



South Florida Sun-Sentinel

NEWSSTAND EDITION | FRIDAY | MARCH 12, 2004

NWS

GET THE LATEST BREAKING NEWS @ Sun-Sentinel.com

35¢

TOLL EXCEEDS 190 IN MADRID ATTACKS

ANOTHER 1,400 HURT IN TRAIN BLASTS



CARNAGE: Firefighters remove bodies from a bomb-shredded railway car in one of Madrid's railroad stations after a series of bombings struck the Spanish capital. It was the worst terrorist attack ever in Spain. AP photo/Paul White



RELATIVE: The relative of a victim leaves the Gregorio Maranon hospital in Madrid where people injured in the blasts were admitted. AFP photo

Basque separatists, al-Qaida are called the prime suspects.

BY ELAINE SCIOLINO
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID, SPAIN • Ten bombs ripped through four commuter trains in Madrid on Thursday, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400 in the deadliest terrorist attack on a European target since World War II.

Spanish authorities initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA. But after finding a van with detonators and tape of Quranic verses near Madrid, they held open the possibility of Islamic terrorism.

A group claiming links to al-Qaida took responsibility in a letter delivered

to an Arab newspaper. A U.S. counterterrorism official said the claim should be viewed skeptically.

Spain, a U.S. ally in the war on Iraq that has 1,300 troops stationed there, was threatened as a target in an audiotape reportedly made by Osama bin Laden in October.

As the country struggled to absorb the devastation three days before general elections, Prime Minister José María Aznar said, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

The bombings came in coordinated explosions that went off within a 10-minute period shortly before 8 a.m. as people headed to work and school.

■ SPAIN CONTINUES ON 16A

■ SPANIARDS IN SOUTH FLORIDA SHOW THEIR SOLIDARITY. 16A

Same-sex marriages hit two hurdles

California Supreme Court orders halt to gay weddings

Massachusetts seeks amendment to its Constitution

BY DAVID KRAVETS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO • The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday as Massachusetts legislators gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriages in the only state where they have been ruled legal.

Teary-eyed couples were quickly turned away at San Francisco's City Hall, where 4,161 gay couples have tied the knot in the past month.

"We were filling out the application and they told us to

stop," said Art Adams, who was the first to be denied as he and partner Devin Baker sought a license. "It's heartbreaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

On the other side of the country, Massachusetts legislators returned to the Capitol to consider a constitutional amendment that would strip gay couples of their court-granted right to marriage but allow civil unions.

The amendment won approval during two preliminary votes, but its final passage is far from certain. Gay marriage supporters were conducting procedural maneuvers that could ultimately lead to the proposal's defeat.

■ MARRIAGE CONTINUES ON 17A

■ GROUP DENIED BID TO JOIN FLORIDA LAWSUIT. 3B

TURMOIL IN HAITI

Lauderhill educator to join government in rebuilding efforts

BY ALVA JAMES-JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Haiti's new prime minister comes from Boca Raton. The proposed defense minister is from Miami Shores. And the latest adviser to the new government hails from Lauderhill.

Louis Noisin, the former president of the Senate, said he's returning to Haiti today to serve as a consultant to his friend and television co-host, Prime Minister Gérard Lator-tue.

Some experts said tapping the talent of South Florida's Haitians might only be the beginning. They think the appointment of Lator-tue sent a signal to other Haitians living abroad that they, too, can participate in rebuilding the country.

"Right now, I think the diaspora needs to become more visible, and people who have been away for 25 and 30 years . . . need to think about how they can help the country move



ARISTIDE HEADED TO JAMAICA NEXT WEEK

Two killed in pro-Aristide demonstrations. 12A

TRAVEL
Long lines vie for the first flights out of Haiti to South Florida. 12A

ONLINE
Read Haiti: The Eroding Nation at sun-sentinel.com/news.

forward," said Marc Prou, executive director of the Haitian Studies Association, a Boston-based organization of researchers. "I think there's a

■ HAITI CONTINUES ON 12A

Weston's high-flying Hispanics buck national academic trend

BY SANDRA HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

With his mop of dark brown hair, baggy sweats and *de rigueur* cell phone, Diran Devletian easily blends into the sea of students that feverishly moves through the hallways of Cypress Bay High School.

But Devletian is hardly average.

Since moving from Venezuela to South Florida in 2001, the lanky 17-year-old is among the school's top students. He carries a full load of honors classes while playing on two soccer teams.

"Academically, it has been a breeze," said Devletian, holding a history exam with a big red A on the top left corner.

Devletian's story isn't uncommon in Weston. Here, amid the

new housing developments and golf courses, an unusual picture of Hispanic immigrant students is emerging. They join the ranks of the school's academic elite at a time when national dropout rates for Hispanics are reaching alarming levels. Their success has some singing the praises of bilingual education, which many received in their home countries.

"I would say these students generally do very well," said Priscilla Ribeiro, Cypress Bay's assistant principal. "One reason we scored so well in math in the county was because of these students."

About 39 percent of Cypress Bay's 4,300 students are Hispanic. While schools do not track

■ SCHOOLS CONTINUES ON 2A

Daily Digest

American accused of spying for Iraq

A Maryland woman who is a cousin of White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and once worked for three members of Congress was arrested and charged with spying for Saddam Hussein for almost three years. **CRISIS IN IRAQ, 15A**

Police slaying prompts outcries

A North Miami Beach police officer shot and killed a suspect, the second time in recent months that an officer had killed someone at this apartment complex. **LOCAL, 1B**

State denies Conseco rate hike request

Regulators denied Conseco Senior Health Insurance Co.'s request to raise long-term home health rates. **BUSINESS, 1D**

NHL suspends, fines Bertuzzi

Vancouver Canucks All-Star forward Todd Bertuzzi was suspended for the rest of the season and will lose \$500,000 in salary for the vicious punch that broke Steve Moore's neck. **SPORTS, 1C**



WEATHER

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| TODAY MOSTLY SUNNY 77 | TONIGHT MOSTLY CLEAR 63 | SAT. MOSTLY SUNNY 79 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|

WEATHER REPORT ON THE BACK PAGE OF LOCAL

INDEX

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| LOTTERY NATIONAL | 2A | WATERFRONTS | 14C |
| INTERNATIONAL | 3A | SPORTS SCORES | 17C |
| OPINION | 24A | BUSINESS | 1D |
| LOCAL | 1B | ADVICE | 2E |
| FLORIDA NEWS | 5B | TV LISTINGS | 4E |
| OBITUARIES | 6B | TEMPLE | 8E |
| SPORTS | 1C | COMICS | 9E |
| | | MOVIE LISTINGS | 5E |