

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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Many issues remain without resolution

The power of the student press.

After 26 editorials this academic year ranging in topic from policy to produce, the Courier leaves for the summer pleased that some of the issues addressed in Courier editorials have seen positive change.

The Wings Gallery saw a renovation and reinvigoration this year following a Courier editorial, for example.

Other examples of positive change following Courier editorials this year include better student representation during the AQIP, the election of Courier endorsed trustee David Carlin and the walkway installed over the dirt hills leading from the parking lot to the library.

Courier editorials highlighting the poor performance of the Student Leadership Council this year have kept the student body aware of how their elected leaders have failed.

The Courier editorial board realizes that any victories we may take with us are overshadowed by the plethora of issues addressed this year that remain unresolved.

Below are issues that still need to be addressed.

Forwarding of MyCOD emails

With the amount or resistance the college has shown in

enabling students to forward MyCOD emails to external accounts, it's a wonder anything on campus gets accomplished, ever.

Smoking on campus

The walls of smoking reform are closing in on this country, and the College of DuPage has two options: become pro-active in the issue or begrudgingly accept the reform when it lands on the campus doorstep.

Emergency Weather closings

The college must develop an online resource for instructors, administration and students to interface when bad weather hits. Occasionally updating the homepage with updates as the college did this winter is far from adequate.

24-hour lounge

The college and its leaders need to put aside the shovels and handshakes long enough to address the important issue of transient usage of the 24-hour lounge. It is irresponsible for the college to continually neglect the growing issue taking place in its own backyard.

The Courier will not let the college ignore these important issues, and we implore the college community to do the same.

Staff Editorial



"Are you going to pass all of your classes?"

Joel Garret, 21 *marketing, Glen Ellyn*

"Yeah, I got decent grades, B's and C's. It was a fairly typical semester just trying to balance five classes."

Drew Gilbert, 21 *undecided, Glen Ellyn*

"No, in one I'm not; it's a math class on differential equations."

Faeza Mirza, 22 *pre-med., Carol Stream*

"Yeah, I better--I'm only in one class. I'm right on the border of an A and B."

Stephanie Voyler, 21 *elementary ed., LaGrange*

"Yes, I did pretty good, it was a typical semester."

Beth Oneill, 36 *psychology, Wheaton*

"For sure, with flying colors. This was actually my first semester back in 17 years."

In Your Words

Would valet parking on campus be a good idea?

PointCounterPoint

Cell phones. Laptops. PDA devices. These are all tools created to make our lives easier and while many use them, there are still millions who go without them.

The same goes for valet parking on campus.

The service would be provided for those who wanted to take advantage of it, not a requirement for all students and staff to use.

Everyone on campus can think of a time when this optional service would have been beneficial to them.

Cold winter weather and snow are over, but the summer rain has just started.

What about the day that you are running late and have that professor who marks you tardy.

Or when you have three projects due and are carrying three bags and a poster board.

Or the day you just don't

feel like walking.

Some people don't mind the parking on campus and use the walk to and from their car as exercise. They are allowed that choice.

But people who want to drive up to Circle Drive and have their car parked for them should have that choice too.

Not only could it ease traffic on campus, but if the college controlled the parking, it could add several student jobs to the already growing list.

Students would have ability to work on campus, further simplifying the balance between work and academics.

Valet parking on campus should be allowed because it is a choice, not a requirement.

Students and staff should welcome the choice on whether or not to use a valet parking service. Just like iPods and the Internet, valet parking would only serve to make our daily lives easier.

Yes

No

Imagine a Monday morning outside of the SRC cafeteria at 8:55 with valet parking. Five minutes ago there was not a car in sight. Now there is a twenty-car line with students trying to get parked so they can run into class on time.

Now on top of that there are buses and private cars trying to make drop offs, clogging up the area. Emergency vehicles can't

Instead of getting to campus early to snag a parking spot, now people will get there early to wait in line to have their cars parked.

However, some will say valet parking would be good for heavy and old people, where walking puts unneeded stress on the body. But if someone is too heavy or old to walk from a parking lot, chances are their daily walk

into COD is the only regular exercise they get. Valet should not take away their needed workout session.

The random midwestern weather that we live through on campus is a reason some would justify using valet. But this would become the only time that many drivers would use the service, resulting in a big mess on messy weather days.

