

## MANITOU MESSENGER

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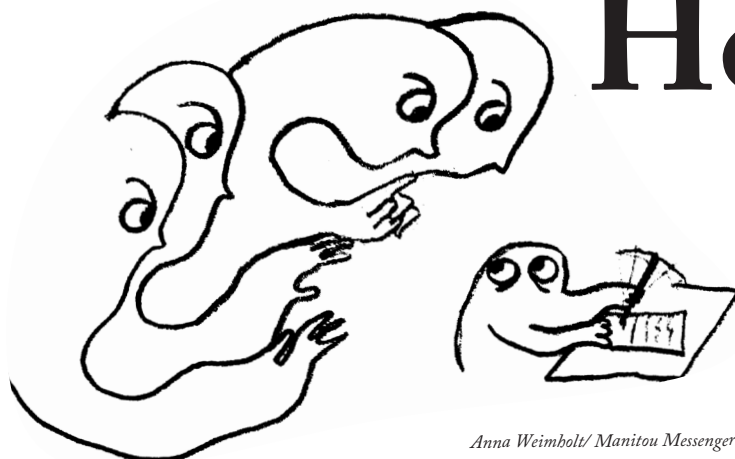
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If you wish to contact us you may reach us at our office in Buntrock Commons, room 110. You may also call our office at 507-786-3612. All staff members are available via email at the addresses listed above.

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Anna Weimholt/ Manitou Messenger

# How to handle parental pressure as an adult

By Teague Peterson-McGuire  
*Video Journalist*

Ever since middle school, my parents have expected me to have one goal in life: go to UW-Madison. Both of my parents went there, and they could not have a higher opinion of the school.

As a result, I adopted the mindset that if I was not going to go to Madison, I had to get into an Ivy League school. That was the only way my parents would be able to accept I wasn't going to the school they believed was the most elite in the world. I dreaded having to live in a big city, lost in a crowd of over forty thousand students, having to walk half an hour to class in sub-zero temperatures.

I had to escape the future that my parents believed to be inevitable. I took as many AP classes as I could in high school, I piled on the extra-curriculars that I believed would set me apart from other students, I attended elite summer camps at

colleges ... and then, senior year I had a nervous breakdown.

I could not do it, the pressure was too much.

As I haphazardly filled out college applications when I got out of the hospital, my father shoved the UW-Madison application at me, not giving me a choice in whether I would fill it out or not. I dreaded getting an acceptance letter, and then one day my worst nightmare came true. I got in.

My folks were so excited that I got in to Madison. I was not. Instantly my dad started talking about acceptance days and putting down a deposit. I was panicking as I hadn't gotten into any of the Ivy League schools I believed would save me from going to Madison.

When I got into St. Olaf I was really excited, hoping I had found a way out. We came to St. Olaf for acceptance days, and the entire car ride I prayed that I would like it here and that my dad might be

able to get over the fact that his son wanted to go to private school.

My first trip to St. Olaf was awesome, and I knew after a few minutes on campus that I wanted to put down my deposit as soon as possible. I told my dad that, too. Big mistake. For the full five-hour drive home, he yelled about what a good school Madison was and how stupid private colleges were while I silently cried in the back seat.

Ultimately though, I realized that I'm the one going to school, not him. I am the one taking on crippling student loan debt and staying up until one in the morning doing homework. I am the one that is going to reap the benefits and the rewards of these choices, and I am the one that is going to struggle and suffer as well.

How much of an impact will this have on him? How long the drive he makes twice a year will be and what the school name is on the sweater I will get him for

Christmas? Screw that. I'm in the driver's seat now, and these are my decisions, not his.

Parents can have high expectations and parents can have very valid concerns. Parents love us at the end of the day, but ultimately no one loves us more or understands us better than we do ourselves. Next time your mom calls you to complain that you are spending too much time on extra-curriculars, or your dad asks why you did not get a better grade on a paper, remember that they are not the ones in college. You are in control. Act like it.

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**WATCH THE VIDEO  
ONLINE**

# Student journalists and the pursuit of objectivity

By Sam Carlen  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The Daily Northwestern, the student newspaper of Northwestern University in Chicago, received a great deal of national media attention last month, and not for the right reasons. Outlets like the New York Times and the Washington Post documented the backlash from professional journalists over the paper's needless apology for using the most basic of journalistic practices after protestors complained about them. The Times' headline nicely sums up the regretful mea culpa: "The Daily Northwestern Apologizes to Student Protesters for Reporting."

