

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.

The Courier does not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, handicapped status, veteran, or sexual orientation, nor does it knowingly print ads that violate any local, state or federal laws.

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 Tuesday 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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Safety procedures need improvement

If nothing more, last week's drill served to highlight the need for improvement in how to successfully guarantee the safety of 30,000 inhabitants.

One emergency weather drill is insufficient to educate COD on what to do in the event of a real emergency.

Three things will solve this: frequent drills, louder audio warnings and better education.

Students not on campus 9:45 a.m. Wednesday for the drill would have no clue that it even took place, let alone what they should do in the event of an emergency.

The college cannot allow last week's drill to be the only one it enacts this year. Future drills need to take place at different times on different days, regardless of redundancy or annoyance.

Also, in order for the students and staff on campus to properly evacuate, they have to be able to hear the instructions given over the PA system.

Numerous people have reported that they were either unable to hear the instructions from inside their classroom or that the sound was soft enough to be confused with typical hallway chatter.

The audio needs to boom, and it needs to be heard within every classroom.

Those instructions are the first steps to understanding the relevance of the alarm and the seriousness of the situation. It is absolutely necessary for there to be no mistaking the origin or intent of the audio.

In addition to holding emergency drills, the amount COD educates its populous on emergency procedures needs to drastically increase.

The college must do a better job informing people of where the various shelter areas on campus are.

Every student and instructor should know instantly where to go in the event of an emergency, regardless of where they are on

campus. While classrooms do have maps on where to evacuate to, it cannot be guaranteed that students and instructors will remember to consult them during an actual emergency.

Multiple people have told the Courier that a master list of the shelter area locations does not exist. That is horrible. There needs to be a list, and it needs to be given to students, as well as posted on COD's website.

Anything can happen during an emergency, but the college can put itself in a safe position by making sure the people it is responsible for are well equipped to handle anything that comes their way.

Staff Editorial



Kim



Tiffany



Mark



Blaire



Matt

"What would you do if you heard a tornado warning at 2 p.m. on Monday?"

Tiffany Uy, 21 *pre-pharmacy, Woodridge*

"I was in the library so I would probably go to the back rooms on the first floor."

Matt Rohm, 19 *undecided, West Chicago*

"I would definitely go to the nearest bathroom and hide in a stall."

Blaire Hufford, 19 *psychology, Carol Stream*

"I'd probably just go to the severe weather hallway in between the IC and MAC, but there would probably be a lot of people there."

Kim Imundo, 43 *nursing, Aurora*

"I was in the IC so I probably would have sat in the hallway and avoided any areas where there was glass."

Mark Whitley, 19 *education, Batavia*

"I was in the MAC so I would have gone into the back stage hallway behind the Mainstage."

In Your Words

Letters to the Editor

Better classes will market college

After reading the write up of the 2007 COD Elections I became very concerned. I became concerned not only as a student, but also as a taxpayer and a member of the community. So why the concern? Simple, not one of the candidates [except for Allison O'Donnell] recognized that instructors are important. And not just average instructors, the best instructors you can get for the students. Yes, the students should be your number one priority. If they aren't, then please do us all a favor and get out of the educational profession.

I see a lot of people talking about prior board operations and the way they were handled. Well, there is no use crying over spilled milk, so dust yourself off and move on. Don't dirty the elections like our statesman already do.

Marketing seems to be another hot topic with COD, and I think the best marketing team you have are your students. You make them happy, they spread the word, they get involved. But when you offer the mediocre classes in some of the hottest career fields, such as Information Technology, no marketing campaign can help you. We live in a world of branding, there is no way to get around it. COD has a branding in the local community, but the course catalogs tarnish what I believe could be a great college.

David Carlin states that he will not vote for any student tuition increases. I hope everyone else feels the same, because currently you are offering a lot of courses that are taught to high school students at a rate close to \$100 per credit hour. A famous term many who are familiar with is "if you build it, they will come"; Well this holds true with COD if you ask me. Offer the courses that people want to take. For example,

since I have experience in the IT field, your programming courses are less than those offered at a majority of local high schools. Everyone of the programming courses that I have been involved in, the students all say the same thing, "I can't wait to get out of COD because their courses suck"; I wish I could disagree, but I can't.

