An artist cannot be forced to paint, a musician cannot be forced to play and a poet cannot be forced to write," the Department of Justice's amicus brief said. The brief asserted that public accommodation non-

discrimination laws (like Louisville's Fairness Ordinance) are supposed to apply only to goods and services (like dispensing pharmaceutical medicine or renting hotel rooms) and not to artistic creations that are "expressly communicative" like wedding cakes and wedding photography.

As *Hornet* explained, ***"If public accommodation laws require a baker to make a cake for a gay wedding, the brief argues, then they could also potentially force a freelance designer to design fliers for a neo-Nazi group or the Westboro Baptist Church."***

The brief went on to say that opposing racism and misogyny is different from opposing homophobia because the Supreme Court has not yet ruled that ***"eradicating private individuals' opposition to same-sex marriage is a uniquely compelling interest"*** — that's because gay marriage had only been legal nationwide for a few years.

But the fact is that the government does have a compelling interest to uphold the Fourteenth Amendment ensuring that all individuals are treated equally under the law rather than allowing individuals to deny same-sex couples the same treatment as everyone else.

The case may be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which is the ADF's goal. They keep filing these lawsuits in hopes that the conservative-leaning courts will help strike down LGBTQ anti-discrimination ordinances nationwide.

What a Second Trump Term could Mean for LGBTQ people

***LGBTQ people would likely see their rights further
chipped away.***

By Katelyn Burns, Vox News

At the Republican National Convention this week, Republicans are making the case for giving President Donald Trump four more years in the White House. While Trump himself doesn't often comment publicly on queer or transgender issues, Vice President Mike Pence has a long record of anti-LGBTQ lawmaking and rhetoric, ***and LGBTQ advocates have already called the Republican Party platform — a holdover from 2016, as the GOP did not write one for 2020 — one of the most anti-LGBTQ in the party's history.***

Trans people have been a target of the Trump administration from the get-go. Almost immediately after Trump took office in 2017, the administration ***rolled back an Obama-era memo directing schools to protect trans students from discrimination.*** That July, Trump announced his ***decision to ban trans people from serving in the military.*** In May 2018, the administration went after ***trans prisoners, too, deciding that, in most cases, trans people should be housed according to their assigned sex at birth.*** Just weeks ago, the ***Department of Housing and Urban Development proposed a rule that would allow homeless shelters that receive federal funding to house trans people according to their birth-assigned sex.***

Queer people have also been under attack. Though marriage equality is the law of the land, ***the White House has taken steps to limit or undo gay rights in several key policy areas such as lobbying to give religious adoption agencies the right to refuse same-sex couples.*** Most critical, perhaps, was the administration's attack on the ***Affordable Care Act's LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections*** in a rule released on June 12. Though it has been put on hold due to a federal court stay, ***the rule would allow doctors and insurance companies to refuse care to LGBTQ people.***

Meanwhile, Trump nominated two conservative Supreme Court justices during his presidency, but in a surprising turn of events, a recent major LGBTQ victory threw the administration for a loop: ***The Supreme Court***

decided in June that LGBTQ people are protected on the basis of sex under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* means that queer and trans people cannot be fired for being LGBTQ, and the ruling could end up as precedent for expanding rights into other issue areas such as education and health care.

Still, this likely won't stop conservatives from trying to whittle away and build in carveouts to the legal protections LGBTQ people currently have. It would be similar to the approach taken by religious conservatives with regard to *Roe v. Wade* — passing anti-abortion legislation at the state level in the hope that related cases work their way back to the Supreme Court.

According to activists, conservatives will likely try to attack across three different fronts in their efforts to chip away at LGBTQ rights: by continuing to reshape the courts, by attacking health care access, and by continuing to limit immigration and asylum by LGBTQ people fleeing violence in other countries.

The courts are key to queer and trans rights

If elected president, former Vice President Joe Biden has promised to immediately reverse the military ban and reissue an Obama-era guideline allowing trans students to use the correct bathroom. This would effectively end litigation in the military ban cases and change the complexion of the bathroom cases.

However, **a second Trump term would mean more anti-LGBTQ federal judges appointed, possibly a Supreme Court justice or two, and an escalation in the legal arguments against trans rights, legal advocates say.**

The bulk of Trump's anti-LGBTQ actions have come through administrative rules, most of which have been challenged in federal court. Because of this, Trump's control over federal policy has been solidified by appointing conservative judges. **As of July, 194 of the 792 active federal judges were appointed by Trump — that's a quarter of the federal judiciary — according to Pew Research data. Many of them were either previously anti-LGBTQ activists or who openly express anti-LGBTQ sentiments.**

Several have already had an impact on pending legal battles. Earlier this year, **Fifth Circuit judge Kyle Duncan infamously ruled that it is necessary for a court to misgender a trans plaintiff whose case he was overseeing,** a decision not in line with precedence in other federal courts.

