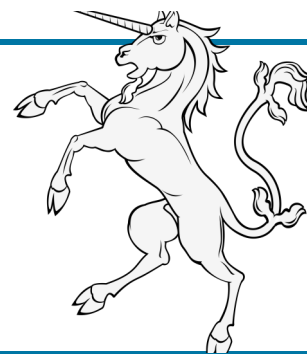


"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn

HORN



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

November 2020

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046



Unicorn MC Honors Home Bar

Cleveland - Despite a series of catastrophes relayed to just bad 2020 Karma, including the loss of power due to a severe storm on Sunday, November 15th the annual Unicorn MC Organizational Business Meeting managed to be held as prescribed by law. Having no lights within the Clubroom, the meeting was held on the Patio as there were no other Patrons present. The meeting was kept to those items which were required to be performed for retention of our State Charter, it was said to be the shortest Club meeting on recorded history.

There was a proposed Motion on the floor that "Due to the abbreviated year schedule, the 2020 Slate of Officers be retained for the year 2021." All Officers present and those who had sent in Proxies were polled and agreed to accept their positions should the motion pass. Upon calling the Vote it was passed unanimously by voice vote. The 2021 Officers are: Jack Giles, President; Noel Walters, Road Captain; Robert Moeller, Treasurer; Dennis Sherrill, Recording Secretary; and Jim Hitchcock, Sargent at Arms.

The Beneficiaries of the 2020 Unicorn Charities Funds are as follows: The John Britain Food Drive, which provide groceries for those shut-ins suffering from HIV & AIDS related illnesses; The B. Riley Sober House, providing halfway alcohol and drug rehab services and housing for the LGBTQ Community in the Cleveland area; and The Jack Mulhall Center, a Cleveland area alcohol and drug rehab center.

Additionally, a proposed Pledge presented his paper work for membership, the Club decided to conduct a very brief meeting at the Annual Christmas to consider any action on this, as there was no heat or lights, the Applicants was invited to attend. The next Meeting will be held at the Home of the President and the Secretary in Williowick Ohio, at 3 PM (providing the

State is not suffering another Coronavirus related Shut Down and gathers are not banned, everyone will be notified).

After the meeting we gathered with the limited Bar Staff on hand in the Poolroom to warm -up under the emergency light to present an Award for the 50 th Anniversary of The Leather Stallion Saloon. Michael Dominguez, Manager accepted the Award on behalf of the owner, Ken Myers, Jr and Staff, the Award consisted of a Sculted Stallion Head finished in Antiqued Gold mounted upon a wooden shield with a Plate which reads, "UNICORN MC proudly presents this to the Leather Stallion Saloon on their 50th ANNIVERSARY 1970 2020"

Pictured (left) is Michael receiving the Award from President Jack Giles, with Dennis Sherrill standing behind them. Michael stated he was hoping to find a pace in the front bar for display We kindly thanked Michael for everything he has done for our Organization and especially for the extraordinary effort he made so we could conduct our meeting, as the bar had lost power at 2:30 Pm and he stayed there waiting to accommodated us. We urge all of our Members, Associate, and Alumni, as well as, other embers of the Ohio LGBTQ Community to Support the Leather Stallion Saloon as they have supported us over the Years.

2020 has been hard on all venues in the entertainment and hospitality industry this year, with the loss of many operating funds due to COVID Restrictions . Many of the venues for the LGBTQ Community have been force to Closed across the Country Permanently, with their employees let go. It would be a shame for Cleveland to loose such an I conic, Historical, and supportive business. The Leather Stallion Saloon opened, bt Al Brightman, in 1970 as the Frist Northeastern Ohio Gay Men's Leather and Biker Bar, during a time when being a Biker carried a very bad reputation and being Gay also wasn't accepted by Society. We were really looked upon as the bottom dregs.

Stigma and hostility were so great at the time, that for the safety of the Patrons, Al provided Bike Parking behind the Bar in the area we now know as the Patio. Bikers would ride their Bike in through the opening in the back wall where the Patio Bar is now located and park them where they could not be seen by the public. It here at the Leather Stallion where Al and a Group of Patrons decided that they would like to not only socialize but also Ride together, go out on Runs, and form Bonds within the Gay Biker Community, thus the Unicorn Motorcycle Club was formed and Corporate Papers were drawn up, in 1971. The Leather Stallion Saloon has been our Organizations Home Bare ever since.

The Leather Stallion has changed and adapted over the years to keep up with the times and the acceptance of both Bikers and the LGBTQ+ Community, as the Community expanded so did their Patron acceptance policies, but never with their LGBTQ family friendly service and dedication to the Community. They have provided a venue for many of the area Community Organizations to Host events and Fundraisers, as well as supported the same with generous donations of time and supplies.

Now, with the current restrictions of limited capacity, and operating hours about to expire, and even more restrictions or another State Closure possible due to rising COVID Cases in Ohio, we would like to urge all Patrons to consider showing support for the Bar and Staff, as expenses do not stop even as hours are cut or temporary lay-off due to State Mandates. Thank you.

