

# 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 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.

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## We can be leaders of green

Last week's Campus Teach-in on Global Warming Solutions offers a great opportunity for COD to become a leader in green technology. We'd like to recommend three ideas to go greener.

There needs to be stronger encouragement of professors to use course management systems and e-books to save paper.

The college also needs to use less energy during all breaks by balancing the temperature and turning off lights in unnecessary areas.

Finally, the college should consider water conservation efforts with the new construction.

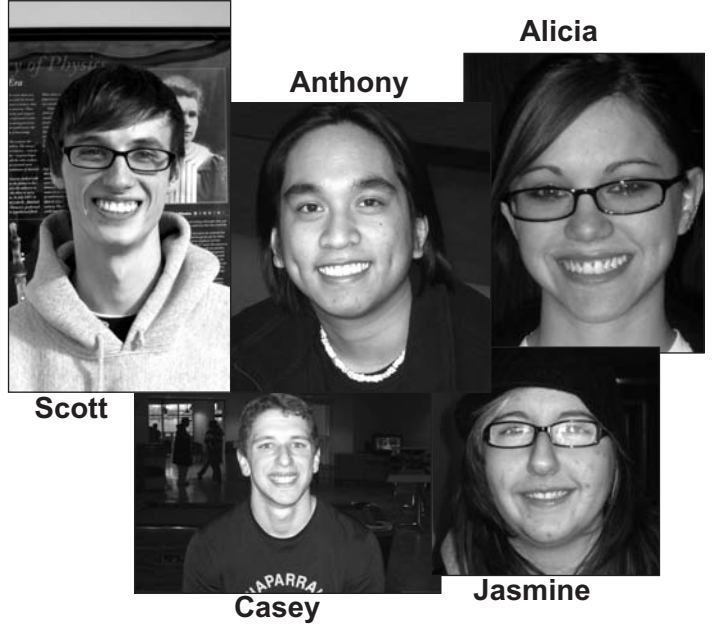
We want to laud COD on its many green initiative over the past few years. The current college Catalog has 328 pages of course listings and general information with 50,000 printed copies at a cost of \$75,450. The upcoming spring Catalog will be cut to 25,000 copies at a cost of \$52,775. The cut in copies was not only green, but also a cost effective way to encourage students to use the online Catalog to decrease paper waste and cost. But the college can do more by increasing and enlarging paper recycling bins located in the BIC hallways. The bins are small for the 30,000 students who discard paper and are currently using paper bins to trash their bottles and cans. Another cost

effective, eco-friendly initiative is reducing the energy the college uses during Winter break. Few students and faculty spend their break in the confines of the college so it was decided that lights and heating would be reduced or shut-off in some areas. The college will partially close selected facilities Fridays and the weekend over the summer term. The temperature will rise a couple notches to save energy. This should be done during the Spring Break and other longer periods.

The MAC renovation took advantage of reducing energy used for each toilet flush through a special handle motion for liquids or solids. The upcoming renovations to the BIC should include such toilets. The talk of these eco-friendly toilets is on going, but it hasn't been put into the final blueprint. We would like to give kudos to the designers for working with The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or for short, LEED. The program is certified and nationally accepted in design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Finding out how much money is being saved to be green is hard to calculate and the college can't measure it accurately, but in the long run, the amount of money spent will suffice for the energy saved.

## Staff Editorial



## Is the media being too critical of record setting olympic swimmer Michael Phelps for smoking pot?

**Scott Hixson, 21** *history, Downers Grove*

"Yes, he made a mistake he apologized for it and what he has done with his life is pretty amazing. But I would rather see him get gold metals instead of smoking his bong."

**Anthony Dela Cruz, 18** *undecided, Addison*

"I think so. He is human and humans make mistakes. We're just holding him to it because he is an athlete."

**Alicia Anys, 20** *elementary education, Elmhurst*

"I think the media is being too critical. I feel that it's not as big a deal as everyone says it is."

**Casey Tatar, 19** *history, Glen Ellyn*

"Yes, because he is a normal college student who does normal stuff at college parties. It's hard to maintain a high profile and be a role model for other athletes."

**Jasmine Jamehdor, 19** *sciences, Wheaton*

"Everyone does it, so they are being too critical about smoking pot. At one time people in the '60s did it and some parents may have done it when they were younger too."

## In Your Words

## Are the new Illinois DUI laws too harsh?

### PointCounterPoint

**T**he root cause of DUI accidents are the addicts and alcoholics behind the wheel, yet this law doesn't help them.

The law Illinois enacted forces a person to install a Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device in their vehicle.

Now not only are personal records damaged because of an unwise decision but also convicted persons will pay in a multitude of ways.

The new law requires a person take a Breathalyzer to start his or her car, however drunk drivers could convince a sober person to blow into their machine.