And right now, **there are several ongoing legal cases snaking their way through the federal court system that could end badly for LGBTQ people if put in front of a Trump-appointed judge.** These include several lawsuits against the transgender military ban, student suits seeking access to school bathrooms according to their gender identity, and *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, which is set to decide **whether religious entities can legally deny adoption services to gay parents. It will be heard by the court on November 4, just a day after Election Day.**

These cases could eventually land in front of **the Supreme Court**, which is its own issue. While overturning *Bostock* or even *Obergefell*, the decision that granted LGBTQ couples marriage equality in 2016, is a tall order unless Trump can appoint two more justices to the high court, even one more appointee could set the court up to gut both decisions.

"Certainly, at least one more Supreme Court appointment would inflict devastating damage on the transgender community that would last for decades to come," Shannon Minter, an attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, told Vox. **"It would be something close to closing the courtroom doors on our foreseeable future."**

One way for conservatives to somewhat relitigate and chip away at these landmark decisions is through a change in legal strategy. **Throughout its first term, the Trump administration argued in court that trans people are not and should not be protected under current sex discrimination laws.** This was the basis for several administrative rules rolling back the rights of trans people in health care, in homeless shelters, and in education. However, *Bostock* turned that argument on its head.

According to Chase Strangio, an attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union, the administration has now begun to argue more explicitly that federal sex discrimination law protects cis people from sharing spaces with trans people. It's a similar tack to the fringe argument that anti-LGBTQ legal groups have long tried — that cis people have a constitutional right not to share locker rooms, bathrooms, and other gendered spaces with trans people.

For example, **in a statement to the court in a case challenging Connecticut's school sports transgender inclusion policy earlier this year, the administration argued that trans people are not protected under Title IX, which protects people on the basis of sex in education.** In a more recent *post-Bostock* filing in a nearly identical case *challenging Idaho's ban on trans girls participating in girl's school sports*, the administration took a different angle, **arguing that Title IX entitles cisgender people protection from sharing spaces and activities with trans people.** That policy shift, Strangio told Vox, would be a **scary portent for a second Trump term.**

Because everything is interconnected, the key to making Trump's strategy work, say Minter and Strangio, would be more Trump appointees to the already Trump-stacked federal judiciary. The lower court judges would have significant power to shape LGBTQ cases as they move through the federal court system.

"My greatest fear is for a judicial action that locates [anti-trans] rights in the Constitution that we couldn't undo with a new president in the future," said Strangio. **"You get some horrible, constitutional ruling that then authorizes discrimination in a host of contexts because trans people are so abhorrent that you have a constitutional right not to share space with them."**

Health care is likely the next big fight for LGBTQ people

Even before the pandemic, health care was going to loom large over this election cycle. Republicans in Congress have repeatedly tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act during Trump's term. **The administration even submitted a brief to the Supreme Court recently arguing that the law should be completely thrown out.**

The ACA was a landmark piece of health care legislation for Americans — particularly so for LGBTQ people. **Under an HHS rule established by the Obama administration in 2016, the bill banned health care discrimination against LGBTQ people, but just as key for queer communities were protections for coverage of preexisting conditions.** Before the law was passed, anyone diagnosed with **gender dysphoria or HIV/AIDS could legally be excluded from health insurance coverage, and transition care could be legally excluded from any insurance plans.**

"I can't think of a more important issue for transgender people than access to health care, because if we're not able to access transition-related care, it's just impossible to have a meaningful, authentic life," said Minter.

Should the administration succeed at the **Supreme Court in California v. Texas**, slated to be heard this fall, **people could again be subject to wholesale exclusion from insurance coverage.** But even if the law is preserved in some form, **the administration has already worked to limit LGBTQ access to health care.**

In mid-June, just days before the Bostock decision came down, the administration finalized a rule clarifying that LGBTQ people are not entitled to sex-based protections under the ACA, effectively rolling back the Obama-era rule saying the opposite. The rule, as written, would allow insurance companies **to once again have blanket exclusions on coverage of transition-related procedures** and they could once again **deny coverage of health care that doesn't comport to a person's legal gender,** meaning a **trans man could be denied coverage for gynecological care.**

The rule would also have had a significant impact on lesbian, gay, and bisexual cisgender people in the US by allowing doctors, health care providers, and insurance companies to deny care or coverage to cis queer people.

