

# Montrose GEM

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## Congress Back, Gay Issues' Status Unclear

**Press release from National  
Gay & Lesbian Chamber of  
Commerce**

Congress is back in session and though health care seems to be top priority for lawmakers this fall, there are many LGBT-related pieces of legislation to be addressed as well.

In June, the U.S. House of Representatives introduced the gender identity-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2009 (ENDA), sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. The bill, which has bipartisan support and 152 sponsors to date, is now in the hands of the House's Education and Labor, Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and Judiciary committees for markup and hearings, which are expected this month.

In August, the Senate followed suit by introducing its own version of ENDA, which has been referred to the Senate committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, where activists hope hearings will take place this fall.

The Senate Armed Services Committee is set to hold a hearing

this fall on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prohibits openly gay and lesbian men and women from serving in the military. After committee chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., agreed to hold the hearing, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., made the following public announcement in July.

"This policy is wrong for our national security and wrong for the moral foundation upon which our country was founded," Gillibrand said. "...By repealing this policy, we will increase America's strength—both militarily and morally."

In July, Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Pa., became the lead sponsor of the House's Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which would replace current policy regarding homosexuality in the armed forces, with a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Hearings on the legislation are expected in the House Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on military personnel in the coming months.

The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which provides federal assistance to states, local jurisdictions and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, was passed

by the House as a standalone bill in late April. In July, the Senate added a hate crimes amendment to the fiscal year 2010 defense authorization bill, which is on its way to conference committee, and on which final floor House and Senate votes are expected this month.

In July, the House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee

forwarded the Domestic Partnership Benefits & Obligations Act to full committee, where a vote is expected on the legislation this month. In the Senate, Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., introduced domestic partnership legislation, and expects the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to mark up the bill in the next two months.

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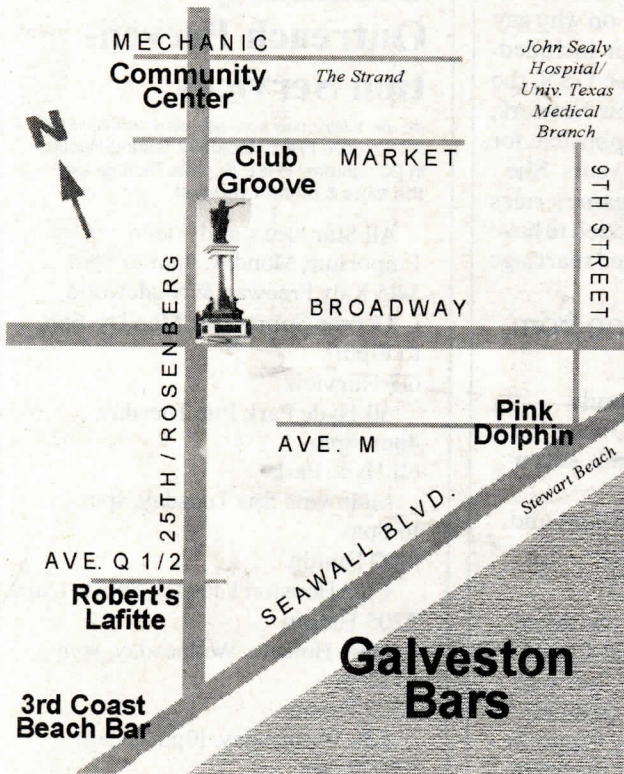


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 Email: editor@montrosegem.com

**Henry McClurg**  
 Publisher/Editor

**J.T. Towne**  
**Joey Melakayil**  
 Representatives

**Damien Dane,**  
**Trevor Kacedon**  
 Contributors

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## It Was a Rightwinger's Fire That Killed Seniors from Bellaire

Adapted from Susie Madrak on Crooks & Liars website Sept. 10.

This reminds me of that old joke about the guy who killed both his parents and then threw himself on the mercy of the court because he's an orphan.

Lindsay Beyerstein did some great reporting on this. Don't miss the hypocritical Republican punchline.

One of the featured corporate sponsors of the Tea Party Express had to pay millions of dollars to settle lawsuits for its role in a bus fire that killed 23 elderly nursing home residents fleeing Hurricane Rita in 2005.

The BusBank, a Chicago-based charter company, a "Tour Partner" of the Tea Party Express, a rolling protest sponsored by the Our Country Deserves Better PAC under the supervision of former Republican state legislator Howard Kaloogian, now a PR exec for the GOP-linked firm Russo, Marsh & Rogers.