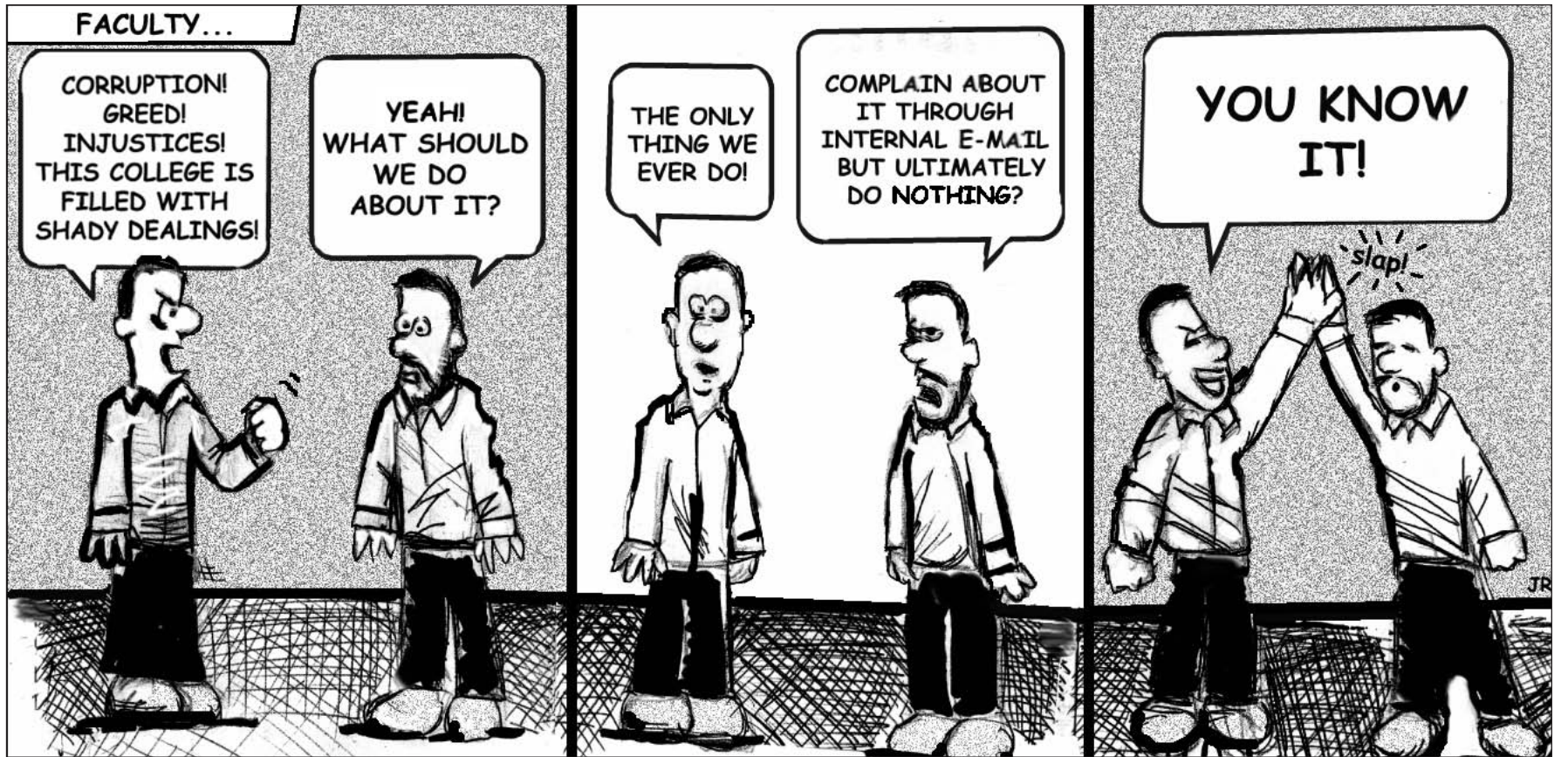
Did anyone wonder where they are going to put the cars? COD is not going to give up their now precious parking to an outside company to use at their will. The valet people will have to find an outside lot to park, and that would create a long wait for retrieving cars when people want to leave campus.

Instead of valet, COD should start a shuttle system to encourage students to park in some of the further, emptier lots on campus. All students would appreciate this.

Researched by Jordan Glover, News Editor
PointCounterPoint articles 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



Letters to the Editor

ECC supports COD staff

To all support staff of the College of DuPage,
I am writing to you today to show our support for the great journey you have embarked upon. I am the president of the Support Staff of Elgin Community College (SSECCA). In 1984, we stood in your shoes and walked the path you are currently walking. Although I was not working at ECC at the time, I am fortunate enough to still have regular contact with a number of the people who took the first steps to organize the support staff. When discussing the beginning of SSECCA's journey, they talk about turbulent times; but they also share stories of courage and hope. They do not deny the difficulties that they faced, but more than two decades after organizing, none of them have expressed regrets.

To those of you who took the initial steps in contacting the Illinois Education Association, we at SSECCA applaud your courage. The most difficult steps one takes in life are always the first steps. The hard part is done. Now all it takes is a little work and some resolve to see it through.

