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# SECONDHAND SHOCK

Bombings in Spain chill trading on Wall Street. B-1

# The Record

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## Group set to counter probe of D'Amiano

McGreevey aides hiring attorneys

By JEFF PILLETS, MITCHEL MADDUX, and CLINT RILEY  
TRENTON BUREAU

Only a week after federal agents rained search warrants and subpoenas on the McGreevey administration, Democrats in Trenton began bracing Thursday for what one termed "a long, painful spring and summer" of investigation.

At least four current and former members of the administration have hired prominent criminal attorneys to defend themselves in a corruption probe that is focusing in part on longtime McGreevey fund-raiser David D'Amiano, according to Democratic sources.

They include McGreevey's deputy chief of staff, Kevin Hagan; a former deputy chief of staff, Amy Mansue; and two fund-raisers who have worked for the Democratic State Committee, the sources said.

Democratic sources also confirmed that a loose-knit group of prominent party lobbyists and lawyers is planning a political counteroffensive to dull the force of Republican U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie's ag- See **PROBE** Page A-14

## FDA halts the sale of muscle booster

STAFF AND NEWS SERVICE REPORTS

Federal officials on Thursday ordered 23 companies, including two from New Jersey, to stop selling a steroid-like substance once used by retired baseball slugger Mark McGwire.

Andro, short for androstenedione, is a steroid precursor - the body converts it into testosterone, and, to some extent, estrogen.

Anabolic steroids, which build muscle, are controlled substances, available only under certain circumstances with a prescription. However, the Food and Drug Administration announced Thursday that andro poses the same health risks as steroids and ordered manufacturers to stop sales or face federal seizure of their products, among other penalties. See **FDA** Page A-15

# Terrorists kill scores in Spain



## Rush-hour blasts rip four trains

By MAR ROMAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, Spain - 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 1,400.

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.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cellphones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to See **TERROR** Page A-10

## Émigrés in N.J. are sad, angry

By ELIZABETH LLORENTE  
STAFF WRITER

NEWARK - The conversations in the Centro Orensano, a social club for émigrés from Spain, usually revolve around soccer and politics.

The atmosphere is nearly always festive. Some men play pool, others cards, and others just down some beer at the bar while waxing nostalgic about *la patria*, the homeland, and ignoring the small TV set overhead.

Thursday was different. A nation that much of the world equates with sunshine and idyllic vacations was plunged into despair.

Like Spanish officials, many of the people at the club blamed militant Basque separatists for the series of See **REACTION** Page A-11

Sheets cover bodies in the ghastly wreckage of one of the commuter trains blown up Thursday in Madrid. "March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said of his nation's worst terror attack.

### INSIDE

■ A former congressional press secretary is **charged with spying** for Iraq. **A-8**

■ The House votes to dramatically **increase fines** for violations of broadcast indecency rules. **A-12**

■ Francis Bok was 7 when he was **sold into slavery** in Sudan. Now free, he told his story to North Jersey students. **L-1**

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## 3 bdrms, lake vu, and bears in the bargain



Mark and Sandra Levin and their cat, India, found that life in a bargain-priced Highland Lakes cottage took some getting used to.

### Sussex starter homes beckon the unwary

By ROD ALLEE  
STAFF WRITER

Sussex County, once known for having more cows than people, is renowned these days as first-home territory. Young couples, priced out of Bergen, Passaic, and Morris counties, still can buy their piece of the rock in Sussex, although it is getting more expensive by the minute.

If that's your plan, you'll need to resurrect your Scout training manual. Be prepared, because owning a Sussex County starter home - typically a winterized cottage near a lake - might impose living conditions worlds apart from, say,

those of a small bungalow in Clifton that served as a typical starter home a couple of decades ago.

Just ask the Levins. Mark and Sandra Levin bought their starter cottage in Highland Lakes in Vernon a year and a half ago. Technically, it was their starter home - they're both remarried - and they looked in Sussex County because that's all they could afford.

Mark is 43, a native New Yorker, a thoughtful man who works in a ribbon factory in Rockaway. Sandra is 46, a North Jersey woman with a 20-year-old son See **SUSSEX** Page A-16