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## Group moves meeting in Colorado boycott



MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Hispanic journalists voted Saturday to move their annual convention from Colorado because of the state's new ban on civil rights protection for homosexuals.

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists board voted 13-3 to cancel its Denver convention scheduled for March, making it the latest to join a national boycott of Colorado to protest the Nov. 3 passage of Amendment 2. The board also said it wouldn't return to Colorado until the law was repealed or nullified.

"I hope some will respect our decision because of how emotional and difficult it was," said Diane Alverio, president of the 1,400-member NAHJ, who works at WFSB-TV in Hartford, Conn. "It's divided the organization quite a bit."

Ernest Gurule, vice president and a reporter for KWGN-TV in Denver, voted against the move. "My position as a journalist is you fight hate with knowledge," Gurule said.

NAHJ's plans to hold the conference in Colorado set off a dispute with the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, which voted last week to boycott the event unless the convention was moved.

The gay journalists' association issued a statement Saturday praising the action, and vowed to help NAHJ with the move and to recover any losses.

"We understand the difficulty, and we are gratified by this decision," said Leroy Arons, president of the gay journalists' group. "We think it's a victory for a free press and for minority journalists everywhere."

Amendment 2 bars the passage of any law that would provide specific civil rights protections based on sexual orientation. It annuls ordinances passed in Aspen, Boulder and Denver that extended such protections.

Among the groups that have canceled conventions to honor the boycott are the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the American Association of Law Libraries and the National Organization for Women.

Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, Seattle and Boston have prohibited official travel to Colorado and the spending of public funds in the state.

So far, Denver has lost an estimated \$15 million in convention business.

## Father of slain woman calls for racial calm

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The father of a woman who may have been raped and murdered because she was white has called for racial calm after the arrests of seven black suspects.

"Revenge is no way to solve a problem," Clair McLaughlin of Detroit said Saturday. "We don't want it; we don't want anything else horrible to happen."

Missy McLaughlin, 25, accidentally locked herself out of her house on Dec. 30 and was crossing the street to a grocery store when she was picked up by several men, police said.

She was taken to a mobile home where she was assaulted, then put in a car, shot five times in the head and once in the arm, and dumped on a highway, police said.

One suspect, Matthew Mack, reportedly told police that McLaughlin was attacked because of "400 years of oppression" since blacks were brought to this country as slaves.

Navy agents investigating the killing said one suspect had a document they described as a racial diatribe about white oppression of blacks that said revenge was justified.

Five men and two women have been charged in the case, and a missing Navy officer, Petty Officer 2nd Class Joe Gardner, is being sought.

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