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April 29:

Editor Farewell: Mitchell Breuer



[Mitchell Breuer](#), Editor-In-Chief

April 29, 2020

When I joined The Winonan, I thought it was going to be a nice way to earn some extra experience while earning my degree.

I had recently transferred from Rochester Community and Technical College, I had no knowledge of Winona State University, had never even toured the college, and, to be honest, I was in a state of mind where I just wanted to get my degree and get out.

I never thought that joining The Winonan would be the best thing I ever did during college. I never thought it would take over my life and for most of the first year, it didn't. I kept my head down, did whatever I was assigned to do, and that was it.

Then, the sports editor position opened up.

I'll be honest with you, when I was first asked about it, I didn't give it a second thought. I was not that interested. Thankfully, I was asked again about, and I kid you not I joked about it to my girlfriend, Amanda.

It was then, she gave me a puzzled look and told me, "no, you should actually think about doing it."

That, right there, was what changed my college experience for the better, because as soon as I tried to and eventually did get the position, my college experience got a whole lot better.

Why?

I got to work with and get closer to an incredible group of individuals, that were really good at their jobs, and turned out to be really cool people, a lot of which I am proud to call my friends.

The next year was great, I was more motivated than ever. I had really good group that I was constantly around, and I was happy.

During this time, it was made clear that the editor-in-chief position was going to be open. Again, I initially was not that interested in it. Again, when I brought it up to Amanda, she gave me a puzzled look and said to go for it.

So, I did, and I worked hard, and I got it.

While I was ecstatic that I got it, I was a bit nervous at the same time. This year being the 100th year of the Winonan, I had done a lot of reading from previous Winonans and all of it was good. Really good.

I wanted to keep that going but, I quickly realized that it was not going to be hard to keep that good journalism coming.

Why?

I may have been the editor-in-chief of the paper, but I tell you, with a staff that the Winonan had this semester, it was a guarantee that there was going to be a lot of good journalism.

It is such an incredible staff that I have no fears for the paper moving forward, I know it is in great hands.

All of this brings us to the end.

Being at the Winonan gave me the 'big-time rush' that I needed to get through college, to be happy, to make some of the best friends I have and help me break out of my damn shy shell that had stuck with me for a long while, and it made me my best self. I will forever be thankful for my time here.

Thank you Winonan.

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Editor Farewell: Sydney Mohr



Sydney Mohr, Features Editor

April 29, 2020

How are you supposed to say goodbye to the best three years of your life? Honestly, I don't know how. I've been putting off writing this letter because I didn't want to admit that my time with the Winonan was coming to an end. It's been heartbreaking for me. But I'll save everyone the sob story and try to keep this as short as possible.

I would like to preface this with the fact that I nearly quit the Winonan two weeks into working for it because I was an AWFUL sports reporter, I had no idea what I was doing and I felt like I didn't belong. Everyone was telling me to quit, that it wasn't worth the stress. Despite this, I stayed with it. Something in my gut told me to. The start of the following year, I joined SCJ. One of the best decisions of my life. I met so many amazing people and was able to coordinate some pretty amazing trips (Washington D.C., amiright?) and I don't know where I would be without them.

So. Onto the hard part I suppose. I'll start with my amazing staff.

Noah, you're a dork. But MAN, your movie reviews made me laugh. You have a keen eye for film and your commentary is what makes your reviews so entertaining to read. Keep following your passion, you've got a knack for what you do.

Kelly, I didn't work with you for long but I'm glad I was able to. You're a great writer and I know you're going to continue to become a better writer.

Matt, you didn't even get a chance to write for me, but you were so excited about all the projects you were going to write about, it was inspiring. Keep up the amazing work with the Winonan.

Kellen, you are a light in my life and I am so incredibly blessed I have been able to spend the past year calling myself your friend. You are so passionate in everything you do, you bring happiness and light to everyone's lives even when you are struggling yourself, and you are going to make the BEST teacher someday. You just radiate love and joy, you're like a sunflower on a cloudy day. You have improved so much in your writing and your literary skills and I can't wait to see what you do in the future, because you are going to touch so many lives. Thank you for always bringing a smile to my face, or a plant to my doorstep.