BusBank was also arranging to ferry tea baggers to their 9/12 march on Washington to voice their demands for unfettered capitalism.

Investigators found that the bus was driven by an undocumented migrant without a valid U.S. driver's license, lacked adequate fire extinguishers, and was not registered to operate in Texas. When the bus had mechanical problems before the crash, the driver took it to an unqualified mechanic who failed to notice the critical fault, an unlubricated axle that eventually melted and caught fire.

BusBank (aka Global Charters) hired the subcontractor, Global Limo. BusBank boasted on its website that it had a "rigorous operator certification process" to ensure the safety of contracted bus drivers. BusBank used Global even though the subcontractor had a long record of federal and state safety violations, had entered bankruptcy, and was being sued.

BusBank's association with Global appears to have been more than just this. Global Limo's owner Jim Maples listed Global Charters as his employer when he gave \$5000 to the RNC in 2004.

BusBank CEO Bill Maubsby blamed insufficient federal oversight, "We're not safety experts," he said. "We clearly need to depend on the federal government."

(That was the punchline you were warned about.)

In November 2006, a federal court convicted Maples and sentenced him to five years' probation for failure to maintain his buses. Investigators found 168 violations in Maples' four-bus fleet.

The following month, US Fed News reported that BusBank had been awarded a Homeland Security contract worth up to \$55 million.

In June, BusBank and Global Limo settled out of court for a total of \$11 million, a pittance when split between the families of the 23 victims and the patients who survived the crash. BusBank's legal troubles are far from over. According to one report, more lawsuits are getting underway this month.

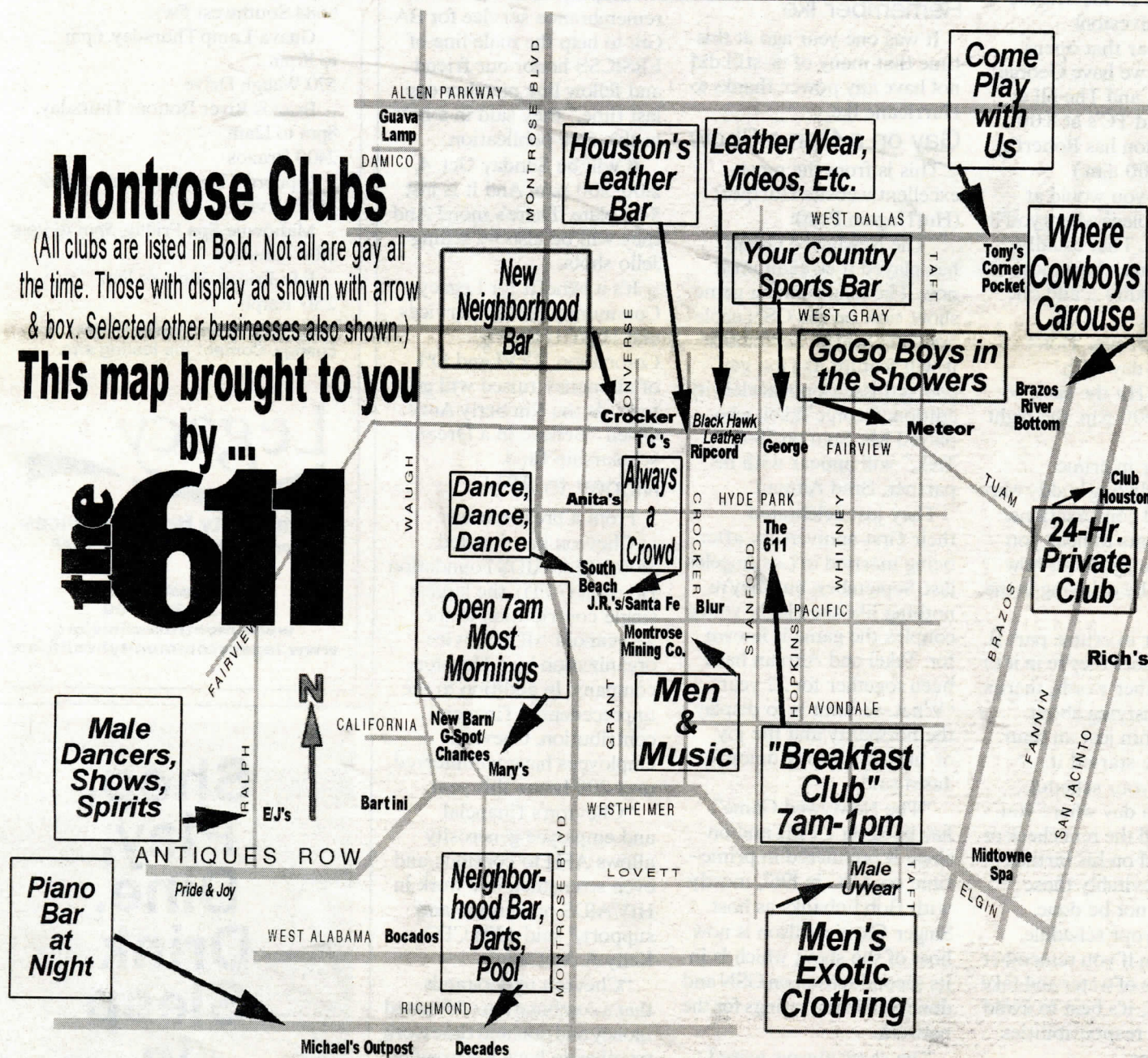
The firm filed for bankruptcy in August.

