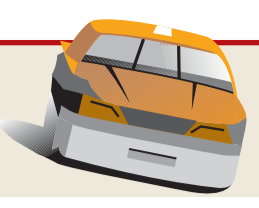




IN SPORTS TODAY:

RACING

Champion Matt Kenseth quiets critics with pair of victories as rookie Kasey Kahne makes noise as runner-up. — SPORTS, 6D



The Burlington Free Press

Friday, March 12, 2004 ••• A Local Custom • Serving Vermont for 177 years • www.burlingtonfreepress.com 50 cents

© 2004 The Burlington Free Press

Living



ST. PADDY'S MONTH: Burlington's Irish Heritage Festival looks past the green beer to assorted cultural attractions — through March 27. **Page 1C**

Business

POO POWER: Vermont's largest utility is seeking approval for customers to buy electricity made from cow manure. **Page 4A**

Vermont

BRAID OF GOLD: A Colchester resident's winter doldrums inspired a fairy tale creation at Fort Ethan Allen. **Page 1B**

Late breaking



People gather Thursday outside the Statehouse in Boston, calling on the legislature to back same-sex marriage.

California court halts gay wedding services

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday 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 4,161 gay couples have tied the knot in the past month.

In Massachusetts, a constitutional amendment that would strip gay couples of the right to marry but allow civil unions won approval during two preliminary votes, but its passage is far from certain. Gay marriage supporters were conducting procedural maneuvers that could ultimately lead to the proposal's defeat.

— The Associated Press

Weather

TODAY: Hi: 39 Low: 20 Occasional snow.

Volume 177, No. 72

Index

Business	4A	Horoscope	4C
Classified	5C	Living	1C
Comics	4C	Movies	2C
Crossword	5E	Opinion	8A
Deaths	4B	Sports	1D
Forum	9A	TV list	3C

Printed in the U.S.A.
40901 01001 2
Available for home or office delivery.
Call toll-free 1-800-427-3126

Students not buying spring break warnings

By Jill Fahy
Free Press Staff Writer

University of Vermont juniors Carolyn Warner and Liz Dozier scanned the advertisement that pictures a hospital emergency room and warns students against the excesses of drinking during spring break and giggled.

"This isn't going to make a difference," Warner said Thursday, referring to the American Medical Association's ad that came out this week in the Vermont Cynic,

"Me and the girls I'm going with maybe will have three drinks with dinner, and if we want to, we'll go out and have more."

Carolyn Warner,
20, UVM junior going to Greece for spring break

UVM's campus newspaper.

In a play on the well-known beer slogan, the half-page "This Bed's For You" advertisement will

be printed this month in college newspapers at eight campuses nationally, including UVM, as part of an AMA campaign to discourage binge

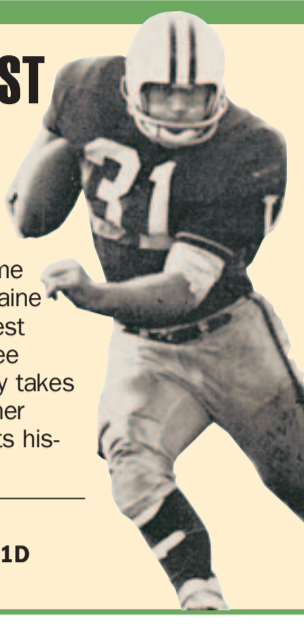
drinking during spring break.

Break week for UVM students starts today. Warner, 20, has planned a carefree week by the sea in Greece, where there is no minimum drinking age. She says the ad, though well-intentioned, will have no effect on the number of gooeey blender drinks she'll toss back in the sun-baked Mediterranean.

See **BINGE**, 10A

UVM'S BIGGEST HOME GAMES

Saturday's America East Conference men's basketball championship game between Vermont and Maine ranks as one of the biggest events to hit campus. Free Press writer Patrick Garrity takes a look at some of the other showdowns in UVM sports history, **PAGE 1D**



ALSO: Season ends for Vermont women, PAGE 1D

'I've seen horror'

Madrid blasts kill more than 190

By Mar Roman
The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400. Spain at first blamed Basque separatists but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled on each other, 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. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said. The bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred exactly 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and was Europe's worst since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The attacks also reawakened terrorism fears among investors. Stocks fell in London and in New York, where the Dow Jones industrial average dropped nearly 170 points. On Friday, Tokyo stocks opened sharply lower. 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.

