

## BOY'S BODY IN GEORGIA AWAITS ID

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Author: SUZETTE HACKNEY FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

area to see whether it matches that of **D'Wan Sims**, a 4-year-old Detroit reported missing from a Livonia mall in 1994.

The boy's body was found in a shallow grave in a cemetery in February. The body, that of an unidentified black child age 4 to 9, has been at the county morgue.

Detroit Police received tips about the body after a Free Press article last month reported that investigators had reopened the case and felt confident it could be solved.

"It is our responsibility to investigate this and see if we can eliminate this child from our list," said Cmdr. Dennis Richardson, head of the Violent Crimes Task Force. "We need to verify if it is **D'Wan** or if it is not **D'Wan**."

Richardson said DNA from the body also will be tested against that of **D'Wan's** parents. Results could take months, he said. **D'Wan's** parents gave blood samples to the FBI in 1995 during the initial investigation.

Dwanna Jackson, **D'Wan's** mother, told police she was Christmas shopping with her son at Wonderland Mall in Livonia when he vanished. The previous investigation had focused on the child's mother as a suspect.

Jackson could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Police and community members searched trash containers, abandoned buildings and relatives' homes, along railroad tracks, in alleys and in ditches. They interviewed former baby-sitters, relatives, friends, neighbors and others.

Mall surveillance cameras showed no sign of **D'Wan** or Jackson. Police also said Jackson failed two lie-detector tests.

Detroit investigators said they plan to test all unidentified children who have been found dead in the United States since 1994.

"Certainly the case is difficult but it has been made a lot easier to investigate because of the job the Livonia Police, FBI and Michigan State Police have done," Richardson said.  
SUZETTE HACKNEY can be reached at 313-222-6672 or [hackney@freepress.com](mailto:hackney@freepress.com).

Memo: SHORTER VERSION RAN IN METRO FINAL EDITION, PAGE 3B

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Page: 3B

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