

# 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@cod.edu.

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, style, language, length and libel.

All letters represent the views of their author.

## CourierStaff

### Editor

Jordan Glover  
942-2683  
editor@cod.edu

### News

Amanda Jones  
942-2153  
news@cod.edu

### Features

Heidi Koos  
942-2660  
features@cod.edu

### A&E

Jenni Park  
942-2713  
arts@cod.edu

### Sports

Bob Bajek  
942-2531  
sports@cod.edu

### Photography

Aldo Blanco  
942-3066  
photo@cod.edu

### Graphics

Patrick J. Salem  
942-3113  
graphics@cod.edu

### Advertising

Joanne Leone  
942-3379  
leonej@cod.edu

### Adviser

Cathy Stablein  
942-2650  
stablein@cod.edu

### Fax

942-3747

## Staff, students must understand rights

Freedom of speech is under attack at College of DuPage from people who ought to know better.

The appearance of an anti-homosexual group on campus Monday and Wednesday left many questioning what rights students have in regards to speakers on campus.

It is wrong to espouse a college policy to limit an open exchange of ideas no matter how abhorrent, and maybe even hateful, to one's

point of view. It is hard to remember that something you "believe" in reality is only a "point of view."

Board Policy 5605 states that "Individuals should not be required to listen to a speaker they find objectionable."

Therefore, it is the right for students to ignore and walk away from speech that they find insulting or hurtful.

At the same time, the same policy states, "The Board recognizes the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly at the college."

These policies are not easy to comprehend and require more visibility than being buried behind piles of information.

Students, faculty and staff must be more aware of policies regarding freedom of speech and assembly at the college.

The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

This amendment is what this country has been built on, it is the reason that thousands

of immigrants have crossed our borders and it is the reason that press organizations all over the country are still in existence.

Yet, it is the same people who enjoy the First Amendment that are so eager to place policies on others voicing opinions that are found to be unfavorable.

Instead of wasting time trying to instill policies to void a bill over two centuries old, the community needs to embrace the protection that the First Amendment offers.

The amendment offers a protection above all others, the freedom to voice your opinion and beliefs. It does not offer freedom of speech only to those that voice the majority opinion or only those opinions that are non-confrontational.

Instead, the students, faculty and staff upset by the objectionable voices of others must do exactly what college policy implies, turn around and walk away.

## Staff Editorial



Darius

Ashleigh

Rebecca

Jody

Guy

*"If you could have any influential leader, dead or alive come speak at the college who would it be?"*

**Ashleigh Martin, 19** *digital art ad., Naperville*  
"Nefertiti, because of the incredible culture she ruled over."

**Guy Haines, 20** *undecided, Wheaton*  
"King David. He was a man after God's own heart."

**Jody Francois, 18** *nursing, Naperville*  
"Cleopatra VII, because she was a woman leader who is famous."

**Darius House, 23** *criminal justice, DeKalb*  
"Martin Luther King Jr. He had such influential non-violent speeches in regards to all minorities."

**Rebecca Stacy, 27** *Languages, Glen Ellyn*  
"Abe Lincoln or George Washington, to hear their insight on our current world issues."

## In Your Words

## Should excessive video gaming be considered an addiction?

### PointCounterPoint

**T**he Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV includes pathological gambling in its chapter on impulse-control disorders and many of the symptoms could apply to addicted video gamers.

People with a Pathological Gambling problem like to think about gambling quite a bit; they relive past triumphs and defeats and manage elaborate lies that cover up the extent of their gambling.

Anyone who knows someone with an addiction to gaming understands they love to talk about it endlessly, the hobby becomes an obsession. The gamer is constantly devising new strategies to play better. Plans to go "pro" are his justification for the new, bigger television, the extra consoles and all the little high tech accoutrements.

If someone is wondering if

they are addicted, a glimpse at the characteristics of gamblers in the DSM-IV could help.

"Individuals with Pathological Gambling are frequently highly competitive, energetic, restless and easily bored. They may be overly concerned with the approval of others and may be generous to the point of extravagance," reads the DSM-IV.

### Yes

The American Psychiatric Association decided this summer to hold off on classifying excessive gaming as an addiction, but this decision hasn't changed the lives of the people who are genuinely dependent, or heading there.

As with any addiction, the path to self-destruction is often winding and deceptively inviting. Friends and family are left without the medical community's corroboration of their suspicions and the addicted continue to play.

**T**he ridiculous move to classify excessive video game playing as an addiction has, at its roots, only one thing: money.

A group of physicians recently proposed listing video game addiction as a mental disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders, the guide used by psychiatrists and other mental health professionals in diagnosing mental illnesses.

