Applicants for positions filled via campuswide elections:

TSM Board place 3 – student from Moody College of Communication
(unexpired term – 6/2017-5/2018)

Zachary Head

Daily Texan Editor-In-Chief
(6/2017-5/2018)

Laura Hallas & Janhavi Nemawarkar
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA APPLICATION FORM
STUDENT BOARD MEMBER FROM MOODY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

select only one  ☑ June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018 (completion of unexpired term)
☐ June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2019 (full term)

This application and supporting materials must be submitted to the TSM Business Office
(HSM 3.200 / William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue) by
Monday, January 30, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

Candidates are due to be certified at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for
Friday, February 3, 2017

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

Applicant Information

Zachary Head
Name

Zachhead@utexas.edu
Email Address

ZLH223
UT EID

Radio - Television - Film + Marketing
Major

Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information

1. I will be enrolled as a UT-Austin student for at least 9 hours during the long session.
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 am enrolled in the College of Communication and will have completed 12 hours of
   College of Communication courses by the start of my term of office.
4. I will not hold a paid or regularly scheduled position at Texas Student Media or its
   media units during my term of office.
5. I will not file as a candidate for popular election to another student office of the
   university or a college or school.
   note: this requirement can be waived by majority vote of the TSM Board

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.
I understand that I am subject to the TSM Election Code, as detailed in Chapter 7 of the TSM
Handbook, and to the Student Government Election Code and the Election Timeline (available at
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/campuswideelections/).

Zachary Head
Signature of Applicant

1/31/2017
Date

It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as a résumé and a
personal statement (of less than 500 words) outlining your qualifications and goals.
Zachary Head
zachhead@utexas.edu
2819 Rio Grande St. • Austin, TX 78705 • (903)-267-9763

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin
Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing
Bachelor of Science, Radio-Television-Film
Overall GPA: 3.73

EXPERIENCE

Chaotic Moon – Marketing Intern; Austin, TX
October 2015 – August 2016
• Established thought leadership by researching and writing initial content for the Chaos Theory blog
• Developed and delivered social media reports after analyzing backend data in order to measure effectiveness of content and events
• Implemented internal communication modules upon learning the source code necessary to design templates for campaigns and e-mailers
• Troubleshot various issues during Cannes Lions 2016 by live streaming event all night, designing shipping package, and running social media

Texas Student Television – Development Director (Past: Marketing Director) Austin, TX
January 2015 - Present
• Founded and managed the “TSTV Writing Incubator” to promote and guide students through the creation of an original television show – resulting in two shows after one semester
• Coordinate with emerging shows to ensure they have enough volunteers, a targeted audience, and requisite resources
• Implemented volunteer retention tactics such as station manager meetings, pizza socials, and streamlined recruiting events

Fiege Films – Intern; Austin, TX
January 2015 – May 2015
• Research, discover, and sort film topics into spreadsheets in preparation for a documentary feature relating to environmentalism
• Create and edit website materials to contribute to marketing Fiege Films and their documentary “Above All Else”

Saint Francis School – 5th and 7th Grade Basketball Coach; Austin, TX
November 2014 – February 2015
• Implemented an offense and defensive system with each team, while working to improve overall fundamentals with the players
• Improved throughout the season with both teams finishing out the season by winning five of their last six games

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES

The Tejas Club – Vice President (Past: Community Service Chair); Austin, TX
April 2015 - Present
• Coordinated UT’s longest running Distinguished Speaker series with speakers such as UT basketball coach Shaka Smart
• Raised over $2,000 for UT’s Counseling and Mental Health Center through organizing dodge ball and basketball tournaments
• Established Webb Mentorship program in association with the Boys and Girls Club and a local middle school to provide positive role models to at-risk students by participating in after school activities such as tutoring, sports, and Boy Scouts

Global Brigades – Microfinance and Business- Member; Panama
May 2015
• Consulted with Panamanian indigenous people to increase financial literacy
• Restructured a small bracelet-crafting business, increasing their revenue by >$15 per unit

New Student Services - Orientation Advisor; Austin, TX
January 2014 - August 2014
• Planned and created a welcoming festival for over 1,000 incoming freshman as part of the “Start Fresh” committee
• Utilized interpersonal communication skills to welcome and educate groups of 20-30 incoming freshmen each session

Pick and Pop – Co-creator; Austin, TX
Spring 2015 – Present
• Co-host a basketball and pop culture podcast that touches on relevant issues relating to both topics each week
• Partnered with local publication to promote content through multiple verticals

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Management Consulting – Bird’s Barbershop
Fall 2016
• Created an actionable marketing plan to increase Bird’s student consumer base by 15% through increased awareness and targeting

HONORS

• Exemplary Presidential Achievement Scholarship
• Reed Rock Bit Company Endowed Presidential Scholarship

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Computer Skills: MS Excel, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, Audacity
Interests: Sports, Screenwriting, Outdoors, Traveling
Work Eligibility: Eligible to work in the U.S. with no restrictions
I have been with Texas Student Television for three years. I participated with the sports department for a couple years, working in the studio, traveling to cover sporting events, and putting together packages for the various shows. I then jumped into more of a staff role, working as the marketing director. I ultimately created the Writing Incubator as a way to give students an opportunity to bring their visions to life. This has invigorated the station as the newly developed shows have received the most attention in recruiting volunteers. This year the Incubator had 70 people express interest, 50 people apply, and now have 20 or so students heavily involved, working on 5 new shows.