Trump would have won if LGBTQ people hadn't turned out to vote for Joe Biden in Swing States

LGBTQ Voters put Biden over the Top in four States

Exit polling that canvassed nearly 16,000 people who voted in November 3rd's election found that 7% of the voters identified as LGBTQ, a record turnout. The surveys, by Edison Research for the National Election Pool, interviewed voters outside of polling places or early voting sites, or by phone. *(The survey asked people to identify if they were gay, LGBTQ voter turnout was at an all-time high this election & support for Trump skyrocketed turnout was 6%, lesbian, bisexual or transgender only.)*

The turnout means that LGBT voters were over-represented at the ballot box, since an estimated 4.5% of the U.S. population is LGBTQ. In 2016, LGBT voters represented 5% of the electorate; in the 2018 midterm election.

"Over the last three elections, the share of LGBTQ voters has continued to increase, solidifying our community as a key rising constituency that politicians must court," Human Rights Campaign President Alphonso David said in a statement. ***"In the most consequential election of our lifetimes, LGBTQ people showed our strength."***

Given the size of the Edison polling sample, the results surveyed nearly 1,100 LGBT voters. Such a large sample size means the results are more accurate of the population as a whole. *(It's possible the turnout number is actually a little larger, as some respondents may be reluctant to identify as LGBT to someone they don't know.)*

Donald Trump may have won reelection if not for LGBTQ voters, a new LGBTQ Nation analysis shows.

If LGBTQ people had all decided to stay home instead of voting in this year's election, Trump would have won 289 electoral votes and Joe Biden would have lost with 249 electoral votes.

While the LGBTQ population is much smaller than the cisgender/heterosexual population, LGBTQ people split for Biden at a much greater rate than the general population did. According to a new poll of LGBTQ voters, 81% voted for Biden while 14% voted for Trump.

Applying the poll's results to the states that Joe Biden is projected to win and using vote totals from the AP, LGBTQ Nation found that four of the states Biden won – Arizona, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin – would have gone for Trump in the absence of LGBTQ voters.

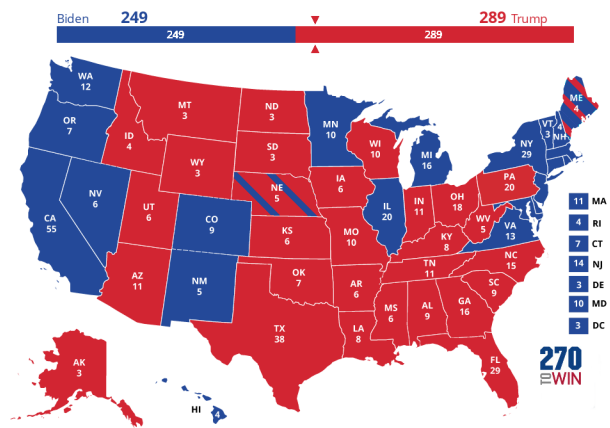
Those states represent a total of 57 electoral votes, giving Trump more than the 270 electoral votes required to win the election.

The table below shows how much each of the four states' vote total would swing if LGBTQ people had not turned out to vote at all.

State	Non-LGBTQ votes	LGBTQ votes	Total votes
Arizona			
Joe Biden	1,577,332	94,811	1,672,143
Donald Trump	1,645,401	16,285	1,661,686
Georgia			
Joe Biden	2,334,801	140,340	2,475,141
Donald Trump	2,438,721	24,136	2,462,857
Pennsylvania			
Joe Biden	3,260,043	195,955	3,455,998
Donald Trump	3,341,566	33,071	3,374,637
Wisconsin			
Joe Biden	1,538,214	92,459	1,630,673
Donald Trump	1,594,286	15,779	1,610,065

LGBTQ Nation

The resulting heterosexual/cisgender map would look like this:



The analysis assumes that 5% of the voting population identified as LGBTQ, the same number that CNN's exit polls in 2016 found. This number is lower than the 7% found by the New York Times's early exit polls in 2020, but CNN's exit polls' results are more in-line with other surveys on LGBTQ voters.

Moreover, if the New York Times's 7% number is more accurate, it would only skew the four states above further toward Trump in the absence of LGBTQ voters and almost swing Nevada in his favor as well.

Also, the analysis assumes that LGBTQ people in each state voted largely the same way, mainly because good state-level polling on LGBTQ voters during the 2020 election does not exist yet and may never exist. But that would only affect the final result if any of the four states above had a much larger population of LGBTQ Republicans than the national average.

Last, the final vote totals may change in the above four states as votes continue to be tallied and contested.

Despite how small the LGBTQ population is, this election was close enough that LGBTQ votes may have made an enormous difference, making Trump a one-term president and helping to elect Biden.

The LGBTQ population's disproportionate support for Democrats may have even pushed close, down-ticket races blue as well. The Democratic Party would be wise to remember this.

Biden talked a big game on LGBTQ rights.

Here's what his agenda may look like



President-elect Joe Biden is doubling down on promises made to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Americans during his campaign and signaling his intent to reverse course from the Trump administration, which was marked by several rollbacks in LGBTQ rights.

“The president-elect and the vice president-elect put together the most comprehensive plan to advance equality here at home and abroad ever put forth by a presidential ticket, and as a result it lays out a pretty strong blueprint on what the incoming administration can do,” Reggie Greer, the Biden team’s LGBTQ engagement director, told NBC News.

