

## **Man shot, killed in second slaying of cross-dressing men**

HOUSTON—An unidentified man dressed as a woman was shot and killed Feb. 25, the second shooting death of a cross-dressing man in three weeks, though authorities said the slayings are not related.

Police have no suspects in either case and are seeking potential witnesses to both shootings, according to the Houston Police Department.

On Feb. 25, an unidentified man was shot in the abdomen about 9:30 p.m. in the 2900 block of Old Spanish Trail, police said. He died a short time later. Authorities would not release the victim's identity this week until relatives are notified.

The man may have been a male prostitute, police said. The shooting was spurred after a narcotics-related argument, said John Cannon, a police department spokesman. Investigators are seeking a woman seen talking to the victim before he was shot, he said.

On Feb. 6, Steve Dwayne Garcia was shot once in the back about 3:30 a.m. near West Clay in Montrose, before he stumbled to the 600 block of West Bell near Stanford and collapsed, police said. Neighbors returning from a party found him about two hours later.

Investigators initially labeled the homicide a possible gay-bashing because Garcia, of 3615 Aberham, was wearing women's clothing and jewelry, wore make-up and had shoulder-length hair. But evidence police won't detail points to a crime motivated by something other than prejudice, authorities said.

The shootings are unrelated, Cannon said. Anyone with information about the incidents should call police at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

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