

# OPINION

## 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 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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## Juvenile SLC needs change

In what is probably the most telling example of just how clueless the members of Student Leadership Council are when it comes to their responsibilities as the designated leaders of the student body, a flyer urging students to vote featuring a photograph of a disheveled Cliff Newcomer—last year's SLC Outreach Coordinator accused of murdering his mother—found its way onto the main window of the SLC office for all passerby to see at some time between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

This marks a new low for the organization, and most troublesome is this decision shows SLC lacks even the most basic understanding of professionalism and maturity.

Why would they make light of such a sad, unsettling period in COD's history? Did they think it was funny? Who knows, as SLC President Jenn Syperski refused to explain and hid behind a "no comment" when asked about it.

What SLC lacks is accountability for their actions, and this extends far beyond a juvenile, small-minded idea for a flyer. In order to hold them accountable and at the same time restore the organization to the heights it has reached in the past, there is need for reevaluation and restructuring.

One suggestion is that SLC should model itself after the

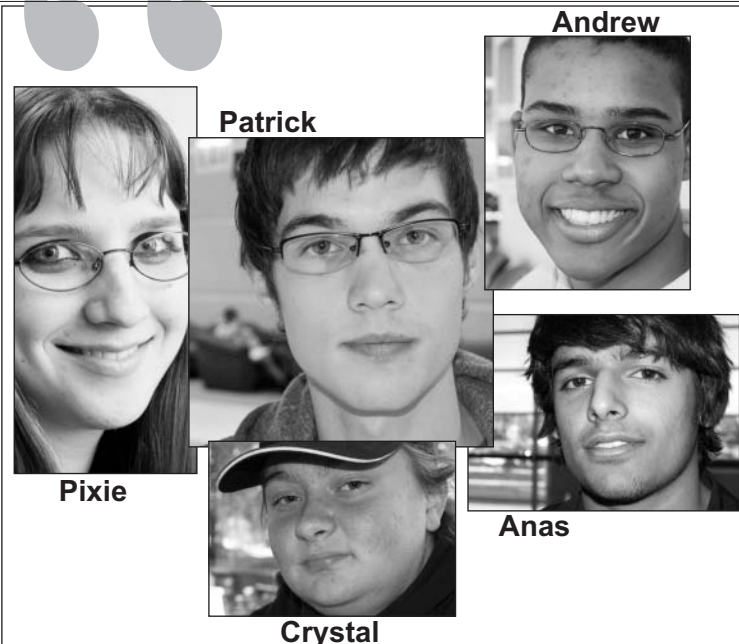
College Leadership Council. A constituency of representatives on behalf of various departments runs the CLC, which might be the direction SLC needs to go in. Should we continue to allow a small group of students who represent only themselves continue to pretend that they're important simply because they were elected (most ran unopposed) to be a part of SLC? A better system would be to select representatives from student clubs and organizations and give them a voice in the decision molding process, which would serve the students better.

Another way to help keep things in check over at SLC would be to move the SLC offices closer to their adviser and the Student Activities office.

SLC should switch offices with the Program Board office, which is located in the Student Activities office only a few feet away from SLC Adviser Andie Richmond. It's a drastic suggestion, but it has strong benefits. Having an adviser that much closer to SLC would not only help maximize their time and effort, but could also prevent them from embarrassing themselves with the kind of moronic behavior they showcased this week.

Be it subtle or drastic, it is time for a change, and that change needs to come sooner rather than later, while there's still time to salvage this year.

## Staff Editorial



## "Which is a more serious problem in society: obesity or anorexia?"

**Patrick Fanella, 19** *undecided, Villa Park*

"Obesity has become a more serious problem because it is so much easier to be unhealthy. There are so many things that are unhealthy for you."

**Anas Arif, 19** *business management, Glendale Heights*

"Obesity. There are too many fat people."

**Pixie Kilian, 19** *undecided, Villa Park*

"They are both big problems. I think you definitely see anorexia in women and obesity in men more often. I don't think that one is any less of a problem than the other though."

**Crystal Hine, 21** *art, Bloomingdale*

"I think in our society people try to pacify themselves with food and because of this I think obesity has become a more serious problem."

**Andrew Bass, 19** *bio chemistry, West Chicago*

"I think both stem from this desire to be skinny. People see models and strive to fit this image and when they fail they tend to over indulge themselves and become obese."

## In Your Words

## Which is a more serious problem in society: obesity or anorexia?

### PointCounterPoint

**A**s early as the nineteenth century, it was in vogue for the elites of society to be pale and plump as a sign of wealth and status. Contemporary culture demands that women must be tan and as thin as possible. To be anything waif-like in today's fashion world is considered an abomination. What was chic and sophisticated a century ago is a complete 180 of what is in vogue, today.

Society today is an entity obsessed with self-appearances. An unfortunate result of this narcissism propagandized by society is anorexia nervosa. An even more disturbing fact is that diseases like anorexia nervosa are promoted in America's current culture and society.

