

Web-posted Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Police search landfill for body

Head being studied in Lubbock

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Investigators spent a second day combing through garbage at the Amarillo city landfill Tuesday, searching for parts of - or a whole - body that belongs to a severed head found in a garbage truck Monday.

Despite a day of rooting through debris dumped at the landfill since Friday, Potter-Randall Special Crimes Unit investigators came away with no new clues and are pondering their next step, unit coordinator Lt. Gary Trupe said.

The gruesome investigation began about 11 a.m. Monday when a solid waste employee spotted the white male's head in the hopper of his truck on Northeast 11th Avenue between Lincoln and Buchanan streets while compressing trash, reports show. The truck had dropped off a full load and had emptied more than 40 Dumpsters across northeast Amarillo before the head was found.

"(The truck) did considerable damage to this skull," Trupe said. The head also apparently had been damaged when it was separated from its body, he said. Reconstruction likely will have to be done at the Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office - where the head was sent for an autopsy - before any kind of composite sketch can be done, he said.

Officials do not know how long the person has been deceased, but "not weeks or anything," Trupe said. Investigators on Tuesday did not know enough to say whether foul play was involved in the death of the man, who remains unidentified. Police also had not released his approximate age.

"We went back through this year's missing persons and there's nothing we have that fits that," Trupe said. No cadavers have been reported missing from local hospitals, he said.

Trupe said investigators are considering sending out a teletype to solicit information from regional departments.