

## Judge's stay puts gay marriages on hold

**Homosexual couples may not be able to marry for at least a year — if ever — in Hawaii.**

HONOLULU (AP) — The judge who declared Hawaii must allow gay marriages put the ruling on hold Wednesday while the state appeals.

Circuit Judge Kevin Chang agreed with attorneys for the state that Hawaii would have a dilemma if couples were allowed to marry and Hawaii's Supreme Court then overturned his ruling.

The stay will remain in effect until the high court rules, meaning gay couples won't be able to marry in Ha-

waii for at least a year, if at all.

"If hundreds, or even thousands, of gay marriages take place, the Supreme Court probably won't even hear the appeal," Deputy Attorney General Rick Eichor said in arguing for the stay.

Eichor also argued that the three gay couples who sued for the right to marry would suffer no real harm if their right to marry were delayed.

Dan Foley, a civil liberties attorney who represented the couples, said he found that argument incredulous. He said his clients already had suffered from delays in the case.

Foley said the state had demonstrated no irreparable harm in not granting a stay.

Eichor said he will file an appeal

within 30 days.

That will send the case back to the Supreme Court, which in 1993 ruled that the state's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional unless the state can show a compelling interest in continuing it.

Eichor has argued that the state's marriage law is intended to promote the best environment for the procreation and rearing of children. Eichor said children fare best when raised by their biological parents.

President Clinton signed a law in September that says the federal government will not recognize gay marriages and allows states to refuse to

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**RICK EICKHOR**  
Deputy Attorney General

recognize such unions licensed in other states.

But if the Hawaii ruling is upheld, gay activists will try to build upon the success and overturn the federal law,

said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group based in Washington.

"A major bridge has been crossed, but the battle will continue," he said.

## Protests persist against Serb leader

*Demonstrations pose threat of political unrest for President Milosevic after he annulled Nov. 17 elections*

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Protesters held their noses because the "lies stink so much" as they passed buildings housing state-run media loyal to the Serbian president Wednesday in the largest demonstration yet against Slobodan Milosevic.

About 150,000 demonstrators marched through the capital to protest the annulment of Nov. 17 elections in Belgrade and 14 of Serbia's largest cities that the opposition appeared to win.

So far mostly peaceful, two weeks of protests have nonetheless turned into a major political crisis in the country and the biggest threat to Milosevic's eight years of rule in Serbia.

Earlier in the day, about 25,000 students carried banners of support through downtown for an independent

radio station that was forced off the air by authorities for its critical reporting.

A small group organized by an independent trade union marched in the morning with the students, symbolically banging empty plates and spoons.

One worker had a paper box on his head with a slogan critical of the pro-Milosevic state media: "Switch off Serbian TV and turn on your brains."

In the afternoon rally, some protesters pinched their noses as they passed buildings housing state-run TV and the Politika daily, both loyal to Milosevic, when opposition leader Vuk Draskovic told them to do so "because their lies stink so much."

"We are the future of Serbia and Milosevic is the past," another opposition leader, Zoran Djindjic, told the

rally. "In another 10 to 20 days, we'll get rid of him forever."

In the latest indication that even some in the state are turning against Milosevic, 90 judges demanded the re-examination of the annulment rulings.

"Our goal is to protect the honor and dignity of the court," said the judges, in a letter published by the weekly Telegraf.

Some of the judges signing the letter were from the court that annulled the election results, indicating some split in the judiciary. Several Supreme Court members expressed criticism of the annulments Tuesday.

The same local court that decided on the annulments, however, Wednesday rejected an appeal on the vote by the opposition coalition Zajedno.

The students warned Milosevic of more unrest unless he rescinds the annulments. Others have called for his resignation.

"The decision is up to you," the students said in an open letter to Milosevic. "You have the power and influence to lead our Serbia out of this crisis with dignity."

The students added: "The regime you represent has crushed our votes. Do we have to fight for that right in the streets?"

Once the crowd reached the Serbian presidency building, one of the students placed the letter on its doorstep, along with a round loaf of bread, a traditional sign of goodwill.

"Come out, Marjan!" the crowd chanted, alluding to Milosevic's isolation from the people.

There was no sign of Milosevic, the Serbian leader accused of fomenting the 3½-year war in Bosnia that ended last year.

Milosevic has generally ignored the protests with the exception of arresting some 30 people for destroying property. But his aides and state-run media have sharply criticized his opponents.

Milosevic has so far refrained from calling on police and army units to crush the demonstrators, as he has done in the past. But on Tuesday, he shut down three independent radio stations — two in Belgrade and one to the southeast — in an attempt to squelch any reporting on the demonstrations.

