

For area jazz junkies, opportunities abound
Weekend



NO. 1 ST. JOE'S FALLS

Hawks' 27-game winning streak is halted by Xavier, 87-67
■ Plus: Villanova stuns Providence, 69-66. Sports, Section D

FRIDAY
MARCH 12, 2004

The Philadelphia Inquirer

50¢
75 cents in some locations outside the metropolitan area

City & Suburbs Edition W D

WWW.PHILLY.COM

175th Year, No. 286

PHILADELPHIA



Making all the right moves

At the National High School Dance Festival, more than 1,400 of the best dancers are seeking scholarships to some of the nation's top dance programs. **B1.**

THE NATION

Woman called spy for Iraq

The distant cousin of a top White House aide faces charges that she accepted money from Iraq. **A2.**

THE WORLD



Rabbis stage strike in Israel

The largely symbolic job action highlighted tensions between the secular and religious establishments. **A2.**

BUSINESS

A customerless recovery?

A year ago, profits soared as more orders were filled with fewer workers. But now, the stock market worries: Who will buy those products if the job market does not pick up? **C1.**

COMING SUNDAY

Dominating the dining scene

Stephen Starr has opened 10 city restaurants in the last nine years, and he has a half-dozen more set to go. Image takes a look.

WEATHER

High 46
Low 28

Rain and wet snow with breaks of sun. Gusts to 45 m.p.h. Full report, **B11.**

On the Web

The latest news and sports updated throughout the day. www.philly.com

INDEX

Comics **E14**
Editorials **A24**
Legal Notices **D6**
Movies **W7**
Newsmakers **E2**
Obituaries **B10**
Television **E12**
Triclassifieds **F**

Horror in Madrid: 192 Die, 1,400 Hurt



PAUL WHITE / Associated Press

Rescuers cover bodies alongside a destroyed train car in Madrid. A series of explosions during the morning rush hour yesterday killed nearly 200 people. It was the worst such attack in Spain's history. Early suspicion was focused on the Basque group ETA as well as al-Qaeda.

The Attack: Ten blasts hit morning train commute.

By Matthew Schofield
INQUIRER FOREIGN STAFF

MADRID, Spain — At least 192 people were killed and at least 1,400 were injured when a series of 10 bombs ripped through trains during Madrid's morning rush hour yesterday. It was the bloodiest such attack in Spain's history.

The explosions struck within minutes of one another, just as commuters — workers and students — were preparing to pile off the trains along the southern side of the city. Seven of the bombs exploded at Atocha, the city's main station.

Spanish officials initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA, but hours later they said they were opening other lines of inquiry after finding a van that contained detonators and tapes of Koranic verses. It was parked near the attacks.

Witnesses described scenes of confusion and carnage, with severed arms and legs strewn across blood-drenched platforms. See **ATTACK** on A6



PETER DEJONG / Associated Press

Body bags line pavement near Atocha station, where seven bombs exploded. In the sudden aftermath, the cell phones of the dead could be heard ringing.

Inside

■ The Basque separatist group ETA has a long history of violence. **A8.**

■ Al-Qaeda has its own reasons to target the Spanish government. **A6.**

The Scene: Destruction, carnage and chaos

By Keith B. Richburg
WASHINGTON POST

MADRID, Spain — At the Atocha train station, in the heart of Madrid, there was smoke and fire, and bodies and body parts. In 7½ years as a technician on an emergency services ambulance, Jonathan Cuenca has seen death and destruction — but never anything on this scale.

"Lots of people in pieces, bleeding," Cuenca said, leaning

exhausted on the door of his emergency vehicle. "After the first explosion, everybody was running over the people who were injured but not dead. It was a stampede."

He added: "It was like the twin towers — it's even the same date, the eleventh. It's really amazing."

Spaniards yesterday recounted with numb horror the worst terrorist attack to hit a country familiar with smaller-scale car

bombs and periodic assassinations. Witnesses told of seeing train passengers ripped apart by the blast. They told of body parts strewn across the tracks and against buildings. Dazed survivors and family members wandered through hospitals and a makeshift morgue, trying to find news of missing loved ones.

"I don't know anything. I can't find my husband, and no one is telling me anything," one woman said. See **SCENE** on A10

Medicare expert says he was told to withhold cost

By Tony Pugh
INQUIRER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The government's top expert on Medicare costs was warned that he would be fired if he told key lawmakers about a series of Bush administration cost estimates that could have torpedoed congressional passage of the White House-backed Medicare prescription-drug plan, according to an e-mail by the expert.

When the House passed the benefit by five votes Nov. 22, the White House was

embracing an estimate by the Congressional Budget Office that the bill would cost \$395 billion over 10 years. But for months, the administration's own analysts in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services had concluded repeatedly that the drug benefit could cost upward of \$100 billion more than that.

Withholding the higher cost projections was important, because the White House was facing a revolt from 13 conservative House Republicans who had vowed to

vote against the Medicare drug bill if it cost more than \$400 billion.

Rep. Sue Myrick of North Carolina, one of the 13 Republicans, said she was "very upset" when she learned of the higher estimate.

"I think a lot of people probably would have reconsidered [voting for the bill] because we said that \$400 billion was our top of the line," Myrick said.

Five months before the House vote, the government's chief Medicare actuary had

estimated that a similar plan the Senate was considering would cost \$551 billion over 10 years. Two months after Congress approved the new benefit, White House budget director Joshua Bolten disclosed that he expected it to cost \$534 billion.

Richard S. Foster, the chief actuary for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which produced the \$551 billion estimate, told colleagues in June that it would cost him his job if he revealed numbers. See **MEDICARE** on A17

Same-sex marriage loses in 2 states

San Francisco was told to halt weddings. In Mass., lawmakers moved closer to a constitutional ban.

By David Kravets
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt yesterday to same-sex weddings in San Francisco, as Massachusetts lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment to 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 more than 3,700 gay and lesbian couples have tied the knot in the last 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 heart-breaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

The court ruling did not settle the legality of gay marriages. The justices indicated they would decide in the coming months whether Mayor Gavin Newsom had the authority to allow the weddings.

On the other side of the country, the Massachusetts Legislature See **DEBATE** on A16

Stiffer ban on gay vows sought in Pa.

A proposal rules out other states' civil unions.

By Amy Worden
INQUIRER HARRISBURG BUREAU

HARRISBURG — Pitching Pennsylvania into the national debate on gay rights, a state lawmaker is advancing a proposal to strengthen the state ban on same-sex marriage by prohibiting the recognition of any civil unions.

The sponsor, Rep. Jerry Birnlein (R., Wayne), said that, in light of the events in Massachusetts and San Francisco, the legislature has an obligation to act on the issue.

The Massachusetts legislature yesterday gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment that would ban marriages but permit civil unions between members of the same sex.

Pennsylvania's eight-year-old Defense of Marriage Act says the state does not recognize "a marriage between persons of the same sex which was entered into in another state." It is unclear whether the law applies to civil unions performed in other states. See **BAN** on A16

■ A gay couple will seek a marriage license in Bucks. **B1.**