

EDITORIAL

CourierPolicy

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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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Smoking shelters a step backward

Installing smoking shelters on campus would bring no real benefit to anyone and their very existence would only serve to conjure echoes of a "been there, done that" attempt at regulation that was later unceremoniously dropped by the college.

Smoking shelters are but one option that will be examined by a College Leadership Council sub-committee, but it appears to be a popular option. It should be treated as anything but.

Against smokers

Smoking shelters would presumably be the only place smokers could gather, which would give the impression that smokers are second class citizens and should be shoe-horned like a flock of sheep into a glorified pen for adult addicts.

Against everyone

Aesthetically, smoking shelters look like glorified bus stops. Some are nicer than others, but there's no place they could be placed within the campus landscape and not look like an eyesore.

Against smokers

Not only would smokers be required to smoke in specific locations, but they'd be forced to find the locations as well.

Health insurance is just like auto insurance: if you do not have it, you are a liability to the society around you. When someone totals someone else's car and has no insurance, the other person is out of a car and out of a big chunk of money. That's why we have insurance laws in Illinois requiring all motor vehicles to be insured with a minimum amount for damages and medicals costs.

Some may say that an individual not being insured does not result in loss for the people around them, but that thinking is far from the truth. When someone has an unexpected injury, the expense can be huge.

Let's say that someone without insurance suffered an injury resulting in a loss of their job, as well as a medical bill over \$100,000, with future medical care necessary for

Many years ago when COD last tried smoking shelters, the lone shelter was located in a makeshift refuge by the loading docks. If a smoker were in the far corners of the IC building, it would take longer to reach the shelter than it would to actually smoke.

Against everyone

Purchasing and installing smoking shelters will cost more money than enforcing the existing smoking policies.

Who will pay for the shelters? Whose budget will the cost of smoking shelters come out of?

A better option than installing smoking shelters would be to enforce the existing policies already in place. If everyone obeyed the current policy (or felt that they had to), smoking on campus wouldn't be as big of an issue.

Even though Public Safety and others have said the majority of smokers comply with policies, anyone who has had to push past a group of smokers hovering around the entranceways knows that it is not true.

Installing smoking shelters would not be tackling the issue head on. Until the college decides what to do, enforcing existing policy is the first step to take.

Staff Editorial



Sheila



Scott



Tiffany



Brandon



Margo

"Would you eat cloned beef?"

Sheila Voss, 19 *physical therapy, Lombard*

"If you couldn't taste the difference and it was genetically the same as other animals I would."

Scott Beardsley, 22 *TV/Film, Aurora*

"It's really mind of matter so I don't think it would bother me."

Brandon Nalls, 19 *undecided, West Chicago*

"Probably, if I didn't know it was cloned."

Tiffany Porter, 19 *graphic design, Elmhurst*

"It wouldn't matter to me as long it was the same thing and it tasted the same."

Margo Vesely, 19 *law, Woodridge*

"No, I try to eat organic foods and just doesn't seem like it would be safe."

In Your Words

Is Gov. Rod Blagojevich's plan for health care a good thing?

PointCounterPoint

Health insurance is just like auto insurance: if you do not have it, you are a liability to the society around you.

When someone totals someone else's car and has no insurance, the other person is out of a car and out of a big chunk of money. That's why we have insurance laws in Illinois requiring all motor vehicles to be insured with a minimum

amount for damages and medicals costs. Some may say that an individual not being insured does not result in loss for the people around them, but that thinking is far from the truth. When someone has an unexpected injury, the expense can be huge.

Let's say that someone without insurance suffered an injury resulting in a loss of their job, as well as a medical bill over \$100,000, with future medical care necessary for

them to be able to regain the ability to work. Who picks up the slack: hospital users or taxpayers? The answer is both.

Because the uninsured cannot get the future non-emergency medical attention they need to go back to work, they will be subsidized by taxpayer money. Also, the hospital has to raise their prices to make up for the losses that they face by people not paying their large medical bills.

Governor Blagojevich's new plan would make it possible for residents to have affordable life insurance. A family of four making \$45,000 a year could get a subsidized policy for \$2,250 per year, \$13,000 less than a conventional policy, while people living below the poverty level would not have to pay premiums. If the plan takes effect it would allow medical coverage to be affordable once again, for everyone.

Yes, there is a problem with Illinois' health care system, but no, the governor's new plan is not the solution to it.

The plan calls for a universal health care system available to everyone that would be funded mostly by taxing businesses each time they got paid for goods and services.

Would this plan give 500,000 a chance at having health care?

Maybe, but at what cost?

Ultimately, the burden for paying for this new law could be passed on to consumers through higher prices for goods and services as businesses attempt to recoup money lost to these taxes.

