The fight for civil rights in this country has a long history, and our efforts to secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968 were not without struggle. Despite these landmark laws, there has been ongoing discrimination against gender and sexual orientation in public education, public employment, and access to public accommodations. In 2016, after a series of high-profile cases, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, recognizing the constitutional right to marry regardless of sex.

The issue of sexual assault in higher education is a significant concern. In 2011, the Obama Administration proposed a new set of guidelines to address sexual assault on college campuses. These guidelines aimed to ensure that colleges were handling these cases transparently and fairly. The guidelines required colleges to have a designated employee to handle complaints, to provide education on sexual assault prevention, and to conduct investigations in a timely manner.

However, despite these efforts, the problem persists. As of 2017, the Department of Education reported that nearly 40% of college women had experienced an unwanted sexual contact. This is a concerning statistic, and it highlights the need for continued efforts to address these issues.

One of the ways in which institutions can address this problem is through the implementation of comprehensive policies and procedures. This includes providing education on consent and healthy relationships, having a designated individual to handle complaints, and conducting thorough and impartial investigations.

Furthermore, it is essential for institutions to support survivors of sexual assault by providing them with resources such as counseling, legal assistance, and accommodations. Survivors should be able to focus on their healing and recovery, rather than worry about the academic consequences of their assault.

In conclusion, the fight for equality and justice in higher education is ongoing. While progress has been made, there is still much work to be done to ensure that all students, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation, are treated with respect and dignity. By continuing to prioritize these issues, we can work towards creating a safer and more equitable educational environment for all.

GREGORY J. HOLMAN
Springfield News-Leader

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — Ophelia’s, a wine-bar and tapas bar that opened in 2013, has been in business for 12 years. The establishment is known for its unique atmosphere and delicious food, attracting crowds of locals and tourists alike.

The owners of Ophelia’s, Tom and Lisa Muetzel, have transformed the historic building into a modern, yet rustic space. The building was originally a warehouse, and its basement once served as a blacksmith shop. Today, the subterranean room has become a popular spot for events and private gatherings.

In 1873, a fire broke out at a cluster of grain silos across the street, which destroyed a significant portion of the city. The Muetzels and the Hosmers think that the building dates back to that incident. The Muetzels have been a part of the Springfield community for many years, and they are proud to call this building their home.

The building’s history is steeped in local culture and tradition. The Muetzels have made it their mission to preserve the building’s original charm while updating it to meet modern standards.

Marci Winters-McLaughlin/Intelligencer

Couple discovers vault under business

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