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Monday, February 16, 2004

Demand for same-sex marriage licenses

so great some couples turned away

By Tami Minn THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Demand for same-sex marriage licenses has been so great that on Sunday officials turned away hundreds of gay and lesbian couples lined up outside City Hall, saying they simply didn't have the time or resources to meet all the requests.

San Francisco authorities calculated they could process 400 licenses during special weekend hours — but on Saturday they granted 600 licenses and performed 270 weddings by late afternoon. Then officials gave numbers to 320 couples securing them places in line for Sunday.

After quickly distributing another 80 numbers Sunday morning, disappointed couples lined up around the block were asked to

return Monday. "We're at capacity right now," said Mabel Teng, the official who oversees marriage licenses for city government. "We normally do

about 20-30 couples a day. We're doing about 50-60 an hour.' Many couples stayed in line despite instructions from city officials, hoping to receive numbers for Monday.

'It's a major disappointment," said Jill Kasofsky, 40, who had lined up with spouse-to-be Cynthia Juno, 45, at 8:15 a.m. after driving up from Los Angeles. "I'm thinking about coming bat at midnight to sleep on the sidewalk. I'm sure I won't be alone."

Couples from even farther away said they were ready to stayin town for as long as it took.

"Mentally, we came prepared to camp out if we had to," sait 10#10 Mike Fry, 43, who flew out Saturday from Minneapolis with George Hamm, 44, his partner of 20 years.

In a controversial challenge to both legal and social convention, San Francisco officials began issuing same-sex licenses and officiating at City Hall marriages on Thursday. The city has gone out of its way to provide the services — City Hall is normal closed on Sundays.

The decision prompted two conservative groups to press for court intervention. But on Friday a judge allowed the weddings to continue through the weekend.

The issue returns to court Tuesday, when judges will hear separate requests from advocates of traditional marriage to void the licenses and order the city to stop giving them out.

The two organizations argue that the licenses violate state law which defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman. San Francisco officials counter that they are legally binding document that take a swipe at discrimination against same-sex couples.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Orrico: Pop princesses' clothing 'degrading'

SINGAPORE (AP) -Christian singer Stacie Orrico says revealing clothing like that worn by Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera is "degrading" and makes them poor role models for girls.



"The reason that I don't dress trashy is that I'm trying to set an example for little girls," Orrico told reporters Saturday in Singapore while preparing for the MTV Asia Awards. "From the time they're seven or eight years old, (girls) are being taught that the only thing that makes them special and beautiful is their sexuality, and I think that's wrong."

Orrico, wearing a loose, long-sleeved white shirt and jeans, said she doesn't approve of the image projected by the pop superstars.

"I don't think that's sexy, I think it's degrading," the 17-year-old from Nashville, Tenn., said. "I think that a truly sexy woman comes from being confident and being classy, respectable and mature."

Bradbury champions putting humans on Mars

Calif. (AP) Bradbury, author of the science-fiction classic "The Martian Chronicles," says President Bush's proposal to put humans on Mars could open new worlds in much the same way European explorers discovered America.



"We have to imagine what they couldn't imagine. Because of their exploration they created us - the greatest country in the history of the world," Bradbury said Saturday after a book-signing.

"We're going to go with real people and land on Mars in the next 20 years, and I'm going to be buried in a tomato soup can on going to be buried in a tomato soup can of Mars," joked Bradbury, who is 83. "I'll be the first one up there."

Academy award presented 101 for robotic technology

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - And the Oscar winner is: Bill Tondreau.

Tondreau, 58, of New Mexico, received an Academy Award statuette Saturday for advancing robotic camera technology. He was among 23 people honored for scientific and technical achievements by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in a ceremony at the Ritz- spinach and Carlton Hotel.

"The sci-tech guys have a lot of nerd heritage," Tondreau said. "A lot of us have worn a suit maybe four or five times in our whole lives.'

The scientific and technical awards have been handed out since 1931. They include certificates and plaques. Only a few Oscar statuettes are presented.

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W. Water Polo W. Water Polo	Feb. 21 10 a.m9 p.m Feb. 22 12 a.m5 p.m	
vv. vvater roto	reb. 22 12 a.m3 p.m	i. Natatorium

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- classes offered each week! Available at Member Services. FREE Women on Weights!— Don't let misconceptions prevent you from getting the most out of your workouts. Learn effective weight lifting techniques on Feb. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register NOW through Wed. Feb. 25!

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The following IM sports OPEN for regist	ration TODAY:
Kyle Field Ramp Romp	\$10/\$12
Badminton	FREE
Sand Volleyball	\$25/team
Sign up at Member Services by Februa	ary 24th at 6:00 p.m.
The following IM sports CLOSE for regis	stration on Feb. 10th:
Team Bowling	\$45/team
Tennis	FREE

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Springboard Diving	NOW-April 11	\$25/\$35

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Upcoming Events	Registration	Event Da
Climbing Technique Clinic	At Event (FREE)	Feb. 1
Bike Clinic	TODAY	Feb. 1
Backpacking Trip	NOW-Feb. 17	Feb. 21-2
Kayak Roll Clinic	NOW-Feb. 23	Feb. 2
Rock Climbing 101 Clinic	NOW-Feb. 24	Feb. 2
Backcountry Cooking Clinic	NOW-March 1	March
Bike Clinic—Brakes & Shifts	NOW-March 1	March
Costa Rica Adventure SPRING BREAK TRIPS	NOW-March 16	May 16-2
Boulder Hueco Tanks	NOW-March 8	March 14-1
Canoe the Rio Grande	NOW-March 2	March 14-2

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