Madrid Bombing Trial Opened to Streaming Video

By DOREEN CARVAJAL

MADRID, Feb. 18 — On the opening day of Spain's trial of 29 men accused in the deadly Madrid train bombings, police officers ringed the maximum-security brick courtroom while a helicopter whirled overhead.

But with the click of a computer mouse, anyone can peek inside the inner sanctum for a glimpse of Spanish judges in black robes with white lace cuffs facing suspects barricaded behind bulletproof glass.

That YouTube-style window has been opened by a high-tech legal services company, **Datadiar**, which is streaming live coverage of the trial on its Web site, datadiar.com, and posting archived video testimony that began with the appearance on Thursday of the first suspect, Rabei Osman Sayed Ahmed, known as Muhammad the Egyptian.

Datadiar has struck an alliance with the tribunal, the Audiencia Nacional, which has opened the courtroom wide to cameras. Four are posted at various angles in the court, and a fifth shows documents presented as evidence.

Forty-three microphones are scattered among the tables of the lawyers, and recordings are stored on DVDs.

With that fly-on-the-wall technology, Datadiar, a 10-year-old company on the outskirts of Madrid, is offering a courtroom version of C-Span, the American cable channel that covers government proceedings without commentary. The rare running view of what stands to be a legal marathon is of keen interest to a nation still haunted by questions about who set off the bombs on March 11, 2004, killing 191 and wounding nearly 2,000 on four commuter trains.

Datadiar hopes to introduce similar models in other countries at a time when there is renewed interest in opening up the courts. In the United States, for example, a Senate bill was introduced last month by Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of New York, and Charles E. Grassley, Republican of Iowa, to permit cameras at most federal court proceedings.

Canada has just started a pilot project to test cameras in the courtroom in a prominent murder case. And in California, a judge said on Friday that he would allow full television coverage of the rock producer Phil Spector's murder trial, declaring that it was time to discard "fear of cameras in the courtroom."

Cristina Cortijo, a Datadiar managers and the wife of its founder, José Manuel Diaz-Arias, said: "We believe this issue is a very important one in the world, and people are looking at us. It's critical that people know that our company is doing this objectively with real-time transmissions and no cuts. And it's for free."

Doreen Carvajal/International Herald Tribune

An employee of Datadiar, which carries live coverage on its Web site, preparing to make an explanatory video.

'There are so many victims,' the Spanish judge explains.

Datadiar is not being paid by the government to stream the trial, according to Ms. Cortijo, who said permission was granted by the presiding judge in the case, Javier Gómez Bermúdez.

In court, the judge strikes a brisk, no-nonsense manner with the lawyers, suspects and Arabic translators, but he seems comfortable and conscious of the informal jury of the public. He is an author of a new manual for legal journalism, "Lifting the Veil," and he regularly strides into the press room to take brief questions from an overflow crowd of journalists who are covering the case in an adjoining area by watching giant plasma TV screens.

In a brief interview during a trial break, Judge Gómez Bermúdez said the national court chose to open the bombing trial to broad viewing because "there are so many victims, and they can't all fit in here."

Critics of live courtroom coverage often cite the O. J. Simpson murder trial in California as an example of how a constant camera presence can turn a legal proceeding into a media circus.

But Judge Gómez Bermudez scoffed at the idea that such coverage might influence the trial, and said that Spanish courts had been receptive to cameras for some time.

A verdict in the train-bombing case is not expected until October, after the testimony of more 100 experts and 600 witnesses. There are also nearly 90,000 pages of documents, some which will be instantly accessible to the public through Datadiar.

The company's usual audience consists of members of the Spanish professional class: judges, lawyers and accountants who pay more than $2,500 a year for a subscription to Globalius, a Datadiar database of legal information made available on a portable flash drive.

But with the start of the trial, Datadiar's commercial director, Rosa Martinez Casas, said the company was beginning to reach a global audience.

To maintain its neutrality, Datadiar has avoided creating chat forums in connection with the legal issues that it is raising. The site does offer a series of primers to explain elements of the legal process, like the concept of the presumption of innocence. It also has a seating diagram of the courtroom and the 46 defense lawyers, prosecutors and translators.

In the last 10 years, investors have plowed more than $65 million into the company, which did not break even until 2003. It is now turning a profit, Ms. Cortijo said.

So far, Datadiar has not sought advertising for the legal information it is offering on its portal, but that is an alternative under discussion, she said, in addition to the company's subscription model, for creating similar court coverage in other countries.

Ms. Cortijo said it was too early to calculate how much it would cost Datadiar to offer the free streaming video online, although she said that new technology had helped reduce costs.

"It may be difficult to understand why we do this for free," she said. "We are objective. We are in the middle. We are only lawyers and professionals, and offering information. It's not like television."

Canadian Company Offers Nude Photos via Cellphone

By IAN AUSTEN

Advertisements for **Telus**, the Canadian telephone company, have long featured computer-manipulated images of animals performing amusing cellphone tricks. But the rabbits, birds and monkeys are not promoting the company's latest product: soft-core pornography downloads for cellphone users.

The service makes Telus the first wireless carrier in North America to sell sex-related content, and it has already been condemned by the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver, British Columbia, the company's hometown.

