

# Grand Jury gets arson case

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## Tornado aftermath

Firmen and rescue teams dig through the rubble of the Edgewood Trailer Court in rural Kiski Township, Armstrong County, Pa., after a tornado flattened more

than 75 trailer homes. Approximately 100 people were injured and hundreds were left homeless. Miraculously, no deaths were reported. See World-Nation Page for further details. — AP photo

# Ted's victories dim Carter's triumph

The Associated Press  
President Carter emerged today from the long presidential primary campaign with the Democratic delegate majority he needed for his re-election, but his moment of triumph was clouded by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's refusal to abandon an challenge.

Carter claimed a "wondrous victory" as the last night Democratic primaries bowed him over the top in delegate count. He offered "the hand of friendship" to Kennedy in an effort to unite Democrats for the campaign against Republican Ronald Reagan.

But while Carter claimed victory in the overall race for delegates, Kennedy had his biggest night of the primary campaign. The senator won five of the final eight Democratic primaries, including the largest state, California. Kennedy also carried New Jersey, Rhode

Island, New Mexico, and South Dakota. Carter won Ohio, Montana and West Virginia.

Making clear his determination to carry his campaign to the Democratic convention, Kennedy told supporters Tuesday night that "today, Democrats from coast to coast were unwilling to concede the nomination to Jimmy Carter and neither am I. Kennedy's longshot strategy for overcoming Carter's delegate lead called for a strong showing in the final primaries that might convince Democrats that Carter was a likely loser to Reagan in the Nov. 4 general election.

Reagan had no active opposition in the nine GOP primaries. He held a Los Angeles victory party.

As soon as it was clear from the returns Tuesday night that he had the delegates to push his total above the 1,000 needed for Democratic nomination, Carter joined cheering supporters at a victory party at "The Buck Stops Here," a bar near the White House.

"As I stand before you, I have one deep feeling in my heart," said Carter. "That is thanksgiving to all of you who turned what eight months ago was a prediction of absolute defeat into a wondrous victory tonight."

But a dozen blocks away, another celebration was underway at the Kennedy headquarters.

The Massachusetts senator, his wife and children at his side, claimed a "clear majority" of the votes cast on the final primary election day of the 1980 campaign. "Despite all the predictions that we could not win."

## Property distribution changed

# State revises divorce law

By DONNA GREEN,  
Staff Writer

## Highlights of bill

ALBANY — Here are some of the main provisions of the divorce-reform bill approved Tuesday by both houses of the state Legislature.

The bill is expected to be signed by Gov. Hugh Carey and would be effective 90 days thereafter. Divorce actions begun before then would be subject to the old law.

— Property in divorce cases no longer will be automatically awarded to the spouse that holds its title. Rather, it would be divided "equitably" based on criteria specified in the law.

— The contributions of the homemaker to the marriage and the career advancement of the other spouse would figure in a judge's decision on the equitable division of property. Other factors include the age and health of each spouse, each spouse's ability to become self-sufficient, the income and property of each spouse, the standard of living while married, any existing or future child custody to live in the house, and tax consequences.

A divorce judge must state on the record what factors entered into his decision.

— Either spouse is eligible to receive "maintenance," the new word for alimony. A judge may, however, decide only to award limited maintenance and give the homemaker a specified amount of time to become self-sufficient. After that time, maintenance would cease unless the case is reopened. The bill states that it is a "barred person's" duty to support his spouse if he has sufficient means.

— Either or both spouses might be directed to pay child support. The child's needs as well as the financial resources of each spouse would be a factor. Misconduct of either party is not.

— There would be no presumption of which spouse is the better parent regarding child custody. — Property owned by either spouse before the marriage would not be subjected to an "equitable distribution," except upon a showing that the other spouse helped enhance its value.

— Gifts from one spouse to the other, such as jewelry, are not exempt from "equitable distribution," although ownership is among the factors a judge must consider unless there is a written agreement between the spouses that the specific property is separate property.

— Each spouse must submit detailed financial statements to the court. This will include a sworn statement of net worth.

ALBANY — The state Legislature Tuesday approved a measure that radically changes the way property is divided in divorce cases, recognizing for the first time in law the contributions of a homemaker to a marriage.

No longer will property be divided solely on the basis of which spouse owns its title. Rather, a divorce judge now will be required to equally weigh the contributions of the homemaker and some other factors in making an "equitable distribution" of property.

However, an attempt to require a divorce judge not merely to consider the contributions of the homemaker, but to regard those contributions as equal to those of the wage earner was defeated in the state Senate.

The new law also would permit a judge to award alimony, or maintenance as it will now be called, to either spouse and removes any presumption the mother is the preferred spouse to have custody of children.

New York is currently one of six states that awards matrimonial property solely on the basis of which spouse owns the title. The bill, which passed the assembly 133-19 and the Senate 40-11, departs sharply from the current law.

When signed by Gov. Hugh Carey, the new law will affect approximately 30,000 couples who get divorced in New York every year. The bill will go into effect 90 days after Carey signs it, so he is expected to do. Divorce proceedings begun before then will be subject to the old law.

"I'm excited, but it's almost anticlimactic," said Assemblyman Gordon Burrows, R-Yonkers, who for seven years has been pushing for equitable distribution. "You wait for something for something so many years and when it finally happens, you don't believe it."

In past years, the bill had been approved by the Democratic-controlled Assembly, but never before ever reached the

Please turn to DIVORCE on back page of section



## Divorce law

Sen. H. Douglas Barclay listens to a speaker today in Albany Tuesday on legislation he sponsored to change the di-

Divorce laws in New York State. Both the Senate and the Assembly passed the bill, and Gov. Carey is expected to sign it. — AP Photo

# 'Miss Liberty' bombing culprit sought

NEW YORK (AP) — Officials sifted through rubble in a blow-out room at the Statue of Liberty today and sought to learn who was responsible for what they said was the first bombing in the monument's 94-year history.

