SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -

plans to wed her female partner of the

and other same-sex couples they can

my personal relationship and making a

Vianson, a 40-year-old mother of three

who works for a high-tech company.

said. "I think it gives legitimacy to peo-

ballot March 7. It is only 14 words long:

"Only marriage between a man and a

woman is valid or recognized in

As far as Rebecca Bennion is con-

The housewife and mother of five

"It would be great if we could roll

disavows any anti-gay prejudice but longs for a return to an earlier era.

the years back - a man and a woman

committed to each other, the wife stay-

ing home, nurturing the kids, like my

mom stayed home," she said. "We've

unique: Similar ballot measures passed

in Alaska and Hawaii in 1998, and sig-

natures are being gathered in Colorado

magnified by California's role as the

nation's most populous state and the

presence of a large, visible gay popula-

tion in the San Francisco Bay area and

asked to vote on an anti-gay initiative,"

Mike Marshall, the No-on-22 campaign

message to policy-makers and young

gays and lesbians who are struggling

anti-22 television commercial last

month by the cast of NBC's "Will and

Grace," which has a gay lead character.

the rhetoric of hate and intolerance"

and would "inject the government into

Ever since Hawaii's Supreme Court

raised the possibility of same-sex unions in 1993, Congress and 30 states,

No state has legalized gay marriage.

It said the proposition "increases

Hollywood weighed in early with an

with their sexual orientation.'

the most personal decisions."

"An eighth of the country is being

"If it passes, it sends a profound

But the potential political impact is

The California proposition is not

Proposition 22 is on the California

decision about whether it's valid,

But she does not want the state, in

past six years.

never marry.

ple who want to hate.'

cerned, that is a good start.

tried everything else."

and Nevada.

Los Angeles.

manager, said.

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1 Crushed

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KEY WEST \$ 7

seize tribal headquarters ODBODY DOES SPRING BREAKS BETTERI PINE RIDGE, S.D. Score big! ... by booking a (AP) - About 100 Oglala Sioux occupying their tribal headquarters are

demanding a federal investigation and the resignations of the treasurer and some members of the governing council. 'We're not giving up here until these demands are

Protesters

met," group spokesperson Dale Looks Twice said Monday "But we don't antici-

pate violence unless they pursue the violence. "We're a peaceful

group. We've got women and children in this building. We're unarmed.' The group, which is

allied with tribal President Harold Dean Salway, took control of the building on the Pine Ridge Reservation on Sunday.

The protesters are calling for an audit, for the FBI to seize tribal records dealing with law enforcement, housing and other programs, and the immediate resignation of Treasurer Wesley "Chuck" Jacobs.

They initially said they wanted the resignations of all 17 members of the council, but Looks Twice said today they want eight members ousted.

'The bottom line is, we want accountability and responsibility by our elected officials," Looks Twice He said that three mem-

bers of the five-member executive board had voted to authorize the FBI to retrieve financial records. The FBI could take the

records if authorized by the tribe, said Mark Vukelich, FBI senior supervisory agent in Rapid City. But he said the

agency had not seen the board's resolution.

Members of the council have voted to throw the protesters out of the building and have tribal law officers enforce bans on the spread of false propaganda

Same-sex marriages facednesday. California voters in Mar Cler mostly in the South and Midw NEW Y passed pre-emptive laws spiAmerican Christie Hardwick Vianson has been married twice, to men, and has no

will not recognize such man and other

It is uncertain whether any y minister laws can get around the rea Among in the U.S. Constitution to the Episogive "full faith and credit" Christ ar the form of Proposition 22, telling them states' laws. deans at

"It's the government coming into Hawaii has since adopted at teachers tional amendment barring gaya. The dec Vermont is the only state ad none fro ing legalization, but lawmakes rthodox, M erally expected to endorse Besides partner benefits instead.

Proposition 22 is know istainable Knight Initiative, after its f sexuality Republican state Sen. Pete "Fortoo whose gay son David has brain measure a "blind, uncaring formed, knee-jerk reaction to: about which he knows no wants to know nothing, by Reute serves his political career." Pete Knight has declined to 10 d

viewed about the measure.

In a statement last Octobers in the said he regretted that his son and major a private matter public. Backers of the measure but negothave learned the lessons of byer job s paigns - a proposed ban on a

sponsored measures in 1986 rearnings to quarantine AIDS patients. 1999, an All were defeated afrebusiness sponsors were portrayed at Reuter

ers in 1978, and Lyndon Lyndon

The pr

extremists. An independent Field h month showed Proposition 21 51 percent to 40 percent.

Opposition in San Francisco

Angeles has been offset by sn rural and suburban areas, Fe director Mark DiCamillo, when ed a close election, said. "It's pulling a significant m moderate Democrats," the key

ning most California election Cain, director of the Institute Governmental Studies at the la of California at Berkeley, said It could still lose "if it

painted as extremist, if there's money and if the campaign in enough." So far, supporters have repres

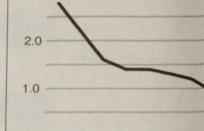
opponents. More than \$310,000 has con the Roman Catholic Church, w Mormon Church has written to members urging support for 22

ing \$5 million, about twice at

Debt continues grow, response solicitors decline

Cash or charge? Americans are being more prudent about their credit, according to the Consumer Federation of America.

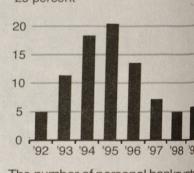
> The response rate to credit card solicitations has gone down. 3.0 percent



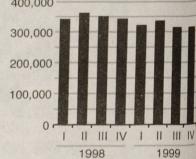
Annual credit card debt continues to grow, but at a slower rate than in the mid-1990s.

'92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99

25 percent



The number of personal bankruptoy filings has also declined. 400,000



Sources: BAI Global; Federal Reserve Board; Administrative Office of U.S. Courts; Professor Lawrence Ausubel, University of Maryland

