

To The Students Publishing Company Board of Directors,

As alumni of The Daily Northwestern, we are concerned and disappointed about the SPC's role in ongoing legal action against students who allegedly created a fake front page of The Daily Northwestern in October. Criminal charges against students is a step too far, and we do not support legal proceedings that could seriously damage students' future careers and livelihoods.

We understand that the power to bring or drop charges lies with the State's Attorney's office, but these charges would not have existed without the SPC. Now it is the SPC's responsibility to urge the prosecution to drop or dismiss these charges.

The imitated front pages in October included critiques of Northwestern University and The Daily's coverage on Gaza. **It sets a dangerous precedent for The Daily's parent company to initiate criminal proceedings following criticisms of the newspaper.**

We alumni believe in the staff's mandate to evaluate the critiques made of their work, to make their own independent editorial decisions, and to create fair, nuanced coverage.

Learning that the staff did not themselves report this incident and is uninvolved in these proceedings is troubling — we stand with the student staffers and their ability to handle campus relationships in the way they best see fit. Charges like these detract from their potential to cover the university fairly and accurately. **SPC stepping in to this degree without express agreement from the majority of the editorial board and other staffers removes their credibility as a student-run paper.**

SPC primarily has a financial responsibility to the viability of The Daily. But on multiple levels, this action is making it much harder for student journalists to do their jobs. The Daily Northwestern is also a teaching newspaper. This will undoubtedly impact their ability to recruit and retain a full and diverse staff.

This school paper has taught us many skills that we've brought to reputable outlets — lessons that we will carry for the rest of our careers. One of the most important was our ability to make decisions for ourselves and weigh consequences to determine the best course of action for our school paper in the wider context of our university family. While we take our jobs as journalists seriously, student reporters are still members of the Northwestern community first.

The staff did not decide to press charges against these individuals, and they have a lot to lose with the continuation of this case. We urge the SPC to rectify this situation as quickly as possible.

We surveyed signatories on what actions they would personally take to withdraw their support if the SPC does not publicly urge the State's Attorney to drop the charges. **Here are the results:**

- 74 people said they would stop providing donations to support The Daily Northwestern
- 73 people said they would withdraw their engagement with published content (i.e. the website, newsletters and social media)
- 67 people said they would refuse requests to participate in Daily Alumni events (i.e. guest speaking events)
- 65 people said they would stop speaking well of The Daily to colleagues, prospective students or other stake-holders

Sincerely,

### **Past Editor in Chiefs**

1. Nora Shelly, Editor in Chief for winter and fall 2018, Class of 2019
2. Marissa Martinez, Editor in Chief for spring and fall 2020, Class of 2021, now working at POLITICO
3. Sneha Day, Editor in Chief for winter and spring 2021, Class of 2022, now working at The Texas Tribune
4. Jacob Fulton, Editor in Chief for spring and fall 2022, Class of 2023
5. Isabel Funk, Editor in Chief for summer 2022, Class of 2024

### **Past Managing Editors**

6. Marissa Page, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2018
7. Katherine Pach, Creative Director, Class of 2019, now working at Aria Group Architects
8. Rishika Dugyala, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2019
9. Yvonne Kim, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2019
10. Ally Mauch, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2020
11. Alex Schwartz, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2020
12. Syd Stone, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2020
13. Ruiqi Chen, Creative Director, Class of 2020
14. Chris Vasquez, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2021
15. Catherine Henderson, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2021, now working at International Women's Media Foundation
16. Gabby Birenbaum, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2021
17. Heena Srivastava, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2021, now working at WBEZ
18. Roxanne Panas, Creative Director, Class of 2021, now working at Microsoft
19. Kalen Luciano, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2021
20. James Pollard, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2022
21. Andrea Bian, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2022
22. Austin Benavides, Managing Editor, Class of 2022

23. Janea Wilson, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2022
24. Jacob Ohara, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2022, now working at Wall Street Journal
25. Max Lubbers, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2023, now working at WBEZ
26. Samantha Boas, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2023
27. Alex Chun, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2023
28. Delaney Nelson, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2023, now working at The Progressive Magazine and Austin Weekly News
29. Jordan Mangi, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2023, now working at Marketplace
30. Meher Yeda, Creative Director, Class of 2023
31. Katrina Pham, Digital Managing Editor, Class of 2023
  
