

# 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@cdnet.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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## What's in a name? That's not for you to know

It is the public's right to know who will serve its interests in public office. College Board Chair Mike McKinnon took away that right and has done a disservice to the taxpayers by delaying the release of candidate names that have applied to fill the remaining two years of Jane Herron's term.

Using very weak rationale that the Board should issue "courtesy calls" to the applicants before releasing their names, McKinnon has blatantly disregarded the rights and privileges of the very public he was elected to serve.

Furthermore, attempts to procure this information have been met with a series of brick walls to climb, each one a bit higher than the last.

How unnecessarily difficult has this entire process been? Here is a rundown of what the Courier has endured in an effort to receive a list of names.

On Friday afternoon before the deadline to file by 5:00 p.m. arrived, the Courier contacted Karen Neely, board secretary, to see if the Courier could get a list of the candidates after filing closed that evening. Neely said that she had to contact Board Chairman Michael McKinnon to find out if the Board wished to release that information. The answer came back swiftly—he did not.

On Monday, the Courier again contacted Neely to clarify that the Board's position was the same on Monday as it was Friday. It was. The Courier asked for legal proof that the information in question was not public information, and Neely said she would seek a response from the college lawyers and respond.

In the meantime, the Courier tried to contact McKinnon, but could not because he was in Washington, D.C. at a college-related conference and was expected to return Wednesday night.

The lawyers responded that the Courier would have to file a Freedom of Information Act form with the college and that the college would comply with the FOIA request.

Prior to filing the FOIA, the Courier attempted to contact the DuPage County Attorney's Office for legal consultation, but no one answered the telephone. The Courier then contacted the Student Press Law Center to receive further consultation and legal clarification.

The Courier spoke with the SPLC and subsequently filed two FOIA requests with Barbara Mitchell, assistant compliance officer for FOIA at Public Information, as previously instructed to do by Neely. Additionally, the Courier also attempted to contact Bill Troller, director of public information, but was unable to reach him. An unreturned voice mail was left.

The Courier remained in contact with Barbara Mitchell into the evening. Initially, Mitchell faxed over a list of candidates, but it was the list of candidates who filed for the two upcoming

board vacancies, not the list of candidates who filed to replace Herron. After contacting Mitchell to clarify, the Courier was told by Mitchell that she would try to contact Karen Neely and get the information if Neely was still in the office.

At 5:19 pm, the Courier received an email from Neely on a separate matter, which confirmed Neely was still in the office. The Courier contacted Mitchell to relay that information, but Mitchell was unable to contact Neely, and said she would try again on Tuesday.

Upon arriving to the office on Tuesday and finding the office fax machine was not holding the requested information, the Courier left a voicemail for Mitchell. Another call also was placed to Troller within the Public Information office, but again the Courier was unable to reach him. A second unreturned voicemail was left for Troller.

Early in the afternoon on Tuesday, a voicemail from Bill Troller was left on Courier adviser Cathy Stablein's phone. In the voicemail, Troller said that McKinnon and other board members were trying to contact the various names on the list to notify them that their filing is public information and that they

may be the subjects of future news stories. Upon doing that, the information would then be

released in accordance with FOIA rules and open records laws that require a response within seven working days. Still, the Courier has not personally heard from Troller.

After hearing that the Board had been consulted and were attempting to place calls to the various candidates to warn them, the Courier contacted Student Trustee Umar Farooq to determine whether he was in possession of the names, and if so, if he would supply the Courier with them.

He stated he would have to consult Board Chair McKinnon first, who he was with in Washington. The brief phone conversation ended at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, and the Courier did not hear back from Farooq.

As of deadline, the Courier has not been supplied with the list of candidates to replace Herron. With the FOIA filed on Monday afternoon, the Board is not required to respond until Wednesday.

One has to wonder why the Board forced the public to scale so many walls for this information.

Why does the Board feel the need to give "courtesy calls" to candidates who surely must be aware they filed for public office?

Unfortunately for the taxpayers and the student newspaper, the clock is ticking on this time-sensitive information, and with each passing day, the amount of faith anyone can have in the Board and the college dwindles.

