

Court calls off same-sex 'weddings'

Will hear suits in California

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

California's high court yesterday ended San Francisco's monthlong wedding party when it ordered city officials to stop issuing "marriage" licenses to same-sex couples immediately.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom must "refrain from issuing marriage licenses or certificates not authorized" by California marriage laws, the California Supreme Court said in a unanimous ruling.

Almost 4,200 marriage licenses have been issued in San Francisco since Feb. 12.

The seven justices said their ruling did not address the legality of such homosexual "marriages," and said they would hear the arguments in May or June on lawsuits brought by the state and by pro-family groups against San Francisco's issuing the licenses.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, lawmakers preliminarily passed a state constitutional amendment that says marriage

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S. Korean parliament impeaches president

From combined dispatches

SEOUL — South Korea's parliament impeached President Roh Moo-hyun on charges of illegal electioneering and incompetence today, stripping him of his constitutional powers in an unprecedented vote that came after hours of scuffles and protests.

Prime Minister Goh Kun assumed Mr. Roh's presidential duties, including his role as military commander in chief. The Constitutional Court must now give final approval to unseat the president.

The move comes as the government prepares for nationwide parliamentary elections next month and tries to balance tensions over North Korea's nuclear program with a fragile economic recovery.

The Constitutional Court has

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Kerry fails to back up foreign 'endorsements'



They like me: Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry — flanked (from left) by Democratic Sens. Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Boxer, Patrick J. Leahy, Byron L. Dorgan, Barbara A. Mikulski and Tom Daschle — has refused to provide evidence of meetings with global leaders.

Records show no trips abroad since 2002

By Charles Hurt
and Stephen Dinan
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. John Kerry refuses to provide any information to support his assertion earlier this week that he has met with foreign leaders who beseeched him to prevail over President Bush in November's election.

The Massachusetts Democrat has made no official foreign trips since the start of last year, according to Senate records and his own published schedules. And an extensive review of Mr. Kerry's travel schedule domestically revealed only one opportunity for the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee to meet with foreign leaders here.

On Monday, Mr. Kerry told reporters in Florida that he'd met with foreign

leaders who privately endorsed him.

"I've met with foreign leaders who can't go out and say this publicly," he said. "But, boy, they look at you and say: 'You've got to win this. You've got to beat this guy. We need a new policy.' Things like that."

Aides and supporters of Mr. Kerry have said providing names of the leaders or their countries would injure those nations' ongoing relations with the current Bush administration.

"In terms of who he's talked to, we're not going to discuss that," spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said yesterday. "I know it would be helpful, but we're not going into that. His counsels are kept private."

Mr. Kerry has made other claims during the campaign and then refused to

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Bombs kill 192 in Spain



Devastation: Bombs detonated aboard four Madrid trains yesterday morning during rush hour, killing nearly 200 and injuring more than 1,400. Spain initially blamed Basque separatist group ETA, but later evidence suggested the attack could be the work of al Qaeda.



Horror: Workers removed bodies from the Atocha train station, a bustling Madrid railway hub.



'Infamy': "March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

Al Qaeda among suspects in attacks

From combined dispatches

MADRID — Simultaneous bomb blasts ripped through four packed commuter trains in Madrid yesterday, killing 192 persons and injuring more than 1,400 in Europe's bloodiest guerrilla attack in more than 15 years.

Spain focused blame on the Basque separatist group ETA, but a purported al Qaeda letter claimed responsibility for the 10 blasts and said a big attack on the United States was nearly ready, causing jitters in world financial markets.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

President Bush called Mr. Aznar and King Juan Carlos, saying he expressed "our country's deepest sympathies toward those who lost their life."

"I told them we weep with the families. We stand strong with the people of Spain," he said.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, who issued a statement "vehemently" condemning the bombings, spoke twice by phone with Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio in the hours after the attack.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said initial reports from the U.S. Embassy in Madrid found no Americans among the dead or wounded.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded within a 15-minute span, starting about 7:40 a.m., on trains along nine miles of commuter line from Santa Eugenia to the Atocha terminal, a bustling hub for subway, commuter and long-distance trains just south of the famed Prado

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Iraqi police accused in killings

By P. Mitchell Prothero
UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

HILLA, Iraq — Security forces in this southern Iraqi city say criminals recruited into the city's police force were responsible for the killing of two American civilians this week, contradicting initial reports that the killers were impostors in police uniforms.

Meanwhile, two U.S. soldiers were killed and another was wounded by a bomb in Habaniyah, about 45 miles west of Baghdad late yesterday, the military said.

Fern Holland, a 33-year-old human rights expert from Oklahoma, and another American were killed along with their Iraqi translator on Tuesday by men in Iraqi police uniforms,

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Greenspan urges education



Education push: Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, saying the United States lags behind East Asia in math and technology skills, suggested a better-trained work force would prevent jobs from being moved overseas.

Ban on outsourcing jobs could ignite trade war

By Patrice Hill
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan yesterday criticized the "alleged cures" that political candidates are proposing for joblessness — including

limits on moving jobs offshore — saying they will erode America's living standards and do little to reduce unemployment.

Although "new-job creation is lagging badly" for the moment, he said, the best way for Congress to help Americans get and

keep good-paying jobs is to improve their math and technical skills so companies won't be tempted to outsource to better-trained workers in China and India.

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Burk fails to make cut at Masters

By Barker Davis
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Martha Burk and her crusade against the men-only membership policy of Augusta National Golf Club have faded into relative obscurity.

Mrs. Burk, chairwoman of the D.C.-based National Council of Women's Organizations, made guest appearances on every major network in the months preceding last year's Masters, railing against both the prestigious club and its intractable chairman, Hootie Johnson.

She was a regular on the front

Burk

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