

Man, 24, held in bludgeoning death of father

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UNIVERSITY CITY — A 24-year-old man accused of bludgeoning his father to death was arrested early Wednesday morning in an apartment complex in University City.

Police were called to the La Jolla Crossroads complex on Judicial Drive at Golden Haven Drive about 1:15 a.m. after receiving a frantic 911 call from a woman, homicide Lt. Ernie Herbert said.

"She said her son had killed her husband," Herbert said.

Officers arrived about six minutes later and found the son in the hallway and the 64-year-old father dead inside the second-story apartment, Herbert said.

Darren Chaker, 37, was visiting his girlfriend at the multi-unit apartment complex when he heard screaming for help and called authorities.

He flagged down an officer outside and they both went to the building, where they found the woman standing in the hallway wearing a white nightgown covered in blood. Her son was standing behind her, Chaker said.

The officer asked, "Who did this?" The woman pointed at her son and the officer handcuffed him, Chaker said.

The man said, "Yeah, I did it," Chaker said. The mother was crying and asking, "Why? Why did you do this?" and the son answered, "Because he's an (expletive)," Chaker said.

"He seemed very proud," Chaker said.

The man was wearing only blue boxer shorts and appeared enraged but not under the influence of anything, Chaker said. Chaker said the woman's screams were echoing through the hallway, but no one came out or opened a door.

Chaker said he held the woman's hand and told her he was sorry about what happened. She thanked him for helping and for coming to her aid, he said.

Police have not released the name of the man who was arrested, nor would they discuss a possible motive for the crime or what was used as a weapon. Herbert said the case is still in the early stages of investigation.

The identity of the dead man is being withheld until family members can be notified. The woman was not injured, police said.

Union-Tribune

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An unidentified woman is interviewed by San Diego Police officers in a University City condo complex early Wednesday morning after she said her son killed her husband. (Photo courtesy of Darren Chaker) -

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