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Pitt's next hurdle is Boston College

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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'March 11 now has its place
in the history of infamy'

Terror tears into Spain

At least 192 die,
more than 1,400
hurt as 10 bombs
rip Madrid trains

By Elaine Sciolino
The New York Times

MADRID, Spain — Ten bombs ripped through four commuter trains in Madrid yesterday, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400 in the deadliest terrorist attack on a European target since World War II.

Spanish authorities initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA. But after finding a van with detonators and tape of Quranic verses near Madrid, they held open the possibility the attacks were the work of militant Islamic terrorists.

A group claiming links to al-Qaida took responsibility in a letter delivered to an Arabic language newspaper in London. An American counterterrorism official, however, said the claim should be viewed skeptically.

Spain, a U.S. ally in the war on Iraq with 1,300 troops stationed there, was explicitly threatened as a target in an audiotape reportedly made by Osama bin Laden last October.

As the country struggled to absorb the devastation three days before general elections, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

The bombings came in coord-

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Christophe Simon/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

Bodies of victims are evacuated after a train exploded near the Atocha train station in Madrid yesterday.

Signs point
to al-Qaida
or Basque
separatists

By Sebastian Rotella and
Tracy Wilkinson
The Los Angeles Times

MADRID, Spain — The size and savagery of yesterday's synchronized train station bombings suggests either a significant shift in tactics by Basque separatists or the work of an entirely new player in Spain.

Spanish authorities are wrestling with competing theories over who was responsible for the attacks that killed at least 192 people and wounded approximately 1,400 others. Swift to blame ETA militants fighting to secede from Spain, top officials by the end of the day were forced to acknowledge that they were pursuing a more complex investigation.

Forensic evidence, including the type of explosives used, and the arrests in recent weeks of purported Basque terrorists armed with powerful bombs pointed to ETA as the prime suspects, investigators said in interviews, echoing Interior Minister Angel Acebes.

ETA purportedly planned a Christmas Eve bombing at another Madrid train station,

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First attack ads target Kerry on war, taxes

By Howard Kurtz
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Just one week after launching a wave of positive commercials, President Bush went on the attack with a new ad yesterday, charging that Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., would "raise taxes by at least \$900 billion" and weaken the country's response to terrorism and ability to go to war.

"John Kerry — wrong on taxes, wrong on defense," says the commercial, which begins airing today in 18 battleground states.

Kerry campaign officials, vowing to let no attack go unanswered, immediately began cutting a response ad for airing today. The Kerry ad will deny any such proposed tax plan and remind viewers that he wants to cut taxes for the middle class, the aides said.

"Once again George Bush is misleading America," the tentative script says, adding: "Doesn't America deserve more from its president than misleading negative ads?"

These opening salvos in what promises to be a long and vituperative air war came as senior Republican lawmakers launched an assault, clearly coordinated with the Bush campaign, on Kerry's tax proposals as well

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Act 47 team agrees to hold public meetings

By Timothy McNulty
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The city's Act 47 economic recovery team yesterday decided to open its process to the public before releasing its plan for reforming city finances, a decision made in response to a lawsuit filed by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Act 47 team leader James H. Roberts also said the economic recovery plan will "no doubt" involve calls for new revenues. The team has not decided what they will be, but they could include the commuter taxes the coordinators are empowered to

recommend or new taxes that will require state approval.

The newspaper sued the Act 47 recovery team as well as the city's five-member fiscal oversight board last week to force them to comply with the state's open meetings law.

On Wednesday, lawyers for the oversight board settled by signing a court order saying its future meetings will comply with the law.

Yesterday, the Act 47 team, its two team leaders, Post-Gazette Managing Editor Madelyn Ross and the newspaper's lawyers met to discuss a possible resolution of the lawsuit.

During that meeting, the team — made up of Downtown's Eckert Seamans law firm and Public Financial Management of Philadelphia — agreed to hold at least two public meetings prior to the release of its report, one in April and one in May.

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Police now say missing woman left on her own

By Paula Reed Ward
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Tricia Cartisano hopped a bus and headed west.

The problem is, she left her new car along the side of the highway with its flashers on, didn't tell anyone in her family what she was doing, and hasn't been in touch since Tuesday afternoon, when she left her job in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Her disappearance prompted a wide-ranging missing persons investigation, led by West Virginia's Ohio County Sheriff's Department.

But now authorities and her distraught family have reason for hope after she was spotted on a Greyhound bus and officials noticed activity on her ATM card early Wednesday.

Cartisano's mother, Sandy, said last

evening that her family was gladdened by the developments, but continues to worry about their daughter.

"It's a bit encouraging," she said. "We can't get too jubilant until we're face-to-face with our daughter."

"It's still been a very long day." Her father reported Cartisano, of Wheeling, missing about 11 p.m. Tuesday, and investigators have been trying to locate her ever since.

Her car, a black 2004 Chevy Cavalier, was found by Pennsylvania State Police along a rest area exit ramp on Interstate 79 in South Fayette at 10:20 p.m. Tuesday. Its hazard lights were flashing, and the doors were locked. Her cell phone was left inside, but the keys were gone.

Police immediately entered Carti-

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Chuck Stoodly/Associated Press

Vancouver Canucks' Todd Bertuzzi — "I'm not that kind of player. I'm not a mean-spirited person."

Canucks' Bertuzzi suspended for season for dirty hit

NHL strikes back at player

By Dejan Kovacevic
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

TORONTO — The National Hockey League yesterday came down as hard on the Vancouver Canucks' Todd Bertuzzi as he did on the player he deliberately injured.

The league suspended Bertuzzi, an All-Star left winger, for the rest of the regular season and Stanley Cup playoffs for his attack on Colorado Avalanche center Steve Moore Monday night in Vancouver. He will lose roughly \$500,000 in pay, possibly more. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman will review Bertuzzi's status prior to the 2004-05 season before reinstating him.

The league also fined the Canucks \$250,000 for failing to ease tension between the teams before the attack. Before the game, a 9-2 Colorado victory, players had spoken publicly of seeking revenge on Moore for a hard hit last month on Vancouver captain Markus Naslund. Referees did not penalize Moore for the hit on Naslund.

On Monday, Bertuzzi chased down Moore from behind, punched him in the head with his right hand, then leaped on his back to drive him face-first into the ice. Moore suffered a broken neck, concussion and facial lacerations.

It was one of the harshest punishments in the

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Gusty and cold with
flurries and squalls.
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