

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 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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Salad bar shouldn't be a toss up in price

As one of the primary sort-of healthy options in the cafeteria, the salad bar routinely is a mystifying moving target of commerce, continually subjecting its patrons to seemingly arbitrary dollar amounts and on-the-spot fuzzy mathematics to determine value.

It's time for a change in how salad-lovers are charged for their greens. The most glaring fault of the salad bar is the lack of a scale for which to measure and weigh your salad before reaching the register. Since the salad bar charges by the ounce, it is imperative that consumers have a way to determine how much that extra piece of celery is going to cost them.

Currently, it is nearly impossible to tell how much a salad will cost until it is put on the scale by the register, which is at the same point of the journey that the customer is expected to pay.

With no idea of how much the salad is costing before reaching the register, the customer is left with but a couple, unattractive choices: pay for it or leave it behind.

It's especially frustrating that purchasing similar salads two days in a row may yield drastically different totals. Putting a scale by the salad bar will give salad bar patrons

a ballpark idea of what their total will be.

The other drastic problem with the salad bar deals with the cost of salad dressing. At the grocery store (or mostly anywhere that sells salad and or salad dressing), a 16-ounce container of Ranch dressing will cost the same as a 16-ounce container of Italian, despite the difference in weight. In the cafeteria, however, a customer's wallet is severely punished for choosing any dressing other than the lightest in weight.

A salad with the same amount of Ranch dressing will cost maddeningly more than a salad with the same amount of Italian. This is unfair by all means. Customers should not be punished for their dressing preference.

A way to fix this is by offering three different containers for the dressing, each with a different cost. The smallest container would be free, and the next two containers would have individual costs. This way, customers would not only know how much it costs but also have a smaller, healthier sized option.

In the same way a cafeteria customer knows how much they're paying for pizza, pasta, or a sandwich, they should know how much the salad bar will cost them.

Staff Editorial



Alexander

Jose

Gyel

Maggie

Ely

"Have you ever taken anything from a restaurant?"

Maggie Tokarz, 19 *nursing, Wooddale*

"I took a coaster once. I want to take one of those beeper things that lets you know your tables ready."

Alexander Ruiz, 22 *radiology, Cicero*

"My friends took a little Corona salt shaker bottle once."

Ely Cortes, 20 *fashion merch., Wooddale*

"I work at a restaurant and people are always taking stuff. It's ridiculous. It's amazing the things people take."

Jose Aranda, 21 *business, Bensenville*

"I've taken those little syrup things that come with your pancakes. I use them to do shots."

Gyel Dockery, 20 *game design, Willowbrook*

"I was sitting at Portillos and the people sitting at the table next to me took the whole tray with the salt and pepper."

In Your Words

Do you need a degree to be a journalist?

PointCounterPoint

Going to a university with a strong program of journalism and contributing to the newspaper adds legitimacy to a resume. Arming oneself with a degree not only gives one a basic survival tool in our society, but also increases the chances to a more happier and successful life.

With a degree, one gains information and skills that are used for the rest of your life, no matter what career one chooses. Expanding your knowledge and skills, expressing your thoughts clearly in writing, comprehending abstract theories, will help to increase your understanding and success in the world.

Having a degree in conjunction with on-the-job experience increases the likelihood gaining employment in the journalism field. Having success via citizen journalism is difficult to guarantee. Having

a degree and legitimate experience, while still not a sure thing, increases the likelihood of success.

Employers tend to give much more weight to the reporter's previous work such as employment on student newspapers or internships. All these factors can land that perfect journalist job, steady income, family, and a better home.

Yes

Those who are not in college and not working towards their degree do not have these opportunities, lessening the likelihood of career choices and income options.

One's personal equation of success is different for each of us, but doing what one enjoys in life is a universal factor. And a degree increases that likelihood a thousand fold. Without a degree, one is more likely condemned to narrower choices in life, decreasing the possibility to obtain their life's goals.

What does it mean to be a journalist? Does it take a degree from a university or approval from a journalism professor to give you the credibility required to give the public information?

For some people journalists are supposed to have a suit and a tie and a handy dandy notebook with a camera

press credentials in their pocket and a voice recorder in their hand. But as the information age continues to loom, we find that more and more often this traditional view of the established journalist is not the case.

With independent media, Zine culture and any number of news letters, pamphlets or blogs, a private sect of citizen journalists are becoming major contributors to news worthy information.

While most people in the corporate news industry have

attended universities and walked away with degrees, the citizen journalist is predominantly a middle class phenomenon. Anyone with a camera phone and a laptop has the capability of reporting on things that are interesting to the public.

