TSM Student Leadership Applications

This position had two applicants:

Cactus Yearbook EIC: Raven Cortright & Sarah Henkel
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA APPLICATION FORM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF CACTUS YEARBOOK
Term of Office: June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017

This application and supporting materials must be submitted to the TSM Business Office
(HSM 3.200 / William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue) by
Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

This position is due to be appointed at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for late April.

Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.

Applicant Information

J. Raven Cortright
Name

jrcortright@gmail.com
Email Address

neuroscience/french
Major

UT EID

Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information

1. I am currently enrolled as a UT-Austin student.
2. By the start of my term of office, I will (if an undergraduate) have completed
   12 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 2.0 or (if a graduate student)
   have completed 9 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 3.0.
3. I agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the
   Editorial Adviser prior to taking position.

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my
scholastic and experience qualifications, and hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director,
Texas Student Media, to verify said information. Further, I understand that this information will be
provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

Signature of Applicant

Date

It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:

A résumé
Your record of experience with Cactus (list positions and dates)
A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
Letters of recommendation
Signatures of Cactus staffers indicating support for your application
Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
Jacob Raven Cortright
13363 Pecan Glade • San Antonio, TX 78219 • Phone: 210729544 • E-Mail: jacobrcort@gmail.com

Work Experience

Starbucks- Shift Lead
Aug. 2014 - present

• 20 hours a week
• duties include making drinks, cleaning, cashier, closing
• $2.50 raise since starting

UT Snoddery Research Lab
Jan. 2015 - present

• Principal Investigators: Dr. Max Snoddery and Dr. Di Fiore
• Sequencing monkey DNA (PCR, electrophoresis, etc)
• Studying evolutionary, neurological, anthropological evolution of visual systems in New World monkeys
• Biohazard safety lab level 2

UT Research Lab

• 8+ hours a week
• entomomology and microbiology lab studying microbiomes of honey bee guts
• PCR, gel electrophoresis, field work, DNA extractions, Plating, dissections, pinning

Sonic Drive-In

• 85 hours a week
• duties included carhopping, making drinks and ice cream, cleaning, restocking, bagging food, drive-thru
• received a raise from 5.50 to 7.50 an hour plus tips

Education

UT Austin
Aug. 2013 - present

Neuroscience and French double major

Brandeis High School

4° in my graduating class of 650

Extracurriculars and Organizations

ORANGE Magazine
Food and drink assistant editor
Food and drink writer
Jan. 2016 - present

Terry Scholar Mentor
Meet regularly to guide 2 freshmen Terry Scholars
Monthly excursions to expose them to Austin
Aug. 2015 - present

UT Yearbook
Assistant Editor
Aug. 2014 - present

UT Competitive Rock Climbing Team
Competed at national and state levels
National championship-winning team 2 years in a row
Aug 2014 - present

Volunteer with Adults with Intellectual Disabilities
2 hours a week
Helped coteach/mentor for a continuing education class every Wednesday 6-8 for adults with neurological disabilities
March 2015 - present
Austin Pets Alive
  Approx., 3 hours a week
  Dog-walking, cleaning, adoption matching, cat foster team
  Aug 2014-present

Publications

Several stories published in ORANGE Magazine, Cactus Yearbook
  2014-present

“Football in Autumn”
  2016
  Poem in Analecta official UT literary and arts journal

“Mermaid”
  2016
  Poem in Hothouse literary journal

Awards and Honors

Full ride Terry Scholarship
  Aug. 2014-present
CNS Freshman Scholarship
  Aug. 2014-present
National Hispanic Scholar
  June 2014
National French Exam Certificate of Success
  May 2014

Skills

Trained barista, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, lab experience

References

Dean Farley, current employer (512) 475-6636
Michael Hellmich, former employer (210)-7227-399
3/28/2016
Texas Student Media
The University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box D
Austin, TX 78713

TSM Board and whom it may concern,

I am writing to apply for the 2016/2017 opening for Cactus editor-in-chief position.

Having been on yearbook staffs for six continuous years and serving as the editor-in-chief of my high school yearbook, the Vault, and assistant editor two years in a row for Cactus, I believe I am qualified for this position. I have experience with staff management through my leadership position on various staffs, including my position as 2016 food and drink assistant editor for ORANGE Magazine. I have experience writing and have been published in yearbooks, Hothouse Literary Journal, ORANGE Magazine, etc. I am also proficient with InDesign and the Adobe suite, having designed the 2014 yearbook for Brandeis High School.

