

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.

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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 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.

CourierStaff

News

Jordan Glover
942-2153
news@cod.edu

Features

William Martin
942-2660
features@cod.edu

A&E

Bethany Duckworth
942-2713
arts@cod.edu

Sports

Jon Samples
942-2531
sports@cod.edu

Photography

Russell Augustine
942-3066
photo@cod.edu

Graphics

Jason Retuta
942-3113
graphics@cod.edu

Editor

Robert Bykowski
942-2683
editor@cod.edu

Advertising

Joanne Leone
942-3379
leonej@cod.edu

Adviser

Cathy Stablein
stablein@cod.edu

Fax

942-3747

New student leaders must improve SLC

The college places too much value on the opinion of the Student Leadership Council for the student body to continually let SLC under-achieve.

If the meager amount of ballots cast in the recent SLC election are an indication of SLC's visibility and importance to those it represents, there are serious problems.

It is necessary for the student body—regardless of whether or not anyone voted—to place high demands on the newly elected. It is time to look beyond the current cadre of supposed leaders and focus efforts on next year.

Many students don't realize just how much the college relies on the input of SLC. In all, SLC sits on over ten committees and councils college wide, ranging from bookstore advisory committees to college curriculum committees.

SLC is the appointed de facto student representative, and the student body needs to recognize this and place more importance on assuring that every student on campus feels well represented.

As members of the student body, the Courier has suggestions of its own.

To start, SLC needs to appear at important forums. President Chand's open forum on Tuesday discussing

"the desired future of COD" came and went without a single SLC representative present. In fact, the only students at the forum were two Courier staff members. SLC needs to appear at these events.

Other ways SLC can improve itself next year are increased tabling, better marketing and making themselves more accountable.

SLC needs to be visible to the point of nausea. It needs to go beyond a single weekly two-hour meeting. SLC needs to lay a foundation early and

hammer the point home to students that SLC does exist and will properly represent the student body.

Weekly tabling at different times and locations will help SLC

SLC also needs to increase its accountability. Via newsletters, official statements and increased transparency, SLC can build a better rapport with students by putting its successes and failures out there for all to see.

The newsletters should contain upcoming agendas, initiatives and statements from SLC officials on various student issues.

These are actions that SLC must take. However, the student body must be just as active as SLC and help mold the students elected into legitimate leaders.

Staff Editorial



Arturo



James



Jasmina



Katryna



Heather

"In light of the tragedy at Virginia Tech., how do you feel about safety here?"

Katryna Thomas, 19 *fashion merch., Naperville*

"Something like that can happen anywhere but it doesn't make me feel less safe on campus."

Jasmina Lopez, 20 *broadcasting, Naperville*

"It doesn't make me feel any less safe here."

James Patterson, 24 *science, LaGrange*

"If something like that is going to happen, it will happen. I don't think there is anything more we could do here to prevent it."

Arturo Vera, 19 *art, Woodridge*

"I just couldn't see that happening here. With the way things are here it just feels pretty safe."

Heather Shaw, 20 *ad design, Naperville*

"I didn't really think about it. It's terrible what happened, but I feel pretty safe here."

In Your Words

Which is better for the Chicago Cubs: Local ownership or non-local ownership?

PointCounterPoint

Would out of town ownership bring more wins to the Cubs? Traditionally, the teams that have had the most success are the ones owned by local rich folks who are willing to risk losing money in support of their local team.

Local ownership would bring a much-needed analytical assessment of the franchise's capabilities to the forefront. (Not just because they're die-hard Cubs fans themselves, but also because they know the Cubs' history and tradition by heart.) Local ownership would better understand and support local area businesses and entrepreneurs, generating more local profit that would bring in a greater loyalty base. They'd be willing to justify coaching recommendations on what the team lacks, and be willing to spend more money to get it – the top players, staffing, and facilities they

would need to win. The close connection a local owner would have with the team and community would show players that the ownership cares, and that the team means more to them than the bottom line. All of these elements would lead to greater success for the team and an increased shot at winning the World Series.

Current rumors abound that out-of-town buyers like Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and Phoenix sports executive Jerry Colangelo are interested in buying the Cubs. Most prospective out-of-town owners look at the Cubs as a business-ended franchise—an addition to their grand sports empire to go along with whatever other sports teams they own. Locally, they'd bump ticket prices to cover ever-increasing costs, threaten to uproot teams and loyalties, and reach into the public distrust at every opportunity.

Local

Non-local

Since local ownership does not guarantee the Cubs will be any more successful as a franchise, there is no reason for the Tribune Company to limit its field of potential buyers to those with an Illinois address. The search must be far reaching and it needs to consider prospective out-of-town buyers like Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks NBA franchise.