My experience with TSTV, as both a member and staff, gives me a unique insight into the station’s needs. Additionally, I have participated in KVRX and I believe I can translate my interest in digital media to a role in advocating for all of Texas Student Media. TSM is one of the most important bodies on campus as it gives students direct professional experience as well as provides an outlet for student voices and opinions. I would love to play a role in furthering TSM’s direction and impact.
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Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.

**Applicant Information**

Laura Hallas

Jan3575

UT EID

laurahallas@utexas.edu

Plan II, Economics, Health and Society

Major

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

_(please circle yes or no for each)_

- **Y** N 1. I am currently enrolled as a UT-Austin student.
- **Y** N 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.
- **Y** N 3. I agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser prior to taking position.
- **Y** N 4. By the start of my term of office, I will have completed at least one semester as a permanent staff member of The Daily Texan in opinion.
- **Y** N 5. By the start of my term of office, I will have completed at least one semester as a permanent or issue staff member of The Daily Texan outside opinion.
- **Y** N 6. I have obtained and included signatures from at least five current permanent staff members of The Daily Texan supporting my application.

_Note: The TSM Board may certify candidates by waiving one of requirements 4, 5, or 6 by an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the voting members present._

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Signature of Applicant

Date

1/31/17
Signatures of at least 5 current permanent staff members of The Daily Texan:

Avij Tulpule
Molly Smith
David Economos
Alkesh Mehta
Emily Venners

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of (list positions and dates):

Senior columnist (Spring 2016, Fall 2016)

Staff columnist (Fall 2015)

currently trying out for copy and design positions (Spring 2017)

It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:

A résumé
A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
Letters of recommendation
Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
Laura Hallas  
(214) 901-2862 • laurhallas@utexas.edu  

Education

The University of Texas at Austin (May 2018)
• GPA: 3.95
• Candidate for Masters of Public Health
• Candidate for Bachelor of Arts in Plan II Honors, Health and Society, Economics

Work Experience

Elizabeth Crook and Marc Lewis Foundation and Medical Think Tank  
Research Project Manager  
Spring 2016-Present
• Investigate novel medical applications for existing technologies and neglected diseases through medical think tank
• Responsible for generating new research directions, contacting and curating laboratory partnerships around the world
• Manage Cronkhite Canada Syndrome, organ banking, and mitochondrial degradation research projects

Washington University in St. Louis Institute for Public Health, Pathologists Overseas  
Intern  
Summer 2016-Present
• Independently conducted literature reviews, site needs assessments, and verified diagnostic tests
• Wrote grants, op-eds, protocols and policy documents for professional publication and field use
• Identified accurate and affordable rapid diagnostic tests for malaria, HIV, syphilis, and typhoid
• Developed PathPack™ Mobile Lab Kit as diagnostic delivery model

U.S. Department of State, U.S. Army RDECOM  
Research and Development Intern  
Fall 2016-Present
• Investigate research capacities of countries and universities in the Americas and Atlantic regions
• Enter info into database, create infographics and codebook, and write informational one-sheets
• Present findings to policymakers and researchers for international partnership development

Leadership and Activities

The Daily Texan, University of Texas at Austin  
Senior Columnist  
Fall 2015-Present
• Write and research weekly op-ed pieces on issues such as climate change, reproductive health, and economic policy

Spark Magazine  
Model, Layout Designer  
Fall 2015, Spring 2016
• Developed and executed creative concepts for student-run fashion publication
• Used Adobe InDesign and Photoshop to create multiple-page layouts

Texas Orange Jackets  
Fall 2016-Present
• Oldest women’s honorary service organization
• Co-led organization-wide project to increase availability of feminine hygiene products on campus and promote sexual education programming, present programs to administrators and funding agencies
• Food Secure UT committee, insure sustainability of emergency on-campus dining program

Austin Crescendo Project  
Spring 2016
• Created logos and graphic design materials for student run, grant awarded service organization
• Coordinate free private music lessons for low-income Austin youth

Honors

Magna Cum Laude  
Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016

Joan F. Curry Endowed Presidential Scholarship  
Fall 2016

Robert W. Mong Journalism Scholarship recipient  
Summer 2015
• Granted by the Dallas Morning News to three recipients

Additional Information

Language Skills: Elementary Spanish
Interests: development, translational science, evidence-based policy, neglected diseases, graphic design, learning additional analytical programs (Stata, EpilInfo, etc.)
Work Eligibility: Eligible to work on the U.S with no restrictions
To the Texas Student Media board,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as editor-in-chief of the Daily Texan for the upcoming summer and academic year. I believe that I have a vision of both internal and external improvements for the paper, as well as the qualifications to execute these ideas.

One of the central tenets of my platform is representation, both in the hiring process and in coverage. Recent editors-in-chief have recognized the importance of staff representation in comprehensively covering the student body. I intend to continue this effort with specific goals in mind: increasing visibility during key recruiting periods, making more informational visits to student groups and establishing a work-study option. In the same vein, I hope to create project partnerships with other student media entities that would increase publication opportunities and visibility for both staffs.

