

DOW
10,128.38 ▼ 168.51 (-1.64%)
S&P 500
1,106.78 ▼ 17.11 (-1.52%)
NASDAQ
1,943.89 ▼ 20.26 (-1.03%)

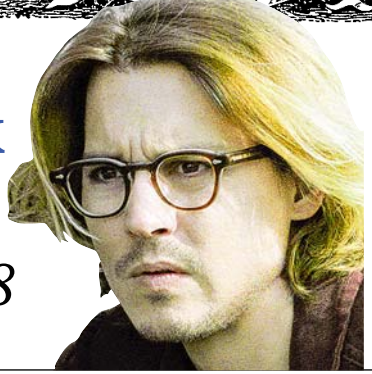
The NEW YORK Sun

TODAY
Snow early. High 45°
SATURDAY
Sunny. High 46°
SUNDAY
Partly cloudy. High 48°



The Boys Are Back

Two New Thrillers Star
Kilmer and Depp, p. 18



Happy Colors

Curaçao's Vivid
Landscape, p. 21



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HOW KERRY QUIT VETERANS GROUP AMID DARK PLOT

When Talk Turned To Assassination He Exited, Vet Says

By THOMAS H. LIPSCOMB
Special to the Sun

The anti-war group that John Kerry was the principal spokesman for debated and voted on a plot to assassinate politicians who supported the Vietnam War.

Mr. Kerry denies being present at the November 12-15, 1971, meeting in Kansas City of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and says he quit the group before the meeting. But according to the current head of Missouri Veterans for Kerry, Randy Barnes, Mr. Kerry, who was then 27, was at the meeting, voted against the plot, and then orally resigned from the organization.

Mr. Barnes was present as part of the Kansas City host chapter for the 1971 meeting and recounted the incident in a phone interview with The New York Sun this week.

In addition to Mr. Barnes's recollection placing Mr. Kerry at the Kansas City meeting, another Vietnam veteran who attended the meeting, Terry DuBose, said that Mr. Kerry was there.

There are at least two other independent corroborations that the anti-war group Vietnam Veterans Against the War, of which Mr. Kerry was the most prominent national spokesman, considered assassinating American political leaders who favored the war.

Gerald Nicosia's 2001 book "Home To War" reports that one of the key leaders of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Scott Camil, "proposed the assassination of the most hard-core conservative members of Congress, as well as any other powerful, intractable opponents of the anti-war movement." The book reports on the Kansas City meeting at which Mr. Camil's plan was debated and then voted down.

Mr. Nicosia's book was widely praised by reviewers as varied as General Harold Moore, author of "We Were Soldiers"; Gloria Emerson, who had been a New York Times reporter during the Vietnam War, and leftist Howard Zinn. Mr. Kerry himself stated in a blurb on the cover that the book "ties together the many threads of a difficult period." Mr. Kerry hosted a party for the book in the Hart Senate Office Building that was televised on C-SPAN.

Another source is an October 20, 1992, oral history interview of Scott Camil on file at the University of Florida Oral History Archive. In it, Mr. Camil speaks of his plan for an alternative to Mr. Kerry's idea of symbolically throwing veterans' medals over the fence onto the steps of the Capitol during the Dewey Canyon III demonstration in Washington in April of 1971.

"My plan was that, on the last day we would go into the [congressional] offices we would schedule the most hardcore hawks for last — and we would shoot them all," Mr. Camil told the Oral History interviewer. "I was serious."

In a phone interview with the Sun this week, Mr. Camil did not dispute either the account in the Nicosia book or in the oral history. He said he plans to accept an offer by the Florida Kerry organization to become active in Mr. Kerry's presidential campaign. Campaign aides to Mr. Kerry invited Mr. Camil to a meeting for the senator in Orlando last week, but they did not meet directly.

