

Accomplice hinted in sex case

CHICAGO (UPI) — Police yesterday talked to a man who said sex-murder suspect John Wayne Gacy chloroformed and attacked him a year ago with the help of another man.

Gacy, a 36-year-old contractor suspected of raping and killing as many as 32 boys and young men, has been charged with only one murder — that of Robert Piest, 15, who disappeared the day he was to have seen Gacy about a job with his construction company.

Twenty-six bodies have been found in shallow graves in Gacy's 30-inch crawl space under Gacy's house and a 27th under his garage. Gacy also has been allegedly linked to two other bodies recovered from the Des Plaines River. Six of the 29 bodies have been identified.

Cook County Sheriff's Police Sgt. Howard Anderson said police questioned Jeff Rignall, 26, who said he was attacked by Gacy last March.

Rignall has claimed Gacy invited him into his car,

chloroformed him, drove him to his northwest suburban home and sexually attacked him. Rignall said he later was driven to Lincoln Park and dumped near a statue.

Rignall has said that during the attack, Gacy held him in handcuffs while another man apparently turned on the kitchen light in Gacy's home.

Rignall also has claimed a man confronted him in front of Gacy's home several months after the attack and asked him not to tell Gacy's mother about the rape.

"That individual does exist, but he's dropped out of sight," said Rignall's attorney, Fred A. Richman.

Richman and Rignall appeared in misdemeanor court Tuesday to ask that battery charges against Gacy stemming from the March incident be raised to felony.

Richman argued that the charge against Gacy should be raised because Rignall's liver may have been seriously damaged by the chloroform.

Cook County Associate Judge Ben Edelstein post-

poned the case until March 2.

Sam Amirante, Gacy's attorney, said Gacy did not appear at the court hearing for security reasons and "because he's still a physically sick man."

Gacy, who reportedly suffers from heart trouble, remained in a hospital jail, where he has been strapped to his bed to prevent possible suicide or escape attempts.

Gacy also did not appear in court Friday to face charges of slaying Piest. Piest's body has not yet been identified but investigators said Gacy told them he dumped it and four others in the Des Plaines River after his crawl space could no longer accommodate more bodies.

Investigators planned to use a special heat sensor, originally designed to locate Vietnam dead, to search for more bodies today beneath the Gacy's quiet suburban home.

Leo Ryan murder suspect will stand trial

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Larry Layton, an X-ray technician at the Peoples Temple commune, was ordered yesterday to stand trial before the Guyanese Supreme Court for allegedly killing U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan.

Magistrate Krishna Veni Chinta made the ruling after a three-week preliminary inquiry into the shooting deaths of the California Democrat and three newsmen at the Port Kaituma airstrip after their visit to the sect's nearby Jonestown settlement.

Those killings Nov. 18 touched off a mass poisoning of Peoples Temple followers that left more than 900 persons dead.

After the magistrate's decision, the 32-

year-old Layton declared loudly: "I am innocent of the charge. I did not shoot at, or conspire with anyone to shoot at Congressman Ryan, or any other person."

He declined to give evidence on oath or call any witnesses. The next session of the Supreme Court is scheduled to begin Jan. 9.

Layton also is accused of killing four other persons, including the three newsmen and a cult defector, but the hearing date for these cases has yet to be set.

The prosecution closed its case Tuesday after the government's pathologist, Dr. Leslie Mootoo, said Ryan received 21 injuries and died from

shock and hemorrhage due to multiple gunshot wounds. Ryan suffered from a compound skull fracture, damage to the brain and the perforation of both lungs, he said.

The doctor said he found two bullets in Ryan's body during the autopsy Nov. 20.

Leading defense attorney Jainarine Singh argued that the charge against

Layton should be struck out on the following grounds:

— There was no evidence the accused shot or murdered Ryan or did any act that caused his death.

— There was no evidence that the accused was present when Ryan was shot and killed.