Internally, I will promote an open-door policy to strengthen the relationship between the opinion department and the rest of the paper, and continue developing the forum section as a venue for in-depth discussions. I also hope to foster opinion writers’ voices by encouraging experimentation with different writing styles. Finally, I will work with the board and the managing editor to make small but enduring improvements to the website to promote readership and ease of use.

My extracurricular and work experience has uniquely prepared me to carry out the agenda outlined above. I served as editor-in-chief of my high school newspaper as well as a news and feature writer, and received a scholarship from the Dallas Morning News for my work in that position. Here at UT, I was a layout designer for Spark fashion magazine, senior columnist at The Daily Texan, and will serve this semester in either design or copy to experience more components of our publication. Additionally, I have written op-eds and designed infographics for professional publication as a summer intern.

I believe I will serve as an effective and inclusive leader for the Texan, and look forward to working with Texas Student Media to promote student voices on campus.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Hallas
January 20, 2017

Texas Student Media Board of Trustees

Dear Members of the Board:

Laura Hallas has asked me to recommend her for the position of Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Texan. I could not be more honored and give Laura my highest and most enthusiastic recommendation for this important office.

Laura was a student last year in my Plan II world literature course. During this two-semester course, I become very well acquainted with my students’ strengths and weaknesses. I also have taught this course for more than a decade, so I have an excellent frame of reference for comparative evaluation. Simply put, Laura is one of the best scholars and leaders I have ever taught in this course. I am impressed by her exceptional intelligence, sound judgment, academic skills, and, perhaps above all, leadership qualities.

Laura is one of those rare students whom others instinctively respect and trust. She listens to what people have to say, considers varying points of view, and reaches a mature, well informed, and balanced decisions. When working in a group—and that’s how our class operated—Laura leads by making everyone’s opinion count and mapping a way forward that reconciles everyone’s interests for the benefit of the whole. In a society in which we increasingly seem to take the position “my way or the highway,” Laura offers a critically needed talent: the ability to find “our way.”

I do not have sufficient superlatives to describe my appreciation of Laura’s outstanding character and fitness for leadership of this venerable University of Texas institution. My father was Sports Editor of the Texan in the 1940s, and my family has a long history with the University and the profession of journalism. I am thus very proud to have the opportunity to endorse one of my students for Editor-in-Chief.

Sincerely,

George S. Christian
January 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write a letter supporting Laura Hallas’s application for the position of editor-in-chief for the Daily Texan. I met Laura in the spring 2016 semester when she was enrolled in my course H S 301 Introduction to Health and Society. During that semester we met regularly in my office to discuss how our course topics related to her writing interests as a regular columnist for the Daily Texan. We also talked at length about her future career interests in law and public health. Since last spring I have stayed in touch with Laura and believe I have sufficient knowledge of strengths, interests, and career goals to enthusiastically recommend her for the position of editor-in-chief of the Daily Texan.

As a student, Laura distinguished herself from her fellow undergraduate colleagues in many ways. I first noticed Laura in the classroom when she spoke up to add her incredibly insightful commentary to our conversations on health and illness. The fact that Laura stood out in a class of over 130 students speaks volumes about her confidence and how she carries herself in the sometimes impersonal academic arena that often characterizes UT. In large lecture classes like mine, most students prefer to remain anonymous and complete course requirements without ever making a connection with their teaching assistants or faculty members. Not Laura. She routinely and respectfully participated in class, distinguishing herself as both intellectually curious and highly motivated to perform at the highest level. She often raised her hand to (respectfully) question the scholarly work we were reading, interrogating authors’ assumptions and research methodologies and pointing out connections to other readings or deficiencies in the arguments. In short, she engaged in a rigorous analysis of the data to facilitate her (and our collective) understanding of the issues at play on any given topic. Her willingness to assess and evaluate evidence distinguishes her from the vast majority of her undergraduate peers. Laura is exactly the type of student you want in class: as she modeled engagement and interest, she raised the bar and level of shared discourse for everyone else.

But Laura’s passion and concern about current health care issues extended far beyond the classroom. I first met with Laura in my office hours soon after the term started, when she had asked to interview me about an article she was writing for the Daily Texan on moral panics and mosquito-borne illnesses during the Zika “epidemic.” While I told her that I was by no means an expert in this area, I was happy to discuss the terrain, and recommend other faculty members to interview for her article. Soon thereafter, she wrote an insightful and creative article on HPV that she sent me to read. Not only did I think it was relevant to our discussions on morality and the politicization of health, but it was beautifully executed. Laura had not only extensively researched her topic, but her sensitivity to the topic of sexually transmitted diseases conveyed a deep understanding of the complicated social and cultural factors that shape the highly politicized health debates in this area. I asked for her permission to post it to our course’s
website so that we could all read and discuss it together in class. She agreed, and our collective understanding on that topic was enhanced as a result. In these instances, Laura demonstrated that she was far more than an accomplished student; she was able to use her skills as a journalist to help enhance her fellow students’ understanding of contemporary health problems. To say that found this ability impressive is an extreme understatement! As a student, Laura added value to my class in a way that was unprecedented in my experience up until that time. Laura easily earned an ‘A’ for my course.