## Montrose Clubs

(All clubs are listed in Bold. Not all are gay all the time. Those with display ad shown with arrow & box. Selected other businesses also shown.)

This map brought to you by...

the **611**



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## THIS IS MONTROSE

News, Nonsense, Rants  
By Henry McClurg

### Did You Miss Me?

I had a small column ready to go last issue but ... well, I just could not get it together. I blame Hurricane Ike, even though that was a year ago. (Actually, I had to go pick up my mom from prison in my pickup truck. I was drunk. But then I got run over by the dag-burn train.)

### Patrick Swayze

He was a handsome man. And his picture in among the hundreds on the bar top at Mary's. See if you can find it.

That bar top was created in the 70's (or was it the 80's) when the IRS walked in one day, Houston cops in tow, and told Fanny Farmer (Jim) that they were there to seize the property for back taxes unless he could come up with \$75,000.

Fanny laughed at them. They were not amused. They kicked everyone out and padlocked the place. Fanny then called his mother. "Bring me \$75,000," he said. And she did.

It took them a week to get the place reopened, so they remodeled it in the meantime. That's when the bar top with the photos was created. Friends brought in cherished photos. Gosh, even I'm on it twice.

Many of the photos were snapped at the bar over the years but many were taken at other places. The photos of me (with Sue Lovell I think) were taken at Baja Sam's on Lovett.

No one remembers where Patrick Swayze's picture came from. It could of been from inside Mary's.

### Nuclear Medicine

"Henry, you look absolutely glowing tonight."

"Why, Thank you. I feel very illuminating."

Actually, as we go to press, I'm on the way to V.A. where they will nuke me. Really. I've read up on it. They will fill me with radio-active little things and then look inside my precious body to see where I glow brightest. It's more revealing than X-ray or an MRI.

I'm not making this up!

### Quickies

Smoothie King is moving to Montrose and Westheimer, to the old Taco Cabana site.

I received a solicitation in the mail from them with pictures. Their drinks look very tasty. I might just try one.

### Drinking at 7:00 A.M.

This is adapted from the San Francisco Chronicle and an article by Marc Hawthorne.

Out there some bars open at 6:00 a.m. Here we're 7:00 a.m. So I've taken the liberty here to "localize" his writings. And

here it is:

Most people don't take advantage of the luxury of being able to drink in a bar at 7:00 a.m., but it's a unique experience that can be memorable and enriching. At the very least, it's an interesting social study for those who aren't used to interacting at the crack of dawn with other humans, especially ones with alcohol flowing through their bloodstream.

What follows is a guide to making the most of your early morning drinking adventure on the relatively empty streets of San Francisco. (Or the beautiful neighborhood of Montrose or the seaside resort of Galveston)

1. Find a bar that opens early. (Here we have George, Mary's, E.J's, and The 611 at 7:00 a.m. and TC's at 8:00 a.m. Galveston has Robert's Lafitte at 7:00 a.m.)

2. Just as you would at night, pick a place where you'll feel at home. That usually means finding a bartender with personality ... and one who is awake.

3. Sweet dreams. Don't ruin the big day with grogginess. Hit the sack no later than 9:00 p.m. the night before.

4. Partner in crime. Choose a drinking buddy who enjoys good conversations. Nobody wants to hear you talk incessantly about how it's weird to be drinking in the mornings.

5. Partner in crime, part II. Also make sure they're in it to win it. In other words, there's nothing satisfying about ending the fun just an hour after you've started it.

6. Clear your schedule. Don't pick a day where you need to send the rent check or call a friend on his birthday, because inevitably these things will not be done.