## Man sentenced for killing gay admirer

*Jonathan Schmitz said 'sorry' before receiving prison sentence*

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — A man who killed a gay admirer who had revealed his crush and hugged him on the "Jenny Jones Show" was sentenced Wednesday to 25 to 50 years in prison.

Jonathan Schmitz, 26, faced a life sentence for the murder of Scott Amedure in a case that focused attention on "ambush television" and the tactics TV producers use to bring guests onto daytime talk shows.

"I'd like to say the word sorry," Schmitz told Judge Francis X. O'Brien before his sentence. "The word 'sorry' is a very powerful word. It has a lot of meaning, and it is meant."

The judge said he took Schmitz' illnesses into account — his defense lawyers said he had been fighting alcoholism, depression and a thyroid condition when the show's producers

ambushed him and pushed him over the edge.

However, "you still have to be accountable to society," said O'Brien, who added two more years on a weapons charge. With time served, Schmitz will likely remain behind bars for at least 20 years.

Assistant Prosecutor Roman Kalytiak had asked for a life sentence, and the victim's family asked for the maximum as well.

"His actions not only destroyed my family, but his own family," said Amedure's mother, Patricia Graves, her voice wavering. "When I look at the defendant, I see a monster."

But Schmitz' lawyer, James Burdick said the sentence didn't reflect "at all on Jon's mental illness."

Schmitz' family blamed the show

in pleading for leniency.

"The show's gay secret admirer threw my son into the pit of depression," his father, Allyn Schmitz, told the judge. "My son was a good boy. We raised Jonathan with honor and love."

Witnesses testified Schmitz believed he was going on the syndicated show in March 1995 to meet a female secret admirer, and was humiliated before the audience when the admirer turned out to be a man.

Amedure, 32, was shot three days after he, Schmitz and a mutual friend attended the show's taping. The show never aired, but was played in court during the trial.

Jones, who eventually was forced to take the stand herself, said she knew little about how her show operates.

## NASA mission sends Pathfinder to Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA launched a spacecraft to Mars early Wednesday carrying the first interplanetary rover, a six-wheeled cart that will roam the frigid Martian surface in search of rocks.

The Mars Pathfinder began its 310 million-mile journey atop an unmanned rocket that lifted off at 1:58 a.m. It was the third try; launch attempts earlier in the week were stymied by bad weather and a computer failure.

An hour later, the last rocket engine fired and propelled Pathfinder toward Mars at a speed of more than 23,000 mph.

Pathfinder is the second probe to be sent to Mars by NASA in the past month.

The Global Surveyor took off on Nov. 7, the first of 10 U.S. spacecraft to be sent to the Red Planet over the next decade in hopes of determining whether life ever existed there.

If all goes well, Pathfinder should beat the slower Global Surveyor to Mars by two months, landing on July 4, 1997.

It would be the first time in 21 years that a spacecraft has landed on Mars.

The \$196 million Pathfinder is hailed by NASA as a new-wave bargain spacecraft.

## South Africa to adopt new constitution

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A new constitution guaranteeing equal rights in South Africa and outlawing capital punishment finally won approval Wednesday from the Constitutional Court.

President Nelson Mandela is expected to sign the 150-page constitution, one of the most liberal in the world, into law on Dec. 10 — International Human Rights Day.

The signing ceremony was scheduled for the black township of Sharpeville, site of a 1960

police massacre of 69 blacks protesting apartheid-era pass laws.

Mohamed Valli Moosa, Mandela's provincial affairs minister, said Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg, was chosen for the signing because the 1960 massacre "marked a new era in the struggle for liberation."

Sharpeville is also part of the town of Vereeniging, where a peace treaty ending the Anglo-Boer war in 1902 set up the borders of present-day South Africa.

## Guatemalan cease-fire accord ends 36-year civil war

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Guatemalan rebels and the government signed a permanent cease-fire Wednesday to end Latin America's longest civil war, a 36-year conflict that has killed 140,000 people.

The cease-fire is one of three accords to be signed in Europe over the next six days, leading to a final peace pact signing Dec. 29 in Guatemala City.

"With this agreement we sign today, the

weapons will be silenced forever," rebel commander Rolando Moran said at Oslo city hall.

Also signing the accord was Gustavo Porras, head of the Guatemalan presidential delegation that has been trying to negotiate an end to the war since meeting the rebels in the Norwegian capital in 1990.

"We Guatemalans want to make sure all this suffering was not in vain. We want to make sure this will never happen again," Porras said.

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