The inclusion of such a diagnosis would have made it easier to bill insurance companies for treating patients whose video game use impeded normal functioning. In extreme cases, excessive video game playing can interfere with day-to-day necessities like working, showering and eating.

Studies bear out the notion that a significant portion of video game players are impaired by their excessive use

of video games, but gamers—unlike other addicts—show none of the physiological side affects of an addiction.

As reported by Reuters in June, addiction experts strongly opposed the idea.

"There is nothing ... to suggest that this is a complex physiological disease state akin to alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders, and it doesn't get to have the

### No

word addiction attached to it," said Dr. Stuart Gitlow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

Excessive gaming is indicative of poor impulse control and other behavioral issues, not a physiological ailment. It's just that insurance companies don't like to pay to treat these things but will spend countless millions to pay for addiction recovery. Those advocating for calling this behavior an addiction are just following the money.

Researched by Heidi Koos, Features Editor

Researched by Patrick J. Salem, Graphics Editor

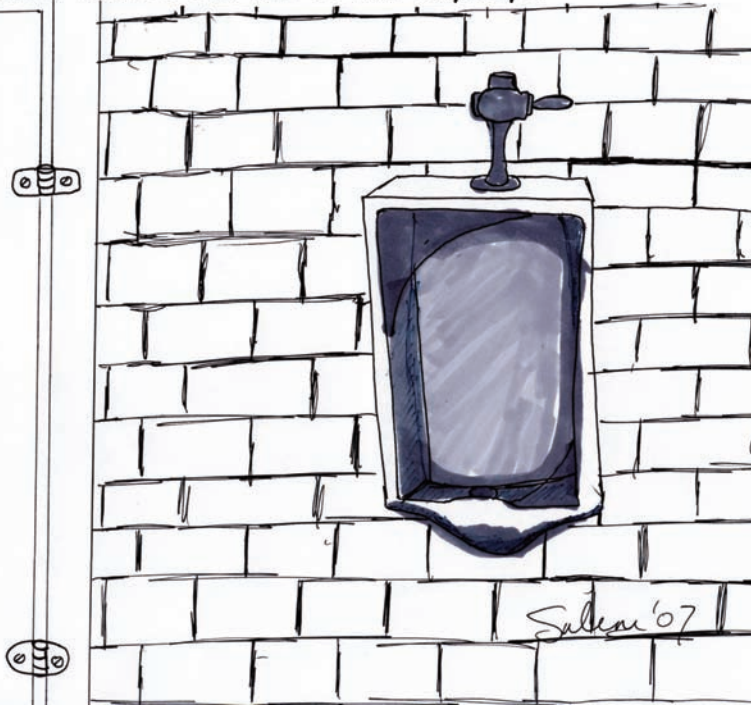
PointCounterPoint topics are selected, researched and written by the staff of the Courier and aim to reflect differing opinions on the same subject. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the author.

# OPINION

**Editorial Cartoon**  
by Patrick J. Salem

Hello, I'm in the first stall in the SRC and I need some tissue—  
Wait, what? What do you mean? I've got to be in class before 3!  
What kind of service is this anyway?!

Restroom supplies  
or maintenance—  
Please CALL ext. 4440  
for service



## Letters to the Editor

The *Courier* accepts letters to the editor from students, staff, faculty and community members. Letters are due by noon on the Tuesday prior to publication. Letters must include the authors name, occupation (student, staff or community member) daytime phone number and street address for identity verification.

Letters can be dropped off at the *Courier* office during regular business hours, mailed to the College of DuPage at 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 or e-mailed to editor@cod.edu. Please place "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line.

LETTER IDEAS:

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## Letters to the Editor

### Hatred in the bathroom stalls

I don't know how it is in the women's bathrooms, and to save some rather embarrassing explanations as to why I'd be snooping around there in the first place, I think I'll just let someone else handle that revelation for me.

However, in many of the men's bathrooms around campus, there are wonderful little tidbits of racially-charged expletives, cute little nuggets of homophobia and the ever-exciting gang-related symbolic graffiti. Not to mention overly exaggerated drawings of anatomically incorrect proportions, the odd phone number that promises a good time, and other pedantic bathroom humor.

And I sit there thinking to myself, "I thought I was in college."

Now, obviously not all of us engage in this behavior, and certainly there is some level of it that can be excused to being cute or being one of those almost sad, pathetic cries for attention.

Those really aren't the ones that disturb me.

The ones that bother me are the ones that are charged with hatred between racial lines and sexual preference. Oh, and the gang-related ones... those really bother me.

I watched the television much like everyone else and saw brief clips about everything going on in Jena, Louisiana.

I remember my first reaction to the news that these black students had asked permission to sit under the tree that eventually grew nooses was, "They did what? Who asks permission to sit under a

tree?"