Laura continued to refine her skills of discernment and develop her knowledge of public health challenges this past summer in an internship opportunity at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. In this role, she worked on a variety of projects aiming to increase the efficacy of a mobile diagnostic program in rural Haiti. The experience, she relayed, was life-changing. Not only did she of the myriad social factors that complicated the delivery of healthcare to those in developing nations, but she was able to understand firsthand how essential technical skills and testing are to the public health enterprise. She was also honored to contribute her journalistic skills to her group by penning op-eds and other reports for the enterprise. This experience refined Laura’s abilities to work with a team, and further develop her already strong communication skills.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to mention Laura’s personal strengths and leadership abilities that make her well prepared to assume the position of editor-in-chief. First, she is a profoundly thoughtful and genuine individual. While her academic achievements undoubtedly set her apart from most UT undergraduates, it is perhaps her interpersonal warmth and sincerity that make Laura a truly exceptional person. She is joyful and compassionate, and her ability to connect with others is a true gift. Laura’s professional ambition and intellectual firepower will make her a convincing leader, but her ability to truly listen to others will make her an effective one. If Laura is offered the position of editor-in-chief, I have no doubt that she would not only thrive in the role, but also contribute her innovative thinking and hard work to the collaborative projects at hand. No doubt she would also influence the paper for the better, making the Daily Texan’s legacy more soulful and inspiring than when she arrived. I sincerely hope that you have the pleasure of getting to know Laura as I have. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stephanie Osbakken, Ph.D.
Lecturer
Health & Society Program
Our agriculture commissioner called Clinton a c*** — vote down the ballot

Yesterday I spotted a new political gem on my Twitter feed. It wasn’t a new meme-able quote from Trump or an update on Clinton’s emails, but a tweet from the Texas’ agricultural commissioner’s account called a presidential candidate the c-word (hint: it wasn’t “Clinton”). The tweet and its resulting backlash were entertaining but also a sobering reminder to look at local candidates just as closely as presidential ones.

Too often these state and local officeholders only enter our minds following some sort of political gaffe or controversy, like when the state board of education approved an arguably racist Mexican-American Heritage textbook or Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s arrest. But these offices control vital parts of life in Texas and deserve just as much thought and deliberation as your presidential vote.

Nov. 8’s ballot will decide positions for critical state and local offices as well as the higher profile national presidential and representative races. A full list of positions up for grabs can be found by entering your address into a “my ballot” search online, and the list includes vital positions such as board of education members and Texas judges. So how do you find the right candidates? The Daily Texan has already released recommendations for Travis County sheriff, railroad commissioner, Congress, Proposition 1 and president of the United States, as have other local organizations. Voters’ guides by the League of Women Voters of Texas and other groups offer recommendations and information based on your address and personal political beliefs. Or, on election day, voters can cast a straight-ballot vote by choosing all of a political party’s candidates.

With these resources, a voter can pretty easily align their opinions with candidates. The problem lies with the motivation to reach out to the first place. As previously expressed, local offices don’t have the same public profile as a presidential race, but that doesn’t mean these positions aren’t equally important.

Voting on state and local offices first requires an understanding of what they mean. Take the Railroad Commissioner: The position was originally created to regulate the industry that bears its name, but modern-day commissioners are responsible for oil and natural gas production, as well as surface mining and enforcing safe water policies — not railroads or transportation. Texas’ Court of Criminal Appeals is one of the last resorts for death penalty cases in a state with the most executions. Travis County commissioners are responsible for overseeing county departments, taxes and funding for projects. The list goes on, but the takeaway is that each position is more than just a title — they are real decision-making roles.

If you care about executions, school standards and materials, road congestion, county funding or taxes, voting on Nov. 8 will decide much more for you than just who sits in the oval office. This election day, vote down the ballot like your day-to-day life depends on it.
Austin needs “ugly” food subscription services

Every UT student has experienced the moldy blueberry problem. The phenomenon is characterized by excitement for fresh produce, only to realize that the fruits or vegetables you just bought are already in a state of decay. It is an emotionally and financially devastating moment.

Convenience, cost and freshness are all enemies of student shoppers, especially when it comes to the foods considered most healthy for us. “Ugly” food subscription services offer a perfect combination of fresh, cheap and sustainable eats.

Ugly foods are called by a multitude of names, but the basic idea is that farmers and grocers are unable to sell aesthetically flawed produce. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with these fruits or vegetables. They just don’t hold up to the aesthetic standards that consumers have cultivated over time. In the U.S., an estimated 20 percent of produce is lost in harvesting, partially because of workers’ attempts to meet the standards specified by retailers. Overall, the food supply chain has resulted in $165 billion worth of losses.

Leftover produce deemed unfit for market shelves is usually left to rot or thrown out, an inefficiency that some food entrepreneurs are capitalizing on. Unwanted food is bought cheaply, boxed up by employees and delivered to subscribing customers on a weekly basis. Customers can request their preferred mixes of fruits and vegetables and pay only a fraction of the market cost for the same fruits and vegetables. The produce isn’t rotten or odd-tasting — just aesthetically challenged.

The business model has already succeeded in cities across the U.S., including the Bay Area’s Imperfect Produce, and New York’s Hungry Harvest. But these metropolitan areas don’t have a monopoly on their demand for fresh foods. Texas has more farms and ranches than any other state, and farmers markets are already becoming mainstream. Austin doesn’t have such a service yet, but the demand definitely exists. Neil Kaufman, Division of Housing and Food Services sustainability director, said that students and staff have already shown their enthusiasm for fresh foods.

