

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004

## ISG plans to fire up West Side steel plant

PETER KROUSE  
Plain Dealer Reporter

The roar and hiss of steel making will return to the west side of the Cuyahoga River as International Steel Group Inc. restores a tradition begun in 1914.

ISG said Thursday that it will spend \$10 million to restart the basic oxygen furnace and continuous caster on the West Side of its Cleveland Works in mid-May and hire about 140 people, mostly members of the United Steelworkers of America.

The Steelworkers operated the West Side plant before its closing under LTV Corp., said Mark Granakis, president of USW Local 979. ISG bought the bankrupt mills of LTV in 2002 and later added bankrupt mills from Acme Steel Co. and Bethlehem Steel Corp.

The employment level on the West Side will be a fraction of the 2,000 who worked there before it closed in June 2001.

But those returning to work will make more money than they did with LTV, Granakis said.

SEE STEEL | A8

## Gay-wedding backers suffer two setbacks

BOB KEEFE  
Cox News Service

Gay-marriage advocates suffered a double-barreled setback Thursday, as states on either side of the country moved to prohibit same-sex weddings.

The California Supreme Court on Thursday ordered San Francisco to immediately stop issuing marriage licenses to gay couples, a month almost to the day that the city set off a national debate by allowing such unions. The court said the city was violating state laws that declare a marriage is between a man and woman.

In Massachusetts, the legislature gave preliminary approval to a state constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriages but allow civil unions.

Opponents of gay marriage hailed the action by the two states as a major victory and said it was more proof that the country as a whole is against the idea of same-sex weddings.

"This is a momentum swing," said Glen Lavy, senior attorney for the Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative group that sued to stop the gay marriages in San Francisco. "But frankly, you've got people up in arms all around the country about this lawlessness."

The action in the two states stopped far short of settling the simmering disagreement over gay marriage, however.

While San Francisco must stop issuing wedding licenses to gay couples immediately, the state Supreme Court did not rule on whether gay marriages are legal.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has argued that prohibiting gay couples to wed violates the state constitution's rules prohibiting discrimination. In its ruling, the Supreme Court ordered Newsom to show cause by late May or early June why a ban on gay marriages would violate the constitution.

SEE MARRIAGE | A9

10 explosions rip  
4 packed trains

At least 190 dead,  
nearly 1,500 hurt

Who did it? Basque group,  
Islamic extremists suspected

# MASSACRE IN MADRID



KEITH B. RICHBURG  
Washington Post

MADRID — Ten explosions tore almost simultaneously through four packed commuter trains in Madrid during rush hour Thursday morning, killing at least 190 people and wounding nearly 1,500 in the worst terrorist attack in modern Spanish history, just three days before national elections.

The explosives were placed in backpacks and left aboard trains and on tracks at three stations. Witnesses describing the chaos and carnage said they heard multiple explosions at the city's busy Atocha station, which stampeded passengers.

EDITORIAL:  
Spain's 9/11. B8

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar called the attacks "a mass murder" and compared them to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist strikes in the United States. "March 11, 2004, now occupies a place in the history of infamy," he said.

Government officials and the media immediately blamed the attacks on the Basque separatist group ETA, which has waged a 30-year fight against the Spanish government.

Later Thursday, however, the Spanish interior minister, Angel Acebes, said the government was investigating a possible link to Islamic extremists after a van was discovered on the outskirts of Madrid carrying seven detonator caps and a cassette tape in Arabic containing verses from the Koran. The van was parked in the town of Alcala de Henares about 15 miles east of Madrid, where at least three of the targeted trains originated.

"I have given our security forces instructions not to rule out anything," Acebes said, adding that he still considered ETA the principal suspect.

The discovery of the van was followed by a report from London by the Arabic language Al-Quds Al-Arabi newspaper that it had received an e-mail from an Islamic militant group claiming responsibility for the attacks.

"We have succeeded in infiltrating the heart of crusader Europe and struck one of the bases of the crusader alliance," the letter said, claiming it had been sent on behalf of the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades, a group aligned with the al-Qaida terrorist network. The letter also said preparations for an attack on the United States were under way.

SEE SPAIN | A2

Firefighters screen off the removal of a body from the wreckage of a bombed passenger train Thursday in Madrid.



JOSE HUESCA/EFE | ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Two of the hundreds injured wait for medical aid outside the Atocha train station in Madrid.

## Chaos, confusion follow catastrophe

ELAINE SCIOLINO  
New York Times

MADRID — Dr. Eduardo Asensio, a rescue worker, has waded in death for two decades, but none of it prepared him for the torment he saw at the height of rush hour on Thursday morning.

"I've been through so many other catastrophes, but not this, not this," Asensio said, still in his blood-stained white medical uniform outside the Atocha railway station. "So many bodies, all along the railway lines. Dead. Our country has never seen this."

Chaos spread like a contagion, accompanied by the screams of ambulance sirens and the roar of police helicopters. People fleeing the trains trampled one another.

"It's an act of complete hatred toward the people."

Fernando Escobar,  
an ambulance worker

Cell phones rang near dead bodies as people struggled to call relatives. Networks were jammed.

Hospitals took in patients as ambulances streamed one after the other. Weeping family members searching for relatives staked out emergency rooms that strained to cope.

As bodies streamed into makeshift morgues at a convention pavilion and people lined up to donate blood, King Juan Carlos urged calm.

"We are a great country that has demonstrated its capacity to overcome challenges and difficulties," he said in a pre-recorded television appearance aired Thursday night. "The only appropriate response is unity, firmness and serenity."

SEE CHAOS | A2

## Rap CD puts school on edge

Musician facing charges, claims rights of free speech

MICHAEL SCOTT  
Plain Dealer Reporter

JEFFERSON — Constitutionally protected free speech — or a panic-provoking threat?

That debate now smolders in the sleepy town of Jefferson, about 50 miles east of Cleveland.

Thursday, an Ashtabula County grand jury will hear the case against Kevin Beebe, a 19-year-old former Jefferson Area High School student whom police arrested last week on charges of inducing panic and

aggravated menacing.

Authorities say Beebe's violent lyrics — heard on a CD he left on school grounds — posed a threat to students at the high school, its principal and Jefferson Police Chief Steve Febel.

"The song ends with the line that says 'This is a death threat.' It doesn't get much more direct than that," said Harold Specht, assistant Ashtabula County prosecutor. "He's free to say what he said, but the result was still panic."

But defense attorney Timothy

Kucharski of Cleveland said Beebe was merely promoting his fledgling rap music career, even if his choice of marketing location may not have been the best.

"The fact remains that he did not induce panic or intend to induce panic," Kucharski said. "He's not guilty of a criminal act — unless the First Amendment has been repealed and I'm unaware of it."

Specht said there was enough in Beebe's lyrics to warrant concern.

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## WEATHER

Very windy; flurries.  
High 32, low 22.  
Map, B10.



## African legacy

A new exhibit at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History leads visitors through present-day village life in sub-Saharan Africa. **Arts & Life**

## A day for the green

All things Irish for St. Patrick's Day. **Friday! Magazine**



## COMING UP IN THE PLAIN DEALER

### SUNDAY

Overtime has become such a routine pay booster for Cleveland police officers that some now view it as an entitlement. **On Page One**