

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@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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Green to its full potential

We congratulate the college for making steps in creating a green environment by buying ecologically friendly items such as automated lights and recycling bins.

The journey to green is difficult and expensive especially for older buildings like the Student Resource Center and Berg Instructional Center. However, the biggest improvements start with our actions.

As members of a college that is striving to be green our actions outweigh any light bulb, bins and/or car that can be bought. As citizens of planet Earth, show some respect and take the extra few steps to recycle.

Everyday sacrifices can help reduce harmful gases and energy. Decreasing the time spent looking for a parking spot, packing food and beverages in re-usable containers and if you aren't physically handicap, use the revolving doors. These tips help the environment and also save money. Being "green" on campus takes the effort of everyone.

Most classrooms have three options for throwing away trash; a bin for recycling paper, a bin for recycling cans/plastic/glass and a bin

for non-recyclable items otherwise known as, garbage. Finding practical recycling bins is not cheap; the cost for one blue bin recycling cans is approximately \$100.

Investing in bins that take up less space but still hold recyclables could benefit everyone. This imbalance between the bottled recycle bins and paper bins potentially reduces the amount of items that could be recycled. When the small

bins fill up with paper, people will use the garbage and when the bottles don't fit through the circular cutouts then they too are thrown in the garbage.

The smaller paper bins came as a grant from the state. It was required that bins had to be made of five percent recycled plastic before the grant could be placed. The small paper bins were the only bins that fulfilled this requirement. This explains the abundance of them, but they are too small and larger ones are needed.

So far students and staff have recycled 80 percent of all possible recyclable items. Improvements on recycling bins and efforts set forth in using them could mean that 100 percent of our recyclables are in fact, recycled instead of tossed as trash.

Staff Editorial



Brenda

Carlo

Mike

Josh

Adriana

How old is too old to trick-or-treat?

Brenda Cuatzo, 18 *veterinarian, Woodridge*

"I would say 17 or 18-years-old because parents are only interested in seeing little kids. As soon as you get older its like, 'Your too old to be trick-or-treating.'"

Carlo Ordonez, 23 *faculty, Aurora*

"If you want to be a kid (not like that's a bad thing), do what you want."

Mike Fagiano, 23 *culinary, Elmhurst*

"I would say 25-years-old. Even though your an adult, you can still be a kid."

Adriana Michalik 19 *journalism, Roselle*

"You're never too old to trick-or-trick."

Josh Beverly, 25 *nursing, Naperville*

"Fifteen-years-old because by the time your 16 you have better things to do because you can drive."

In Your Words

Should women change their name in marriage?

PointCounterPoint

In the early 20-century women gained the right to vote. Then in the 1960s and 70s the radical feminist movement spread across America. So with all this effort for equality is it necessary for women of the new millennium to change their maiden names at marriage? Well the answer is yes.

Why is it so important? One reason is for the family. If a woman decides to keep her maiden name then it automatically creates a separation between her from her husband. In a country where 50 percent of marriages end in divorce is it really a smart idea to begin the marriage as "Mr. John Smith" and "Mrs. Jane Doe"? Also when being introduced the majority of people would assume a married couple shared the same last name. So would a woman go out of her

way just to let everyone know that she and her husband don't share a common surname? Another reason is tradition. Most of us in the United States share a common tradition when it comes to marriage with church and the priest or pastor. In our patriarchal society it doesn't matter if you are a working or stay at home woman, men are

the head of the household. So why then would it be a problem for woman to change their maiden name to their husband's surname. Both the husband and wife should honor the sanctity of their marriage. Women should know their role in the family and men should understand that they are not superior to their wife because they should treat her as they would treat themselves.

Yes

No

First comes love, then comes marriage, finally a loss of identity. When the bride walks down the aisle with her father and handed to her husband, there is an exchange of ownership. Women are expected to change their last name for marriage by tradition. Three million women give up their last names upon marriage, that's 90 percent of married women.

Legally Illinoisan women have no obligation to change their name, but in the long run they face legal repercussions. Why can't woman carry a family's name with pride? In effect to this tradition families' names will die out. If a woman would like to keep her name because she is the only chance to keep her family name alive, she will potentially face legal problems in the long run.

Despite it taking a man and a woman to create life, only women can bring life into the world. Basically women are used as tools to carry on a man's last name. Many women will embrace becoming part of her lover's family, but sadly she faces leaving the identity of her own family and one she has lived with her whole life up until that point.

A woman scarifies her identity, which causes psychological issues and her body in childbirth. Women who defy the laws of tradition face legal consequences and a possible rift in relationship with her husband's family. In the end it is just easier to abide by the tradition, but if more women could stand by their name, perhaps more men would realize what they take for granted.

Researched by Eli Rodriguez, Sports Editor

Researched by Shannon Torii, Editor-in-Chief

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



HOW FAR WILL THE GREEN INITIATIVE GO?

Write a Letter 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.

Dear Editor,

Unfortunate means

The current administration is running this college into the ground. The first thing they have decided to do is hire a public relations firm to bolster their image. Why didn't they ask some of the arts and design students to reach to other students? All they would have to do is give them recommendation letters and they would have done whatever they wanted. They named Arts Center the building McAninch for a reason. Sadly that reason has now been replaced with an era of overspending by the board of trustees. Couldn't the board of trustees fund something else than the Gilbane Corporation? Maybe hire more ESL teachers or do something unthinkable like lower tuition.

Unfortunately, they don't seem to understand simple economics, if they make something cheaper they will get more people to buy their product. Unfortunately, some of the teachers at COD buy that product more than they do. For example, some teachers at COD have doctorates in education or are studying for their doctorate. They might consider taking a few classes at COD for leadership studies. They could learn a thing or two from those teachers. But they are ignorant to the vast

world, of not only leadership, but also teaching.