As a dependable and responsible person, I believe I would be a great fit for this position. I have gained considerable experience managing staffers, managing book production, and organizing content development through my experiences with other publication entities, most importantly the Cactus Yearbook itself. I am therefore already familiar with the workings of TSM.

I plan to successfully produce the 2016/2017 yearbook and expend new energy on marketing and sales in addition to creating a successful publication and running an effective staff.

I hope you consider this application. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
J. Raven Cortright

Enclosure: Resume
   2 writing samples
Psychoactive Drink Takes Root

Editor’s Note: This story appeared in the December 2015 ORANGE Issue IV.
My lips and tongue become numb. I look down at the coconut shell in my hand, still half-filled with a murky brown liquid. The thick taste of earth and grit is strong, but I bring the shell back to my lips and drain the remaining tea. Stacks of board games and metaphysical books rest on the coffee table. Offbeat instrumental music, a cross between jazz and reggae rhythms, drifts out of the speakers above the bar.

Story By Raven Cortright Photos By Alejandra Martinez
“T’ll assume you’ve got the numbing now,” Scott Pingel says, sitting across from me in the comfortable chairs. “If you haven’t, it’s coming.” My entire mouth is definitely tingling, bordering on numbness. A few minutes later, I feel at ease and sink a little deeper into my seat. Worries of upcoming exams and assignments fade to the background of my thoughts, and soon I am warmly conversing with random strangers at the bar, something out of character for my introverted personality.

I am at SquareRüt, one of the only bars in Texas serving up a unique beverage called kava tea. The beverage is made from the roots of kava plants, which are grown in South Pacific islands such as Fiji, Vanuatu, the Samoas and Tonga because they require heavy amounts of shade and moisture. Kava grows best in a tropical climate because it flourishes as an understory crop, growing in the lower levels of
rain forests. For centuries, the root has been used ceremonially and was acclaimed for its relaxation properties. It is made by drying and grinding the root and then mixing it in water without any additives. Pingel, SquareRüt owner, was first exposed to the drink in South Florida before bringing it to Austin. “If this product was going to work anywhere in Texas, that would be Austin,” he says. “So if it didn’t work here, it wouldn’t work anywhere.”

SquareRüt has seen a constant uptick in sales since they opened their first location on South Congress four years ago with regular monthly growth of 25 percent. Pingel and his wife own two locations, one on North Lamar and another on South Congress, with a new location opening on Barton Springs in the near future. Other than kava tea, SquareRüt serves up tea from Zhi, a local company, as well as espresso beverages and chocolate. Currently, Pingel is preparing to launch a brand of kava lemonade called KavaChiller. Despite its growth, few people seem to know exactly what kava tea is, let alone its interesting effects.

Once consumed, chemicals called kavalactones in the root cause a temporary numbing of the mouth, tongue and lips. Its users claim that, after the initial reaction, kava tea is an excellent substitute for relaxants, anti-anxiety drugs, insomnia medications and alcohol.

Pingel recommends drinking 12 ounces, or three coconut shells — SquareRüt’s vessel of choice — to get the full effect. “After the first shell, you get the numbing,” Pingel says. “And then you should kind of feel your jaw relax a little bit. It’s going to start at the top and work it’s way down. The second shell, when
you get into it, you're going to feel your shoulders physically drop. So it'll be like you just got back from a massage. It's almost that intense. And then the third one just kind of helps relax the rest of the body.”

University of Maryland Medical Center doctors researched the effects of kava tea on the body in 2014 and found that the chemicals in the plant which give it its active properties cause muscle relaxation and promote better sleep, while also containing anesthetics that relieve pain and cause the temporary numbing. Often used as a substitute for drugs such as Xanax, some people rely on kava tea to unwind and naturally treat emotional, mental or social disorders.

John Miller, a regular SquareRüt customer, finds himself at the kava bar five days a week to ease his social anxiety. "My actual anxiety got worse in about the last two years, three years, just that early mid-20s stuff that happens," Miller says. "It's been helpful ever since to have kava because you know some other substances that are available, such as alcohol, can be too impairing. They can create a habit that is not sustainable. Whereas kava is something that is not as severe, not as powerful."