Compared to obesity, it is true that obesity will kill more people because more people are obese than anorexic. This is true as well when

concerning the comparative costs. Yet, Western culture and its medical community denounce obesity as both unhealthy and unwanted which at the same time fosters a culture of anorexia.

The best example is the fashion industry. Designer clothing is cut to look best on waif-like bodies. Look at any runway in Paris, New York, London, and Milan and you will find that all designers tableau on which they drape their art is on that of rail-thin models.

While there is a global campaign on fighting obesity, there is none on anorexia. Why? Again, anorexia is accepted. This makes anorexia more dangerous than obesity because it is "state sponsored."

Society and medical communities cannot effectively combat diseases until they learn to admit they are a problem.

**W**ith the increasing coverage that anorexia and bulimia receive we often forget about a longer standing and much more dangerous problem: obesity.

With the advent of fast food, and the ready supplies of great tasting snacks that billion dollar advertising encourages us to eat, America's abundance has been taken to dangerous levels.

This was not always the case, and it has only been within the past forty years that these alarming levels have been reached.

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, almost two thirds of Americans are overweight, and almost one third are considered obese.

Statistics show that obese individuals suffer a 50 to 100 percent increased risk of

death. Most of the additional risk comes from cardiovascular disease, though that is not the only cause.

Comparatively, statistics from the MedlinePlus medical encyclopedia show that anorexia only affects one to two percent of women, and even less in men at .1 to .2 percent. One in ten people diagnosed with anorexia have fatal results.

Despite the fact that 10 percent of those diagnosed with anorexia die from it, obesity is a far more dangerous dilemma with average life expectancies reduced as much as twenty years.

When you couple that with the fact that one out of every three Americans is obese and more are headed in that direction every day we see that obesity is a much bigger problem in our society today. The sheer number of people obesity impacts is telling on how serious this problem is.

Researched by Michael Koehler, Features Editor

Researched by Greg Ochab, A&E 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.

# Letters to the editor

## Article on interns should inspire

I really enjoyed your Courier article about the COD interns who are involved in the facilities master plan. I appreciated you mentioning the academic credit that the students are earning through the internship experience because it may inspire other students to intern. Thanks!

--Jean Spahr  
Manager, Cooperative  
Education and Internship  
Program

## Nothing wrong with homosexuality

I would like to take this opportunity in enlightening Wayne Lela in his views on homosexuality.

First off, I believe the only reason a person has a problem with homosexuality is because they are uncomfortable with their own sexuality. Who cares if a gay man gets anal cancer? It is not anyone else's issue but his own.

Who are you to play the role of the supreme one and decide a person is right or wrong for their actions? Who made you so special? If homosexuality does not personally attack you, then what is the big deal?

There are much more important things to worry about in this world than what homosexuality does. Maybe people should try worrying about the war in Iraq or the national debt, or anything of actual importance, because these will affect your future--not homosexuality.

--April Beales  
Villa Park

Representative De Lay, Representative Cunningham, and former Governor George Ryna, and the inability of Congress to act contrary to the interests of the oil lobby and big business, it is that those elected to high office do not fear the people.

It is obvious from the conduct of those caught up in scandal that they see no honor in serving the people, just personal power and profit from dealing with lobbyists and cronies at the expense of the people they were "hired" to serve.

It is the people who should be afraid--very afraid--because beyond those caught with their hand in the cookie jar are those who have been chosen to be complicit and have failed to act in response to an endemic pattern of malfeasance that seeps into the smallest crevice of public service and breeds contempt for truth, honor and ethics.

Only the most naive would not believe that each and every sitting member of Congress is morally and personally accountable for the corrupt nature of government.

It is every sitting member of Congress who must bear the responsibility for their colleagues and accept the blame for themselves as bystanders who choose not to act.

Grant's lobby has devolved into a seamy back room that has no place in honest government.

Is it time for change? Yes! It is time for upheaval, a mayhem of mind and conscience that retracts the power so trustingly given to our elected officials.

To this end we challenge you, the elected officials, to act.

The time for posturing and pandering is done.

It is time to act against your own selfish interests and bring honest, good government back to power.

To this end we do not implore; we empower you to do the following:

Eliminate pay-for-play legislating forthwith.

There is no justifiable reason why Congresspersons should be allowed to accept "tips" from powerful special interests through lobbying and creative campaign funding.

There has to be zero gifting and zero tolerance; nothing

short of that is feasible or functional. Eliminate "ear-marking" in legislation.

Since the line-item veto has seen its day come and go Constitutionally, only Congress can pass rules that eliminate special interest "pork barrel" legislative apparatus.

Bridges to nowhere should serve as monuments of the past, a past that used such bridges to pass over honest lawmaking.

Each and every individual item of legislation should be crafted, debated and voted on the basis of its own merit and necessity. Anything less is not legislating; it is loitering.

