

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.

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, double spaced 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 email 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 Friday 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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Budget endures anti-crisis

Did the college over-budget this year? Certainly.

Is there a budget crisis? Certainly not.

Tuition went up this year and, in turn, so did the college's budget.

But the conversion to semesters and higher tuition caused students to take fewer classes or not enroll at all.

Even with this significant drop in enrollment, revenue remained steady because of the tuition increase and conversion adjustments.

At this point last year, the college had actually collected \$3 million less in tuition and fees than it has now.

That's about a 10 percent increase in revenue.

Staff

Editorial

It's surprising that none of these figures came from President Sunil Chand or Vice-president of Financial Affairs Tom Ryan or Director of Research and Planning Harlan Schweer.

These tuition figures didn't come from the college's administration at all.

The Courier compiled these numbers using some basic math equations and information from public information reports.

No higher-ups had bothered to look for them.

Ryan seemed genuinely shocked by the numbers, but conceded that they were accurate, when approached in an interview.

It may be more shocking to learn that President Chand has been through a semester conversion before. Everyone

Tuition by the books

- The budget for fiscal year 2005 reported \$57,639,240 in revenue from student tuition and fees. The budget for fiscal year 2006 budget called for \$63,103,995 from tuition and fees, a difference of \$5,464,755 or an 8.66 percent increase from 2005.
- At this point last year, about \$26,485,707 in tuition and fees had been collected. This year so far about \$29,449,052 in tuition and fees have been collected, nearly a 10 percent increase.
- A 10 percent drop in enrollment during winter semester could put the college about \$5 million behind, but would still result in over \$125 million in profit at the end of the fiscal year.

knew of a 4 to 8 percent dip in enrollment which Ryan planned for, as did the rest of the college.

Chand knows enrollment will level out in a several years.

He also knows a thing or two about budgets. When he arrived three years ago, the college had a deficit of \$1.5 to \$2 million a year.

By stagnating funds and making small reductions in some areas, the college got back on track a year later.

Now it generates a large surplus every year.

Why the confusion by an experienced President and a seasoned staff?

Why the mad dash to squeal and squirm?

One can't help but think mass hysteria played a part.

The converted numbers look a lot different than the quarter numbers.

They are lower because a semester credit is worth more than a quarter credit.

If anyone had cared to look, they'd know the college has already collected 53.4 percent of what it needs in tuition this year.

Last year at this time, it had collected only 52.2 percent of its goal and no one blinked.

Still, administration would say there's the uncertainty of winter semester to contend with.

Typically enrollment drops in the winter, but even if it dropped 10 percent next semester the college would only be out about \$3 million in tuition and maybe \$2 million or so in fees.

A \$5 million loss is a drop in the bucket when the fiscal year 2006 budget calls for a balance of \$130 million by the end of the year. This carry-over would be considerably smaller (about \$65 million smaller) than last year's overall revenue.

And when the college already has anticipated a \$65 million loss and still has

money to spare, a temporary drop in enrollment shouldn't rattle administrative cages too badly.

The college has taken steps to increase tuition for out-of-district and out-of-state students and called for a special tax levy.

Additionally, it's unknown what long-term effects the postponement of the parking garage will have on the budget as those funds haven't been re-allocated yet.

There are murmurs, however, that the \$33 million will be re-bonded and a portion will be placed into an interest bearing account for at least five years.

Annually compounded interest on multi-millions for five years could amount to a million or more alone.

And the college has a budget crisis.

Surely, even if one of these measures falls through the college will recoup this minor loss.

Even if all these measures fall through, though, its simply a matter of tightening belts for a year or two.

No need to raise tuition to \$96 or more as the administration has mentioned in the past. No need for panic. This budget crisis is minor, if not entirely imagined.

Then again, the college might want to dig deep into reserves to fill the gaps students will leave.

With over \$23 million stored in reserves, the college could just about cover the goal for winter's tuition should students come to their senses and no one enroll next semester at all.

Photopoll

How do you feel about the prospect of an internet cafe being built on campus?



Amanda Richardson
Education
18
Lombard

"I think it would be a good idea because they would have coffee and it would be a relaxing environment."