Mr. Camil was known to colleagues
Please see PLOT, page 4

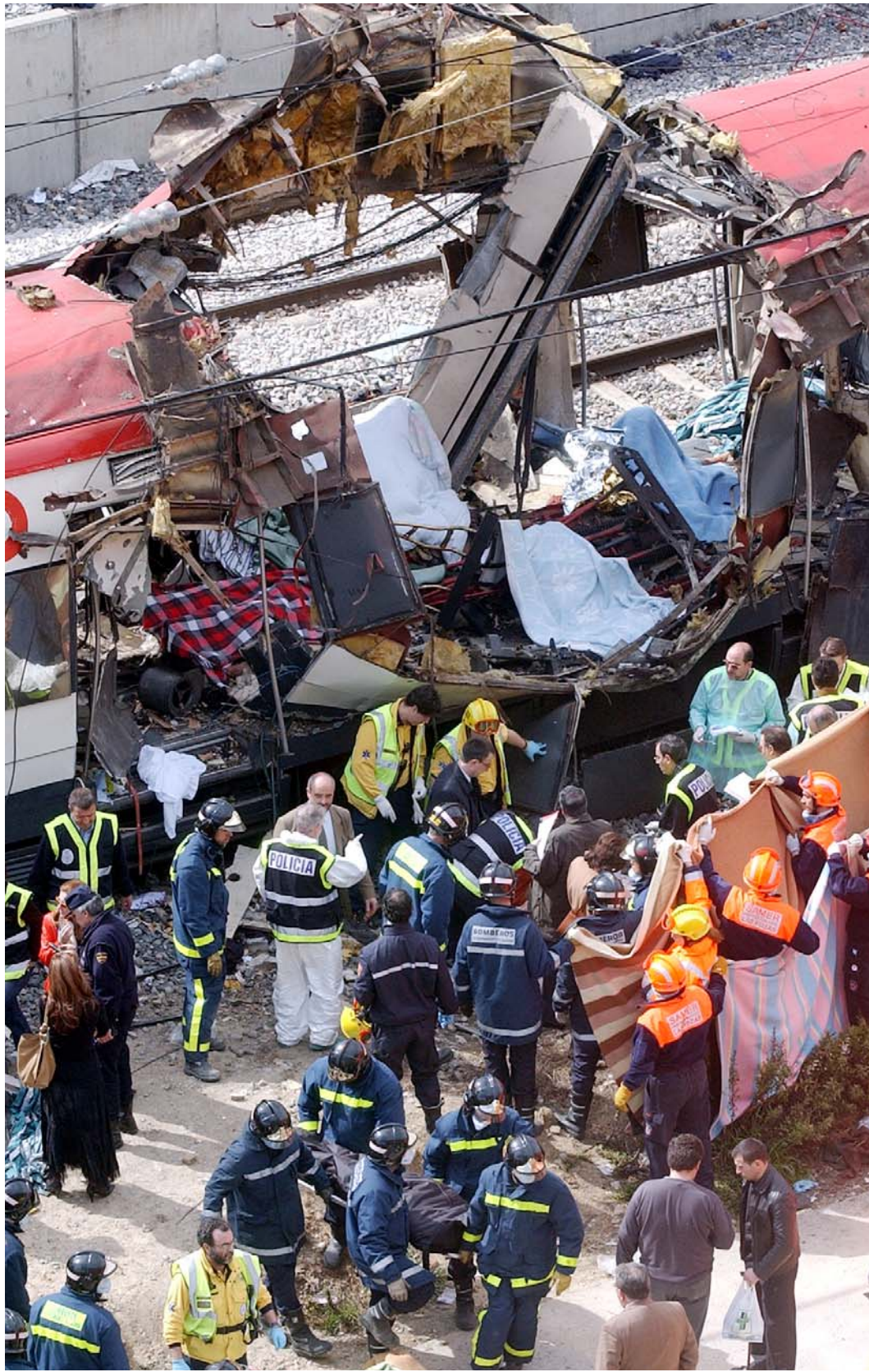
QAEDA SUSPECTED IN DEADLY BOMBINGS IN MADRID



TERROR IN MADRID These are some of the images of the highly coordinated terror attack that killed at least 192 people and injured hundreds more in a series of rush-hour bombings in Spain. Above, a relative of a victim leaves the Gregorio Maranon hospital, where people injured in the blasts were admitted. Right, firefighters carry out a body on a stretcher from a bomb-damaged passenger train in Spain's worst terrorist attack ever. Below, two people injured in the explosions wait for aid outside the Atocha train station. Government officials suspect either Basque separatists or Al Qaeda are responsible for the attack.



