

# EDITORIAL

## CourierPolicy

The Courier is published every Friday when classes are in session during the Fall and Spring Semesters, except for the first and last Friday of each Semester and the week of and the week after Spring Break as a public forum with content chosen by student editors. One copy free, additional copies available upon request.

Views expressed in editorials represent opinions of the majority of the Editorial Board, made up of all of the Courier editors.

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The Courier encourages all students, faculty, staff, administrators and community members to voice their opinions on all the topics concerning them both in and out of school.

Writers can express their views in a letter to Letters to the Editor. All correspondence and letters for publication must be typed and signed with the author's daytime phone number.

The editor-in-chief may withhold the author's name on request. Deliver all correspondence to SRC 1560 between regular office hours, or mail to the Courier, College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137.

Letters also may be sent by e-mail. The subject heading to the e-mail message must read "Letter to the Editor." The writer's first and last names, street address, city, state and complete phone number with area code must be included for identity verification by the Courier. Deadline for letters meant for publication is noon Monday before publication. E-mail letters can be sent electronically to editor@codnet.cod.edu.

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, style, language, length and libel.

All letters represent the views of their author.

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# Confront differences, find peace

In a matter of days, the college has grown firmly divided over the Muhammad cartoons the Courier printed last week. Many people have chosen the Courier as a forum to express their opinions on the issue in a Letter to the Editor.

Our responsibility as a newspaper and an institution of higher learning is to be an open forum for ideas, be they negative or positive.

As a paper we have an obligation to give the reader as much information as possible to make an informed and well-educated opinion on any issue affecting the college.

Assuming that we have accomplished this, it is now up to the public to decide what it will do with the information.

Bringing this issue to light was uncomfortable and even

## Staff Editorial

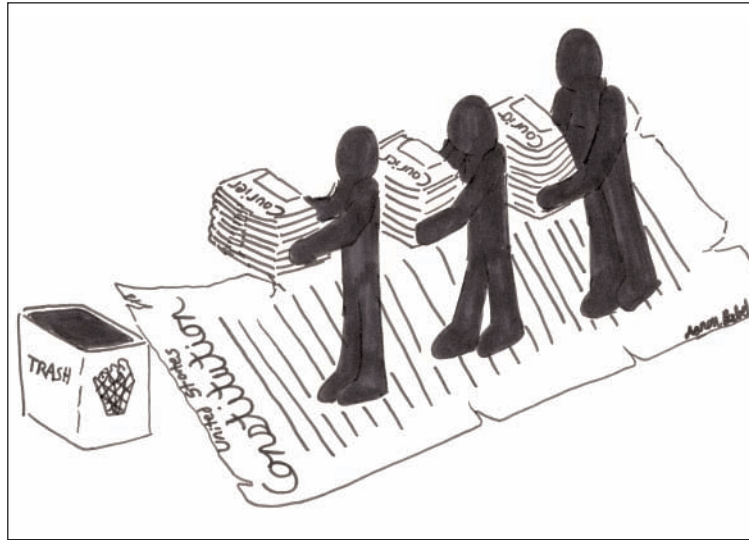
painful for many people, but the college community has withstood this pain and can begin the steps towards healing.

The college can use this experience to become stronger, just as the ashes of the burned prairie help it return fuller and healthier a season later.

There is no doubt that learning has occurred on all sides of the issue whether it be about the First Amendment, the religion of Islam or communication between divergent groups of people.

The past week has seen groups and individuals in heated conflict over the issue.

Frustrating as they might have been, these conversations have also been enlight-



ening for those involved as all people were given the equal right to explain their opinions. These conversations needed to happen.

These discussions bring people to a place of understanding and perspective. Oftentimes this route is convoluted, emotional and distressing, but there are few rewards greater than gaining empathy and insight into another person or group's experience.

It is only by bringing differences to light that the community can begin slowly to overcome them.

President Sunil Chand released a statement saying that he felt the Courier's actions didn't fit the college's aspirations and values.

However, in the college Catalog one facet of the college's philosophy is to "affirm our role as a catalyst for promoting dialogue and tolerance on issues supporting the common good."

The Courier, with great care and openness, took the steps it felt necessary to be that very catalyst for discussion.

If the college didn't feel an

understanding of this issue supported the common good, it wouldn't have paid for a speaker to introduce the subject.

The mission statement also calls for the college to "serve as a center for the cultural and intellectual enrichment of our community."

Classes may teach about cultures, ideas and values, but true enrichment comes from experience and interaction with these first hand.

Many people, Muslim or otherwise, asked us not to run the cartoons because they were offensive. At some point, people potentially can be offended by anything in the news. However, the need to convey the information at hand is deemed more important than the need to acquiesce to appeasement.

The Courier respects all religions, races and people regardless of their beliefs and whether the staff personally agree with them.

Respect is one thing. Ignoring an issue because people are offended by it is another. We felt we treated the issue with the utmost

respect by informing the Muslim Student Association of our intentions ahead of time and giving them a place to speak without fear of censorship.

The Courier respectfully honored requests not to print pictures of Muslims who had religious objections as well.

The Courier is not proud of the fact that some of these cartoons are based on ignorance or prejudice.

Right or wrong, though, those attitudes exist.

Pretending they don't exist won't eradicate them. Only education can dispel ignorance, which is our unconditional purpose.

Several years ago an anti-Holocaust ad ran in the Courier. It goes without saying that a great number of people were deeply upset.

While the Courier's staff and many others may not have liked the ad, it did not violate the student-created advertising policy and the staff stood by its policy.

Then and now, the freedom of the press and the right to free speech were put to the ultimate test because people tried to influence and manipulate these freedoms.

For the paper to appease any religion or group of people over another would give that group a stronger voice and, thereby, our endorsement. That would show more bias than anything else and would be a true insult to readers.

Most importantly, now that people have bore the pain of confronting these issues together, is that it is open to listening to all viewpoints, especially the ones in contention with their own.



## In Your Words

**Joseph Barker, 24** *biology, Downers Grove*

"I have to take more science classes in the fall, and from there I'm heading to med school."

**Dustin Von Holten, 19** *pre-pharmacy, Naperville*

"I'll be here for the entire year, and then I plan to transfer to Midwestern University."

**Ewelima Chudzik, 21** *english, Elmhurst*

"I think I'll return to take an English class and then I should be finished by October."

