Federal workers aren’t the only ones at risk during the government shutdown. Public institutions such as Iowa State may also face repercussions regarding aid and grant funding, which could result in negative consequences for students.

When explaining how the student aid process works, Julia Sullivan, the assistant director in the Office of Student Financial Aid said students filing for federal Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) may experience problems.

“When you file your FAFSA, there are matches that are done to different organizations in the government,” Sullivan said.

Because some of the organizations that give verification documents are closed down, fears were initially high about the possibility that students would be unable to apply for FAFSA for the 2019-20 academic year.

Before Wednesday, some materials couldn’t be obtained due to the closure of the IRS. The system is now mostly operational and students can access their tax records. The only major issue remaining with the FAFSA review process is the inability to verify that a male student has registered with the Selective Service.

Although students may not be negatively affected during the shutdown, the university is a different story. The National Science Foundation will likely suspend reviews of grant proposals, meaning Iowa State could miss out on requested grants, and funding could dry up for many research groups on campus.

The government has gone partially shutdown

As shutdown teeters, student financial aid suffers

City council to privately discuss union issues

The Ames City Council will convene privately after their meeting Tuesday to discuss collective bargaining strategies. City staff will report to city council about their interactions with local labor unions.

Susan Gwiasda, the city’s public relations officer, said the council does have closed sessions occasionally throughout the year, and it’s unlikely any policy changes will come about during the session.

“It’s really a chance for staff to discuss with the council what unions are concerned about,” Gwiasda said, “things like working conditions and wages.”

The council will still have their regularly scheduled meeting at 6 p.m. before the closed session.

The council will hear a staff presentation on the 2019-24 capital improvements plan, which seeks to allocate funds appropriately in order to develop Ames’s infrastructure in a way that accommodates growing population and economic demands.

City documents reveal plans to update water utilities, road infrastructure, the Ames Municipal Airport (AMA) and other projects. The documents detail how each development would pull money from local, state and federal funds. The AMA project alone will cost more than $207 million over the next five years.

Anyone is welcome to attend the regular scheduled meeting, but the chamber doors will be closed off to the public when the closed session begins.

The agenda can be found online on the city of Ames website.
**POLICE BLOTTER**

12.13.18

An individual, age 20, of 314 Beall Street in Sloan, Iowa, was arrested and charged with public intoxication at the intersection of Lincoln Way and Gray Avenue (reported at 1:14 a.m.).

A warrant correction. To submit a correction, please contact our editor at 515-294-5688 or via email at editor@iowastatedaily.com.

12.14.18

Buchanan Hall (reported at 3:57 a.m.).

An officer assisted an individual who was experiencing medical difficulties at Geoffroy Hall. The person was transported to a medical facility for treatment (reported at 12:32 a.m.).

**IOWA STATE DAILY BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

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**FEATURE PHOTO**

**All booked up**

Students pick up books for the upcoming semester at the Iowa State University bookstore on Monday.
Assistant director for The Center announces move

AMERICA’S NEW NORMAL
How modern political rhetoric has changed the way minorities live

BY DEVYN.LEESON
@iowastatedaily.com

A border wall, trade protectionism and so-called “fake news” were not common focuses among politicians when Donald Trump started running for president, but now people can hardly go a day without hearing something on one of these topics.

Some of these policy goals — like the border wall — have been pushed for by majority members within the Republican Party, including state or local representatives who are not as affected by the implementation of the proposed wall.

However, the impacts of this rhetoric go beyond setting a focus for the party as it has fundamentally changed how some underprivileged and minority communities carry out their lives on a daily basis.

“The effects of the racist rhetoric of Donald Trump and the Republican party of Iowa are profound,” said Ashton Ayers, political director for the Iowa State College Democrats. “You have people in many different minority communities who feel unsafe, unwanted, mistrusted, and it creates a division among the population.”

LANGUAGE MATTERS

Whether it is Gov. Kim Reynolds, Rep. Steve King or former representatives David Young and Rod Blum, Ayers said much of their language varies, but the general policy positions are consistent with one another.

“Donald Trump and everyone who is on his team is complicit,” Ayers said. “When you use language like Steve King utilizes, like Donald Trump utilizes — language that dehumanizes individuals, language that attacks people on the racial, cultural, ethnic or religious identity, you foster a division and belief that some people are less than others, and that they are worse.”

