

EDITORIAL

CourierPolicy Courier put under pressure

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.

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.

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 Tuesday before publication. E-mail letters can be sent electronically to editor@cod.edu.

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

All letters represent the views of their author.

The Board of Trustees has publicly, and frequently, been critical of the Courier's content and accuracy. We appear to have struck a nerve.

As editors, we are student journalists, not professionals at metropolitan dailies. Yet, we are flattered to be compared to the pros. However, we feel that a proposed board policy on student publications appears to go against constitutional press and student rights, and a new Illinois Campus College Press Act is threat to freedom at College of DuPage.

To protect our rights and the quality of our journalism experience we were forced to react to the proposed policy by verifying our rights with the Student Press Law Center.

We are concerned in particular by one sentence in the proposed policy (Under Policy No. 20-100 regarding Student Publication) stating, "The College President will be responsible for overseeing student publications." This alarmed our rights as a student newspaper because never before has this been stated under the student publications policy and it cannot be found in any other college policy. More alarming is a violation to the Illinois State Public Act 095-0580 known as the College Campus Press Act that states College of DuPage (including the college president) is immune or not responsible from any lawsuit arising from expression... we are responsible. Secondly, what does "oversee" mean?

It is implied the president has oversight of everything at the college, but why is it so boldly stated in the proposed policy regarding student publications?

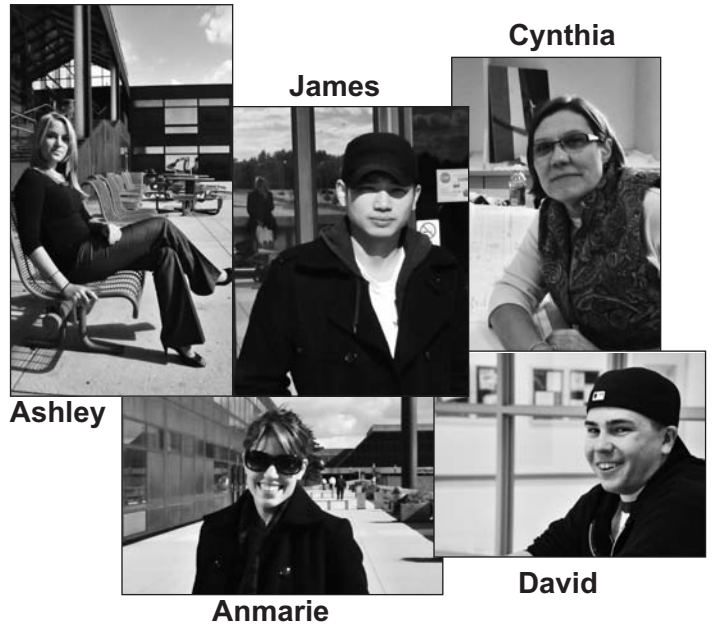
This question sent Trustees Kory Atkinson and David Carlin, and the editorial staff in a circular discussion this week. Trustees claimed that they want the president to know that he is responsible for everything at the college, including student publications, despite what the CCPC says. In return, the Courier questioned the strange placement of the statement and the contradiction to the CCPC. In return, trustees claim they just want to remind the president he is responsible for the oversight of everything that goes on at the college.

The Student Press Law Center replied to our concern by stating in a letter, "We think it is unlikely that the Trustees ultimately will approve this change. As explained below, the change would be of no benefit to the College but would potentially expose the president to legal liability that does not now exist; once the Trustees have reviewed this proposed change with legal counsel, we do not believe the College will make such a foolish and self-destructive decision."

After a two and half hour discussion with Trustee Atkinson and Carlin, Carlin declared that he would advocate taking the sentence out, but Atkinson believes the sentence should remain. Atkinson and Interim President Harold D. McAninch believe that the Courier is reading too deeply into its actual meaning, that it is not to harm us and that no change to our publication is intended.

We do not read words as if they have no meaning, especially in a policy. We fight for our students' rights and human rights. We are fighting for the sentence to be obliterated.

Staff Editorial



Ashley

James

Cynthia

Anmarie

David

What is the least important presidential election issue, and why?

Ashley Wilson, 19 *business, West Chicago*

"I don't think that there is one that is not important. I don't really care about their personal issues, like what they did when they were 19 or 20-years-old or the slandering that they are doing."

James Monteverde, 27 *nursing, Naperville*

"The war is important, the economy, health care and taxes... it's all important."

