

EDITORIAL

CourierPolicy

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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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Resignation affects students

Jane Herron, College Trustee, has resigned. Chuck Steele and The Classified Staff Association are using Herron's resignation and her critical comments directed to the board as a vehicle to call for unionization.

Glenn Hansen, President of the Faculty Association, warns that Herron's comments "should not be dismissed or taken lightly" and contends, "Her statement warrants public scrutiny of her charges."

That affects students. Wake up.

Why should the student care? How is this anything more than a political soap opera, affecting only the high-ups?

It's because of the charges Herron makes. In her resignation letter, she chastises the board for awarding multi-million dollar contracts to companies that have performed poorly. She also states that contracts hundreds of thousands over budget have been granted. One contract was estimated to be \$900,000 over budget.

That affects students. Wake up.

The budget of this college in no small part comes from student tuition. Students are writing checks, using financial aid, and working numerous jobs to give the college money they claim to need in order to operate, and not a single student body anywhere would be happy to know their collective money is being tossed around with-

A call for classified unionization

Last week Jane Herron resigned from the college's Board of Trustees because she felt strongly that the Board of Trustees is not acting in the best interests of the college. She is not the only one to have that concern. Members of the Classified Staff are also worried about decisions being made by the board. Unlike board members, the majority of us cannot quit in protest. We can however do something to protect ourselves, and hopefully in the long run help the college as well.

The undersigned represent a group of Classified Staff who are organizing an effort to have Classified Staff join the Illinois Education Association

This organizing effort began following the last round of negotiations based on the unanimous recommendation of CPA's Board/Staff committee to investigate the possibil-

out caution.

That affects students. Wake up.

In an interview with the Courier, Herron stated that frequent board changes to the Facilities Master Plan has cost the college millions of dollars in because of back-tracking and making changes to plans already approved.

That affects students. Wake up.

It is time for students to wake up and take a vested interest in what their tuition and tax dollars are being spent on. Students can no longer afford to sit back and hand over money to the College of DuPage and assume they are making good decisions with it.

The money being wasted could be put into the college's number one

resource: the students. Instead, it's entangled in a mess so thick that board members are giving in and giving up.

That affects students. Wake up.

Students need to attend board meetings. Students must communicate with their representatives—The Student Leadership Council and the Student Trustee—and find out not only how these groups are protecting the interest of the student but also how the student can help.

The board might have lost a trustee, faculty and staff may have lost a friend, but the students stand to lose everything. Wake up.

ity of joining the union. This recommendation was based partially on the tenor and tone of the talks and partially on the fact that we were denied information and the ability to truly be part of the decision making process. To call them negotiations is really inaccurate.

In his April 2006 Open Forum, Dr. Chand "took fault for allowing the college to continue hiring faculty members and administrators in 2003 when he knew the conversion would result in lower enrollment." (April 14, 2006 Courier) Since that time, not only has Classified Staff seen positions not rehired and hours cut (severely impacting not only immediate income, but in some case retirement income as well), but the Board of Trustees has discussed outsourcing entire departments.

But unionizing is not all about money. It is also about representation. Under the current system, if a classified staff member has a grievance against the college, it is taken to the CPA Welfare Committee who then presents



"Do you think the Bears will win the Super Bowl?"

Erin Gordon, 19 *theatre, Roselle*

"Oh yeah! I'm a big Bears fan, I have this shirt my grandmother got me of the '85 Bears from when they won their last Super Bowl."

Jenna Flentge, 20 *education, Lisle*

"Yes, I think so."

Shakir Hussain, 19 *undecided, Bolingbrook*

"I'd love for it to happen but realistically, probably not."

John Fry, 20 *undecided, Elmhurst*

"I do believe they'll win. If the defense plays like they did last week no one can beat them; Grossman just has to not turn over the ball."

Peter Chou, 19 *computer science, Wheaton*

"They'll win. The defense is going to win it for them."

In Your Words

Letters to the Editor

the grievance to the Human Resources Department. HR then makes the final decision on the resolution of the grievance. So the "defendant" is also the "judge." If Classified Staff were unionized, those same grievances would ultimately be settled by a neutral third party arbitrator. If this doesn't seem important to you, consider this fact. Prior to this year, the CPA Welfare Committee averaged three complaints a year for the past ten years. This past year, the number of complaints jumped to twenty-three.

