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INSIDE

WORLD NEWS

U.S. PRESSURING ISRAEL TO CLARIFY GAZA EXIT

● **Visiting U.S. diplomats** pressed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Thursday for more details of his proposed withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, as his top security advisors recommended Israel also dismantle as many as 24 settlements in the West Bank, **2A**.

CHILE'S LEGISLATURE LEGALIZES DIVORCE

● **Divorce will soon** be legal in Chile, one of the few countries to ban it, despite strong opposition from the Roman Catholic Church and conservative groups, **8A**.

U.S. NEWS

IRAQ WAR OPPONENT CHARGED AS SPY

● **Susan Lindauer, 41,** was charged Thursday with working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service, after the White House chief of staff, a distant cousin, turned her in to the FBI for contacting him — allegedly on behalf of Saddam Hussein's regime — in the weeks before the Iraq war, **3A**.

STEEPER FINES OK'D FOR ON-AIR INDECENCY

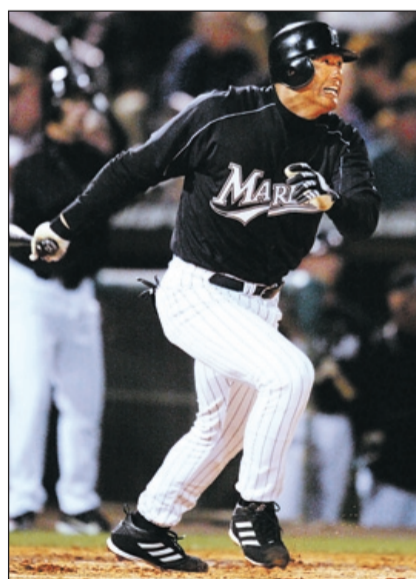
● **The House approved** sharply higher fines for broadcasters and entertainers who break decency rules as Congress moves closer to cracking down on incidents that are deemed to be obscene or profane, **7A**.

HEALTH NEWS

POPCORN VAPORS UNDER SCRUTINY

● **The federal government** is looking into chemicals released in the air when a bag of popcorn is opened. The butter flavoring has been linked to lung disease in factory workers, **3A**.

SPORTS NEWS



TEAMMATES WELCOME CHOI TO THE MARLINS

● **The Marlins** are getting uncommon exposure in Korea this spring. With five Korean journalists covering Hee Seop Choi on a daily basis, the world champions have become front-page news in Asia, **7B**.

TERROR ATTACK IN SPAIN

'PAIN WILL NEVER LEAVE'

190 DEAD IN MADRID RAILWAY BOMBINGS



PAUL WHITE/AP

VICTIMS: Rescue workers, above, cover bodies near one of the trains damaged in the Madrid bombings. Two of the injured, left, wait for help near the Atocha station.



JOSEHUESCA/EFE

ETA, al Qaeda group suspected

■ **Terrorist bombs rip through passenger trains during Madrid's morning rush hour in the bloodiest such attack in Spain's history.**

BY MATTHEW SCHOFIELD
Knight Ridder News Service

MADRID — More than 190 people were killed and at least another 1,200 injured when a series of terrorist bombs ripped through trains during the Spanish capital's morning rush hour Thursday. It was the bloodiest such attack in Spain's history.

Government officials quickly blamed the attack, which came three days before

national elections, on the Basque separatist group ETA. The group has waged a bloody 40-year campaign for independence. However, a letter to an Arabic-language newspaper in London later claimed the attacks were carried out by the al Qaeda terrorist network, but provided no evidence.

The letter, which dubbed the explosions "Operation Death Trains," called the attacks "a way to settle old accounts with Spain, crusader and ally of America in its war against Islam."

The letter, delivered to the Al-Quds Al-Arabi newspaper,

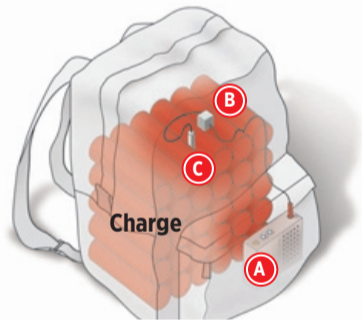
• **TURN TO MADRID, 6A**

Deadly backpacks

The 10 bombs exploded in a 15-minute span.

- Ⓐ Radio control mechanism receives remote signal.
- Ⓑ Detonator activated.
- Ⓒ Detonator sets off explosive (dynamite).

Note: Backpack holds between 28-33 pounds of explosives.



■ **POSSIBLE SUSPECTS: AL QAEDA HAS LONG HISTORY IN SPAIN, 6A**

■ **IN BUSINESS: STOCKS PLUMMET IN MARKET REACTION TO BOMBINGS, 1B**

Where backpack explosions occurred on the Atocha station train

Destination: Alcalá de Henares-Alcobendas



THE COURTS

Same-sex marriages halted in California

■ **California's Supreme Court orders a halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco.** In Massachusetts, lawmakers give preliminary assent to a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage but allow civil unions.

BY DAVID KRAVETS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday as Massachusetts lawmakers gave



BEN MARGOT/AP

TOO LATE: Jeanne Rizzo, right, walks with her partner, Pali Cooper, as they learn they can't be married Thursday in San Francisco.

preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment to ban marriage for gays in the only state where it has been ruled legal.

Tearful couples were quickly turned away at San Francisco's City Hall, where more than 3,700 gay couples have tied the knot in the last month.

"We were filling out the applica-

• **TURN TO MARRIAGE, 2A**

PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS

Medicare drug costs ordered withheld

■ **A White House health-cost estimator says he would have been fired if he divulged to Congress higher costs for a prescription-drug benefit.**

BY TONY PUGH
tpugh@krwashington.com

WASHINGTON — The government's top expert on Medicare costs was warned that he would be fired if he told key lawmakers about a series of Bush administration cost estimates that could have torpedoed congressional passage of the White House-backed Medicare prescription-drug plan.

When the House of Representatives passed the controversial benefit by five votes last November, the White House was embracing an esti-

mate by the Congressional Budget Office that it would cost \$395 billion in the first 10 years. But for months the administration's own analysts in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had concluded repeatedly that the drug benefit could cost upward of \$100 billion more than that.

Withholding the higher cost projections was important because the White House was facing a revolt from 13 conservative House Republicans who had vowed to vote against the bill if it cost more than \$400 billion.

Rep. Sue Myrick of North Carolina, one of the 13 Republicans, said she was "very upset" when she

• **TURN TO MEDICARE, 2A**



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