Then I saw the delusional white townfolk of Jena saying that there really aren't any race issues in Jena, and how this was just all an unfortunate misunderstanding, and I chuckled at how out of touch with reality they were.

Now I sort of wonder if it's me who's not in touch with reality.

If racially motivated hatred can spring up on the walls of bathroom stalls at the College of DuPage, where we are all really supposed to be getting a higher education, which by definition means we should be more intelligent, more open minded than some of our peers, then it begs the question, "Couldn't something like that happen here?"

Sure, the college could do a better job of cleaning up the graffiti, but then, would it really help?

And if you paint a problem with a nice fresh coat of paint, does that really make the problem go away? The source of these issues is not the college, but the community in and among it.

So what do we do to make this go away? I'm afraid I don't have any easy answers to the question, but maybe by posing the question, it will develop thought, discussion, maybe even action.

My first instinct is that in a community college such as the College of DuPage, it's often hard to find a place in the community, and so perhaps part of the issue is that as much as we are coming together as students of various backgrounds into this college, we're really not getting to know each other as much as we should.

I know that I enjoy being a part of the various groups I'm part of (Student Leadership Council, the Honors Program,

looking into the windows of Phi Theta Kappa, and of course, the Forensics Team, but honestly, I sought the information for all of them after hearing about them from faculty and other students.

I reached out to become a part of the community here, and it's something that I think many more people could benefit from.

Especially those who outside of school are always working, and find they have little time to themselves.

The college offers so many opportunities for friendship, and so perhaps it's a beginning.

Maybe finding a way to encourage students to have pride in the college would help too.

I know I often find myself volunteering for things like ushering at graduation or speaking to students interested in the Honors Program because I feel like the College of DuPage has offered me so much by way of opportunity that giving something back is the least I can do.

Not to mention it's fun to do, and you never know the future friends you're going to meet.

But I'm not going to be delusional about this either. Hate issues are seldom brushed over with broad strokes.

Sure, these things might help, but certainly there are things going on that I don't have the first inkling about.

And so I guess that's the question that I'd pose to the larger community of the College of DuPage: What issues with racism, hatred, discrimination, prejudice and homophobia do we have here at the college, and more importantly, what can we do to curb them?

We all share this campus,

and certainly I think there are opportunities for all of us to experience life outside of our comfort zones, to learn something new, to embrace a different ideology, to accept a difference, and to maybe discover that we're not so different as we might each imagine.

So let's all take a moment to think about this.

And those of you with the pens in the bathroom stalls... take a moment to think before you write.

Jim Snyder  
Student

### Oct. 5 editorial and cartoon were off-base

In the Oct. 5 edition the staff editorial took exception to the announcement to Rudy Giuliani's Town Hall meeting being posted on the COD website in such a manner that the COD logo was visible.

I think the editorial is wrong-headed.

COD is a community institution. Given its location and size it provides a convenient site for events such as the Town Hall meeting.

Such events provide a needed opportunity for voters to see their candidates in person and pose questions to them directly.

Clearly they are also useful to the candidates, sufficiently so that they are willing to pay COD for use of the facilities.

The reference to the Giuliani meeting on the COD web site is politically neutral.

No serious reader would believe that it was intended for anything other than informational purposes.

I suspect the main reason for the editorial lies in the political preferences of the editorial writer.

I come to this conclusion on the basis of two pieces of evidence.

One is the tortured logic used to approve the similar treatment of an earlier appearance by Senator Obama. The other is the openly anti-Giuliani editorial cartoon on the page facing the editorial.

The latter clearly shows the cartoonist either did not attend the meeting or was too busy drawing the cartoon to listen to what was said.

H. Stuart Cunningham,  
DuPage resident, tax payer,  
voter and student

Write a letter to the editor.

Send an email to:  
editor@cod.edu

Or, stop by our office in SRC 1560.

Letters are due the Tuesday prior to publication.

Letters must include name, occupation and daytime number.

**Be heard.**



Be involved.



Be creative.



Be persuasive.



Be inspired.

# Continue your life's work.

**North Central College  
Transfer Visit Program  
Saturday, November 3, 2007  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Here's what we have planned for you.

Presentation topics include:

- Academic Highlights
- Introduction to Student Services
- Transfer Admission & Financial Aid Overview
- Student Panel

You will also have the opportunity to meet our faculty and tour our beautiful 59-acre campus.

**To register, just call us at 800-411-1861 or  
register online at [www.northcentralcollege.edu](http://www.northcentralcollege.edu).**

**North Central College  
will be at COD on:**

October 24, 10-1  
October 31, 9-12\*  
November 7, 10-1  
November 15, 10-1

\*Transcript evaluations will be conducted during this visit.  
Please sign up for your session through the Advising Center.

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