

700 TIPS, BUT NO CLUES

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, December 22, 1994

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The random searches for 4-year-old **D'Wan Sims** have ended. Tips from callers have topped 700. His mother has started therapy sessions. And police still have no significant clues as to the Detroit boy's whereabouts.

Livonia Police "are no closer to solving this," Detective Lt. Pete Kunst said Wednesday. "The investigation continues."

Police have looked in trash containers, abandoned buildings, relatives' homes and along railroad tracks.

They've used tracking dogs and long batons. They've been on foot, on horseback, in all-terrain vehicles and in a helicopter equipped with infrared equipment.

"We feel we have searched every area that would make sense to search," Kunst said.

The missing link in the case seems to be where **D'Wan's** mother, Dwanna Harris, went Dec. 11, the day she said **D'Wan** disappeared from the Wonderland Mall in Livonia. Police have said they do not believe **D'Wan** was ever at the mall.

"It's critical to the investigation that we determine the exact whereabouts of Dwanna between noon and 3 o'clock," Kunst said Wednesday.

Police have interviewed former baby-sitters, relatives, friends, neighbors and others who might know the family.

Harris said this week that Livonia police believe she's responsible for her son's disappearance.

"They said why don't I just break down and tell them where **D'Wan** is at," she said.

Livonia police would not talk about Harris' comments.

On Sunday, Harris and police retraced her steps of Dec. 11 and police interviewed employees -- in some cases several times -- at all the places she said she stopped. No one remembered seeing her or **D'Wan** that day.

Harris' cousin, Nicole Carroll, spent most of the day before **D'Wan** disappeared with Harris and the child.

Carroll and Harris went to the hairdresser in the morning and picked up food at a fast-food restaurant. Carroll said she remembers **D'Wan** munching on a cheeseburger and watching television while his mother and Carroll had their nails manicured Saturday afternoon.

D'Wan "was watching some kind of cartoon movie," Carroll said. "He loved TV."

Harris dropped Carroll off at her home about 5:45 p.m., Carroll said.

Harris has said that she planned to go out later that night, so **D'Wan** spent the night with a friend.

She woke up about 10 a.m. Dec. 11, she has said, then gathered her dirty clothes to take to the laundry near her mother's house. She picked up **D'Wan** on the way.

She told police she went to a supermarket on Grand River and Vaughan about 11 a.m. to buy plastic spoons and yogurt, one of **D'Wan's** favorite snacks.

Later, about 1 p.m., , Harris and **D'Wan** went to a large, 24-hour laundry a block from the supermarket. She told police she stayed about an hour. She used five washers in the fourth row and bought a large container of detergent, she told police.

"Police asked me if I knew anything," said attendant Dave Miller, 56, who was at the laundry Dec. 11. "I said it was too busy. The place was crowded.

"It's like that every weekend -- a mad house -- little kids all over, running and playing."

Police interviewed other employees at the laundry at least three times, but no one could remember Harris or her son. Police searched the laundry and the surrounding area with dogs Monday.

Harris has said **D'Wan** watched cartoons while she did laundry. The laundry has three TV sets but does not have cable. A check of TV listings showed that channels 20 and 50 showed cartoons that day, but none after 11 a.m.

After washing clothes, Harris said she went to her mother's house to borrow her vacuum cleaner. Harris said she then took the clothes home to her rented house on Vaughn Street and went to the mall.

Shortly after arriving about 2 p.m., she said she went through Target toward the food court. That's when she noticed **D'Wan** was missing.

She said she searched by herself, then with a security guard, then with her mother, Beverly Harris, who was working part-time job at a shoe store in the mall. At 4 p.m., Dwanna Harris called police.

Livonia police reviewed mall surveillance tapes several times from several stores but there are no signs of **D'Wan**. Harris doesn't show up on the tapes until she searched for **D'Wan** about 4 p.m. with mall security staff.

After police were alerted, they searched until the mall closed at 6 p.m. Police have searched the Wonderland Mall area at least three times.

In a recent letter released to the news media, Harris wrote: "I don't know your reasons for what you have done. All I ask is that you free my son.

"If there is a spirit of the season of giving and loving in your hearts, please bring my baby home so that the pain of waiting and waiting won't tear me more and more apart.

"Please, please bring my baby back. Thank you."

POLICE NEED HELP

Livonia Police have received more than 700 tips, but none have provided significant clues in the disappearance of **D'Wan Sims**. Anyone with information is asked to call 1-313-421-1920.

Caption: Photo WILLIAM ARCHIE

Dwanna Harris speaks to reporters Wednesday outside her mother's Detroit home. In a letter Harris pleaded, "If there is a spirit of the season of giving and loving in your hearts, please bring my baby home so that the pain of waiting and waiting won't tear me more and more apart."

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Index Terms: DWAN SIMS; END ; POLICE ; DWANNA HARRIS ; HOTLINE

Record Number: 9402150580

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