

EDITORIAL

CourierPolicy

Culture of knowledge

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.

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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 SFC 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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As the college begins a new semester with another new president, a climate of anxiety, fear and lack of respect is evident, but our culture remains nurturing and helpful in pursuit of higher education.

We have a rich culture of knowledge and people who come from every ethnic background in search of educational success. It is a culture of community-involvement, hard working students and award winning faculty, staff and students.

The difference between our climate and culture should not be confused. Yet President Robert Breuder has said his number one priority is to change our culture toward a more positive one. He should not change our culture, but instead work to improve our climate, starting with the proposed policy changes.

The looming gloom in climate is caused by unnecessary pressure the Board has placed on the college by rewriting its entire policy manual. Breuder has submitted his revisions of by revising, deleting and adding passages suggested by many faculty and staff.

As contrasted against the board's first revisions, Breuder's changes reference the original proposed policy with cross-outs and original policy numbers. It's impossible to determine all the behind-the-scenes collaboration that made this second revision happen, but it appears that the board and adminis-

trators heard the voices of reason.

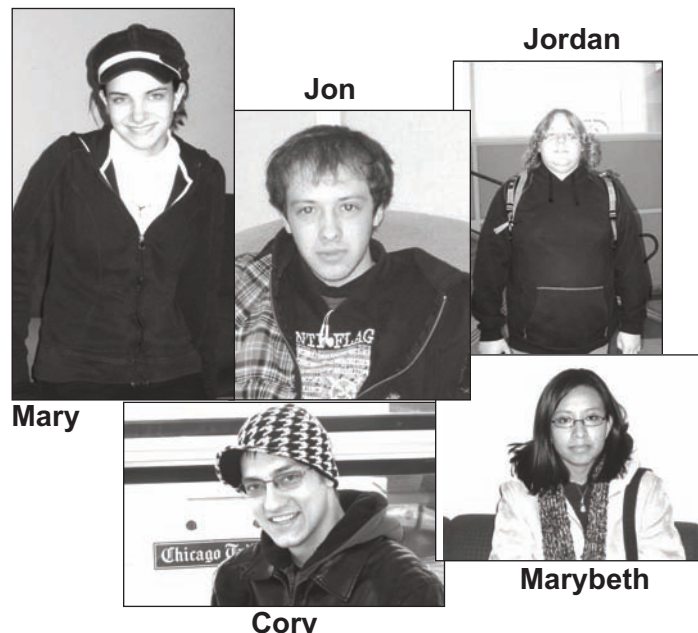
Some of the changes include a deletion that states the college will support students' rights of free expression and replacing it with words from the policy as it stand now, "Students do not surrender their constitutional rights..."

The student publications policy now complies with the Illinois College Campus Press Act, deleting a line about the college president's oversight authority.

But the Academic Freedom/Instructional material was not changed and is revised to include part-time faculty as well. Revisions show that he does not agree completely with the original proposed policy. Only the Board has the power to implement the revisions Breuder is suggesting.

Sensible decisions that directly affect faculty and students are needed. In a recent e-mail, Breuder declared that severe economic conditions of the state government and overall state economy necessitated a hiring freeze at COD. Two days later, he e-mailed a notice to lift the B4 directive (masters degree plus four year's experience maximum hiring placement for full-time faculty). If the college will experience a hiring freeze, it doesn't concern anyone if the B4 directive was lifted. Before he decides to change COD's culture, President Breuder must understand it. While our climate may be one of anxiety and fear, our culture is still one of educating students.

Staff Editorial



Mary

Jon

Jordan

Cory

Marybeth

What are your habits to keep up your grades this semester?

Mary Kukla, 21 *music performance & education, Naperville*

"Getting home at an appropriate time to do homework, taking notes in class and turning to my friends when I need help."

Jon Frodin, 20 *programming, Naperville*

"Showing up for class, keep up with homework and going to get help in the support center if needed."

Jordan Cramer, 19 *photography, Glen Ellyn*

"Do homework even if its not required, study more and take better notes to help for a better understanding of the material."

Marybeth Fernandez, 19 *architecture, West Chicago*

"Study, keep reading the books and to keep up with the homework. No procrastination."

Cory Simons, 20 *film development & editing, Warrenville*

"I will continue working toward my career, to study, and see if I can get an internship in a movie production."

In Your Words

Is Illinois the most corrupt in politics?

