

State

Legislator fears for life, flees state, says woman

AUSTIN — A sobbing woman identifying herself as Mike Martin's mother said today the legislator, who is embroiled in a bizarre case over a shotgun attack, has fled the state because he fears for his life and his family's safety.

The woman, reached by telephone at Martin's Longview residence, identified herself as the freshman lawmaker's mother but refused to give her name.

"I'm not going to give that out over the phone," she said. "We know our phone is taped and everything."

"Mike is afraid for his life and the safety of his family," Martin's mother said tearfully. "He's out of the state or the bigger part of it at least."

Spokesmen with the Department of Public Safety and the Austin Police Department confirmed today that officers were unsuccessful in their efforts to serve Martin with a second subpoena ordering him to appear today before a Travis County grand jury.

The freshman lawmaker was

wounded July 31 by a gunman who fired four shotgun blasts at him in front of the trailer home he lived in during the legislative session.

Initially, Martin told police he did not see the gunman and knew of no motive for the attack. However, he now has told police he was shot by a member of a satanic cult that feared the legislator would have its leaders arrested.

Martin said he had been investigating the cult, called the "Guardian Angels of the Underground" for some time and had once considered infiltrating the group.

Leslie Smith, a campaign advisor to Martin, made Martin's statements about the cult public Monday, but said he did not believe the story. Smith and Jim Beasley, another Martin advisor, were scheduled to appear today before a grand jury investigating the attack.

"This is just a big game to Les Smith," Martin's mother said. "He should just leave it alone and let the police catch the culprit."

This isn't a game and we don't want the publicity," Martin's mother accused Smith of "chasing rainbows" and said he was just interested in making headlines.

Subpoenas also were issued for Martin's banking and phone records and for Wayne House, the Gregg County Republican chairman. House was staying at Martin's trailer the evening of the shooting.

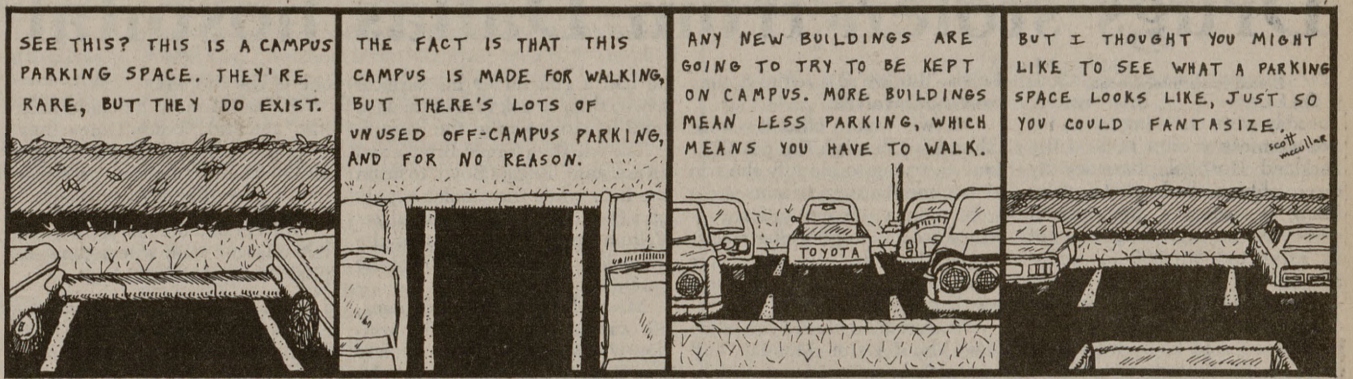
Martin's mother said that her son was supposed to call her Monday evening but had not called by late Tuesday morning.

"He was supposed to call and everytime the phone rings I think it's him," Martin's mother said. "I just wish he would call."

Martin told a Texas Ranger and others last Wednesday that he had frequent telephone discussions with a member of the cult. He said the man he spoke with had a deep, distinguished voice and claimed "half the people in Austin" were under the influence of the cult.

Warped

By Scott McCullar



Ranch hands from Texas' largest ranches to compete

WICHITA FALLS — Together, the competitors in the Texas Ranch Roundup own some 2 million acres of the finest and richest cattle country in the state. The land area is nearly triple that of Rhode Island.

Rigorous is not their only claim to fame. The ranchers and their forefathers also helped create legends and history that shaped Texas of today.

The glorious days, when it was important for cowboys to know which end of the horse to put their bridle on," will be recalled Friday and Saturday at the Budweiser Texas Ranch Roundup, which involves rodeo competition between the hands on some of Texas' biggest ranches.

The roundup, which also includes a chili cooking event, will determine which of the state's biggest ranches own bragging rights in the cattle country.

The event is a serious one and modern urban cowboys had better get out in the spectators' enclosure. Teams of cowboys from each ranch will compete in team roping, saddle bronc riding, team penning, team branding and wild cow milking. A wild horse race will be a bonus event.

Points will be awarded to ranch teams and individual cowboys in each event to determine the best ranch and the top all-around cowboy.

Competing ranches will include:

- The 60,000-acre R.A. Brown Ranch in Throckmorton County. The ranching family which dates back to 1900, is credited with breeding horses that developed "a cow sense" where the animal anticipated a cow's action and was able to cut or herd the cattle easily.
- R.A. Brown, who built the ranch and passed it on to his son before his death in 1965, founded the American Quarter Horse Association.
- The 45,000-acre Cowan & Son Circle Bar Ranch, founded in Seymour County in 1886 by brothers Sam and Charlie Cowan. The legend says the brothers could sit in the same room without exchanging a word and reach a mutually agreeable decision on some business transaction.

— The Lewis Ranches, one of the oldest ranches in the Panhandle, founded in 1878 by three English brothers. The ranches eventually were taken over by Frank Derrick whose father worked on the ranch for 65 years to become the general manager, a position he still holds.

— The 166,000-acre Pitchfork Land & Cattle Co., founded in 1870 by two boyhood friends, D.B. Gardner, one of the founders, was a man of great compassion and gave refuge to several lost souls. One of them was Quannah Parker, a white girl whose mother was kidnapped by Indians before the Civil War and who later married an Indian chief.

— The Scharbauer Cattle Co., founded near Midland by a German immigrant. Clarence Scharbauer, the founder's nephew, took over the spread in the 1930s and worked on it until his death in 1942.

— The Renderbrook-Spade ranch, established in 1881 by Colonel Isaac Ellwood, one of the two inventors of barbed wire. Ellwood also pioneered such modern innovations as providing piped wa-

ter to the cattle.

— Tongue River Ranch near Dumont, Texas, which has a long tradition of fine quarter horses. Its original foreman, August Holmberg, owned a horse named Old Cabby who worked until his 22nd year and it was said that once his rider roped an animal, Old Cabby wouldn't let him go. Kid Bacot, who succeeded Holmberg, referred to those who couldn't ride horses as "drugstore cowboys" and detested pickup trucks. At a function honoring him for 50 years of service on the ranch, Bacot said, "Old cowboys never die; they just take to riding pickups."

The winning ranch will take home a traveling trophy and a bronze sculpture by cowboy artist Lex Graham. The winning cowboy will receive a hand-tooled saddle. The chili cookoff winner will win a trip to the California version of the world championship cookoff.

Gate collections will benefit the North Texas Rehabilitation Center in Wichita Falls, the West Texas Rehabilitation Center in Abilene and West Texas Boys Ranch in San Angelo.

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