

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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A MEDIA GENERAL NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004

FINAL

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

# Terrorists kill 192 in Spain

## TRAIN BOMBINGS STRIKE FEAR INTO NATION'S CAPITAL DAYS BEFORE ELECTION

FROM WIRE REPORTS

**MADRID, Spain** — In the most devastating militant attack in modern Spanish history, bombs ripped through crowded commuter trains at three Madrid stations yesterday morning, killing at least 192 people and wounding 1,400.

The blasts, minutes apart, came three days before a national election.

Spain blamed Basque separatists, but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida.

Panicked commuters trampled one another, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses.

"This is mass murder," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said. "March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy."

Campaigning for Sunday's general election was called off and three days of mourning were declared. A major campaign issue has been how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group.

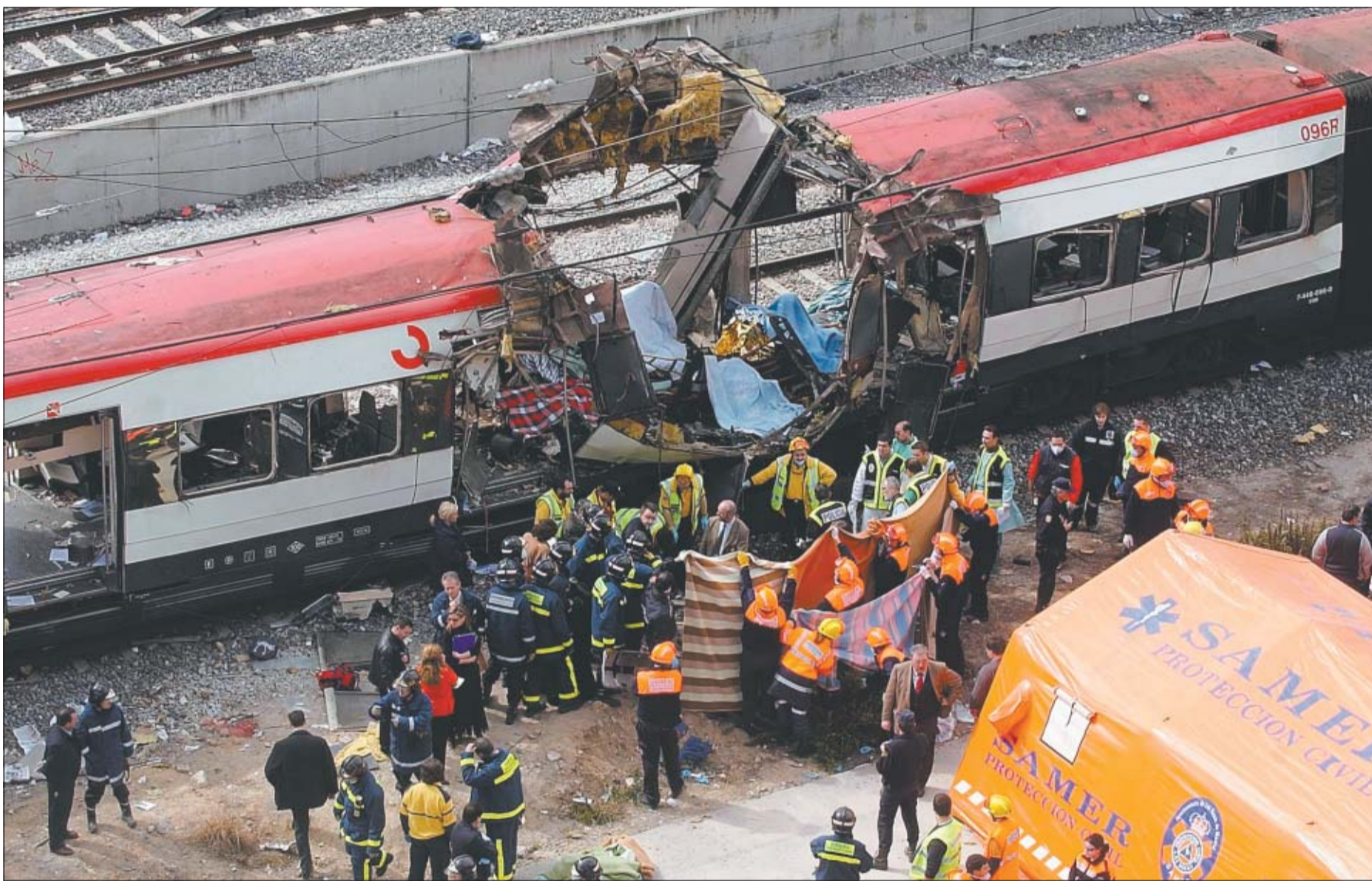
March 11 also marked 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. The attack was Europe's worst since the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 killed 270 people.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute span, starting about 7:39 a.m., on trains along nine miles of commuter line from Santa Eugenia to the Atocha terminal, a bustling hub for subway, commuter and long-distance trains just south of the famed Prado Museum. Police also found and detonated three other bombs.

"An act of barbaric terrorism has engulfed Spain with profound pain, repulsion and anger," King Juan Carlos of Spain said on national television.