"We know LGBTQ people face discrimination in health care," David Stacy, who leads the federal policy team at the Human Rights Campaign, told Vox. "It can be overt discrimination, but it can also be more subtle discrimination."

Last Monday, however, *a federal judge issued a stay on the rule's implementation while the case is litigated, saying that the rule likely violates Bostock and that HHS failed to reconsider this after the Supreme Court's decision.*

But despite the stay, there are still potential avenues a second-term Trump administration could take to attack trans health care access in particular. Minter suggested that, *depending on the makeup of Congress, the administration could take steps to ban transition-related care from Medicaid coverage, try to reinstate a Medicare exclusion that existed prior to 2016, or even try to institute a Food and Drug Administration ban on puberty blockers for trans adolescents. The administration could also use executive action to end transition care offered through Veteran's Affairs.*

"They'll try to cut off access to health care for trans people any way they can," said Minter. "They can do a lot of damage on the health care front. It would be, in my opinion, probably the single most devastating impact on the trans community."

Immigration rights are a life-and-death issue for LGBTQ people

LGBTQ issues like health care and the military ban frequently take center stage when discussing the administration's record, but perhaps nothing is as *life and death for queer and trans people as immigration and asylum policies.*

In late 2018, *31-year-old trans woman Camila Díaz Córdova* fled her native *El Salvador*, fearing for her life. She reportedly made her way to the US with a migrant caravan and *attempted to apply for asylum, only to be denied and deported back to her home country.* In late January 2019, *she was murdered by three police officers.*

It's a problem that will only worsen in a Trump second term. *"The rules of asylum are completely changing,"* Bamby Salcedo, founder of the Trans Latina Coalition, told Vox. *"Through that process, a lot of people are being excluded. This is something that will definitely impact trans women."*

Over the last three-and-a-half years, *the Trump administration has made it increasingly difficult for those fleeing gender-based violence to obtain asylum in the United States.* In November 2018, Trump tightened immigration rules which restricted asylum to anyone who first passed through Mexico to arrive at the US southern border. And this June, *the Department of Homeland Security proposed a new rule which would allow immigration officials to dismiss asylum seekers' applications as "frivolous" without a hearing.*

As explained by Vox's Nicole Narea, the proposed rule is part of a larger election-year push against immigration in general. Using the pandemic as an excuse, *Trump has closed the border with Mexico, started quickly deporting asylum seekers who show up at the southern border, and issued a temporary ban on issuing new green cards.*

All of these restrictions come at a real cost for trans people, especially trans women, in Central America. *There is an epidemic of violence against trans women of color throughout the Americas, but it is acutely felt in Central America.* According to a report by Trans Murder Monitoring, at least 258 trans or gender-diverse people were murdered in Latin America between October 2018 and September 2019.

"The new asylum regulations that Trump has already proposed, if they were finalized, it will be devastating for LGBT asylum seekers. And they'll effectively just shut the door to asylum," said Minter.

The public comment period ended on July 15 and the rule could be finalized before Election Day. However, should Democrats retake the Senate and White House, they'll be able to override any administration rules issued within 60 legislative days of the new Congress taking office via the Congressional Review Act.

Salcedo said that the possibility that Biden could win the presidency gives her hope — not just for the immigration and asylum system, but that other trans-related policies could improve in short order. *"I am hopeful that, you know, the new administration will revert all of those policies that have attempted to come into effect,"* she said. *"I'm hopeful that there's tangible and institutional changes that are going to happen. And I firmly believe that that could become a reality."*

Trump Admin Supports Discrimination Against LGBTQ+ Families

The Department of Justice filed a brief in an upcoming Supreme Court case, urging the court to allow such discrimination if rooted in religion...

BY TRUDY RING



The Trump administration has filed a brief in a Supreme Court case in favor of allowing adoption and foster care agencies to discriminate against same-sex couples, even if they receive taxpayer funds.

The friend-of-the-court brief comes in *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services in 2018 ended its contract with Catholic Social Services for adoption and foster care placement, as its discriminatory practices violated the city's civil rights ordinance. *The Catholic agency sued, but a trial court and a federal appeals court have both ruled that the city was within its rights to enforce the ordinance in this manner.*

The Supreme Court announced in February that it would hear Catholic Social Services' appeal. The Catholic group claims that by ending the contract, the city is violating its constitutional right to free exercise of religion.

