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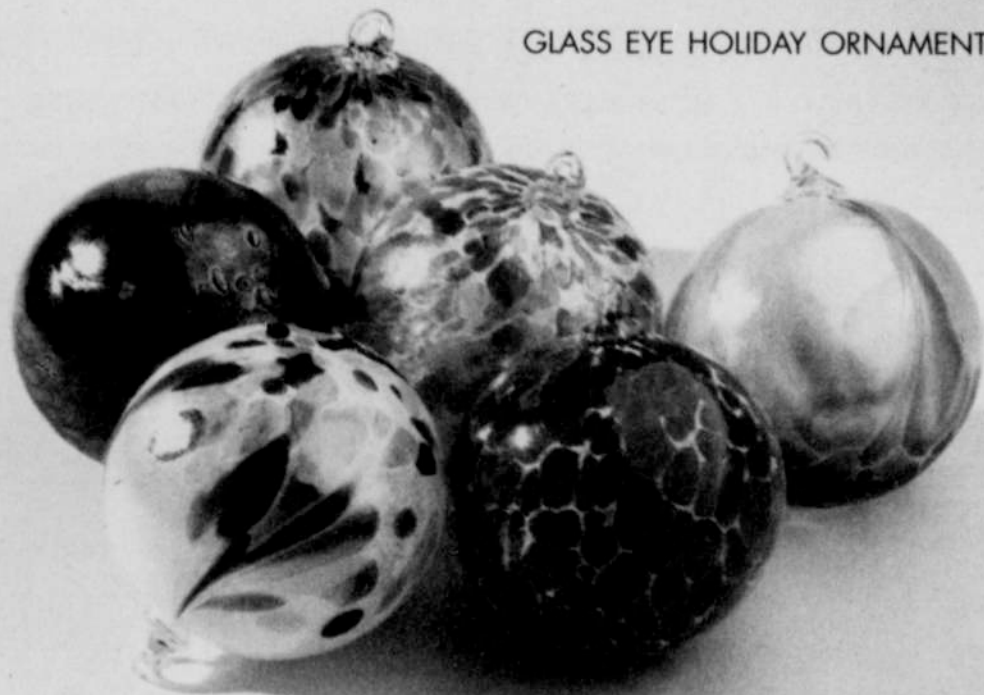
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Trans-Free ENDA
Passes House**

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) Nov. 7. The vote, 235-184, marks the first time that either chamber of Congress has passed employment protections based on sexual orientation.

"Today, we witnessed the making of civil rights history in the U.S. House of Representatives by the passing of ENDA," said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese. "This vote by Congress is an important step at ensuring that millions of gay and lesbian Americans will never again have to go to work in fear of losing their jobs because of who they are."

Solmonese voiced disappointment that the act did not include protections for transgender members of the sexual minorities community, but he believes the law offers important protections now.

"Our fight for equality will not be won overnight," he said. "It will be won one step at a time, and we will not give up until we reach the finish line. This is a critical piece of legislation and a major step toward the finish line for all Americans."

In 31 states, it is legal to fire someone based on their sexual orientation. In 39 states, it is legal to fire a person for being transgender.

**CALIFORNIA
Gay Couple Elected Royalty**

Davis Senior High School's student body defied tradition by electing Brandon Raphael and his boyfriend, Kiernan Gatewood, as homecoming royalty.

The 16-year-old residents of Davis, Calif., were declared "princes" by the school's student body and rode in a pickup in the annual homecoming parade last month.

No public outcry from the liberal-leaning community has been reported in response. Raphael told *The Riverside Press-Enterprise* he was surprised that the school administration was supportive of the princes.

Victory for Gay Sergeant

The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously Oct. 31 to approve the nonmonetary portion of a settlement for Sgt. Mitchell



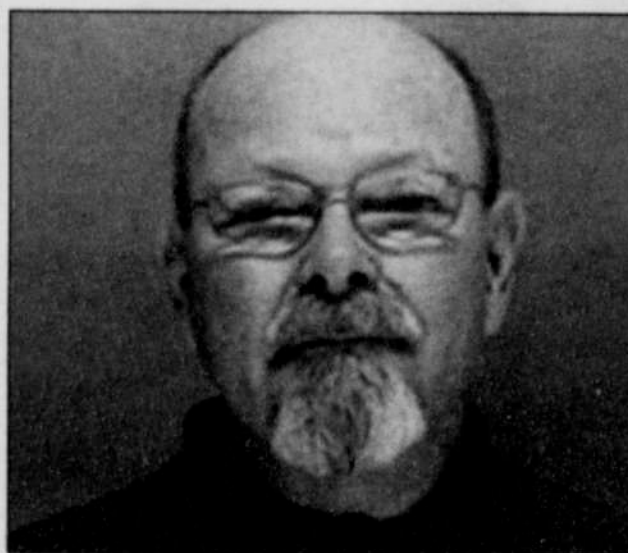
Brandon Raphael and his boyfriend, Kiernan Gatewood, defied tradition by being elected as homecoming royalty at Davis Senior High School in Davis, Calif.

Grobesson, the Los Angeles Police Department's first openly gay officer. He had sued because he believed the city had violated a previous settlement agreement and because he was suspended for "unauthorized recruiting" of gay men and lesbians to join the force and for allegedly wearing his uniform without permission for a photo in a gay weekly and at Los Angeles Gay Pride and AIDS-awareness events.

This settlement provides an array of protections for queer employees and job applicants in Los Angeles; additionally, it provides protections for people living with HIV. It also mandates recruitment from queer communities and strengthens the city's nondiscrimination policies by writing them into the city's administrative code.

Although this is a major step forward for sexual minority rights in the workplace, Grobesson's 10-year legal battle is still not over. To date, he has not been reinstated in the LAPD or allowed to "retire honorably." His trial on these questions was scheduled for Nov. 13.

In 1993, Grobesson settled a sexual orientation employment discrimination lawsuit he'd filed against the city of Los Angeles after suffering



Mike Shallow (left) and David Behringer were among nine arrested Nov. 1 in Daytona Beach, Fla., during a police sting at a mall restroom.