32. Maia Pandey, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2024
33. Charlotte Varnes, Summer Managing Editor, Class of 2024
34. Russell Leung, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2024
35. Yiming Fu, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2024
36. Audrey Hettleman, Print Managing Editor, Class of 2024

#### **Past Desk Editors**

37. Colin Lynch, Design Editor, Class of 2018
38. Jane Recker, Arts and Entertainment Editor, Class of 2019
39. Crystal Wall, Arts and Entertainment and The Monthly Editor, Class of 2020, previously an associate editor at Business Insider
40. Caitlin Chen, Design Editor, Class of 2021, now working at Microsoft
41. Ella Brockway, Sports Editor, Class of 2021
42. Charlotte Walsh, A&E Editor, Class of 2021
43. Harrison Tremarello, Video Editor, Class of 2022
44. Megan Munce, Campus Editor, Class of 2022, now working at the San Francisco Chronicle
45. Agnes Lee, Video Editor, Class of 2022
46. Yunkyoo Moon-Kim, Campus Editor, Class of 2022
47. Carly Schulman, Design Editor, Class of 2022
48. Kathryn Augustine, Opinion Editor, Class of 2022
49. Madison Smith, Photo and Audio Editor, Class of 2023
50. Sara Gronich, Design Editor, Class of 2023, now working at National Trust for Historic Preservation
51. Gabriela Carroll, Sports Editor, Class of 2023
52. Lawrence Price, Sports Editor and Gameday Editor, Class of 2024
53. Lucia Barnum, Audio Editor, Class of 2025
54. Joanna Hou, Campus Editor, Class of 2025

### **Other Editorial Board Positions**

55. Amelia Langas, Development and Recruitment Editor, Class of 2020
56. Wilson Chapman, In Focus Editor, Class of 2021, now working at IndieWire
57. Clare Spaulding, Copy Chief, Class of 2021
58. Stephen Council, In Focus Editor, Class of 2022
59. Daisy Conant, Investigations Editor, Class of 2022, now working at NBC News
60. Jennifer Zhan, Copy Chief, Class of 2022
61. Emma Yarger, Development and Recruitment Editor, Class of 2023
62. Grace Wu, Copy Chief, Class of 2023
63. Victoria Benefield, Development and Recruitment Editor, Class of 2023, now working at The Documentary Group
64. Nick Francis, Copy Chief, Class of 2024
65. Caroline Brew, In Focus Editor, Class of 2024, now working at Variety

### **Assistant Editors**

66. Naib Mian, Assistant Opinion Editor, Class of 2017, now working at The Metropolitan Museum of Art
67. Jessica Liu, Assistant Video Editor, Class of 2020
68. Susanna Kemp, Assistant Audio Editor, Class of 2022, now working at Fulbright Spain
69. Binah Lital Schatsky, Assistant Campus Editor, Class of 2022
70. Maya Reter, Assistant Audio Editor, Class of 2022
71. Jacquelyne Germain, Assistant Campus Editor and McCormick Fellow Coordinator, Class of 2023
72. Anika Mittu, Assistant Audio Editor, Class of 2023
73. Jack Austin, Assistant A&E Editor, Class of 2023, now working at Blues Blast Magazine
74. Tanisha Tekriwal, Assistant Opinion Editor, Class of 2023

### **Senior Staffers, Reporters and Artists**

75. Eli Sugerman, Editorial Cartoonist, Class of 2018
76. Marty Johnson, Reporter, Class of 2019
77. Daniella Tello-Garzon, Senior Staffer, Class of 2022
78. Alex Harrison, Senior Staffer, Class of 2023, now working at Evanston Roundtable
79. Clay Lawhead, Senior Staffer, Class of 2023
80. Alex Wong, Reporter, Class of 2023
81. Isabelle Butera, Senior Staffer, Class of 2025