The U.S. Department of Justice agrees. In its friend-of-the-court brief — such briefs are filed by parties that are not directly involved in the case but want to offer an opinion, it notes that *Catholic Social Services will not approve child placements with unmarried couples, and because of its religious beliefs, it considers all same-sex couples unmarried.* It will place children with single people, including those who are gay or lesbian, the brief says, but it will not recognize a same-sex relationship. It will refer

unmarried couples elsewhere.

The city's policy shows hostility to religion, according to the Justice Department's brief, filed this week by Solicitor General Noel Francisco. The brief contends that Philadelphia will allow exemptions from the antidiscrimination ordinance for secular reasons, such as an adoption agency's preference for parents of a certain race, but not those that are religiously motivated.

"Denying an exception here produces the very outcome that Philadelphia ostensibly seeks to avoid — it excludes foster families affiliated with Catholic Social Services not because of the best interests of the child, but because of the City's disagreement with this religious organization's view of same-sex marriage," the brief reads.

The brief further cites the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case as a precedent the court should consider. *"This Court's cases establish that strict scrutiny ... is appropriate if governmental action is tainted by 'hostility' to religion,"* it says. In that case, a Colorado baker refused to create a custom wedding cake for a same-sex couple, with the baker saying his religious beliefs prevented him from doing so. The Colorado Civil Rights Commission found the baker had violated the state's antidiscrimination law, but the Supreme Court vacated that decision because, the majority of justices said, the commission had not shown sufficient respect for his beliefs.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which has intervened in the case on the side of the city, issued a statement denouncing the Justice Department's position. *"The Trump administration submitted a brief to the Supreme Court on the side of a taxpayer-funded agency that is seeking a constitutional right to turn away people who fail to meet the agency's religious criteria,"* said Leslie Cooper, deputy director of the ACLU's LGBT and HIV Project. *"While this case involves rejecting LGBTQ families, if the Court accepts the claims made in this case, not only will this hurt children in foster care by reducing the number of families to care for them, but anyone who depends on a wide range of government services will be at risk of discrimination based on their sexual orientation, religion or any other characteristic that fails a provider's religious litmus test."*

"Our government provides critical social services to people in need, including through partnerships with private secular and religious organizations. Discrimination has no place there. We look forward to responding to these claims on August 13 when we file our response."

Wednesday was the deadline for friend-of-the-court briefs to be filed in support of Catholic Social Services; those in support of the city must be filed by August 20. Filings concerning this case for those who wish to read more in-depth can be found here: <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/fulton-v-city-of-philadelphia-pennsylvania/>

Other groups and individuals that have filed briefs in support of the Catholic group include *Concerned Women for America*; the *Foundation for Moral Law* (Alabama homophobe Roy Moore's organization); the *Americans for Prosperity Foundation* (the Koch brothers' group); the states of *Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and West Virginia*; former *U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese* (from the Reagan administration); the *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*; several Catholic and other religious organizations; the *National Association of Evangelicals*; and *44 members of the U.S. House and Senate*.

Those signing on to the House and Senate brief include such notoriously anti-LGBTQ+ legislators as *Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham, Marsha Blackburn, Louie Gohmert, Glenn Grothman, Vicky Hartzler, and Steve King*.

The high court will hear the case on November 4, 2020, the Day after the election.

What Jerry and Becki Falwell Can Learn From Jim and Tammy Bakker

John Wigger, Religion News Service

(RNS) — Evangelicals have seen this before. A celebrity leader caught in a scandal that seems to grow more bizarre by the minute.

For *Jerry Falwell Jr.*, what started with a racy Instagram photo of him next to a young female assistant, *pants unzipped, drink in hand*, has exploded into *allegations of an affair, voyeurism, sex with a Liberty University student and financial impropriety involving both Falwell and his wife, Becki*.

Strange as *Jerry Falwell Jr.*'s fall from grace may be, it is not the first time the *Falwell family* has been involved in a story like this.

In March 1987, *Jim Bakker* resigned as president of *PTL* and its television network when his *sexual encounter* with *Jessica Hahn* in a Florida hotel room became public. In the months that followed, the allegations against *Bakker* grew to include *financial fraud* and a string of *gay relationships*, some with *employees* who depended on *Bakker* for their jobs. The revelations eventually led to *his indictment and trial* in federal court.

Jerry Falwell Sr., who took over *PTL* after *Jim Bakker's* troubles became public, was largely *responsible for exposing Bakker* and sealing his fate.

The parallels between *Jim Bakker* and *Jerry Falwell Jr.* are striking. Both were innovators who pushed their organizations to dramatic heights. *Bakker* started the *PTL* television network with half a dozen employees in a former furniture store in 1974.