Any and all contact from lobbying interests should be transcribed, cataloged and reported on a publicly accessible Internet database cross referencing the lobbyist with the lobbyist's client, the Congressperson solicited, the date, time and content of the conversation along with any current, pending or anticipated legislation relevant to the subject matter of the conversation, nothing less than that required on any businessperson's expense report.

Each such contact should be accompanied by a disclosure and affidavit stating without qualification that no money or gifts have been or will be exchanged once a lobbyist contact has been made.

Any and all violations of gift-giving prohibitions shall be attributable not only to the lobbyist, but the lobbyist's principal with substantial punitive fines and suspensions for an extended time period from employing or contracting any lobbyist or lobbying firm for the purposes of contacting Congresspersons. The principal must be accountable for the agent.

There needs to be the establishment of a truly independent, permanent prosecutor's office with subpoena power and unfettered discretion to audit without notice the lobbying history and compliance record of any registered lobbyist, contractor, corporation or Congressperson.

This office should be exclusive of Congress, truly independent and answerable only to the voters.

--Michael Dayne,  
Political Science Instructor

## Courier depiction of SLC inaccurate

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for enlightening Student Leadership Council on issues that need to be addressed.

As an active member of SLC, I do not agree with the information in an editorial appearing in the Courier on October 6, 2006.

In regards to the goals, that were created at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year; they were created using the SMART technique.

The goals that were accomplished are then replaced by new goals and the goals are never simple because of the technique that is used to determine the goal.

To fill the vacant Vice President position, as the Operating Document governs how the Student Leadership Council operates, the amount of time, energy, and resources needed to hold a college wide election would put SLC behind on what has already been accomplished.

Since the resignation of Roman Lunsford not only has the SLC officers stepped up also other members of SLC have also.

I do not appreciate the way that Jenn Syperski (SLC President) was treated and represented to the student body.

The motto of Student Leadership Council is "Speak for Yourself". If you would like to have your voice heard, feel free to come to a meeting.

To date, not a single editor has attended a meeting yet.

Many of the members of SLC decided to get involved because of the leadership opportunities and growth.

Members such as myself did not join just to put the experience on their resume. I joined because I wanted to become more of active leader and because I enjoy the opportunities that SLC gives for growth.

--Candace Ruzek, An Active  
SLC Member

### Contact Information

Email us at editor@cod.edu or stop by SRC 1560

## \$25 parking tickets too expensive for students

Dear President Chand,

When I retired in 2003 I decided to pursue art studies at the college--which I enjoyed immensely.

I have come to admire the teacher culture, class content and overall college environment. Congratulations on fostering such a positive entity.

I made a mistake recently: Parking in front of the library in the "30 minute-use-your-flasher" parking spaces, I accidentally parked in the row adjacent for "Guest" parking. After classes, virtually all of the "30 minute" and "Guest" spots are vacant. It was an easy mistake to make.

My flashers must have attracted the Gendarmes, since they pounced on my lone car like sharks after chum. When I returned ten or fifteen minutes later, I had a \$25 ticket, despite the fact that I had flashers on and there were nothing but open spaces in every direction.

At my age I've learned that one must take responsibility for one's mistakes. However, I question the need for such a heavy ticket amount. \$25? COD students must indeed be rich. I'm not sure who can afford this, but I think it is excessive to fine students this high an amount. No doubt the police have been charged with paying for themselves.

--David C. Beeching

## Letter to Illinois politicians

We imagine a time in this country when students, such as ourselves could look to their elected representatives in government and see role models.

There may have been a time when elected representatives understood that responsibility and took great pride in serving at the pleasure of the people and exhibiting great strength of character.

There may have been a time in history when members of Congress and elected officials, in general, had respect for the truth and took their solemn fiduciary duties seriously, a time when acting other than in the public interest would have been considered unthinkable.

We do not see such a time in the present; we plead for such a time in our future.

If there is one lesson to be gleaned from the recent scandals in government involving

# Changes in store for Opinion section

The face of the Editorial and Opinion sections is changing in an ongoing effort to present the reader with a healthy mix of recognizable content in addition to fresh and exciting new ideas.

As you look at these pages, you'll notice that some of our existing content has been redesigned and relocated in an effort to make the content

more accessible to everyone.

We've taken what we enjoy about our Staff Editorial, PointCounterPoint and InYourWords sections and retooled them in order to maximize their importance.

In the coming weeks, you will see new content introduced to this section that we feel the reader will appreciate and look forward to.

Here's where we want your help. The Courier can only thrive if it con-

tinues to reflect the opinions and thoughts of our readership and community.

The InYourWords and Letters to the Editor section are good starts, but we have higher aspirations.

Each week, we're going to be presenting a question of the week with hopes that the community will respond by sharing their opinions.

Our InYourWords section highlights a few opinions, but there are many

more out there that should be heard.

The bottom line is we want to make this section as good as it can be, and the only two ways to do that is by fine-tuning our content and showcasing the thoughts and opinions of our community.

We will do our part to continue delivering the highest quality content possible and we hope you will help assist us in our endeavor to increase community input.