Cuban, who has shaken up the world of professional basketball, would be expected to bring many of his enthusiasts with him to major league baseball—a forecast that has many of the MLB's super powers wary.

Leading the front for Cuban opposition is the head of Major League Baseball, Commissioner Bud Selig. In a recent Tribune article Selig said "viable, local ownership" is a better prospect than out of town ownership.

Another obstacle in Cuban's way is Chairman of the Chicago Bulls, White Sox and committee member of the Executive Council and Ownership of MLB, Jerry Reinsdorf.

When Cuban acquired the Mavericks in 2001 he was approved to be the owner in a 29-1 vote – the sole "nay" was from the Bulls owner. The reason this weighs heavy on Cuban's chances of purchasing the Cubs is Reinsdorf's position on the ECO committee, which is the first step for any prospective buyer to be approved. While Cuban's personality—and money—would be a tremendous boost to a Cubs organization in desperate need of a little zeal, it is uncertain if his non-local status will exclude him from the list of candidates. If it does, it is unfortunate, because as the Cubs 24 championship free seasons under the Trib umbrella show, local ownership doesn't guarantee a title.

Researched by Jason Retuta, 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

Student Essay Contest winners

Student Essay First Place winner

What College of DuPage Means to Me

The College of DuPage has completely changed my life! The first time I visited C.O.D. was in March 2005. My boyfriend was enrolled in classes there, and I came to campus with him to go to the library. I remember being completely afraid, and feeling so out of place. You see, I am 31 years old, and I did not even have my high school diploma when I first visited the college. I was two credits short of graduating high school and ended up not going back but instead worked in the nightmare of retail for over ten years. I felt I was destined to go to college someday, but when I first walked into College of DuPage with him that day, I was completely scared and apprehensive. Academic life seemed far out of my grasp, and I was unsure of my future. I had no idea what kind of classes I wanted to take, or what career path I wanted to pursue.

Over the course of the next two years, things have changed dramatically. In May 2005, I took the GED test at College of DuPage. I scored over 3600, receiving a special certificate for my high scores. I enrolled full-time at COD in Fall 2005, and in January 2006 began working at the college as well. I have worked in the Photography Department as a Student Lab Aide for over a year now. In May 2006, I was awarded two different scholarships to attend Summer Semester classes; one was from the College of DuPage Foundation, another from the Danny Young Memorial Fund. Both were for my outstanding score on the GED test. That summer semester, I also completed a Cooperative Education course in the Photography Department.

In Fall 2006, I began working for my Anthropology professor as a Student Research Assistant. Most recently, as of the Spring 2007 term, I enrolled in the COD Honors Program as well.

As you can see, over a span of two years I went from someone who did not hold a high school diploma, to someone who is actively pursuing and enjoying a challenging and full academic life. I am a completely different person now. I am a Photography major at COD, working toward an Associate's in Science in Photography Technology and fully completing the Honors Program. Once that is accomplished, I will transfer to

North Central College where I will pursue a B.F.A.

My future career goal is to be a high school teacher of Fine Arts, Photography, Social Sciences and Anthropology. My ultimate goal, however, is to someday return to teach at the College of DuPage. Attending school here has allowed me to find myself, discover new and fascinating things, and to realize that I have the power to do anything I want to.

COD has given me back my confidence, restored my desire to learn, and illuminated my future!

Jennifer Barnes

Student Essay Second Place winner

How College of DuPage Has Change my Life

I graduated high school in 1998 and immediately started attending College of DuPage. I have a disability and I am in a wheelchair. All throughout high school I had one-on-one assistance. Going into college I knew there would be help available for me but I would basically be on my own. Knowing this made me a little nervous, but I was determined to get a college degree.

At first starting college was difficult. I took classes and struggled along as any other student does, but just a bit more since I was in a wheelchair. I slowly became more independent at COD, but still struggled at times. After a few years I decided it was time to get a job. I was very used to the college and needed to advance to the next step in my life. After some looking, I found a position in the Center for Independent Learning. That is when my college life really turned around. Getting the job totally changed my life. I was more into college life and activities and became more determined to do well in my classes and get a college degree.

With encouragement and advice from the people I work with, I found good teachers and completed all my remaining classes. In June 2005 I graduated from College of DuPage with my Associates in General Studies Degree, which is something I thought I would never achieve. I probably would never have accomplished it without everything I gained from working in the Center for Independent Learning and the support I received from the people working there.

By attending COD by myself and by also working

there, I have gained a lot of independence and confidence to complete any task I set my mind to. It took me several years to earn my degree, but the important thing is that I got it and mainly on my own.

Before college I stuck basically to myself and only communicated with people I knew and felt comfortable with. Now, after several years at COD, as I have continued to work and take classes, I am more open to new things and being around and interacting with new people. I guess you can say attending the College of DuPage has really changed my life for the better. I am moving on soon and leaving COD, but I will take everything I learned and gained here and remember it and use it to better the rest of my life.