According to Miller, the use of kava tea as a substitute for alcohol is quite popular. "If you Google 'alternatives to alcohol,' I believe kava tea is one of the first things that pops up," Pingel adds. Because it creates a sense of relaxation and social ease without the worry of inebriation or bodily harm, many health professionals recommend kava tea as an ideal alternative. The use of kava to combat anxiety was supported by a 2013 study led by the University of Melbourne that was published in the Journal of Clinical Pharmopsychology. The research concluded that “kava could be an alternative treatment to
pharmaceutical products for the hundreds of thousands of Australians who suffer from Generalised Anxiety Disorders (GAD)."

One of the major upsides of the drink compared to alcohol is that it only takes a small amount to get the desired effect, and once that effect has been achieved, drinking more kava will not intensify the sensation. "You're not going to be impaired, you can sit here and drink 20 of them and never experience any kind of buzz or any impairment," Pingel says. "That being said, 12 ounces is about all you need because you'll kind of plateau a little." Kava actually has a reverse intoxication effect — the more regularly exposed to kavalactones, the less you need to drink to feel the desired effects.

SquareRüt's atmosphere is also relaxing in itself. A cross between a coffee shop and a bar, soothing music and artwork make the space feel comfortable. From the large chairs beside stacks of board games to the bar offering tea and espresso beverages, the place has less traffic than most buzzing coffee shops and bars. "I notice a lot of people really coming out of their shell here," Miller says. "I notice a lot of groups that come in with one energy, leaving with a completely different energy. Often you'll have them playing Cards Against Humanity after just having sat and talked. There's often a levity to this place that I really enjoy."

Alisha Penna, a server at SquareRüt and massage therapy student, agrees that the product and interior make an ideal social atmosphere. "It's just that feeling of coming to a friend's house," Penna says.
The use of kava tea in mainstream society still remains a little obscure. But Pingel and others are confident it is important to many Austinites. "We're seeing kava bars popping up at a pretty rapid rate right now," Pingel says. "Do I think it'll be a Starbucks? Probably not, but there is some traction with kava right now."

Regardless, some products can be appreciated for their unfamiliarity and valued for their obscurity, like the underground music scene. Pingel is content staying rooted as a local independent business, rather than forcing kava into mainstream culture to become a name brand. Luckily, Austinites can appreciate the exclusivity of Texas's few kava bars, allowing full appreciation of this exotic psychoactive beverage. "I'm happy where we're at," Pingel says. "Certainly, we still have a lot of room to grow here in Austin. But certainly we're the only one in the state of Texas — so when you come here, it's an experience."
Fun Fun Fun Fest 2016

Cactus Yearbook

Raven Cortright

The crowd at the Orange Stage Saturday night was a strange mix of high-schoolers, college students, and a healthy number of middle-aged adults. At the front of the crowd, however, the majority of fans were middle-aged women.

"Excuse me!" A voice shouted behind me as Jane’s Addiction was preparing to go on stage. "I paid a hundred dollars just for this thirty minutes." The crowd was pushed to and fro as a group of drunken middle-aged women pushed their way to the front. As Jane’s Addiction took the stage, another women farther back started screaming and crying out.

Jane’s addiction was one of the headliners at Fun Fun Fun Fest in November. As one of the most celebrated post-grunge alternative band that emerged from the nineties, Jane’s Addiction put a spin on traditional forms of rock that appealed to many people of generation X.

"They are a high energy, highly entertaining band that represents my generation sublimely," Frances Hellmich, a first-time festivalgoer said. “We were the slacker generation. But the music is timeless because all youth goes through that, right?"

FFFFest celebrated its tenth anniversary and had a lineup to back up the occasion. Known as the more relaxed and underground music festival compared to giants like ACL and SXSW, FFFest was known for its laid back crowd, good off-beat music, and more accessible stages. As one of the most renowned festivals for music lovers of all genres,
FFFest showcased a variety of musicians but many of the headliners were nineties icons, like Jane’s Addiction, NOFX, and Wu-Tang Clan.

Running between November 6th and 8th, Auditorium Shores was divided into three colored stages that featured different genres of music. The black stage showcased hard rock, metal, and punk. NOFX, one of the most iconic punk bands of the nineties to today, was a headliner that drew huge crowds. As festival-goers strained to see Fat Mike’s red mohawk on the black stage, a calmer crowd surrounded the blue stage, where rap, hip-hop, and electronic music-lovers found their niche. While Wu-Tang Clan drew the largest crowd, other favorites such as Odezsa, Lauryn Hill, Chromeo, American Football, and Neon Indian put on exciting performances.