We are not the first to be in this situation – joining a union in order to protect ourselves. Both Full-Time and Part-Time Faculty groups were associations before they unionized. As you look at the colleges around our area; Elgin, Harper, Oakton, Triton, McHenry, and the City Colleges staffs are all unionized. Waubensee staff is currently working on joining the union. It's our time.

There is a lot of misinformation about unionizing floating around campus these days. In order to make the

best decision, it is very important to have accurate information. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact any one of us who have signed this letter or talk to faculty members to see what they think. Remember, there is a difference between educational unions and manufacturing or industrial unions. So regardless of previous history with unions or stories you might have heard, it is worth it to check out IEA. There will be more informational meetings announced very soon. In the meantime, you can check out our own website at www.codstaff.org.

The bottom line is this. Most people don't join a union because they want to. They join a union because they have to. Joining a union won't solve all our problems, but it will give us legal rights and representation as we try to solve those problems as true partners with the college.

COD Classified Association
Organizing Committee
Chuck Steele, Student Activities
Karen Masterson, Financial Aid
MaryEllen Reedy, Arts Center

OPINION

Middle East opinions

The Sunni threat to majority rule of the Shiites in Iraq is forcing the Sciri Shiite Party, the most aggressive, to cooperate with the U.S.

This may result in successfully detaching Syria from its outdated alliance with Iran.

An alliance Iran needs as a bridge to Hezbollah.

And the prospect of a Shiite run Iraq (Saddam's party was Sunni) is forcing Sunni Arab states such as Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Jordan, to also seek American help against the threat of Shiite military imperialism, specifically from the terrorist states of Syria, the only non-Arab Shiite state, Iran, and Hezbollah.

And the furnishing by Saudi and the Emirates of necessary economic aid to Syria would seriously diminish the threat from Iran and Hezbollah.

Apparently the entire Muslim world is being disrupted by Shiite aggression. America, representing western civilization, has taken little or no interest in the sectarian quarrel, rightly or wrongly.

But it definitely has a vested interest in disrupting the emerging secular balance of power in the Middle East, which was favoring terrorist movements from Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Wahhabism, prior to U.S. intervention.

When Bush entered office only Jordan and Egypt were in truth U.S. allies. Iraq, Iran, Syria and Hezbollah factions were sworn enemies.

The Saudi's played both sides of the street. The Iraq war brought about the first radical change, for the better, in ages in the Middle East.

Arab Sunni leadership no longer automatically sees America as the Great Satan, as they did before Bush. Now Sunni leadership realizes that a U.S., with a foreign policy of physical engagement (and not just rhetoric anymore), can be the necessary bridge to

a relatively "stable & peaceful" Middle East where a Shiite supremacy in Iraq, the core of the Arab world, is detached from Islamo-fascist movements.

Kim Rogalin
Chicago, IL

Skeptic view on existence of Bigfoot

Dear Editor,

I have just completed the Fall 2006 session of "Investigating the Paranormal" at the College of DuPage. Student interest centered on local reports of ghosts, UFOs, and crypto-animals (cryptids) spotted in Lincoln Land.

My students were especially shocked at the many, and varied, mystery animals purportedly inhabiting our state.

They include the Cohomo, the Piasa Bird, the Enfield Monster, the Farmer City Monster, the Murphysboro Monster, and that ever-elusive target of cryptozoologists: Sasquatch (i.e. Bigfoot.)

Not known to many, Illinois has had its share of Bigfoot sightings through the years, and some eyewitness reports are very recent.

There have been news stories of hairy ape like creatures stalking about patches of forest near the towns of Seneca and Bloomington.

A purported man creature thought to be lurking near Seneca, IL has been named "the DuPont Monster", after the winding road it loves to terrorize.

However, the Bigfoot hunters of Illinois, both amateur and professional, still have many questions to answer from skeptics about the enigmatic creatures they sincerely believe exist.

Here are some of the hardest queries for the Bigfoot seekers, as formulated by the students.

Why is it that not one single carcass, of this strange woodland creature, has ever

been recovered? How is it that sport hunters seem to shoot each other annually in respectable numbers, but never manage to put one between the eyes of an unsuspecting Bigfoot? Wouldn't any seven to eight foot tall bipedal cryptid be a part of a larger breeding population?

So where are all these shaggy ape-men hiding?

Where, and how, do the Sasquatches conceal themselves when leaves drop from trees in the fall? Shouldn't we be able to spot a Bigfoot lumbering across a highway every now and then, much like the deer that prance out into vehicular traffic and cause us so much grief?