**Taylor Zelenka, 22** *psychology, Lombard*

"I'm actually thinking of transferring to UNC in North Carolina to study psychology."

**Adam Brown, 21** *history, Glendale Heights*

"I'll probably do some independent study in the fall and try to get a job."



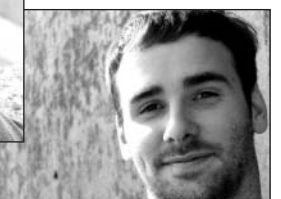
Taylor



Adam



Dustin



Joseph



Ewelima

"What are your educational plans for next year?"



# OPINION

## PointCounterPoint

### Everything's coming up roses

By **Graham Milldrum**  
Graphics Editor

A lot of good things have happened at the college.

But on a broader scale, and not directly related to my own greatness, the college has had a good year.

The conversion to semesters went fairly smoothly.

Although there was some disorientation on the part of students and staff, everyone had an opportunity to learn a great deal.

It will take some time to get adjusted, but I think it is for the best.

Going from quarters to semesters has resulted in the educators gaining a well-earned break.

Before, the end of the spring quarter and the beginning of summer were only a weekend apart.

Now they have a full week to kick back, relax and prepare for the next onslaught of students.

CODcon, presented by the Sci-Fi Club, was an absolute smashing success, with a large number of people from the area coming.

The woman in the Leia costume didn't really fit the role, but those stormtroopers looked awesome.

SRC 2800 was absolutely filled with gamers, so many that other areas of the school had to be given over to their use.

Construction, although slow, has continued with surprisingly minimal disruption to the college.

Although losing the parking spaces was a bit of a bummer, everyone found new ones and life continued as usual.

The Nov. 4 fire scare

turned out to be nothing.

Even though students were evacuated from the MAC, the building wasn't closed and life continued as normal.

Even the evacuation went fairly smoothly, a surprise with how independent college students can be.

Pace is preparing to start bus route 714. This can save students a lot of money and effort.

Buses will be coming from both Wheaton and Naperville, with multiple stops in each area.

With the rise in gas prices, this could not have come at a better time.

It won't be active until later in the year, but the work for it occurred this school year.

Sports did well this year. Men's soccer took fourth in the country, which is nothing to sneeze at, considering their competition.

The National Soccer Association of America named Coach Hunter the coach of the year. And there are more events like this, from bowling to swimming.

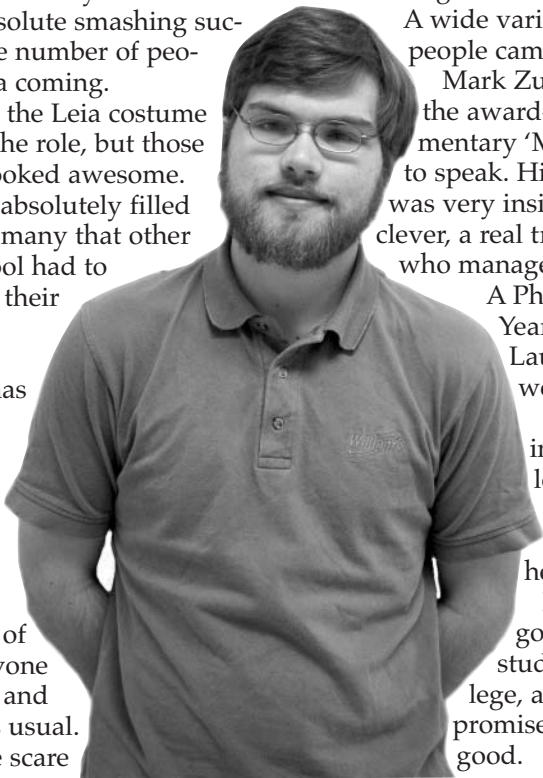
A wide variety of famous people came visit.

Mark Zupan, an actor in the award-winning documentary 'Murderball' came to speak. His presentation was very insightful and clever, a real treat for everyone who managed to attend.

A Photographer of the Year and a Poet Laureate came as well.

For fear of turning this into a long bulleted list of famous speakers, I will stop here.

It has been a good year to be a student at the college, and next year promises to be just as good.



### College needs improvement

By **Kevin Klipp**  
Features Editor

Well, I think it is safe to say we can look back upon this year and smile...smile and cringe.

While a number of things have gone very well, including the monumental switch to semesters, this year has not exactly been flawless.

First, those revolving doors, and the individuals that cannot seem to grasp the concept of using them. Think about it, just about every student here has, or at the least had a driver's license or some form of driver education. When you see a big red octagon with words, it usually means something right?

It's a simple request and can make a big difference as far as operating costs for the college. Tuition prices getting on your nerves? Try a revolving door.

I think it is safe to say that just about everyone enjoyed the construction this year right? Come on, the baseball team not really knowing if they'll be playing games on a field or in a parking lot? That brutal drop off from the lot to the side street on the north side of the SRC that almost destroyed my car?

Although it may be unknown to a good number of students, there are tons of events going on at the college constantly.

Unfortunately student awareness of such events is minimal. One of the problems is that events are announced via a few bulletin boards some ran-

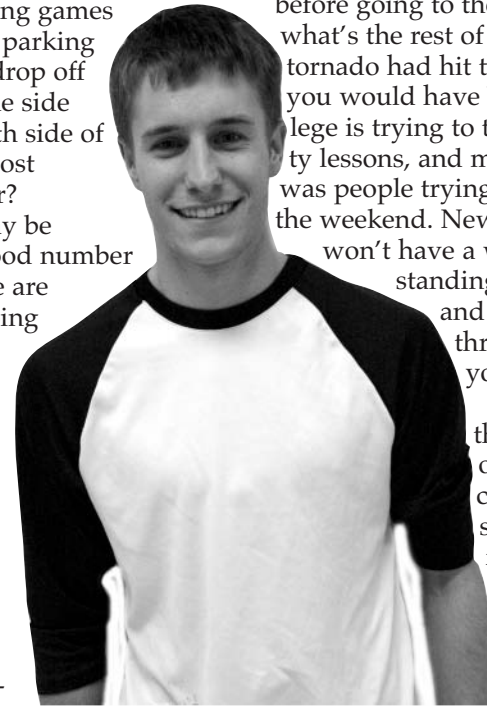
dom flyers, and possibly an incredibly well written story by a handsome Courier writer. Not to say there should be announcements read off over the P.A. system like in high school, but how about we utilize those nice expensive flat screen TVs we have all over the place? You know the ones I'm talking about, those cool ones that I would do all sorts of lewd and degrading acts on a game show to win. We have an excellent resource here for community awareness and it's not being used.