That ambitious platform includes pledges to enact the Equality Act, reinstate Obama-era guidelines preventing anti-LGBTQ discrimination in areas like federal contracts, fight against broad carve-outs in antidiscrimination law on the basis of religious beliefs, end the transgender military ban, and eliminate LGBTQ youth homelessness.

Biden has also set a goal of ***ending the HIV epidemic***, which disproportionately affects gay and bisexual men as well as transgender women, by 2025, five years ahead of the goal set by President Donald Trump during his State of the Union address this year.

Making good on every goal is unlikely, as it is with any broad platform, but the Biden team is confident in their ability to enact major reforms. Greer said signing into law the Equality Act, federal legislation that would add LGBTQ protections to existing federal civil rights law, is a ***“top priority regardless of Senate control.”***

“President-elect Biden and the vice president-elect have spent their entire careers forging bipartisan coalitions to get bills through the Congress,” he said. ***“They have relationships that will assist in advancing protections for LGBTQ+ people broadly.”***

The outcome of that and similar battles could rest on Georgia’s two Senate seats: One has not yet been called by NBC News, and the other is headed for a Jan. 5 runoff. The Equality Act has already passed the House, but it has been held up without a vote by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Diverse transition team announced

Before any bipartisan agreement can even be attempted, Biden must strategize how to run a country facing a pandemic, a beleaguered economy and an electorate deeply divided along partisan lines.

Because President Trump has not yet conceded the election, the General Services Administration, the agency in charge of handling the transition from one administration to the next, has yet to recognize Biden as the winner. Still, Biden has said he will push ahead, and he has already begun to meet with advisers.

To that end, Biden announced his transition team on Tuesday, with a press release stating ***“40 percent represent communities historically underrepresented in the federal government, including people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities.”***

One particularly notable LGBTQ member is ***Shawn Skelly***, named as part of the ***Department of Defense*** advisory team. Skelly became the first transgender veteran appointed by a president when she joined the Obama administration in 2013.

The Victory Institute, an organization that advances LGBTQ elected officials, has partnered with around 30 other LGBTQ advocacy and allied organizations, like ***AIDS United***, ***Human Rights Campaign*** and the ***Transgender Law Center***, to compile a list of qualified LGBTQ candidates for the Biden transition team’s consideration for appointments and is hopeful this trend of diverse representation continues.

“Joe Biden has made clear that he wants the next administration to be reflective of the diversity of America,” Elliot Imse, the institute’s director of communications, told NBC News. ***“And we know that Biden believes LGBTQ people are an important part of that diverse America. So, we expect the next administration to appoint more LGBTQ people to political positions than ever before, and we hope that it is also the most diverse group of LGBTQ appointees in American history.”***

The list has yet to be made public, but Imse did share several names of those they intend to put forward to the Biden team, including former

Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, for ambassador to the United Nations; Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., to head up Health and Human Services; Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania’s secretary of health, for either the Health and Human Services secretary or surgeon general; and Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., for secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The Victory Institute has asked the Biden administration to appoint at least one ***LGBTQ person to a Senate-confirmed Cabinet position***, which would be a first, as former acting director of national intelligence ***Richard Grenell*** was not put through the confirmation process.

In a recent interview with ***Philadelphia Gay News***, Biden would not commit to appointing an LGBTQ person for a Cabinet position, instead saying simply that he would nominate and appoint federal officials and judges that represent the diversity of America, including LGBTQ individuals.

Additionally, the Victory Institute has said it wishes to see the appointment of the first ***LGBTQ Supreme Court justice***, which Imse admitted is a ***“bold goal.”***

“There are a lot of things to consider when appointing a justice, but there are plenty of openly LGBTQ people qualified to lead on the Supreme Court,” he said.



The Human Rights Campaign, the country’s largest LGBTQ advocacy organization, has also released its big list of asks from the incoming administration, called ***“The Blueprint for Positive Change 2020.”*** The guidance was released on Wednesday morning and it, too, includes a call to appoint an LGBTQ Supreme Court justice, as well as LGBTQ federal judges, executive officials and ambassadors. That list can be found online, here is a link:

[BluePrint-2020.pdf \(hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.hrc.org/document/blueprint-2020.pdf)

HRC is also calling on the Biden-Harris administration to end the debunked practice of conversion therapy, which aims to change someone’s gender identity or sexual orientation.

According to LGBTQ youth advocacy group ***The Trevor Project’s 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health***, 10 percent of LGBTQ youth reported undergoing conversion therapy, with those who had done so reporting more than twice the rate of attempting suicide in the past year compared to those who did not.

“A major way to end LGBTQ youth suicide would be to end conversion therapy, so I truly hope that President-elect Biden puts that plan into practice,” Sam Brinton, the organization’s vice president of advocacy and government affairs, said.

Brinton said they hope to see Biden advance this goal through educating the public that conversion therapy remains an ongoing problem, preventing federal funding from going to it, and encouraging its ban globally.

The LGBTQ platform put forward by Biden includes a pledge to ban conversion therapy by working to enact the ***Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act***, which would prevent its commercial practice, with a note that the Obama-Biden administration supported legislative efforts to ban it as well.

HRC’s blueprint also calls for establishing interagency working group to address anti-transgender violence and to protect LGBTQ rights abroad.

