

THE HAMILTON SPECULATOR

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004 ♦ THESPEC.COM

SPANISH REEL FROM THEIR '9/11'

Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for killing 190, injuring 1,200



PAUL WHITE, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue workers struggled to separate the dead from the wounded in the aftermath of the Madrid bombings.

BY ELAINE SCIOLINO

MADRID ♦ The bloodiest terrorist attack in modern Spanish history killed more than 190 people and wounded at least 1,200 in 10 explosions at three commuter train stations during the morning rush hour yesterday.

The highly co-ordinated explosions went off within a 10-minute period. Three other bombs were discovered and detonated by the police.

As the country struggled to absorb the carnage just three days before general elections, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar appeared on television and called the attacks "mass murder."

He vowed that Spain would never negotiate with "these assassins." Aznar added, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

Already some Spaniards are calling the attacks this country's "9/11," and the front page of a special edition of the biggest daily newspaper, El Pais, ran the headline, "11-M."

There was no advance warning of the attacks.

At first, the Spanish authorities blamed ETA, the Basque separatist group that has been seeking independence from Spain for more than three decades.

Later yesterday, however, the Interior

Ministry said the police had found a van with detonators and an Arabic-language tape of Koranic verses, according to news agencies, and said that it was considering all lines of investigation.

An Arabic newspaper, al-Quds al-Arabi, said it had received a claim of responsibility for the train bombings issued in the name of al-Qaeda.

The five-page e-mail claim, signed by the shadowy Brigade of Abu Hafs al-Masri, was received at the paper's London offices. It said the brigade's "death squad" had penetrated "one of the pillars of the crusade alliance, Spain."

BOMBING: A12



GoFriday

Nifty '50s kitchen gets multi-functional makeover.

Go 9

HOCKEY VIOLENCE

Bertuzzi suspension is fair, say players

Canucks star idled for rest of season, playoffs

BY BILL BEACON

NHL players applauded the suspension handed to Vancouver Canucks star Todd Bertuzzi, but doubted it would deter further violence on the ice.

Many feel that no matter how severe the punishment, it is in the nature of a fast, physical sport that players will sometimes lose their tempers and that a split-second of madness is all it takes to produce a serious injury.

"I don't know if it will be a deterrent," said Montreal Canadiens enforcer Darren Langdon, a former teammate of Bertuzzi's in Vancouver.

"I don't think anyone tries

to injure anybody else.

"I know Todd very well and obviously we all feel for Steve Moore, but when these things happen, it's really just a reaction and a mistake."

Reaction: SP 4, 5, 6

Bertuzzi, 29, was suspended for the rest of the regular season and the playoffs by the NHL for his attack from behind on Colorado's Moore late in a 9-2 Avalanche victory on Tuesday night.

Moore remains in hospital with a concussion, neck fractures and other injuries.

BERTUZZI: A7



Microwave popcorn workers getting sick.

A15

MUSIC

Avril delivers for delirious young fans at mall concert

BY BILL DUNPHY

TORONTO ♦ Avril Lavigne is an hour late and I'm pressed up against a steel barricade as a seven-year-old boy snakes his way between my legs and tries to stick his head between the bars of the barrier.

I'm trying desperately not to crush him or Melissa, 5, who's clinging to the top of the same barrier beside me.

I arrived three hours early, interviewed fans and then took up a position with an obstructed view, thinking it would be less crowded.

AVRIL: A7

WEATHER: SNOW

Flurries through the day, some clouds tonight. High of -2, low -9. A2

SPORTS: PENGUINS HUMBLE LEAFS

SPORTSFriday



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BEFORE **AFTER**