Others, like Iowa State College Republicans Vice President Tim Gomendoza, said Trump is not the source of people’s sentiments towards immigrants or minorities; rather, it is caused by people being more open about their beliefs and feelings. Gomendoza said he believes people are going about their ideals, separate from what Trump would necessarily do.

“Trump is popular because he is a little more down-to-Earth,” Gomendoza said. “He is blunt, which is why I voted for him. He tells things like it is and doesn’t use euphemisms. This is where the culture pops up: People are tired of having to hide behind curtains and now they will say how they really feel.”

Gomendoza said he thinks Trump’s rhetoric is taken out of context, and as a minority himself, he feels there is no issue with the type of language used or if more candidates are using that type of rhetoric within their own campaigns.

While more people could take offense to the adoption of this rhetoric across the Republican party, Gomendoza said this is what people need to hear and is the best approach if the president or other politicians want to do their jobs.

“In relation to the migrant caravan, we have a large influx of people who we don’t know, who we can’t really vet,” Gomendoza said.

“The president’s job is to keep the American people safe, so in regards to that incident alone I can definitely say Trump’s rhetoric is not racist or meant to be offensive; it is just dictation of what is happening.”

IMPACTS OF RHETORIC

This type of speech, which some say was popularized by Donald Trump, has been blamed for a rise in hate crimes nationally, but Ayers and Gomendoza both agreed that this increase was present in the years before Trump. To Ayers, this means Trump is more a symptom of the culture than the cause of it.

Regardless, Ayers said there are still contributions Trump made to this culture that have impacted individuals down to the local level. In Iowa, for example, Ayers said he has seen an increase in targeting of minorities by police officers and the overall acceptance of racist or bigoted rhetoric. In addition, he said the rhetoric has “absolutely increased” racist and violent sentiments as well as racial division and the rise of white nationalism.

Senior Lecturer of Political Science Dirk Deam said correlating the rhetoric with the rise of racist tendencies is not as cut and dry as it sounds.

“The inference is fair, but it is hard to say this is all cause and effect,” Deam said. “When you give license to overt racist appeals or thinly veiled appeals, then it becomes harder to attack the moral notion that [hate crimes] are wrong … but I wouldn’t say it is a cause and effect.”

If the Republican party were to disavow the problematic language of Trump or King, then Deam said it would be much easier for them to “sever the rhetoric from the behavior.”

During the Trump campaign and before the end of the Republican primary, many Republicans openly opposed Trump’s policy positions and the language he used to promote his policies. As this opposition slowed over time, Deam said it wasn’t due to the party suddenly agreeing with the platform. Instead, it was an electoral calculation.

“It’s not that they are racist or that they accept racism, but more that they are willing to tolerate apparent racism to the extent that it has no negative electoral effect,” Deam said. “Or to put it another
This month in academics

Bookmobile: Ames Public Library
When: Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: Between Parks Library and Morrill Hall
Description: “In partnership with the university library, the Ames Public Library’s Bookmobile added a regular Iowa State stop to its weekly route. The Bookmobile will park in the turnaround between Parks Library and Morrill Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays.”

Iowa State Championship: FIRST LEGO league
When: Saturday, January 19 to 20, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Multiple west campus buildings
Description: “Engineering Community Outreach will host the FIRST® LEGO® League state championship for students ages 9 to 14 years on campus. The competition continues Jan. 20.”

University holiday
When: Monday, January 21
Description: “University offices are closed and classes are recessed.”

Research Workshop: Bridging the Divide Brown Bag
When: Sunday, January 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: 1155 Marston Hall
Description: “Bring your lunch (and your questions) to find out how the Bridging the Divide seed funding grant program could help get your research or scholarly project off the ground!”

Spring Clubfest
When: Wednesday, January 23, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Great Hall in the Memorial Union
Description: “Clubfest is an opportunity for students to browse through a variety of clubs and organizations at Iowa State to discover how to become involved on campus. Come meet hundreds of the 900+ student organizations. While not all of Iowa State’s student organizations can attend, a great sample will be at Clubfest with informational handouts, large displays, demonstrations and giveaways to highlight their club and recruit new members.”

Wellness Expo:
When: Thursday, January 17, 4 to 7 p.m.
Where: State Gym
Description: “Learn about the resources available on campus to help you find your way to a holistic, healthy lifestyle. Activities include personal training assessments, sample fitness classes, meditation exercises, outdoor rec contests, action planning and mindful eating exercises. Whirlybird smoothie samples will be available.”