Another immense flaw I witnessed on campus this year was the complete lack of protests. Here we are, a college campus, supposedly a breeding ground for political and social revolutions, and I did not witness a single protest for "Brokeback Mountain" being nominated for Best Movie. Are you all asleep? That movie as horrible!

Finally, and probably most serious of all, was the horrible performance by faculty, staff, and students during the hazardous weather drill. I personally had to head to the bathroom before going to the safe area, but what's the rest of your excuses? If a tornado had hit the school most of you would have been toast. The college is trying to teach valuable safety lessons, and most of what I saw was people trying to set up plans for the weekend. News flash kids: you

won't have a weekend if you're standing next to a window and a cow flies through and crushes you.

Other than that, the year has been okay... except for a couple controversies, power outages, football coach quitting, and those kids eating up all the bandwidth on MySpace.



## Letters to the editor

### ■ Letters received before Muslim cartoons were printed last week

#### Cartoons promote bigotry, not dialogue

I am a concerned Muslim writing in at the news that a publication from the college was planning a reprint of the cartoons that had inflamed the Muslim world in recent months.

I understand that the students reprinting these articles will do so under the auspices of either freedom of expression or freedom of speech.

I know that this right is highly valued, and those in the media feel more so the right to champion in the face of opposition to the publication of the cartoons.

I would like to point out, however, a few points:

- Consider whether there are items, which would be unallowable by the standards of the college--would it be allowed to write inflammatory or stereotypical remarks against the

African American community in the paper?

Would the paper also reprint the Irani press's cartoons, which satirized the Holocaust?

Would, in fact, the college allow the publication of any hate material, even if it was just to "show" what was printed?

If not, then we ask that the same courtesy be extended to the Muslim community as well.

- Approximately 400,000 Muslims live around the Chicagoland area, and a good chunk of them attend the college--should the news spread that the college newspaper published these cartoons, you can rest assured that most, if not all, will leave the school or never enroll.

None would want to be anywhere near an institution that allows the publication of bigotry.

- We have heard that because publications routinely publish cartoons lampooning Prophet Jesus, that this justifies lampooning Prophet Muhammad (PBU them both).

We consider this argument fallacious--two wrongs don't make a right. We believe it is improper and incor-

rect to publish cartoons against Prophet Jesus as well because he is a Prophet who is explicitly mentioned in our holy book, the Koran.

We categorically state that hatred should not be published about anyone.

Please consider these words carefully, and I hope that a more tactful and reasonable decision will be reached by those in charge of the college newspaper.

Sarosh Arunkumar  
Student

#### Publication of any offensive material should be condemned

I recently was informed that you and your staff at the Courier want to publish the "prophet" cartoons in tomorrow's issue.

If I were you or part of your staff, I would highly suggest you think twice!

I understand that the Courier does have the right to print according to the Freedom of Speech clause affirmed by the Supreme Court of the

Unites States.

But I mean have you and your staff been locked away in a broom closet for the past year or so?

Have you seen how many people were offended and the outcome of this event?

Just because you can print something, doesn't always been you should.

Here at the college you should be promoting understanding and respecting other cultures and this is further dividing the student body.

I highly condemn anyone from publishing anything that would offend a country or its people.

Why can't we focus on the positive aspects of certain groups, instead of continuously dwelling on all the negatives?

And if you all at the Courier want to support that "negative aspect" deal, then why don't you publish other cartoons making fun of other groups.

Just because it has been considered "normal" and been "accepted" that Jesus Christ has been made fun of

### 'Letters' from page 13

and been featured in these types of cartoons in the United States, doesn't mean that other groups with their own religious figures don't get offended at all.

When I heard about the "Jesus Christ" cartoons being published and how he was depicted in an offensive manner, I, along with many other Muslims were offended.

No religion deserves such treatment.

I can't stop you all from publishing the "Prophet Mohammad" cartoons tomorrow, but at least I can "try" and open your eyes to how others feel about this sensitive topic.

I hope you all consider this as well as many others' feelings and opinions on this matter.

*Portia A. Shirani  
Community member*

### Printing cartoons is offensive, immoral

I am a student and I love the college not just because of its beautiful building and great facilities but also because of the faculty, staff, teachers and assistance that the students get here.

I don't see any kind of discrimination or racism in the college and I am a proud student of the college.

Now I heard some rumors that Courier is going to publish cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Even though you are allowed to do that but I don't understand why you want to do that.

The college is always being a nice place for all kind of people, why do you want to make it difficult for students.

Of course, after you publish these cartoons there will be hate in all hearts.

There will be hate among students for each other.

You will never see a peaceful environment in the college again. Have you ever read about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)?

If you read about him you will see that he was the most kind among all men.

He was a mercy for mankind. He even forgave his own enemies.

There is a lot I can tell you, but right now my concern is about the cartoons.

If you see it with open eyes, you will never do that.

This is not just offensive for Muslims, but it is also immoral.

It's not like if you have a freedom of speech you can do whatever you want.

You should be more concerned about other problems.

If you do a little research you will see that Muslims are not terrorists.

People say that Muslims also print cartoons.

Yes, they do, but they never tried to make fun of any religion with their cartoons.

I don't know what else to say. Nothing is coming in my mind but I hope, God willing, I won't see the cartoons in the Courier, not just tomorrow, but ever.

I hope Insha Allah people will realize that Islam is just for peace. Islam teaches no killing of innocent people.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was and is a Mercy to all the people. He united those people who used to kill each other. He taught them how to speak of good, how to smile. He stopped them to kill their own daughters.

He told us to respect your parents, neighbors and even your enemies.

You cannot compare Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to a terrorist who has nothing to do with Islam.

*Obaid U. Muhammad  
Student*

### Letters received after cartoons were printed last week

#### Courier's coverage showed integrity

I would like to applaud the Courier for having the integrity to inform its readers of "taboo" subjects, notably by reprinting the Danish cartoons that exacerbated religious strife throughout the Muslim and Christian worlds.

