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The San Diego

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## Same-sex marriages halted by high court

San Francisco told to quit licensing

By Dean E. Murphy  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court yesterday ordered city officials here to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, bringing at least a temporary end to a monthlong experiment that thrust San Francisco to the forefront of a national debate on gay marriage.

"Effective immediately, we are stopping the issuance and recordation of same-sex marriage licenses," the city's assessor-recorder, Mabel S. Teng, announced at a news conference after receiving word of the court's unanimous decision.

Gay-marriage advocates suffered a second setback yesterday when Massachusetts legislators moved a step closer to amending the state's constitution to ban gay marriages but allow civil unions.

In California, the Supreme

SEE **Same-sex, A12**

## House OKs higher fines for indecent broadcasts

By Jonathan D. Salant  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Spurred by outrage over last month's Super Bowl halftime show, the House voted yesterday to dramatically increase fines for broadcast indecency.

Though opinions vary on where indecency begins, most House members agreed the best way to combat racy TV and radio programming is to hit companies and personalities in the wallet.

Under the legislation, approved 391-22, broadcast companies and entertainers could be fined up to \$500,000 per indecent incident, a huge jump from the current \$27,500 for

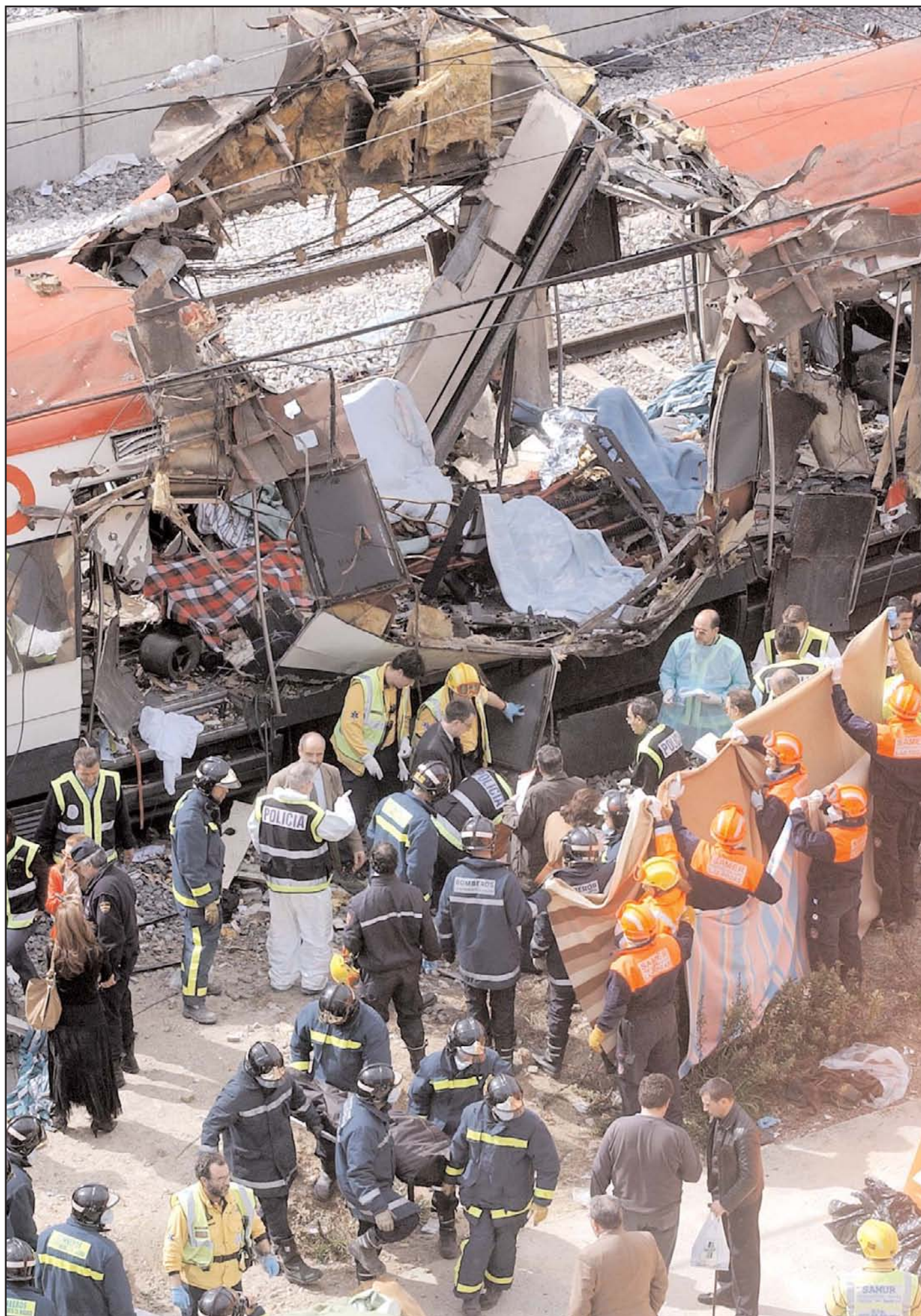
SEE **Indecency, A12**

# TERROR IN MADRID

■ Blasts kill at least 192; more than 1,400 injured

■ Coordinated bombings rip apart commuter trains

■ Who is responsible? Police widen search



Firefighters carried out victims who were aboard one of four commuter trains attacked in Madrid yesterday. The Spanish government put the Basque separatist group ETA at the top of its list of suspects. Paul White / Associated Press

By Mar Roman  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, Spain — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession yesterday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and injuring more than 1,400.

Spain initially blamed Basque separatists, but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaeda for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

The group has falsely claimed attacks in the past.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled each other, abandoning their bags and shoes. After the first three bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Seven bombings followed on other trains.

Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

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

The bombings came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday.

A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy. Another major campaign issue was Aznar's backing of President Bush in the war against Iraq.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States and were Europe's worst