While there are ways around the system, a convicted person cannot avoid the fines. A first time offence of a DUI is \$1,000, the second time is a maximum of \$10,000. The cost to install the BAIID is \$100, monthly rental is \$80

and monthly monitoring is \$30.

Not only does a person lose their privilege to drive, but they also lose thousands of dollars in fines, court fees and the BAIID.

But whom are we trying to save with this law? Is it the innocent victims or the alcohol abusers, because both parties deserve pity? Organizations like Mothers

Against Drunk Driving are pushing for these laws yet lack compassion to addicts that have succumb to sucking the bottle day and night.

Pushing a drunk off the road could lead to accidents on the train or on a bike. If Illinois is going to enforce strict drunk driving regulations they should also look into more effective programs for recovering alcoholics.

### Yes

**H**ow you do tell a family that a drunk driver killed their loved ones? In 2006 there were 1,254 traffic fatalities in Illinois. Of those 540 were alcohol related deaths and of those 540 deaths 444 incidents involved a driver with a blood alcohol content or BAC or .08 or higher according to alcoholalert.com. That is too many. On Jan. 1, 2009 the drunken driving laws were updated again but it is still not enough. According to 1800dialdui.com the new law will require either a breath alcohol ignition device or BAIID installed in the vehicle or an alcohol-monitoring ankle bracelet or SCRAM during a six or 12-month period. The cost of installation of the BAIID can range from \$750 to \$4,500.

### No

This type of monitoring is all well and good but it just doesn't last long enough. If a person wants to drink they will find a way. Whether it means cheating the BAIID or the SCRAM or just ignoring all together they will drink.

Another argument that people give is that a DUI will ruin someone's reputation. Now that is true and there are

repercussions to it for some people it just doesn't matter.

How many celebrities or professional athletes have been either pulled over or involved in an accident because of drinking. Kiefer Sutherland who was arrested last year for another DUI had to go to jail for only 30 days and this was after a previous DUI bust. This is a prime example of people wanting to drink and not caring about the results.

Researched by Shannon Torii, Editor-in-chief

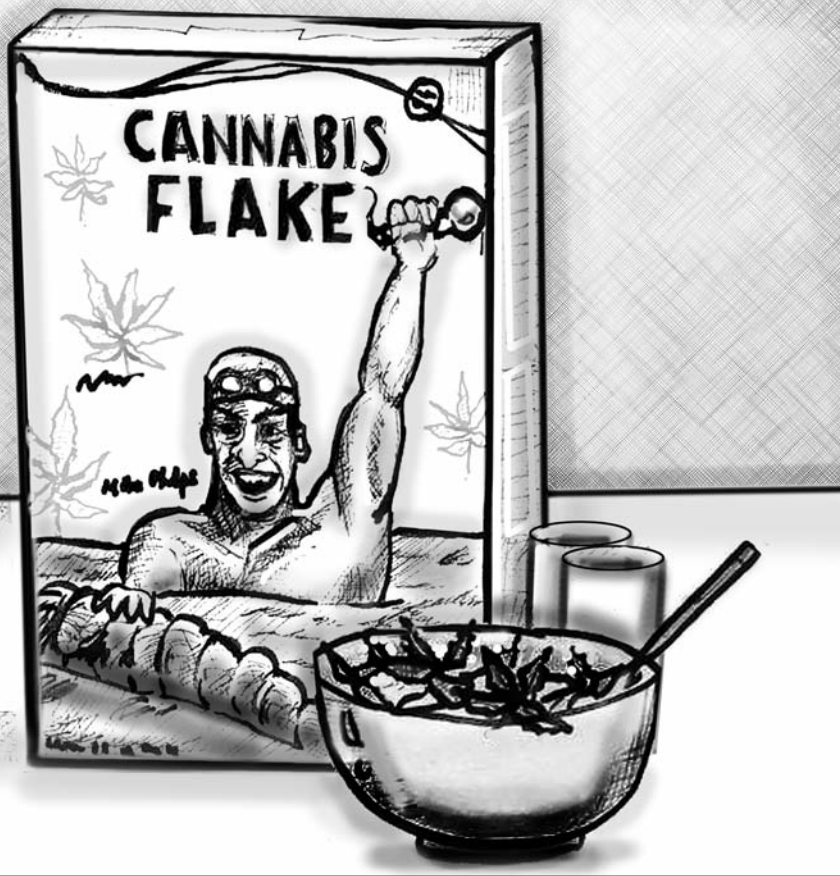
Researched by Alex Glas, Features Editor

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

## Editorial Cartoon

Jason Retuta



## Dear Editor,

### Defending Objected Candidates

Due to the vagueness of the statute that dictates the formation and constitution of the Electoral Board (10 ILCS 5/10-9), the formation of the two separate Electoral Boards was at the advice of legal counsel. Due to the unique circumstances surrounding this election (two different terms, which they are considering to be two different seats), there is a lack of precedent and no clear direction with that specificity.