“[Fresh food] is something that students, faculty and staff have come to expect. Every time we have an event [such as the UT Farm Stand], people are always asking ‘why don’t you do this more often?,’” Kaufman said. “We sell out at almost all of our events.”

Groups like UT’s farm stand help to address the food desert around campus, but a stand run by volunteers once every three weeks cannot fully keep up with demand. A subscription service helps make the concept a sustainable business model, while potentially still costing students less than a trip to HEB.

Austin is the perfect place for such a service. The city is ranked as the best city for young entrepreneurs and already promotes innovative ideas about food through groups like Food and City and Food Tech Meetup.

A food subscription service in Austin is overdue. Such a service would ensure freshness, keep down costs and offer ethical and sustainable solutions to food waste. Students and faculty should make clear their desire for such a sustainable model — you might just be rewarded with a box of fruit at your door.
Students must work to prevent peer-to-peer sexism

A recent New York Times interview series asked women about times they had felt trivialized because they were a girl. All responses highlighted poignant displays of sexism, but the most heartbreaking anecdotes were those who cited male friends' and colleagues' attitudes.

"I felt utterly invalidated," an 18 year old wrote of her experience. "And crushed that a peer saw me that way."

It’s a unique sense of betrayal familiar to women. Hearing a friend or classmate speak disparagingly of women has much more weight than a random catcaller or comment by someone you have never met, an observation supported by research. Discussions of sexist language are often concentrated around public figures, but while no one can question the trickle-down effects of inappropriate language, the impact of peer-to-peer interactions shouldn’t be underestimated.

Scrolling past the NYT interview series, other headlines have continued to highlight the problem of damaging peer language. First, there was the discovery of Harvard’s men’s soccer team’s annual “scouting report.” The publicly available spreadsheet detailed attractiveness of the women’s soccer team, sex positions and numerical rating included. Next came reports of the men’s cross country team creating similar spreadsheets. Only three days ago, another Ivy League school came under fire when Columbia suspended its men’s wrestling team over explicit and racist GroupMe messages.

These cases are odd and shockingly organized examples of peer sexism, but it’s not difficult to say these formalized rankings are just severe manifestations of pervasive attitudes. College campuses could be considered particularly fertile ground, especially considering the many opportunities for gender-specific organizations and affiliations.

Senior soccer player Isabelle Kerr says the camaraderie of male and female athletes makes systemic, behind-their-back sexism particularly devastating.

“That would be awful, that would break the trust, and it would kind of affect the whole athletic department,” Kerr said. “Just because once that starts happening everyone is looking over their shoulder at who they can trust. Thankfully we [at UT] haven’t had that experience, but it would definitely destroy that community feel.”

While UT has not made national headlines for this kind of abhorrent behavior, sexism is worth discussing in a preventative, rather than reflexive, way.
University Panhellenic Council president Kassidy Knight says that while initiatives between organization leaders can make great strides in communication and effectiveness at the institutional level, potential damage is much more likely to come from outliers.

"Obviously it is the negative experience that sticks in the back of your head and kind of hangs with you," Knight said. "You don’t have the same respect for the organization as a whole, especially if it is not addressed."

Maintaining that sense of community has important implications for men and women alike.

Networking and relationship building is a critical part of the college experience, whether it be through social mixers or co-hosted professional workshops. Students should preemptively look to break down sexist attitudes that might result in a women’s — or men’s — organization losing trust and relationships.

Campaigns such as MenCanEnd and #HeForShe offer models for organized conversations, but the most effective change comes from small changes in everyday conversation. Men, be watchdogs of your own communities and uphold the standards of the multitude of excellent men’s organizations on campus. Women, use your experiences and observations to help correct and diminish potentially sexist dialogue.

As the Harvard women’s soccer team wrote in their response, “we are stronger when we are united.”
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA APPLICATION FORM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY TEXAN
Term of Office: June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018

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

Applicant Information

Janhavi Nemawarkar
Name

Janhavi.n@gmail.com
Email Address

jsn576
UID

Plan II, government
Major

Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information
(please circle yes or no for each)

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

☐ Y N 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.

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☐ Y N 4. By the start of my term of office, I will have completed at least one semester as a permanent staff member of The Daily Texan in opinion.

☐ Y N 5. By the start of my term of office, I will have completed at least one semester as a permanent or issue staff member of The Daily Texan outside opinion.

☐ Y N 6. I have obtained and included signatures from at least five current permanent staff members of The Daily Texan supporting my application.

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Janhavi.N
Signature of Applicant

1/29/2017
Date
Signatures of at least 5 current permanent staff members of The Daily Texan:

Alex Chen, CIC '16-'17
Emily Venoon, forum editor
Michael Jones - associate editor (opinion)
J. L. - (associate editor - opinion)
Jordan Shelcher, forum editor, associate editor opinion

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of (list positions and dates):

columnist Spring 2016
senior columnist Fall 2016
associate editor summer 2016, & spring 2017-present
Copy editor spring 2017-present

It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:

A résumé
A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
Letters of recommendation
Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
JANHÄVI NEMAWARKAR
janhavi.nemawarkar@utexas.edu
2300 Nueces Street Apt. 512 • Austin, TX 78705 • (512) 705-1317

EDUCATION
The University of Texas at Austin  Bachelor of Arts | Plan II Honors, Government
   Minor: Psychology
   GPA: 3.94  May 2019