Biden’s LGBTQ platform also includes a promise to ***ensure asylum laws protect those fleeing prosecution***, after the Trump administration sought to make it harder for them to do so, and addresses support for the trans community in a number of ways.

Support for the transgender community

During his acceptance speech Saturday night, Biden made history as the first president-elect to thank transgender people.

It was reminiscent of his exchange with the mother of a transgender child during a town hall in October, where he promised to fight against anti-trans discrimination, saying there should be ***“zero discrimination.”***

Biden has addressed the issue throughout the campaign, and his platform includes a plan to work toward ending the epidemic of anti-transgender fatal violence, which this year has hit an all-time reported high, according to HRC, which has been tracking trans deaths since 2013.

Part of that initiative is a focus on seeing the proposed ***Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019*** passed and signed into law, which would ***expand LGBTQ protections, including for transgender inmates.***

The platform also says a Biden administration would ***include LGBTQ status in federal data collection to help better track anti-LGBTQ violence,*** in part by updating ***the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports Supplementary Homicide Reports to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.***

Additionally, the platform includes strengthening enforcement of the federal hate crimes law, ***The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act,*** by increasing funding for anti-bias and hate crimes investigation training.

A sense of hope

While no administration can expect to achieve all its endeavors to accomplish, many in the community seem to be breathing easier with the prospect of a Biden-Harris administration taking up residency in the White House come January.

The transgender activist, writer and artist Lara Americo told NBC News she was encouraged by Biden's mention of the trans community during his acceptance speech, saying it reminded her of when the ***Justice Department*** under the Obama administration challenged ***North Carolina's House Bill 2,*** a so-called bathroom bill that would have prevented trans people from using public facilities that align with their gender identity.

"I think while they're probably going to disappoint us about certain things here and there, I'm very hopeful that it will at the very least be as good as it was when Obama was in office," Americo said of her hopes for LGBTQ policy under a Biden administration.

Brinton is similarly optimistic.

"It is powerful both to see a president using the word 'transgender' in their victory speech and a vice president who has openly supported LGBTQ youth for years," Brinton said. ***"I'm looking forward to them using their words and their actions in tandem to save LGBTQ life."***



NOT ONLY DID I VOTE, BUT I WORKED THE POLLS

By Jim B (Bad boy from Detroit)

Despite claims by our fearless leader that voting absentee ballots was fret with fake votes, I voted absentee because it was required in order to work the polls. It was in March when I took some onsite training to familiarize with the procedures and equipment. Unfortunately, at 5AM on the morning of the Primary Elections I got a call, not to show up due to the COVID-19 Virus.

I was later contacted in September to take some online courses to prepare for the November General Elections. The on-line course included a test and I had to show up at one of the County's Fire Stations, which provide a large space to do more training and show us how to operate the equipment, with safe distancing and masks. Then I was appointed to be an Election official to one of the polls.

I was required to show up at 530AM Tuesday morning to help set up. The Polls opened at 630AM and already a line had started out the door and around the parking lot. By 830AM we had processed almost two hundred people and even

though the line had shrunk it never stopped throughout the whole day.

After all the television coverage about possible trouble at the polls, everyone was polite and civil. Only one person showed up without a mask, upon which I was required to offer him a mask or ask if he wanted curbside polling. Curbside polling is offered to those who do not want to enter the building or are unable to do so. This particular person said no, and we let him through the voting process, it was the only thing we could do.

Other than that one occurrence, everyone wore a mask, and no one showed up wearing a MAGA hat or anything that looked political. And even though we were busy all day long, the line moved quickly and efficiently. Some people even commented that it only took twenty minutes to get done. Some people thanked me for just being there. Everyone was in a good mood and pleasant to one another, the staff were helpful to those who were unfamiliar with the equipment or procedures.

All the staff at the poll worked as a team, even though we knew of which political persuasion we were, and had our own ways of identifying whom we represented. Many of the activities required both political persuasions to complete the task together to make sure there was transparency. The day went quickly until the last hour before closing when voters slowed down to a trickle, that last hour dragged on. When we finally closed the doors, dismantled the machines and put away everything, the ballots were gathered up, officials of both Democrat and Republican Parties took the ballots to the Board of Elections. On the whole it was a positive experience to see an active vibrant citizenship, keeping our Democracy alive.

I hope everyone stays safe and finds reasons to be grateful during the Thanksgiving Holidays. My Hubby and I will be hunkering down during the Holidays until we get our Vaccines.

The Supreme Court is set to roll back the Rights of anyone who Religious Fundamentalists don't like.

While You've Been Watching the Election, the Supreme Court Is Set to Transform 'Religious Freedom' and America



The Supreme Court is not accountable to public opinion. But to give you a sense of how out of step this conservative-packed, minority party-packed, and religious extremist-packed institution really is, consider November

4th's major case, *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, about *whether taxpayer-funded adoption and foster care agencies should be able to discriminate against would-be parents*.

A poll released last week says **70 percent of Americans say no**. Of course, taxpayer money shouldn't be given to organizations that discriminate, regardless of those organizations' religious affiliations. **If you take government money, you should play by the same rules as everyone else.**

And yet I'll eat a bug if the Supreme Court agrees.