Study Abroad Fair
When: Thursday, January 24, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Where: Great Hall in the Memorial Union
Description: “A one-stop shop to learn about adventures abroad—interning, studying and even volunteering opportunities, ranging from one week to one year. The U.S. Postal Service will have staff available to accept passport applications and renewals.”

Dance Marathon
When: Saturday, January 26, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m.
Where: Memorial Union
Description: “ISU Dance Marathon is a 365 day commitment to raise funds for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital; with that comes the yearly celebration during Dance Marathon Weekend. Dancers stay on their feet for 15 hours to symbolize support for the families who spend countless hours in hospital waiting rooms. Come listen to music, play games, hang out with the kids, and even do a bit of dancing.”

University of California, Davis
This month in academics

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Lecture: Creating Disney Magic: Lessons in Leadership, Management and Customer service
When: Thursday, January 31, 7 p.m.
Where: Great Hall in the Memorial Union
Description: “Part of the 2018-19 Helen LeBaron Hilton Endowed Chair Lecture Series, hosted by the Department of Apparel, Events and Hospitality Management. Lee Cockrell, former Executive Vice President of Operations for the Walt Disney World® Resort, shares lessons in leadership, management and customer service.”

The Hub reopens after months-long renovation to facility, modern atmosphere prioritized

By MEG.GRICE
ist@dawsonetdaily.com

"After extended renovations and demolition to one of Iowa State’s grab-and-go dining locations, the Hub is not only gaining diverse food experiences but also varying points of opinion from students. Adison Mixdorf, a sophomore in architecture, remembers the past location as very crowded. "The old Hub had good options, but it was always so busy," Mixdorf said.

She enjoys the pita bread from the Heaping Plato and Heaping Plato Mediterranean food. Attendees saw the newly renovated space and sampled menu items. Davis commented on the cleanliness and increased seating inside, saying how latest updates give off a fresh, upscale vibe with a nicer color scheme. However she said even more seating could be added, particularly to assist with lunch hour rushes.

While Chaz Smith does not typically order off the menu, he views the Hub as a break between classes. Smith, a junior studying software engineering, enjoys the open atmosphere plus. Though he dined at the location years prior to the updates, additional seating space is a plus for him. "It’s more structured, so there’s better traffic control," Smith said.

Noticing the crowded environment due to the excitement of renewal, Smith recommends the Hub as a quick stop, particularly for those in need of a quiet location. For either sit-down or to-go dining, the Hub is open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday."

DARREN PERRY/ IOWA STATE DAILY

Iowa State Dining held an open house Thursday to show the features of the Hub, including the Roasteria coffee cafe and Heaping Plato Mediterranean food. Attendees saw the newly renovated space and sampled menu items.

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As candidates storm to Iowa, make your voice heard

It’s that time of year — again. From what begins on a monthly, to a weekly basis, to an every hour of every day relationship, Iowans will once again fall, question first, into the affair of being the first caucus state in the nation.

Over the course of the next year, dozens of presidential candidates vying for their parties nomination will sweep across the state, holding town hall, kissing babies, eating at family diners and, of course, advocating for why they feel they are the best choice for the United States.

Yes, that’s right. Even a year out, we can officially mark the beginning of the Iowa caucus season.

But 2020 may feel a bit different than years’ past. The 2016 presidential election showed the turbulence and turn around that can haunt, but also spike, the 24/7 news cycle and stability of a candidate. Everything happens quickly, and Iowans, you need to be prepared to keep up.

Last weekend, Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) planted herself across all the state, seeding herself into the minds of Iowans that she’s here for the long run and positioning herself as a leading Democratic candidate.

And soon, 2020 will etch closer — more and more presidential candidates throwing themselves into the heart of the Midwest in an attempt to reach each corner and crevice of the state to secure their nomination.

Please remember, Iowa, this is not to be taken for granted. Unlike many other states, we have access from the start — and we need to use it to its fullest potential.

For those of you who are out-of-state students or new to the Iowa caucus experience, please take it in and educate yourself not just on the candidates but how the political process works.

Just because you may not identify with candidate or their party, try and make the most of the opportunity of having an elected official available to voice your concerns and to hear where they stand on the issues.