AP/JOSE HUESCA



AP PHOTO/PAUL WHITE

AT LEAST 192 PERISH IN ONE OF EUROPE'S WORST ATROCITIES

By ISAMBARD WILKINSON

MADRID — A series of simultaneous bomb explosions ripped through four packed Spanish commuter trains at the height of the rush hour yesterday, leaving at least 192 people dead in one of Europe's worst terrorist atrocities.

Authorities first blamed Basque separatists, but there were strong indications the attacks may have been the work of Al Qaeda terrorists.

Police found a stolen van containing detonators and an Arabic-language tape with Koranic verses found in a Madrid suburb, where it was believed the bombs had been planted.

Al Qaeda has repeatedly threatened members of the American-led coalition in Iraq, including Spain, which has 1,300 troops there.

The Spanish government at first accused the Basque terrorist group ETA of planting 13 bombs in trains heading into Atocha station, Madrid's busiest terminal. Ten of the 60-pound devices, each hidden in a backpack, exploded. More than 1,400 people were reported wounded.

But the terrorists' methods, including carefully synchronized explosions and a determination to kill the maximum number of civilians, suggested Islamist involvement.

Later, a London-based Arabic newspaper, *al-Quds al-Arabi*, said it had received a letter purporting to come from Al Qaeda claiming responsibility.

The claim, signed by the shadowy Brigade of Abu Hafis al-Masri, was received at the newspaper's London offices and said the brigade's "death squad" had penetrated "one of the pillars of the crusade alliance, Spain."

"This is part of settling old accounts with Spain, the crusader, and America's ally in its war against Islam," the claim said.

Please see BOMB, page 6

BUSH IS WARNING AGAINST TAX HIKE

ATTACKS KERRY ON DEFENSE

By DAVID ANDREATTA
Staff Reporter of the Sun

Taking veiled swipes at his presumptive Democratic opponent in the November election, President Bush yesterday called "economic isolationism" and tax hikes poor policy and released campaign ads criticizing Senator Kerry on defense.

The president spoke at an automotive-parts plant in Suffolk County on Long Island, where he touched on issues of the economy and terrorism before breaking ground for a memorial to victims of the September 11 attacks in neighboring Nassau County.

Flanked by workers in blue jumpsuits and sitting under a banner that read "Strengthening America's Economy," the president pledged to maintain American international trade agreements and urged Congress to make permanent the tax cuts of his administration.

"What I call 'economic isolationism' Please see BUSH, page 4

U.S. Arrests American Woman as Iraqi Spy

By COLIN MINER
Staff Reporter of the Sun

A tip from the White House chief of staff, Andrew Card, that one of his second cousins was acting as a paid agent for Iraq helped lead to her arrest yesterday on charges that could land her behind bars for 25 years.

While the FBI had already been probing the activities of Susan Lindauer — a former reporter and congressional staffer — law enforcement officials credited Mr. Card with assisting in the investigation.

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan charged Ms. Lindauer with conspiring to act as an unregistered agent of the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein, plotting to aid Iraqi resistance groups after the American victory last year, and engaging in prohibited financial transactions with Iraq.

The government also charges Ms. Lindauer tried to influence American foreign policy in January 2003, when she sent a letter to Mr. Card boasting of her established access to, and contacts with, members of Saddam's regime in an effort to dissuade America from going to war.

"It's a very sad personal incident in-

volving a distant relative" of Mr. Card's, a White House official said yesterday. "The last time he recalls seeing or talking with her was during the 2001 inaugural events."

The official said Mr. Card told authorities Ms. Lindauer made "various attempts" to contact him. Mr. Card has been cooperating with the investigation.

Prosecutors charge Ms. Lindauer, who was arrested yesterday morning at her home in a suburb of Baltimore, first met with Iraqi officials in October 1999 and then renewed contact about a week after the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

"I'm an anti-war activist and I'm innocent," she told WBAL-TV as she was led from the Baltimore field office of the FBI. "I did more to stop terrorism in this country than anybody else," she shouted. "I have done good things for this country. I worked to get weapons inspectors back to Iraq when everyone else said it was impossible. I'm very proud and I'll stand by my achievements."