With no publicity, Telus included a new "adults only" section last month on a list of items its five million wireless customers could download from it. After passing a credit card check for proof of age, users can buy photos of naked men and women for 3 Canadian dollars, or about $2.60. They can also buy one- to two-minute video clips for 4 Canadian dollars.

Jim Johannsson, a Telus spokesman in Edmonton, Alberta, said the company decided to offer the new service after reviewing its customers' mobile Web browsing habits. The company found, he said, that 13 of the 25 most-popular sites were what he called "adult content."

"I was surprised that there was this much going on," he said.

Mr. Johannsson said Telus was aware of the stigma that is attached to companies that provide sex-related content. But, he said, "we saw that a lot of clients were going to adult entertainment Web sites, so we came to grips with the reality that this is a use of cellphones today."

By selling the images directly to subscribers, Mr. Johannsson said, Telus gives users a way to buy pornography without the risk of also downloading malicious software.

Archbishop Raymond Roussin, however, does not accept the idea that Telus is providing a valuable safe downloading service.

After criticizing Telus in a Catholic newspaper, he released a podcast late Friday to announce that Catholic churches and schools in the archdiocese would cancel their cellphone contracts with the company.

"So pervasive is the problem of pornography in our society today and so lucrative are the profits from this segment of the industry that mobile phone providers are willing to take substantial risks in terms of their image," he said. "The tremendous response that I have received, not only from concerned Catholics but also from non-Catholics across Canada, tells me that there is a strong market for an ethically minded telecommunications company that will provide a pornography-free mobile phone service."

Telus ads are known for using animals to promote its service.

The archbishop concluded by urging all Canadians who disapprove of pornography to contact Telus, other cellphone providers and the Canadian regulator.

Mr. Johannsson said that at least 150 other customers have contacted Telus with threats to switch providers. But he noted that while Telus's rivals, Bell Canada and Rogers Communications, do not offer sex-related content through their cellphone operations, such material can be found on their cable and satellite television services, making boycotts difficult.

"There really is no alternative," he said.

Horror Movie at High Pitch In TV Ad Aimed at Teenagers

By MARIA ASPAN

Commercial includes a note of fright that most adults can't hear.

If you can't hear the advertising, then maybe the movie isn't for you.

That was the implicit message in a television commercial for "The Messengers," a horror film from **Sony's** Screen Gems division that opened on Feb. 2. In addition to the usual ominous music, slow-motion images and deep-voiced narration, the commercial featured a high-pitched noise that most adults are unable to hear.

The film's plot involves supernatural phenomena that can be observed by children and teenagers, but not the adults around them. In an effort to emphasize this plot and to attract more teenagers to movie theaters, Screen Gems developed a commercial that contained the high-frequency noise and asked viewers if they could hear it.

"If children can hear this," the narrator declared, over quick shot of creepy hallways and ghostly figures, "imagine what they are seeing."

The sound was initially used in the Mosquito security devices in Britain to discourage teenagers from loitering around convenience stores. But teenagers quickly adopted the sound as a cellphone ring tone that allows them to hear their cellphones without alerting adults.

At a pitch of 17 kilohertz, the noise is well above the normal range of adult hearing. (Most adults are unable to hear sounds above a frequency of 8,000 hertz.)

Mark Weinstock, the executive vice president for marketing at Screen Gems, said idea for the commercial was developed during a planning session on ways to appeal to a teenage audience and reflect the plot.

Mr. Weinstock said that the company did not formally test the high-pitched noise, "but when we would play it in meetings, some of the senior staff couldn't hear it," while younger staff and interns could.

The television commercial is no longer being shown, but it appears to have been effective; the movie led the box office on its opening weekend and with a budget of $16 million, is projected to take in about $35 million. According to Mr. Weinstock, the commercial alone was a success.

"The spots were really effective because people really remembered them," Mr. Weinstock said, adding that he was especially pleased about the commercial's success with the desired teenage audience. "I think they're looking for something they can adopt as their own," he said.

Other points of view on the Op-Ed page seven days a week. The New York Times

MOST WANTED

Popular Demand

Richard Foreman/Warner Brothers

BILLY BOB THORNTON MOVIES

Total box office in millions.§

	TITLE (YEAR)	TOTAL
1	**Armageddon (1998)**	**$249.3**
2	Chrystal (2005)	83.5
3	Bad Santa (2003)	65.9
4	Friday Night Lights (2004)	65.3
5	Primary Colors (1998)	48.2
6	Bandits (2001)	47.4
7	Intolerable Cruelty (2003)	38.6
8	Monster's Ball (2001)	35.6
9	Bad News Bears (2005)	34.0
10	Sling Blade (1996)	31.4

Billy Bob Thornton won critical and popular acclaim in 1996 with "Sling Blade," a film that he wrote, directed and starred in as a mildly retarded killer. Since, he has played everything from a thief hiding out in a red suit in "Bad Santa" (2003) to Davy Crockett in "The Alamo" (2004).

He plays a Texas hero again in "The Astronaut Farmer," above, a sort of "Right Stuff" meets "Field of Dreams" story about a retired astronaut who is building a rocket in his barn, in his own private bid for space flight.