Cynthia Milota, 49 *Interior design part time instructor, Glen Ellyn*

"Abortion. I think that there is a lot of things going on in the county that are more important."

David Vana, 24 *education, Wheaton*

"Probably the economy. People who got in trouble, got in trouble because of their own wrong doing. The government is not responsible with our money, we are."

Anmarie Pizzoferrato, 25 *nursing, Wood Dale*

"I think that they are all important."

In Your Words

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Should young adults get a flu shot?

PointCounterPoint

Most people don't want to be that annoying person with the flu constantly coughing, sniffing and spreading their miserable condition to others. But no matter how hard our efforts, we end up getting sick during the winter flu season. As young and healthy adults, getting a flu shot makes complete, responsible sense. It's not a vaccine tailored for children, elderly or immune suppressed. It's a preventative for anyone who wants to avoid suffering of themselves and others.

According to the statistics from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention Center, getting a vaccine reduces the chances of getting the flu by 70 to 90 percent. Within the U.S., 20 percent of the population may be infected every year; an estimated 36,000 peo-

ple die annually from influenza. Spread by the general public, it takes more lives than any other disease that could be prevented by vaccination.

Economically, getting vaccinated is also to your advantage. Some studies indicate savings of \$13.66 per person in over-the-counter medication purchases. Income potential is also regained by working students, eliminating the need for unpaid sick days. Medical check-ups and those unfortunate to be hospitalized causing more economic burden could be avoided. Academically, you could save yourself a drop of grades due to missed lectures or important deadlines.

Isn't that worth the extra bucks and a tiny shot in the arm to get vaccinated?

Yes

The flu vaccine, although beneficial to those who need it, is not necessarily something that young people should concern themselves with.

First, young people have a strong immune system that can protect them from the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that children up to the age of five should receive the vaccine as well as mature adults 50 years of age or older.

Certain exceptions apply to young adults only if they have long-term health problems or weakened immune systems.

Second, the flu shot strain may not protect the person to all strains of the virus. Each year scientists from around

the globe study the current flu outbreaks and try to guess what strain the virus may mutate into.

Then they develop a strain similar to their predictions and create a vaccine in hopes that it will be the one that surfaces during the flu season.

According to my doctor, last year scientists were only 45 percent on target, which means that not every flu vaccine is as effective as the one developed the year before.

Third, receiving the flu vaccine can result in experiencing flu-like symptoms, such as fevers and body aches. What's the point in getting the vaccine if it could potentially make you feel like you have the flu?

One will end up calling in sick to work and staying in bed anyway.

