



PHOTO BY VASNA WILSON

Student film director, Dom Turtanich, puts it all together in editing bay.

## Aspiring film director shoots people getting shot

BY SARAH MASON  
CONTRIBUTING FEATURES WRITER

Dominick Trutanich looks like a typical, run-of-the-mill student. He wears baggy shorts, complains about the lack of places to skateboard on campus, and has a ring through his tongue.

But Trutanich is far from typical. In fact, he just finished his first motion picture, a 15-minute film shot on UNLV's campus. "It's the coolest thing," he said. "Everyone else goes home and reads. I get to shoot people getting shot!"

Trutanich, a junior film studies major, wants to be a director. He has started his career at UNLV with the recent short film he wrote and directed for a film classes. He wouldn't give away the story line to the film, but alluded to what it entailed.

"If you go over by the bathrooms in the MSU, you'll see where we filmed one scene," Trutanich said. "Just go stand by the men's bathroom and look up at the ceiling. There's fake blood there from one of our scenes."

Trutanich said this film, which is yet untitled, was filmed entirely on campus. He said he encountered some problems while shooting scenes,

though, when the cops showed up.

"We were shooting a scene, and then a (real) cop came up," said Jim Boring, a senior art and education major who was a "killer" in the film. "We started to show him our guns were fake, and he pulled his (gun) and yelled 'FREEZE.'"

The police officer was eventually convinced that they were working on a class project, but most passers-by made sure to walk far away from the spectacle taking place on the MSU mall.

"I was walking out of the library when I saw it," said Paul Espinosa, a junior communications major. "This guy ran past me with a gun and started shooting another guy. I thought I was watching 'America's Most Wanted' live." Espinosa wasn't the only one. Most students passed by in horror until they saw the camera.

Trutanich described the movie as an action film. He said he was strongly influenced by John Woo of *Broken Arrow* fame and Robert Rodriguez, director of *Desperado* and *El Mariachi*.

His ultimate goal is to become a feature film director, but Trutanich said he hopes to start his career with a grip (a crew person on film sets) job when he graduates.

## Top employee smoothes out bumpy road

### Beverly Hertig is second mom to fine performing arts students

BY SARAH MASON  
CONTRIBUTING FEATURES WRITER

Her office sits in a quiet corner of the fine and performing arts department main office. Her name is Beverly Hertig, and she's been sitting pretty this year as UNLV's employee of the year.

Hertig graduated from UNLV in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in communications. She went on to receive a gerontology degree in 1985. She is now a management analyst in the fine and performing arts department, and has been a UNLV employee for 22 years.

Hertig said interacting with students is the best part of her job. "I do orientation when they arrive and grad packets when they leave," she said. "In

between, they are like a second family, with many occasions for joys and challenges." She said she likes to show her support for students by attending as many plays, recitals, concerts and operas as possible.

Although she loves the arts, Hertig said she also wants students to be realistic.

"It's very difficult for our majors to work in this field and support a family," she said. "The students are extremely competitive. An athlete has a better chance of getting into a professional sport than an actor has of getting into the movies."

There are other problems the department faces; one of the biggest is funding. Hertig said inadequate funding accounts for many problems the department must contend with. "Without funding for sponsorships and projects, creative ideas stay on the

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## Starr

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Norm's friends were impressed by my individuality and strength."

Starr's parents weren't as accepting. "They didn't like it but I didn't care," she said.

An only child, Starr worked three different jobs throughout high school, nearly 50 hours per week, to pay the household bills.

"My parents were consistently unemployed. They always quit jobs after one week.

"Someone had to pay the bills," Starr said.

From McDonald's to the Big Dipper Ice-Cream Parlor to Subway sandwich shop, Starr worked into the morning hours to support her parents. She was rarely home from her jobs before 3 a.m.

Still, she graduated with honors. Upon completion of high school, the advanced placement student earned a 3.5 cumulative grade point average.

"I worked my butt off," Starr said.

Coping with her past has been a challenge, Starr said, but her husband's encouragement has helped her along the way. "I'm becoming trusting."

"She's dealing with the (emotional) scars and is taking big strides," Vordahl said of Starr. "She's making a lot of effort and is approaching it quite aggressively."

Starr is optimistic about her future.

"I hope to stay energetic in spite of age and would like to teach full-time at an institution of higher education," Starr said.

"I think teachers are born and not made...and I could tell early on she was a natural," said Vordahl.

"She is highly regarded by her students and colleagues," Shiue said. "She makes time for her students outside of office hours...and on weekends."

"She offers a lot of extra

help," said Dean Rubino, a junior social work major in Starr's Fundamentals of College Mathematics, MAT 120, class. "I was lucky to get her because I probably would have been lost with anyone else."

"I've been avoiding math for 22 years," said Joanna Mc Goldrick, a non-traditional secondary education senior. "I heard from other students that (Starr) was the teacher to take."

Also a student in Starr's

MAT 120 class, Mc Goldrick said, "She's great because she gives up a lot of her time, is concerned about her students and is very knowledgeable."

"She's patient and doesn't give up on her students," said another student in Starr's MAT 120 class, Kamara Mayberry, a sophomore communication major. "Math is not my subject...I'm surprised to be understanding (the material)."

Starr, who offers a minimum of three study sessions out-

side of class prior to every test, said she's willing to give up her time for her students "because I care about them. I've even met people at Wendy's (restaurant) to study," Starr added.

"I want them to do well in my class and I'll be there when they need me."

"Angela does this without being asked," Shiue said. "Angela is a dedicated student and instructor. She has been a great asset to our department."

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