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attempt to combat a traditionally

end, local Eastern Manager

holidays,  
Day

# Nude woman found dead in van here

By JAY JORDEN  
Staff Writer

The nude body of a woman, apparently beaten to death, was found today in a van parked near

the center of the city. Her two-year-old daughter was asleep in the van.

Police were awaiting the results of an autopsy on the woman late this morning. She was found

about 7:30 a.m. in the customized van, parked in a vacant lot near the corner of Mexico and Mussett streets.

Bloodstains were found on the body from blows she received, a spokeswoman for the Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office said. Police are investigating also the possibility the woman may have been strangled.

The child was not harmed. She was at the police station this morning. Police spokesmen did not know whether the child saw the attack.

Two boys who police said were on their way to school found the van beside a clump of trees near a dirt road, which extended from Mexico Street onto the lot. The boys also discovered the woman's daughter inside the van, police said.

The van apparently had been driven up the dirt road, then wheeled around on the lot and parked facing back toward the road.

The woman, who police said is a local resident, had been dead a short time. Authorities declined to say whether she had been sexually molested.

Her body was found on its side in the back of the van, police said.

Police are withholding her name pending notification of next-of-kin, Lt. Malcolm Pace of the police robbery and homicide section said.

As yet, there are no suspects in the murder, Lt. Pace said. The slaying followed two recent rapes — one this weekend and another last night in the 900 block of South Port.

"We have no reason at this time to believe that the two incidents were related," Lt. Pace said.

The vacant lot is surrounded on the south and west sides by two warehouses. It is three blocks southwest of Evans school and two blocks east of the Crosstown Expressway.



George Gongora — Staff Photographer

Employee at city car pound inspects van in which woman was found dead today