The Interior Ministry said 192 people were killed and 1,421 injured.

"An act of barbaric terrorism has engulfed Spain with profound pain, reput-

See **SPAIN**, 10A



PAUL WHITE, Associated Press
Firefighters carry a body from a bomb-damaged passenger train Thursday in Madrid, the scene of Spain's worst terrorist attack.



Two people injured by an explosion in a train wait for aid Thursday.

7:39 a.m.
Three backpacks loaded with explosives detonate on a commuter train in the Atocha station.

7:44 a.m.
Four backpack bombs explode on commuter train entering Atocha station.

7:54 a.m.
Two bombs explode on double-decker commuter train in El Pozo station.

7:49 a.m.
Backpack bomb explodes as commuter train enters Santa Eugenia train station.

10 a.m.
Police carry out controlled explosions of three booby-trap backpack bombs; two in Atocha and one in El Pozo. They believe attackers planned to set off after the first wave.

Death toll mounts
More than 190 people were killed and 1,200 wounded when 10 terrorist bombs tore through trains and stations at the height of the Thursday morning rush hour in Madrid, Spain.

All times local.

MADRID
■ Prado Museum

Atocha

Santa Eugenia

El Pozo

0 1 mi
0 1 km

SOURCES: Interior Ministry; ESRI

The Associated Press

Feds close to approval of Vt., Mich. drug plan

By Anne Wallace Allen
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — The Bush administration is close to approving a program that has saved Michigan and Vermont millions of dollars by allowing them to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices, Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas said Thursday.

At his weekly news conference, Douglas passed out a letter from Dennis Smith, acting Medicare and Medicaid administrator for the federal government, regarding an order from Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson.

"While not all of (the) outstanding issues have been resolved as yet, Secretary Thompson has directed me to work through these issues with you to get to an approval," reads the letter, addressed to Douglas.

"I don't understand the delays; it's a large bureaucracy," Douglas said. He added that six states plan to join the purchasing pool, and five will join when approval is granted. Michigan and Vermont were the first to pool resources for buying drugs under the state-federal Medicaid program that provides health care to the poor.

To join the program, a state had to adopt a list of drugs it would prefer doctors to use when treating low-income patients. Then states could bargain together for discounts on the drugs. Michigan said 27 drug manufacturers were participating in the program.

Last month, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm said the Bush administration had rejected the program because it violated federal procurement procedures.

But Thursday, Douglas said he had spoken to Granholm this week and both agreed approval was near.

"This is total fluff," was the response of Cheryl Rivers, the director of a non-profit group, the National Legislative Association on Prescription Drug Prices, that is attempting to set up a similar entity to pool states' purchasing power for prescription drugs.

Rivers questioned Douglas' assertion that the purchasing pool will soon win federal approval.

"They still say there are — quote — technical issues to be worked out," Rivers said.

Rivers, a Democrat who is running for lieutenant governor, said the Republican governor's announcement was unnecessary and aimed more at "buying more positive PR for Governor Douglas than it is realizing positive savings for Vermont."

Douglas' spokesman, Jason Gibbs, insisted the announcement was important.

Stormwater solution still leaves some high and dry

By Matt Crawford
Free Press Staff Writer

Months of effort by policy makers, environmentalists, lawyers and bureaucrats won't make it much easier in parts of Vermont to sell a condominium or pave a parking lot.

Vermont's Depart-

ment of Environmental Conservation last month made public an idea for legislation it claims will help solve the state's stormwater crisis.

This week, the state's Water Resources Board unveiled a report that was six months in the making. The report is

supposed to move Vermont into a new age of stormwater regulation.

In the long run, say those close to the situation, the initiatives show Vermont is finally moving toward a system that cleans water, allows for development and lets property owners secure

Web extra

For recent news coverage and links related to the stormwater issue, go to www.burlingtonfreepress.com.

permits they are required by law to have.

But in the short term,

the situation remains muddled. Hundreds of property owners and

dozens of developers — most of them in Chittenden County — are already caught in a regulatory maze with no clear way out. Those people, in spite of what's happened in the past two weeks, are still stuck.

See **STORMWATER**, 10A