The protestors were criticizing the Daily's coverage of a Nov. 5 speech by former Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the student demonstrations that took place outside the lecture hall. Some protestors tried to break into the event space and shut down the speech, leading to a confrontation with University police.

The chaos was documented by Daily photographer Colin Boyle, who then did what so many journalists do when covering breaking news: he posted the photos on Twitter. Meanwhile, Daily reporters frantically worked to finish their articles, using the University's directory to obtain the phone numbers of protestors they wanted to interview. The reporters texted these individuals first, asking if they were willing to be interviewed. The Daily published several articles the following day covering both the speech and the surrounding protests.

Boyle and the Daily's editors soon faced a wave of criticism for these three innocuous

examples of basic journalistic practices. The criticism was fairly vicious, so vicious that the dean of Northwestern's esteemed Medill School of Journalism, one of the top journalism schools in the country, characterized it as "vitriol and relentless public shaming."

The Daily reversed course mere hours later, granting anonymity to a previously-named student protestor quoted in one of the articles and apologizing for using the University directory to contact potential sources. Boyle deleted some of the photos he posted on Twitter – specifically, those in which protestors could be easily identified.

Then came the editorial. It shocks me that one of the best student newspapers in the country published something so filled with motivated reasoning, shoddy arguments and pandering. My shock ultimately stems from the fact that some of the brightest journalists of my generation were either ignorant of basic journalistic practices, cowed by the opprobrium cast their way by angry protestors, or so biased by ideology that they abandoned several basic reporting techniques to appease activists' demands.

The editorial justified Boyle's decision to delete some of his photos from Twitter by arguing that, while they are the paper of record at the University and wanted to convey the significance of the event to its readership, "covering traumatic events requires a different response than many other stories." Because some protestors found the photos retraumatizing, the newspaper stood behind their deletion, arguing that "nothing is more important than ensuring that our fellow students feel safe."



Thomas Hardy/ Manitou Messenger

This is absurd. A newsroom that prized the emotional comfort of its readers and sources above all else would not be able to report on a number of pressing topics. Reporting on terrorism or violent crime? Retraumatizing to witnesses and survivors. Reporting on white supremacist rallies? Retraumatizing to bystanders and counter-protestors, as well as certain historically marginalized groups that might be triggered by Nazi imagery in some of the photos.

This is not hypothetical – I'm sure there was considerable discussion in many newsrooms over which photos of the August 2017 white supremacist and neo-Nazi "Unite the Right" rally in

Charlottesville, Va. they should publish. Despite the fact that some of these images were surely difficult for readers to see, such as those displaying Nazi and white supremacist symbols brandished by rally participants, the New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe and other outlets published them nonetheless. If these news organizations can publish images of such a traumatizing event with so many hateful symbols brandished by some of the worst bigots in society, the Daily can surely publish pictures of what amounted to a fairly small, peaceful protest.

The editorial also mentions that

*Continued online ...*



# OPINIONS

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Courtesy of St. Olaf Marketing &amp; Communications

## GOING TRAYLESS

### COERCIVE, INCONVENIENT, INEFFECTIVE

By Maxwell Rubin  
*Contributing Writer*

Food waste is a growing problem in America. Food waste is an issue that must be addressed in all food environments: home kitchens, restaurants, hotels and, yes, college cafeterias. It is disheartening that in one of the world's most developed nations, the USDA estimated that over ten percent of households did not experience food security in 2018. It is also a pity that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that food waste composes between 30 to 40 percent of the food supply.

You are likely pondering: 'what can I do as an Ole to decrease food waste?' And yes, limiting or eliminating the use of cafeteria trays might seem like a reasonable idea. It is admirable that students have launched a campaign to limit food waste in the Caf by limiting Caf trays. I wholeheartedly agree with these students that Oles should be mindful of our food portions, especially since our eyes are often larger than our stomachs!

College is a transition into young adulthood. It is a time in life when adolescents who are in their final teen years should be

working to build a higher standard for personal responsibility. Personal responsibility permeates all areas of life. It not only applies to being a punctual and hard-working student, but also the amount of food we choose to put on our plates.

If Oles are aiming to be responsible contributors to society, we must be considerate of the amount of food we take each time we enter the Caf. When I was a freshman, my level of personal responsibility was still underdeveloped and I would put way too much food on my tray. As a junior, I try to use my inner monologue (and still struggle sometimes) to alert myself when I could be putting too much food on my tray. I would advise my fellow Oles to use "self-talk" to take less food while still using trays. Discipline is paramount for self-control, which can be cultivated over time.