Why? Because a majority of the court's members have now been vetted by religious fundamentalists with a pipeline to the White House. And while the public's focus is understandably on abortion rights, that battle is just one skirmish in a much larger Kulturkampf (*culture war, a 19th century German term invoked by Justice Scalia back in 1996*) about the relationship between church and state.

Here's how Justices Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, Alito, Thomas and Barrett (and sometimes Chief Justice Roberts) see the Fulton case, based on their past votes and writings: this is about religious freedom. Never mind the prospective parents—Catholic, gay, Jewish, interracial married—turned away by an agency for religious reasons. The real victim is the agency.

According to this line of thinking, once marginal but now espoused by a majority of the *Supreme Court*, to participate in the *adoption and foster care business, individuals and organizations (and businesses) shouldn't have to compromise their religious beliefs. It's wrong for the government to force them to choose between their work and their faith.*

But this is all *a radical, new redefinition of the First Amendment in particular, and religious freedom in general*. Never mind that it's coming from *purported conservatives and originalists*. It's an unprecedented innovation.

"Freedom," from the Founders to John Stuart Mill to COVID-19, has never meant the right to hurt someone else. ***I can't shoot you with a gun and then say my religion says I should do it. My freedom ends where your rights to life and liberty begin.***

But not anymore.

In a series of cases, the court has disregarded the harms suffered by third parties, focusing only on the religious freedom interests of the people, organizations, and corporations discriminating against them.

That's what let the *Hobby Lobby* company opt out of paying for their employees' insurance plans if the plans covered contraception. That's what was at issue in *Masterpiece Cakeshop*, where a religious baker refused to sell a wedding cake to a gay couple.

"Gradually, we will begin to live in a country in which religious people do not have to obey the same laws as the rest of us—and the people they disfavor become second-class citizens because everywhere we turn, someone has a religious reason for denying us that equality."

In fact, *Fulton* could be the biggest **"religious freedom"** case of them all, because it may change the standard for how the court evaluates **First Amendment cases of all types**—making it much **easier for religious claimants to win, and for everyone else to lose**.

That legal fine print—obviously totally lost at a time when American democracy hangs in the balance—is the phrase **"strict scrutiny,"** which some lawyers like to call **"fatal scrutiny."** That term refers to how closely the court should evaluate a given action—**in *Fulton*, that means Philadelphia's rule that taxpayer-funded adoption agencies aren't allowed to discriminate against people.**

If the *Supreme Court* overturns a 1990 precedent, it could adopt **strict scrutiny as the standard for religious freedom cases**. And that means that any action that affects religious freedom has to be **"narrowly tailored"**

to meet a **"compelling interest."**

The consequences are infinite. Anti-vaxxers with religious pretexts. Wife-abusers citing the Bible (Ephesians 5:22 tells women to "submit to your husbands"). Companies refusing to cover same-sex partners' insurance costs. A thousand Kim Davises refusing to sign same-sex marriage licenses. And of course, corporations whose religious beliefs supposedly forbid the recognition of trans people, as required by last June's landmark Supreme Court case. If strict scrutiny is applied to these claims, the religious claimants will almost always win.

And gradually, we will begin to live in a country in which religious people do not have to obey the same laws as the rest of us. And in which the people they disfavor—people like me—become second-class citizens, turned away at businesses, denied benefits available to others, denied the ability to live our lives on equal footing to straight people, because everywhere we turn, someone has a religious reason for denying us that equality.

That is why **arch-conservative religious fundamentalists** have spent so much dark money putting people like **Justice Barrett** on the federal bench. On a fundamental level, they believe our society is headed off the moral rails. And they don't want to be part of it.

Is there a way out of our current impasse?

In fact, Massachusetts has shown the way. In 2006, in the wake of that state passing marriage equality, Catholic Charities—then the largest adoption agency in the state—stopped providing adoption services. For a time, there was chaos and confusion. But eventually, other agencies, religious and secular alike, came in to fill in the gap. Catholic Charities didn't have to violate its religious tenets, and gay people in Massachusetts didn't have to be treated like second-class citizens. Today, there are plenty of adoption providers in Massachusetts, and Catholicism is doing just fine.

That is obviously the answer in Philadelphia, and around the country. If your religious beliefs prohibit you from playing by the same rules as everyone else, just pull out of the game. God knows, there are many other urgent needs in our society.

As reasonable as that may sound, it's not going to happen. Because the justices of this Supreme Court have been hand-picked not to ensure not equality, but what some legal scholars have called "religious privilege": the categorical preference of one party's constitutional rights over those of others.

That's what *Fulton* is about, and one of the reasons Republicans raced so hard to stack the court to hear it.



The Ohio Fairness Act is moving Forward!

November 19th, the **House Civil Justice Committee** held the **Ohio Fairness Act's** third hearing, the next step to passing the **Ohio Fairness Act** and making sure that all **LGBTQ Ohioans are protected from discrimination**.

Religious leaders across the state had their turn to speak on the Ohio Fairness Act, though many spoke on issues that were taken out of the bill as soon as the committee hearing began.

The sponsors of **House Bill 369**, a bill that **originally expanded state civil rights law to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pared down the bill in response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling made in June**.

The federal court's decision said language in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies to sexual orientation and gender identity in terms of job discrimination.

