

THE REBEL YELL



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Film student murdered at MGM

By Claudia Salas
News Editor

A UNLV student was found stabbed to death at her place of employment in the MGM Grand Hotel on Saturday.

Lisa Sadie, a 20-year-old film studies major and member of the UNLV Film Society, was a senior cashier at the strip hotel's Studio Cafe restaurant.

Sadie, who lived in Las Vegas for a few months prior to her death, transferred to UNLV from Texas.

According to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Sergeant Bill Keeton, of the homicide division, Sadie was performing book-keeping duties in a closed office at the rear of the restaurant when she was struck on the head with a bottle of ketchup and stabbed three times. She was found laying dead in a pool of blood approximately two hours later.

Keeton said no attention was drawn to the back office of the facility because of the slow hours of operation at the time of Sadie's death.

A 21-year-old man identified as Vihn Sinh Truong, an ex-employee

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—anonymous co-worker

"She was a very nice person and a very beautiful girl."

—cafe employee

of the restaurant, entered the facility to collect his last paycheck. He allegedly fatally struck Sadie, robbing a large amount of money from the restaurant.

Keeton said Truong has been charged with murder, armed robbery and use of a deadly weapon.

Truong's mother is also an employee of the restaurant, Keeton added.

An article appearing in the Sunday edition of *The Las Vegas Sun*

revealed that news of the slaying shocked restaurant co-workers.

"She was a very nice person and a very beautiful girl," one cafe employee said of Sadie.

"I know she was a student who came here from Texas and was working the graveyard shift to make it through school and pay for her bills.

"Everyone is in shock and crying over it," the co-worker, who requested anonymity, told a *Las Vegas Sun* reporter.

The killing reportedly had nothing to do with a conflict of personalities, according to Keeton. "There was probably some revenge and anger (on Truong's part) from being fired."

Police recovered several thousands of dollars upon Truong's arrest. Broken glass and ketchup were found on his clothing when he was taken into custody.

According to Keeton, Truong admits to the robbery but claims Sadie was dead when he entered the back office. Truong alleges he moved Sadie's body out of the way to get to the money in the restaurant's safe.

Sadie's classmates agree she was ambitious. David Cervera, a junior majoring in communications and film, said, "(Sadie) was thinking about putting up a web site for the film society.

"I was planning on working with her in setting up the site. I thought (the plan) was a good idea and that she was a really nice girl," Cervera added. "She was pleasant to interact with."

Chandler Pohl, a senior film major, said, "She was a very active member of the film society and she would attend the meetings every single week.

"It's a very sad event and she will be greatly missed but not forgotten," Pohl concluded.

Danny Kim, a junior majoring in film and *The Rebel Yell* production assistant, said of the tragedy, "As a film student it is always a pleasure to be able to talk to another film major, since I meet so few.

"In the same vain, it's...quite disturbing and saddening to hear of such a senseless act happening to someone moving in the same direction towards film."

Faculty member under investigation

By Michael Saunders
Staff News Writer

UNLV social work professor Scott Sells faces a criminal investigation by the attorney general's office for allegedly violating state wiretapping laws.

Sells is accused of violating Nevada law by recording conversations with students and faculty without permission.

During a recent on-campus administrative hearing, other allegations of misconduct by Sells were aired, Jeff German, of the *Las Vegas Sun*, wrote in an Oct. 20 article.

"Assistant Attorney General Brooke Nielsen confirms the inquiry is under way and is being conducted by Chief Investigator Bob Pike," German added.

Ronald Farrell, director of UNLV's School of Social Work, initiated the investigation upon consulting with Donald Klasic, the University System's Legal Counsel, according to German.

Farrell declined comment. "It is a personnel matter," he said.

Joshua Landish, Sells' lawyer, said, "I think we had a full and fair hearing, which went for two days. I believe (Sells) will be exonerated from any charges, and he should be."

Dee Hollenbeck, deputy chief of investigations for the attorney general's office, said, "We do have an investigation open but we cannot comment on any criminal investigation that is ongoing."

Sells declined comment.

Landish said, "I am not free to make any comment. Unlike Farrell, I try my cases in court and not in a newspaper.

"The facts are quite a bit different than those leaked by Farrell. I am sure Farrell is the source of the leaks to the newspaper. It's just he has the advantage of being able to leak even if it's untrue.

"I will probably have plenty to say once the ruling comes out," Landish added.

Craig Walton, director of Ethics and Policy Studies and state president of the Nevada Faculty Alliance, said, "I'm not able to comment on legal issues or who leaked things to the paper and I understand the legal requirements of not intervening.

"It's all in the hands of a hearing officer who is in charge of listening to both sides," Walton continued.

UNLV President Carol Harter and Provost Douglas Ferraro could not be reached for comment.

UNLV professor receives award

By Michael Saunders
Staff News Writer

UNLV mechanical engineering professor Brendan O'Toole was awarded the 1996 Nevada Professor of the Year award from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The Professor of the Year program has lauded the nation's greatest undergraduate instructors since 1981. The CFAT sponsors the yearly national competition, which included 585 nominees this year.

Candidates are nominated for the award by their institution and can submit letters of recommendation from current or former students, colleagues, deans and presidents.

O'Toole won the award for his service to students, institutions, community and the profession. It was also based upon teaching informed by scholarship, impact on and involvement with students and support from colleagues and current and former undergraduate students.

O'Toole, a UNLV faculty member since 1992, has also won the Alex G. and Faye Spanos Teaching Award from UNLV, the Ralph R. Teeter Educational Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers and two other teaching awards.



O'Toole

In a personal statement O'Toole submitted for the Professor of the Year Award he wrote, "I feel it is my responsibility to motivate my students to ask questions because we all learn at a different pace. I listen and respond to any question, no matter how trivial it might seem. I don't want to discourage anyone from asking questions because one of the most effective ways to learn any new topic is to have a discussion about it with someone who knows it very well.

I also try to provide students some of the educational opportunities which I regretted not having as an undergraduate," he continued. "And I try to emphasize to students that learning is a lifelong endeavor. I find myself learning new things all the time as I teach and conduct research."

Darrell Pepper, chairman of UNLV's Mechanical Engineering Department, said, "Certainly, he's an excellent teacher and has very good rapport with his students."

Robert Boehm, a UNLV mechanical engineering professor, agreed. "I think (O'Toole) is a very student-oriented guy and is very

interested in having students learn both practical and theoretical things.

"He has been very instrumental in some of our entries into some contests," Boehm added.

Jason Hammons, an engineering student, said of his professor, "I think he is very clear, direct and to the point. Whenever you've got a problem, he takes extra effort to help you out."

In addition to instructing nine different undergraduate and graduate engineering courses, O'Toole has authored numerous journal articles and belongs to professional and university organizations.

O'Toole's involvement isn't limited to the classroom. He has served as faculty advisor to student teams that have won regional and national engineering design competitions. He advised a team that, by designing and constructing a 3,470 MPG vehicle, set a record and won first place in the 1995 Society for Automotive Engineers West Coast Supermileage Competition.

O'Toole, who earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Delaware, also advised a team that won first place in the

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