So, I think that if you really want to get elected you need to think about the people who are funding this campus and that is the students. Of course, a lot of students' tuitions are paid for by their parents, so let's not forget about them either. If you make the students happy, you offer courses that are appealing, then marketing will have a great foothold. So candidates, think of the students first.

Happy students will bring your enrollment increases, help market the campus via word of mouth, and make COD better than ever.

Richard Johnson
Hanover Park, IL

The other side of egg donations

I am writing this in regards to Bethany Duckworth's comment on egg donations: First of all, does Bethany have any children or plan on having children? If so, she'll understand why infertile women (couples) go to the extent they do to conceive a child. Many women look forward to the days of pregnancy and motherhood. When a woman finds out this isn't an option, it can be devastating. With technological advances at an all time high and donors willing to participate, \$30,000 (estimated total cost for infertile couple) is a small price to pay for a lifetime of joy, happiness, and fulfillment.

As far as the donor is concerned, I'm wondering exactly where Bethany obtained her information, which is misleading and inaccurate. First,

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OPINION

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to clarify, the donor receives money as compensation for time and effort, not "your body, your mind, [and] your future," like Bethany claims in her article. Second, reproductive companies target college students because of their age—they respond more favorably to the hormone medications.

Yes, there are (2) pre-health screenings and lab tests for donor qualification. However, you do not go in every-day to receive medications, but you administer them to yourself at home. Shortly before the (egg) extraction the donor has to go to the hospital every morning for an ultrasound and blood work (4-8 days total depending on the donor). The donor then goes in the morning of the extraction and under conscious sedation the eggs are extracted through the vaginal wall: a quick, painless, non-invasive procedure. For a few days following the extraction the donor has PMS-like cramps, gets her period, then her body is back to normal.

Also to clarify information regarding the hormone medications the donor is receiving: they are nothing different than what your body already makes, only in higher quantities. And only 1.7% of women experience Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (medication insert), not "most women" like Bethany ignorantly claims. Also, ovarian cancer is not "frequent among egg donors," but rather there hasn't been any link between the hormone medications and ovarian cancer.* There is, however, a higher risk of ovarian cancer among women who do not bear any children.* Does this mean every woman should have a child to decrease her risks? The point is, even if there was an increased risk of ovarian cancer (which there isn't), is that a reason not to do it? As long as people are educated about the possible outcomes and risk factors, the option should be available.

Bethany's last comment regarding donors, "the donor is likely to experience infertility herself when she is ready to start a family," again, is much like everything else she stated—misleading and inaccurate. There has been no direct link between egg donors and infertility. There are many other factors including age, genetics, and past medical history that can make a woman infertile or unable to become pregnant, and it's usually a combination of more than one factor.

I'm 24 years old, a full-time student, and an egg donor myself and feel very offended at Bethany's inaccurate information and accusation. During spring break I had the egg

extraction done, and here are the statistics of the entire process from my own personal experience: clinical procedures (including medical screenings, blood work, ultrasounds, and extraction) 34 hours; "time feeling sick": 4 days of PMS-like cramps; days of medication: 9. Bethany also claims that the compensation amount is \$3000. This amount is incorrect by over double, which is more proof that Bethany didn't do her research.

After learning how many women can't have children but go to the extremes they do to try, I feel I'm helping someone's dream come true. My eggs are perfectly viable, and I'm not becoming pregnant anytime soon. So, there is no reason why I shouldn't allow an infertile woman an option to become pregnant. I don't at all feel I'm selling my body and my soul, but rather giving someone the option to bring a body and soul into the world. Everything I went through was well worth it, and I will be doing it again.

Amanda Connelly
Lombard, IL

* "Ovulation Drugs: A Guide for Patients." The American Society for Reproductive Medicine (2000).

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.

Classified Staff unionization

College of DuPage has been a great place to work! Let's keep it that way.

How many times have you heard, "If only we had effective communication, all of our problems would be solved?"

As past presidents of CPA, we support CPA and are committed to COD as a vital presence in this community and as a great workplace. We are fortunate to have contributed to the success of COD, while enjoying long careers here. We have effectively communicated with the Cabinet, Faculty and the Board of Trustees in good faith and reciprocal respect on behalf of all Classified Staff. But our best faith efforts have not been enough. We have decided to support the move toward unionization for true representation that is backed by legally binding power, unification, reciprocity and consistency.