7. Clear your schedule, part II. Even if you remember to drink lots of water and take Emergen-C, it's best to avoid having any responsibilities the day after.

8. Slow and steady wins the race. Start with classic morning drinks like a Bloody Mary or Irish coffee, and then pace yourself. This is no time for shots.

9. Where everybody knows your name. Befriend strangers you'd never talk to on the outside, and respect the fact that a bond forged by vodka and tomato juice is never broken.

10. Choose your own adventure.

Go to brunch, but check yourself before you wreck yourself. Look forward to an 11:00 a.m. lunch, eat, then back to the bars if you don't feel like a nap.

11. This is a beginning, not an end. Unless you work the graveyard shift, 7:00 a.m. drinking is no way to end the night. The only high life you should be enjoying is in bed.

### Letters From Drinkers

The early bar opening was traditionally for folks getting off the night shift who wanted a drink before hitting the sack. All you teetotalers suggesting an AA meeting need to lighten up!

Why overthink an early start on the day's drinking? You also omit the people who will have been drinking all night, and are looking for an early morning nightcap. There's really just two things about early drinking: 1. Have fun 2. Don't hurt anyone.

### Remember Ike

It was one year ago at this time that many of us still did not have any power, thanks to Hurricane Ike.

### Gay on a Game Show

This is from the most-excellent website Huffpost (Huffington Post):

"The Newlywed Game" has played it straight until now. The long-running game show, now on the GSN cable network, said in September it will feature its first gay couple this season on a celebrity edition. George Takei, who played Mr. Sulu on "Star Trek," will appear with his partner, Brad Altman.

They just celebrated their first anniversary after being married in Los Angeles last September, but they're nothing like the giggly young couples the game is known for. Takei and Altman have been together for 22 years. "What we want is to display the normality and the joy of having a happy union," Takei said.

"The Newlywed Game" has been on TV off and on since it premiered in prime-time on ABC in 1967, mostly with Bob Eubanks as host. Singer Carnie Wilson is now host of the show, which is in its second season on GSN and done well in the ratings for the network.

The show always teased and tested couples about how well they know each other, with the slightly lascivious Eubanks delighting in questions about "making whoopee."

It has since featured older couples, interracial couples and some who have lived together many years before marriage. Even long-ago contestants were retested as part of "Oldyweds Game" segments.

Kelly Goode, GSN's programming chief, said she couldn't speculate on why gay couples were never included in the past because GSN, the former Game Show Network, has only been responsible for the show for two years. She said it was in the game's rules that the couple needed to have a legally-recognized marriage to play.

### Latest Headline from The Onion

British royal family concerned after Queen Elizabeth II beheads seven tourists.

(Go to theonion.com and you'll understand.)

### Boys Do BBQ

The Empire of the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star, Inc. will present Boys Do BBQ at George, hosted by Emperor XXV JP Gill with the Male Line of ERSICSS.

"Stop by after the remembrance service for BA Gill to help the male line of ERSICSS honor our friend and fellow line member one last time," they said in a note to this fine publication.

It will be Sunday Oct. 4, 2:00-5:00 p.m. And it is just \$4 a plate. There's more! And they will be also be selling Jello shots.

It's a benefit for Legacy Community Health Services and HATCH through Coronation XXVI and 10% of all money raised will go towards the Kimberly Anne O'Neil "Believe in a Dream" scholarship fund.

### Money to AFH

From a press release: Chevron has donated \$100,000 to AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH), the largest single contribution to the 27 year-old AIDS service organization by a Houston company. In addition to the unprecedented financial contribution, Chevron employees have volunteered over 200 hours this year.

"Chevron's financial and employee generosity allows AFH to continue and even strengthen our work in HIV/AIDS prevention and support," said AFH CEO Kelly A. McCann.

"Chevron understands that a combination of donated money and donated time work together to have the greatest impact on our programs and the community."

The \$100,000 cash donation from Chevron, made at this year's AIDS Walk Houston, will support the 2009 World AIDS Day Luncheon, Project A Friendly Haven, which supports women and families living with HIV/AIDS in their move from homelessness to permanent housing (and other volunteer projects).

