

# Lawyer to claim insanity as murder trial defense

United Press International  
**ILMER** — An attorney for a man accused of killing his wife and three children filed motions Tuesday seeking prosecution evidence and notifying the court he will claim the man was sane when the slayings occurred.

Gandabhai Patel, 37, is charged with four counts of first-degree murder in the slayings of his wife and children. Their bodies were discovered Oct. 25 at a motel owned by the couple.

Patel shot himself in the stomach later that day as a state trooper approached his car at a roadside park near Marshall. He since has recovered from the wound and remains jailed in Gilmer.

Upshur County prosecutors have "considerable written memorandums" that will aid in evaluating Patel's state of mind at the time, attorney Vernard Solomon of Marshall claimed in the motions. He also notified the court of his intent to raise an insanity defense.

A hearing on the motions was set for Friday.

Solomon met with District Attorney Lowell Holt Tuesday, and later said prosecutors would ask the court to have Patel examined by psychiatrists at Rusk State Hospital. Holt would not comment on any such plans.

Solomon also said he would have Patel examined by a psychiatrist of his own choosing.

Patel confessed to the shootings in a rambling letter discovered in his car.

"This is a spiritual act. Sacrifice of one human family," the letter read in part.

The bodies of his family, all clad in nightclothes, were found in their apartment at the Upshur House Hotel in the small East Texas town about 100 miles from Dallas.

The victims were Bikhimen Patel, 35, her son, Jayesh, 2, and her daughters, Shila, 6, and Jayaben, 9. Mrs. Patel and the boy were shot once in the chest, and each girl was shot several times in the chest.

R.I.



by Paul Dirmeyer

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# Local clubs, bars noticing drop in student attendance

By SARAH OATES  
 Staff Writer

Nightclub attendance in College Station has dropped markedly in recent weeks, and managers are attributing the drop to a variety of reasons including drink price wars and the flu epidemic.

The Texas Hall of Fame, a country-and-western dance club that provides live musical entertainment, has felt the drop in attendance. Owner Paul Emola said the drop has diminished the club's "overall take," and he says it's because of competitive drink specials at other area clubs.

"The clubs that hurt us most are those that don't have live entertainment," he said. "Fifty to 60 percent of our door proceeds (the price charged to enter the club) go to pay the band. We just can't afford to give away drinks."

Patrons pay a \$2 to \$5 cover charge to enter the club. The charge varies depending on the night of the week and the entertainment provided for that night.

Emola said another possible reason for the low attendance could be recent media coverage of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). MADD is an organization that was formed two years ago to make people more aware of the hazards of drunken driving. He said he thinks an increased awareness of the dangers involved in driving while intoxicated has made people wary of going to clubs.

Emola said attendance during the week is "good," especially on Thursday nights, but weekend attendance has decreased. "On Tuesday night we get a good local crowd," he said.

"Wednesday night used to be a big tradition because A&M students could get in free," Emola said. He said that now not as many students come out to the club on Wednesday nights. He estimated the overall attendance has diminished by 20 percent.

"The low attendance affects the bar, which affects your overall take," he explained.

Other area club managers said they think decreased attendance could be attributed to the flu epidemic.

"Everybody's sick with the flu, but otherwise our attendance is usually good," said Steve Graham, manager of the Electric Cowboy.

John DuSpain, manager of Park Avenue, 815 Harvey Road, said he thinks the drop in attendance is because of the recent "severe weather." He also said students are generally poorer during the spring semester.

"People have less money right now than they had during the fall semester," he said. "Most students spent most of their money over Christmas."

Debbie Schallack, manager of Scandals, 1401 FM Rd. 2818, said, "School is harder this year. Students have to study a lot harder. They complain that's all they have time for." She said the drop in attendance could "to some degree" be attributed to the more stringent DWI laws.

The new laws became effective Jan. 1 and state that a first-time DWI offender faces a

possible fine of \$100 to \$2,000 and a 90-day driver's license suspension. The laws also state that refusal to take an intoxication blood or breath test is admissible as evidence in court and first-time offenders can be jailed for 72 hours. Schallack said area clubs may not be doing as well financially now because competition has forced them to lower drink prices.

"There's the same number of people (attending the clubs), but because prices are down the cash flow isn't the same," she said.

Clay Dozier, assistant manager of Graham Central Station, 1600 South College, said the attendance drop could be because "there are more clubs in town, more things for students to get wrapped up in." He said attendance at Graham Central Station has been "poor during the week, but okay on the weekends."

"We've noticed low attendance and have gone out to the clubs to see where the students are going and we can't find them," he said.

DuSpain said another reason for low attendance could be that many people attend clubs that are keeping up with the latest musical trends. He said this is also a reason why so many clubs change their names and images from year to year. For example, Park Avenue, a Top 40 music club, was a new wave music club called Lipstick two years ago.

"Punk and progressive rock was tops," he said. "It kind of faded out. Now it's Top 40. We're more conservative now. Everybody's kinda settled

back." DuSpain said the club no longer plays new wave music because the management doesn't want to attract "that type of individual."

"There're a few individuals that would disrupt the continuity of the whole program," he said. "The majority wants Top 40 right now. Fads change. The deal here is that we're in the entertainment business and if we don't provide entertainment, we're not in business."

He said that about 75 percent of the club's patrons attend because they like its atmosphere and about 25 percent come for the drink specials. He said that many clubs "try to undercut each other" with competitive drink prices.

## Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Tuesday.

- THEFT:**
  - Six dollars in cash was stolen from a desk in 407 Medical Sciences.
  - A black, J.C. Penney's speed bicycle was stolen from the Davis-Gary Hall bike rack.
  - A Sears "Die-Hard" banner was stolen from a 1980 Ford Parking Annex 56.
- BURGLARY/CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**
  - The Archives section of the library was broken into and 26 ceiling tiles were removed and stacked in another area of the Archives. A note was found stating, "Missing anything?" No items were missing.
  - A Kodak 35 mm slide projector was stolen from 311 Physical Sciences.

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Selection of articles for the Spring issue and staff members for the '84-'85 year will be discussed.

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