TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA APPLICATION FORM  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF TEXAS TRAVESTY  
Term of Office: June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

This application and supporting materials must be submitted to the TSM Business Office (via hard copy to room HSM 3.200 or via PDF emailed to serpas@austin.utexas.edu) by **Monday, April 29, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.**

This position is due to be appointed at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for **Friday, May 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.**

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

**Applicant Information**

Arvind Ashokz  
Name

aad73336  
UT EID

arvind-ashok@utexas.edu  
Email Address

Plan II & Business Honors  
Major

**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]  
Signature of Applicant

April 28, 2019  
Date

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

A résumé
Your record of experience with Texas Travesty (list positions and dates)
A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
Letters of recommendation
Signatures of Travesty staffers indicating support for your application
Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
Dear Texas Student Media Board:

I am the current managing editor of the Texas Travesty, and I write to you to express my interest in the position of Editor-in-Chief for the Fall 2019 — Spring 2020 school year. I have been involved in the Travesty since the spring semester of my freshman year, and I’ve loved being part of the organization as a staff writer, social media editor, associate editor, and managing editor since then. The Travesty has been a longstanding source of joy for me throughout college, and I’m not only proud of the issues we’ve put out during that time, but also happy about the friendships I’ve made through the organization. As a rising senior, I would relish the opportunity to leave a legacy at the Travesty by further expanding our campus presence and improving our content as editor-in-chief.

My first goal for the Travesty next year is to extend our reach by increasing our social media presence and doing comedy events near or on campus. As of late, we’ve been lax about posting content on our website and making regularly scheduled posts on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram. I’d like to work with the incoming social media editor to make that happen using a post scheduling system. Additionally, a few of the staff members are interested in doing Travesty comedy showcases, where interested staff members and local comedians could perform. I’d love to make our existence on campus more known by helping put together these types of events.

Secondly, I would like to improve our content by being more ambitious about deadlines with our staff members. Right now, we often default to features that are simply lists, because the content for the features gets done late during deadline weekends and design staff has to put the visual together quickly. By mandating that we get some features done a few weeks before deadline weekends, I think I can reduce deadline weekend stress for everyone, and also allow time for more complex and visually appealing feature designs. Additionally, I want to enforce the deadline for turning in briefs more strictly and give our staff writers a refresher on the format that briefs are supposed to be in. Right now, our Friday deadline for turning in briefs is often ignored. We have to copy edit in a crunch during deadline weekend since many of the briefs are too long and/or don’t follow the conventions of the articles we traditionally write. By giving our writers the formal instruction on brief writing that they haven’t fully received yet, I think we can reduce upper staff’s copyediting load.

Finally, I’d like to make the application process to the Travesty more transparent. Right now, we often get inquiries from people about applications at all points in the semester, because people are confused about when they can apply and how long we will take to get back to them if they do apply. I want to make sure that the application deadline next year is transparent, and we have a date by which we will get back to everyone, so that people aren’t left hanging.

As editor-in-chief, I’d love to make the changes I outlined above and continue making the great comedy that we’re known for. I believe that I’m capable of taking on the responsibility of running meetings and deadline weekends, attending TSM’s weekly meetings, and keeping staff accountable for getting the issue done at a reasonable place. I’d love to discuss any of those things and answer any questions you may have at the interview. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Arvind Ashok
Virginia Beshears  
vebeshears@gmail.com  
(214) 934-0125

To the board of Texas Student Media,

My name is Virginia Beshears, and I am the current Editor in Chief of the Texas Travesty. I am writing to you on behalf of Arvind Ashok, whom I strongly recommend for the position of Editor in Chief for next year’s term. I’ve been a part of the Travesty staff alongside Arvind for 3 years, one of which we worked together on upper staff, and another where he served as my managing editor. Based on what I’ve gotten to know about Arvind over these years, I believe he would make a phenomenal EIC.

Of all our thirty-something staff members, Arvind is one of the most dedicated and hard working. He truly loves the Travesty and has an incredibly strong sense of responsibility. He absolutely never is late or misses obligations, and even goes to further lengths if I ask him to do an extra tasks. He’s also always on top of it during meetings, and often helps me keep the staff on task, as well as setting the agenda for meetings. Besides his ability to guide meetings, he is a skilled humor writer, and would be do fantastic job with moderating content within the paper. Arvind has written some of my absolute favorite articles we’ve run in the paper.

I have the utmost faith in Arvind’s ability to take on this role. He is a wonderful writer, team member, and friend, and I would be overjoyed to see him step up to be EIC.

