

upcoming book about family values "by those who happen to be gay."

Georgia slammed by human rights report

A report issued last month by Human Rights Watch accuses the state of Georgia of racial discrimination, intolerance of gay men and lesbians, undermining freedom of expression and police abuses.

Researchers for the privately-funded group reported that state officials and public policy violate Georgia state law, United States federal law, the U.S. Constitution and international human rights law, according to a Reuter's News Service story.

Although the report's findings illustrate abuses that occur throughout the United States, Human Rights Watch focused on Georgia because Atlanta cited its human rights record as part of its bid to host this summer's Olympic Games. In its application to host the Centennial Olympic Games, Atlanta described itself as "for many the modern capital of human rights."

Human Rights Watch said the "poor, racial minorities, gays and lesbians, and virtually anyone jailed or imprisoned in the state might well disagree."

The report accuses Atlanta police of using excessive force, including unjustified shootings and severe beatings. Georgia's death penalty, the report claims, has led to capital punishment primarily for African Americans. Drug laws are applied more frequently to African American cocaine users even though more whites use cocaine.

Researchers also found that women in state-run prisons are subjected to sexual harassment, intimidation and rape by prison guards. Minors in custody, the report states, suffer "cruel restraints and punishment forbidden by international standards."

Georgia's infamous anti-sodomy law, the report says, has caused hostility and harassment of lesbians and gay men and firing by state officials.

Gay musician dies in TWA Flight 800 crash

David Hogan, an internationally-known music educator and co-founder of the Walden School, a summer musical institute, died in last month's explosion of a Trans World Airlines jet over Long Island, New York. He was 47 years old.

Hogan, an acclaimed composer, singer, pianist, organist and vocal coach, had been living in Paris for the past four years. He served as musical director of the Gay Men's Choir of Paris; was a faculty member of the American Conservatory at the palace of Fontainebleau, France; and chaired the East Bay's Consortium of the Arts in San Francisco.

Best known for his liturgical choral music, Hogan was one of two composers chosen to create a work for the consecration and completion of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Choirs across the United States regularly perform his liturgical music.

Hogan was a concert tenor who had been a featured soloist at National Cathedral, Baltimore's Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine and the American Cathedral in Paris.

In addition to his choir music, Hogan worked on a series of theater and film projects with Coline Serreau, who wrote and directed the film *Three Men and a Cradle*. He received the French equivalent of a Tony Award for his music in 1994.

Hogan is survived by his daughter, Hilary; two brothers; three sisters; and his former wife, Terry.

A memorial service was held last month in Paris. Others are being planned in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Dublin.

Judge backs demonstrators at GOP convention

The Republican National Committee failed in its attempt to ensure that demonstrators at this year's Republican National Convention be located out of earshot of convention-goers.

U.S. District Judge Rudi Brewster ruled that moving demonstrators to a location three blocks away from the convention site was biased against the protestors. He said moving the protestors so far from the Convention venue was unconstitutional and violated the requirement of free speech under the First Amendment. Originally, the San Diego Police Department designated a place across the street from the San Diego Convention center as the location for demonstrations. The RNC objected, claiming it needed that spot as a dropoff point for the physically disabled who will be attending the Aug. 12-15 convention.

San Diego city officials must now find another location for the demonstrators.

Appeal filed in custody battle of bisexual mother

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed an appeal with the Illinois state appeals court requesting that two children be allowed to continue living with their mother. A lower court judge granted custody to the children's father because the judge believed the children might someday be subjected to "expressions of disapproval of the divorced woman's relationship with another woman."

Rebecca Schroeder was granted custody of the children following her divorce from Stuart Schroeder in 1991. The children have lived their entire lives with their mother. In 1994, Rebecca Schroeder and her children moved into the Washington, Ill., home of her female partner. Stuart Schroeder then filed for custody based on his fears about the effect of his former wife's sexual orientation and its effect on the children. Experts testified that those fears were groundless.

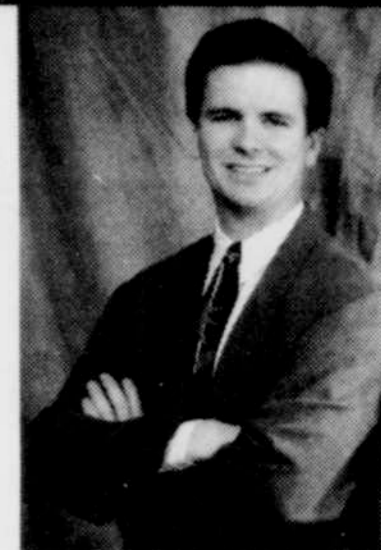
Despite that testimony, Tazewell County Circuit Judge Brian Nemenoff granted the change of custody because he believed the change would protect the children from social condemnation.



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