Hipps. I cannot thank you for the hard work and dedication you have brought to the Winonan. You are so so so passionate about journalism and making sure everything is right that I can seriously see you reporting for the New York Times someday. You live to build others up, and it's so pure and wonderful. I always loved your random visits to the office during my office hours just to chat about your week and say hi. It seriously made my day. Your infectious joy for life and dedication to journalism will continue to drive the Winonan and your future career. I'll see you in the big leagues someday, I just know it.

Mckenna, you may have ditched me for news, but you've been one of my strongest writers since day one. Watching your writing style evolve over the past year from a PR standpoint to a full-blown journalist is absolutely incredible. You even managed to snag an award at ACP this year, how amazing is that! You're going to be a great news editor. You have so much potential, I know you are absolutely destined for great things. Not to mention, you always look like a model. ALWAYS.

Now, one of the hardest parts... my editing team. My rocks through tough times in the past year.

Mo, holy cow. You are seriously the funniest person I have ever met, and I find out new facts about you every single day. You never cease to amaze me. Your photography skills are absolutely top notch, and just continue to get better and better. You brought so much laughter and happiness into Monday editing nights, and I am going to miss it so much. Whether it was telling me about how you drove 130 mph in Saudi Arabia or how you "cannot feel sadness", you always brightened my day and made me laugh. The Winonan is so lucky to have you. You have brought so much happiness and unity to the staff, I'm going to miss you so much.

Morgan, you brought the absolute most chaotic energy I have ever seen in one human being into the office every single day and it was truly the most frightening and hilarious thing I have seen. You truly are a feral racoon in a human body. But beyond that, your ability to adapt so quickly to situations and learn what you needed to as fast as possible is amazing. You adapted from copy editor, to news editor, and now to editor in chief. I don't think the paper could have ended up in any better hands. You are going to continue the legacy this staff has built over the past few years and lead your writers to greatness. I am so proud of you and everything you have accomplished.

Maddie, what can I say? You are my boyfriend, after all. You traveled with me to Washington D.C. and had a conversation about scrambled eggs with me on a plane while I was fully asleep. You put up with my constant annoyance for a year and a half and somehow managed to not kill me, which is really impressive. It may have taken a few times of hiding my coffee so I would shut up, but you didn't kill me. You are so strong and determined, you literally can do anything you set your mind to. You built SCJ back from the ground up, and I loved being able to watch and to help you through that process. You're going to be an incredible journalist. And, if you need someone to be the Dory to your Bruce, you know where to find me. I love you "Swan Song".

Mitchell, I literally thought you were a freshman when you joined the Winonan. Turns out you were just a transfer student. You may be quiet in appearance, but you are truly anything but. You have proven to be a great leader and editor in chief, and you

kept the Winonan on track when things (literally) fell apart and we couldn't even print. You kept the paper going, and that is true dedication. Your quiet, sly humor made Monday nights so much more bearable, and it was really nice to have someone to geek out to sports about. You never gave up on me, even when I was falling apart, and pushed me to keep going and be the best sports reporter I could be. Heck, I even won an ACP award thanks to you. You are such a talented guy, and I loved every minute of working with you (even if I drove you insane 75% of the time and bought you floaties to make fun of you almost drowning at a journalism conference). Keep on being incredible. I'll never forget how much you pushed me and inspired me to keep going.

