

# Death from page 1A

who are now taking the lead in the investigation, had guessed as much.

"We can only say that it's been there quite a while," Southfield police spokesman Detective Ronald Phillips said.

The tip that led police to the body was called into Farmington Hills police at about 2:15 p.m. Thursday afternoon.

Farmington Hills, Southfield and the Michigan State Police are jointly investigating the case until the crime and where it actually took place can be determined.

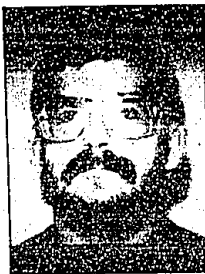
Both departments have been getting numerous tips since Biggar's disappearance Aug. 22 or 23 was given wide media attention, Phillips said.

Biggar failed to return home to the Farmington Hills apartment she and her boyfriend shared and didn't report for work Aug. 23. Her car was later found at a Farmington Hills apartment complex.

Friends on campus said they last saw Biggar walking with ex-convict Ken Tranchida, who she became acquainted with in her university research on prostitutes and AIDS.



Tina Biggar



Kenneth Tranchida

**"It's unlikely that the smell of the decomposing body would have been strong enough and with winter coming on, it could have been months before the body was found."**

*Bill Dwyer  
Farmington Hills Police chief*

nied that and as far as we're concerned, that's irrelevant," Dwyer said.

## Criticism unfounded

Dwyer also said criticism of his department over the disappearance of Tranchida was unfounded.

"He was brought in in the early stages of the investigation," Dwyer said. "There was no evidence that her disappearance would result in a homicide."

Tranchida had bonded out after being arrested for a parole violation in Royal Oak.

"He is a convicted felon and a con man," Dwyer said.

Tranchida had told police about his involvement with the woman and given them the keys to her car after leading them to it.

Officers later discovered type A blood in the trunk of the car and found that the Honda had been driven 815 miles in the 10 days from when it had been repaired at the Marathon station, and when they were led to it.

Phillips said the body's condition was such that police couldn't tell if there were any bullet or knife wounds. He did not know if she was found clothed and said

signs of sexual abuse could not be determined without an autopsy.

## Involved in study

According to reports in OU's student newspaper, The Oakland Post, Biggar was one of eight OU students who volunteered to help in the pre- and post-testing of women prisoners who were predominantly minority drug users serving short-term sentences for prostitution, according to Biggar's boyfriend Todd Nurenberger. The study was supervised by psychology professor Alana Harrison.

The OU research project was part of a national study out of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, which studied the effects education had on convicted prostitutes still in jail.

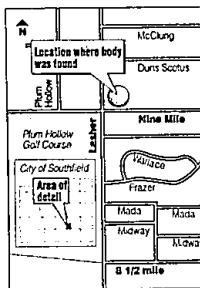
University officials said students and prisoners were under observation constantly while working on the project at the Dickerson Detention Center in Hamtramck.

Hills police Inspector Tom Godwin said the Federal Bureau of Investigation is involved in the nationwide search for Tranchida along with the Southfield, Farmington Hills police and the Michigan State Police.

"He had no means to do anything," Godwin said. "He had



Investigating: Southfield Police specialist Brian Jarrell photographs the body found Thursday at a home on Nine Mile Road. It was later identified as that of missing Oakland University student Tina Biggar.



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