

## LETTER CLAIMS MISSING BOY IS DEAD

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Author: JACK KRESNAK Free Press Staff Writer

An anonymous letter mailed to police and news organizations last week purports to offer a few hints about last year's unsolved disappearance of **D'Wan Sims**.

The letter writer claims **D'Wan's** body was placed in a Dumpster in Detroit on Dec. 13, two days after his mother reported him missing from the Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

"First of all, **D'Wan** is dead and has been for a while," the letter said, citing financial conflicts within **D'Wan's** family that led to a plot to make the boy disappear. The writer claimed there was an earlier attempt made on **D'Wan**, "but everyone got scared. . . . The people behind the whole thing are so scary."

A federal grand jury has joined the investigation into **D'Wan's** disappearance that includes police detectives in Livonia and Detroit, as well as the FBI. No police official would comment Tuesday on the letter or its possible authenticity.

**D'Wan's** mother, Dwanna Harris-Franklin, is under medical care in a specialized unit for problem pregnancies at a Detroit hospital, a hospital spokesperson said. The name of the hospital is being withheld to protect Harris-Franklin, whose life is threatened in the letter.

" **D'Wan's** mother is supposed to die next," the letter said.

The letter, postmarked Nov. 2, is hand-printed in a somewhat sloppy left-sloping manner with few grammatical or spelling errors.

**D'Wan's** maternal grandmother, Beverly Harris, could not be reached for comment Tuesday. But she told WXYZ-TV (Channel 7), "It just seems like somebody, they're playing games with us. I really do hope they are playing games."

Anyone with information about **D'Wan's** disappearance or whereabouts is asked to call the Livonia Police Department at 1-313-421-1920 anytime.

\*\*\*

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 4B

Index Terms: LETTER ; D'WAN SIMS; MISSING ; HOTLINE

Record Number: 9502050310

Copyright (c) 1995 Detroit Free Press