Imagine a Bigfoot going through your windshield!

And what about a food source for these giants?

It would be fair to say that such large bipedal animals probably put down the groceries, but where is evidence of their kills in our forests - are they primarily nut and berry eating ape men?!

Many cryptozoologists have shown us casts of footprints allegedly left behind by wandering Bigfeet, but why haven't monster hunters stumbled across actual Sasquatch droppings (fecal piles)?

Why have there been countless hoaxes perpetrated by grown men running through the woods with carved wooden feet strapped to their soles?

Myself, I can only hope that one day North American Bigfoot hunters will resolve this great paranormal mystery with some hard physical evidence; that is real evidence like hair, skin, or DNA which can be independently tested in the laboratory and then have the results peer reviewed by the greater scientific community, a task which ufologists have failed to meet miserably.

Skeptically yours,

Richard Petraitis
Investigating the Paranormal Class Code: 37683 College of DuPage Course Start: 03/01/07 to 04/26/07

Liberals promote immoral behavior

It's always a hoot to read letters by liberal fundamentalists, like Michael Griffin's pro-homosexual rant in the Nov. 10 Courier, because some of the wild stuff that comes out of their pens is truly hilarious.

For example, in his letter, which was a response to a previous letter of mine that clearly explained why homosexual activity is immoral, he wrote: "The stench of religio-fascism is overwhelming." Stereotype much, Mr. Griffin? I'm not even religious. Not at all.

He also wrote about "the belligerent ignorance of the physical and social sciences by mainstream America." What about wild and belligerent stereotyping by radical liberals? What about the arrogant and belligerent ignorance of ethics by radical liberals, who despite that ignorance are quasi-fanatically trying to impose their "superior" values (i.e., liberal prejudices) on everybody?

To illustrate that ignorance, Griffin tried to justify homosexual activity by saying "sexual orientation is not a fixed (false dichotomy) variable" and by maintaining that people do not choose their sexual orientation.

He doesn't seem to understand that sexual orientation is not sexual activity. Griffin, like most liberal fundamentalists, needs a course in ethics.

Whether sexual orientation is chosen or not is irrelevant to whether one's sexual activity is moral.

We all have immoral desires because of our imperfect natures. For example, violence and killing, stealing, raping, sexual promiscuity (etc.) all occur naturally in the animal kingdom.

Since we share most of our genes with many animals, our urges to occasionally resort to violence or steal or be sexually loose are probably natural and not a matter of choice. But that doesn't justify immoral behavior. Griffin should know that simple fact.

The fundamentalist liberal fascists out there, so quick to arrogantly judge and condemn others, should stop wasting their time promoting an immoral lifestyle, should stop trying to take us back centuries to Sodom or the old and decadent pro-homosexual Roman Empire.

Reasonable people left that nonsense behind many years ago. Let's progress not regress. Liberals should make better use of their time.

Wayne Lela
Woodridge IL

Roskam fails on energy vote

US Representative Peter Roskam did not support the Clean Energy Act Thursday despite his campaign promise to work towards a new energy future.

Almost a year ago President Bush acknowledged that we are "addicted to oil."

Unfortunately, instead of being invested in clean energy solutions, billions of taxpayer dollars have been used to subsidize big oil companies at a time of record profits for the oil industry.

Thursday, the US House took the first step and passed legislation that will repeal \$14 billion in Big Oil handouts and use that money to fund the clean energy technologies that we need to reduce our dangerous dependence on oil.

Unfortunately, Representative Peter Roskam of the 6th district voted against the Clean Energy Act despite his signature on a New Energy Future promise that he signed during his election campaign.

One can't help but wonder how Rep Roskam will keep his promise to put us on a path to a new energy future when his very first vote cast on energy policy is in favor of the oil companies.

LuCinda Hohmann
Environment Illinois

On Our Web

Now that school is back in session, we'd like to hear about how your Spring semester has started.

How did the registration process treat you? Did you have any problems, or did it all go well?

What about purchasing your books? Did you find the best prices on or off campus? If you had any difficulties, do you have suggestions on how the college can improve?

Email us your thoughts by Tuesday afternoon at editor@cod.edu

Notice

Editors needed

The Courier is looking for a Features editor for the Spring Semester 2007.

For 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.

Be heard.

Write a letter to the editor.

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