And finally, the hardest one to write of them all. Ren, I don't even know what to say at this point. You were the first person I met on the staff, and ultimately became one of my greatest friends. You are so passionate about everything that you do and will not cease until you are satisfied with your work. You put others before yourself so often, and basically act as the parent and encyclopedia of the group. Somehow, you seem to know everything. And it always, ALWAYS amazes me. I am so proud of you. Not for just your journalism work, but for your strive to keep going and to be the best person you possibly can be. To speak up for those who may not be able to have a voice. To fight for what's right, even though it's difficult. When you won that award at ACP for your sexual assault article, I felt so much pride and joy. I knew how hard you worked, how many tears were shed, and it all paid off. I still cry when I look at that picture of us because I know that you will forever continue to be an advocate for others. Your passion for teaching, journalism, and everything you do is so inspiring, and you manage to do it all with a calm demeanor while also having highly chaotic energy and the ability to constantly ask, "Would you still be friends with me if _____?" (My favorite was if you were a nun with a pen for an eye.) You made and continue to make every day better for me. Keep doing what you're doing. You are going to change lives. I love you my favorite Hufflepuff yeah yeah I know, "that's gay"), never forget it. And if you need someone to make 15+ bouquets of newspaper roses with you at 1 a.m., you know where to find me. You have forever touched my life and changed me as a person.

To the rest of the Winonan staff I did not personally address, thank you for putting up with my chaotic butt every Sunday night and not yelling at me when I let a goose run across my desktop/projection for an entire meeting. You made every week worth

it, being able to see everyone on Sunday night and know that I was a part of something bigger than myself. Kristin and Maurice, you're going to be awesome editors. Keep the staff going, they'll need your energy to keep their spirits up. Thank you, to the entire Winonan staff. You were, and always will be, my family. I love you all. Thank you for the best three years of my life.

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Editor Farewell: Madelyn Swenson



[Madelyn Swenson](#), Sports Editor

April 29, 2020

I have written the beginning of this letter thousands of times in my head and a few times I actually typed it out. Nothing seems to be a good lead for something like this.

The Winonan has meant so much to me. It gave me a family, best friends, close friends, skills, experience and helped me to find who I am. I know that all sounds cheesy but I would not be the person I am today without this organization. And believe it or not I was reluctant to join.

When I walked on campus as a first-year student, I declared a mass communication: journalism major. So I looked into the clubs that had to do with that. I did not want to join The Winonan because I had never written anything journalistically. I figured I would take a writing class first.

Then second semester rolled around and I accidentally joined. I meant to go to the meeting for The Society of Collegiate Journalists (SCJ) and walked into The Winonan meeting that happens before SCJ.

The news editor at the time talked me into giving writing a try. I am so glad she did! It changed my life.

Then a few months later I was asked to be news editor.

One of the biggest things I will miss from college is the meetings on Sunday and Monday nights. They were always a blast. Through them I made friends that I know I will have for a long time.

Since I do not have a word count, this goodbye letter is going to be a little different. Starting with me mentioning an editor I have worked with before.

Erin when you graduated and I was not able to see you at the meetings anymore or on campus it was rough. You are one of my best friends and I am so thankful for The Winonan for bringing us closer than class ever could.

Mitchell you made it “big time” as Big Time Rush would say and I could not be more proud of what you did during your time as Editor-in-chief. You have been dealt something no one would have expected when you were named EIC last semester and you have handled it so well! I’m also happy that we did not lose our friendship over that promotion. I hope nothing but the best for you in your future.

Syd...you are a goofball and I love you for it. When you joined the editor staff I did not know how goofy you are. I also did not know how motivated you are. You worked on so many different articles at one time and did them all well. I have no idea how you did that. You have done so much for this paper and for me. You will forever be my best fake girlfriend!

Morgan, I remember hiring you when you were a first-year. Now you are Editor-in-Chief. I could not be more proud of you! You have grown so much as a writer, a person, and a leader over the last three years. I have loved every minute of watching you grow into the person you are now. I know you will do great things next semester and after you graduate.

Ren you have taught me so much and have been so patient with me. From spelling and grammar mistakes to which pronouns to use, I am thankful for every lesson you

have taught me. I have loved getting to know you on all the adventures from ACP to DC! Have a great last year!

Mo, I wish we had more time to get to know each other. For the last semester it has been an absolute blast getting to know you on Monday nights, SCJ trips and at ACP. You are the most optimistic, outgoing, crazy person I have ever met. Your stories are the craziest things. You have lived a great life so far and I expect the same thing for your future.