Deanna Jourdan

Student Essay Third Place winner

The College of DuPage: One Man's Prison Can Become His Own Sanctuary

The year was 1986 and the parking lots at the College of DuPage were filled with Chevy Camaros and other loud monstrosities considered "cool" at that time. A chill enveloped me as I viewed the imposing white prison looming in the distance. The halls were full of prisoners, some with multi-colored Mohawk haircuts, while others preferred the preppy look with their shirt collars turned up at just the right angle. Important topics of the day included who is dating whom, and when the next party is.

I couldn't help but ask myself, "What am I doing here?" I was a mediocre student at best and always hated school. At the age of 18 my future seemed bright, but I still had no clue regarding what I wanted to do with my life other than have fun, party, meet girls, and earn money! I told myself, "There will always be time for school later." After two terms of obtaining mostly failing grades, I decided to drop out of school. At the time it appeared to be the right decision, however, at age 18 I didn't fully comprehend the impact it would have on my life.

Fast forward 20 years into the future, and the light that once beamed so brightly was now a dim glow. I needed a career, but without a college degree jobs were limited. With few options and despite my bad memories, I would return to the cold white prison and finish my degree. My

memories of COD as an unfriendly and unforgiving place made my decision all the more difficult.

I hoped my few gray hairs and lack of trendy clothes wouldn't cause me to stand out as I went to my first class. I will never forget the nervous anticipation I experienced upon entering the classroom after so many years! However, what I found surprised me and eventually changed my life. While there were still groups of students that reminded me of myself 20 years ago, I became aware of another group of students that I overlooked all those years ago, adult students like myself, who were there to learn.

As time moved on I also learned that I could be a successful student as long as I made the commitment to learn. I retook and passed classes that I had failed and utilized the college's Forgiveness Plan to remove grades that could not be retaken. I raised my dismal grade point average above 3.5, joined the Honor Society, attended events, became a peer tutor, and finally felt a connection to the college.

The College of DuPage had changed from a prison to my sanctuary through the promotion of mutual respect and tolerance. The college taught me to push my limits, rejoice in my successes, and learn from my mistakes. Even at age 40, The College of DuPage showed me that I can still learn, have fun, and motivate others.

Steven Braun

Student Essay Honorable Mention

The College of DuPage: Creating a Character

My experience with college has been a fairy tale in progress. After graduating from high school, I felt like a mermaid suddenly given legs. I didn't know how to walk or what direction to walk in. The question 'what do you want to be' no longer had 'when you grow up' following it. I didn't know what I wanted to be or what college I wanted to attend. Looking for direction, I found myself in the high school guidance office seeking my counselor's advice. She suggested I attend the College of DuPage as a member of the Honors Scholar Program. Since I didn't have my mind set on any particular area of study and I qualified for the program, I could start out taking general education classes

at C.O.D. without paying an arm and a leg on tuition. At first I didn't think it was a good idea. Going to a community college was not looked upon as 'cool.' However, with no other colleges in mind, I opted to heed her advice. Little did I know that this would be one of the best decisions I ever made.

Starting out as a hunk of misguided yellow straw, my experiences at C.O.D. as a member of the Honors Program have begun spinning me into gold. Taking classes ranging from Biology and Math to Humanities and a Seminar combining Developmental Psychology and Anthropology, I have found myself becoming more knowledgeable about not only individual subjects, but also about myself. I am fascinated by psychology and the workings of the mind, and I love the straightforward nature of math. In learning where my interests lie, I have been better able to figure out a possible career path to follow.

Not only have I been able to further discover who I am as a person, but I have found myself becoming more socially well-rounded. When describing my personality, the terms shy and quiet usually spring to mind. In high school I found it easier to hide in my comfortable shell rather than participate in events going on around me. However, as a student at C.O.D., I have made friends with a variety of people and become less reserved and more involved. Attending events such as the Honors' ice cream social, an etiquette dinner, various plays, and a few Global Flicks have enabled me to learn new things, meet new people, and experience good times.

All in all, the College of DuPage has changed my life for the better. As I am in the midst of earning an Associate's Degree, my fairy tale journey at C.O.D. has not yet reached happily ever after. However, my future looks more certain and brighter as a result of being a student at the College of DuPage.

Kristin Paver

The annual Student Essay Contest was open to all currently enrolled COD students.

Essays written on the topic of: "How College of DuPage Changed My Life," needed to be 500 words or less.

Additionally, contest entrants were required to supply the title of their essay.

The first place essay will be entered into the statewide competition, with the winner of that contest receiving a \$500 educational stipend.