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ONE WEEK LATER

Albany OKs anti-terror penalties

By JOE MAHONEY
DAILY NEWS ALBANY BUREAU CHIEF

ALBANY — The Legislature passed a package of tough new anti-terrorism measures yesterday, including one that provides for the death penalty for deadly attacks like the airborne assault on the World Trade Center.

Gov. Pataki called the Legislature into an emergency session to adopt the measures to show New York is fighting back against anyone who would wage such terror.

The legislation amends the state's death-penalty statute to make it a capital offense to kill another in a terrorist act.

Other provisions make it a felony punishable by up to seven years in prison to make a false bomb threat at a public building or to threaten to commit a "crime of terrorism."

It also broadens the authority for law enforcement officials asking for wiretap authority.

Until now, a homicide committed by a terrorist did not necessarily fall under the capital-punishment statute the state enacted in 1995 unless it met other criteria, such as a homicide being committed along with another violent felony like a hijacking.

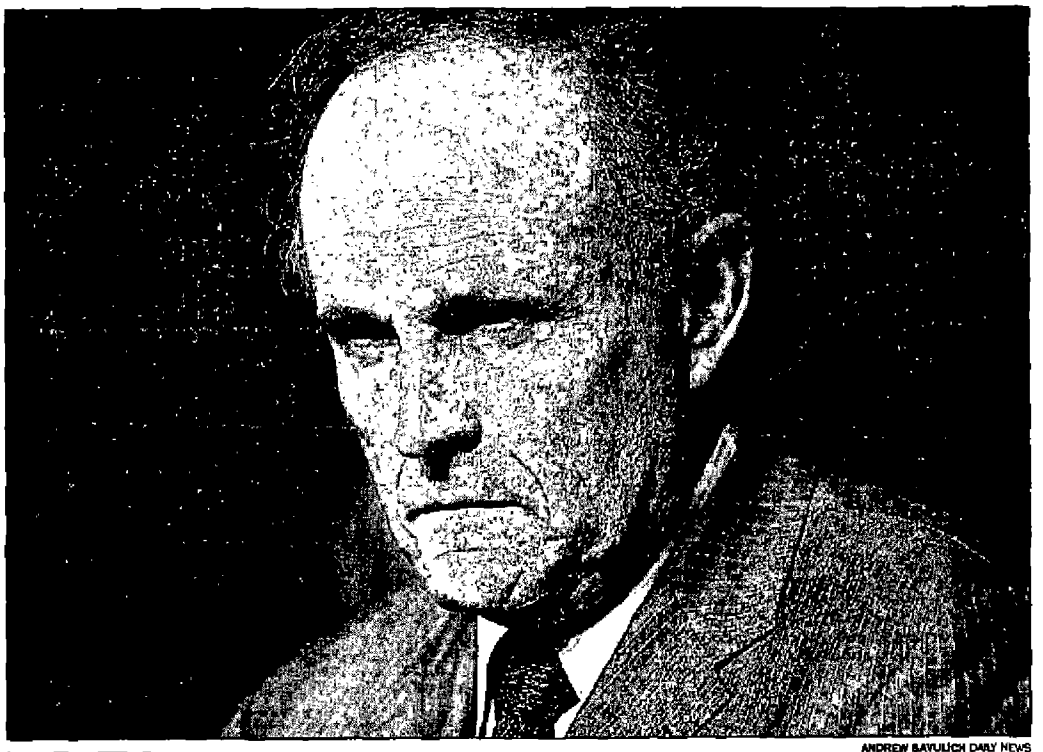
Because similar sanctions already exist in federal law, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) acknowledged there might never be a state prosecution under the new laws, but he quickly added the package was needed to show "the unity of our purpose."

Sen. Majority Leader Joseph Bruno (R-Troy) contended the legislation was more than symbolic, saying: "If people want to create evil, then we're going to punish them very, very severely."

The only nay vote in the Senate came from Sen. Thomas Duane (D-Manhattan), who voiced his general opposition to the death penalty.

Silver, meanwhile, told reporters he supports President Bush's call for suspected terrorist mastermind Osama Bin Laden to be taken "dead or alive." He said he believes his constituents also would back a military strike against those behind the planning of the World Trade Center attacks.

Thursday, lawmakers passed a joint resolution condemning the attack and later authorized spending up to $5.5 billion in state and federal money on relief efforts, as well as expanding New York City's bonding authority by $2.5 billion to address rescue and relief costs.



ANDREW SAVULICH DAILY NEWS

RAVE REVIEWS Now popular even with many of his critics, Mayor Giuliani has dismissed calls to extend his term.

Giuliani wins new fans for leadership in crisis

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Sipping a cold beer at a Ninth Ave. bar, Jorge Lopez winced hard when he recalled Mayor Giuliani's response to the death of Patrick Dorismond, an unarmed black man killed by a police bullet in a 1999 drug sting gone awry.

The mayor, Lopez remembered, released Dorismond's sealed juvenile record and tarred him in a TV interview, appearing oblivious to the family's pain.

Yet when asked if Giuliani should stay in office beyond the end of his term in December to handle the city's recovery from the World Trade Center disaster, Lopez sat up and almost shouted, "Two more years!"

"During times of war, Giuliani has proven himself to be the man of the hour," Lopez said. He called him "a little brusque, a little rude. But all that is water under the bridge."

Across the city, New Yorkers are lamenting that the accidental star of the city's tragedy will be out the door on Dec. 31. Giuliani has always been popular with many New Yorkers, of course, but he has won new fans and wider respect for his firm but compassionate handling of the greatest tragedy in the city's history.