We don't need a president that will administrate first and teach later. We need a teacher that understands what not only the faculty wants but takes a little time and listens to the students. What they and the rest of the board do and what really needs to be done are very different and contrasting ideas.

We need to eliminate the unnecessary paper work that teachers have to fill out. Why does a tenured professor of economics have to fill out a paper detailing the outline and grading system for a class? They gave that person tenure for a reason. Unfortunately, they are treating the teachers unfairly and forcing them to do trivial tasks that are not only unnecessary but more importantly time consuming. That means they have less time to do plan out what they are going to do for their classes. They have an army of teachers just waiting to teach and all they do is keep them in meetings for a day and bombard them with paperwork. They don't necessarily have to increase their wages to motivate teachers. All they do is punish them less.

For example, lets say they have a new teacher or a part time teacher that got favorable reviews. They can re-

ward them by not sending them to a meeting. Not only does this not punish the people that don't need to be in a meeting, but also it motivates the teachers that don't perform as well to change their ways. This is a simple solution to not only save teachers' time but also the students' time. Sure the students love an extra day off but this doesn't really help them.

Teachers must plan around these teacher institute days and schedule tests ahead of time. This forces a student to take a test that they are not prepared for. preparation is the foundation of this school and unfortunately this is not what the school is spending its money on. Why not pay teachers a little extra money? The economy isn't doing that well and we are spending millions of dollars on trivial things like buildings? I could care less what a college looks like and more about what a college feels like. Teachers are the bread and butter and what the current administration fails to realize is we need more of them. College of DuPage could make a few changes like having a bigger IT department and improve the wifi in the schools.

Sincerely,
Brian James Herman

Argue responsibly

Wayne Lela's letter to the *Courier* published on Sept. 26th, 2008, uses passages from a May/June 2008 *Psychology Today* article to illustrate the extent of the homosexual population and the ability to overcome genetic and psychological predispositions to homosexuality.

As a Professor of Speech Communication who specializes in argumentation and debate, I feel compelled to point out the unethical and irresponsible uses of evidence and faulty development of logic within the letter.

For starters, Mr. Lela correctly quotes the article as saying "The best scientific surveys put the number of gays in the general population between two and six percent, with most estimates near the low end of that range--contrary to the 10 percent figure that is often reported in the popular media." Yet Mr.

Lela neglects to provide a claim for this statement. What is he trying to argue?

Is he arguing that the gay/lesbian community is not as large as we believe and, as a result, should not have as much clout? Using the article's estimates, the gay/lesbian community numbers between 6 million and 18 million United States citizens (based on population estimates from www.census.gov). Are we to ignore a population so large? Mr. Lela needs to clarify the intent of his argument.

Furthermore, Mr. Lela strings together a variety of separate quotations appearing in various parts of the article. This seems to mislead the reader into believing that the article focuses on devaluating the theories behind why someone is gay. Allow me to provide a completely different impact by stringing together other quotations from the same article: "It turns out that parents of gay men are no better or worse than those of heterosexuals. And homosexual behavior is common in the animal kingdom, as well--among sheep, for instance. It arises naturally and does not seem to be a matter of aloof rams or overbearing ewes. The consensus now is that people are 'born gay,' as the title of a recent book by (Qazi) Rahman and British psychologist Glenn Wilson puts it."

I would encourage readers to find and read the article for themselves, which in my opinion provides a wonderfully balanced overview of the struggle to determine if there is are biological origins for homosexuality (Kunzig, Robert. "Finding the Switch." *Psychology Today* 41.3 (May 2008): 88-93).

Additionally, to quote Mr.

Lela, "... If people can be happily homosexual even though they don't have any homosexual genes, then people can be happily heterosexual even though they don't have any heterosexual genes. In other words, we can logically conclude that people born with homosexual genes (if they even exist) should still be able to satisfactorily enjoy the heterosexual lifestyle according to the latest research." Let's extend his reasoning even further--can people be unhappily heterosexual even though they have heterosexual genes?

Also, is there a difference between "can be" and "should be"? Mr. Lela's reasoning is not solid. It is, in fact, an example of the "reduction ad absurdum" fallacy, where an arguer extends a claim to ridiculous lengths. I think the relationship between happiness and sexuality is far more complex than Mr. Lela's logic suggests.

Moreover, Mr. Lela states that "... There are 'different mechanisms...for producing homosexuality,' as well as for producing all the other sexual orientations or 'preferences' (masochism, sadism, fetishism, exhibitionism, bisexuality, pedophilia, zoophilia, coprophilia, necrophilia, etc.)." Are all the items on Mr. Lela's list truly preferences or orientations? He seems to fall victim to the fallacy of "false analogy." He gives no solid reason for association. If he did, I think we would see that the comparisons are flimsy indeed.

I will absolutely agree with one statement made by Mr. Lela: "In other words, no one knows why any particular individual has any particular sexual orientation. Each person is different, is a result of his/her own unique combination of environmental and genetic influences." I couldn't agree more, and unless we truly understand those differences, we have no basis upon which to criticize them.

If Mr. Lela's letter were presented as an assignment in my Argumentation and Debate class, he would receive a grade of "D" at best. This is not because I am a "pro-homosexual" person (to paraphrase Mr. Lela--although I do consider myself a practitioner of tolerance). This is because Mr. Lela's logic flies in the face of what is taught in most basic communication, rhetoric, writing, or logic courses.

Yours for responsible argumentation and critical thinking . . .

Steve Schroeder
Professor,
Speech Communication