Omar Haque
Computer Science
20
Glen Ellyn

"Would we actually need it considering the existing internet access in the library and other places on campus?"



Eric Sinon
Education
21
Elmhurst

"It's a good idea because the library and other resource centers are congested, and it would give people a place to bring their own computers and do their own work."



Mike Foss
Automotive Coordinator
43
LaGrange

"I think it's all right. It would be an opportunity for students to do some exploring between classes, and also do some homework."



Tanya Basu
Pre-law
19
Glendale Heights

"I like the idea. It would be a great place to hang out and study."

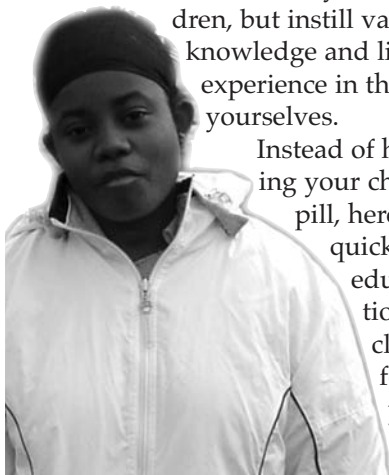
OPINION

PointCounterPoint

Be responsible, just wait

By Keisha Edwards
Sports Editor

Emergency contraceptives are an easy way out for today's youth. It should not be put on shelves next to aspirin. It should not be available over-the-counter to children, meaning anyone under 18. It's time that people stop taking the easy way out and take responsibility for their own actions. I was once 16. I know what it's like to be young and have my hormones racing. I know what it's like to have boyfriends and act grown-up. Society is promoting to today's youth that sex is okay and if you get in trouble there's an easy way out. It's called Plan B. Plan B is referred to as the "morning after pill." The pill is supposed to prevent pregnancy after sex. Well here's a plan: how about instead of handing kids a way out, let's teach and inform our youth. Let's give them the knowledge they need to make responsible decisions. Schools need to teach our youth, really teach them about sex in sex education. Parents, don't just leave it up to the schools to teach your children, but instill values, knowledge and life experience in them yourselves. Instead of handing your child a pill, here's a quick sex education class for you.



Ladies, let's take it back to the old days: keep your legs crossed.

If you're not in love, don't let someone talk you into something you'll regret. If you must have sex get on birth control and use condoms. Or here's an idea, wait until your married.

Gentlemen, are you ready to take care of a baby? If not, then keep it zipped up.

First thing, learn how to properly put on a condom it's a known fact that they work.

Second, don't do it just because you want to look like a real man to your friends.

Third, there's really no meaning behind sex if love isn't involved. So wait until you're married and then it will be right.

If you're responsible enough to have sex then you need to be responsible enough to take care of issues if they arise.

Plan B isn't as simple as it seems. Just like anything else in life there are side effects that come with this pill.

Short-term side effects include nausea, vomiting, infertility and blood clotting.

Then there's one main side effect that occurs if your already pregnant and you take the pill. The pill may cause an ectopic pregnancy, which is life-threatening.

This pill will allow people to just lay back and have careless sex because they know all they have to do is make a trip to the drug store.

Don't forget that if people are careless the STD rate will rise.

So, we may end up with fewer unplanned babies, but hello AIDS, herpes, gonorrhea, and all other kinds of diseases.

This pill should not be sold over-the-counter to children under 18.

Better to have a Plan B

By Ashley Boege
Correspondent

People have sex – even premarital sex. Shocking, isn't it? Seven in 10 women of reproductive age (about 42 million) are sexually active and do not wish to become pregnant.

Eighty percent of teen pregnancies are unintended, and each year, more than eight out of 100 young women aged 15-19 become pregnant, more than half become mothers, said the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. (PP).

These individuals are not going to stop no matter how hard the "abstinence-only" programs preach at them. Emergency contraception (EC), also known as Plan B, must be available over the counter without age discrepancy.

Unintended teenage pregnancies account for one-quarter of all accidental pregnancies in the United States each year.

Our teenage birth rate is the highest in the developed world: twice as high as Canada's, four times as high as Germany's, five times as high as France's and about nine times as high as Japan's, according to PP.

For 25 years, EC has been available and could prevent 1.7 million unintended pregnancies and 800,000 abortions each year in the US. It is a safe and effective method of contraception, and women who have used it report high levels of satisfaction.