Two definitive signs of problems are the resignations of Jane Herron and Gavin Tun. Jane has been a strong advocate for all COD employ-

ees and a strong union supporter. The Courier reported, "Gavin said that one of his largest concerns is the amount of outsourcing he sees on campus." Other concerns that have been brought to our attention include the following:

- Departmental reductions in staff hours or support staff
- Possible program and services elimination
- Arbitrary restrictions on the use of negotiated professional development funds
- Elimination of 30 hour benefited positions, trends toward 29 hour non-benefited positions
- Decreases in summer hours (12 weeks last year, 11 weeks this year)
- Board policy changes which provide for reductions in staff without consideration for seniority

The above are just a few examples of the fragility of our past agreements. What does a future fraught with potential "financial exigency" hold for raises and benefits without representation? What does it hold for retirement benefit packages? This group of past presidents believes that if we join the same union as Faculty, we will have a much stronger voice. One voice. A real voice backed by legal and binding representation, rights and resources, consistency in the application of benefits and compensation, accountability, and equitable treatment. A powerful voice that will fare better at the negotiation table resulting in a legally binding contract that cannot be changed without a vote. Apathy has never been our problem. We believe Classified Staff will vote when their voice really counts. The College has been a great place to work. We want to keep it that way.

The Report of the 2005 CPA Board/Staff Negotiating Committee to the CPA Executive Board closed with the following unanimously agreed upon comments. "Finally, after the experience of reaching the current Agreement, we conclude that it is in the best interests of Classified Staff to be unionized...As long as the Faculty have a union and we do not, we cannot expect anything more than scraps." Classified employees should not view this move toward unionization as a sign of disrespect for the College administration, but rather as a response to the need to protect classified employees and keep them on the same footing as the other employee groups.

We encourage you to express your voice by returning the Authorization/Representation Statement to the Illinois Education Association-NEA. By doing so, you are not joining the union. This confidential card enables IEA/NEA to

petition the Labor Board for a representation election so that all covered staff will have a right to vote for or against a union.

Without your voice, the discussion ends. Gavin and Jane had the courage to use their voices to sound the wake-up call.

College of DuPage has been a great place to work. Your voice can keep it that way. For further information, please visit www.codstaff.org.

Elizabeth Britt, Nancy Gage, Brenda Marcy and Laura Ortiz

Candidate coverage complaint

I am sorry for the voters and readers of the Courier newspaper that the editor and staff did not interview me before or after spring break regarding my candidacy for C.O. D. trustee. The Courier reported that I did not respond in time to be interviewed before spring break. However, I pointed out to reporter Jordan Glover; in person, that I did not receive calls from the Courier requesting an endorsement interview, but that I did receive only one (1) single call from reporter Jordan on 2/15/07. This single call was recorded on my digital recorder and caller ID and basically said to give the Courier a call back sometime before the election to be interviewed. I received NO further calls or e-mail message from the courier regarding any endorsement interview date. I have made other interviews with various newspapers and encountered no such problem, as with the Courier. After spring break I was advised that no interview was going to be given by the Courier.

I am the only candidate for C.O.D. trustee who is a graduate of the College of DuPage. As a C.O.D. graduate I will always have a stake in the future of C.O.D.. I care about C.O.D. and the students, faculty, staff and taxpayers of the District.

It is with this sincere concern that I chose to run for and hope to be elected a C.O.D. trustee.

Joseph C.Wozniak
Board Trustee candidate

Six of the seven trustee candidates responded to the first phone call and voicemail left by the Courier, and interview times were scheduled.

The College of DuPage Board of Trustee election will be held on Tuesday, April 17.

Continue to read the Courier for election coverage, and visit our website at www.cod.edu/courier.

Notice

Change in schedule, essays printed next week

Due to a large amount of Letters to the Editor received this week, the Student Essay Contest winning essays will not be printed until next week.

In the meantime, the first, second, third and honorable mention essays are available for viewing on our website at www.cod.edu/courier

The winning essays from the Student Essay Contest will be printed in the Opinion section of the Courier next week. The essays were written by students and detail how the College of DuPage has impacted their educational lives. Below is a list of winners and where they placed.

- Jennifer Barnes**
first place
- Deanna Jourdan**
second place
- Steven Braun**
third place
- Kristin Paver**
honorable mention

Be heard.

Write a letter to the editor.

Send an email to:

editor@cod.edu

Or, stop by our office in SRC 1560

The deadline for letter submissions is noon on Tuesday.