To those who may be skeptical, I would ask that you withhold final judgment until the work is done. In 1984, SSECCA started with approximately 85 Full time Support Staff.

Today, we not only have 170 + Full time members, but we recently organized the part time staff as well, bringing our number to well over 360. Is everyone happy one hundred percent of the time? No! But because everyone is represented by a collective bargaining agreement, everyone will have the opportunity to be heard.

We may not always be able to resolve every members issue to their satisfaction, but through collective bargaining, we always assure that their issue is heard.

When the initial work is done, you will undoubtedly feel some tension. Support staff members will still be uncertain or unwilling to use the tools that they now have at their disposal. Inevitably, some administrators will support your efforts; others will seemingly block you at every turn. This is when it will be most important to stand together as a group. There will be a significant amount of training needed on both sides. Over time, you will begin to see a shift in the entire culture of the institution. This change will happen fast or it will happen slowly. But rest assured, if you stick to the process and don't waver in your resolve, it will happen.

The process that SSECCA has used for the last 12 years is known as Interest Based Bargaining. It is not the only process, but we find it to be very effective at not only negotiating fair and equitable agreements for both sides, but it also allows us to build and strengthen working relationships in the process. As you can imagine this really helps in an environment where our primary mission is (and should be) to focus on the success of our students.

In closing, we at SSECCA wish you our best. Should you desire to contact me or any member of my executive board, navigate to our website and you will find our contact information. Our website is <http://www.ssecca.org>

Best of luck to you.

Steve Drosch
President, Support Staff of Elgin Community College Association

CODFA supports COD staff

The Classified Staff of College of DuPage is approaching a decision that takes serious consideration and thought. There is a growing movement to organize and affiliate with IEA/NEA. While it can be an emotional debate from both sides of the question, I see many positive gains that will come from affiliation. I fully support the effort.

The members of the classified staff need the strength of voice that reflects the importance of their role at COD. That strength will come from their unity and will be enhanced by the resources of IEA. Every few years, the professional constituencies at the College must negotiate a contract. The contract defines the working conditions for the employees; it defines rights, responsibilities and compensation. When negotiating the next contract, a CPA affiliated with IEA will have the resources the IEA legal staff, experienced UniServe Directors and training for the negotiators. After reaching an Agreement, there will be times when the contract is interpreted in different ways by the Administration and Staff, the IEA will guide the Staff through the grievance process. When issues are not resolved through the grievance process, IEA provides legal representation at Arbitration. It's about resources, joining IEA alone will not solve problems for the staff but will provide the tools and help for the staff to resolve their issues.

If there are members of the classified staff that have questions, I'd be happy to answer them or refer them to the right person who will provide the answer.

Glenn Hansen
President, College of DuPage Faculty Association

Thank you to instructor Tallman

May 12 was a very important day for me last year. Two years of your Music Theory course ended with the performance of my original composition by Jason Young and Maria Bolchert. It was called Fantasy for Cello and Piano: "A Night to Remember" based on the 1912 Titanic disaster. The double CD recording made by Nick Bellezzo confirmed the fact that 16 students made it to the finish line on May 10 and 12 (out of the almost 100 who started this arduous journey).

I am writing this letter to the editor in order to expressing my appreciation to you—and to Kenneth Paoli whose first-year theory students joined us in mid-stream—for guiding us through this significant learning experience that started in the Fall of 2004. Your sensitivity to adult learners who may or may not be interested in an Associates degree was extraordinary. One of your casual comment was unforgettable: "I never thought that I would see the day when the front row of my Music Theory class would be made up of senior adults." In addition to me, that row included Billie Strauss and Kay Osborne, plus three more who were less conspicuous.

By drawing on your earlier course on "American Music" (Spring 2002), the first mega-

hit in American popular music – "After the Ball" (1892) – was incorporated into my final composition. My career as an American Baptist minister and seminary professor was represented by the hymn "Nearer My God to Thee." Having re-invented myself as a music educator in retirement, it was also meaningful to include quotations from several favorite opera in connection with my volunteer service with the Adult Lecture Corp of the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

As a representative of this important COD constituency of "life-long learners", we commend you for the way in which you encouraged us to exceed our own high expectations by writing a final composition that summed up everything that we had learned.

William R. Nelson, Ph.D.
Glen Ellyn, IL

Trustee thanks community

I wish to thank the voters of COD Community College District #502 and the members of the College of DuPage community who supported my candidacy for COD trustee.

I am thankful that you provided me with the highest vote for trustee in this election.

Your support will allow me to be able to work for the best interest of COD and help shape its outstanding future. I am truly looking forward to serving you on the COD Board. Again, thank you for the most important endorsement of all - Your Vote!

Joseph C. Wozniak
College of DuPage Trustee