The current system we have, while flawed, would be better than paying higher prices.

For people living below the poverty line, the government would offer subsidies to help pay for the insurance.

According to a recent article

in the Chicago Tribune more than one million Illinois residents would get the subsidies.

For those without insurance after this plan goes into full effect, they would be face fines and probably have to pay higher taxes.

So people that can't afford health care would have to pay higher taxes. Who does that benefit?

So we are taxing the poor for not having insurance, all as part of a plan to help get the poor insurance.

Those 500,000 still need health care but shouldn't the governor come up with a plan that actually works?

The governor should address the real problem and overhaul the entire healthcare system instead of making taxpayers bend over backwards and pay higher fees to businesses.

We would be better off with what we have in place already.

Researched by William Martin, Features Editor

Researched by Russell Augustine, Photography 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

Letters to the Editor

Students need to act their age

There I was, sitting in my lecture hall class, listening to my Intro to Visual Arts teacher explain how wartime images via the media affect the political views of Americans, when I became infuriated.

My anger was so great that I was physically shaking and had to keep myself from walking out of the classroom.

Why was I so angry?

The last time I checked, COD was a college. Regardless of whether or not its student body is made up of university dropouts, returning mothers, or recently graduated high school seniors, it is still a college. So why are we acting so immature in our classrooms?

Why do some professors feel the need to lecture us on proper grammar, raising our hands before we speak, or even writing our names on our assignments?

This being my third year of college, my first year taking place at NIU, I feel somewhat more inclined to point out the juvenile behaviors going on in our classrooms. When viewing a picture of an Iraqi detainee, forcibly nude and in the middle of being tortured, it is not the time to make snide remarks about his personal hygiene, his "deserving" of the action, or trying to twist the situation into something satirical. Besides the sheer disregard for any kind of civil decency, you never know who you could possibly be offending.

Acts like these are not only disrespectful to your fellow students, but also your professors.

How would you feel if you spent hours preparing a lecture on a topic you thought interesting or valid, only to have some 18-year-old constantly mocking you in the middle of your presentation? And they are not just doing it quietly in their seat. They are being loud, encouraging their fellow students to join in.

I don't care what was allowed in high school.

I don't care if you mock your teachers or fellow students outside the classroom.

I don't even care if you approach me in the hallway and say I'm "full of it." Keep it out of the classroom.

Though a junior college, this is still a college. You are here for a reason, and that reason is to learn. In the words of my parents, and probably yours as well, "act your age."

Sarah Jean Bresnahan
Woodridge, IL

Al Gore and global warming

Al Gore, talk-of-the-tinsel-town, and his ilk aren't telling us an inconvenient truth. 80% of the energy the world uses is carbon-based and will remain so for decades, regardless of how many billions of dollars Hillary wants to pillage from the profits of successful American energy companies, which of course would make them as successful as the current American automobile industry, compliments of the Democrat Party supporting unions.

But I digress. There is no magic substitute for carbon-based energy just around the proverbial corner.

So, enacting Al Gore's Hollywood backed plan would only result in energy blackouts, dramatically more expensive energy and a serious drop in all of our standards of living.

Oh, and notice that the richer we get the cleaner we keep the environment. DUH! Oh, and China to Al Gore, "lycee-nuts to you, we're gonna keep building one coal-fired electrical plant a week."

Oh, and there is no scientific consensus that HUMANS are the source of any possible global warming, NONE, unless you don't count the 17,000 scientists (see the Oregon Petition) who disagree with Al Gore.

But then, maybe their voices are just lost in all the applause Hollywood is giving their new savior, lord Al Gore.

Kim Rogalin
Chicago, IL

I'll never let them forget

I will never forget the day that one of my closest friends left for Marine Corp boot camp. After he left, I sobbed so hard that my body shook. It was the kind of cry that almost sounds like a scream. It scared me to think that he might not come back.

The thought never crossed my mind that he may not be the same person when and if he returned, both mentally and physically. I knew that he would be different, because he had to do a lot of growing up in boot camp. I understood that the things that he may have liked or laughed at before no longer would hold the same importance as his newfound soldier mentality.

While I worried about what to wear the next day, he now worried about living and protecting his fellow comrades and his country. I was scared that he might not ever be able

to relate to me again. I remember telling him a story about something that I was going through at that point and was upset about and I'll never forget his response, basically telling me that he had bigger fish to fry, than dealing with my college drama. At first it seemed like he was belittling my feelings, and saying that my life and what I worried about was insignificant to his. In reality, he was trying to get me to understand what each Soldier goes through and just how many bigger problems there are out there in the real world. Many arguments later and after watching the ABC special, "To Iraq and Back: Bob Woodruff's Story," I began to grasp just how much I had miscalculated the gravity of the situation our Military members are in over in Iraq. The special was about ABC News Anchor Bob Woodruff and about the turmoil he went through after suffering a near-fatal brain injury when he was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device, while embedded in a military platoon over in Iraq. When the show ended I realized just how selfish and sheltered I have been, and it really bothered me. I couldn't stop thinking about how materialistic I had been and what I could do about it. It really frustrated me that we only hear about the numbers of soldiers that are killed in Iraq, never about the ones that are injured and just how critical their injuries are.