The first amendment right of free press was established to protect the rights of citizens to report openly without degree requirements or fear of corporate ostracism at the content of their reporting.

Although bloggers may have college degrees, it is not a requirement and many of them in fact do not possess these credible documents.

As the news industry shifts its medium from corporate printed copy to online independent media and relies more heavily on citizen reporters, photographers and videographers, the need for a degree continues to become less and less important.

No

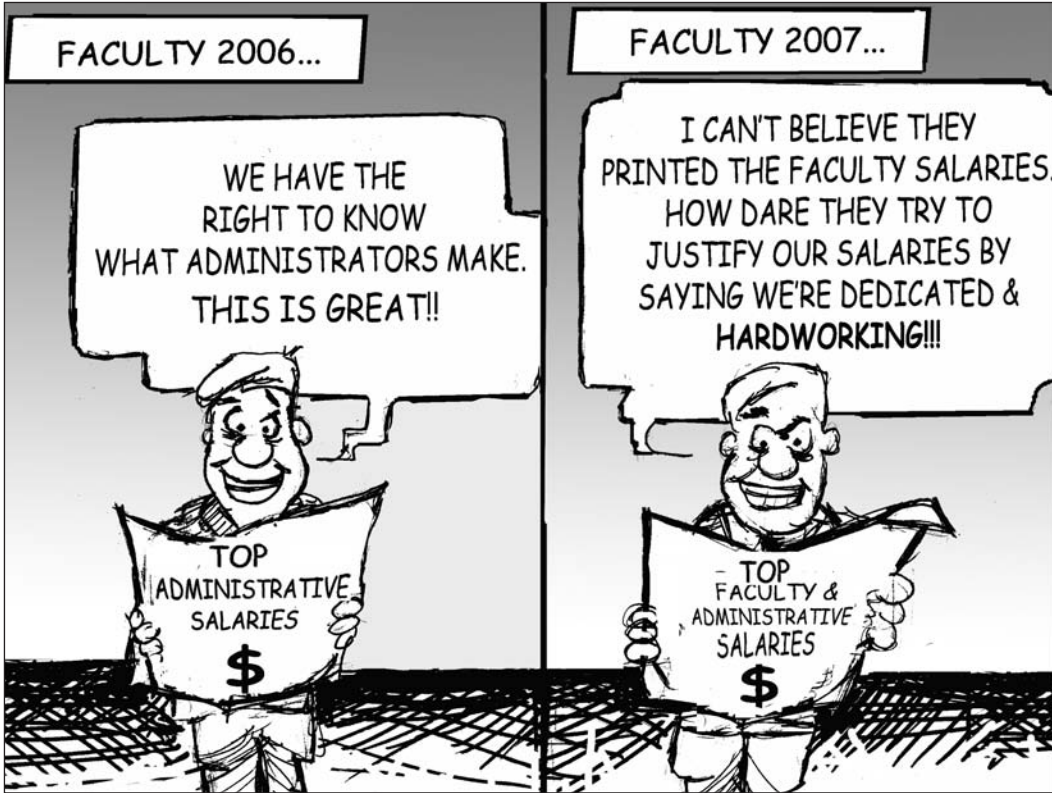
Researched by Jason Retuta, Graphics Editor

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

Editorial Cartoon by Jason Retuta



Notice

One issue of Courier remaining

The final issue of the Courier will come out on May 11, so time is running out to submit story ideas or letters to the editor. For more information, please contact the Courier at 942-2683, or send an email to editor@cod.edu

Chaparral travel issue coming soon

The annual travel issue of the student magazine *Chaparral* will be on newsstands by the first week of June.

Be heard.

Write a letter to the editor.

Send an email to: editor@cod.edu

Or, stop by our office in SRC 1560

On Our Web

We are slowly approaching the end of the school year. Looking forward, in what areas does COD need to improve?

Send us an email by Tuesday, May 8 to editor@cod.edu, or reply at www.cod.edu/courier

Letters to the Editor

Defending the penis

The 2007 Celebration of Academic Excellence was held this past Friday, April 27, and I was among those so very blessed to take part in the ceremony.

To be honored by Professor Golec for my performance in her English class is an experience nearly beyond words. More than that pinnacle moment of the evening when I strode across the stage to accept my award, I was also proud to be counted among my fellow classmates, to be there not only to be recognized, but to support my peers.

The entire evening will last in my mind forever.