Respectfully,

Virginia Beshears
Record of experience with the Travesty:

Administrative Assistant/Staff Writer (Spring 2016)
Social Media Editor (Fall 2017)
Associate Editor (Spring 2018)
Managing Editor (Fall - Spring 2019)

Samples of Published Work:

Op-ed: Let’s do socialism, but leave Kohl’s alone
I, like many Americans, have been alarmed by our nation’s descent into oligarchy. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her allies have me convinced: We need real, structural change in our democracy, and that starts with embracing socialism. But when we make the transition, I have one request: Can we leave Kohl’s alone? Look, I know socialism is going to require some sacrifices. A Green New Deal banning airplanes? No big deal, I’ll take the train. Wealth taxes? Sure, eat the rich. But take away the only department store with reasonable discounts in the greater Hartford area away from me? That’s a step too far, bucko. The greed of big corporations is undeniably disgusting. People can’t afford life-saving drugs because of big pharma. The health insurance lobby makes it nearly impossible for poorer citizens to afford healthcare. You know what I can afford though? A two-piece pantsuit for $96, only at Kohl’s. Nationalize everything else if you have to. Seize the means of production, turn Macy’s into a workers collective, mandate that everyone grow tofu on state-owned farms. But leave Kohl’s alone, goddamnit. It’s what the founding fathers would’ve wanted.

New A24 film is just livestream of some bullied kid’s life
LOS ANGELES — Drawing praise from the A.V Club and overzealous teenagers on Letterboxd alike, the indie darling film studio A24 announced that its new film is simply a live stream of the life of Rowan McDonald, a bullied child. “I was confused at first about why A24 wanted me, an introspective but dispirited kid coming of age in an offbeat American setting, to star in a movie,” said McDonald, who lacks acting experience but exhibits extreme skill at reflectively gazing at his surroundings. “Then A24 told me that I just had to live my regular life, and once they added some melancholic music to the parts where I get beat up, I’d represent a ‘distinct cinematic perspective.’ I don’t really know what that means, but they kept calling it a ‘motif of isolation carrying over from the second act’ when I ate lunch alone on Thursday. So I guess I’m doing a good job.” At test screenings, caucasian critics and audiences heralded the film for being both a step forward for inclusivity and “doing for film what Stomp did for music.”

Op-Ed: There aren’t enough Asian-American Serial Killers Romanticized in Media

When I opened my Netflix account Thursday night, I was hit with a promotion for something shockingly offensive: Ted Bundy Tapes. That’s right — with this release Netflix has continued a disturbing, decades-long cultural obsession with white serial killers, instead of their
Asian-American counterparts. As a little boy watching films such as *American Psycho*, I often felt alienated by the fact that I, as an Asian-American, could not relate to the extreme whiteness of the main character torturing and mutilating his innocent victims. Why couldn’t Hannibal Lecter eat his victims with pad kee mao and mango lassi instead of fava beans and chiants? The same pervasive biases prevent sick, twisted Asians who repeatedly commit brutal murders from ever getting the recognition they deserve. Whenever someone calls Ted Cruz the Zodiac Killer, ask yourself one question: Would they call Hawaii Senator Mazie Hirono the same thing?

I know what you’re thinking: “I don’t know any Asian-American serial killers!” That’s what happens when you systematically exclude people from the serial killing industry for so long, you racist. Thankfully, it’s not too late for Hollywood to rectify this problem. Whenever someone makes another serial killer biopic, studios should take a lesson from Lin-Manuel Miranda’s *Hamilton* and cast people of color to play people who were actually white in history. Imagine if Netflix had cast John Cho to play Ted Bundy in the *Ted Bundy Tapes*. Or if, in the sequel to *Crazy Rich Asians*, Henry Goldling’s character turned out to be a serial killer. That would’ve been a real step forward for all the little asian boys and girls, glued to their television screens, hoping to finally see their most sadistic and violent impulses represented in media. Until these things happen, we must live on without true perspective on the diversity of the serial killing community, and our art will suffer for it.

**Betsy DeVos Resigns After Tasting First Cafeteria Lunch**

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos resigned earlier today after a disastrous visit to SunnySide Elementary, where she was served tater tots and upside down Frito pie for lunch. “Ms. DeVos got really mad because our school doesn’t have crème brûlée,” said SunnySide 4th grader Tim Tompkins, who DeVos repeatedly and inexplicably referred to as “Edmund.” “I tried to share my tater tots with her but I don’t think she knew how to eat them. She kept telling me to chew with my mouth closed and that I should cut my hair. Then she ran away screaming because she found a chicken nugget in her chocolate milk.” At press time, White House correspondents reported that DeVos had decided to take a less stressful position on the board of her husband’s pyramid scheme.

**Nancy Pelosi Allows Self Bite of Dark Chocolate to Celebrate**

Taking care not to replicate her ill-fated Ghirardelli caramel square binge after the 2010 passage of the Affordable Care Act, House minority leader Nancy Pelosi allowed herself a bite of dark chocolate to celebrate the “blue wave” delivering a house majority to Democrats. “I let myself nibble on the edge of a square once we hit 30 seats, and then once we got to 40, BAM! I took a bite right out of that sucker,” said the likely house speaker. “You know, if we ever get gun control passed, me and Ruthie [Bader Ginsburg] are just going to straight tear into a variety pack of truffles. Ride this cocoa train until the political capital runs out, baby!” Pelosi exclaimed before steadying herself and returning to her usual decorum. At press time, Pelosi had dispatched her caucus’s opposition to her speakership, vowing to never lose control like that again.
1. Aakash Jariya
2. Ignacio Martinez
3. Laura Dean
4. Luis Stracher
5. Will Tabor
6. Tommy Eccles
7. Jack Rosenblatt