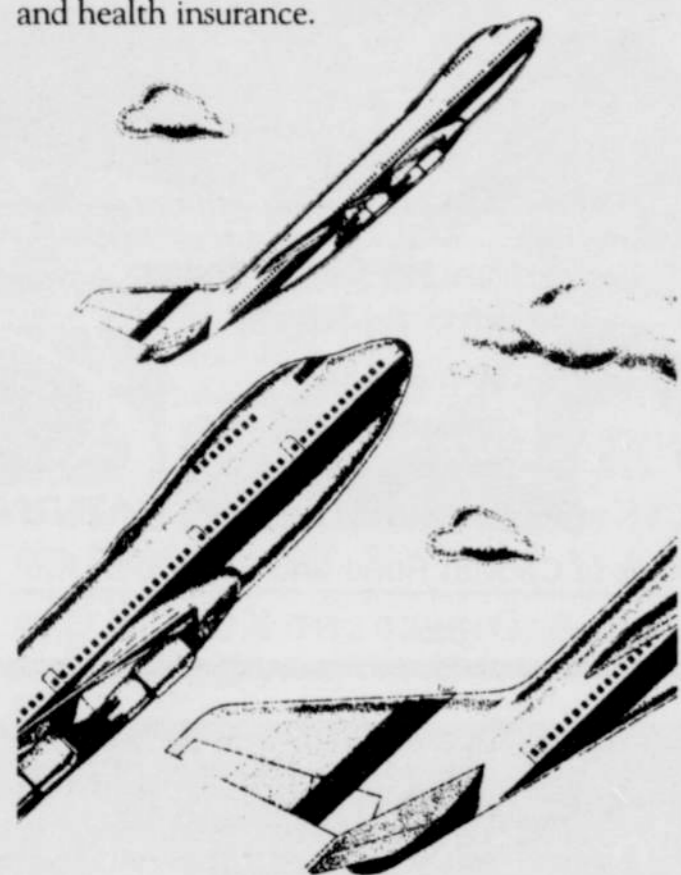


chief executive officer, testify about a meeting held two years ago at which Greenwald allegedly ordered his staff to prepare United to grant domestic partner benefits to employees.

Supposedly, United began those preparations because it believed a competing airline was ready to give domestic partner benefits. When the other airline failed to do so, United chose not to offer benefits to its employees, said Aftergut.

The San Francisco ordinance is the first in the country to require that companies contracting with the city provide benefits to employees' domestic partners that are equivalent to those given to spouses of married employees.

In her ruling, Wilken said that airlines operating at city-owned San Francisco International Airport must provide employees with non-economic benefits such as three-day paid bereavement leave, unpaid family leave, and free or discount flights. She said, however, airlines do not have to provide economic benefits like pensions and health insurance.



Aftergut contends Greenwald's testimony, and that of other executives, will demonstrate that United was prepared to provide domestic partner benefits voluntarily two years ago, and that the airline should therefore have no problem implementing those benefits while an appeal to Wilken's ruling is pending.

MISSOURI

Missouri is the first state to enact a hate crimes law this year, reports the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Gov. Mel Carnahan signed the bill into law on July 1.

"Today is a proud day for Missouri," said Jeff Wunrow, executive director of Missouri's Private

cy Rights Education Project. "Our legislators and our governor have upheld the simple American value that no one should face intimidation, threats, violence and even death just because of who they are."

Crimes motivated by bias against a victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability were added to the list of offenses eligible for prosecution under the state's existing hate crimes statute. The law also applies to trans people, as a result of the definition of sexual orientation that was used. Missouri is the fourth state in the country to include trans people in hate crimes legislation.



Noting that several states have failed to pass strong hate crimes laws this year, NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel said: "It is unconscionable that so many state legislatures failed to take action to support the most basic expectation of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The fact that Missouri acted as it did in the face of a powerful and well-funded religious right political movement speaks to the bravery of Gov. Carnahan and the legislators who supported the bill. Other states should take heed."

Hate crime penalty-enhancement laws have been introduced in 26 states in 1999. Missouri's and New Mexico's legislatures were the only ones to pass the measures. In New Mexico, Gov. Gary Johnson vetoed the bill.

WYOMING

In an interview with Cheyenne radio station KGAB-AM, Aaron McKinney, one of the men charged in the murder of Matthew Shepard, stated that all the talk about the murder being a hate crime is nonsense, the Associated Press reported June 24.

McKinney said he didn't know Shepard was gay. He stated he "had something to do with" Shepard's death, though he wasn't specific. McKinney also said Shepard was not targeted because of his sexual orientation.

McKinney's trial is set to begin in October. If convicted, he could be sentenced to the death penalty.

Russell Henderson, the other man charged in the crime, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

■ Compiled by KRISTINE CHATWOOD

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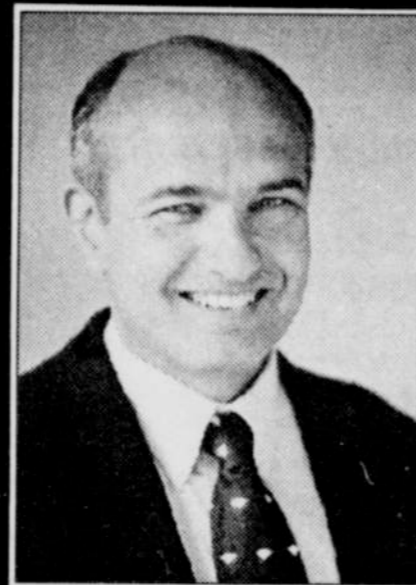
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