

## **4 Detroiters found dead - Police say man hid daughter in closet, then shot his former girlfriend and others.**

Detroit News, The (MI) - Monday, December 20, 2004

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DETROIT - The brutal deaths of two women and two small children shocked a city torn by the bloodshed of more than 370 murders and 1,300 nonfatal shootings in 2004.

Police said a 25-year-old restaurant employee fatally shot to death **four** people Saturday, including a 4-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy, after a domestic dispute with his former girlfriend.

He then loaded the bodies in the back of a car and dumped the vehicle in an empty lot two miles away, police said.

Police said the suspect hid his 1-year-old daughter, Octavia Pitts. Police said the man hid Octavia in a bedroom closet and then killed her mother, 17-year-old Gloria Pitts, along with the others. Gloria Pitts was the suspect's former girlfriend, police said.

"You have to pause and ask, 'Why did this have to happen?' Domestic violence is a serious problem," said Second Deputy Chief James Tate. "We know that there's been issues in the past of domestic violence at this house."

Octavia Pitts was **found** in her pajamas Saturday afternoon by police still in a closet in the ransacked home on the 4100 block of Dickerson on the city's east side.

After dumping the bodies, police said, the suspect walked back to the home in the 4100 block of Dickerson, on the city's east side, got in his 1988 blue Ford Mustang and went to work at a Detroit restaurant.

Early Sunday morning, Detroit police **found** the bodies of 24-year-old Alicia Jackson, her two children - 7-year-old Jamon Wilmer and 4-year-old I'jannia Ajamneya Jackson - and Gloria Pitts, her niece, stacked inside Alicia Ms. Jackson's 1991 Jeep Cherokee. Pitts was the suspect's former girlfriend, police said.

Late Sunday, two dozen stuffed animals sat on the porch of the home, along with an unlit candle. The Sunday newspaper sat untouched. A trimmed Christmas tree stood in the living room window, and there were kids' toys - including a dump truck - on the porch bench. No one answered the door.

The **dead** initially were reported missing and presumed kidnapped on Saturday, Tate said. Police **found** Octavia Pitts in her pajamas Saturday afternoon in a closet in the ransacked home.

Olivia now is with her mother's family, police said.

Late Saturday, police arrested the suspect at the Detroit restaurant without incident.

He was still wearing blood-stained clothes.

Tate said police expect to get a warrant from prosecutors today charging the suspect with **four** counts of murder today on Monday. The suspect remains in police custody.

Police were had been called to the house responding to domestic violence calls twice in 2004, but the suspect wasn't arrested on either occasion. In one instance, he fled before police arrived; in the other, no one was injured so police didn't make any arrests.

The suspect has been questioned at length by homicide detectives and has made incriminating statements, police said, and said He said the domestic dispute was financial in nature.

The Jeep was dumped in an abandoned trailer park on Conner near Gratiot that is filled with old tires, overgrown brush and debris. The lot features an abandoned, burned-out warehouse.

Ronald Jackson, the father of the 4-year-old and stepfather to the 7-year-old, broke down in tears Sunday morning near where the Jeep Cherokee was recovered and had to be restrained by police.

Jackson is the estranged husband of Alicia Jackson.

"He took my babies from me. He took everything from me," Jackson told TV reporters.

"I don't understand how anyone could do this."

Jackson separated from his wife, Alicia, about two months ago. He was not living at home when the incident occurred.

On Saturday, a co-worker of Jackson's **found** the door to the home on the 4100 block of Dickerson open. The new home had been built and donated to the family by Habitat for Humanity, police said.

Inside the house were signs of a struggle and blood in the living room and upstairs. Police also **found** a mop, bucket and the strong smell of ammonia - signs that a cleanup had been attempted, they said.

Despite countless efforts this year by city leaders and law enforcement to stem the tide of violence, the city will break last year's murder rate.

Unofficially, Detroit has recorded 378 murders through Sunday - already above last year's 366, police said.

That total may be revised downward as police weed out deaths that were initially thought to be murders. The city has recorded more than 1,300 nonfatal shootings, up from 1,039 shootings in 2003 and 910 in 2002.

The city has long had a reputation for violence, especially homicides. The city recorded 714 homicides in 1974. The city recorded the highest murder rate in the nation from 1985-1987.

A survey this year listed Detroit as the nation's second most dangerous city, behind only Camden, N.J. - after being listed as the most dangerous in three of the last **four** years.  
Caption: Gloria Pitts, 17; Jamon Wilmer, 7; Alicia Jackson, 24 with daughter Ajamneya Jackson, 4.

Section: Metro

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Company Name: #keywords2#

Index Terms: MURDER ; SHOT ; DETROIT ; CRIME ; STATISTICS ; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dateline: DETROIT

Record Number: det20466493

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