In 1978 *PTL* launched the *first private satellite network*, a year before *ESPN*. The satellite network beamed Christian programming into millions of homes 24 hours a day, making *Jim and Tammy* stars and opening up enormous fundraising potential. By 1986, *PTL* had revenues of \$129 million a year. *Bakker* used the television resources to build a 2,300-acre theme park, *Heritage USA*, which had six million visitors at its peak in 1986, behind only *Disneyland* and *Disney World*. But *Heritage USA* cost more than even the television money could support, leading *Bakker* to commit the *fraud* that sent him to prison.

Coinciding with his rise to fame, *Bakker* embraced the *prosperity gospel*, a message that fit the 1980s perfectly. *Jim and Tammy* practiced what they preached, using *PTL* money to buy a *10,000-square-foot home near Charlotte, a Florida beach condo, and vacation homes in Palm Springs and Gatlinburg, Tennessee*. They traveled with an entourage, flying first class or in *chartered jets*, and bought *expensive cars, boats, clothes and jewelry*. From 1984 to 1987 the *Bakkers' total compensation* was *\$4.7 million*.

Jerry Falwell Jr. has similarly transformed *Liberty University*, launched by his father in 1971. After he took over leadership of the school in 2007, following the death of his father, *Liberty's endowment* soared from *\$6.3 million to \$1.6 billion*, according to *The Washington Post*. *Falwell Jr.* was an early and vigorous proponent of online education. Last May, *Liberty* announced that its *online enrollment* had surpassed *100,000 students*.

As was the case with *PTL*, there are questions about *Liberty's financial integrity*. *Liberty's* undergraduate graduation rate is only 40% after eight years, according to *Forbes*. Many of these students leave with substantial debt, the result of student loans raked in by the school. The median debt for students graduating from one of *Liberty's "theological doctoral programs,"* according to *Forbes*, was *\$96,000*. *Doctorates in theology* rarely lead to big money. Meanwhile, the *Falwells* have enjoyed the perks of success.

(Continue FALWELL, Page 10, column 2)

Cyclops



Soomer is a go'an oout!

Dateline: London, UK— Started by a report on BBC-TV ...Advert showing mass marchers, scattered street rioting, looting, Wendy's ablaze, cheeseburger shortage, chocolate frosty machines, like mail sorters, disabled and thrown into dumpsters; camouflaged commandos unmarked and unidentified on the streets in crouch position, protesters kidnapped by these red-necked Q-pees, hauled off against their will into SUVs, no doubt headed for the slave quarters at Mar-a-Lago, or someplace else under new management. The Big Apple setting new records of deaths from the COVID-19 virus, dismissed for months as a hoax by top federal officials, or else! Nightmarish images of Park Avenue lined, end to end, with refrigerated meat trucks full of the dead (*Nothing like going out in style!*) awaiting burial by the overtaxed undertakers. Now it's spreading to the south, the mid-west, the swing states as well as those equipped with slides, jungle gyms, ferris wheels, and teeter-totters; time for a golf weekend at **Deadminster**. (*By the bye, did the Brits move their tourney to MY course in Scotland?*); Millions unemployed, and hours-long queues at food banks. Retail sales tank. **Neiman Marcus** declares bankruptcy; **Lord and Taylor** closes its last stores; suburban women imperiled. The **Democratic Party** during a virtual TV convention stressing brightness and light, nominated Afro-Indian, probably Martian-born, woman with a really big, functioning brain as Vice President (*Pence imperiled*.) The **Republicans**, on the other hand, summoned the **Powers of Darkness**, with a MGM-style "*Quo Vadis*" finale on the **Waffle House** front lawn, packed chock-a-bloc with hundreds of unmasked party hacks, and featuring their very own Nero who outdid the original in blubber and blubbing as well as displaying greater ineptitude in strumming his lyre (*or is it liar?*). The Cabinet soubrette Kelly Anne Conway failed to sing her Hit Parade tune: "*It's Contayuned, It's Contayuned. It's Contayuned*" and instead, mercifully announced her resignation. Suddenly, without warning, a solemn voice boomed out: "*Welcome to Biden's America!*" Thousands of Brits, sipping their breakfast tea, including the Queen Herself, stunned in disbelief, as if in one voice, instantly queried: "*Isn't Donald Trump the President? Isn't it Trump's America? He says it is!*" A few hours later, as dawn broke over the United States, countless Americans, dunking donuts into their morning Lysol and Clorox, removing the ultra-violet wands from their butt holes, began asking the same question.