The **Ohio Fairness Act**, in its new form, applies the concept of that court ruling, and specifies that **any provision of the Ohio Revised Code "respecting sex discrimination includes discrimination because of a**

person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression," according to a synopsis by the *state Legislative Service Commission*.

While state *Sen. Bill Seitz, R-Cincinnati*, said the substitute bill needs more work, he called the previous version of the bill "*completely unacceptable*." He said some parts of the bill effectively created affirmative action for LGBTQ individuals, and a provision to revise state school curriculums to include segments on gays and lesbians was a non-starter.

"That was never going to fly," Seitz said.

He added that any legislation would need to include explicit mention of court cases that have come out in favor of religious rights, such as the Colorado wedding cake baker who took his right to deny service to a gay couple to court, and won.

Testimony began with the author of the companion bill in the *Senate, state Sen. Nickie Antonio, D-Lakewood*.

Antonio said *"the rights supporters of the bill are fighting for are not special rights, and are in fact held by a majority of Americans. But many in the LGBTQ community, like her, still have to fight to be able to live without discrimination."*

"I'm a sitting senator in the state of Ohio, I still can be denied housing," Antonio said. *"I can be told when I take my family out to eat to leave a restaurant because my children have two moms."*

After Antonio, the head of LGBTQ advocacy group *Equality Ohio*, and members of *Ohio State University* student government, spoke in support of the bill, several pastors from Ohio churches unified in their dissent of the bill.

Many of the pastors said discrimination protections are already a part of law, therefore the bill is not needed and would add regulations that would be counterintuitive.

"This bill references fairness as an aim," said Curt Sharbaugh, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Carlisle. *"If it is unfair for restrooms to be regulated by one particular belief...then this bill has not corrected that issue."*

Most of the arguments made by religious leaders were abject denials that a transgender person can be their chosen gender rather than their biological makeup determined at birth.

"The bottom line is that the bill is based on a fundamental lie: that sex is distinct from gender identity or gender expression, or put another way, that a man can become a woman, or a woman can become a man," said *Aaron Baer*, head of the religious rights advocacy group *Citizens for Community Values*.

Referring to the science of transgender health, and in support of the bill, Dr. *Scott Leibowitz*, medical director of behavioral health at *Nationwide Children's Hospital*, said behavioral health has *"shifted away from considering gender-diverse identities to be disorders."*

"These young people are not choosing this way of feeling or being, and the field of psychiatry widely considers them not to be mentally ill, which is based on a rigorous process to define and classify mental illness," Leibowitz wrote in his testimony to the committee. *"The brain studies done on transgender individuals demonstrate an innate biological underpinning to this phenomenon as one significant factor."*

No vote was made on the bill, so it remains in the House Civil Justice Committee for further hearings.

To keep this momentum going, take one minute to contact legislators on the committee.

<https://equalityohio.org/our-work/legislation/email-hb369/?emci=5621ed26-702b-eb11-9fb4-00155d43b2cd&emdi=f0683e48-842b-eb11-9fb4-00155d43b2cd&ceid=994089>

**WHY AN EMAIL?
BE HEARD**

The *Ohio Fairness Act* has now been introduced in both chambers of the *Ohio Legislature* and, for the first time ever, *with bipartisan support in both chambers*. In order for it to get out of the *Ohio House Civil Justice Committee*, it needs more hearings. This email will ask the members of the Committee to support the *Ohio Fairness Act* and hold those hearings.

The people who can schedule hearings are the chair and the vice chair, so one message asks them to schedule a hearing. The other email is to the committee members and asks them to vote in support of the bill. You can customize it if you wish.

Legal rights to DC Eagle name Sold to Mystery Buyer

*Lou Chibbaro Jr., Senior News Reporter
for the Washington Blade.*



Washington D.C. - In a little-noticed development, an unidentified buyer has purchased the *legal rights to the name, trademark, logo, and other intellectual property* belonging to the *DC Eagle*, D.C.'s longest continuously operating gay bar that closed its doors for good in May.

The sale was finalized on Nov. 12 as part of an auction authorized by the *U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Columbia* a little over four months after the *DC Eagle* filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on June 26.

Rasmus Auctions, the company retained by the bankruptcy court to conduct the online auction, announced on its website that the purchase price for the winning bidder was \$32,800. But the announcement did not disclose the identity of the purchaser. A company spokesperson said *Rasmus Auctions has a longstanding policy of not disclosing the identity of purchasers or those who submit bids in its auctions.*

Speculation surfaced that the owner of the *Baltimore Eagle*, a popular gay bar in that city, or possibly the *Centaur's motorcycle club*, a gay organization that has organized the annual *D.C. Mid Atlantic Leather Weekend* until the COVID epidemic forced its cancellation this year, may be one of the parties that purchased the *DC Eagle's name, trademark and other property rights.*

When contacted by the Blade, *Baltimore Eagle* principal owner *Ian Parish* sent a brief statement by email.

"Regarding the DC Eagle intellectual property, I regret I have no information I can pass on to you at this time," Parish said. *"I can say: An Eagle bar is more than a name; fellowship, service, and community are among the leather community's most proud traditions, and it is our hope to share with the new DC Eagle owners these traditions and all the love of the Baltimore Eagle,"* he stated.