Maurice I have not known you for long nor do I know you very well. However, I know that you are going to be an amazing sports editor. You have shown a lot through the odd training we have had to do this semester. I know there are a lot of unknowns for next semester and things I cannot teach you over Zoom but I know you are going to be great!

To the sports writers, I have appreciated working with you this last semester. You all have put in a lot of work and improved a lot in those few short months. Thank you so much for all your hard work.

To all the current, future and past writers. Thank you for all you do. You are the reason The Winonan is what it is and we could not do what we do without you. This is truly one of the best organizations on campus and I am so happy you are a part of it.

Endings can be hard and this one is no different, but I have no doubt the paper is in good hands. I'll miss you all!

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Film recommendations for quarantine, by director



[Noah Mruz](#), Film Reporter
April 29, 2020

We are reaching the end of the semester, which means we are going to be met with a lot of free time soon. Hopefully you have a summer job somewhere that is still open, or an internship that you can participate in online. With all this free time, that means you will have a ton of time to stream new or favorite movies. However, sometimes all of those choices can be so overwhelming! Have you ever spent several minutes looking for new things to watch on Netflix, just to end up watching *New Girl* again? The answer is yes, maybe not *New Girl*, but we have all done it before. Today I am going to offer some recommendations that will narrow your options, while still giving you a variety of choice. These are my recommendations for films to watch by a variety of directors.

Ever want a film that talks to you like an adult, but reminds you of the bright-eyed optimism of being a kid? Well, director Wes Anderson is here to answer that call. In order to get acclimated to his style, I would start with *The Grand Budapest Hotel* or *Moonrise Kingdom*. These films follow quirky adults as they deal with strange scenarios and can become relatable to you at the most unlikely moments. Anderson fills every shot with vibrant colors, interesting characters and incredible symmetry that make his films as enjoyable to look at, as they are to watch.

Looking for something a bit more action-packed and dramatic? Maybe you like a slight element of fantasy sprinkled in? Well, look no further than Christopher Nolan. Nolan crafts a compelling and thought-provoking story in almost all of his works. I would start with *The Prestige*, a film following two competing magicians in early 1900s England as they question if magic is real, or if science could create something similar. Maybe you want a little confusion in your film viewing. In that case, *Inception* is the way to go. A quick hint for you: the less you try to make sense of it, the more sense it makes. Still want more confusion? First off, you're crazy, second, go for *Memento*. The film tells the entire narrative backwards!

Maybe you're looking for something a bit more comedic, childish and that will make you cry. Then I recommend the wonderful New Zealand director Taika Waititi! His most recent film, *Jojo Rabbit* follows a young Hitler youth as he looks for friendship in a war-torn Germany. Maybe you want a little less Nazi Germany in your life? Well then *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* is for you. The film follows recently adopted child, Ricky Baker, as he and his adopted dad traverse the New Zealand forest hoping to return to society. Both films are snappy, humorous and heartfelt. You will laugh, you will cry and you will dislike kids less, I'm sure. It's hard to summarize these two without giving the plot away, so go watch them! They will help you forget all about the dumb sickness that has stricken our world for under two hours each!

These are three directors I suggest delving into during this quarantine. There are countless others I could recommend but these three will help you distance yourself from reality, whether its delving into dreams or feeling like a child again through the medium of film! Stay safe out there, wash your hands and take a breath. We will get through this together, but from afar. I believe in you and your ability to stay in isolation, so you should too! Happy viewing readers!

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COVID-19:How pets are handling sudden quarantine



[Kellen Brandt](#), Features Reporter
April 29, 2020

Tis' the season for pajamas as day-to-day fashion, binging TV shows and movies and giving pets all the extra love and attention they so desire.

There can be many ups and downs of Winona State University students being home with their pets more than usual.

Abbey Johnson, senior with a major in literature and language and applied and professional writing, has a Holland Lop bunny named Blue Cheese Eloise.