We Unicorns should have a contest to see who had the most inventive summer during the worst of the COVID-19 lockdown. **Noel** has left Tremont and moved to greener pastures somewhere in the vicinity of North Royalton. He even has a usable balcony which he loves for inspirational breakfasts and which probably helps to air the place out..... The infamous laird of the New York Finger Lakes **Albert Rizzo** has had big-time eye surgery in the middle of the plague mess and has been ordered to slow down and take it easy. Knowing Albert as well as I do, that's merely a figure of speech for his life is dedicated to always being busy usually helping others. Albert, just slowing down 50% until it's all healed should work wonders..... Our **Derryk** put a good deal of time, cutting up what I suspect were some old, unused dresses which he sewed into very good looking face masks for all of our members, carefully mailing them to each of us. A generous and timely gesture.....**Bob Kirsop** recently returned to Marymont Hospital for the installation of a pacemaker and was having trouble navigating due to his left arm's being put into a sling to protect the chest stitches. He and the authorities both agreed that he would not yet be able to

cope with home management by himself so he was moved to the hospital's Villa which is a nursing and rehabilitation facility. Bob has been a patient at the Villa before so they are on to all his tricks in avoiding exercise, or so they think. Otherwise, he is a model patient, or so he thinks. Our prayers and good wishes go out to all those in the combat zone..... **Bill Metzger** and **Robert Moeller**, of all the people I know find hot weather the most unendurable, so it was no fun recently when driving home on Rt. 422, after medical appointments in Cleveland, and crossing the Akron water reservoir lakes, their van's radiator boiled dry. They made it to a closed restaurant's unshaded parking lot and endured the traditional, seemingly endless wait for a tow truck, compounded by problems the next day getting it to Akron, getting a loner vehicle, etc. etc. etc. These really are the times that try men's souls. Fortunately Bill is very butch and Robert is quintessentially evil; a dynamite combination to thwart adversity.....**Jim and Jim** both have world famous pickles! When they aren't burning up the asphalt on their Harley's in search of gourmet food, they're back at the farm harvesting and canning crops of vegetable especially those enormous, luscious cucumbers of theirs to make those famous **J&J pickles**, in such splendid varieties as lime pickles and bread & butter. Really fine home-grown fruits and vegetables are always the best.

I personally am a locavore, but it's getting to be a major pain to find a locally grown piece of fruit or vegetable that's not so hard and unripe one could play most contact sports with it. If you live in a free standing structure such as a house, plant your own and live in luxury. If you are mobile, hunt up those nearby farms which produce and it's no good sell their produce on site, at retail. This year, because of COVID-19, most of the local neighborhood farm market days have been cancelled. If you shop in local stores that make a big noise about home grown and what you buy isn't any good, complain. Believe me, my neighborhood stores are **Heinen's** and **Whole Foods** and I am not the least bit afraid to POLITELY complain. If you come in breathing fire and yell, it won't do anyone much good. Remember also that organic is not any guarantee of flavor and goodness **Heinen's** produce personnel are more educated about fruit and vegetables and can even tell you how to cope with what they have on hand. The personnel in my **Heinen's** customer service are very cheerful and if the problem is beyond them, they will give a card with the number of corporate customer service. Don't bother, the answering is almost totally robotic and a waste of time. At **Whole Foods**, most produce people in produce are young, cheerful, and ignorant of their product. Last week I asked a young man there where to find new potatoes, (*the very small red-skin variety*) and he replied that all of them were new; they come in every day! Asking for a manager at **Heinen's** will require some time. Asking for a manager at my **Whole Foods** – bring a book and a camp stool or hire a detective.

Speaking of books...being laid low by restrictions because of the plague AND because it's summer are great excuses for reading. So here are some suggestions and a few warnings. We all know that tell-all books about the **Trump White House** and its chief occupant are about a dime a dozen although the authors are given a zillion dollar advance at the expense of a career not worth having unless you're a member of the family and lately that's no guarantee. The biggie in the genre, with which I was gifted, is "*The Room Where it Happened: (a White House Memoir)*" by Trump's former National Security Advisor **John Bolton** (*aka. The war-mongering tweed with the white moustache!*) was guilty of the major sins of omission. For example the top secret dialogue held at the notorious Helsinki meeting between Putin and Trump was about as relavatory and top secret sounding as a shopping list for Heinen's. It was preceded by the notorious visit to London, a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Theresa May at Blenheim Palace in which discussions of the main participants who allegedly rowed about Brexit, is allowed to disappear into the historic work and be buried in the important architecture. The following morning we saw on the televised account, all was hugs and kisses between May and Trump leaving only a young female reporter from C.N.N for Trump to humiliate as his wont to do, but for Bolton to dismiss for the Queen's giving Trump a four shilling tour of Windsor Castle complete with tea and a Carr's biscuit, then

off for a round of golf in Scotland where the only sour note was a man's flying a small plane over Trump's Turnberry Golf Resort towing a sign that read "Trump is Sub-Par". There is no mention of two days of massive anti-Trump street demonstrations of thousands in London featuring the beloved, gigantic Baby Trump balloon! Having watched the majority of the UK debate and the slavish homage to Putin at Helsinki, I decided that I had no further interest to squander on the book.