EXPERIENCE
Legislative intern to Texas State Senator Judith Zaffirini  Fall 2016 – Present
- Write and research legislative proposals on topics relating to education and health care
- Attend meetings with stakeholders on policies relating to health and human services
- Perform administrative duties and write correspondence to constituents from the Capitol office

The Daily Texan  Summer 2016, Spring 2017 – Present
Associate Editor
- Edit columns on a variety of local, state, and national matters
- Design opinion page and upload columns to website weekly
- Collaborate with an editorial board to write in-depth columns analyzing pressing campus issues

Copy Editor  Spring 2017 – Present
- Check columns for compliance with AP style and accuracy

Columnist, Senior Columnist  Spring 2016, Fall 2016
- Author opinion columns on issues pertaining to the UT community
- Generate column ideas, research and interview sources, and participate in an in-person editing process

Queer and Transgender Student Alliance  Fall 2016 – Present
Vice Director
- Collaborate with Feminist Action Project to plan an upcoming joint FAP/QTSA conference
- Work on fundraising and submissions committees to raise money for conference and sort through workshop proposals
- Volunteer at events to support other organizations in the Gender and Sexuality Center as well as the Multicultural Engagement Center

Intern  Fall 2015 – Spring 2016
- Assisted in planning the 2015 Queer Texas Conference and 2016 UT Pride Week
- Contacted leaders of UT’s LGBT community to plan workshops and recruited people from around Texas to attend the conference
- Formulated meeting materials that served to stimulate dialogue and activism among LGBT people on the UT campus

VOLUNTEERING
Students Expanding Austin Literacy – Reading Buddy  Spring 2016 – Present
- Work with child from a low-income East Austin elementary school on literacy skills for one hour each week

KIPP Academy of Knowledge & Arts – Plan II Mentor  Fall 2016 – Present
- Mentor a child from the KIPP Austin Academy of Arts & Letters for half an hour each week

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Computer skills: Microsoft Office Suite, InDesign, InCopy
Interests: Competitive ice dancing, social justice, film and television
January 29, 2017

Dear Texas Student Media Board,

My name is Janhavi Nemawarkar, and I hope that I will have the opportunity to work with you all next year as Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Texan. Given the state of our nation right now, I believe it’s more important than ever that the Texan remains a thriving hub for student discussion. Our students are not immune to the decisions of our local, state, and national governments — and I would take the role of editor-in-chief, a role that demands that I listen to the many clashing opinions of the student body, seriously.

A central concern for me as editor-in-chief, then, would be to expand the ways we recruit and hire the writers of the opinion department. This isn’t a particularly groundbreaking idea — I don’t think anyone wants to make the Texan less inclusive. But despite our best efforts, sometimes, our ranks tend to be filled with (talented, smart) writers who cluster on the same part of the political spectrum. I’ve certainly heard this frustration echoed among students. We could have the best, most well-reasoned arguments, but when our viewpoints do not adequately represent the UT campus, it means little.

During the tryout process, I’d like to reach out to voices in groups that tend to be less represented on our staff. I’d like to reach out to groups of minority students, groups with LGBT students and even groups of conservative students. As long as columns are relevant, well-supported, and well-written, I do think they have a place on the opinion page.

Moreover, I want to explore new ways to use the Forum page. One of the most effective op-eds I read in the Texan last semester was barely an op-ed at all; it was a piece written by Jasmine Barnes, the director of operations for Students for Equity and Diversity, following the Young Conservatives of Texas bake sale debacle. Entitled “To black students at UT: Your education matters,” it was powerful and simple and personal ode to the experience of black students on campus. Again, students at UT are intimately and personally affected by almost every hot-button issue we tackle within our columns, and I think it’s a missed opportunity to not solicit these more personal columns — possibly even from our own writers. I’d love to work with the Forum editors to use it as a space to play with op-eds in different forms.

Beyond this, it is my personal opinion is that The Daily Texan should remain a newspaper that prints five days a week. I’m certainly open to discussions on the matter (I’m somewhat aware of our financial situation), because I would never want to forfeit our standard of excellence as a paper. But I think the historic significance of having such a long-running daily is so immense — over the summer, I had the opportunity to page through editorials
written on the anniversaries of the 1966 UT Tower shooting and see firsthand how editorial boards over time grappled with such an important event in our history. In a 10, 20, even 50 years from now I can imagine that future editorial boards would be curious to see how we, last year, dealt with the first day of campus carry coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the shooting. Archives on the internet are not quite the same.

Even as I cling to our traditional means of publication, I am open to finding new ways to expand our circulation among students. I understand that there has been some interest in developing an app, so that students can more easily access our news — but I also understand that finances are tight. I suggest we consider ways of recruiting our computer science students to help us on this work for a reduced cost — for instance, we could hold a UT-only hackathon.

Although this is my second semester working as an associate editor, I am still always learning how I can be better. Something I’ve learned — and frankly, something I need to improve on as an editor — is that opinion editing is less about the minutiae of the language and more about working with a writer on their big ideas. I’d like to play around with the possibility of working closely with people on writing basics early in the semester, targeting their specific writing weaknesses. Hopefully then, later in the semester, we can shift focus to almost entirely big-picture argument editing. Perhaps, then, we can encourage more ambitious columns later in the semester.

