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Police accuse man in theft of 'Texans'

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UT police filed a criminal charge Thursday against their only suspect in the Aug. 31 theft of 5,800 copies of *The Daily Texan*.

Police charged Carrado Giovanella with theft, a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum \$4,000 fine, a year in jail or both. Giovanella could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Giovanella will be summoned to appear in court but will not be arrested, said UT police Capt. Silas Griggs.

If Giovanella does not show up for his court date, an arrest warrant will be issued for failure to appear in court, Griggs said.

Giovanella confessed to stealing the papers after Sgt. Harold Menefee confronted him the day after the theft, according to court records. Giovanella told police he stole the newspapers in "retaliation to the article *The Daily Texan* printed."

In an Aug. 31 article, the *Texan* reported that UT police arrested Giovanella Aug. 30 on an outstanding warrant for writing a bad check. Police discovered the outstanding warrant after Giovanella applied to the University using a forged letter of recommendation from Texas A&M

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Giovanella was the prime suspect for several reasons, Griggs said.

"We read the paper that day to see if anyone would be embarrassed by an article," Griggs said. Giovanella was a suspect "because he was mentioned in an article about his arrest [and] the perpetrator was seen by the *Texan* distribution people that morning."

Griggs said Giovanella will be the only person charged in the case.

Several witnesses reported seeing a white male in his early 20s driving a black Ford Explorer stealing copies of *The Texan* on the morning of Aug. 31. UT police questioned Giovanella about the theft after discovering that he drove a black 1994 Ford Explorer.

Giovanella took the missing copies to the recycling center at the Hancock Shopping Center at the 4200 block of Red River Street, according to court records.

Kathy Lawrence, general manager of Texas Student Publications, filed a formal complaint with UT police the day the papers were taken. Lawrence said Thursday TSP will press charges against Giovanella more for the principle of the theft than the value of the loss, estimated at \$1,450.