Tod White, president of the *Centaur's*, couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Take a Look Back 29,000 Years, and You'll Find Real Unicorns

By Bob Kirsop



Recently, Tom Johnson loaned me a book called *'Europe, The First 100 Million Years.'* It was written by **Tim Flannery**, an Australian paleontologist (*a student of prehistoric races of man*) and ecologist *"Of global standing,"* and one critic called it *"an exciting book, full of wonder."*

Mr. Flannery introduces us to *"an astonishing creature that our ancestors may have encountered in Europe."*

The *"unicorn beast" (Elasmotherium sibericum)* was a kind of long-legged rhino that weighed 3.5 ~ 4.5 tons, as much as an elephant. The very largest individuals inhabited the Caucasus region on the border of Europe and Asia.

The unicorn beast were runners and grazers. Their popular name derives from the fact that they had a single horn which, judging by the indent it left on the skull, was a meter in circumference at the base and two meters long. A wound to a knee bone suggest that the great creatures used their horns to joust, most likely in altercations over females.

Recently discovered fossils indicate that the unicorn beast survived to 29,000 years ago in the Pavlodar region of Kazakhstan. A rough outline of a hump-shouldered, single-horned creature drawn on a wall of Rouffignac Cave in France may be evidence that their range once extended to western Europe.

Bob continues: Our *"ancient ancestors"* seem to have fought over females. How times have changed!

FYI: *The Unicorns (all seven charter members) voted unanimously for our name at the second meeting of the club at the Leather Stallion Saloon on December 11, 1971 (the first meeting was on November 20, 1971).*

Hate Group Leaders "Determined" to End Marriage Equality

Five years ago when the *Supreme Court* ruled on *Obergefell* I thought I would never have to write another piece about the *National Organization for Marriage (NOM)* I was through with *Maggie Gallagher* and *Brian Brown*, that until recently with the pronouncements made by *Justice Alito* and *Justice Thomas*, and the appointment of *Justice Barrett*. Now *Brian Brown* has raised his ugly hate filled head once more.

The leader of the *National Organization for Marriage* is asking for help with his *"plan" to overturn marriage equality*. All thanks to the conservative justices *"who are openly questioning the wisdom"* of the *Obergefell* ruling.

Brian S. Brown, the President and co-founder of the *National Organization for Marriage (NOM)*, is laying out his plan, or lack thereof, to lead the way to overturning *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the *Supreme Court* ruling that granted marriage equality across the country five years ago.

Brown knows that he, nor his organization, can't just outright challenge the ruling. In fact, he says as much: *"The strategy behind trying to bring a case before the US Supreme Court to overturn the Obergefell gay 'marriage' ruling is complex,"* he admits. *"We can't simply file a lawsuit and ask the Court to take it up."*

Brown's scheme, as he explains it to readers, is to first *"present a real and present controversy that requires a judicial ruling to resolve."*

Essentially, someone within governance or regulating the licensing of marriages would have to concoct a reason to deny a same-sex couple from receiving a marriage license that would make it beyond the desk of a local magistrate. Brown suggests actions such as *"a state law passed by a supportive Legislature, an executive order or regulation issued by a supportive Governor, or possibly even a law enacted directly by voters"* as potential starters.

Brown also writes that such effort would be contingent on *"the judicial territory where the controversy arises"* to determine if there is any kind of way to build *"the path it would take to get before the Supreme Court"* but, as Brown himself admits, the *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling is a *legally binding precedent*. That means lower courts aren't to rule against it, and if they do, an appeal would lead to its reversal.

"We know that we will likely lose in the lower courts," Brown writes. Still, he believes with the proper funds that NOM can find *"a situation where an official party who has standing to appeal will be able to press the case forward"* all the way through local, state, federal, and appellate circuits to the Supreme Court.

NOM also claims that *"of course, we also need to consider the political and public opinion environment in which this sort of case will be debated,"* despite the fact that most Americans, across nearly every demographic, have favored marriage equality for years, including in polling right before the election (*over 70% of adults now approve of same-sex marriage, nationwide*).

Still, *NOM* tells supporters that providing *"financial resources that can be devoted to supporting the effort"* is most crucial to putting their *"plan"* into effect. *"We have a lot of work to do, and we urgently need your help to be successful,"* Brown concludes.

Many Legal Scholars and Media Pundits do not believe that the *'Supremes'* have will the will to outright overturn *Obergefell*, however, the *new conservative majority* will whittle away at the *rights and benefits of same-sex marriage* to the point that it will be useless. In fact here are signs that this is exactly what is happening.

The *United States Supreme Court* is taking unusual steps that could start the *unraveling of marriage equality*. The newly conservative court waited until far-right Justice *Amy Coney Barrett* was confirmed before considering a case involving *whether same-sex couples have the same right to presumed parenthood that opposite-sex couples do*.

Barrett's first major case after being confirmed involved *LGBTQ rights* and *Justices Clarence Thomas* and *Samuel Alito* have recently decied the Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage, saying it should be overturned.

The *Slate* magazine documents the strange twists and turns the case, originally filed in 2017, has taken to get before the Court. Similar cases have been shot down by lower courts and the Supreme Court itself previously.