PointCounterPoint

Illinois is the most corrupted in the United States. One former governor in 2006 George Ryan is in jail because was convicted on 18 counts of racketing.

Corporate Crime Reporter has stats that rank the 35 most populace stats by corruption and Illinois is sixth.

One FBI from Chicago states, "if Illinois isn't the most corrupt then Illinois is one hell of

a competitor" this was a response in with in sync of the current Governor Rob Blagojevich. Between 1997 and 2006 Illinois had 524 convictions according to the Corporate Crime Reporter.

A poll was conducted on December 10, 2008 out of 1,699 votes Illinois came in first with the stat of 47 percent. Chicago is the hometown for many infamous

criminals such as Al Capone, Baby Face Nelson and now with a former Governor George Ryan in jail and a Governor Rod Blagojevich who faces impeachment from the Senate, Illinois tops the charts on corruption.

Corruption is doing something you know your not allowed to do, but you mange to do it but in the most extreme way, and

maybe to get more money this way or to improve your social status. Either way our politicians are getting caught or they risk abusing their power to advance themselves in already high status position.

It's wrong for politicians to illegally go under the table to make a buck.

Still research shows that corruption is all around us and will be going on for a while.

Throughout history, politicians have been corrupt, from New Jersey to North Dakota.

Louisiana, not Illinois, has held one of the highest rankings for corruption by the *National Civic Review*. Corporate Crime Reporter, a publication that used 2007 Department of Justice statistics released another ranking by total number of public corruption convictions per

100,000 residents. It listed Louisiana first, followed by Mississippi and Kentucky. Illinois was ranked sixth, with 4.68 convictions per 100,000 residents. When based on number of guilty officials from 1998 to 2007, Florida had a total of 824 convictions, followed by New York with 704 convictions. Illinois came in 7th with only 502 convictions. Therefore, in

three different rankings, Illinois has not reached the coveted first place. According to Michael Johnston, a political science professor at Colgate University, several items contribute to corruption. One is the political culture, in which smaller competing cultures try to dominate each other, much like rival families would. Next, politicians have

witnessed corruption their whole lives and just expect it to always be there. In conclusion, all states are at risk for political corruption. The public, however, tends to hear about those events that occur close to home.

In fact, we have no idea which state is the most politically corrupt. So far, Illinois has not been ranked number one in any statistical ranking, even though it seems to be working on it.

Researched by Amanda Kral, Photo Editor

Researched by Maureen Mladucky, Graphics 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



“Just a little contract I had drawn up so we’ll know where we stand—”

Dear Editor,

A plea to the Board of Trustees

I am writing to express concern about the proposed COD Board Policy changes. As a teacher at COD, I am worried that these policies would abruptly end my ability to teach students in the best ways possible.

Teaching is a process of helping students “try on” different ideas. What students ultimately decide to “wear” is largely a question of preference and style, of course, but college teachers are not able to do our jobs if we have to hide a variety of options in a back closet, even if those ideas are unfashionable or risqué, our students have the right to view them and experience them.

However, the COD Board Policy changes would include the adoption of an extreme agenda called the Academic Bill of Rights. It would require COD teachers to share with our students only mainstream ideas and material. Such material is certainly important; we must all be acquainted with it. But what is special about college learning is students get to have a lot of elbow room, and look at material and discuss a spectrum of ideas that they might not come across on their own in an ordinary Google search or by perusing the front stacks of the Library. Because of my teaching experience and training (I have taught college for nine years, and I have a Ph.D. in English), I have made myself into a teacher who is well-equipped to exercise best practices and cutting-edge judgment about the course content and ideas students in my classrooms ought to “try on” and debate. But the proposed Board Policies would radically inhibit my ability to do my job.

This is a plea to our Board of Trustees: please don’t make it harder for college teachers to educate COD students in a holistic manner. Show us, through your deeds and your decisions, that you support COD students and teachers, and care about the quality of this school. Please show us, by rejecting these proposals, that you understand the nature of higher education and that you are prepared, as trustees, to equip COD teachers with the tools to do their jobs.

Sincerely,
Jackie McGrath
COD teacher

Sexual liberation is liberation from marriage

The purpose of marriage is to protect children. The legalized coupling of same-sex partners protects nothing. Such a union has no social or biological purpose. No reason on earth exists for the State of Illinois, or any other political body, to institute such an arrangement.