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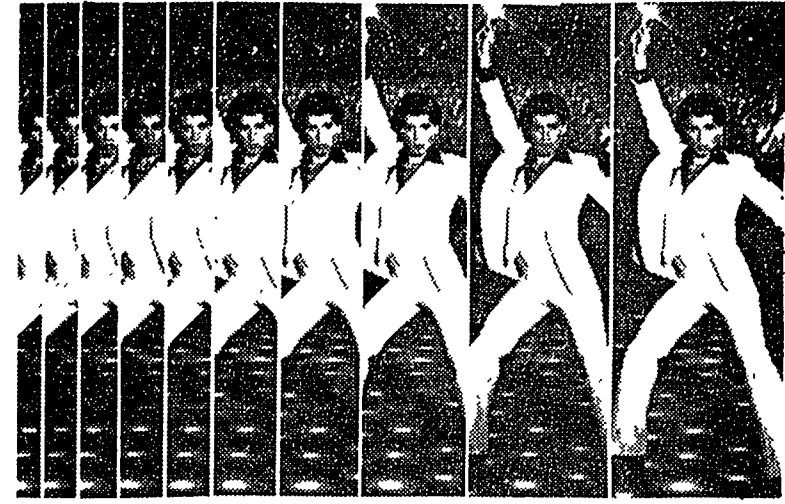
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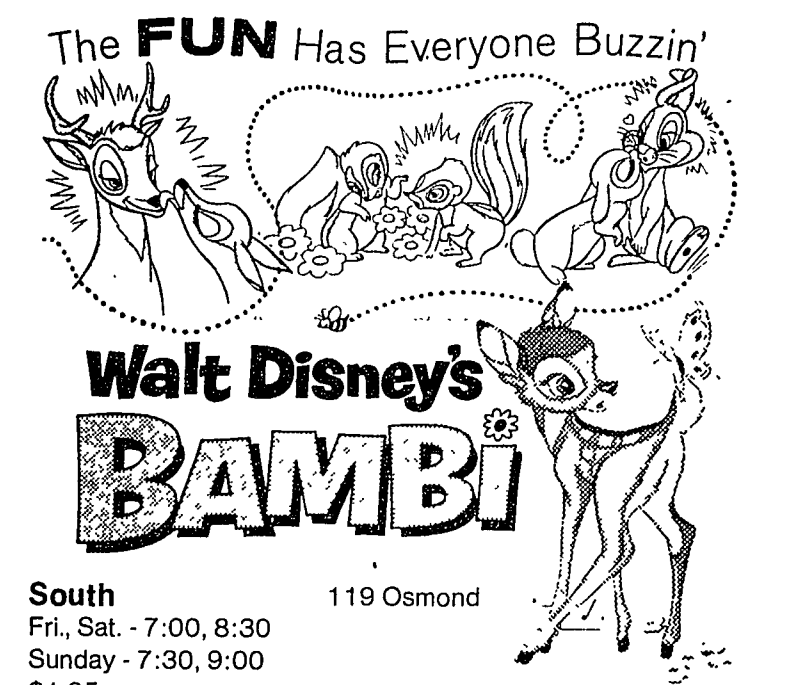
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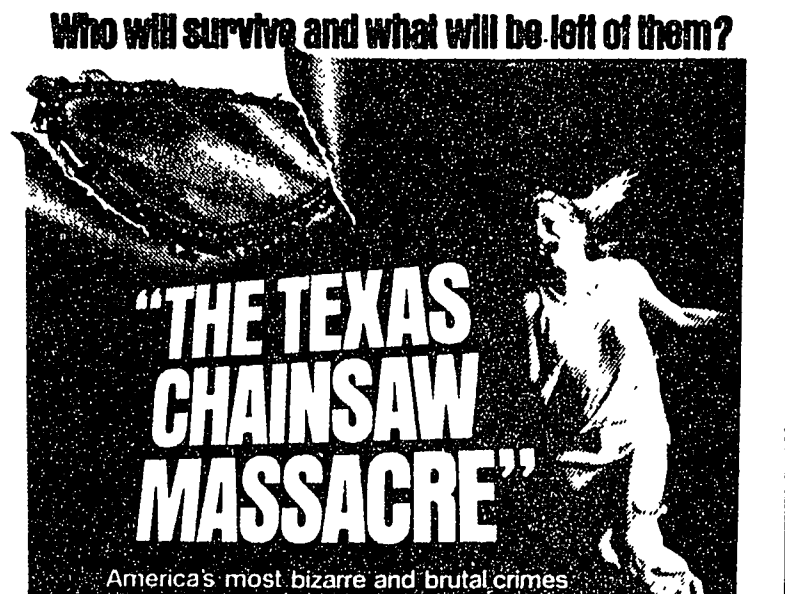
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