That being said, presidential candidates please also understand that the loudest, most decorated and experienced voices are not the only ones you should be listening to.

Those that most need your representation may never make the time to attend one of your rallies or volunteer for your campaign because they simply can’t. Politics takes time, it takes energy and it takes money — something many constituents probably don’t have in plethora.

So what we ask of presidential candidates this time around is to make sure your campaigns are accessible and available. Don’t reinvent the campaign wheel but understand that it might need some adapting.

Now more than ever, Americans deserve to be heard. With a presidential platform, candidates have the ability to not just speak but to listen. A president is not selected by political pundits or talking heads on the television, but rather the people.

In 2016, voters felt disconnected from politics and that the process was broken. According to a poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, only 15 percent of Americans reported a “great deal of confidence” in the Democratic party compared to just 9 percent who the same of the GOP.

Let’s change this in 2020. And candidates, it’s on you.

Iowa, make your voice heard.

THE DEGEN DOZEN

Family propels Jarrett Degen on and off the mat

BY TREvor HOLBROOK
@iowastatedaily.com

After Jarrett Degen heated up late in the 2017-18 season, securing a spot in Cleveland at the NCAA Championships, the 149-pounder received attention from fans, coaches and teammates.

Degen displayed one of the most important wrestling traits — toughness — during his redshirt freshman season. "As far as [Degen is] concerned, that first match in Oklahoma this weekend, he bridged off his back and chocked himself out," said former Iowa State assistant coach Mike Zadick.

"He was out, cold. There's not a lot of wrestlers that you can throw out onto the mat that will literally let their head pop off their shoulders [to] not get pinned. For him to do that, and then get out and continue to fight in the match and then get up that next day — he popped a rib, and that's no excuse, everyone has these injuries. He didn't let it affect him. He stepped on the mat and battled.""Entering this season, the Cyclones attempted to pair Degen's toughness and skills with more consistency. "One of our buzzwords that I've tattooed our program with is consistency, so we've got to get Degen on the right consistency," said Iowa State coach Kevin Dresser earlier this season.

Off the mat, Degen presents a much less intense demeanor. Outside of the wrestling room, he attends classes focused on his major: child, adult and family services. His interest in the topic stems from his childhood and mother, Jane Degen.

Jane Degen's time with foster children can't be named. "It was just always a way of life," Jane Degen said. "It's the inclusive nature is still present even as Jarrett Degen's transitioned to college and moved out of the house. In a phone call with his mom, Degen discussed winter break plans to go skiing with his girlfriend. After revealing the plans, Degen suggested his mom let the kids in the house tag along.

"I don't know," Jane Degen said. "It just doesn't seem like a lot of college kids come home and say 'Hey, mom. Load up all your nine and 10-year-old children and bring them skiing with me and my girlfriend.'"

Jarrett Degen's family is large to begin with, consisting of Mandi Pemberton, Richie Pemberton, BJ Pemberton, Lacey TeBay, Lyle Degen, Sawyer Degen, Taya Degen, John Montclair, Clayton Monclair and Cassidy Barker.

Along with the 10 siblings, the Degen's fostered kids throughout Jarrett Degen's upbringing. The family currently fosters two children. The foster children can't be named due to confidentiality policies.

"I don't remember a time where there wasn't a foster kid in the house," Jarrett Degen said. "I want to say, over 100 [children]."

Jane Degen’s time with foster children began as lending a hand to parents with special needs children. With the adoption of Taya Degen, Jane Degen focused her time on Taya Degen, who requires tube feeding, a vibrating vest and a wheelchair.

With the added children flowing in and out of the house, Jarrett Degen shared his room with countless new kids. Growing up, Jarrett Degen — now, 21 years old — didn't mind because he spent most of his time outside playing on his family's 13 acres of land.

"It was always a way of life," Jarrett Degen said. "It was always dinner's at 5 [p.m.], foster kids are moving in, foster kids are moving out."

Jarrett Degen leaned on his family growing up, and he continued to during the peak of his young college wrestling career.

"I don't think they were aware Jarrett Degen wrestles two matches the previous day and two the morning before scrapping with Tsirtsis. Meanwhile, Tsirtsis battled in three matches prior to meeting Jarrett Degen, but the Iowa State 149-pounder continued to push the pace. The referee rewarded Jarrett Degen for his energy, awarding him a point on a stalling call on Tsirtsis. The scoreboard read 3-3.

