

Police say girl, 4 , may have seen murders

Detroit News, The (MI) - Friday, June 3, 2005

Author: The Detroit News ; David G. Grant

DETROIT -- Homicide detectives believe that a **4-year-old girl may have** witnessed the **murder** of her mother and her boyfriend in their southwest Detroit home where the bodies were found Thursday.

"It might be possible that the young **girl** saw the shooter," said Homicide Lt. James Tolbert. "We don't know at this time and we **have** not established a motive for the shootings."

However, Tolbert said he believes that Alexis Whitfield, 22, and Anthony Bynum, 24, knew their killer because it appears that he was let into the home in the 7100 block of Sarena, near Cecil.

"There were no signs of forced entry or ransacking," Tolbert said.

The bodies of Whitfield and Bynum were discovered in the home about 9 a.m. Thursday when a family member, Ina Derrick, 28, arrived.

Police said the **4** -year-old **girl** answered the door and when Derrick entered she saw the bodies lying next to each other on the living room floor.

Along with the **4** -year-old child, her 1-year-old sister was also in the home. Neither **girl** was physically harmed.

Detectives said it appears that the couple was killed late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning.

Section: Metro

Page: 02B

Company Name: #keywords2#

Index Terms: MURDER; DETROIT

Dateline: DETROIT

Record Number: det19364517

Copyright (c) The Detroit News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.