"The state should allow him to stay on until this tragedy is resolved, until the city eventually gets back to normal, if it's ever going to get back to normal," said Steve Adams, an attorney from Queens who was waving a flag outside City Hall.

"We've seen a human side of him. He's been kind of a surrogate father to everyone," Adams said.

Even some of Giuliani's most consistent critics seem to like the man they've seen in the days after the Trade Center collapse. Many appear willing to forgive the past and keep him around.

Technically, according to legal experts, the state could grant the authority to override the city's term-limit law, suspend an election and keep Giuliani in office.

But the mayor all but ended such talk yesterday.

"I think what I should do is to do the job until Dec. 31 and prepare someone else, whoever the citizens select as the next mayor," Giuliani told reporters.

"We'll do everything we can to make certain they are prepared for the job," Giuliani added. "There are significant numbers of people in the city who know what they are doing and know how to carry forward."

Talk of an extended term in office for Giuliani comes shortly after Gov. Pataki rescheduled the mayoral primary for Sept. 25.

Democratic candidate Peter Vallone, the City Council speaker, said he also respects the mayor's efforts but feels the election must move forward.

"Personally, I feel the same way about all of us staying, but in the greater picture you can't let terrorism dictate what happens in a democracy," Vallone said.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver all but shut the door on any move to tamper with the city's election schedule. He noted that governments often have transitions in times of duress, such as when President Ronald Reagan took over during the Iran hostage crisis.

"Democracy carries on," Silver said.

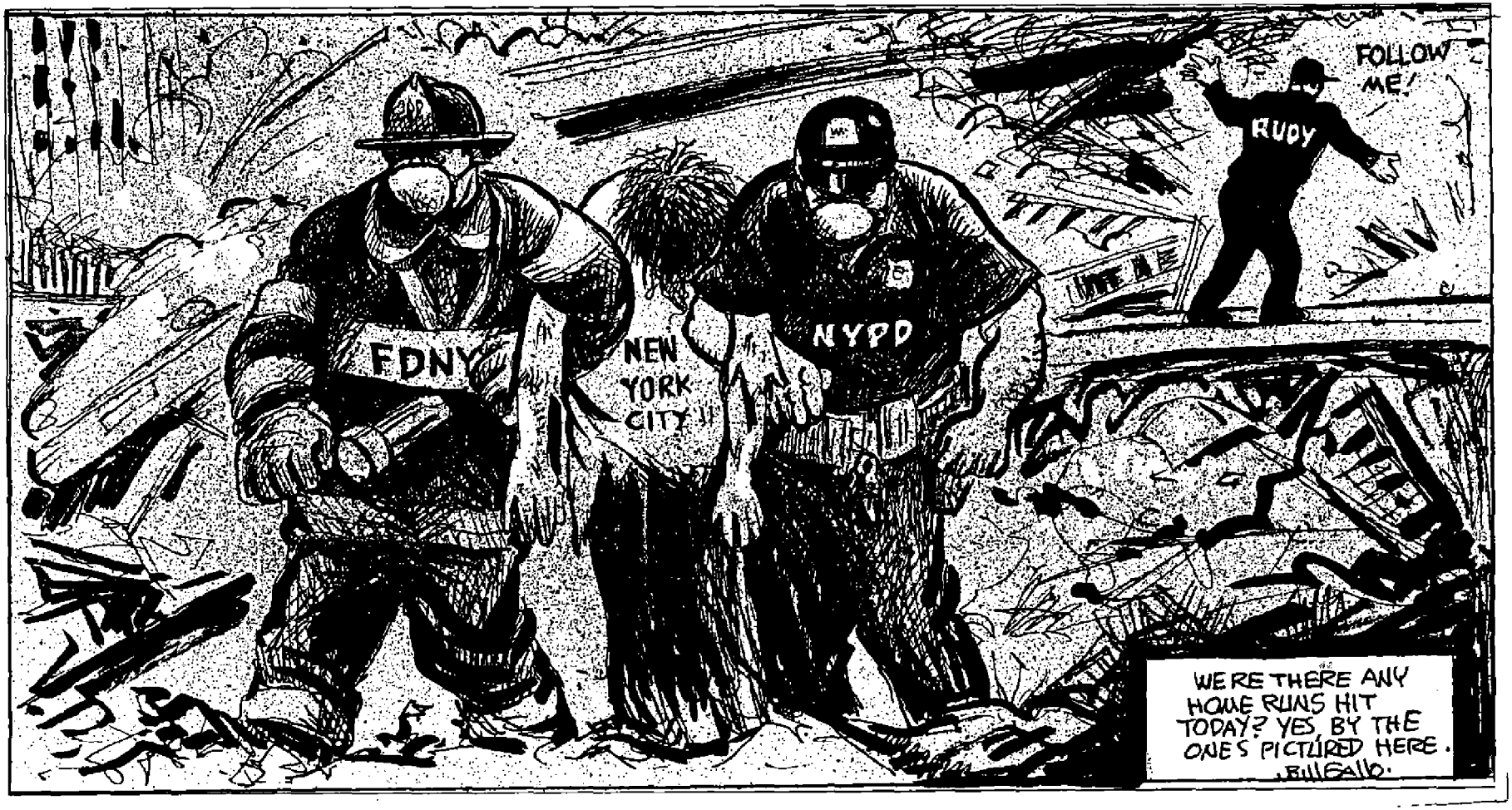
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TALK ABOUT HEROES

By BILL GALLO



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