

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 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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No ifs, ands, or cigarette butts about what college needs to do

With cold weather fast approaching, now is the time that COD must address smoking on campus, and to do so is a three-step process.

First, the college needs to stop sending mixed messages. Second, the college needs to enforce the existing smoking policies. Finally COD needs to determine if it should truly be a non-smoking campus by posing the question as an advisory referendum.

The college must be consistent and precise in telling students where they cannot smoke. Putting a "No Smoking Beyond This Point" sign on numerous ashtrays outside of the SRC lets smokers choose where they want to stop smoking, which defeats the purpose of the signs.

The college cannot expect students to respect the guidelines when they are wishy-washy at best.

Additionally, the college cannot refer to itself as a "Smoke Free Campus" (as they did when a call was placed to the main number for COD) if they allow smoking anywhere on college property. Other colleges, including Moraine Valley Community College, also view themselves as smoke free campuses even though they have designated smoking areas, and that is wrong. The college should go beyond the status quo and take a

stand one way or the other.

The next step is to enforce the policies the college has in place. Smokers understand that if they don't wear their seatbelt they will be given a ticket. They also know that if they park in a handicapped spot, they'll be ticketed. What's not understood is that smoking where they're not supposed to can lead to a \$75 fine. Why? It's not enforced.

You can't put the blame entirely on smokers if the rules are not enforced.

Some in the administration feel that smoking on campus is a student issue and any changes made need to come from the students. This is a

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copout designed to put this issue into someone else's hands. Doing so absolves administration of tough decisions.

The final step in working towards determining whether or not COD should be a non-smoking campus is an advisory referendum.

An advisory referendum is a question put on the ballot that seeks to get voter input. The results have no legal effect and are used to get an idea on how voters feel. The data gained can be used to point the college in the direction they should head.

An advisory referendum would remove the responsibility from the shoulders of a few and place it into the hands of everyone, which isn't a bad idea.

Create your own advisory referendum

So, you really like the suggestion to create an advisory referendum to find out how voters feel about the state of smoking on campus? Here's a quick how to guide to get you started.

1. Create your petition question

Sounds easy enough, but Assistant Executive Director of the DuPage County Election Commission Doreen Nelson suggests getting legal counsel to make sure all of your bases are covered. You don't want to end up having your petition rejected because you forgot to dot your i's and cross your t's, do you?

2. Get the votes required

Since smoking on campus is a school-related issue, you need 8 percent of the registered voters within COD's district (District #502) who voted in the last election to sign your petition.

How are you ever going to determine that number you ask? Easy. It's right here. 20,648, to be exact. That number was found by contacting the DCEC.

3. File your paperwork

The next available ballot for the advisory referendum question to be placed on is the April 17, 2007 consolidated election, so you have to have your petition filed with District 502's Administrative offices by January 29, 2007. Get started!

4. Collect the data

You've formed the question, determined the amount of signatures needed, got them, and filed the paperwork. Now then, after the election happens, how do you go about finding out the results?

The results get sent back to the district from the DCEC, where they become public knowledge.

Should COD be a non-smoking campus?

PointCounterPoint

S mokers pollute the air around them with carcinogens and toxins. Since they are airborne, these foul materials get everywhere.

All of us have had the sensation of crashing through a wall of smoke as we enter the college. Smokers huddled in groups right by the door pollute everyone who tries and

Many of these smokers blatantly ignore warnings to stay a set distance from the door, hovering near the doors, forcing all of us to ingest second-hand smoke.

The college has done a great deal in the past to accommodate this filthy habit, going much further than mere ashtrays. Instead, there were express smoking lounges, so smokers could destroy their lungs in the warm comfort of the building.

Unfortunately, with the air-

borne nature of smoke, this would spread throughout the surrounding area. After years of dealing with this, the college said enough. The smokers were expelled outside in a futile attempt to keep their disgusting addiction away from us all.

Well, that brave experiment is failed. We still have to work our way through carcinogens every school day. These

build up in your lungs, turning clean pink tissue into a blackened wasteland. This is to say nothing about the inconsiderate smokers who drop butts everywhere, as if even the landscape staff should act as their personal servants.

It is time we quit putting up with smokers being treated as second-class citizens. Instead, they should be treated as unwanted aliens and forced to take their disease elsewhere.

Yes

B efore I refute the proposal that the college should be a non-smoking campus, I would like to establish some common ground.

First, I know smoking is dangerous.

Next, cigarette butts are vile and can make for an unpleasant mess. However, this argument is flawed, because anything can be an unpleasant mess if

Last but not least, second hand smoke can harm someone that is exposed to it for a long period of time.

To recapitulate J.S. Mill's ideas on liberty; unless my conduct is in direct conflict with yours, you have zero right to interfere with my actions.

There is a reason you can't smoke on planes anymore, and there is a reason I stand outside in frigid weather.

You can no longer make me

out to be a monster that pollutes your innocent virgin lungs with vicious pursuit, blowing puff after puff of smoke in your face.

If you're worried about smokers harming themselves, don't. There are many more glutens eating whatever high-fructose product Americans are eating this month who could use your concern.

Granted, more could be done to enforce the smoke free perimeter

around the entrances of COD, but to go completely smoke-free would be an attack on smokers' personal freedoms.

It would also spawn a huge population of angry COD dwellers unable to cope with the stresses of school without the smooth relaxing pull off of a Marlboro.

