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Martin to NHL: 'Clean up your act'

Bertuzzi suspended for balance of season, forfeits \$500,000 US in salary

BY ELLIOTT PAP
VANCOUVER SUN

Prime Minister Paul Martin called Thursday for professional hockey to clean up its act, describing Vancouver Canucks Todd Bertuzzi's attack on Colorado Avalanche player Steve Moore as "a par-

ticularly vicious act."

Speaking in London, Ont., after the National Hockey League suspended Bertuzzi for the remainder of the NHL season, including all playoff games, Martin said such incidents detract from hockey's image.

"This kind of story unfortunately is not

new, but this is a particularly vicious attack. I don't think it's given Canada a black eye, but I certainly don't think it's helped hockey.

"I'd certainly say [to professional hockey] — clean up your act."

In addition to his suspension for the balance of this season, which may seriously

jeopardize the Canucks' Stanley Cup hopes, Bertuzzi will be required to apply for reinstatement before the 2004-05 campaign. He will forfeit \$501,926.39 US in pay.

The Canuck organization was also fined

See **BURKE ABSOLUTELY** A5

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Federal Liberals double members in B.C.

One riding has more Liberals than in any Prairie province

BY PETER O'NEIL
SUN OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA — The federal Liberal party in B.C., which has faced allegations it turns a blind eye to the bulk purchase of "instant Liberals" in ethnic communities, has seen its membership double in a few months to a staggering 80,000 people.

One riding, where three Indo-Canadians Liberal activists are fighting for a party nomination, has 17,000 members — believed to be by far the highest in Canada and well above the total for each of the three Prairie provinces.

"To be honest it does surprise me," said Bill Cunningham, president of the federal party in B.C.

"We anticipated some continued growth throughout the nomination period, but I don't think in our wild expectations we thought it would hit 70,000, to say nothing of 80,000."

The new riding of Newton-North Delta now has 17,000, far more than the estimated 12,000 recruited for last weekend's bitter battle between Sheila Copps and victor Tony Valeri, the transport minister, in Hamilton East-Stoney Creek.

Berry Vrbanovic, executive-director of the party in Ontario, said the Hamilton riding and Mississauga-Brampton South

See **MP SUSPECTS** A4

The lonely death of Terry Ekonomides



Nick and Helen Ekonomidis, son and daughter-in-law of Terry Ekonomides (right), stand near Terry's exposure-damaged trailer south of Nanaimo where his decomposed remains were discovered by neighbours.

He died 3 years ago; no one knew till last week

BY JEFF LEE
VANCOUVER SUN

NANAIMO — Until he screwed up the courage the other day to break into his neighbour's place, Mike Gyger had wondered for years if the old man who lived in the dilapidated mobile home across the road had simply died without anyone noticing.

He hadn't seen Terry Ekonomides, a strapping, handsome 76-year-old Greek, since at least the spring of 2001, when his neighbour said he was heading off for another visit to family overseas.

But last Friday, after a Canada Customs and Revenue Agency official had called for the third time to wonder if Gyger knew anything about his neighbour, he decided to act.

With a friend along to give him courage, Gyger broke a window in the vestibule of the mobile home and gingerly walked through the derelict, rat feces-infested building. The

problem was, he never told his neighbours when he went, and we'd learned to leave him alone. I wish now that we'd gone over sooner."

Coroner Dick Miller said Ekonomides died sometime in early 2001, likely of natural causes.

What no one can explain, it seems, is how a man can die unnoticed by everyone and be left in his home for more than three years. No one had raised alarms. Not his estranged first family — including a son, two daughters and a wife he'd never divorced. Not his second "wife" — Maning Ekonomides — who lives in Hong Kong and whose name is on the title for the property but who cannot be found. Not his elderly sister in Volos, Greece, where he annually visited to collect rent on a family estate.

Not the property tax collector, which seized his 30-metre by 30-metre Ellison Road

See **FAMILY, NEIGHBOURS** A2

Madrid bombs leave 192 dead: 'Butchery on a brutal scale'

Rush-hour blasts leave 1,200 wounded in Spain's worst terrorist attack: 'Our 9/11'

MADRID — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,200. Spain blamed Basque separatists. Al-Qaida, however, claimed responsibility for the worst terrorist attack in Spain's history.

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

The bombing came four days before Spain's general election. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group.

Campaigning for the election

was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

BY PHILIP DELVES
BROUGHTON
DAILY TELEGRAPH

MADRID — Christine Hernandez opened her window overlooking the railway junction 800 metres from Atocha station, hoping to let in some fresh spring air. Instead there came a deafening explosion — the sound of an event that would mark Madrid forever.

"I was just about to have breakfast before going to work," she

See **I COULD SEE** A9



Two people injured by terrorist bombs wait for aid outside the train station of Atocha in Madrid on Thursday.

Meat contamination a new blow to families

BY CHAD SKELTON
and PETTI FONG
VANCOUVER SUN

Residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside bear daily doses of grief from the loss of friends and family, but the revelation that pork from the farm of accused murderer Robert Pickton may have been contaminated with human remains brought fresh horror Thursday.

The same question popped up time and again among crisis workers, volunteers and residents themselves, seeking answers to the unspeakable

crime: "How could someone do this to another human being?" asked Anita Kennedy, who volunteers at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. "How could there be such atrocity?"

Kennedy said women she talked to Wednesday and Thursday after news emerged that meat distributed from the Pickton farm may have been contaminated with human remains were in shock and despair.

"Disgust, too," Kennedy said. "Disgust that this could have

See **WHY WARN** A4

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