The case involves eight married lesbian couples who had children with the help of artificial insemination. In each couple, both mothers should be listed on their child's birth certificate, but *Indiana* is refusing to do so.

A mother's husband is listed on the child's birth certificate because he are presumed to be the child's father – even if the opposite-sex couple used a sperm donor – but Indiana is arguing that a woman married to the mother doesn't have a biological connection to the child and therefore should not be presumed to be a parent.

One of the couples has a dual connection to their child. *One woman carried the pregnancy using an egg donated by her wife.* All of the couples used sperm donors.

The case gives the *Supreme Court* a chance to *start chipping away at marriage equality* in the *United States* as it has similarly done with abortion rights. *Marriage, for opposite-sex couples, comes with presumed fatherhood, but now the Court could say that that benefit only applies to straight couples.*

In the Court's 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling that legalized same-sex marriage throughout the U.S., the Court said gay couples are entitled to marriage *"on the same terms and conditions as opposite-sex couples."*

And in *Pavan v. Smith*, the Court summarily reversed an *Arkansas Supreme Court* decision that held that birth certificates were documents containing *"biological"* information, *requiring the state to grant presumed parenthood to the wives of mothers.* *A Florida case met a similar fate.*

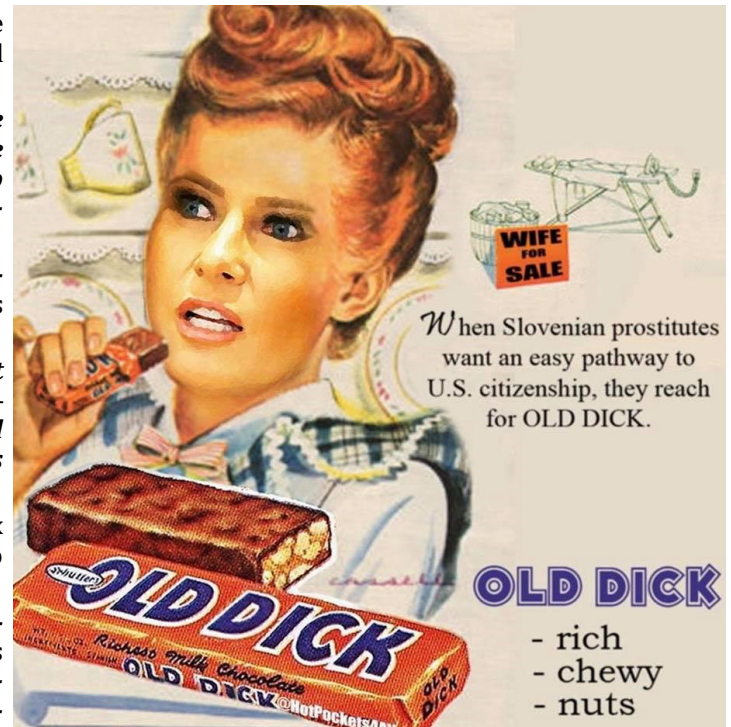
But in *Box v Henderson*, the *Indiana* case, the Court has taken remarkable steps to ensure they would likely hear the case. The case deliberately challenges *Pavan* by dubiously claiming the state can reasonably assume a male is the father *without so much as a DNA test, but two women require sperm to make a child, so they can't both be parents.*

A three-judge panel for the *7th Circuit Court of Appeals* heard the case in early 2017 but waited 32 months to issue a decision that sided with the mothers. The panel of conservative judges finally ruled unanimously on behalf of the mothers.

If the appeals court had issued the ruling during the customary time period – about three months – the *Supreme Court* would still include *Justice Anthony Kennedy*, who wrote the *Obergefell* ruling, and liberal stalwart and *LGBTQ ally Ruth Bader Ginsburg*. Both justices have been replaced with far-right ideologues.

And instead of summarily denying the case as it had previously done, the Court rescheduled a private conference hearing on the case that would have happened shortly after Ginsburg's death. A day before the case was to be heard, the Court asked the mothers to respond to the appeal, a sign that they are interested in taking up the case.

If the Court rules for *Indiana*, *Slate* warns, *"same-sex couples will need to prepare for a ruling that could turn them into legal strangers to their own kids."*



Happy Birthday, You 'Old Dicks'

December 11, 2020 ~ Bob Kirsop

December 25, 2020 ~ Noel Walters

January 10, 2021 ~ Jim Hitchcock

January 27, 2021 ~ Tony Rotell

Holiday Party Cancelled, Sorry

A State Health Order requires Ohioans to stay at home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. But there are several exceptions for work, medical care, to get supplies and emergencies. The goal is to cut down on social gatherings – in bars and in homes – that anecdotally are causing some of the spread. The curfew runs until December 10 at which time Gov. Mike DeWine said he would re-evaluate the order. The state order for gatherings to generally not exceed 10 people was issued Monday morning, due to what the governor's office called the "rampant spread" of the virus.

It mandates that no more than 10 people may sit at the same table and all must be from the same household, with no socializing in groups. Masks must be worn except when "actively" eating and drinking. Meals and drinks must be delivered to tables, with no buffets or self-serve bars allowed. "Guests must be seated at all times."

The penalty is the same as under all other health orders: a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$750 fine. So Sorry, No Holiday Party this Year!!! Let's see what 2021 Brings.

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