The freedom of speech must be upheld at all costs if we are to have an educated, objective, even if offensive, exchange of ideas to progress thought.

Furthermore, the constrictively inherent nature of religions' subjective standpoints must not be allowed to draw points of contention when concerning the secular, contemporarily educated world we live in, but instead be directed toward the enlightened thought of scientific theory, as opposed to the antiquated, religious dogma it presently relies.

*Michael Griffin  
Student*

#### Courier crossed line, ignored complaints

Publishing the cartoons is very wrong, and this is not "Freedom of speech" in any way.

The publishing itself of these pictures is called blasphemy, no matter what kind of reason you are to trying to portray.

I don't really care how educated you are, but you people, who are responsible for this, have no morals, and show no respect for other ideologies.

You were even told how that would offend Muslims, yet you still continued.

*Omar M Elbanna  
Student*

#### Cartoons weren't necessary to discuss issue effectively

Can there be anything more stupid than this?

If you use the same cartoons to show people how bad these images are which sparked anger in the Muslim

world, what will be the difference.

How can you explain the reason of being offended by offending the same group?

Haven't Muslim people come to you and ask you not to do that.

Didn't you think that you are going to offend them by publishing the cartoons?

I don't know what was in your mind. If you have a real answer let me know. If you don't, then don't worry about the answer.

Why can't we focus on the positive aspects of certain groups, instead of continuously dwelling on all the negatives? And if you all at the Courier want to support that "negative aspect" deal, then why don't you publish other cartoons making fun of other groups?

Just because it has been considered "normal" and been "accepted" that Jesus Christ has been made fun of and been featured in these types of cartoons in the United States, doesn't mean that other groups with their own religious figures don't get offended at all.

When I heard about the "Jesus Christ" cartoons being published and how he was depicted in an offensive manner, I, along with many other Muslims were offended. No religion deserves such treatment.

And the last thing is that you can always explain things with words.

Showing the actual cartoons to explain make no difference in this part of the world because who cares about the cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) when they don't care about the cartoons of Prophet Jesus (PBUH).

*Obaid U. Muhammad  
Student*

#### Facts, anomalies concerning Islam

The decision to publish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in the Courier, and to hear opinions on the same, without violating one's right to freedom of the press, is indeed a very bold decision. The west must now "stand up" for its faith, values and beliefs. No more pandering, no more timidity. No more "favorites."

The Arabic Islam is about 1430 years old, the prophet Muhammad being born in the year 580 A.D.

At 40, he was escort to a widow Khadeeja, whose uncle was a merchant and an Arab Christian. At that time, there were Christians, Jews and pagans, but no Muslims.

Muhammad married Maria, a Coptic Christian slave girl, who bore his son Ibrahim.

The Prophet Muhammad, died in the year 632 A.D.

Christianity failed in the Arab World in the absence of an Arabic Bible. Arab Christians stuck to the oral traditions of practicing Christianity, thereby resulting in tremendous patronage for the Arabic Koran, when it arrived. In the days of the Prophet, pagan Arabs wor-

shipped idols.

Muhammad tried to remove the idols from Mecca, but was driven out to the north, where he gained more followers for his beliefs.

He asked his followers to face Jerusalem for prayer as the Jews were in those days.

This came to be known as the old qiblah or old direction of prayer. He later returned to Mecca, removed the idols and asked his followers to face the New Qiblah or in the direction of Mecca (Chapter 2, Koran), a change criticized in the Koran with the verse "when we change verses they say he is an impostor."

The Prophet Muhammad misinterpreted the Christian's Sign of the Cross as Father, Mother and Son, instead of the "Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit." That is why he asks in the Koran, "Jesus did you tell your followers to take Mary your mother, as God besides God?"

Illiterate Muslims also claim that Jesus was a Prophet, even when it is a known fact that the Twelve Apostles of Jesus are "higher" in rank than all the prophets, teachers, prophesiers, etc... (Corinthians 1, chapter 12, verse 28).

Hindus will be surprised to find chapters in the English version of the Koran titled "cow," "elephant," "ant," etc... animals Hindus regard as gods.

A verse in the final pages of the Koran considers Muslims as "apostate" if converting to other faiths.

Beheadings and stoning to death are common on all Fridays in most Arab cities, and so also is adultery, both inside and outside the Arab world.

If Prophet Mohammed is not a cartoon, then what is he?

*Anthony Fernandes  
India*

#### Muslims owed apology

I was a student at the college a few years ago. I think the college is a wonderful institution. I got word of the recent publication in the Courier that was very offensive to Muslims.

I think that you being the editor should have more good judgment than to publish something in your paper that was extremely offensive to a billion people in the world.

I think that the Courier should take responsibility and apologize to the Muslim community in their next edition.

*Riaz Ahmed  
Former student*

#### Freedom of speech not absolute

The Courier has done a great disservice to the college community by reprinting the offensive cartoons.

The college should be a place where everyone can come and learn and not feel intimidated.

I do not believe that the Courier published the images

out of malice.

However, with the constant negative portrayal of Muslims in the media, Muslims on campus are going to feel that this is another attack on them.

If the Courier's intent was to uphold the freedom of speech, then it must realize that this freedom is not an absolute.

The Courier has the freedom to publish cartoons making fun of victims of the 9/11 attacks.

But should it, in the name of freedom of speech?

Doing so would offend the entire nation.

Similarly, these cartoons have offended the Muslim population because they attack Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who is very dear to us.

I believe that the press does not need laws to police what it prints, but it should practice self-restraint.

If the Courier's intent was to promote dialogue, then it chose the wrong time to do so.

Publishing the cartoons a week before exams and the end of the semester does not give students the opportunity to truly discuss the controversy created by the cartoons.

If the Courier's intent was to look sensational rather than like a professional newspaper that it should aspire to be, then it has succeeded.

*Zehra Kazmi  
Student*

#### Stealing papers destroys freedom of speech

Students, staff, faculty or other groups stealing newspapers because they believe they know what we should and shouldn't be reading is highly offensive.

Isn't that why the United States was formed?

So we could write about the king or president, the church or the government and educate ourselves.

It goes against everything that the United States was founded on, to censor publications in this manner.

We might as well be back in Nazi Germany, burning books by Jewish authors.