With a tied match, the potential one point off riding time loomed largely. When the third period expired, it would finish in favor of Tsirtsis because of the minute-plus of riding time. Late in the third period, Jarrett Degen took his shot. He secured Tsirtsis's right leg and used his 6-foot-plus length to slide around behind Tsirtsis. For a split second, Jarrett Degen looked like he would snag two points and a win, but Tsirtsis slipped out from underneath the Cyclone before the takedown was called to eliminated Jarrett Degen.

After his elimination, he headed to the belt he stayed at, and Jane Degen

MIKINNA KERNS/ IOWA STATE DAILY

Now-Iowa State redshirt sophomore Jarrett Degen flexes after winning his weight class against Kyle Rae during the Iowa State vs West Virginia wrestling meet on Jan. 21, 2018. The Cyclones defeated West Virginia 25-16.

The referee blew his whistle, and the two crouched in their stances. After an underwhelming performance from the Cyclones at the Big 12 Tournament, Jarrett Degen sought to finish the season with All-American status. All the first-time NCAA Championships qualifier needed to do was knock off Tsirtsis.

Tsirtsis — a former NCAA Champion as a freshman at Northwestern — took Jarrett Degen a hole early with a two-point take-down in the first period. Tsirtsis built over a minute of riding time, granting him an extra point if he remained over the minute threshold and the match went the full three periods. Jarrett Degen escaped and bounced back on his feet to cut the lead to 2-1. At the start of the second and third periods, the two swapped tuns starting on top. Each athlete escaped tacking on a point and pushing the score to 2-2 in favor of Tsirtsis.

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WHAT KIND OF SNOW PERSON ARE YOU?

BY EMILY.BERCH AND ANNELISE.WELLS
@iowastatedaily.com

Q1. YOU SEE SNOW IN THE FORECAST, WHAT IS YOUR FIRST REACTION?

CATCH ME UNDER THE COVERS
ALREADY LACING UP MY SNOW BOOTS

Q2. WHAT IS YOUR WINTER DRINK OF CHOICE?

WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO SNOW DAY OUTFIT?

WHAT IS YOUR WINTER DRINK OF CHOICE?

WHAT IS YOUR WINTER DRINK OF CHOICE?

Q2. WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO SNOW DAY OUTFIT?

WHATEVER IS IN MY KITCHEN
HOT CHOCOLATE
SWEATER/SCARF COMBO
WHATEVER KEEPS ME WARM

Q3. ALL YOUR FRIENDS ARE POSTING SNOW DAY SNAPCHATS. WHAT IS ON YOUR STORY?

THERE IS A SNOW BALL FIGHT ON CENTRAL CAMPUS. YOU IN?

NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY
A SELFIE IN THE SNOW
I'LL BUILD A SNOWMAN ON THE SIDELINES...
I'M THE ONE WHO STARTED IT!

1. STAY-AT-HOME SNOW PERSON

Snow might not be your favorite thing, but you enjoy watching it from the comfort of your own bed. You’re already counting down the days until spring. Snow day activities include cozying up at home and binge watching your favorite show on Netflix.

2. WINTER CHEER SNOW PERSON

You’ll make the most of whatever is in the forecast. Whether it’s flurries or a blizzard, snow days bring you joy. Snow day activities include taking cute winter pics with your friends and drinking massive amounts of hot chocolate.

3. EXTREME SNOW PERSON

The cold never bothered you anyway. Snow days open up a whole new realm of possibilities when it comes to sports. Snow day activities include sledding down the tallest hill you can find and pelting your friends with snowballs.
met with him. Jane Degen talked with her son and helped pick him up after the match, while Terry Degen took a breather before concurring with his son.

"I was concerned how he was going to adjust to being up so high and in so many people’s eye at the top like that, climbing so fast, and everything just — bam, and it’s done and over," Jane Degen said. "I was just concerned about his mental health and his heart. I didn’t say much because I didn’t think he needed me to say anything. I just knew he is kind of a momma baby, so I just knew my presence was what he needed."

Jane Degen isn’t a stereotypical wrestling mom who unravels like a loose thread during her sons’ matches, but Terry Degen struggles to suppress his emotions.

“Everyone knows him as getting yellow cards and red cards and kicked out of tournaments,” Jarrett Degen said.

