

Selenski lawyer questions lack of charges against informants

By **TERRIE MORGAN-BESECKER**
Special to The Dallas Post

KINGSTON TWP. — Two of the four people police allege Hugo Selenski implicated in a burglary have been arrested, but the two other suspects — identified by a source as the men who led police to bodies buried at Selenski's home — have yet to be charged.

The lack of charges against Paul Weakley and Patrick Russin in the burglary will "absolutely" be a key issue should police charge Selenski with homicide in connection with five bodies that were unearthed last month at his Kingston Township home, said his attorney, Demetrius Fannick, Tuesday.

"My investigation shows that Mr. Russin and Mr. Weakley were involved in a number of unlawful activities. They have every reason and motive to say anything ... in hopes of getting out of their own personal criminal problems," Fannick said.

A preliminary hearing for Carey Bartoo, one of those implicated in the burglary, was held Tuesday before District Justice James Tupper.

In an arrest affidavit, Dallas Township police officer Douglas Higgins says Selenski "provided information" that Weakley, Russin, Carey Bartoo, his former girlfriend, and Gregory

Pockevich, Bartoo's boyfriend, were the perpetrators of the Jan. 6 burglary at the Dallas Township home of Timothy Haddle. Multiple firearms and other items were stolen.

A source has identified Weakley and Russin, who are being held on federal firearms charges connected to the Haddle case, as the men who led police to the bodies of missing Tunkhannock pharmacist Michael Kerkowski and his girlfriend, Tammy Fasset. The bodies were unearthed June 5 at Selenski's Mount Olivet Road home. Three more sets of yet-identified human remains were later uncovered.

Higgins said he could not comment on why charges have not been filed against Weakley and Russin in the burglary.

Fannick said Selenski denies being the source who implicated Weakley, Russin and the others in the burglary.

"Hugo read the affidavit to mean that he had a conversation with Higgins and gave him the information. That is not true," Fannick said. "He denies having a conversation with officer Higgins and does not believe he ever met him."

Bartoo was charged on June 27 with multiple offenses related to the burglary. Pockevich was charged after he testified at Bartoo's hearing.

Tupper dismissed burglary and theft charges against Bar-

too, saying the evidence shows Bartoo remained in a vehicle while Weakley, Russin and Pockevich burglarized the home. He ruled there was sufficient evidence to send charges of receiving stolen property and conspiracy charges against Bartoo to trial.

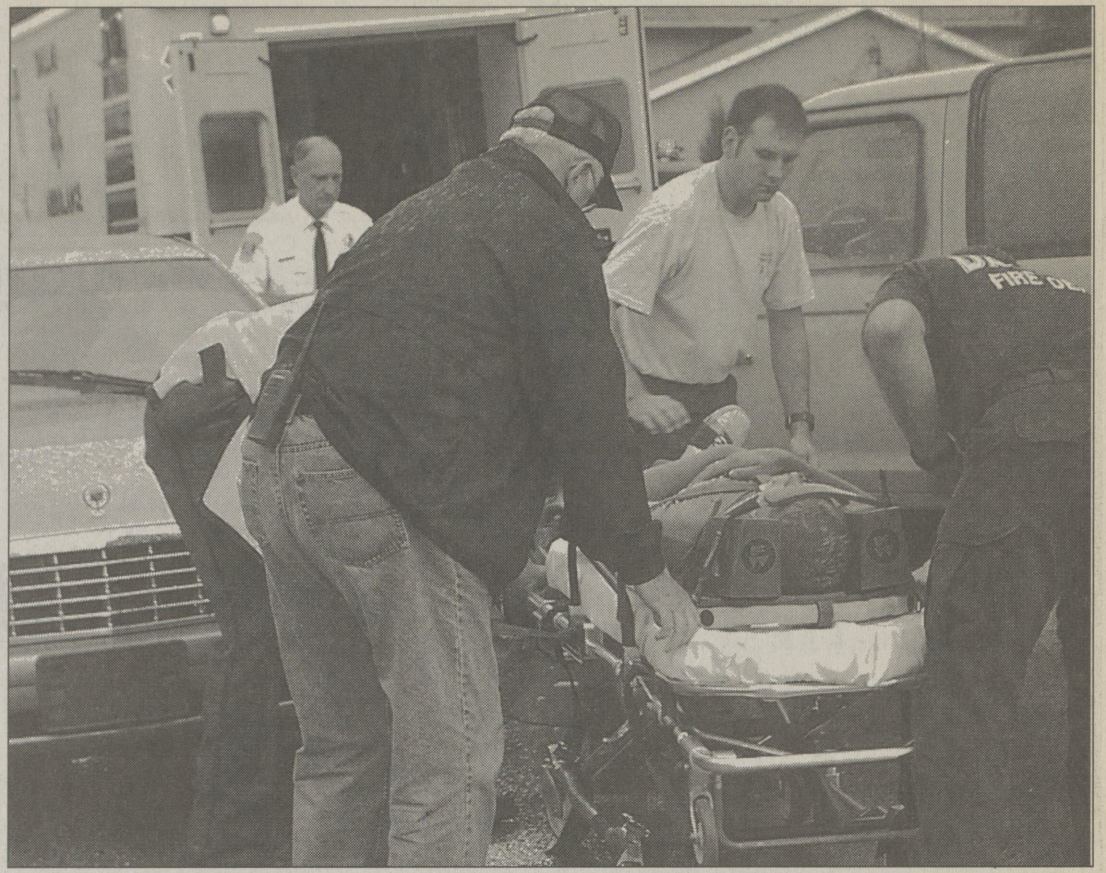
The affidavit says Weakley and Russin broke into the home while Bartoo and Pockevich remained in a vehicle. Pockevich later entered the home to help carry items out of the home.

Weakley, who was convicted of making pipe bombs in Michigan in 1993, spent several years in a federal prison with Selenski, who was convicted of robbing a Plains Township bank in 1994.

Selenski remains jailed for lack of \$300,000 bail on charges he robbed Kerkowski's father of \$40,000. He has not been charged in connection with Kerkowski's death.

Bartoo was returned to the county prison after Tuesday's hearing. Pockevich was returned to the Lackawanna County prison, where he is being held without bail on federal gun charges connected to the Haddle burglary.

This article appeared originally in the Times Leader.



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

2 injured in accident

A two-car accident Tuesday sent both drivers to the hospital. Dallas Township Police Chief Robert Jolley said the accident occurred when a 1988 Ford Bronco traveling northbound on Route 309 veered into oncoming traffic while turning right onto Main Road. The Bronco, driven by N. Bella of West Pittston, struck a 1998 Cadillac pinning the driver, R. Ciccarelli of Dallas, in the vehicle. Both drivers were taken by ambulance to Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre. Jolley said Bella will be cited with a traffic violation for traveling on the wrong side of the road.

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