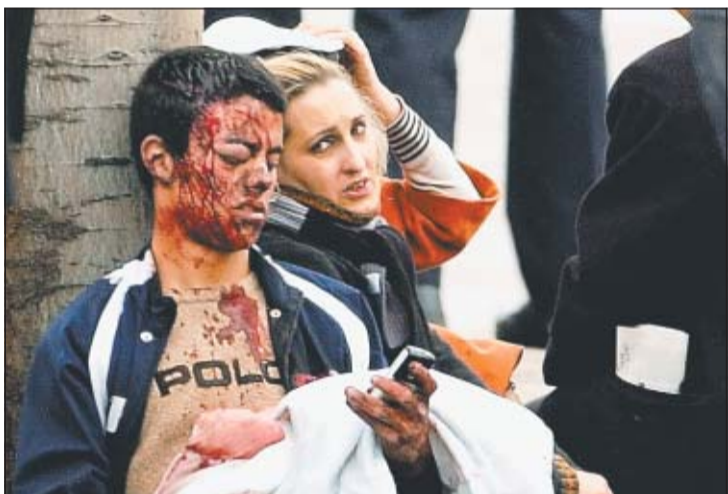
Worst hit was a double-decker

SEE SPAIN, PAGE A8 ▶



PAUL WHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue workers covered bodies alongside a passenger train ripped apart by one of 10 bomb blasts yesterday that hit three train stations in Madrid, Spain.



JOSE HUESCA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two people wounded in a train explosion yesterday waited for help outside the Atocha station in Madrid.

## Source of attacks unclear

### Homegrown militants and a group linked to al-Qaida are suspects

THE 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 certain. A shadowy Muslim militant group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida and a van found near the attacks had deto-

nators inside plus 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 investigation. 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 attacks that killed more than 190 people and wounded more than 1,400.

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 in parts of Spain and France. Now experts believe a younger generation of ETA leaders is moving the group to-

SEE SOURCE, PAGE A8 ▶

## Referendum proposed on council-term issue

### Extension from two to four years sought for Richmond body

BY PAMELA STALLSMITH AND TYLER WHITLEY  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITERS

Richmond residents could vote this November on whether City Council terms should be extended from two to four years under a surprise compromise proposal that now heads to lawmakers in the closing days of the General Assembly.

Also yesterday, lawmakers assigned to resolve the differences between two Richmond mayor bills agreed to the stronger mea-

sure, sponsored by Del. Viola O. Baskerville, D-Richmond, that specifies the duties of a mayor.

What was expected to be largely perfunctory meetings of two conference committees took an unexpected turn when state Sen. John Watkins, R-Powhatan, offered the referendum idea.

The decision to put the four-year term question to the voters came after the conferees deadlocked 3-3 over whether to sup-

SEE RICHMOND, PAGE A10 ▶



## Two students will be removed from Wythe

### Superintendent says it was a mistake to let pair back into school

BY JASON WERMERS  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Two George Wythe High School students who had been suspended for having knives on campus were returned to the school in error, the Richmond school superintendent acknowledged yesterday.

Superintendent Deborah Jewell-Sherman called the students' reinstatement a "misjudgment" on the part of central administrators. The students will be relocated to programs the division

runs for suspended students. "It was a case of misjudgment," she said, "and it has been corrected."

She added that the administrators responsible will be "subject to appropriate disciplinary action." She declined to elaborate, saying it was a personnel matter.

The issue came to light after employees of the South Richmond school wrote a letter to Jewell-Sherman and all nine School Board members expressing concern about the students' reinstatement.

The Feb. 24 letter, signed by 81 of the school's 113 employees, details two incidents.

A student was suspended in

SEE WYTHE, PAGE A13 ▶

## Ex-congressional aide alleged agent for Iraq

### She is charged with conspiring to aid its intelligence service

LOS ANGELES TIMES/  
WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A former congressional press aide was arrested yesterday for allegedly maintaining an "intelligence relationship" for several years with U.S.-based spies for Saddam Hussein before the Iraqi leader was ousted.

Authorities said Susan Lindauer, 40, cooperated with Iraqi intelligence agents in January 2003 by delivering a letter to the home of a relative, White

House Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card Jr.

Authorities said the letter urged the Bush administration to hold off its invasion of Iraq so weapons inspectors could continue their work.

Lindauer was arrested at her home in Takoma Park, Md., by FBI agents after a federal indictment in New York charged her with several crimes.

The charges include acting as an unregistered agent of a for-

SEE AGENT, PAGE A8 ▶



Lindauer

## FRIDAY

ONLINE ▶ www.timesdispatch.com

### Today's weather

Mostly sunny.  
High: 52.  
Low: 25.  
Weather map /B8

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### 'All cop'

Mourning a Chesterfield officer killed in Kuwait.

Metro /B1

### Richmond snow job

A tie vote kills a plan to extend school hours to make up snow days.

Metro /B1



### Snack strategy

The University of 7-Eleven showcases what's new in food and drink.

Business /C1

### Spiders advance

Richmond relies on the jump shot to dump Temple in the A-10 tourney.

Sports /E1

### Class acts

Richmond Symphony musicians help students.

Flair /D1

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COMING

TOMORROW

### Uninvited guests

Nesting instinct drives wild critters into our homes.

Home & Garden