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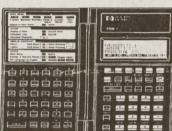
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NATION & CAMPUS Page 4 • THE BATTALION

UT's Texas Cowboys face hazing lawsuit

☐ A pledge of the group drowned last spring.

AUSTIN (AP) - The family of a University of Texas pledge who died during hazing is pursuing legal action against a spirit group and others, although a grand jury has decided against issuing a criminal indictment.

The Bastrop County grand jurors no-billed members of the Texas Cowboys on Wednesday after hearing evidence in the drowning of Gabriel Benjamin "Gabe" Higgins, who was a sophomore mechanical engineering student at UT Austin.

Higgins, 19, of Pocatello, Idaho, drowned April 29 while swimming fully clothed in the Colorado River near Bastrop at a Cowboys' initiation ceremony,

or "picnic." An autopsy determined Higgins was drunk when

In September, the Cowboys were suspended by UT for five years for hazing.

A Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission investigation is continuing into what laws might have been broken by those who provided alcohol to the underage Cowboys, said agency spokesman Ron Clinton.

The university said the grand jury's lack of action would have no effect on the Cowboys' suspension, in effect until 2000.

"The suspension was not re-lated directly to the drowning," said James Vick, vice president for student affairs. "It was for the hazing that was judged to have occurred at the event.

know what evidence was presented to the grand jury or reasoning behind the decision.

'I'm pleased because I've got some clients who are relieved," Young said. "They're not under the stress anymore of waiting to see what the grand jury is going to do.

"That's probably a big disa pointment to the family," sa Price of Austin. "The only ple involved were the Cowbo .. and they weren't going to it

criminate themselves. Of course, Gabe Higgins was there to speak. It was probably rough thing for the district atto

"They're not under any stress anymore of waiting to see what the grand jury is going to do." - Scott Youn

Texas Cowboys' attorn

"They're pleased that part of this should be over now, even though it doesn't change the fact of the tragedy.

Timothy Higgins of Kansas City, Higgins' father, referred Scott Young, an attorney for questions to his attorney,

ney to present.'

Family members in August filed a wrongful death lawsu against the Cowboys, six for mer officers and the man wh owned the land where the drowning occurred.

State's floods kill one, drive thousands from Oregon homes

☐ The flooding is the result of a series of storms.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - A mountainside moaned, then gave way in a rush of mud. Highways vanished beneath stinking, caramel-colored floodwaters swirling with uprooted trees and raw sewage. One girl was dead, a woman was missing, and thousands of Oregonians were driven from their homes.

And the rain kept falling. As the state's worst flooding in more than three decades threatened to swamp downtown Portland, sandbags and concrete highway dividers formed a thin defense Thursday against the

wide Willamette River.
"Water's going everywhere,"

pound sandbags against a building downtown. "I can't believe the destruction the water

In the nation's latest extreme weather in a winter of extremes, hundreds of roads - including both of Oregon's cross-state freeways, Interstates 5 and 84 were closed by high water or mudslides. Amtrak trains were halted. Gov. John Kitzhaber declared 14 counties disaster areas.

Amid the deluge, there were water shortages. Muddy floodwaters contaminated drinkingwater supplies throughout the valley. Portland and Salem officials urged people to conserve water. Smaller towns shut down their water plants completely and told residents to buy bottled water.

The flooding is the result of a series of storms that marched in from the Pacific beginning two weeks ago. The first were cold, piling up snow in the mountains that form a scenic backdrop to Portland — the Cascades to the east, the rolling Coast Range to

On Monday, a warmer storm stalled over the state, and the snow started melting, adding to the record rains — more than 5 inches a day in some areas. Sparkling mountain streams,

narrow enough to jump across two weeks ago, turned monstrous, tearing through the forest, ripping small bridges apart.

An estimated 1,500 people were forced from their homes in Eugene, and 12,000 in the Salem area, where a parade of U-Hauls, horse trailers and pickup trucks streamed through the rain.

Bush

Continued from Page 1

was personally affected by the economy. Hart said the woman's question was inappropriate and unprofessional. "It's a Geraldo question," he said.

"Expose yourself. Tell me what you've done. Go inside your soul and guts." Hart said Bush responded

in the formal, impersonal manner of a traditional U.S. president, a way that presidents are no longer allowed to speak because television has become an intimate medium. "It was a little after this question that his presidency

ended at 9:15 p.m. EST on Oct. 15, 1992, when he was caught looking at his watch while the debate was still going," Hart said.

Television is a powerful
medium, he said, which

makes political conversation easy and flippant.
"We talk about politics with

the same ease as Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie's fated relationship," Hart said. Vanessa Beasley, a visiting A&M associate professor

of speech communications, said Hart raised some interesting questions.

"He obviously made students think about their as-

sumptions on political issues." Beasley said.

Hart has written six books. His most recent one is titled "Seducing America: How Television Charms the Modern Voter."
Dr. Martin Medhurst, co-

ordinator of programs for the Department of Speech Communications and Presidential Rhetoric in the Center for Presidential Studies, said Hart was asked to speak at A&M because he is a leading authority on U.S. politics and presidents.

"He's right down the road," Medhurst said.

"It's a waste for him to sit there and not make use of him.

His appearance at A&M was part of a lecture series that will lead up to the March 1-3 A&M Spring Conference on Presidential Rhetoric and Speech Writing.



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

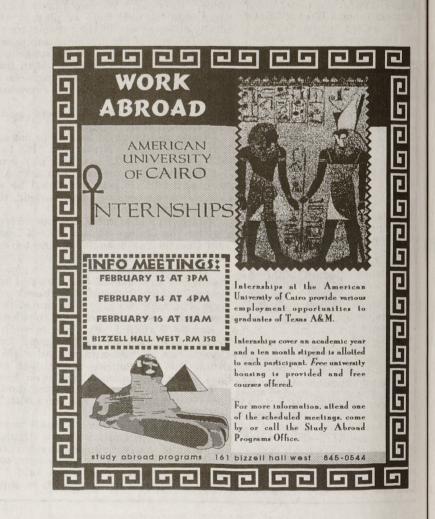
LEAPIN' LIZARDS

This young carnivorous monitor lizard can grow up to 6 feet in the wild. The lizard is currently on display by the TAMU Wildlife Biological Society at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in Bryan.

All Majors Welcome Spend Spring 1997 at Santa Chiara! **Informational Meetings:** Monday, Feb. 12 10:15 - 11:00 am Tuesday, Feb. 13 Friday, Feb. 16 STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

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