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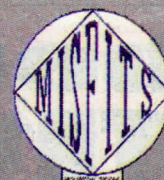
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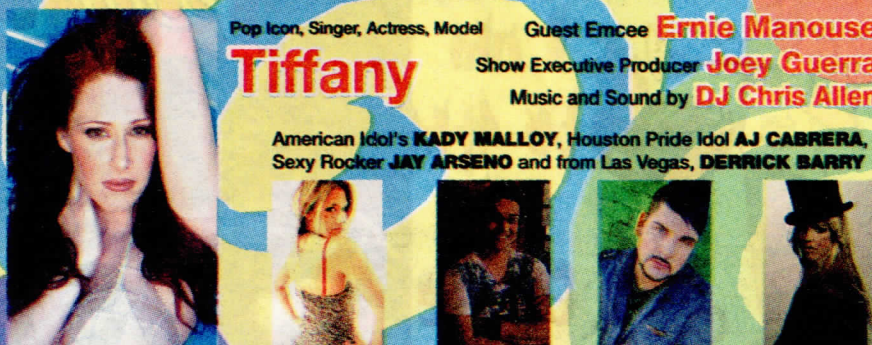
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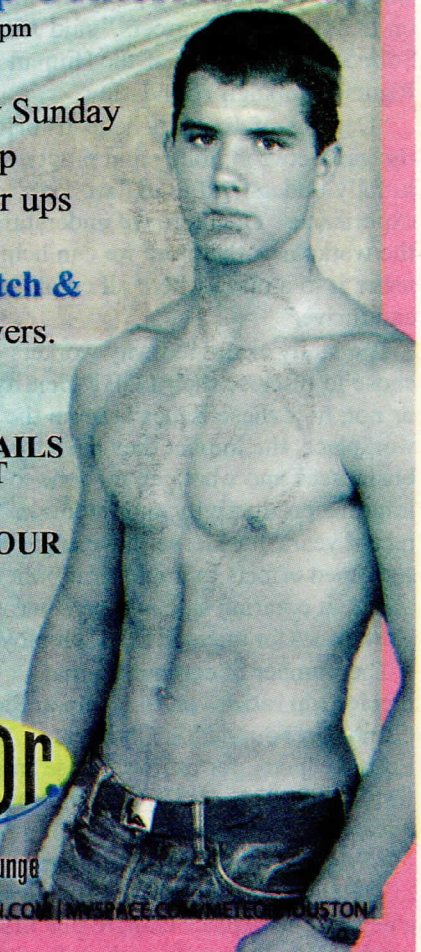
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## Most Workers Still Hide Sexuality at Work

### From press release

A majority, 51 percent, of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers continue to hide their identity from most or all co-workers, according to a new report released from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation that examines the real-life experiences of LGBT workers.

The report, "Degrees of Equality: A National Study Examining Workplace Climate for LGBT Employees," found that, despite significant advances in employment policies at major U.S. corporations, a majority of LGBT workers continue to experience a range of negative consequences because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Younger workers are even more likely to hide their LGBT identity. Only five percent of LGBT employees ages 18 to 24 say they are totally open at work, compared to more than 20 percent in older age cohorts. The report is available for download at [www.DegreesOfEquality.org](http://www.DegreesOfEquality.org).

"Overall attitudes towards LGBT people have come a long way, but we can't forget that people still struggle at work and that this has a profound impact on LGBT workers' careers," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

"Degrees of Equality helps us bridge the gap between policy and practice to fully understand LGBT workers' experiences. The more we understand the workplace, the more we can help usher it to a place where all employees can thrive."

The study examined why workers chose to disclose their LGBT identity or not, how these issues arise in the workplace, the impact they have for businesses and what can be done to improve productivity and retention. In recent years, businesses have engaged in sustained efforts to implement policies aimed at creating safe and productive workplaces for talented LGBT employees.

The number of companies that receive top ratings on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation Corporate Equality Index, for example, rose from just 13 in 2002 to 305 in the 2010 report released in September.

Nevertheless, significant numbers of LGBT employees continue to experience a negative workplace climate that affects productivity, retention and professional relationships. At least once in the past year, 42 percent of LGBT employees report lying about their personal lives, 27 percent have felt distracted, 21 percent have job searched and 13 percent have stayed home from work as a result of working in an environment that is not always accepting of LGBT people.

As reasons for hiding their identities, 39 percent fear losing connections, 28 percent fear not being considered for advancement, 17 percent fear getting fired and more than one in ten (13 percent) fear for their personal safety.

Transgender workers are much more likely than other groups to report fearing for their personal safety: 40 percent compared to 20 percent of gay men. And 42 percent of transgender workers feared getting fired if they revealed their LGBT identity, compare to 22 percent of gay men.

An employee's sexual orientation or gender identity are often unavoidable in casual, non-work related conversations.