Coercive measures to limit Oles's food intake is wrong on multiple fronts. Its well-intentioned supporters have failed to address that their policy to limit or eliminate trays is a hinderance on young adults who are working to develop discipline and personal responsibility. But the tray limiting policy has already had multiple negative

results. How are Oles expected to become responsible adults if our school officials doubt our capacity to do so? Well ... this policy unequivocally casts a doubt on personal responsibility and may create a nanny-state.

Limiting or eliminating Caf trays also hampers students' freedom to take their lunch, dinner or breakfast to different areas of campus. Many student organizations meet during dinner hours, students often meet in groups to study in the Cage and many like taking their trays across campus for other convenient purposes. Carrying a plate, a drink and silverware down the stairs is not only a spill hazard, but it takes away valuable time for students who might eat more than just one plate and would need to go back into the caf for more food.

Limiting or eliminating trays will likely increase chaos in the already cramped caf. Since not having a tray limits students' ability to carry an often-reasonable amount of food (i.e. a plate, a bowl, a drink and a dessert), too many students will be walking head-on between the dessert cases and that could increase the likelihood of physical collisions. This could increase spills, lead-

ing to more food waste. It also takes away from students' valuable table-time, which for many is a time of relaxing and communing with beloved friends and community.

Limiting or eliminating trays is also an infringement on students' financial liberty because we are paying for our meals whether we eat or not. While I fully support reducing food waste, it seems out of place that my fellow students are trying to mandate that we take less food even though we ourselves are paying for it. To be clear, this is not an endorsement of "take-all-the-food-you-want." Other students should not have the power to determine how much food we take from the Caf.

Coercive policies are just quick fixes that never solve the root of the issues. Only personal responsibility and discipline allow for a fundamental change in habits. That will result in success.

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# Venice's flooding: a sign of more to come with climate change

By George Wood  
*Contributing Writer*

The situation in Venice is dire. Flooding in the middle of November has been deemed a harbinger of things to come for one of the cultural epicenters of Italy and coastal cities on the whole. The floods, caused by a storm from the southwest, are a sign of more floods to come more frequently for the rest of the century. Floods like this one used to happen once every hundred years or so. Now, it is every five. Scientists believe that by the end of the century it could be every five months. However, the worldwide media's attention to the flooding in Venice is encouraging. With the increasing effects of climate change on the world's coastal regions, it is imperative that there is awareness of the magnitude of the situation.

Venice is in no way an outlier. If anything, the city is one of the most privileged with respect to rising tides. The financial resources required to rebuild and prepare for further flooding are by no means insignificant – experts estimate hundreds of millions of euros will be needed – but Venice is a tourist hotspot, situated in a wealthy country in the European Union. There is no question that the funds necessary will be allocated. The Italian government has already released 20 million euros for Venice, in no way near the funding estimate but a real first step in Venice's recovery.

With climate change, the real losers will be those cities and countries without the privileges that Venice enjoys. Island nations, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East will suffer due to wealthy nations' criminal negligence in the face

of climate change. In addition to dramatic sea-level rises and increased weather disasters, these regions will face food and water shortages with little to no respite as temperatures climb, fueling the positive feedback loop of climate change.

If these nations are to weather the storm, nations like the United States and the European Union must rise from their gross inaction and meaningfully assist in earnest the fight against climate change. The status quo is not enough. Fossil fuels are still being burned to an egregious degree and the Earth is feeling the heat.

If we are to pass this world to our children, there is no question that drastic action must be taken. As it is, the oceans will rise by at least three feet if we were to stop all combustion of fossil fuels today. The Earth would continue to warm for decades, temperatures finally stabilizing at a higher level than ever experienced in human existence. Coastal cities would face an enhanced might of the seas and the ocean would be more acidic, wiping out delicate marine ecosystems. Altered weather patterns would mean longer, more frequent droughts. Harvests would decline in abundance. Millions of lives would be lost. This all if we stopped using carbon today.

Corporations must be held responsible for the environmental degradation suffered at their hands. Governments must enact comprehensive climate change reform as soon as is possible. Global summits like the Paris Climate Accords (a good first step in a long line of good first steps) must be more stringent.

They must demand change from developed and developing nations alike, with any and all needs of developing nations met by developed nations to effectively retool their economies. They must make up for lost harvests and prepare for further climate disaster.

The Earth has never faced an issue as far-reaching and threatening as this one. The very planet on which we all live, breathe, love and die is under siege by the

very species it bore. If there is any chance for our continued existence on this rock – the only known life in the universe – it is absolutely critical that action is taken now, as the current condition of Venice heralds the world to come.

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*Jackie Dudley/ Manitou Messenger*