Ms. Lindauer was later brought to federal court in Baltimore, where she appeared with two lawyers from the federal public defender's office. She will
Please see SPY, page 4

Alarm at City Hall Over Zarb Report

LOSS OF AUTONOMY FEARED

By WILLIAM F. HAMMOND JR.
Staff Reporter of the Sun

ALBANY — The upcoming report of Governor Pataki's Commission on Education Reform is stirring concern at New York City Hall, where the Bloomberg administration is worried the panel will recommend costly mandates on city government.

City officials expect the commission to call for hiking teacher pay as a way of recruiting better instructors, according to a source in the Bloomberg administration.

The administration fears it would receive only partial state aid to cover the higher pay for teachers, and would face union pressure to offer parallel raises to all of its employees, the source said. "There's a real concern that we're going to be forced to spend money that we just don't have," the source said. "This is something that could result in us being back under the control of the Financial Control Board."

The grumbling from City Hall adds to the pressure on the commission, which is struggling to complete a report that was originally due March 1.

The staff has begun circulating drafts among commission members, but the panel has not received crucial cost estimates from its consultant, the Wall Street firm Standard & Poor's. Having requested a two-week extension, to Monday, commission officials said yesterday they would be ready to go public "sometime next week."

"Anyone who suggests they know the outcome of the report is mistaken," said a spokesman for the panel, James Denn. "No one has seen a copy of the report because the report's not finished."

Mr. Pataki appointed the commission last fall to recommend an overhaul of New York's public education system,
Please see ZARB, page 3

'I Could Hear Only Screams for Help And Cries of Pain'

MADRID MARKED FOREVER

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

MADRID — Christine Hernando opened her window overlooking the railway junction 800 yards 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 said. "When I looked out I could see nothing at first, as the tracks were covered in smoke. I could only hear screams for help and cries of pain."

"When the smoke lifted I could see scores of bloodied and injured people staggering from the tracks as best as they could. It was a nightmarish scene of blood and fear."

Below her window, hundreds of workers and schoolchildren from the working-class barrios of southern Madrid had been traveling in red-and-white commuter trains for the center of the capital.

Many of their families had come from Spain's poorer south for work, trading the rigors of rural life for those of the city.

At 7:39 a.m., the first three explosions went off in a train pulling into Atocha, Madrid's central train station close by the Prado museum and many government ministries.

"I shook like a cigarette paper," said Angel Manuel Garcia, 24, who was working in a tunnel underneath the station. "The sky seemed to be crashing in on our heads."

Moments later, a second series of four explosions ripped through the central carriages of a train 500 yards behind the first one.

"People were stunned after the first
Please see SCENE, page 6

'I DO' NO MORE
California's Supreme Court ordered a halt to same-sex marriages in San Francisco yesterday, and Massachusetts lawmakers moved toward a ban on gay weddings. Page 5.

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Trying To Get Splenda With Splenda

By JULIA LEVY
Staff Reporter of the Sun

It's white, it's powdery, and all of a sudden it's just about everywhere. It's...Splenda.

In the olden days of 2003, New Yorkers who wanted to sprinkle Splenda into their lattes had to buy it at specialty grocery stores. This year, the zero-calorie, carbohydrate-free sugar alternative has made its way onto condiment stands citywide.

"We've gone out and attacked the top 100 food-service brands," said Splenda's director of sales for food

services, Dino Mele. "It really started to take off in the latter part of 2003, and it's really started to go crazy here in the beginning of 2004."

Little yellow Splenda packets came to Starbucks Coffee stores last month. Next month, they're arriving at Dunkin' Donuts.

The sweetener, which is made by replacing three hydrogen-oxygen groups on the sugar molecule with three chlorine atoms, has also appeared recently alongside Sweet 'N Low and Equal at Cheesecake Factories, Marriott Hotels,
Please see SPLENDA, page 11

HOW SWEET IT IS Splenda is the hot new no-calorie sweetener on the market.