If one collects books, not necessarily for their rarity, their luxurious production, or because they are first editions or signed by the author, all well and good, one gets what one pays for – with the emphasis on pay, at least in the eyes of someone who simply wants to read it. Some times, one gets a little of both. My copy of Jacob Abbott's *"The History of Queen Elizabeth"* was published at New York by Harper and Brothers, in the year 1858, long before there was a second British monarch of that name. According to the Oxford History of England, *Elizabeth I*, the so called *Virgin Queen*, was perhaps not so glorious a monarch as the cult of Gloriana would have us believe. Mr. Abbot does little or nothing to gild the lily, nor spare partisans in the struggle for rule between Protestantism and the Roman Catholic church. His account of Elizabeth's reign is straight forward, informative, and valuable because of its lack of embellishment. The book was in reasonably good shape but fragile enough to be handled with care, as opposed to being hauled to the beach or poolside. Good, succinct history to which one might return.

Between the two main Bronte sisters, Emily and Charlotte, the former with her glorious *"Wuthering Heights"* with its marvelous sense of linguistic and environmental place is incomparably romantic. Charlotte Bronte's *"Jane Eyre"*, now hailed as a masterpiece of feminist realism is more universal in its depiction of women's lot in 19th-century England. Ms. Bronte really pours on the agony. If you are stultified by a hot summer environment which has robbed you of spirit and appetite, then *"Jane Eyre"*, at least in the heroine's school days at Lowood, with its bitter cold, long trudging walks to church through drifting snow with ill-soled shoes, and a tatty shawl to keep you warm, is the book for you. The food too, what there is of it, is a glowing tribute to Hard Times, especially since practically nobody likes you and your school housemates are bratty little rats. It will lift your spirits like a cracked, chipped cup of weak, lukewarm tea, sipped al fresco during a violent ice storm from which you have turned blue and your nose is running like a bathtub faucet. You go girl!

My friend Clint likes to open doors for me in a literary sense. We haunt second hand book stores together, each following his own agenda, rather than competing against one another. One such book which I am insisted to read is *"The Trail of the Serpent"* by Mary Elizabeth Braddon who is said to be the best-selling woman writer in Victorian England. When one looks at best selling women writers in the U.S.A. today, Danielle Steele, for example, dozens of red flags go up. Still one must trust one's friends, so in the words of the 85-pound weaking, on the back pages of 1940's comic books, about to order a Charles Atlas body building course: *"I'll gamble a stamp!"* The other book, lent me by him is a collection of short novels by H.P. Lovecraft, the famous and brilliant writer of horror fiction. It is a number called *"At the Mountains of Madness"* and will initiate one into the horrifying cult of Cthulhu. I am assured that should Rachel Maddow take a week's vacation from her brilliant political show on M.S.N.B.C. Lovecraft is guaranteed, in Ms. Maddow's absence, to scare the hell out of me and with it, an entire night's sleep!

A birthday present, also from friend Clint, a good sturdy copy of *"The Tale of Genji"*, said to be the world's first novel, written in the eleventh century Heian court of Kyoto, Japan by Lady Murasaki Shikibu in a famous translation by Edward Seidensticker. My original copy of *"Genji"*, running to nearly twelve hundred pages, was in paperback and not likely to stand the voyage. It is a regal, detailed, and realistic portrait of courtly life in one of Japan's most exciting and brilliant eras. That should keep me busy reading for the rest of the year, eyesight notwithstanding.

RIDE EASY, CY

(FALWELL, from Page 8)

The infamous Instagram photo was taken on a **164-foot yacht owned by NASCAR mogul Rick Hendrick**. The **Falwells** began vacationing on the yacht after **Liberty University** agreed to pay **Hendrick Motorsports** a reported **\$6 million** a year to sponsor a car in **NASCAR's premier Cup series**, according to **Politico**.

When the **Jessica Hahn** story broke, **Bakker** turned to **Jerry Falwell Sr.**, whose influence had soared after he founded the **Moral Majority** in 1979, to preserve his empire. As **Bakker** remembered it, he **invited Falwell** to take over the leadership of **PTL** for six months while he **rehabilitated his image**.