## Staff Editorial

## Since 9/11, has security in America gone too far?

### PointCounterPoint

Airplanes violently exploding into buildings. Sky-scrapers crashing down from the sky. People watching in horror as thousands die in a burning inferno. Lest we forget the tragedy of 9/11, we need to keep rallying for newer homeland security measures. Undoing our current system only invites terrorism back to our front door.

Imagine countries such as Northern Ireland, Spain, Sri Lanka, and Israel who are exposed to regular intervals of terrorism. Yet they have learned to successfully cope with bombings and armed assaults for decades. Their children still walk to school, adults go to work, and people go down to their local café. They refuse to allow it to affect their daily lives. In fact, we've taken some major lessons from these countries and rewrote the book on the delicate balance of personal liberties and

homeland security, and without going all out totalitarian on our citizens' rights.

Furthermore, we have been lucky enough not to have another major terrorist attack since 9/11. Believe me, the terrorists have tried. Which means our homeland security and aggressive anti-terrorist policies work.

Minor annoyances such as taking off your shoes at the airport or sweeping policies like restricted immigration are just small sacrifices to our safety and prosperity without diminishing our daily quality of life.

By now, the reality of terrorism as a threat has become imprinted on the consciousness of almost everyone. It's only a matter of time before the public adjusts to this new "Post-911" reality for this generation. In due time, the extra security will end. And in the long run, America will be safer because of it.

We let ourselves become fearful of cartoon advertisements; every speck of white powder on an envelope stops the mail system; we don't care when our calls are bugged and when grandma receives a body cavity search at the airport. It has been decided that the loss of the rights our forefathers fought and died for, worth dying for, is a bearable loss as long as we are more secure.

Congress won't even let themselves talk about a war resolution, because talking might "Embolden the enemy." Is there anything that shows we are weaker than letting our fear keep us from talking? Democracy makes us less secure?

So please understand these security initiatives are making us less secure. We were safe back in the day when other countries liked America; they

gave us information on our real enemy's, valuable intelligence.

No one wants to help us now, so we monitor everyone, gaining a sea of useless information. Good information has become the needle in a haystack.

We let Bush make up any law he wants, while disregarding hundreds. But it is all in the name of national security, and we go along with it, we want to feel safe, we even make our own Constitution not worth the paper it is wrote on.

We have gone so far we forget that we were oppressed before. We forget we fought against the King of England when he had ability to make any law he wanted.

But America doesn't deserve freedom, or democracy; "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." -Benjamin Franklin

Researched by Jason Retuta, Graphics Editor

Researched by William Martin, Features Editor

PointCounterPoint topics are selected, researched and written by the staff of the Courier and aim to reflect differing opinions on the same subject. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the author.

# OPINION



*“What is the first thing you’re going to do when it’s nice outside?”*

**Scott Stocchero, 18** *psychology, Wheaton*  
 “I’m going to smoke a cigarette in my car with the windows open, I can’t wait.”

**Amanda Campos, 18** *english, Saint Charles*  
 “I’ll probably go to the Morton Arboretum, it’s my favorite place to go.”

**Tarah Sperando, 22** *advertising, West Chicago*  
 “I don’t even know why but I’ve been craving tennis so I’ll probably do that. I’m not even a big tennis player.”

**Ken Smith, 19** *mass media, Darien*  
 “I’ll probably wash my car, it’s been a long time since I’ve seen it.”

**Sean Bannon, 19** *psychology, Naperville*  
 “Hopefully spend more time outside, it’s been a pain being stuck inside.”

## In Your Words

### Letters to the Editor

#### SLC and Board must take action

I, along with a few colleagues of mine, spoke to the Board of Trustees at last Monday’s Committee of the Whole meeting. We did so because we have valid and respectable concerns that were not being expressed by our elected officials, the Student Leadership Council. I think there are other students in the school who could benefit from our example. Both the Board and the SLC are two entities within the college that are elected to represent and make ethical decisions, of which neither group is doing to the best of their capabilities. I had gone to my student leaders’ weeks before my statement to the Board. I even called them 45 minutes prior to attending the meeting and they told me that they would not attend. Former Trustee Jane Herron resigned for a good reason. At least the Courier and News Editor Jordan Glover devoted countless

