

# Officials say hazing law not being used

### The anti-hazing law was enacted after the 1986 alcohol-poisoning death of a University of Texas fraternity pledge.

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's anti-hazing law, enacted after the 1986 alcohol-poisoning death of a University of Texas fraternity pledge, has seldom, if ever, been used to bring a case to trial, the Austin American-Statesman reported Thursday.

"I am not aware of anytime it's been used," said Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, who wrote the law in 1987.

"I think in spite of the law, some people are saying boys will be boys," said Barrientos, who catches hazing cases around the state.

In Travis County, several fraternities and individual members have entered plea bargains in hazing cases, but none has gone to trial.

Saturday's drowning death of Gabriel Benjamin "Gabe" Higgins, a pledge of the

Texas Cowboys at UT, has drawn hints that it might be hazing related.

Higgins, 19, of Idaho, was attending a Cowboys' "picnic," an initiation ceremony for "newmen" or pledges, when he drowned while swimming in the Colorado River.

The Bastrop County Sheriff's Department, Texas Rangers, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and UT are investigating.

Toxicology test results showed no drugs in Higgins' system. "No drugs, no abuse, no marijuana, nothing other than alcohol," said Travis County Medical Examiner Robert Bayardo.

Higgins' blood-alcohol level was 0.21, or twice the legal level for driving, at the time of his death. Witnesses told Bastrop County authorities that Higgins, who was too young to buy or drink alcohol, drank about six beers the morning he drowned.

Forced alcohol consumption is considered hazing under state law, as is any type of physical activity that subjects a person to unreasonable risk of harm.

Barrientos said he doesn't know whether

hazing was involved in Higgins' death. But he says he has been angry for years at the lack of prosecution under the law he passed after the death of Mark Seeberger, 18, a Phi Kappa Psi pledge at UT.

"It's disgusting to me that we put up with this," he said.

E.G. Morris, a lawyer who represented the Seeberger family, said he never thought passage of the law would end hazing. "Passing a law doesn't stop an act. It just criminalizes it."

In Travis County, home of five colleges and universities, three UT fraternities — Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Gamma Delta and Pi Kappa Alpha — and four Sigma Nu fraternity members have entered plea bargains under the hazing law, said Assistant County Attorney Kate Kelley.

But no hazing case has gone to trial in the county, she said, adding that hazing cases can be difficult to crack and prosecute.

"They have the best closed-mouth system I've ever seen," she said, referring to fraternities.

## WHAT'S UP

### Friday

**Study Abroad Programs**  
Office: An informational meeting concerning Junior Fulbright will be held at 10 a.m. in 251 Bizzell West. Junior Fulbright helps graduate students and graduating seniors conduct research abroad. This meeting is open to all students including undergraduates who are not graduating but are interested in information. For more information call 845-0544.

**Baha'i Club:** Discussion on the Unity of Mankind at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served. Call Kipper at 847-7466 for more information.

**Aggie Food Roundup:**

Sponsored by Baptist Student Union. Food drop-off boxes will be located in Residence Halls and at Rudder Fountain through Wednesday, May 10. Proceeds benefit Brazos Food Bank and Brazos Church Pantry. Non-perishable food items only. For more information call Cody Rogers at 696-3306.

### Saturday

**Rio Brazos Audubon Field Trip:** Blue Heron Rookery, Oyster Reefs. A forester from Champion International Corporation will guide us through East Texas forest in Trinity county. The rookery and reefs cover 415 acres of private land.

Expect to see large numbers of nesting egrets and herons. For more information call Bert Frenz at 846-9042 or 693-3214.

**A.R.M.Y.:** We are having an end of the year meeting/banquet at 1 p.m. at Mr. Gatti's. All members who wear A.R.M.Y. shirts receive free lunch. We will also be honoring point getters. For more information call Aaron Metcalf at 847-7584.

### Sunday

**Grads and More:** Gay, Lesbian, bisexual students and staff and faculty are invited to discuss articles in the latest issue of the Advocate. Meeting at Sweet Eugene's at 4 p.m.

### Monday

**Rio Brazos Audubon Field Trip:** May 27 th, we'll board a 65ft charter boat and head 50 nautical miles off the coast of Port O'Connor to get beyond the Continental Shelf. For additional information call Bert Frenz at 846-9042 (wk) or 693-3214 (hm).

What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit student and faculty events and activities. Items should be submitted no later than three days in advance of the desired run date. Application deadlines and notices are not events and will not be run in What's Up. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-3313.

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**GRADUATE SUMMER SCHOOL IN MATHEMATICS**  
Graduate Students: Are you looking for a mathematics course to take during the summer? Take a look at these summer offerings.  
**MATH 664-200 Seminar in Applied Mathematics:**  
This course will be a graduate level introduction to wavelets with applications, which is a recently discovered mathematical tool used in signal processing, statistical mechanics and other technical applications. Should appeal to graduate students in math, physics and engineering. Taught second summer session. Instructor: Guy Battle  
**MATH 689-300 Elements of Mathematics:**  
This is a graduate level mathematics course designed for graduate students interested in mathematics education. This introductory graduate level class is designed to prepare students to take further mathematics courses in the Department's new Masters Program for Mathematics Teaching. Offered as a 10 week class. Instructors: Carl Maxson and Dan Lewis.  
**MATH 689-101, 102 AB and BC Track Calculus:**  
These courses are two week intensive courses that target instructors of high school advanced placement calculus courses. Particular emphasis will be given to the use of the graphing calculator in the teaching of calculus. Offered June 5-16. Instructors: Al Boggess and Mike Stecher. For more information contact Mike Stecher at 845-3269.

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