Better yet, maybe we should apologize to the Queen about the Boston Tea Party and pledge our allegiance to the crown.

Why is it that we are considered a nation with a culture and moral values that do not deserve respect?

I think they should publish the newspaper again.

I would be happy to put money toward a fund if needs be.

*Name withheld  
Staff member*

#### Cartoons tarnish college atmosphere

Publishing the cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is immoral.

The editor may have had said in the newspaper that he did not mean the enmity

see 'Letters' page 15

### 'Letters' from page 14

among the Muslims, but rather he wants to discuss about it.

For us Muslims, printing these kinds of deceitful cartoons about our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the college newspaper means an insult to him.

Every Muslim loves Allah and Muhammad (PBUH) above his/her parents, relatives, friends, etc...

An insult to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is also an insult to every Muslim in the world.

One cannot discuss about one's religion without enough knowledge.

The Courier wants to discuss the Muslim controversy of the cartoons, but the question here arises about whether the Courier knows anything about Islam or Muhammad (PBUH).

Without understanding how much Muslims are devoted to their faith, it is hard to understand why it would cause so much outrage.

The Courier should first do its homework about Islam and Muhammad (PBUH) and then it can inform readers about what it truly is.

The Courier Newspaper's policy states that, "The Courier does not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, handicapped status, veteran, or sexual orientation, nor does it knowingly print ads that violate any local, state or Federal laws."

Did the Courier follow its own policy?

I believe that the Courier should promote peace among the students rather than creating divisions among the student body.

The college is a place of education. In the morning on my way to the college, I used to feel that the trees in front of me would extend their branches like arms to welcome me to a beautiful place.

I would see the sunlight shining at me which showed me the light from which I would get great knowledge. Now, when I look at the college, it reminds me of a jungle with so many trees that have no respect for me.

It is very dark from inside and gives me no knowledge, but the knowledge that is not true.

After these cartoons, what do I expect from the College of DuPage?

*Ishrat Ali  
Student*

### Printing cartoons a publicity stunt

The current printing by the Courier of deliberately prejudice and hate filled cartoons has not only cast a shadow on your newspaper, but it has put shame on this college.

The only feasible reasons that I could think of for your paper printing these cartoons is either that you were desperately seeking attention or you advocate hatred towards Muslims.

A claim that these cartoons were printed for the support of freedom of speech would be irrelevant because most of the major newspapers in the area have not printed these cartoons and did not face any claims of suppressing the voice of the people.

Frankly, I take this as a ploy to gain some sort of notoriety as a newspaper that is rarely read by the students of this college.

If that claim is true then it is a shame that you have sacrificed your dignity as members of the press in order to get your fifteen minutes of fame.

You claim that the printing of these cartoons was not meant to incite violence or anger, but that is precisely your mission.

The more people react to your printing of these cartoons the more your newspaper gets acknowledged.

If a cartoonist had created a cartoon portraying Jesus as a child molester, which would not only offend Christians but would offend Muslims as well, then those cartoons never would be printed in the Courier.

The fact of the matter is that Muslims make up a small percentage of America and you feel that those percentages constitute the mockery of a religion.

Every person has the right to say what they want, but when it is presented to a diverse community through the only form of press then it becomes more than just an issue of freedom of speech.

I hope that you can understand when I say that freedom of speech does constitute the open support of bigotry, and bigotry is exactly what has been promoted by your newspaper.

*Tariq Badat  
Student*

### Cartoons cause former student shame

As a graduate of the college and a tax payer living in DuPage County, I was very disappointed with "The Sound and The Fury" article published on May 5.

I obtained my associate's degree in science from the college and graduated with a dual honor in 2004.

I am now a high school math teacher.

Up until this article, I was very proud of my two years at the college, but now I feel ashamed of every minute and penny I spent there.

Like every American, I am pro-free speech, but this great concept should not be used as an excuse to express offensive ideas especially after they have proven to cause troubling events.

In 1919, the Supreme Court devised a test called the clear-and-present danger test.

This test defines the limits of free speech.

It states that the government can abridge any expression that presents a clear danger to the nation's security.

These cartoons have caused problems in other nations.

Many people died because of them.

What more clear danger does the staff at the Courier need?

Every right has limits. I have the right to listen to music at my home, but when my music bothers my neighbors, I have to turn it down.

I cannot use the First Amendment as an excuse to express my love for music.

Now imagine me knowing that my neighbor is annoyed by loud music, yet I am still playing it.

What does that say about me?

This exactly what the board of the Courier did.

They knew that these cartoons would deeply offend the Muslim members of this community, yet they went ahead and published them.

I quote from Courier, "An unfortunate consequence of printing the cartoons is that they deeply offend a religious group whose members have done nothing to provoke or deserve this treatment, but the larger community needs to understand this issue."

So, in other words, to the board of the Courier, minorities can be offended as long as the majorities get to "understand the issue"

As a school teacher, the best advice I can give to my students at the end of their high school year is not to attend the college, because obviously, minorities are not welcomed nor respected.

*Mais Alrae  
Former student*

### Unable to obtain papers

Could you please send me two copies if possible of the Friday, May 5 issue of your student newspaper.

One copy will be for myself and the second if sent will be sent to a friend out in California.

I printed newspapers for 50 years and have always been interested in all printed materials. I ran the presses but was friendly with all departments including the editors going back to 1941. Loved every day of it.

*Jerry Maywald  
Community member*

### Papers hard to find

Please send me copies of the cartoons.

I have been reading about them for some time now, but never seem to be able to see them, yet we try and tell the world of all the freedom of the press we have—balls!

Each religion thinks it is the true religion and, brother, you better not say anything about it.

*Ray DuBeau  
Community member*

### Hiding ignorance doesn't dissolve it

I was able to snag a Courier before they got stolen. The cartoons amount mostly to ignorant stereotyping.

By stealing the newspapers, the muslim student organization has taken a stance to

defend their god against this criticism and bias.

But stealing the newspapers only takes the ignorance out of public view. Making the papers disappear adds credibility, secrecy, and intrigue to the ideas presented in the cartoons. It makes the muslims look like they have something to hide.

Chris Rock said, in Dogma, "I don't have beliefs. I think it's better to have ideas. You can change an idea. A belief is trickier." I've seen anti-Jesus cartoons, anti-Jewish cartoons, even anti-Buddhist cartoons. No religion, belief, or idea, no matter how deeply held, should be exempt from criticism.