SHELLY FREIERMAN

BROADCAST TELEVISION

Feb. 5 through 11.*

	TITLE	NETWORK	RATING
1	**American Idol Tuesday**	**Fox**	**17.6**
2	American Idol Wednesday	Fox	15.3
3	Grey's Anatomy	ABC	14.5
4	House	Fox	14.0
5	CSI	CBS	13.4
6	The Grammy Awards	CBS	11.9
7	CSI: Miami	CBS	11.7
8	Two and a Half Men	CBS	11.0
9	Deal or No Deal (Monday)	NBC	10.7
	Desperate Housewives	ABC	10.7

Source: Nielsen Media Research

CABLE TELEVISION

Feb. 5 through 11.*

	TITLE	NETWORK	RATING
1	**WWE Raw (Mon., 10 p.m.)**	**USA**	**3.4**
2	WWE Raw (Mon., 9 p.m.)	USA	3.3
3	Movie: Montana Sky	Life	3.2
4	SpongeBob . . . (Sat., 9:30 a.m.)	Nick	3.0
5	Monk	USA	2.9
	Fairly Odd . . . (Sat., 10 a.m.)	Nick	2.9
7	SpongeBob . . . (two episodes)	Nick	2.6
	Fairly Odd . . . (Sat., 10:30 a.m.)	Nick	2.6
10	Jump In!	DISN	2.5
	Fairly Odd . . . (two episodes)	Nick	2.5

MOVIE BOX OFFICE

Presidents' Day weekend openers.§

	TITLE (YEAR)	TOTAL, MILLIONS
1	**The Silence of the Lambs (1991)**	**$193.5**
2	Wayne's World (1992)	174.9
3	Footloose (1984)	155.2
4	50 First Dates (2004)	128.9
5	Daredevil (2003)	112.3
6	The Wedding Singer (1998)	99.2
7	Groundhog Day (1993)	98.9
8	The Breakfast Club (1985)	86.0
9	Eight Below (2006)	81.6
10	John Q. (2002)	79.7

DVD RENTALS

Feb. 5 through 11, in millions.

	RENTALS (DAYS OUT)	WEEK	TOTAL
1	**The Marine (5)**	**$6.32**	**$ 6.32**
2	Open Season (5)	6.00	6.00
3	Flyboys (5)	5.74	5.74
4	Saw III (12)	5.61	13.20
5	The Guardian (12)	4.47	9.28
6	Employee of the Month (19)	3.78	13.70
7	Crank (26)	3.40	18.80
8	Gridiron Gang (19)	3.27	12.90
	The Illusionist (26)	3.27	17.80
10	One Night With the King (5)	2.80	2.80

Sources: Nielsen EDI (movies); Internet Movie Database (DVD rentals)

MAGAZINES

Advertising pages, March 2007.†

	FASHION/BEAUTY	PAGES	CHANGE
1	**Vogue**	**475.1**	**+ 6.8%**
2	W	363.1	+19.9
3	Elle	348.2	+22.5
4	In Style	321.3	− 0.7
5	Harper's Bazaar	288.1	+17.1

	WOMEN'S SERVICE	PAGES	CHANGE
1	**Better Homes and Gardens**	**173.1**	**+15.5%**
2	Woman's Day	153.7	+ 5.2
3	Good Housekeeping	145.5	− 4.5
4	Ladies' Home Journal	137.7	+ 4.9
5	Family Circle	128.9	+31.9

MUSIC ALBUMS

Feb. 5 through 11.

	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	**Infinity on High**	**Fall Out Boy**	**Island**
2	Not Too Late	Norah Jones	Blue Note
3	Daughtry	Chris Daughtry	RCA
4	Konvicted	Akon	SRC/Univ.
5	Headstrong	Ashley Tisdale	Warner
6	Evolution of Robin	Robin Thicke	Interscope
7	Grammy . . . 2007	Various	Strategic
8	Waitin' in . . .	Jason M. Carroll	Arista/Nash.
9	Corinne . . . Rae	Corinne B. Rae	Capitol
10	FutureSex . . .	J. Timberlake	Jive

MUSIC DOWNLOADS

Feb. 5 through 11.

	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	**This Ain't . . .**	**Fall Out Boy**	**Island/Def**
2	Cupid's . . .	Gym . . . Heroes	Fueled . . .
3	Sweet Escape	Gwen Stefani	Interscope
4	Say It Right	Nelly Furtado	Geffen
5	Glamorous	Fergie	A&M
6	It's Not Over	Chris Daughtry	RCA
7	Here (In Your . . .)	Hellogoodbye	Drive-Thru
8	Irreplaceable	Beyoncé	Columbia
9	What Goes . . .	J. Timberlake	Jive
10	Don't Matter	Akon	SRC/Univ.

Sources: Mediaweek (magazines); Nielsen SoundScan/Billboard (music)

*A ratings point is 1.1 million homes. †Change is from a year earlier. §Adjusted for inflation, in 2006 dollars; Popular Demand excludes films with minor roles by Thornton.

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Nassau/Suffolk 330

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