

Woman sentenced for role in two murders

Marnie Peot to spend life in prison with possibility of parole

By Carri Geer
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A woman was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison for her role in the deaths of two Las Vegas men last year, but she will be eligible for parole after spending 40 years in custody.

Jurors convicted Marnie Peot, 29, last month of two counts of first-degree murder with a deadly weapon for helping Richard Hinger, 58, kill the men in February 1994.

Peot led authorities to the buried bodies of James Sorenson, 27, and Scott Rehn, 40, on May 10, 1994, near Lake Mead's Callville Bay. She claimed she and Hinger shot the men in self-defense.

Relatives of the victims expressed their rage to Peot Wednesday and urged District Judge Nancy Becker to impose harsh penalty.

"I hope you'll take into consideration the three months of

agony we went through looking for Scott," Rehn's mother, Sidney Mandry, told the judge.

Authorities claimed the defendants killed the victims during an argument at Hinger's mobile home in the 3700 block of East Lake Mead Boulevard.

An autopsy of the decomposing bodies failed to reveal whether the gunshot wounds or suffocation had caused the victims' deaths. The men's faces had been wrapped with duct tape.

"We hope you sit in prison for the rest of your life and think about what you've done," Sorenson's mother, Judy, told Peot.

Rehn's 17-year-old daughter, Heidi, sobbed as she told the judge how her father's death has affected her. She said she considered her father a friend.

"My whole life was turned upside down the day Marnie killed my father," she said.

Turning to Peot, the

teen-ager said, "I hope you rot in jail and burn in hell."

Heather Rehn-Bonwell, another daughter, described her father as a successful businessman.

"He was a great asset to this community," she said.

Defense attorney Herbert Sachs told the judge his client deserves credit for eventually admitting her involvement. He also said Peot, who declined to speak at her sentencing, plans to appeal her conviction.

The attorney urged Becker to follow the recommendation of officials with the state Department of Parole and Probation, who suggested a life sentence with the possibility of parole after 20 years.

Becker said she heard Peot's testimony during the trial and saw a woman who fails to accept responsibility for her actions. Peot admitted firing a shotgun at Rehn's shoulder area and helping tape the victims'

faces.

"I think Marnie was more concerned about Marnie, because that's the way I think Marnie is," Becker said.

A jury also convicted Hinger in March of two counts of first-degree murder with a deadly weapon. District Judge Sally Loehrer later sentenced him to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 40 years.

District Judge Donald Mosley sentenced Cameron Carlow, now 23, to three years of probation in November for helping dispose of the bodies. Becker revoked his parole last month and sent him to prison for three years after learning he had pleaded guilty in April to a misdemeanor charge of trespassing.

Carlow, who had no prior convictions, said he was on drugs when Hinger and Peot asked him to help get rid of the bodies. He pleaded guilty in September to being an accessory to murder, a felony.