Naively, I allowed myself to believe that because I had only seen on T.V. the number of soldiers that are killed over there each day, that there weren't any soldiers who were over there that have suffered extensive brain trauma or any other number of injuries. That fact in itself really illustrates just how much my generation relies on television, and how big of a television junky I am. I imagine that there are plenty of other people out there who are just as secluded from the harsh reality that is Iraq right now, as I am. I am not writing this article for fame, fortune, or even for a thank-you, I am writing it because I owe every freedom that I have to the men and women who are or will be over in Iraq, and they deserve to have civilians understand what they are going through and never forget their stories.

Regardless of how you feel about President Bush or the War in Iraq in general, watching "To Iraq and Back," should have made a huge impact on everyone, no matter what race, religion, gender, or political view, you have. As I watched and saw these Sol-

diers who have been injured by IED's and survived, I could not even begin to understand what kind of work that they had in store for them just to return to the person they were before they were injured. These men who suffered brain injuries, much like Bob Woodruff's, could no longer get up out of bed without the help of their family members, they could not walk without someone holding them up, could not eat on their own and some of them could no longer speak.

These soldiers had to relearn every thing that comes natural to the average person. As disturbingly ironic as it is, these men and women lost their own personal freedom, while fighting to allow us to keep our own. A statistic that really stuck with me after watching the show was that of the 1.5 million Soldiers, that are in Iraq or will go over there, 10% of them will suffer some kind of brain injury. Generally 10% doesn't sound like a lot, but 150,000 is a colossal number especially when describing an amount of people that have been or will suffer mild to extensive brain damage.

To say that this is unfair is an understatement. As I watched Lee Woodruff, Bob's wife, talk about how she would ask Bob's doctor daily, if Bob was still going to love her when he woke up, I began sobbing again, that same cry that I cried when I had to say good-bye to my friend when he left, I could not imagine having to say good-bye to your husband forever.

I was capable of crying like that for Lee Woodruff and her family, because I could place myself in her shoes and imagine those exact same words coming out of my mouth, had I ever been in her situation. People who oppose the War say that our Military Personnel chose to enlist knowing what they were getting into when they signed up. If you believe that you couldn't be farther from the truth.

I have many friends that I went to school with who enlisted in different branches of the military, and 9 times out of 10, when I asked them why they wanted to enlist they said, "To protect my family and friends, and to protect my Country." They didn't sign up to have IED's thrown at them, or lose their lives, limbs, or own personal freedoms. They enlisted because they are brave, giving, selfless people, who truly want to protect everything they hold near and dear.

Not only is it completely wrong to say they knew what they were getting themselves into, it's incredibly insensi-

tive. Figuratively speaking, when you strip our Troops down to the core of who they are, they are mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, grandchildren, etc, and more than that, they are human beings. Imagine being a family member to one or multiple of these amazingly generous individuals, and getting that phone call saying that they had been shot or killed, imagine having someone hand you a flag that was folded up, as they lowered your son or daughter's casket into the ground.

Put yourself in their situation and then tell me that they knew what they were getting into when they enlisted. If you still believe they knew what they were getting into when they enlisted, go tell someone you know who has a friend or family member in the military, that you believe they asked for what they got, and then if you survive the wrath of their words or worse their actions, really think about who you are upset with, the Troops or our Government?

Bob Woodruff inspired me to write this, and after I told my friend who is in the Army that I was writing this and that I was worried it would never be anywhere near enough to what he and all our Armed Forces do for us, he told me how much it meant to him and how great of a thing I was doing. He convinced me that even just writing this will make our Troops feel like at least some of us civilians, will never forget their stories and their true intentions behind enlisting.

So this article is for our amazing United States Armed Forces, you will always be in my heart and as long as I am still majoring in journalism and writing, I will never let anyone forget who you are and what you are going through, thank you so much for everything that you do, and please come home safe for all the people that love you.

I will never forget the Bob Woodruff special and even though I am only a college journalism student, I want to do whatever I can to help make other people feel and see the truth about what is going on over there.

We live in a generation where it's every man and woman for themselves, Social Darwinism, eat or be eaten, but the men and women of our Armed Forces exemplify that even though that is what we have been trained to believe, that is simply just not the case.

Katie Martin
Aurora, IL