These conversations occur frequently and are an essential component to building productive work relationships. At least once per week, 89 percent of LGBT employees say conversations about social lives, 80 percent confront conversations involving spouses, relationships and dating at least once per week and 50 percent say the topic of sex arises at least once a week. These conversations are the most likely to make LGBT employees feel uncomfortable: fewer than half feel very comfortable talking about any of these topics.

Derogatory comments and jokes still happen at work and are a major indicator that it is unsafe to be open about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity at work. A total of 58 percent of LGBT workers say someone at work makes a joke or derogatory comment about LGBT people at least once in a while. Similarly, jokes and derogatory comments about other minority groups are equally indicative of a negative climate. About two-thirds (62 percent) of LGBT employees say negative comments about minority groups are made at least once in a while at work.

Even with inclusive employment policies, significant numbers of employees report negative consequences of an unwelcoming environment for LGBT employees. Moreover, the vast majority of LGBT workers do not report instances when they hear an anti-LGBT remark to HR or management. On average, 67 percent ignore it or let it go, 9 percent raise the issue with a supervisor and only 5 percent go to HR.

"We've found that inclusive non-discrimination policies and equal benefits are the essential first step toward cultivating a productive and engaged LGBT employee, but they are not the last step," said Daryl Herrschaft, director of the Workplace Project. "By understanding how LGBT identity surfaces and unfolds in the workplace, we will be better able to turn policy into practice and address opportunities to improve productivity and retention of LGBT employees."

The study is the cornerstone of a new project that will provide employers with a climate assessment tool and toolkits for improving their workplaces. The HRC Foundation conducted 14 focus groups to examine current LGBT workplace experiences and identify key elements of workplace climate.

Since there is no uniform LGBT experience, the diversity of the working LGBT community was accounted for by conducting focus groups around race, ethnicity and gender, among other sub-groupings. In addition, the HRC Foundation commissioned the largest national survey of LGBT workplace experiences to date, administered to 761 LGBT workers from across the country. Finally, in-depth interviews supplemented the research.

## U.S. House Holds Hearing on ENDA

### From press release

The Human Rights Campaign has praised the House Education and Labor Committee for holding a full committee hearing on an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit employment discrimination, preferential treatment, and retaliation on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our jobs enable us to support our families, develop our talents, contribute to our communities and our country, and realize our dreams. But for far too many hardworking LGBT people, those pressures are intensified by the fear that they can be denied job opportunities, fired or otherwise be discriminated against just because of who they are, said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese, in written testimony for the hearing. LGBT Americans, like everyone else, want their success to reflect their skills, ambition, and dedication. Because an employer may legally fire, refuse to hire, or fail to promote an employee based upon sexual orientation or gender identity in a majority of states, LGBT people are at a great disadvantage in the workplace.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act would address discrimination in the workplace by making it illegal to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote an employee based on the person's sexual orientation or gender identity at companies with 15 or more employees.

The legislation was introduced in the U.S. House on June 24 of this year and a similar bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate on August 5. The bills reflect the values, shared by the vast majority of Americans, that employment decisions should be based on a person's qualifications and work ethic.

Witnesses from the hearing testifying in support included U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA); Hon. Stuart J. Ishimaru, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; William Eskridge, John A. Garver Professor of Jurisprudence, Yale Law School; Vandy Beth Glenn, fired from her Georgia state legislative job when she told her supervisor she was transitioning from male to female; Rabbi David Saperstein, director, the Religious Action Center; and Brad Sears, executive director, Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.

In late July, HRC launched a national, grassroots "No Excuses" campaign to demand action from Congress on key issues of equality, including ENDA. No Excuses continues to mobilize HRC's 750,000 members and their allies to meet directly with lawmakers and push for federal legislative change.

An estimated 87% of Fortune 500 companies include sexual orientation in their equal employment policies, and 41% also include gender identity. More than 60 companies have joined the Business Coalition for Workplace Fairness, a group of leading U.S. employers that support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. To view a list of the companies, visit: [HRC.org/Workplace](http://HRC.org/Workplace)

ENDA is supported by a broad range of civil rights, religious, civic and professional organizations, including the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, NAACP, AFL-CIO, Service Employees International Union, AFSCME, National Education Association, National Employment Lawyers Association, Anti-Defamation League, Religious Action Center, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ, American Civil Liberties Union, and many others.