No

Researched by Jason Retuta, Graphics Editor

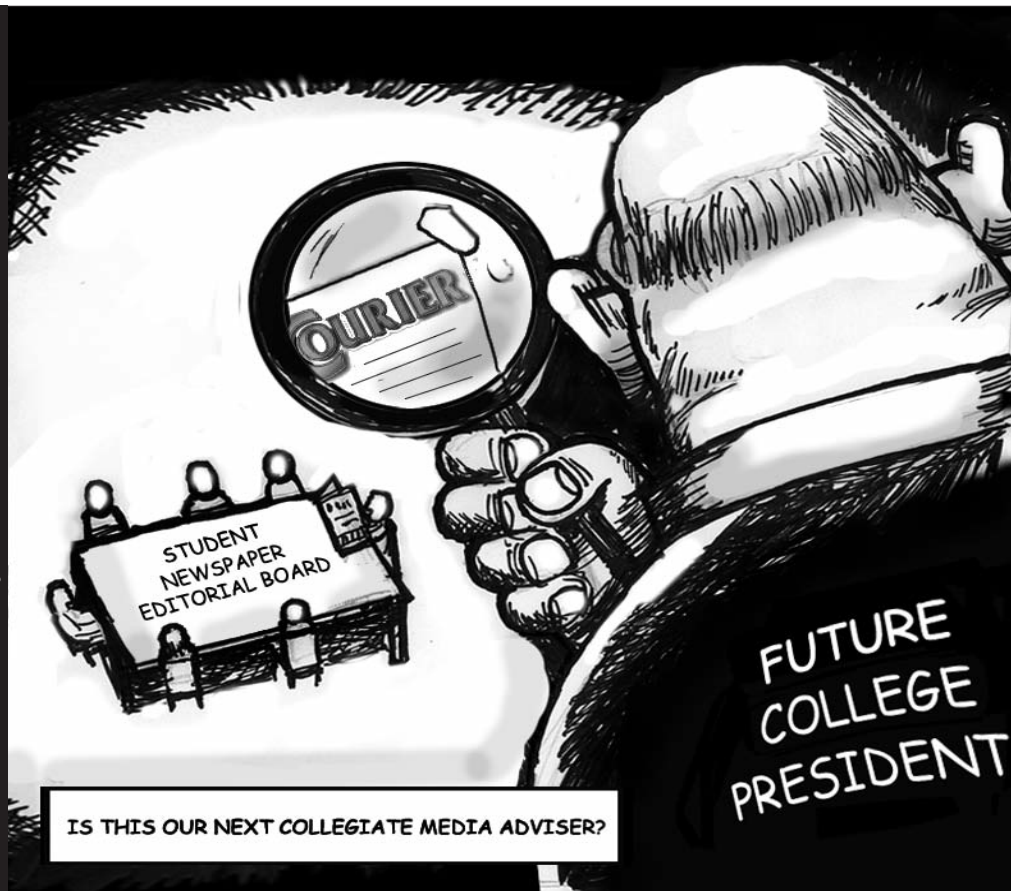
Researched by Juan Graza, News Editor

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

Editorial Cartoon

by Jason Retuta



Dear Editor,

Keep 5715 alive

New policies should make things clear and more understandable. We, as elected representatives of the student body, already find two specific instances of where this does not happen within the proposed Policy Manual that Trustee Atkinson presented at the last board meeting held Monday, Oct. 13, 2008.

The first instance lies within the Student Publications Policy. Under the proposed policy, "The College President will be responsible for overseeing student publications." It can be argued that the College President does oversee student publications such as the student newspaper as he does all functions of the college and this is merely stating the obvious. If this is truly the case, why is this statement specifically added to just this one policy? Why not add that statement to all policies, or better yet, add that blanket statement once at the beginning of the manual?

Instead, we believe that this is essentially controlling the student publications and the students' freedom of speech. It will only scare students away from voicing their opinion and taking away what little outlets we do have for expression of our voice, like the Courier.

The second instance is with the removal of two key sentences from the current Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy. Those sentences are:

- 1.) Students are encouraged to participate in the development and review of College regulations and policies.
- 2.) Disciplinary actions other than those requiring dismissal should be remedial rather than punitive.

Does this mean that stu-

dents will no longer be encouraged to participate in the development and review of College regulations and policies as clearly indicated by the formation of over 120 new policies without our consideration? Does Atkinson favor punitive instead of remedial actions? The questions are numerous, but most importantly we ask what are the intentions of Atkinson and his fellow trustees as they change the core of what students value at C.O.D.: freedom to learn and grow.

This statement is in full support by Student Leadership Council, Phi Theta Kappa, The Courier, Prairie Light Review, Forensics, Chaparral and the Program Board.

- Student Leadership Council

Sexual response

For a couple of weeks now, there has been a discussion about whether or not homosexuality is immoral, whether homosexuality is related somewhat to bisexuality, bestiality, and sado-masochism, and so on. What really bothers me the most is when I read all of Mr. Lela's editorials, I want to cry. Why, because he is hitting me and countless other homosexuals on campus straight to the heart. Perhaps this is Mr. Lela's goal. Well, Wayne, you did it. You have succeeded in your goal to get the GLBT community angry, once again.

I remember when you and your HOME group (for those of you who don't know what that stands for, it's Heterosexuals Organized for a Moral Environment) came to COD one year ago. At that time, I was Vice President of the Pride Alliance. I stood there and talked to one of your cronies for a while, hiding the fact that I was gay, and just listened to pure hatred and

utter lies. I had to help with crowd control because you were angering so many people. Why do you come to COD? What purpose does it serve?

Furthermore, I realize the first amendment of the Bill of Rights falls into play. The right to free speech and the right to assembly: The two that you abuse every single time you come on campus or write an editorial. Is it your idea that to pursue chaos is to help your so-called cause? Would the KKK or an anti-Muslim group be allowed on campus? No, and you know why? Because racism is a hot button issue these days, and we even have a black man running for President of the United States.

But the one thing you seem to get away with is the one thing that isn't as important to many Americans. The GLBT community seems to get hit a lot worse these days, what with Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church blaming the NIU shootings on gay people, and for his protests at Matthew Shepard's funeral after he was murdered for being gay. This kind of hatred makes no sense, to hate someone based on your own personal beliefs. "God Hates Fags", he says. Well, if you look in the bible, it clearly states that God doesn't hate anyone, that we are all created in his image. But to take this to a more religious perspective, I am a gay Catholic. Although the Catholic Church does not condone homosexual activities, but according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it states that: "They did not choose their condition and they must be accepted with respect.