The blast occurred at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, more than an hour after the last tourists left Liberty Island, where the enclosed 30-foot copper statue raises her beacon steadily. There were no injuries.

Park Superintendent David Moffitt estimated early today the blast cost some \$6,000 in damage to the "Story Room" on the second floor of the three-story building

at the base of the monument.

The room holds artifacts about the statue's history and a brass plaque bearing the Emma Lazarus poem that begins, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." Moffitt said the plaque was not damaged.

"I think everything can be restored, but I won't know for sure until the curator takes a look at it," he said, adding that the monument suffered no structural damage as a result of the blast.

FBI agent Thomas Locke said at the scene that a check of bomb fragments had

not yet revealed who planned the bomb. He said the bomb was "possibly made of dynamite" and possibly used a timing device.

Persons who said they represented several extremist political groups took responsibility. All, however, called radio and TV stations and a police emergency number at least two hours after the bombing.

The FBI said the callers claimed to speak for the following groups: the Jewish Defense League; the FALN, a Puerto Rican nationalist group; Omega 7, the right-wing anti-Castro group; and the National Socialist Movement Party, a neo-Nazi group.

Please turn to SAM on back page of section

# NYPD rests case against 'Sam' officer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York City Police Department rested its case Tuesday against a detective it says gave confidential information to a freelance writer about possible accomplices in the Son of Sam murders.

Detective Henry Chonin, who will present his case Friday at departmental hearings on a host of charges that could lead to dismissal of the 17-year veteran, spotted an internal Police Department investigation last year into whether David Berkowitz had help in committing the six Son of Sam murders.

But, the department says, the information proved to be sketchy, unendorsed or given by sources of questionable credibility.

The Berkowitz case is closed. Berkowitz had no helper, Deputy Chief Edwin T. Dreher said May 16, when the hearing began. "I won't change that opinion. I don't think the department will."

But, a separate probe of the Berkowitz case by the Queens District Attorney's Office continues. The inquiry begun by this office last October into certain questions in the Berkowitz case remains open. Thomas McCarthy, press aide to Queens Dist. Atty. John Santucci said Tuesday night.

The most important of those questions is whether Berkowitz acted alone in the Son of Sam murders or was aided by accomplices.

# MTA hears 'no fair' shouts at hearing

By MICHAEL RODDY,  
Staff Writer

Westchester residents joined county officials to bitterly denounce possible commuter fare increases Tuesday while it was revealed that regular Conrail riders would bear the heaviest fare increase burden.

Speakers at a hearing in White Plains said a proposed increase of as much as 50 percent on Conrail's three commuter lines was unjustified in light of the poor service commuters get for what they already pay. In addition, County Executive Alfred Del Boca warned that too large an increase means "this region could suffer economically."

A representative of one commuter group warned that he would block a fare increase and still another commuter leader questioned the role of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in raising fares and why in setting fare increases. The MTA board could vote as soon as

the end of June on proposed increases of as much as 25 cents in the New York City bus and subway fares and the 15 to 50 percent hikes on Conrail's Harlem, Hudson, New Haven and Roboken-Port Jervis Lines, the Long Island Rail Road and the Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority.

The increases, which could go into effect as soon as July 1, would be used to meet a deficit now estimated to be \$28.6 million in 1980.

Unlike Monday's New York City hearing, where more than 100 persons spoke during 11 hours of testimony, only 18 speakers signed up at the afternoon hearing Tuesday and another 11 were scheduled to speak during the evening session.

While the objections to fare hikes were being aired at the County Center in White Plains, details were released showing that Conrail commuters who buy monthly commutation passes — who make up most of the 66,000 regular Conrail riders — may be charged a higher percentage increase than

either single-trip Conrail commuters or many riders on the Long Island Rail Road. More than half of Westchester commuters buy the monthly passes because they provide a discount for people who ride the trains regularly. However, a Conrail spokesman was unable to give precise figures Tuesday night for the number of Westchester riders who buy such passes.

MTA Executive Director John Simpson said the reason regular Westchester commuters may pay more if fares are boosted is that buyers of monthly passes on Conrail now pay a lower rate per mile than almost any other riders on the commuter lines under the MTA's jurisdiction. Simpson said that the inequities grew from historical differences when the Conrail lines and the Long Island Rail Road were under private ownership.

He said that in reviewing the fare structure before proposing new tariffs, he could find "no logically supported reasons" for the inequities, and said his staff had re-

commended that the MTA "move toward equity" in the fare structure.

Figures compiled by the Committee for Better Transit, Inc., a New York City commuter group, show, for example, that Conrail commuters traveling 25 to 26 miles pay \$6.75 for a monthly commutation pass while LIRR commuters pay \$6.45 to cover approximately the same distance.

However, for the same distance, the one-way Conrail rider pays \$3 while the one-way commuter on the LIRR pays \$5.45.

Simpson said it was premature to define a 25 to 50 percent increase between Conrail and LIRR commuters.

The prospect of raising Conrail commutation pass rates to parity with the LIRR fares was assailed at the hearing by Ben Morris of Yonkers, a member of the Westchester County Transportation Board

# Inside

**Sports** The Mets may be on the verge of making a trade in an attempt to bolster their hitting attack after a 3-1 shellacking by the Cardinals last night at Shea. Story on page D2.

**Weather** Partly sunny, breezy and cooler today. High in the low 70s. Clear and cool tonight. Low in the upper 40s. Chance of rain is 10 percent today and tonight. Details on A2.

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