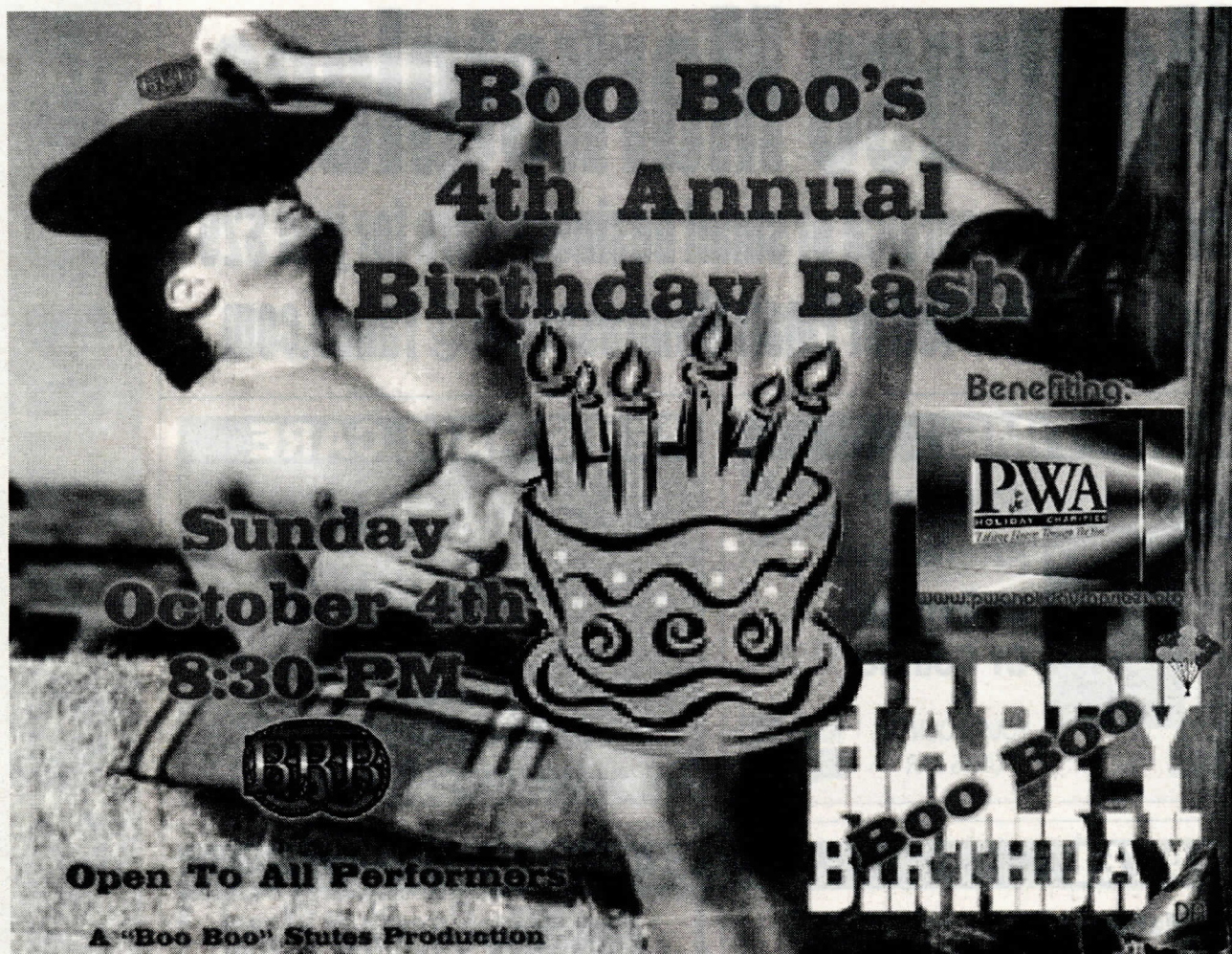
Currently, federal law provides legal protection against employment discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age and disability, but not sexual orientation or gender identity. In 29 states across America, it is still legal to fire someone based on his or her sexual orientation, and in 38 states, it is still legal to fire someone for being transgender.

In 2007, the House passed a version of ENDA that protected on the basis of sexual orientation, but not gender identity, on a vote of 235 to 184.

(The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.)

