

the nation

First lady possible witness for Gacy mass murder trial

CHICAGO — First lady Rosalynn Carter is listed as a potential defense witness by lawyers for mass murder suspect John Wayne Gacy, who is charged with the sex slayings of 33 boys and young men.

The 33 murder charges against Gacy, 37, a building contractor, is the largest number ever filed against an individual in U.S. history. His trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 7.

Carter posed for photographs with Gacy on May 6, 1978, while she was in Chicago to observe Polish Constitution Day. In the photograph, Gacy, a Democratic precinct captain, wore an "S" pin, apparently issued by the Secret Service to identify those cleared to join Carter on the reviewing stand.

Gacy allegedly lured young men to his northwest suburban home with the promise of drugs, liquor or jobs in his construction firm. He then allegedly had sex with his victims and strangled them, authorities said.

GM announces layoffs for 11,000 workers

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. has announced indefinite layoffs for 11,000 workers and deep production cutbacks at 26 domestic plants — including the Arlington, Texas plant — amid reports of the latest sag in domestic car sales.

Tom Clipstine, a spokesman for the Arlington assembly division plant, said Tuesday that 2,000 workers would be laid off there next month.

U.S. sales in November dipped 21.3 percent from one year earlier and were buoyed only slightly by strong performances from the two smallest domestic automakers, it was announced Tuesday.

Clipstine said second shift operations at the Arlington plant would be suspended indefinitely when the

plant reopens after its Christmas holiday shutdown, affecting approximately 2,000 plant production employees. He said another 2,000 employees would continue to work on the plant's first shift.

"The negative economic impact of this adjustment," Clipstine said, "will be substantially reduced by a supplemental unemployment benefit plan which will result in laid-off employees' continuing to receive approximately 95 percent of their regular take home pay while on temporary layoff."

For the first time, auto executives have said the long slump affecting car sales is caused partly by world tensions.

In response, GM announced car and truck production cuts for early next year that will place 11,000

workers on indefinite layoff.

More than 100,000 U.S. auto-workers already have been idled indefinitely, while thousands more have been idled for varying periods while plants close down to trim bulging car and truck inventories.

The GM cuts, which are effective Jan. 2, will affect Arlington and six other of the company's 26 U.S. assembly plants — Baltimore; St. Louis, Mo.; Van Nuys, Calif., and two plants in Michigan.

Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp. also have curtailed production severely. Ford only has four of 15 domestic assembly plants in operation this week — but those cutbacks are temporary.

Thus far, neither the layoffs nor sales declines have equalled the disastrous levels of the 1974-75 recession — but they are the worst since then.

On a daily selling basis, November sales were the third lowest for that month in this decade.

"There has been little change in market conditions in the past two months," said Gordon B. MacKenzie, Ford Motor Co.'s vice president for sales operations.

"Interest rates appear to be past their peak and domestic cars have increased their market share, yet many potential buyers apparently are deferring vehicle purchases because of temporary economic and world conditions."

In a speech in Brazil, GM President Elliott M. Estes attributed the sales decline to energy uncertainties and worries about events in Iran.

The five U.S. automakers said

they sold 211,862 cars in the first days of November, down 24.6 percent from 280,998 in the same period of 1978. GM sales for the period were off 24.4 percent, Ford down 27.6 percent and Chrysler Corp. deliveries declined by 12 percent.

Car sales for November fell to 606,038 from 769,855 a year ago. GM was off 21.8 percent, Ford 21 percent and Chrysler off 32.4 percent for the month.

American Motors Corp. November sales were up 36.7 percent from a year ago levels while Volkswagen America said its sales of U.S. Rabbits were up 147.6 percent from last November's factory start-up figures.

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Duke sells for \$1 million. Sculptor turns rock to gold. HOLLYWOOD — Australian sculptor Brett Livingston Strong paid \$100 for a worthless boulder, spent months with hammers and chisels carving it into an image of John Wayne, then sold the 10-ton slab for \$1 million. "Where else in the world can you get a rock for \$100 and sell it for a million?" he said as the giant artwork was placed on display Tuesday in the heart of Hollywood. Last February, the blond-haired, blue-eyed sculptor spied the huge boulder protruding dangerously from a crumbling, rain-soaked bluff high above Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. Frustrated homeowners at the base of the bluff finally convinced the state the rock could tumble down the cliff at any moment and it should be removed. It cost taxpayers \$92,648 to have the chunk of sandstone yanked from the mountainside. When the rock tumbled onto the highway, the 26-year-old Strong claimed a 12-ton chip off the old rock and had it hauled away. The steady clunk of chisels and the dull thuds of mallets persisted for 70 days before Strong trans-

New insulin compound found. Their next task is to design an implantable device to release the insulin. The two Rockefeller University scientists who developed the compound said Tuesday their approach to diabetes therapy promises to prevent major diabetic complications such as blindness and gangrene. Assistant Professor Michael Brownlee and Professor Arthur Cerami told about their advance the current "Science," journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Their compound, an insulin derivative, is biochemically capable of switching supplies of insulin on and off, as the body's needs go up and down, around the clock. Diabetes is the third-leading cause of blindness and is a major cause of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, gangrene and nerve damage. The newly developed compound is an insulin derivative combined with insulin and the sugar maltose. In experiments, they reported the lectin-bound derivative was as effective as glucose solutions. It was shown glucose displaced the insulin derivative from the surface of the lectin. The amount of insulin freed is proportional to the quantity of glucose present.

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