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Guilty verdict in Wherehouse robbery trial

Sentencing hearing set for defendants

BY TERESA HINDS EDITOR

A district court jury deliberated six hours Monday before returning split verdicts in the Wherehouse Entertainment trial. UNLV student Lorraine Mosca was critically injured in the attack on Oct. 7.

Eighteen-year-old Andre Colon was found guilty of battery with substantial bodily harm, and of robbery. He faces up to 25 years in prison.

Marcus Hall, 19, and Rasool Ramoz, 18, were both convicted of attempting to commit burglary and robbery of Mosca and 18-year-old Wherehouse clerk Kristine Lukeheart, and burglary. They face up to a total of 41 years combined in prison.

District Court Judge Gerard Bongiovanni ordered a sentencing hearing for the three men March 27. Mosca will testify at the hearing to give a victim-impact state-

The trial stems from an in-

cident in which a group of peo-ple participated in what was described as a "swarm" robbery of the Wherehouse Entertainment store on South Decatur Boulevard.

Mosca, a 23-year-old mechanical engineering senior at UNLV, was knocked to the ground, hit her head on the pavement and was kicked in the head when she tried to block the front entrance of the store and prohibit members of the group from leaving. Mos-ca received severe head injuries. Lukeheart also received injuries when she was hit in Initially, Mosca was given

less than 12 hours to survive. Mosca, whom family and friends describe as "a fighter" and strong-willed, spent two months in a coma and time in a rehab center when she awoke. Because of the brain damage she suffered, Mosca must wear a helmet and use a

Mosca's mother Lucille, said her daughter's speech is com-ing back slowly but faster than anticipated. Mosca faces another major operation but Lucille said a decision was made to delay surgery until after sentencing so Mosca can appear and give her impact statement.



Blizzard Las Vegas style



Although it was no match for the "Blizzard of '95," snow fell for well over an hour Monday, covering the campus.

UNLV student hopes for mother's return

Former Nevada Student Affairs director's mother missing for a week

BY ERIN NIEMEYER **NEWS EDITOR**

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police are investigating the disappearance of the mother of former Nevada Student Affairs director, David Turn-

Barbara Turner-Elliot, 58, was last seen Feb. 19 at the Lucky grocery store at Rainbow Boulevard and Flamingo Road. Lucky store manager Patricia Bradley, and Sav-On pharmacist Sam Mastrian both told police Feb. 20 Turner-Elliot left the store at approximately 5:45 p.m. Feb. 19, after picking up a pre-scription from the Sav-On pharmacy inside the grocery

Turner-Elliot's husband of eight months, Clarence Elliot, told police Feb. 20 he became alarmed when his wife did not return home from work Feb. 19.

Turner, a UNLV senior majoring in hotel administration, notified police of his



Barbara Turner-Elliot

mother's disappearance and filed a missing persons report Feb. 20 after she failed to return his repeated phone calls.

"When my mom didn't come home on time (from work), the first thing that came to my mind is that something had to have happened to her," Turner said Sunday.

"Never in my life has she just not come home. It isn't that she didn't want to come home. Something is wrong," Turner added.

According to Turner, he began pursuing his own investigation Feb. 20. Concerned for his mother's well-being, Turner drove to various parking lots in town, searching for her 1988 Honda Accord.

He also called her credit union, bank, and her major credit card companies to determine whether any activity had occurred on his mother's accounts since her disappearance. No transactions had been made for two days.

Turner solicited help from Belinda Thompson, Turner-Elliot's best friend. Together, they issued a press release containing all known information concerning Turner-Elliot's whereabouts, Turner-Elliot's physical description and a description ofher car. According to Turner, they hand-delivered the release with a photo of Turner-Elliot to every TV station in town.

"Belinda (Thompson) and I both knew it was more than a missing person case, although the police are still treating it like one," Turner said Sunday.

Channels 8 and 13 aired Turner-Elliot's Wednesday. Police found Turner-Elliot's vehicle Thursday in the Angel Park Golf Club parking lot, approximately two miles from her home. A viewer, who recognized the gray 1988 Honda Accord, tipped police to its whereabouts.

An investigationrevealed the Angel Park security guard, on duty the evening of Turner-Elliot's disappear-

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