Skeptical criticism can only translate to social progress. But, if you get criticized by the ignorant, you're wisest to turn the other cheek, not attack the opposing position. Give the ignorant enough rope to hang themselves.

I acknowledge that religion has an important purpose in human culture, but I caution all practitioners of religion that historically, a lot of blood has been shed because there is no better propaganda than "fight for your god."

No supreme being wants violence. If he does, then he's not worth worshipping. If your god says, "defend my honor in the eyes of ignorant humans" then god is a self-conscious wuss who refuses to fight his own battles.

*Name withheld  
Student*

### Courier staff likely uninformed about Islam

In the article accompanying the cartoons published on May 5, the Courier staff claimed that the purpose of the publication was to cover an event done at the college.

It also claimed that by the "unbiased" presentation of the subject, the newspaper will help its readers strike meaningful conversations and make informed decisions.

The college event your newspaper claimed to cover had only briefly covered the published images.

These cartoons made daily news headlines for over a month this year.

They caused peaceful and violent demonstration around the world.

International and economic relations between countries were negatively affected due to the publication of such work.

Anyone who has even a minor interest in the news had already formed an educated opinion about the cartoons.

Hundreds of conversations were struck about the subject on every campus.

Yet your staff seems poorly informed, or more likely, oblivious to these facts.

A true journalist knows that a picture is worth a thousand words.

In order to claim fair coverage, and unbiased presentation of the subject, the Courier staff should have presented the life and the work

of Prophet Muhammad in as many words as these false images present.

They should have attended and covered community events recently held by various Islamic organizations to better inform people of the life of Prophet Muhammad.

Surrounding these images with empty words is meaningless.

It is surprising that your group with the responsibility of gathering facts, investigating them, and presenting the truth in an unbiased way, made a clear and conscious decision to offend a religion and disregard what millions around the world hold sacred.

It is not surprising, however, that this group consists of no minorities, and made their decision behind closed doors.

*Yaser Roumani DDS MSD  
Community member*

### Courier has no defense for printing cartoons

First and foremost, the Courier should have never printed these cartoons due to their highly offensive nature.

The same Denmark newspaper that published these cartoons had earlier refused to publish cartoons satirizing Christ three years ago "on the grounds that they could be offensive to readers."

This clearly indicates that freedom of speech is not an issue when referring to this specific situation.

As an Americans, I respect the right to free speech as it is what enables me to speak up at times like these.

However, these cartoons ignited global fury by many Muslims.

In this country, and specifically at this school, publishing these cartoons was a sign of disrespect and lack of concern for the Muslims.

The Courier argued that its "hope in printing these images is not to incite anger or create news, but rather to cover a story and to allow for open discussion on this campus. This discussion is the only possible resolution for this controversy."

I agree that opening the lines of communication is the key to unlocking many of the closed doors that exist between Muslim students and other students and faculty, however I cannot, as an American who was born and raised in this country, understand how offending one side could possibly foster an open discussion.

I believe that it is perfectly natural to disagree with each other, as long as we respect one another.

Yet, by publishing these cartoons, Muslims cannot help but feel that it serves as a physical symbol of a lack of respect for Muslims and the Islamic faith in a time when initiatives should be taken to create peace and understanding, not conflict.

What's worse is that the Courier did this despite already being aware that it is

see 'Letters' page 16

### 'Letters' from page 15 offensive.

Freedom of speech is something that Muslims value in this country, however there are several ways to get around offending others, such as have having people write about their opposing viewpoints, and thus presenting people's opinions on the matter.

Despite several Muslim students talking to the Courier staff prior to the release of this paper, and using diplomatic means such as calling state legislators and speaking to the college president, the Courier still decided to publish the cartoons.

This incited Muslims to aggressively react to the paper.

Although I do not condone the actions of the Muslim students that followed the printing of these cartoons, and that there could have been perhaps a more effective way to respond, I would like to recognize their efforts in preventing this from occurring.

I also feel that other students should be able to identify with the Muslims' concern.

If a cartoon had been published that was racist, many would find that offensive.

These cartoons target the Muslim nation worldwide and should be treated with regard to their feelings and beliefs.

I hope that by writing this letter I am taking a step to help students and faculty understand the situation better.

*Shereen Yousuf  
Student*

### Student leaders respond to editorial

In response to the "Leaders Let Down Students" editorial published in the May 5 edition of the Courier, we, being the leaders criticized by the article, feel that there is a misunderstanding.

We are not a Student Government, we are Student Leadership Council.

We provide opportunities to enhance and develop leadership and communication skills to students willing to be involved.

By the same token, we, as the officers of this organization, do recognize our responsibility to represent the student body at college functions, such as Leadership Council, where we communicate with the administration and other constituency heads.

Though the forums provide a way to communicate with the President of the college on no doubt important issues, the forums were simply a way to continue discussion about the letter that Dr. Chand sent out.

This letter was not sent to the student body.

We feel confident that when issues arise, we have the appropriate outlets to handle them.

Furthermore, our numerous front page appearances obviously contradict the title of the editorial.

*Student Leadership Council*

### Editors promoted divisiveness

I write to you today because I wish to convey my deepest sense of anger, hurt and pain I felt when it came to my attention that the Courier chose to reprint and show the caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

There was a time recently where I was proud that our collective values and response to the European incitement in reprinting those defaming images, held strong where much of the U.S. press exercised prudence by not reprinting the cartoons.

The editors at the Danish paper, the Jyllands Posten, who first printed the disgusting cartoons hid behind their deep seated xenophobia (a common problem in European society, particularly in Denmark) by framing his decision on free speech.

Those images crossed all boundaries of free speech into hate speech, that was clearly meant to offend since as was the editor's main reason in seeking the cartoons in the first place.

All the talk about free speech by Mr. Flemming Rose, the cultural editor of the paper, rung hollow as well considering he chose not to offend the Christian community by not publishing similar caricatures of Jesus, three years earlier.

And when he said he welcomed cartoons of Jews and the Holocaust in response to a journalist's question, he was abruptly put on indefinite leave by his editorial department.

So in other words, the "free speech" mantra didn't apply when the targeted community was Jewish but was somehow acceptable when it was Muslim?

