

## WOMAN, 2 CHILDREN SLAIN IN THEIR HOME ON EAST SIDE

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A young Detroit mother was found slain Sunday along with her 2-year-old daughter and 11-month-old son in their home on the city's east side, police said.

Homicide inspector Gerald Stewart said the victims probably were killed Saturday night in the downstairs flat in the 3000 block of Hurlbut near Charlevoix.

Police did not release the victims' names, but neighbors and a landlord said the flat was rented to a 21-year-old mother named **Viola Rivers** . A neighbor woman who asked that her name not be used said the children's names were Twanna and Darias.

Stewart said police are seeking the woman's live-in boyfriend, who is about 20, in connection with the slayings.

When asked whether the victims were shot or stabbed, Stewart replied, "I don't know. It's pretty bad. They were found in various rooms inside the house. They were fatally assaulted. Whenever kids are involved, it's always a difficult scene to come to."

In a later release, police said all three victims died of head injuries and that they were discovered about 5 p.m. Sunday by a relative.

More than 100 gawkers laughed and joked for a while as police were inside the two-story house gathering evidence. But the mood changed to somber shortly before 8 p.m., as two employees of the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office removed the bodies.

Willie Dandridge, the landlord, said the victim was **Viola Rivers** , who had lived in the home with her children for about a year.

"She was a nice person," said Dandridge.

Two neighbors who declined to give their names said the woman was a quiet person who sat on her porch when it was warm and took short walks with the children. Unlike many people, she always said hello in passing, they said.

The same neighbors said they saw the boyfriend often come and go.

Darius Boyd, 15, who lives across the street from the home, said he saw the boyfriend about 2 a.m. Sunday walking down the sidewalk.

Boyd said he didn't know the man's name, but said, "He was sort of strange. Everybody said it. Like one day I saw him in his car in front of the house and he ran it back and forth into the tree three times. He had the woman and the two babies in the car."

The car Boyd was talking about was still parked Sunday behind the house where the three victims were found.

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Page: 1C

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