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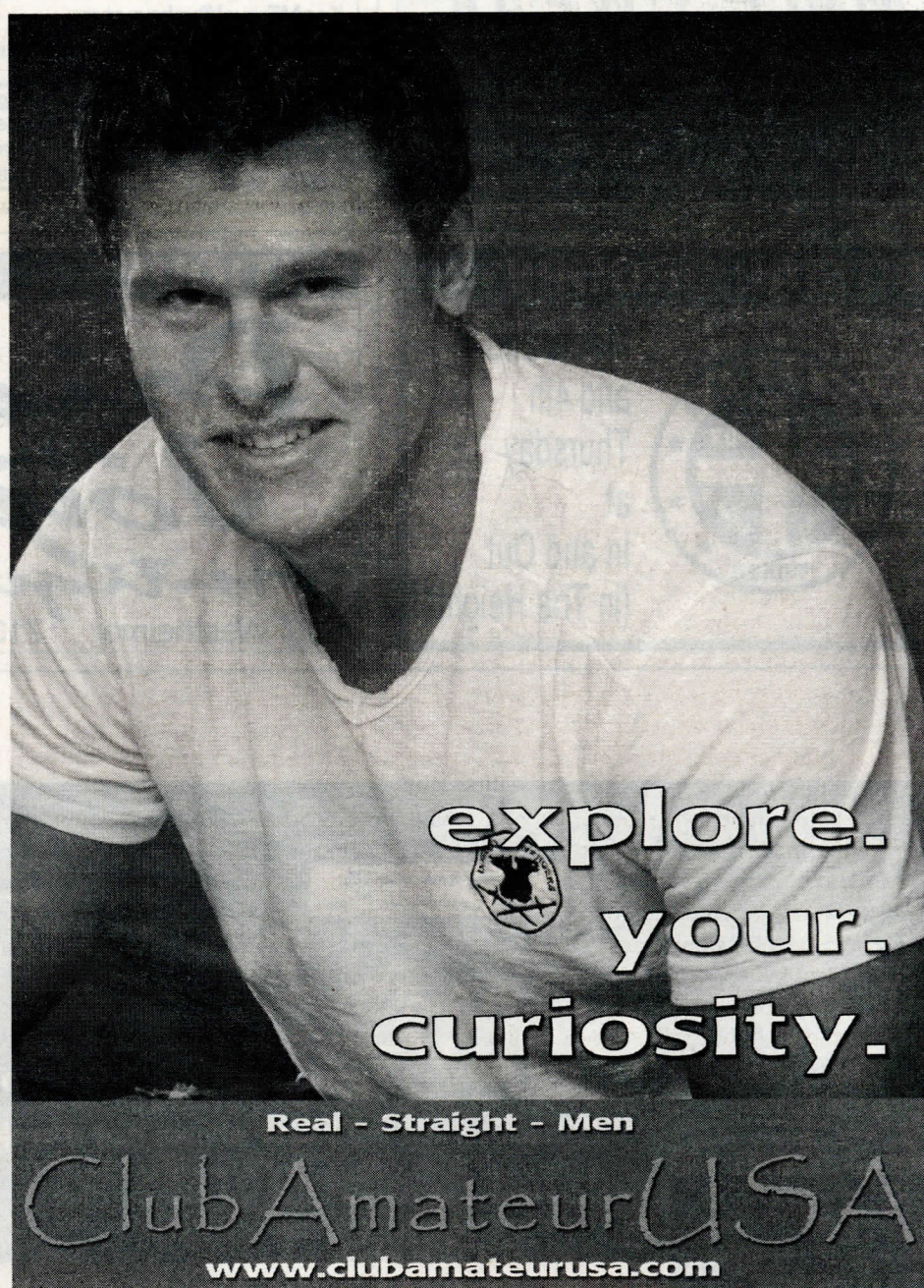


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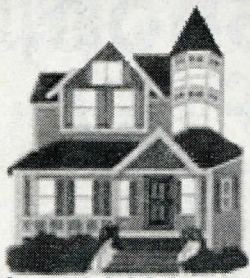
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**8pm, Saturday, October 17**

Hosted by **Tony's Corner Pocket**  
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This is a fund raising show for Illuminations Project coming Nov 11 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. All money raised will send people with AIDS to see Illuminations Project and the net ticket sales will go to Montrose Counseling Center and the Gulf Coast Archive Museum.

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### 26th Annual Denim Party

Place: Brazos River Bottom Club

2400 Brazos St.

Houston, Tx 77006

Date: Sunday, November 8, 2009

Time: 5pm til midnight

Deadline for registration is Thursday, October 1, 2009. Host packets will be distributed Tuesday, October 20, 2009 @ 7pm.

Details...

T-Shirt with 10 invitations.....\$45.00

Polo-style shirt with 10 invitations...\$65.00

Please print clearly...

First name \_\_\_\_\_

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Alternate name (if you wish your name to be listed differently on the invitation)....

Please check one...T-shirt \_\_\_\_\_ Polo-style \_\_\_\_\_

Size: sm md lg xl xxl (circle one)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_