Last spring, I tried out for the opinion department on a whim because I thought I might have some #hot takes worth writing about. In the process, I discovered that working at the Texan meant much more than that: I discovered a newsroom buzzing with talented writers, and pitch meetings full of cool ideas; I discovered the joy of having a comment section that hates everything you stand for. I also discovered a group of people who cared so deeply about the paper it was hard not to love it as much as they did.

I love The Daily Texan, and I have full confidence in its future because I know people love it as much as I do. I hope I’ll have the chance to shape its future with y’all.

Sincerely,

Janhavi Nemawarkar
January 26, 2017

Recommendation for Janhavi Nemawarker

I am happy to recommend Janhavi Nemawarker for the position of editor-in-chief of the Daily Texan. Janhavi, who is a National Merit Scholar, was one of the standouts in my E603AB class during 2015-16 at the University of Texas at Austin.

Janhavi has multiple skills and an impressive record of achievement. These can be gleaned from her resume. I would like to focus here on her personal presence, which I would describe as “quiet power.” From the first day of class it was clear that although she was not going to speak up as much I would have liked, she would listen very carefully and inevitably say something interesting and incisive. She has the enviable quality of being able to listen and to hold conflicting ideas together in her mind without having to seek for black or white solutions. She intuitively understands that life is mostly shades of gray, and she has the writing skill to convey that complexity clearly. Her final research paper for my course was titled “Blurred Lines” and argued that in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight chivalry and courtly love (ostensibly “methods of ‘house-training’ or feminizing savage warriors”) suggest “a reality more complicated than strict divisions of ‘masculine’ and ‘feminine.’” Pushing beyond the traditional boundaries of medieval literature, she imagines that “the triangle of desire set up by Bertilak’s game”—in which he and Gawain had to exchange whatever they’d won that day—“reveals the possibility of homosexual sex: regardless of Gawain’s feelings about the situation, if he succumbed to the seductive attentions of Bertilak’s lady, he would be honor-bound to engage in sexual relations with Bertilak himself.” Thus what seems a binary method of calming and controlling male aggression through female influence actually tests the physical “expectations of normative heterosexuality.” Janhavi’s joint interest (and double major) in government and psychology are quite evident in this formulation.

As her resume attests, Janhavi is deeply engaged in real-life testing of such political and gender boundaries. As a legislative intern, associate editor and senior columnist for the Daily Texan, and vice director of the queer student alliance, she has brought her calm brilliance to bear on some of the central issues of our time. She would bring to the editorship of the Daily Texan diversity, complexity, talent and deep experience. She has my strongest and most enthusiastic recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Lance Bertelsen
Iris Howard Regents Professor in English Literature
Safe spaces remain vital to fostering diverse voices
Published August 30, 2016
By Janhavi Nemawarkar

The University of Chicago drew controversy last week when its Dean of Students, John (Jay) Ellison, wrote a letter to their incoming freshman class opposing the creation of safe spaces. The validity of safe spaces has generated endless posts and think pieces, all grappling with the supposed conflict between ensuring tolerant student environments and the freedom of speech.

But there isn’t a conflict. Safe spaces will always be an essential part of student participation on college campuses.

Universities across the country have struggled to form an appropriate response to this increased demand for so-called “safe spaces,” culminating in UChicago’s troubling opposition to places where students “can retreat from ideas and perspectives at odds with their own.” Last fall, the issue reached a boiling point as multiple campuses across the country erupted in massive student protests centered around students’ experiences with racism. Amid the strife with administrators and fellow students, the new activist vocabulary of “safe spaces,” “trigger warnings” and “microaggressions” filtered into the mainstream.

Those who decry the creation of safe spaces often have very little idea of what they actually are. Safe spaces are simply places where people, especially those who face marginalization, can feel comfortable enough to talk about their experiences. These spaces are not assaults on freedom of speech, or even just places where progressive millennial cry-babies go to lick their wounds — they are vital, thriving hubs of conversation and student activism.

On a campus such as UT, where minority students can feel invisible in the midst of an overwhelmingly white student body, “safe spaces” are places to seek out others like ourselves in order to, if you will, confirm that we exist and that our experiences are valid. These spaces manifest in the form of clubs and religious organizations, as well as UT-sanctioned spaces like the Gender and Sexuality Center and the Multicultural Engagement Center.

Amazingly, a great amount of learning and dialogue erupts from these places, and the conversations are not always comfortable. Last year in the MEC, the Asian Desi Pacific Islander American Collective facilitated a dialogue between members
of the Asian and black communities on campus about the case of Peter Liang, an Asian-American NYPD officer who shot and killed Akai Gurley, an unarmed black man. While the ensuing conversation about the role of Asian-Americans solidarity in protests of police brutality may have been uncomfortable for some, it was ultimately necessary. But that conversation could only take place in a space where students could feel respected and free enough to voice their experience.

By hiding behind phrases like “protecting academic freedom,” universities mask the fact that they are only protecting the hegemonic belief systems and the students who are already powerful. No one who understands the function of university wants to hinder academic freedom — it’s a given that challenging ideas and novel perspectives in the classroom are instrumental to the intellectual growth of students. But when a university attempts to shut down these centers of activism, the stifling of student’s perspectives is the true breach of the protection of academic freedom.

UChicago’s letter conjures the worst caricature of entitled millennials, a lie made up by those who refuse to take the experience of those who have faced discrimination and trauma seriously. Every university wants to claim diversity as a strength of its student body, but one cannot do so if it offers no support to its minority students.