Yet, in all of this joy, there lies within a darker side, a tale that some will tell. This story will be chuckled at by many, washed over by some, and used as an attack strategy by others. You see, during the presentation, the College of DuPage Forensics Team had the brazen audacity to use the word "penis" in its presentation. And a few outraged parents, almost in response to Christopher Miller's prophetic request not to evacuate over this tiny word, left in outrage.

Perhaps it is because I am a college student, or more so, because my mind is open to the world around me, that I was not offended by this (or any) segment of the Forensic Team's presentation. After all, there was nothing particularly

racy about the use of the word "penis." To me, it seemed to be involved in a satirical speech regarding the history and potential uses of Viagra, and I'm certain that I'm not alone in that interpretation.

Sure, one could argue that there were young children present. My bets would hedge on the fact that they already knew what a penis was, could care less about what the funny word was related to, or were already on the crux of asking just what the one they possessed was as so many young, male children do in the rites of maturity. Of itself, the word "penis" is hardly something to get excited about, all double entendres aside.

As for Viagra, well, let's be honest with ourselves. There are commercials airing for various cures for erectile dysfunction and other sexual deficiencies, and they're all far more suggestive than anything that was spoken or intimated by Michael Spinelli during his brief performance. At large, the entire Forensics Team presentation was tame when compared simply to the six o'clock news.

But someone... several someones were outraged.

There were mutterings of a backlash due to this. That people in important positions might be pressed to take action in light of a few parental complaints. And I stood there listening wondering just what I had missed that was so very inappropriate.

In the end, I still see it as a harmless set of skits that had

its desired effect: to entertain and inform. It would be a shame if there were to be a ruckus over something so innocuous.

Jim Snyder
Bolingbrook, IL

Part time faculty earn the least

The *Courier's* editorial staff and reporters are to be commended for publishing important articles and information for its readers concerning the college. The thorough and unbiased articles on the resignations of former college trustee Jane Herron and construction project manager Gavin Tun are just a few important examples of responsible journalism.

In its April 27 issue, the *Courier* published an article on some of the top ten highly paid instructors and administrators at the college. Admittedly, this information is both timely and significant given tuition increases, classified staff reductions in both personnel and hours, and cost overruns in construction. (As a clarification for your readers, both Gary Wenger and his wife Christine Russell have retired from the college.)

Therefore, before the end of this spring semester, I believe it is important that the *Courier* feature a report on the college's "bottom feeders," namely, those part time faculty and classified personnel earning the least for the work that they do. I can assure you

that your reporters will have no problem identifying potential candidates for this report.

Peter Potamianos, Ph.D.
Legislative Chair--CODAA

CODAA supports classified staff

On behalf of the 400 members of CODAA, IEA-NEA (College of DuPage Adjuncts Association, Illinois Education Association-National Education Association), the Board of Directors wishes to express its overwhelming support and heartfelt encouragement to the full and part time members of the COD Classified Staff, who are in the process of organizing a bargaining unit within the IEA-NEA family of associations at COD. CODAA looks forward to CODCA, the proposed College of DuPage Classified Association, joining its sister associations of full and part time faculty at COD.

CODAA has brought enormous differences to the working lives of part-time faculty members at COD. As an organization, we sit on every important committee at COD, including the Leadership Council, where our needs are conveyed to COD by our officers, and our opinions on vital projects and policies at COD are listened to with attention and respect. As a group, we negotiated a 25% pay increase over our first four-year contract. Our current contract, which runs for three years be-

ginning in 2006-2007, included a \$150.00 per person bonus, an office for CODAA in IC3082B, a \$5,000.00 per year association allowance, and a step-and-ladder contract provision giving significant salary increases to its long-time, part-time faculty beginning the next academic year.

The more obvious provisions of the CODAA-COD negotiated labor contracts are enhanced by more subtle protections and provisions of our working conditions. Individually, we have in-house, as well as an IRA-supported, grievance protection available for any member who needs it. Additionally, we have academic freedom provisions written into our contract. Collectively, we have Uniserv Directors and other staff members from IEA who work with us as needed. Collectively, we have complete access to the substantial resources a 2.5 million member association can provide.

In closing, CODAA declares that it fully and completely supports the Classified Staff at COD in their efforts to organize a bargaining unit within IEA-NEA. Having a third union at COD will only enhance our collective ability to bring higher standards of education to COD students, and higher standards of employment to the staff and teachers who make COD one of the shining lights of the community college community in the United States.

Diane Rzeszewski, Treasurer,
CODAA