

The Columbus Dispatch

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HOUSE INDECENCY BILL Stunts like Jackson's soon may cost plenty

By Andrew Mollison
COX NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The House responded yesterday to an avalanche of complaints about shock jocks and the Super Bowl halftime show by voting 391-22 to raise the maximum fine for broadcast indecency to \$500,000.

"This triple-X smut stuff should never be broadcast on the public airways," said the bill's chief sponsor, Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., as he held up a notebook bulging with transcripts.

Only a handful of members opposed raising the fine from current levels of \$27,000 for a radio or TV station and \$11,000 for a performer or journalist.

"Never would I have thought that defending the Constitution in this House would be a lonely job," said Rep. Gary Ackerman, D-N.Y., who joined 20 other Democrats — including Ohio Democrats Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Dennis J. Kucinich of Cleveland — and Republican Rep. Ron Paul of Texas in voting

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\$45,969 MISTAKE New plates shredded in mix-up

By Jon Craig
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

If this story were being told on a license plate, it would read: UH OH.

On the same day that Gov. Bob Taft was announcing a 6 percent budget cut to save money, state workers accidentally destroyed about \$46,000 worth of new license plates.

A forklift operator got his pallets mixed up in an Alum Creek Drive warehouse Monday, sending 46,200 new "sunburst" license plates to the shredder.

"We believe this was completely accidental, human error," Susan Raber, a spokeswoman for the Department of Public Safety, said yesterday.

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Spying case

The U.S. government charged an anti-war activist with providing information to Iraq | **Nation A3**

Funding battle

Despite an Ohio Supreme Court ruling, lawmakers continue to lend operating money to bankrupt school districts | **Metro & State B1**

Losing effort

The Detroit Red Wings snapped a tie in the third period and went on to beat the Blue Jackets 4-2 | **Sports C1**

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MADRID TRAIN BOMBINGS

'This is mass murder'

► Terrorists set off 10 bombs at 3 rail stations during morning rush hour

► Toll climbs to 192 dead; more than 1,400 injured 3 days ahead of election

► Investigators find stolen van with detonators, tape of verses from Quran



Emergency workers tend to bodies outside the Atocha train station in Madrid, Spain. The series of 10 bombs at three crowded commuter stations left scores dead or injured.

PETER DEJONG | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Style of attack raises questions

By Dafna Linzer and Pamela Sampson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spanish leaders were quick to accuse Basque terrorists of setting off yesterday's devastating attacks in Madrid.

But hours later they were less sure.

A shadowy Muslim militant group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida and a van found nearby contained detonators and tapes of verses from the Quran.

Getting at the truth could take time.

Spanish officials used to blaming terrorism on the Basque separatist group ETA said they were opening up several lines of inquiry. As recent events have shown, it won't be easy.

Other terrorist attacks carried out in the past two years in places such as Morocco and Turkey remain unsolved.

In Washington, a U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was too early to determine who was responsible for the attack, which killed at least 192 people and wounded 1,400 others.



"We're not ruling out the possibility there was outside responsibility (beyond ETA) in this," the official said. "That's something being pursued, but at this point it's too early to tell."

If ETA was behind the 10 bombs that tore through trains and stations around Madrid, it would mark a stunning turning point for the group.

For years, ETA relied on targeted killings, extortion and kidnappings to press for an independent homeland straddling parts of Spain and France.

Now experts think a younger generation of leaders is moving the group toward al-Qaida-style actions.

"You've lost the old guard who were very reticent about killing



Firefighters remove a body from a damaged commuter train. A militant Islamic group claimed responsibility for the attack.

PAUL WHITE | ASSOCIATED PRESS

larger numbers of people because they think that will not help their cause," said Mia Soar, a European terrorism analyst for Jane's Information Group in London. "Then you have this new, younger cadre who've been trained in urban violence who don't think like that."

Spain's Interior Minister An-

gel Acebes said ETA tried a similar attack on Christmas Eve, placing bombs on two trains bound for a Madrid station that was not hit yesterday. He also noted the Feb. 29 police interception of a van bound for Madrid that was packed with more

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By Tracy Wilkinson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MADRID, Spain — In the most devastating terrorist attack in Spanish history, 10 bombs that detonated minutes apart ripped through crowded commuter trains at three Madrid stations early yesterday, killing at least 192 people and wounding 1,400 others.