“Fun Fun Fun Fest has a much nicer vibe compared to ACL,” sophomore Mariana Canales said. “You won’t see people getting mad because of a mosh or people trying to get to the front because it’s more focused on the music than a silly flower crown,” Canales said.

Along with music, a skate ramp and wrestling ring was set up, offering entertainment between shows. Local restaurants like Austin’s Pizza and Juiceland offered food and drinks to satiate concertgoers. And wristbands got wearers into FFF Nites, where bands performed at local venues after the fest.

“You really get the most out of the money you paid for and get a more intimate setting with a band that you really like at night shows,” Canales said.

The tenth anniversary festival proved that Fun Fun Fun Fest would continue to be a crowd pleaser for generations to come.
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This position is due to be appointed at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for late April.

Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.

**Applicant Information**

Sarah Henkel

SEH 2982

Name

UT EID

Sarah.e.henkel@gmail.com

Email Address

Public Relations, Plan II,

Major Health & Society

**Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information**

1. I am currently enrolled as a UT-Austin student.

2. By the start of my term of office, I will (if an undergraduate) have completed 12 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 2.0 or (if a graduate student) have completed 9 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 3.0.

3. I agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser prior to taking position.

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications, and hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify said information. Further, I understand that this information will be provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

Sarah Henkel

Signature of Applicant

April 19, 2016

Date

**It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:**

- A résumé
- Your record of experience with Cactus (list positions and dates)
- A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Signatures of Cactus staffers indicating support for your application
- Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
For Consideration for
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
of the 2016-2017
Cactus Yearbook

SARAH HENKEL
LEADERSHIP AND CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

CACTUS YEARBOOK, TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA
Academics and Organizations Editor    Sept 2014 - current
  - Pitching coverage weekly about events on campus
  - Creating monthly spreads in InDesign

TEXAS THON
Publicity Committee    Aug 2015 - current
  - Creating promotional materials
Family and Hospital Relations Committee    Oct 2014 – May 20
  - Planning bimonthly events for students to interact with

KIPP COLLEGIATE
Tutor in partnership with Plan II Honors    Sept 2014 - current
  - Weekly mentoring high school seniors to assist in college application process

SIGMA PHI LAMBDA – SISTERS FOR THE LORD
Recruitment Chair    Sept 2014 - current
  - Planning recruitment events for new members and create promotional materials to increase membership

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH
Public Health Week Committee    Jan 2015 – May 2015
  - Recruiting organizations and sponsors for event

WORK EXPERIENCE

IT'S TIME TEXAS
Choose Healthier Intern    Jan 2016 - current
  - Fostering relationships with business to be featured in mobile app for identifying low-cost healthy opportunities in Texas
  - Adding opportunities and providers to custom content management system
  - Promoting app and organization at various events

MEMORIAL DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Summer Staff    June 2015 – July 2015
  - Leading middle and high school students in small groups and on service trips in the local community

#WOWW CAMPAGIN
Intern    Sept 2014 – Dec 2015
  - Coordinating and executing events through creative planning, pitching vendors, obtaining raffle prizes
  - Managing day-of event registration and guests at launch party for 100 people and three panel events in partnership with Apple, Inc.

ADOBE CREATIVE SUITE – SPANISH
ENTHUSIASTIC – ORGANIZED – CHEERFUL
CACTUS EXPERIENCE

Academic and Organizations Editor – May 2015-May 2016

Writer – August 2014-May 2015
DEAR OPERATING TRUSTEES,

The Cactus yearbook holds the memories of 50,000 students every single year. I hope to steward these memories and craft an exceptional record of 2016 and 2017 at The University of Texas at Austin as the next Editor-in-Chief of the Cactus.

After working on the Cactus for two years, as well as other yearbook and editorial experience, I can lead an editorial staff and create a strong yearbook. I currently serve as Academics and Organizations editor, a position that demands my knowledge of campus happenings and student groups. I consistently contributed story ideas that came to life in this year’s book. I also worked as a writer for the Cactus my first year at UT, so I understand the challenges and realities of various roles. I have additional yearbook experience from high school. My senior year I worked as a reporter for the Stratford High School yearbook in Houston, and was voted Staffer of the Year. In grades 9-11, I went to an international school in Aberdeen, Scotland, where I also worked on the yearbook in all staff capacities, including design, writing, editing, photography and marketing.

