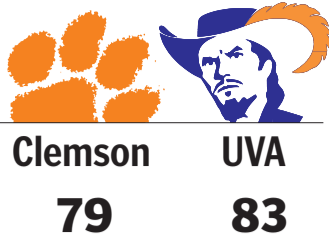


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**Extra**



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# THE ROANOKE TIMES

FRIDAY MARCH 12, 2004

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ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 50¢

## 'This is mass murder'

Europe's worst terrorist attack since 1988 kills 192, injures at least 1,400 as 10 bombs shred Madrid train line



Two people injured in an explosion in a train wait for aid outside the Atocha train station Thursday in Madrid, Spain.



Photos by Associated Press

Rescue workers line up bodies beside a bomb-damaged passenger train Thursday at Atocha station in Madrid, Spain. Some of the victims' cellphones rang unanswered as frantic relatives tried to contact them following the deadly series of blasts along a commuter train line.

Spain initially blamed Basque separatists, but other evidence is pointing investigators to Islamic militants.

Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Ten terrorist bombs tore through trains and stations along a commuter line at the height of the morning rush hour Thursday, killing more than 190 people and wounding 1,400 others three days before Spain's general elections.

Spain initially blamed Basque separatists for the bombings, but the interior minister also said other lines of investigation were opened after police found a van Thursday with detonators and an audiotape of Quranic

verses near where the bombed trains originated.

The Arabic newspaper Al-Quds al-Arabi said it had received a claim of responsibility issued in the name of al-Qaida.

The e-mail claim of responsibility, signed by the shadowy Brigade of Abu Hafs al-Masri, was received at the newspaper's London offices and said the brigade's "death squad" had penetrated "one of the pillars of the crusade alliance, Spain."

"This is part of settling old accounts with Spain, the crusader, and America's ally in its war against Islam," the claim said.

Spain had backed the U.S.-led war on Iraq despite domestic opposition, and many al-Qaida-linked terrorists have been captured in Spain or were believed to have operated from there.

See MADRID, 8



Police carry bodies out of a passenger train Thursday in the Atocha train station in Madrid, Spain.

## Members mum on talks about superintendent

The length of the Roanoke School Board's evaluation and its members' reluctance to comment have fueled speculation about Wayne Harris' future.

By Todd Jackson  
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Wayne Harris  
His contract is due to expire June 30, 2006.

Just 10 months after making Wayne Harris one of the highest-paid public employees in Western Virginia, the Roanoke School Board has spent three hours behind closed doors in two special, early-morning meetings in the past week to evaluate the superintendent.

They are the latest in a series of board discussions about Harris in recent weeks. The length of the board's evaluation and its members' reluctance to comment on the talks have fueled speculation about his future.

Board members exited a meeting Thursday morning after more than an hour of discussions, and the few who offered any public comment would say only that the board is continuing its review.

Several board members, speaking on condition of anonymity, later confirmed that the board is discussing all of its options related to Harris.

School boards are responsible for hiring and

See HARRIS, 9

## State legislators remain tangled in taxing issues

House Majority Leader Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, accused Gov. Warner of tacitly encouraging an impasse in order to gain political leverage. A Warner spokesman called Griffith's statement "ludicrous."

By Michael Sluss  
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RICHMOND — The General Assembly's budget negotiating teams remained deadlocked Thursday in a dispute over new taxes, making it more likely that lawmakers will not approve a new budget before Saturday's scheduled adjournment.

House of Delegates negotiators revamped a proposal to repeal certain sales tax exemptions in an effort to satisfy Senate leaders that the House has a balanced budget plan. But leaders in the two Republican-run chambers continued butting heads over a Senate proposal to increase the sales

See LEGISLATORS, 9

## No celadon in color scheme of Martha Stewart's new home

By Matt Apuzzo  
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Danbury Federal Correctional Institution has next to nothing in common with Martha Stewart's world of porcelain pudding bowls and Egyptian cotton bedding.

The multimillionaire who taught America how to make buckwheat pillows and decorate with doilies is expected

to spend 10 to 16 months sharing a toilet and working for about 12 cents an hour at the minimum-security women's prison, where the walls are drab concrete and the 1,300 inmates wear starched khaki jumpsuits.

"There's nothing soft or colorful or pleasant in the whole environment," said

See STEWART, 9

## Drug czar pans bill limiting methadone clinics

By Laurence Hammack  
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A bill restricting methadone clinics in most urban areas of Virginia was criticized this week by national "drug czar" John Walters.

After speaking to a group of students Tuesday night at George Washington University, Walters was asked about a bill, which has the General Assembly's approval and now goes to Gov. Mark Warner, that prohibits methadone clinics from opening within a half-mile of

schools and day care centers.

Walters, appointed by President Bush to head the Office of National Drug Control Policy, said: "If there are any reporters present, I want them to know that this is a bad law," according to Chris Kelly, a methadone treatment advocate who attended the speech.

An official in Walters' office confirmed Thursday that he does have concerns about placing too many restrictions on methadone, which has been shown to be an effective treatment for addicts of opium-based drugs such as OxyContin and heroin.

"I can't attest to that exact statement," deputy press secretary Rafael Lemaitre said when asked about Walters' reported comment. "But it was within that spirit."

The bill to keep methadone clinics away from schools and day care centers was born from community resistance to proposed clinics in the Roanoke Valley and Bristol area.

Walters was in Las Vegas on Thursday and unavailable for comment.

Dr. Andrea Barthwell, deputy

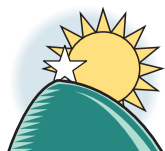
See BILL, 9



Today's weather

Roanoke 47 23  
HIGH LOW  
New River 42 19  
HIGH LOW

Details: Virginia 10



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BEST OF 'NO SHAME:'  
Friday night's No Shame Theatre in downtown Roanoke can be previewed in sound and video.

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Pedestrians and dogs getting shocked — and killed — by bad wiring under the pavement.

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Slaying of Americans raises concern over guerrillas posing as Iraqi police.

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POLITICS  
Gay marriage ban wins preliminary approval in Mass., but final support uncertain.

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