hours and an entire section to Herron’s situation. Maybe that’s a sign that our student leaders need to get involved too. What Herron has implied and what her resignation symbolizes should be a red flag to all of us that our money and future educational opportunities might be at risk. While sitting at the Board meeting, we listened to the trustees and vice presidents talk about money, fund accounts, and buying desired materials. However, we didn’t hear anyone imply or discuss improved learning capabilities, student comfort or if students would be capable of paying higher tuition. In fact, when Dr. Ryan came to the SLC meeting on Tuesday, he admitted that the number of faculty members, adjunct faculty and classified personnel will be reduced and tuition money will be added into the operating fun to maintain these new buildings. So why are we getting rid of educators when we’re creating new building with new jobs and new opportunities to educate students? In fact, if tuition



continues to rise, there will not be enough students wealthy enough to enroll in the classes for which these new buildings are being constructed for. It would be beneficial to the students if questions were raised about certain decisions that involve the SLC and Board of Trustees. This is an educational institution whose expenditures seem to keep rising for an undisclosed reason. Maybe it’s time for the College of DuPage to reinvent itself as a learning college. After all, the college’s mission statement does uphold educational values. Are we still on course with that educational mission or the mysterious finances of this college?

**Rick Kambic**  
 Voting Member of the Student Leadership Council

#### Student body drives like idiots

I must assume that, since all of you who drive have a driver’s license, you must have passed the Illinois Driving Exam, correct?

So why are we all driving and parking like idiots? I am appalled at the lack of attention to stop signs, parking signs, etc.

I have witnessed so many drivers going down the wrong aisles, driving on the wrong side of the road, taking up four or five parking spaces, and causing accidents, just by not paying attention to what they are doing.

Especially now, when the weather is at its peak for accidents, we need to be most cautious.

So please, leave the cd player alone and put down your cell phone, at least until you leave school grounds. Be safe, not sorry.

**Sarah Jean Bresnahan**  
 Woodridge, IL

#### Taxes and income inequality

In a recent Congressional Joint Economic Committee report, data showed virtually no change in U.S. income inequality, while 14 million more Americans have been added to those getting a free ride paying nothing. It also shows that the top 50% of taxpayers pay 97% of income taxes. The top 5% paying 54%. The top 1% paying 34%. In addition U.S. corporate taxes remain at historically high levels with the 2nd highest rate among industrialized countries.

So, why the carping by liberals about income inequality and tax cuts for the rich? To get elected, build a bigger centralized government and gain power---what else! The democrats know that if they take from Peter (the working and the successful) and give to Paul (either the non-working or the non-successful); they will get the support of Paul. And if they create enough Paul’s, in a majority ruled democracy they win.

That doesn’t mean there aren’t some issues regarding income inequality. Where actual income equality is a problem is where education is lacking.

However, since 2001 education spending by our federal government (the most inefficient and ineffective place school funding should come from), has surged 50%, the largest ever in that time frame. A surge democrats don’t seem to complain about since almost all of that goes to a government monopolistic system, whose results continue to deteriorate, run by unionized government employees, who vote democratic.

Consider all this next time you hear democrats saying we are not paying enough taxes for them to spend.

**Kim Rogalin**  
 Chicago, IL

#### iPod legislation to reach Chicago?

I was browsing the Internet when I an article titled "Gadget Fans Slam iPod Ban" caught my attention. Supposedly, New York State Senator Carl Krueger is trying to pass a bill that would make the use of iPods (and other electronic devices) while crossing the street illegal. His reasoning: three unlucky pedestrians were killed in his Brooklyn district because they weren’t paying attention to traffic.

He can’t be serious, right? If we, as free Americans, choose to don iPods or talk on cell phones or fiddle with Black-Berries and step in front of a moving bus, we deserve to get run over by a moving bus. We don’t need to legislate every aspect of our lives. I mean, if electronic devices get banned, what’s next? No eating while crossing the street? No intense conversations with a friend because it might lead to an argument? No chewing gum?

I think it’s ridiculous. A \$100 fine for listening to your favorite CD, talking to your girlfriend on the phone, or checking the Cubs score on the go? And it doesn’t even guarantee your safety because you’ve got tons of people behind the wheel doing the same thing.

I don’t think anyone is going to be up for this. However, if it does pass do you think we can expect something similar in Chicago?

**Matt Hopkins**  
 La Grange, IL

*Be heard.*

Write a letter to the editor.

Send an email to: editor@cod.edu