And did anybody think about the kids who smoke to look cool? They'd have to go out and get a talent or hobby to make friends.

No

Researched by Graham Milldrum, Graphics Editor
Researched by Jon Samples, Sports 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

Bring back staff parking lots

There are a lot of things to give thanks for this year as in years past. We are living here in the USA and have the basic freedoms. And those of us who have advanced in years (I'm in my seventies) can give thanks for still being able to teach as adjunct professors on the COD campus. That is a responsibility as well as a pleasure for most of us: pleasure for being able to share knowledge in given specificities and sharing in the responsibility of preparing the next generation for a useful adult life. And, finally, for GIVING - of our time, our efforts and our minds to keep active while we serve, as they taught me at Loyola, "AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM!" Is everything going very well here at COD? Most things are; the Deans provide us an income, opportunities for exercising our minds in our so-called "golden years" and working with young people. But there is one thing that stands out in my mind, which is NOT part of those things for which I gave thanks this Thanksgiving! And that is the loss of our faculty-staff parking lots! Those who make the decision on this subject should remember that a good percentage of the adjunct professors are no longer sprightly youngsters; the distance they must hobble after a 10-15 minute time-wasting search for a parking space is an extra stress for their waning years. We deserve a reserved parking lot; this is a privilege that shouldn't be throttled by some egalitarianism, which is misplaced. Please, restore our parking lot very soon - as a Christmas gift at the least.

Leslie Simonyi

Roskam supporter of new energies

As a volunteer for Environment Illinois, a citizen, a student, and a veteran, I am elated that Peter Roskam, who will be representing Illinois' 6th district in the House, has dedicated his support to finding new home-grown alternative energy solutions! He signed on to the New Energy Future vision drafted by Environment Illinois that calls for our country to reduce oil consumption, increase renewable energy, and save energy. It will put us on track to be a nation with energy independence and cleaner air, water and land.

We have reached a critical

time for leadership to actively pursue environmentally responsible legislation. I eagerly await the positive changes that Congressman Roskam has committed to supporting for the citizens he represents here in the 6th. Appropriate action on his part now will ensure a happier, healthier future for us all!

Cheers!
Sarah Milone
Student, Veteran, Citizen

Drinking age should be lowered

As a registered voter, I am writing with my concern of the drinking age in Illinois. I think it is ridiculous for an individual gaining so many

rights by the age of eighteen and even seventeen, but cannot be allowed to drink alcohol until the age of twenty-one.

It is unclear to me the significance of the age of twenty-one for a legal drinking age.

There is no way to say there is a certain age when an individual is mature enough to consume alcohol.

There are legal drinkers at the age of forty-five committing crimes when intoxicated and abusing their right to drink all over the state of Illinois.

In Illinois, at the age of eighteen, even seventeen, someone is considered an adult.

By the age of seventeen, a person does not need to abide to curfew laws, can watch R-rated movies, and is tried as an adult for any crime.

At eighteen in the state of

Illinois, someone can register to vote, purchase a lottery ticket, purchase pornography, and engage in other "adult-like" activities.

Most importantly, an eighteen year old has is the right to register for the army, go to war, fight for this country, and put their life on the line, but an eighteen year old is not "adult-like" enough to legally have a drink?

I believe this law needs to be looked at again. Of course if the drinking age will be lowered to eighteen, there will be individuals that abuse the right, but that is the case with any right.

This could eventually lower the amount of drunk driving accidents, underage drinking parties, and other violent alcohol related crimes committed by minors.

If they are allowed to

engage in drinking alcohol, they will most likely not abuse the use of it.

Shereene Manimala
COD Student

Notice

Editors needed

The Courier is looking for both a Graphics editor and a Features editor for the Spring Semester 2007, starting in January.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact the Courier at 942-2683, send an email to editor@cod.edu, or stop by the Courier office located in SRC 1560.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



The Chicago Council on Global Affairs presents at College of DuPage ...

THE CHANGING KURDISH DYNAMICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Michael M. Gunter
Professor of Political Science
Tennessee Technological University

Monday, Dec. 4, 2006
7 to 9 p.m. Presentation and Discussion

Jack H. Turner Conference Center
Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 2800
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL

Long inhabiting the geo-strategic area where Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria now converge in the Middle East, the 25 million or more Kurds constitute the largest "nation" on earth without being an independent state.

The 2003 war that eliminated Saddam Hussein's regime internationalized the Kurdish issue by reinforcing the existence of a de facto state of Kurdistan in northern Iraq, which in turn significantly affected the policies of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the United States, among others. At the same time, Turkey's EU candidacy has made the Kurdish people more significant in global policies.

Michael M. Gunter is a professor of political science at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, TN. He has written five scholarly books and numerous articles on Kurdish issues.

This program is jointly sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and College of DuPage. Tickets are free for C.O.D. students, faculty and staff and may be obtained from the MAC Box Office, (630) 942-4000, with proper identification. Tickets for President's Circle and Corporate Members are also complimentary. All others should call the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, (312) 726-3860, for tickets. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Learn more and register online at www.thechicagocouncil.org.

For more information, please call the International Education Office, (630) 942-3078. For directions and the latest parking information, please check the college web site, www.cod.edu, and click on 'Maps and Directions.' Due to ongoing construction, campus parking lot configuration and designations may change.