SEE **Spain, A11**



ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Tentative settlement in pension dispute reached

By Philip J. LaVelle  
STAFF WRITER

Calling it "an important first step" toward repairing San Diego's battered pension system, Mayor Dick Murphy yesterday announced the tentative settlement of a lawsuit by retirees who alleged the city's underfunding of the pension trust was illegal.

If approved by a judge, the deal will remove an important source of uncertainty for a city hit by federal investigations and credit-rating downgrades.

But the proposed deal does not directly address other problems in the pension system, including a \$1.1 billion

deficit and more than \$1 billion in unfunded retiree health care costs.

The deal would strain a tight city budget and is virtually certain to force Murphy and the City Council into politically unattractive decisions such as cutting city services. It is secured by \$500 million in city-owned land that the retirement system could foreclose on if the city missed any of the payments promised over four years.

The terms include having the city make full payments to the pension system — something not done since 1996 —

SEE **Pension, A8**

## PETCO PARK

# Game draws big crowd, scores big hit



SDSU student Tim Walter hawked peanuts at last night's Petco Park contest, which drew a record crowd for a college baseball game. Earnie Grafton / Union-Tribune

By Jeff McDonald  
and Jonathan Heller  
STAFF WRITERS

So much money, a skeptical public, years of litigation. At least some of the doubts surrounding one of San Diego's costliest investments were washed away last night by nine innings of baseball, the first ever played in the city's newest showcase.

It was an evening of firsts for Petco Park, the long-awaited home of the San Diego Padres, who once toiled in the Pacific Coast League a dozen blocks away at what used to be Lane Field.

The dry-run opening, a mid-season contest between the

## IN SPORTS

• San Diego State defeats the University of Houston, 4-0. **D1**

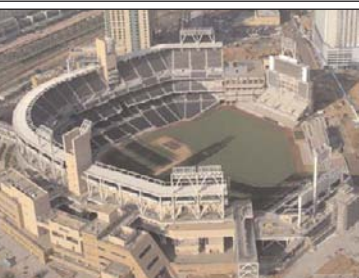
San Diego State University Aztecs and the University of Houston Cougars four weeks before the Padres' home opener, drew 40,106 fans, the largest crowd in college baseball history.

They saw the first of 10 games in the Aztec Invitational, a four-day series that Petco Park officials planned to use to smooth over any bumps before the San Francisco Giants arrive April 8.

Rielly Embrey, the Aztecs'

SEE **Ballpark, A10**

COUNTDOWN TO PADRES HOME OPENER  
**27**  
DAYS



## SDSU knocked out

The Aztecs lose to Utah 75-69 in the first round of the Mountain West Conference men's basketball tournament and finish the season 14-16. **Sports, D1**



## A warm welcome

San Diego police Officer Dan Walters, the former Padres catcher shot and paralyzed during a traffic stop, returns after months of rehabilitation. **Local, B1**

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