As another example, the British historian David Irving was sent to jail for three years for downplaying the number of victims during the Holocaust. That's three years for free speech!

In any case, I was deeply troubled by the college's student paper decision to indeed reprint those cartoons and show them to us, your readers.

The editors chose divisiveness over values that bind us together in citizenship and common humanity.

The editors, especially Ms. Kristina Zaremba live in a vacuum and don't see how much pain the cartoons mocking and lampooning a holy man of a particular faith have hurt the faithful the world over.

The paper chose to deliberately humiliate, unnecessarily provoke and offend the readers irrespective of faith (be they how small in number).

By choosing to publish those offensive caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed, the paper did insult me and your fellow Muslim readers, students, colleagues, and neighbors; and in the process did not serve to strengthen our nation.

*Tyler Johnson  
New Jersey*

### Courier didn't fulfill its commitments

The need to report the news is one thing. However, it is the duty of the paper to remember its responsibilities.

In the paper's own Policy, as reported on page 12 of the May 5 edition, it does "not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminated on the basis of sex, race, creed religion, color, handicapped status, veteran or sexual orientation, nor does it knowingly print ads that violate any local, state or federal laws."

This commitment is a responsibility. It also implies a commitment to the paper itself having responsibility and class. Classiness and respect for responsibility is what distinguish between the quality of world-respected newspapers and cheap super-market tabloids.

I understand the Courier's intent was to show the controversial images, knowing that the images were controversial, so that the audience could decide for themselves. They certainly accomplished that. But there are lines of respect that must be drawn.

I am not a Muslim. I am a Protestant Christian.

However, I celebrate and respect the worship of God. I fully acknowledge that every religion has its own viewpoint, and I believe that as long as that religion fulfills a believer's own spiritual needs and forms their relationship with God, then it is a good aspect of that person's life.

I simply believe that Christianity is the right path for me, but I do not think that any group has the right to decide the path for any other, even if they practice evangelism. I abhor the force-feeding of any belief.

The Courier fully acknowledges that the images were controversial, and garners respect with their careful consideration of the matter prior to printing.

However, the paper is still responsible for the images the staff chose to print.

It is true they were acknowledged as controversial. But that does not mean it was right to print them. Even as a Christian, I was greatly offended by the cartoons and the bias and degradation they depicted. I was also embarrassed for all non-Muslims that any one of them would behave in such a manner.

I respect the Courier's care taken regarding this issue. But rather than printing cheap material, perhaps a link could have been provided for those few curious people who get kicks from reading trashy, classless cartoons.

If people really want the quality of entertainment, news, and editorials to improve, then they need to stop producing and buying junk. The same goes with food. If people buy junk, they get junk because it sells.

It doesn't mean it's good or bad for them. It just sells. The reason it sells is because it's easy. If a group wants people

to respect it and its faith, especially in light of any admitted faux-pas (such as child molestation in the Christian Church, or corrupt religious governments) then they must act with respect and class towards other groups and do what they can to rectify any mistakes.

This is true of any group. It doesn't mean it would be easy. Behaving in a respectful and responsible manner isn't always easy. But at least it has integrity and class.

*Brianna Bono  
Student*

### Protest contradicts Islamic teachings

I would like to note the blatant logical misstep taken by much of the Muslim community in regards to these cartoons.

For one, they state that they view Jesus as a prophet as well, but where are the protests of South Park and other derogatory cartoons out there.

I mean no offense to Muslims, but Muhammad with a bomb in his turban pales in comparison to some of the images of Jesus and other religious figures.

While on the subject of other religious figures, why is it okay, according to the Muslim community, to satirize them, but not the Prophet Muhammad? They are asking for new laws to be enacted to specifically protect their religious figure, which I might remind everyone goes against the Constitution which states that it will not protect, promote or prefer one religion over another.

I have done a little reading on Islam, and on the Muslim culture, and I understand that these people come from totalitarian governments where the religion and government go hand in hand. That's fine, but in this country it doesn't work that way.

To be honest, I feel that many of the Muslims would be better off in those countries. I'm not telling them to leave, I just think they would be happier somewhere that Muhammad is protected, and us infidels are kept at bay.

Also ask yourself, if Muhammad was this gentle, compassionate and forgiving individual that you are in theory supposed to be emulating, why react by blowing something up, threatening harm and reprisal, or as has shown up this week, stealing newspapers to prevent other readers from possibly being able to formulate their own opinions?

The Muslim community is perpetuating the stereotypes themselves. They don't need anyone else's help.

If someone wants to separate themselves from the terrorist groups, they need to go on record and say that these actions are wrong, and publicly disagree with terrorist acts in all forms, even protest them.

If you want a true testament to the situation, I am withholding my name in fear of actions taken against me if I

were to have it there, and I imagine I am not the only one.

*Name withheld  
Student*

### Don't like it? Don't read it

I write this letter in anger towards those who have removed the May 5 Courier newspapers from their distribution locations. I don't usually speak in religious debates, but I was extremely irritated to see young men and women removing the newspapers and smiling at me after I told them not to.

Some of those protesters told me that the Courier was overstepping its freedom of press and speech, but in reality, removing the newspapers is trampling the freedom of press. I don't care the slightest bit about those cartoons, because they don't interest me.

The Courier purposefully has multiple sections in case the average reader isn't interested in the unfortunate loss of Coach Kazor or the completely misguided Future Financial Analysis. There are 20 some other pages (I can't tell you how many there are because I can't find a Courier to check) that people like me might have wanted to read.

The freedom of press effects more people than just the editors of the Courier. The freedom of press, or lack thereof now, affects the readers who want to know what's happening in their college. If the cartoons are so horrible to Muslim students and community members, then just don't pick it up. Why destroy everyone else's rights?

We have a right to think what we want and believe what we want, but we can't form opinions if we don't have the information, which might have been in the May 5 issue of the Courier. Just because an event deals with Muhammad or Jesus Christ, doesn't mean the media can't report on it.