Beyond my extensive experience working in a yearbook atmosphere, I am also a talented storyteller. I love discovering the most effective ways of communicating to a campus audience. I am involved in many different circles on campus and deeply desire to capture the community that is UT. So much of the Editor-in-Chief’s responsibilities come from managing a staff, something I do very well. I have worked as a leader to new students as a counselor at a freshmen retreat and as a recruitment chair for my sorority. I also possess the design and editing skills necessary to produce the yearbook. All of these various roles require diligent organizational skills that I have honed as a student in the Plan II Honors program as well as in the Public Relations department in the Moody College of Communication.
As Editor-in-Chief, I will continue to provide an excellent pictorial record of UT for students to enjoy for years to come. Although I love the coffee book design, I want to work on better incorporating organizations and people as the yearbook regains recognition on campus. I will feature organizations and events such that every student will be able to identify with at least one of the groups and emotions portrayed. Another goal I have for the year is to recruit a larger staff focused on creating content independent of coverage in The Daily Texan. Our pieces are enjoyed in a different context than breaking news, and writing and photography should reflect that. I hope to enforce strong deadlines and run a tight editorial calendar to ensure executions are at top quality.

Next year I also plan to focus on marketing the Cactus and gaining name recognition on campus. The yearbook is an excellent property under Texas Student Media, but far too many students are unaware of its existence. Even as a student in the College of Communication, I continue to discover new facets of TSM. With better campus presence, students and staff will invest in our outcome.

Some specific plans I would execute next year include restructuring staff and refocusing content. I want to hire writers and photographers specific to their section of the yearbook for focused writing, as well as better define what would be featured in each section. Under academics, I will include a spread on every college and expand graduate student and professor inclusion. With organizations, my team will communicate more regularly and seek to include groups from every area of campus. General sports coverage tends to be strong, but specific student athletes and their families are an excellent market I plan to expand upon. Student life coverage should be expanded and focused on everyday experiences unique to life in 2017, capturing the trends tastefully for students to reflect upon in 20 years as alumni. I will also create a section for breaking news and milestones to be featured, such as coverage this year about Campus Carry and big national stories students are following. Under these content umbrellas, I will focus my writers and photographers, as well as meet with them monthly to ensure deadlines are upheld.
Other tasks I plan to embrace as Editor-in-Chief include unifying the Cactus brand. I will create a staff manual to unify procedures and storytelling policy, as well as increase all-staff meetings. Hosting outreach events every semester, as well as developing communications with outside organizations will also improve marketing efforts.

The Cactus is a fantastic publication, and I'm excited to see how it continues to evolve. As we balance having a student section and featuring unique stories, the opportunity is available for amazing storytelling. I'm extremely involved in both my academics and organizations, and all of my peers lead fascinating lives. I love embracing all UT has to offer and want to be able to capture those memories.

My experience, dedication to my work, enthusiasm and on-campus involvement, and creative leadership make me an ideal Editor-in-Chief.

Thank you very much,

SARAH HENKEL
SAMPLE WORKS
Numerous monitors crowded the front surface of the cockpit as we crowded into the small, four-seater airplane. Everyone put their hands on, and the voices of other pilots and airport officials drifted into our ears. After a quick sound check, Jordan Larkins, a computer science major, began to maneuver the airplane down the runway.

Soon, the small plane was in the air, and Austin stretched beneath us as we flew up to 4,000 feet. Clouds spread out in a layer, stretching parts of the view below, but the capital was still unmistakable.

This was part of the annual University Flying Club trip to Llano, Texas, where club members landed for Cooper's Barbecue before flying back to Austin's Bergstrom International Airport. For some students, flight like this was a regular occurrence with the University Flying Club. Through this organization, aviation enthusiasts had the chance to share experiences and knowledge while enjoying regular trips across Texas and into neighboring states.

Larkins, club president, earned his flying license early in life and had been piloting within the club and in his free time.

"I've been interested in planes ever since I could remember," Larkins said. "I started flying planes before I could start driving."