The College attorney established two separate Electoral Boards, one for each term. The E.B. for the 2-year ballot would consist of M. McKinnon as the Chair (with a note that he withdrew from this ballot), Board Secretary Kay Neely and Kathy Wessel, as the elected Board member with the longest length of service. The E.B. for the full term ballot would consist of M. Nowak as the Chair (also a note stating his withdrawal from this ballot), Kay Neely and Kathy Wessel. The hearings were scheduled to take place last Tuesday at College of DuPage. Candidates with objections filed against them were served by a county sheriff with the time and location. **Paragraph 5 states:** The education officers electoral board to hear and pass upon objections to the nominations of candidates for offices in school or community college districts shall be composed of the presiding officer of the school or community college district board, who shall be the chairman, the secretary of the school or community college district board and the eligible elected school or

community college board member who has the longest term of continuous service as a board member.

Statute requires "electoral board" to review objections for "offices." A good argument for one Electoral Board to review the objections for the two different "offices." If law were carried out to the letter, literally, it would require one Board for both offices. This finding was looked over by an attorney (although not an election attorney) and agreed that action must be taken to ensure that the law is carried out. Statute would dictate one Electoral Board for both offices, and any and all candidates on either ballot would have to be excused from serving on the Electoral Board.

Some feel that this action is a weak attempt to maintain control over an election to serve either partisan or personal interest. It seems clear in light of the petty nature of some objections to candidate petitions, as well as shoddy research and inaccurate claims that member(s) of the board are weakly concealing agenda. Acting in violation of public statutes are yet another example of actors who believe themselves to be above the law to exploit and ignore systems which would seek to protect the college.

At this point in time, College of DuPage has a responsibility to maintain its credibility. For the sake of the students and the staff, the faculty and the taxpayers, it is time for actors in this process to verify that personal vendettas do not lead to negligence.

-Ivana Miljic  
COD Student

### In Response to Horowitz

The fact-challenged professor responds. Incidentally, David, the name is Richard, not Robert; but that's okay, it's not always easy to keep facts straight. First let me say that we agree on one thing: those websites are repugnant. However, I fear that the rest of your diatribe is perhaps misinformed by your not going to the original source, my statement to the Board of Trustees on Jan. 12, which, if you care to listen, is available courtesy of streaming video on the COD website. An investment of three minutes may serve to set things straight.

My utmost concern is for the image and reputation of the College of DuPage and, indirectly, as a member of its faculty, myself. Yours, on the other hand David, after years of futility, is to be able to claim some sort of "victory" by getting any institution, regardless of need, justification or consequences, to adopt your academic bill of rights. My point to the Board of Trustees on the night of Jan. 12 was to suggest that the publicity on websites of such questionable nature, engendered by its flirtations with the ABOR, was highly undesirable. I would go further to say it was deeply embarrassing. Let me be clear that at no point did I suggest that you had written directly for those offending websites. Nor did I mention Whores and National Guard Ladies, intriguing as that sounds. The point is these websites and their links betray the character of some of your supporters. It is that distasteful association I urge the Board to distance the col-

lege from.

You seem to take great umbrage at my interpretation of the opening sentence in your fund-raising letter announcing a "major victory for conservatives, Jews, Christians..." Incidentally, David, we got a bit of a chuckle from this "major victory" occurring in one of the most conservative, church-going communities in all America. If, as you claim, ABOR would benefit all students, then why not simply say so: "a major victory for all students?" Is it because you are playing to your fan base? Of course you are. By appealing to conservatives and Christians, do not be surprised when the likes of Mr Jingo, Mr. Gunslot and the others that identify with those groups, like it or not, pick up the banner. They serve to spread the word, free of charge, as I am sure you know full well. Please don't play me for a fool by insisting that the "name a few" includes all other groups, when you are championing a campaign exposing "Islamofascism," which foment the kind of

fear and paranoia that ensures the continued harassment of American citizens at airport security based solely on their appearance.

Finally to dress the wound that neither Professor Higgins nor I understand standards of fairness, while I concede that maintaining an attitude of scrupulous fairness can indeed be challenging, I refute the notion that embracing ABOR is the only way to do so. While Mr. Atkinson refers to "anecdotal evidence" of unfair treatment of students, no documented cases have come to light through established procedures. Here we differ, David. Anecdotal evidence may be meat and drink to you, your campaign being characterized by victimized students that melt away like the morning dew, and incidents of academic unfairness that are either grossly distorted or entirely fictitious. Me, I prefer to deal in facts.

Richard Jarman, M.A., D.Phil  
(Oxon)  
Associate Professor of  
Chemistry

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## Be heard.

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