All unjust discrimination must be avoided. They are called to do God's will and to unite their sacrifices to the Lord's sacrifice on the cross." Also, Pope John Paul II stated,

"Persons with homosexual inclinations possess the same inherent dignity as everybody else." Even the Catholic Church disagrees with you, Mr. Lela!

That, although the Catholic Church feels that it is not to be condoned, it feels that all homosexuals should be accepted nonetheless. And that's something that even amazes me, being a Catholic and a homosexual for my entire life. Jesus said to love everyone, no matter what. The golden rule says it all: "Do unto others as you would have them done unto you." Would you want gay people to start attacking heterosexual people? I hardly doubt it.

But I realize that that means nothing to you, being that your arguments are purely secular. But, take into consideration everyone's feelings about this topic before you go on ranting about with your misguided and illogical beliefs to the rest of the world. Look at the world, Mr. Lela. It's changing constantly. Research is growing, and soon your findings will be outdated and even overruled. In fact, more positive findings clearly outweigh the negative ones you have sought after.

-Tim Urso
COD Student
Aurora, Ill

Last sexual response

If Wayne Lela was ever to be read by Cristian Gil, a mere high school graduate with an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), Wayne Lela would find it does not require a College professor to dissect the logical fallacies of his Oct. 17th letter. And if I ever had the pleasure of grading that letter I would assign it a well-deserved F.

I applaud Mr. Lela for astutely recognizing the subject was sexuality. I only realized this after reading the title of the section. Again I thank Mr. Lela for writing five very succinct sentences on the nature of sexuality, which I will inadequately paraphrase into "there are varying sexualities." Although Mr. Lela master redundancy he fails to realize that heterosexuality is also a form of sexuality. By his logic morality (or immorality) lies in the categorization of concepts to loosely connected traits. So it seems that heterosexuality and pedophilia (both are sexualities) are either both immoral or both moral. For the sake of the children I hope Mr. Lela's logic is flawed.

Another great thing to note is that propaganda is only truthful when there exists a majority of agreement. This places the two percent of gays (albeit that's 130 million of the world's population) at a severe disadvantage. That scientific two percent cannot possibly contribute any com-

elling evidence for their case for they are simply the minority. Except truth is not determined by popularity under any logical method.

It's true that many homosexuals (and heterosexuals) believe there is a genetic link but this only demands acceptance and not a moral justification. If Mr. Lela wished to attack the moral claim, it would be advisable that he attacks the actual moral claim. Science, as Mr. Lela realizes is not the handmaiden of morality but if science teaches us their sexuality is their nondestructive nature then ethics must teach us to practice tolerance. I concede that a lot of animals have genes that predispose them to certain behaviors. Some of these behaviors are unacceptable to humans because they can reason and empathize, animals cannot. Because we are capable of more "sophisticated" thought we could reason that rape causes profound emotional harm and homosexuality merely annoys the intolerant, homophobic and most religious groups. I agree that they deserve our understanding but I do not agree with Mr. Lela's method of categorization. Mr. Lela has failed to logically establish homosexuality is logically immoral. All he has suggested thus far is that there are biologically based behaviors.

Homosexuality is obviously a form of sexuality. It refers to a specific set of sexual desires. These are the desire for love, acceptance and sexual gratification albeit from a same-sex partner. These desires do not humiliate, violate, or desecrate any other sentient creature. Homosexuality is no more "immoral" than intensely desiring to eat cauliflower.

Gays are fully aware that their desires cannot by any function result in reproduction. This is also the case for infertile heterosexual couples. Shall we then deem the couple's reproductive organs a mistake of nature and strip the couple of their choice to practice their sexuality? Does consensual sex become immoral the moment reproduction is impossible? Many of these infertile and gay couple would be delighted to raise an adoptive child; shall we also refuse their charitable desires?

Although I'm sure Mr. Lela, like any other human, could ramble on and on about his opinions and interject logical fallacies intermittently, I can only critique those I have had the pleasure to read. I hope I can greatly improve Mr. Lela's critical thinking by granting him an F. Mr. Lela, Never miss an opportunity to learn from your mistakes.

-Cristian Gil
COD Student
Naperville, Ill