However, anti-choice groups oppose its use, but the fact of the matter is EC cannot terminate a pregnancy.

"Emergency contraceptive pills are not effective if the woman is pregnant; they act by delaying or inhibiting ovulation, and/or inhibiting fer-

tilization, and/or inhibiting implantation," the Food and Drug Administration said.

EC pills contain hormones that reduce the risk of pregnancy when started within 120 hours (five days) of unprotected intercourse.

The sooner the female in question takes the pill, the more effective it is.

This five-day window earned EC pills the term "morning-after pill" which is quite misleading.

EC pills are safe. In general, women only turn to EC pills in emergencies (hence the name) – as a backup to their usual birth control method. But, almost every woman who does need EC can safely use this method, even those with contraindications to the ongoing use of oral contraceptives.

Adolescents can also use EC pills safely, and according to PP, a study designed to evaluate the safety of EC pill use in teenagers enrolled 55 teens between the ages of 13 and 16.

EC pills were found to be safe and well tolerated by the teens that took the medicine properly and returned to their normal menstrual period at the same rate as adult women taking EC pills.

EC pills are a safe, effective method that does not terminate an existing pregnancy and instead, merely prevents it.

This method is not a religious debate nor is it a health concern and must be available over the counter without taking age into account.



Letters to the editor

Who's responsible, censors or parents?

As we all know the First Amendment states that as Americans we have the right to free speech, as long as it's within reason. We can't rush into a crowded theater and scream, "Fire!" but what about when it comes to media? For example, a CD sits in a store until you pick it up, check the label, decide to buy it, pay for it, take it home, unwrap it, and pop it in your CD player. Does our society truly believe that after doing all of this, we should tell these musicians what they can and cannot say on what we willingly bought? This isn't something forced down our throat, so why do we try to censor it? If the problem is children going off and buying these

items on their own, then parents can simply keep tabs on this and let their child know what they object to and why. Usually, information about these items is obtained just by asking. Some people believe that the real problem is the job of censors, a term feared by thousands of writers, musicians, and more. A censor, according to many reputable online dictionaries, is described as a person authorized to review media and materials (films, press, music, etc.) and remove or suppress anything that is considered morally, politically or otherwise objectionable. This is believed to be in contradiction of the First Amendment by some individuals. However, this idea is not the problem with our media and arts, because as with all societies of the world, none should be expected to be completely and totally free. The real issue lies deeper. Adults have become so

used to the idea of censors, that many seem to have forgotten that it is still possible to raise your own children. Time and time again we hear of misguided children committing horrific acts against themselves and others. Unfortunately for society, the blame is usually aimed directly at music, video games, or movies. Clearly children should not be exposed to all our world has to offer, but since when did it become the government's job to do this? Many people will agree that a lot of modern music has horribly violent, and graphic depictions in its lyrics, but who are we to say that this language shouldn't exist? A parent can't know the severity of everything, but there are rating systems on all of these types of media, that are created by groups of parents in order to inform buyers of what's inside. Many stores also have rules

which prohibit the selling of adult-aimed items to youths and some even provide music that is completely devoid of offensive language (these rules run throughout most store chains). The blueprint on how to raise children, in regards to media, is right there in front of us laid out in black and white. So how can anyone have the guts to go the next step and ask for the government to prevent the allowance of materials unsuitable to children, into American society? One would have to then ask themselves, what's next? Shall we ask them to baby sit our children if we want to go out for the night or should we finally accept, as a society, that parents need to step up to the plate now, because if we keep relying on everyone else to raise America's youth, than who really are the parents?

Dillon Johnson
Community member

Politics influence Supreme Court nominations

Many people say that the Supreme Court is above politics. Unfortunately this proves to be an optimistic view, that is much akin to an ostrich sticking its head under the sand and thinking no one can see it. A nominee is appointed by a politician, interviewed by more politicians, and then voted on by even more politicians. The process of selection of a Supreme Court justice has so many politicians involved how can it not be political? No matter how loud we shout 'It's not political' while covering our ears and closing our eyes, it will not change the facts: Supreme Court appointments are political.

D. Roy Holmes
Community member