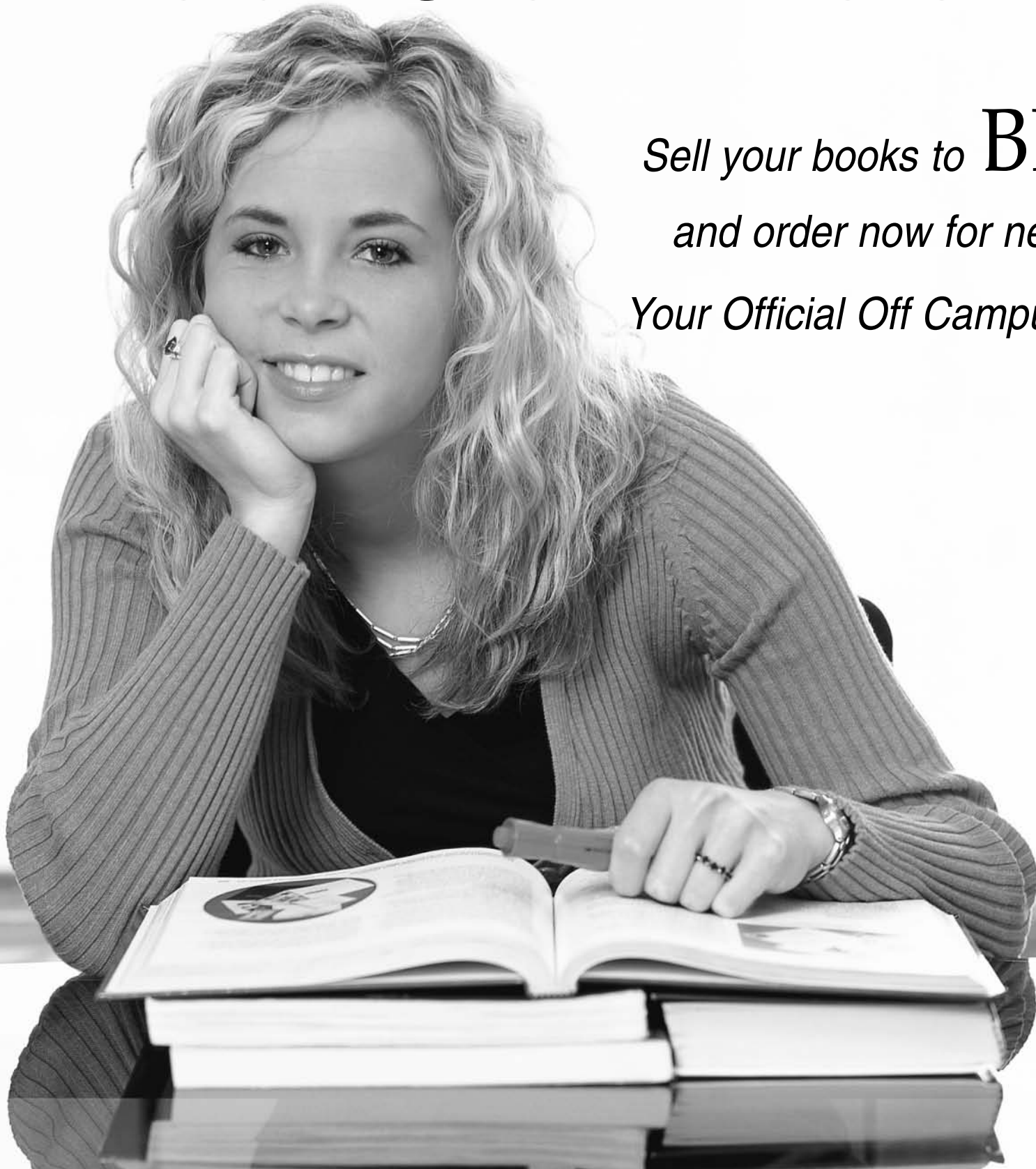
Here in America, we have the right to get an education and that's why all of us are here. Maybe those students and other community members who removed the Courier should act more like typical students and just go home after class or stay home and pay taxes like normal residents of DuPage County.

I withhold my name because I know there are many Muslims who don't act like the Prophet Muhammad and who commit acts of violence instead of turning the other cheek. So kiss my cheeks because though I can't give my name, I can still exercise my freedom of speech.

*Name withheld  
Student*

*Editor's note: Letters have been edited for style and length. The phrase "Peace Be Upon Him" when used by the original author has been abbreviated as PBUH. "SAW," short for "Salla Allahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam," will also appear as PBUH for the purposes of clarity.*

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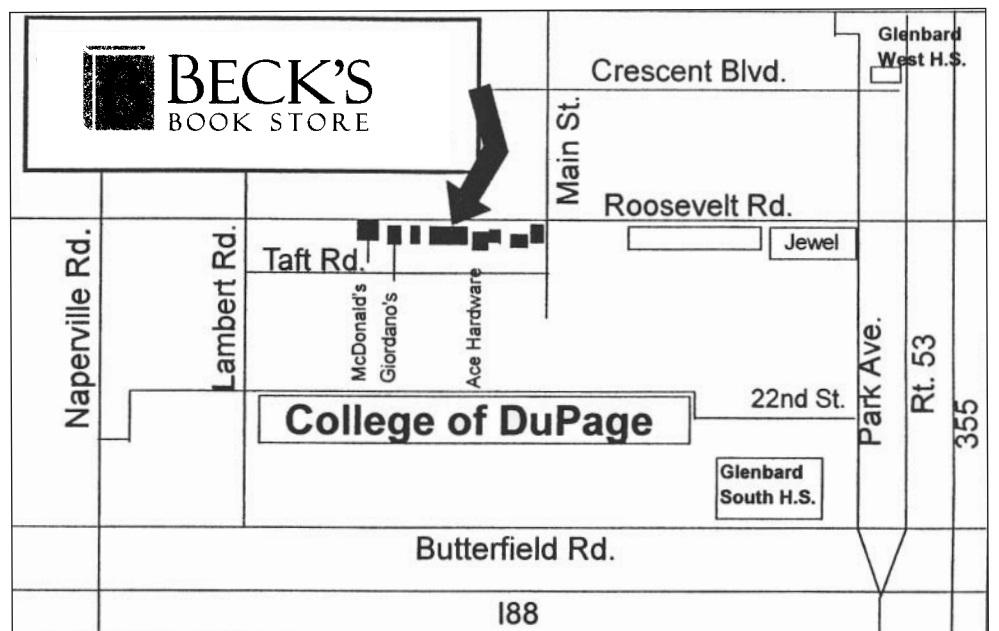
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