For other members of the club, aviation experience was more limited. In fact, students didn't need any experience at all to participate in the club. Students such as computer science sophomore Aditya Prabhakar, simply joined to further a love of airplanes.

"When I came to UT, I was searching for a club that fulfilled these passions that I have of flying," Prabhakar said. "I found out about it. It was obscure, but we are trying to make it easier for people to know that there is a club like this at UT."

"We fly all over the place," Larkins said. "We've flown as close as Fredericksburg, Texas, and we will be flying as far as Florida next week. Next semester, we're going to be flying to Oklahoma. We might be flying all the way out to Martha, Texas."

The club's goal last year was to ensure everyone in the club had at least one to two chances to fly out each month. Other than Fremont, the club drove to local air shows, met biweekly and shared aviation stories. But for Larkins, nothing beats the actual act of piloting.

"It's usually a different perspective when you can see in front of you. You can't get a better view of the earth."

Photo by Steve George

PAGE DESIGNED BY SARAH FOR 2015-16 YEARBOOK: LONGHORN FLYING CLUB
professor concern
psychology department opposes campus carry

Students hold up pro-campus carry signs across the steps of User Mail. Members of the Young Conservatives of UTA have been trying to get the university to support the pro-campus carry policy in order to show their support for the bill. Photo by Rachel Travers.
After months of debate, UT removed the Jefferson Davis and Woodrow Wilson statues from the Main Mall on Aug. 30. The removal of both statues came on the heels of an injunction hearing Thursday to determine whether UT could remove the statue. The Davis statue was relocated to the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

The removal process began around 9 a.m. Vault Fine Art Services lifted the statue off its platform and placed it in a trailer for transportation.

After the pins were cut, workers lifted and loaded the statues into the trailer for repositioning, according to Robert Baland, manager for Vault Fine Art Services.

UTPD estimated a crowd of 50 people gathered at the Main Mall to see the Davis statue removed.

Student Government President Xavier Retansky and Vice President Rohit Mandlikuap said they campaigned since February for the removal of the Davis statue. Mandlikuap passed legislation in March for its removal and started a petition in June calling for the statue's removal.

"It is nice that it is done," Retansky said. "It took a lot of effort, and it paid off."

A smaller crowd remained present for the removal of the Wilson statue an hour after Davis was removed.

Walden said Project Management and Construction Services would determine how the statues' inscriptions would be removed or what should be used to cover them.

Kirk Lyons, the attorney representing the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said the group filed a suit in the Supreme Court on Friday. They unanimously filed for their notice to stand, the court continued to reject it. Lyons said the Sons of Confederate Veterans continued to work on the matter but had to give up.

"We just had to hope that the state did not move forward on removing the statue," said Lyons. "We will continue to work on the UT community to prevent the removal of the statue."

Lyons added that he thinks the suit is a moot point, the group will continue to pursue the UT community to prevent the removal of the statue.

"If they want the statue back, they have to fight it," Lyons said. "The court has not made the decision yet."

"My city of New Orleans is taking down its central statue of Robert E. Lee in the next year or so," Forten said. "South Carolina got rid of the Confederate flag, and various states are dealing with it right now. I think it is appropriate that we do, too."
Students fought a live grass fire, tested their fire extinguishing skills and brainstormed exit strategies with fire marshals to kick off Campus Safety Week at the Gregory Plaza on October 5.

Campus Safety Week, hosted annually by Student Government, promotes safety and well-being through activities that addressed topics such as transportation and bike safety, self-defense and cyber security.

SG invited the Fire Marshal and the Austin Fire Department to raise awareness and educate students about disaster training. Students put out controlled fires using fire extinguishers and learned how to respond to real emergency situations, according to Joe Linnen, Austin fire battalion chief.

"I don't take it for granted that even a 60-year-old doesn't know how to use a fire extinguisher," Linnen said. "We have a lack of knowledge and education, because we are so buried in our lives, that we don't think of safety."

In a simulation, students learned the proper way to fight grass fires. Water actually makes fire spread when oil is involved and smothering the fire is more effective, Linnie Perkins, outreach coordinator of the Texas Fire Marshal's Office, explained.

Campus Safety Week exposed students to important messages students didn't necessarily receive if they didn't live in residence halls, Juliana Manzoni, freshman resident assistant and biology sophomore, said.