The attack sent the capital into convulsions of shock and horror three days before a national election.

Authorities immediately blamed the Basque separatist group ETA, but the carnage went far beyond anything the separatists had ever carried out and led to speculation that other groups might be responsible.

Interior Minister Angel Acebes initially said it was "absolutely clear" that ETA was responsible. Late yesterday, however, he said that police had recovered a stolen van with seven bomb detonators and a tape of verses from the Quran recorded in Arabic.

A short time later, an Arabic-language newspaper in London said it had received a letter purporting to claim responsibility for the bombings in the name of al-Qaida.

The rush-hour blasts paralyzed Madrid. Political parties canceled what remained of their election campaigns, the right-wing government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar declared three days of mourning, and relatives searched for loved ones at morgues and hospitals.

"This is mass murder," Aznar said after an emergency cabinet meeting. "The date of March 11 now holds its place in infamy."

A hellish scene of destruction and anguish repeated itself at the three stations, including Atocha, the largest in Madrid and a hub for subways and long-distance trains just south of the famed Prado Museum.

About 7:40 a.m., three bombs shattered a commuter train that had just pulled into Atocha. Minutes later, four explosions ravaged another train a short distance from the station. Another bomb exploded at the Santa Eugenia station, two stops away, followed by two bombs in a train at the El Pozo del Tio Raimundo station, two stops later.

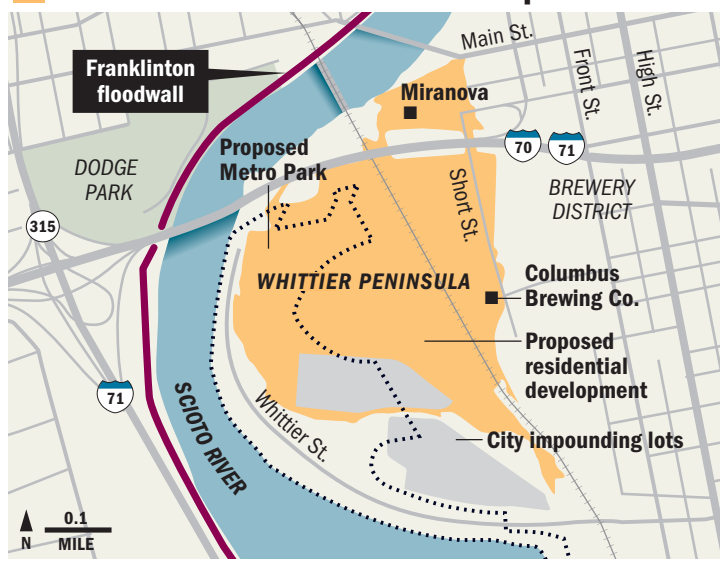
The three stations anchor a 9-mile stretch of commuter railway into Madrid.

The Interior Ministry said the explosives and detonation devices in all 10 bombs resembled those used by ETA in previous attacks.

Throughout the morning and into the afternoon, rescue workers pulled bodies and pieces of bodies from the shells of passenger cars that had been

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Areas in the Scioto River flood plain



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

TOM BAKER | DISPATCH

Flood plain reaches tonier digs

Maps add 120 acres east of Scioto, including Miranova high-rise

By Debbie Gebolys
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Downtown's most exclusive high-rise has something in common with Franklinton's mostly humble lowland.

Miranova, a luxury condominium and office complex that is home to some of Columbus' more notable residents, will be designated as subject to flooding from the Scioto River.

Miranova and several other high-profile properties Downtown and in the Brewery District will be on flood-plain

maps to be issued Tuesday by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The maps add about 120 acres to the flood plain east of the Scioto River, correcting what U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Steve Wright called a mistake in past maps. The maps are being issued in conjunction with the dedication Monday of the \$134 million Franklinton floodwall, designed to protect 2,800 acres west of the river.

Although the maps will remove most of Franklinton and portions of Grandview Heights

from the flood plain, they will add some valuable real estate east of the river.

"It has not been in the flood plain in the past," Wright said. "It probably should have been."

Land to be added to the flood plain is home to Cameron Mitchell's Columbus Brewing Co. restaurant on Short Street, the city's car-fleet service center and most of the Whittier Peninsula. At least half of the city's impounding lot also is in the flood-prone area.

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