Johnson is now consistently home due to online classes and no work, giving her more time to play with Blue, but also giving Blue more time to get into trouble.

“Since I’ve been home more, she stays out of her cage a lot more, so she’s been more mischievous but also more affectionate,” Johnson said.

To help keep Blue out of trouble and entertained, Johnson plans to get another bunny soon for Blue to bond with and have as a playmate.

Much like Blue, Junie and Penny, rats owned by Beth Einck, a third-year majoring in communication studies and sustainability, have gotten much more playtime recently.

“I’m currently unemployed and doing online classes, so I’m home all the time,” Einck said. “They get extra time to freely roam my room since I’m here all the time, which they definitely appreciate.”

Like most pets, Junie and Penny have their quirks too.

“They like hanging out in my shirt so they can do that during my classes now,” Einck said.

Unlike rats, dogs might try, but are usually unsuccessful at, hanging out in shirts.

Scooter, a rescued Jack Russel Terrier is among those dogs, claimed by Nicole Tompos, a senior majoring in communications in arts and literature teaching and English: writing emphasis majors and English: creative writing minor.

“He loves that classes are online, and everything is cancelled because he is never alone,” Tompos said. “He gets to sleep peacefully in the sunlight and go for longer walks now.”

Tompos has been busy with school but makes sure to find some Scooter-time every day.

“Sadly, I have a lot of schoolwork to do, but I tend to sleep in a bit now though, because Scooter comes to cuddle with me when the rest of my family has to leave for work in the mornings,” Tompos said.

What a good boy.

Amanda Grober, a senior majoring in business administration and minoring in human resources and Spanish, has a Cockapoo named Teddy.

Teddy spends the majority of his day going on walks, playing and keeping guard of the house.

“We do take longer walks especially when the weather is nice,” Grober said. “Teddy also likes helping me with my classes by sitting on my laptop, but he can be very distracting when he drops his ball on my keyboard asking for treats.”

Grober and her family brought Teddy to visit their grandparents in an assisted living center.

“They really enjoyed seeing Teddy! It worked out nice because we were not allowed inside anyway so he could just say hi from outside,” Grober said.

The life of a dog can be pretty rough. Teddy has been adjusting to his new routine and trying to figure out how to keep an eye on everyone.

“I think Teddy is happy we are home but misses the down time he gets when my parents and my sisters are at school or work,” Grober said. “We pretty much have a house full of people that Teddy thinks he needs to keep an eye on, so he misses his naps throughout the day.”

Like Teddy, Toby has also been loving his longer walks and all his extra time with his owner, Kevin Stevens, junior majoring in art education.

Toby is a lab/golden retriever mix who has been Stevens’ best pal since Toby was born.

“I have been able to spend more time with Toby and boy do we love it,” Stevens said. “Whether we are going for long walks, adventures in the truck or preparing the garden, he is always by my side.”

Toby has been a lucky duck, or dog, and gets surprised with new toys, games and adventures with Stevens whenever he can.

“Toby has really fallen into a great routine with me being home,” Stevens said. “The beautiful weather is also a major positive since it gives us the chance to go outside and go on longer walks whenever possible.”

While Toby is loving his time with Stevens, he's eager for summer days ahead.

"Toby is patiently waiting for summer so that he can swim in his pool and run through his sprinkler," Stevens said.

Unfortunately, not all pets are loving their new schedules as much as Toby is.

Bailey Rye, senior majoring in business administration and minoring in management, has a black and white domestic shorthaired cat named Gus who is not loving all the new attention.

"Gus has actually been really strange," Rye said. "Almost as if he has anxiety. I'm not sure if he's just freaked out because our schedules have changed or if something else is going on."

While Rye lets Gus come outside and sit next to her when the weather is nice, she still thinks Gus enjoyed his time alone before everyone was home.

Despite the reasons, students are thankful to have this extra time to spend with their pets.

"I am so grateful the shelters are emptied out from adoptions, but hope the animals will adjust well when their owners go back to work," Grober said.

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