On the other hand, I support an amendment to the Illinois Constitution, which would forever define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. This is necessary to protect marriage from a radical agenda of sexual liberation, which seeks the transmutation of all values.

Sexual liberation for some means political control for others. I say this because sexual liberation constitutes a broad attack on society and culture. It does not simply affect same sex couples but the entire network of social relations.

The homosexual agenda involves the enactment of ‘hate crime’ laws, which restrict the freedom of speech. In Canada and Europe the state has prosecuted ministers and others who publicly criticize homosexuals and their agenda. The homosexual leadership wants laws that force normal persons to hire such sexual revolutionaries, to rent property to them and to force schools to brainwash children to accept their agenda. They also call for a lower age of consent and easy access to pornography, because, as the homosexual put it, “That’s who we are.” Furthermore, homosexual advocates do not define the other elements of marriage in the same way normal persons do either. They do not want marriage to be exclusive just to the couple, and they do not want it to be permanent. Changing the definition in such a way certainly undermines its meaning and invites even greater abuse of the institution by such perversions as polygamy and incest.

Redefining marriage to include same sex couples is an abuse of the legal system. If the state redefined a dog to be an elephant, the result would be as ridiculous. Certainly, a dog and an elephant share some features, but they are not the same and no legal authority on earth could make them the same.

While most advocates do not admit it, the ultimate purpose of sexual liberation is liberation from marriage, a condition where sexual expression occurs without reference to chil-

dren and where the states, not parents, raise the children. Only a powerful, totalitarian state can achieve such goals, which is why homosexuals tend to favor the Democrat Party and socialist regimes in general.

George Kocan
Warrenville, IL 60555

A remedy for a non-existent problem

My name is Christine Monnier, I am professor of sociology at College of DuPage and I have taught here for nine years.

In a blog post dated December 17, 2008, Trustee Atkinson was quoted as stating: “We’ve had some anecdotal evidence from students about faculty at DuPage providing lower scores [for ideological reasons] and even in some written reports for classes where professors made comments about sources being ‘right-wing’ rather than rejecting them for scholarly reasons, mainly in the social sciences where sources tend to be more subjective.”

Anyone who states that the social sciences are subjective clearly fails to understand them. It reveals that this trustee does not understand the social sciences in general, and the social scientific programs at COD in particular. So let me engage in a bit of educating when it comes to the social sciences.

No, the social sciences are not subjective. They rely on tried and tested scientific methods to study various aspects of human behavior, from elaborate statistical analysis to in-depth field work, from massive surveys to complex experiments. All the social sciences rely on data, not anecdotes, on objective results from peer-reviewed research, not subjective opinions.

The social sciences also have a deep impact on society. The knowledge of human behavior obtained from the social sciences informs public policy, business, and the non-profit sector. Fields such as marketing, advertising, human services, law enforcement, management, media and communications, to name only a few, rely on social scientific research and knowledge.

In our programs, no one is required to believe anything. We do require though that our students learn a body of knowledge derived from the research and competency in the scientific methods in the social sciences. Knowledge and skills are what we teach.

Social scientific knowledge and skills have no bias, which is why using the Academic Bill of Rights is a remedy in search of a non-existent problem.

Moreover, COD already has processes in place to protect students who feel they have been treated unfairly, it remains to be seen that these processes have failed our students.

Finally, at a time where the college is engaging in efforts to build up enrollment, it does not seem wise to disparage programs that are successful, enroll large numbers of students and have high-quality faculty. Deliberately hurting the reputation for quality of our social scientific programs in public forums such as blogs can possibly hurt the students’ transfer of credits. This can hurt our students.

Indeed, the allegation is that DuPage county students are uncomfortable in the social sciences classes, and yet, they flock to them to the point that we cannot open enough sections.

Rather than waste time on a non-existent problem, we should all focus our energy towards finding ways to better serve more students. They already know they are welcome in our classes. The only problem is that there aren’t enough sections and classrooms for all of them.

Christine Monnier
Sociology Professor

Write a Letter to the Editor

The *Courier* accepts letters to the editor from students, staff, faculty and community members. Letters are due by noon on the Tuesday prior to publication. Letters must include the authors name, occupation (student, staff or community member) daytime phone number and street address for identity verification.

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Please place “Letter to the Editor” in the subject line.

IDEAS:
