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# VARIETY

PARENTAL ADVISORY

## Hands off the controls

GAIL ROSENBLUM



Students heading to college this fall would be well advised to look up, down and all around. A slew of shiny new machines has arrived on campuses nationwide, albeit with familiar names.

Mom and Dad.

Remember hovering helicopter parents?

That's so last semester. Now our young-adult darlings must deal with parental stealth bombers, lawn mowers and drones who are ready to prod, protect and generally pester anyone from administrators to teaching assistants who threaten their student's happy quotient.

This news was among many funny and enlightening take-aways delivered recently by Meaghan Miller Thul, director of the Parent and Family Program at the University of Minnesota.

Thul welcomed future Gopher parents, including yours truly, at an orientation that included a brief foray into heavy machinery. I am assuming her talk had nothing to do with my gleeful revelation to my youngest child (in front of her friends) that all that separated us come September would be a five-minute Green Line train ride from the U's campus to my office. (Yes, I quickly retracted my statement and assured her that she's not going to college to have lunch with me. Even though. ...)

Thul reminded us that our role as parents of college-bound kids is shifting, as it should, from driver to helpful passenger.

"Trust yourself and your student," advised Thul, who has worked in higher education for 17 years, including 11 years at the university in student services-related roles. "You have done the best possible job you could do in raising them, and they are wonderful and probably somewhat flawed human beings who will be successful and will also make mistakes. I advocate deep breathing a lot."

Thul is all too aware of the helicopter parent. But as she dug into scholarly and lay articles on how best to prepare students for the big leap to higher education, she came across a

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### OVERZEALOUS PARENT TYPES

Mom and Dad, are you one of these?

### THE STEALTH BOMBER

Flies under the radar, then suddenly, chaos.



### DRONE

Has all the passwords and uses them. Constantly spying on grades, etc.



### LAWN MOWER

Will do anything to ensure their kid's path is completely cleared.



### SUBMARINE

Like a helicopter parent, but a bit farther away and a bit harder to detect.



## STONE LAKE

By Richard Horberg • A Star Tribune serialized novel

### Chapter 11

**The story so far:** Stone Lake turns out for the opening of the basketball season.

The drive from Stone Lake to Minneapolis took seven hours. Reaching the city just before 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Allen pulled up in back of the Fuller Hotel where his father lived and parked in the lot. His father having arranged with the desk clerk to rent him a room for a few days, he carried in his suitcase, a couple

of books and his old typewriter. When he tried to pay for the room, the clerk told him that it had been taken care of.

While waiting for his dad to come home from the market, he went down to the phone booth in the lobby and called Greg Schmidt. They had agreed, by mail, to double-date on Friday night — and to attend the University's production of "Peter Pan," which Greg would get tickets for. On the phone Greg suggested that he could find a date

See **STONE LAKE** on E3 ▶

## The end of punctuation, period!!!

Freewheeling social media habits are turning standard punctuation on its head!!!!!!

By DAN BILEFSKY • New York Times

The period — one of the oldest forms of punctuation — is becoming passe

(See; you didn't even notice that there wasn't one at the end of that sentence, and you probably won't miss them at the ends of the other sentences in this story, either)

The full-stop signal we all learn as

children, whose use stretches back at least to the Middle Ages, is being felled in the barrage of instant messaging that has become synonymous with the digital age

So says David Crystal, who has written more than 100 books on language and is a former master of original pronunciation at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London — a man who understands the power of tradition in language

The conspicuous omission of the period in text messages and in instant messaging on social media, he says, is a product of the punctua-

tion-free staccato sentences favored by millennials — and increasingly their elders — a trend fueled by the freewheeling style of Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter

"We are at a momentous moment in the history of the full stop," said Crystal, an honorary professor of linguistics at the University of Wales, Bangor, who expounded on his view recently at the Hay Festival in Wales

"In an instant message, it is pretty obvious a sentence has come to an end, and none will have a full stop," he added "So why use it?"

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