But hey — I’m just a millennial. So I’ll be crying in my safe space until all these ideas that I don’t agree with finally go away.
Despite shooting, protests like Dallas' must continue
Published July 13, 2016
By Janhavi Nemawarkar

For a moment last week, the national consciousness had once again turned to the epidemic of police brutality against minority populations in America. Sparked by the deaths of two men, Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, two fathers who had their murders by police broadcast for all the world to see in horrific detail.

An outpouring of grief and sympathy flooded social media. Activists, celebrities and President Obama himself condemned the pattern of excessive use of force by police departments across the country. Protesters flooded the streets across the country, frustrated by the constant cycle of violence and non-indictments.

But in a moment, everything changed.

The Dallas shootings — the largest loss of police officer life since 9/11 — shocked the nation. A peaceful protest, where little hostility existed between police and protesters, turned into a nightmare when a sniper opened fire, killing five police officers and injuring another seven. But this tragic loss of life should not distract from the real record of violence against populations who are fighting for justice.

Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick blamed the shootings on the Black Lives Matter movement, claiming that their hatred towards the police incited this violence. Others suggested that protestors’ supposedly divisive and harmful rhetoric was the cause.

Micah Johnson, the man identified as the suspect in the shootings was unaffiliated with Black Lives Matter, although he was loosely associated with hate groups that advocated violence against white and Jewish people. But Black Lives Matter — which advocates for the empowerment of black people and attempts to address anti-black racism — condemned the shootings, and have distanced themselves from the attack by writing that they call for a decrease in violence.

The killing of the Dallas police officers was tragic, but the basic fact that police departments across the country suffer from a problem of using excessive force is unchanged. Police officer deaths by gunfire — 42 in 2015 — are significantly lower than civilian death by police gunfire — 900 in 2015.
We cannot become desensitized to the senseless murder of civilians, disproportionately of unarmed black men, by the police. As a nation, we cannot accept as a fact that as a result of the shootings, police officers may be more insecure and shoot — not when they have demonstrated they can de-escalate in the presence of white people.

There is hope for progress, especially in a city like Dallas which has seen some healing in the rift between the police and the black community, with reports of excessive force by police going down. President Obama called for unity, but we must also continue to have conversations about training police officers to de-escalate. We must change police culture so that unconscious racial biases are corrected, starting with the way officers are trained. We must invest more money in initiatives that better our society, like mental health care and drug addiction rehabilitation, rather than leave these issues to the police.

When only a privileged segment of the population has the luxury of feeling safe around those who have sworn to serve and protect, we have an imperative to make changes.
Texas sex education must become more LGBTQ-inclusive
Published April 12, 2016
By Janhavi Nemawarkar

Time and time again, Texas lawmakers have been rightfully criticized for the state of abstinence-only sexual education in classrooms. However, the lack of a comprehensive education program has proved especially detrimental to Texas’ LGBTQ youth population, which could have severe impacts on future health. In a system crying out for overhaul, sex education in Texas must evolve, and the curriculum must become more inclusive.

Texas’ so-called “no promo homo” policies ban any positive depiction of homosexuality in classrooms. Until April 2015, Section 85.007 of Texas’ Health and Safety code said educational materials for minors must “state that homosexual conduct is not an acceptable lifestyle and is a criminal offense under Section 21.06, Penal Code.” Seeing as how neither of those statements were true, since Lawrence v. Texas struck down sodomy laws in 2003, this policy was both grossly overreaching and unnecessary. However, while this section was amended to remove any mention of homosexuality, Texas remains one of four states that mandates anti-LGBT information in state-sponsored sex education programs.

By bypassing education relating to their demographic, these policies leave young LGBT Texans at greater risk in regard to their sexual health. Texas has the third highest number of diagnosed cases of HIV/AIDS in the United States; LGBT individuals are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, with young men who have sex with other men comprising nearly 80 percent of new diagnosed cases among youth in the United States. By failing to provide information besides that which caters to cisgender and heterosexual teenagers, Texas lawmakers endanger LGBT Texans.

Furthermore, failing to acknowledge the validity of varying gender identities and sexual orientation has negative psychological impacts on LGBT teenagers. Schools in states with so-called “no promo homo” and other kinds of stigmatizing laws are more likely to foster hostile environments for vulnerable young LGBT students. Many curriculum materials used in classrooms condemn or promote fear towards homosexuality, and many more outright erase the existence of LGBT individuals. In an effort to combat homophobia and transphobia in Texas schools, there must be a normalization of LGBT issues through inclusion in educational discourse.
While the onus is on the state to amend its ways, in the meantime, resources exist to help LGBT youth. Geography freshman Vincent Carson, the co-founder of Not Your Tool, an organization that attempts to consolidate accessible, unbiased and scientific sexual education resources online, discussed potential resources that exist in Austin.

“After getting rid of abstinence-only education, Texas needs to improve its education for LGBT+ individuals,” Carson said. “In the meantime, Austin has resources like Out Youth, which is a space that offers support for young LGBT+ individuals.”

Ultimately, Texas must fundamentally alter the way it approaches sexual education. Texas lawmakers have an obligation to equitably provide educational resources regardless of sexual orientation. All students will benefit if Texas promotes a more comprehensive discussion about sexual health.