Over the next several months, **Falwell** and his team discovered that **PTL** was **\$65 million in debt** and **losing \$2 million a month**. They also uncovered stories about **gay relationships** and **visits to prostitutes, sins** that were insurmountable among evangelicals in the 1980s. Rather than save **PTL**, Falwell pushed it into **bankruptcy**. Standing in front of reporters on October 8, 1987, **Falwell** declared that **Bakker** had turned it into a **"scab and cancer on the face of Christianity."**

Jerry Falwell Jr., 25, and **Becki Tilley**, 21, were married that same week. Like **Bakker**, **Jerry Falwell Jr.** now finds himself mired in scandal. Following the Instagram photo, a former pool attendant, **Giancarlo Granda**, told numerous news outlets that he had a years-long affair with **Becki Falwell** and that **Jerry "enjoyed watching"** him have sex with his wife. After that, a former **Liberty University** student told **Politico** that **Becki Falwell** had **performed oral sex** on him when he stayed at their home following band practice in 2008. The former students **described her as "the aggressor"** in the relationship, according to **Politico**.

There is likely more to come. American evangelicals expect their leaders to be both **pious and successful**, with success measured in terms of **celebrity, money and political influence**. For **Jerry and Becki Falwell**, much like **Jim and Tammy Bakker**, **success has been easier to maintain than piety**.

According to **NPR**, after stepping down as president of **Liberty University**, **Falwell** appropriated the words of **Martin Luther King Jr.**, declaring himself **"free at last, free at last."**

It is easy to see why. **Falwell** claims that he will leave **Liberty University** with **\$10.5 million** in compensation. Still, he and his wife leave with tarnished reputations. **Is there a road back for Jerry and Becki Falwell?**

The second acts of **Jim and Tammy Bakker** suggest that there is. **Irrepressible** and **unfiltered**, with **big hair** and **outrageous lashes**, **Tammy's** focus was never solely on the church, so it was easier for her to branch out. While she never lost her faith, after the **collapse of PTL** and **her divorce** from Jim, she ventured beyond the borders of evangelicalism, becoming an **icon of the gay community, the Judy Garland of televangelism**.

After prison, **Jim** initially rejected the **prosperity gospel** that had been so much a part of **his success and downfall at PTL**. But it was not long before he returned to his roots. He and his **second wife, Lori Bakker**, have built a new ministry called **Morningside** on 700 acres near **Branson, Missouri**. There **Bakker** has exchanged the **prosperity gospel** for **doomsday apocalypticism**, finding a way to turn a profit by **selling freeze-dried survival food and gear to preppers. (Slop Buckets)** He has also turned to **conservative politics**, aligning with **Donald Trump**. It is brilliant, in a way, connecting to current trends and **a new base of support**.

Whichever path the **Falwells** choose, they will not be the last of their kind.

Much of American evangelicalism's success rests on its close connection to American popular culture. But appropriating cultural expectations is risky business. Lines blur and compromises are ignored until scandal erupts.

Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

"Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind" -Donne

Recent events have compelled us as the Cleveland Unicorns MC to examine and take action against the multifaceted nature of racism in our local and surrounding areas. Racism is dehumanizing to everyone it touches.

Our club has always held a longstanding value of upholding social justice for all peoples. We are a caring club, welcoming and respecting of diversity. Racism of any form will not be and has never been tolerated. The world as a whole must examine racism beyond the actions of individuals, for it is embedded in the very fabric of our society. But we as individuals do need to start somewhere.

As an anti-racism club we vow to purposefully identify, discuss and challenge issues of race and color and the impact(s) they have on our local and surrounding areas. We also challenge ourselves to understand and correct any inequities we may discover and gain a better understanding of ourselves during this process.

We are resolved to explicitly and publicly affirm our identity as an anti-racist male inclusive gay motorcycle club.

We are resolved that our anti-racism commitment be reflected in the lives of our members and how they live every day.

We resolve to develop and work to implement strategies that dismantle racism within all aspects of our club, community and society as a whole.

The Cleveland Unicorn MC does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

As a gay male inclusive club our members and associates are male and male identified. We encourage female and other identified peoples to support and attend our events as all are welcome. We celebrate diversity and encourage everyone to attend our events and know that our events are a safe space for everyone. It doesn't matter what race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status is. We are family. We are community. You are all safe and welcome.



September's Birthdays

Roger Gee - September 24th

Bill Metzger - September 28th

October's Birthdays

David Wittmer - October 4th

Michael Boron - October 29th

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