"This is really awesome and important, because safety is something people take for granted, especially in the residence halls," Manzoni said. "The majority of my residents are freshmen, so most of their energy is spent on doing well and making UT their home. They don't spend time thinking about their safety."

Manzoni said students must be prepared to protect themselves beyond the atmosphere of campus.

"It's important that residents know safety, so they can take care of themselves out of the halls in the future," Manzoni said.
Thanks to its perfect location in the midst of downtown Austin, the UT campus was often crowded with students enjoying outdoor spaces between classes and on the weekends. With numerous shady spots around the Forty Acres, hammocks were a popular means of lounging around. Two students took their passion for exploring the city and formed a hammocking club to invite more students on their adventures.

"One day we were just sitting in hammocks in Pease Park, listening to music and having fun when we realized that UT could really see a club organize that did just that," President and co-founder, aerospace engineering senior Dinh Nguyen said.

Their small idea became instantly popular. The club's Facebook page had over a hundred likes before school even started again in the fall. The trendiness of hammocks and outdoor life combined with mostly word-of-mouth exposure grew exponentially following.

"We just had a passion," said Jordan Lewis, a first-year co-founder, marketing senior. "At the first meeting, we booked from 200 people filling up quickly. After the meeting, people were filling in the hallways trying to see how to join."

Their popularity also came from their coverage in the Daily Texan, which led to a sponsorship by The LightSide.

"Someone commented on the article and said if we get in touch, we can try to work something out," Jordan said.

The excitement for the club spread beyond just the co-founders. "That means people are stoked enough about hammocking to give us cool stuff, which were able to get," mechanical engineering sophomore Denney Goodwin said. Goodwin claimed he initially got the founders into hammocking, now an officer, Denney said he is "granddaddy of the club."

Because the club members value the outdoor environment that supports their hobby, Texas Hammocking also participates in conservation efforts and actively maintains commitments to spreading friendships.

"The relationships built between new friends also explain the club's success. At one of our meetings, a girl comes over and talks about that she was a part of a club before that didn't know anybody," Nguyen said.

"She said all her friends would make, and I thought, if that can be done at UT, then Texas Hammocking is also something that can be done.

"Everyone is out to have a good time, and everyone is welcoming," Jordan added.

Member changing chairs displays the scenery of Pease Park for Hammocking Club's first meeting of the year.

Photo by Dhriti Goel

Academics & Organizations

ARTICLE BY SARAH FOR 2014-15 YEARBOOK: HAMMOCKING CLUB
HeavyMetal Hopes

Sophomore plans to pursue music

Austin was the live music capital of the world and students attend concerts every day of the week. But for journalism sophomore Bryan Rolli, concerts were something more than just standing in the audience. Over the summer, Rolli and his heavy metal band, The Last Remark, stepped out of the nation and playing songs off their first full-length album, Fight to Live.

"The band raised money through Kickstarter, a site similar to kickstarter that allowed everyday citizens to fund artistic endeavors in exchange for rewards from the project.

"For anyone who donated at least five dollars, they'd get a copy of the album when it came out," Rolli said. Larger donations received concert tickets, credit shout-outs, and even a private show.

"The band had a booking agent, Rolli said, "he was the pinnacle of professionalism. They wanted to play twenty shows over the course of the summer, and the job fell to Rolli to finish preparing for the tour. "While the other guys were upstairs, I'd be in the lobby on the computer trying to figure out, 'Okay, maybe we can stop in Missouri and play a show tonight.'"

Despite the stress, the band said there was a great experience. Playing in Austin for a crowd of friends was a special highlight. Though there were many other bands lined up to play, the majority of the audience was there to see The Last Remark. "That was very humbling to see that so many people cared enough just to come watch us," Rolli said.

Rolli was optimistic about the future, though he was not expecting any more big tours in the near future. "Sophomore year was a lot harder than freshman year," Rolli said. "I had to do internships and really focus on my journalism career." Rolli, he kept up with the music world as Music Editor for Orange Magazine.

"Getting to just being extremely young, with our whole lives ahead of us," Rolli said, "I just didn't think there was a danger in pursuing journalism in my college career at the moment, because I would have the rest of my life to pursue music."

At the Red Eyed Pub, Rolli performs during The Last Remark's stop in Austin while on tour. Rolli said that particular show was one of his favorites that summer because he was able to stick with friends.

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