Regardless of the observation tendencies, Jane and Terry Degen hope to travel to another NCAA Championships, not only for Jarrett Degen, but also for Sawyer Degen. Sawyer Degen competes for the starting 141-pound spot at North Dakota State.

Sawyer Degen sports a frame similar to Jarrett Degen, standing 6-foot-2, and the younger brother shares a similar style with him.

"I think I’ve seen a video or two of [Sawyer Degen], and it looks just like [Jarrett Degen]," said senior Iowa State 165-pounder Skyler St. John. "It’s [Jarrett Degen] in a green singlet [North Dakota State’s team color]."

Sawyer Degen took notes from Jarrett Degen during their time at Belgrade High School. Jarrett Degen warned up late in tour-

ments with Sawyer Degen following closely behind (somet-
times to his older brother’s annoyance). Sawyer Degen con-

tinued imitating his brother and also watched Jarrett Degen’s matches to add new pieces to the always-evolving wrestling toolbox. Jarrett Degen turned out to be a good candidate to mimic. Sawyer and Jarrett Degen dominated Montana high school wrestling, com-

bining for eight state titles.

Lyle Degen, on the other hand, concentrated more on soccer, but when his senior year rolled around (Jarrett Degen’s soph-

omore year and Sawyer Degen’s freshman year), Jane Degen encour-aged the older son to wrestle alongside his brothers. While Sawyer and Jarrett Degen wrapped up their seasons with titles, Lyle Degen barely missed gold, finishing fourth.

The three brothers shined together, but they also built each other into better wrestlers and competitors as children.

"It was tough," Jarrett Degen said. "Everything had to be a competition no matter what it was — chores, sports games, anything. We all hated losing, and I think that really helped into the wrestling world."

"We’d always go into the [wrestling] room, and one person would always come out crying, my dad says. Fifteen minutes later we’d go back to playing games."

Sometimes the outcome of playing with his brothers resulted in bumps and bruises, but Jarrett Degen never got tired of it. Whether it was sharing his bedroom, tossing his brothers or go outside with him. Jane Degen said she witnessed her middle son offer a wide array of benefits to his other broth-

ers, ranging from money to taking some of the chore burden.

"His dad and I always thought that was pretty funny — the lengths he would go just to get somebody to go outside with him," Jane Degen said. "Ride a unicycle, ride the motorcycle, pull him behind the four-wheeler with the sleds or skis on. He just didn’t care what he was doing; he just wanted to be outside doing it."

Jane Degen said during long trips to wrestling tournaments and other athletic activities the vehicle pulled over to the side of the road. After Jarrett Degen’s parents had enough of the boys wrestling in the back seat, the three jumped out and ran up and down the ditches in an effort to burn some of their energy.

Outside of his brothers, who are both within 18 months of Jarrett Degen’s age, his half-siblings also are close with him.

With Iowa State’s schedule, Jarrett Degen competes all over the United States, and his siblings and half siblings venture to some of the bigger tournaments within driving distance.

Whether it’s sharing his bedroom, toasting his brothers around or supporting one another, Jarrett Degen’s family holds a special place in his life.

"All joking aside, it’s big, but it’s big to me," Jarrett Degen said when first asked about his family. "Family’s very special to me."

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

While Whittington said Trump is in some ways responsible for this issue, some of that blame also is held by society and the structure in which there is an acceptance of potentially racist rhetoric.

"Through this structure and Trump using ‘dog whistle’ political tactics, Whittington said Trump has been able to move the Republican party further to the right on issues of immigration and race relations."

"While I think the issue started before Trump, he saw that part of the Republican party, emphasized it and then capitalized on it," Whittington said. "So he does still carry weight for its popularization."

As this rhetoric has been popularized, Whittington said he has changed the way he and many other minorities function in their day-to-day lives. Instead of trusting people’s intentions, Whittington said he is more cautious.

His experience within the group chat — people using racist language and calling it jokes — led him to second guess the intentions of anyone’s language use, and Whittington said this is now a problem for his generation as well.

"When my dad or my grandfather were growing up, you knew people who were racist because they wouldn’t let you in their schools or date their daughter, but now people are racist in not so open ways, and it makes me second guess everyone’s intentions,” Whittington said. “Because that doubt is there, myself and other minorities start to question every privileged persons actions.”