

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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The flavors of failure all taste the same

In the alphabet soup of COD grades, an ingredient has been changed along with the academic flavor the new Colleague and MyAccess information systems serve. Fortunately, "R" for "repeat" will be served differently beginning this summer term. "R" has given students an option to hide less than desirable grades, after a course is taken with a new grade.

Starting this summer, the original grade will remain in addition to the new grade. However, as with the current police, the original grade won't be figured into the overall grade point average.

Many students studying to enter highly competitive colleges played the "R" card until they received an "A" but found that those grades were viewed as failures upon transfer. Last semester 10,256 students were given grades of no merit. Of those ten grand, 6,051 owned up to their "F" while 5,205 student opted for an alternate letter grade corresponding with their "satisfactory," "withdrawal," "incomplete" or "audited" status. Nevertheless, many transfer schools look at these grades as they do Fs.

While the extra letter grades are meant to help students, it may just be hurting them. The extra cushion the college offers for students, is

aiding their downfall. Instructors have varying moral stance on "S" or "I" grade but the college policy sets the limits on degrees and certificates. It is undetermined as to how many students who accept a failing grade knew they had options to substitute the letter F.

The array of "credit-less" grades begins to sound more like sorry excuses than plausible reasons for falling short. A blatant "F" on a transcript stings but should be taken with grace instead of fronting an illusion that transfer schools won't fall for.

The college should reconsider its numerous no credit grades and attempt to restructure the grading system to a simple concise format, a format that avoids unfamiliar symbols and dialogue like "#", "X" and "*".

Grade	Credit
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
S	0
F	0
I	0
W	0
X	0
*	0
R/#	0

The grades crossed out should be removed from the grading system.

Staff Editorial

Meredith



Corrine



Mikhail



Brenton



Ryan

Have you ever received an undeserved "A"?

Meredith Vavra, 19 *fine arts, Woodridge*
"I have never received an 'A' before."

Mikhail Berlin, 20 *interior design Villa Park*
"No, I have fun while still getting good grades."

Corrine Kriwanek, 24 *animation, Downers Grove*
"No, I have worked really hard for all my 'A's'."

Brenton Miller, 19 *undecided, Naperville*
"Yes. On a math test in eighth grade, I cheated by using the answer sheet."

Ryan Fry, 18 *undecided, Elmhurst*
"I don't think so."

In Your Words

Does ratemyprofessor.com have undue influence on instructors?

PointCounterPoint

In a country built on a system of checks and balances, it makes sense to have one for choosing your college professors.

The website ratemyprofessors.com attempted to solve this need. By allowing students to anonymously leave comments and ratings about their experiences with instructors, prospective students can decide whether or not to sign up for courses taught by professors with poor ratings.

Yet, this website is doing more of a disservice, because now faculty have to worry about what their students will say about them. Isn't the college experience what you make of it? Aren't students responsible for the quality of education they get from their teachers? What about the adjuncts trying to work their way over to the full-time side

of the house? A fear of bad ratings hovering over their livelihood will leave them no option except to tailor their curriculum to avoid any kind of confrontation or displeasure with any of their students.

Professors have already made it through their academic training, so we should assume that they are infallible and without error. Who cares

if they speak in condescending tones, give poor guidance and belittle their students? Students should know that it is done with their academic best interests at heart. If students follow this belief blindly, and make it the cornerstone of their faith in academic excellence, students may learn something, are guaranteed a tougher skin, and their professors can laugh all the way to the bank.

Yes

Students registering for classes will surf ratemyprofessor.com to scheme out of courses with hard instructors. Choosing a hot, highly rated professor with lots of yellow smiling faces is optimal, but riding on the breeze of a course has its downsides. Determining the accuracy of the ratemyprofessor, is challenging. While one student may enjoy a teacher, another may not.

Ratemyprofessor systematically allows unsurpassed judgment of instructors, while students can bash anonymously.

If instructors dare, they can take advantage of this website by discovering what students really think of them. Students displeased with an instructor may vent hurtful adjectives as

vengeance, while others may applaud them. The mix of positive and negative posts balances an instructor's character. Instructors who want to rebuttal student's comments are given the option.

Students don't just browse ratemyprofessor for happy-go-lucky instructors, but to detect workload, if books are necessary and/or expectations of student.

Sometimes the perfect teacher doesn't fit into the more perfect schedule. Students will sacrifice their first choice instructor if it means they get to more morning Zs or conflicts with their working schedule. Overall ratemyprofessor is a tool to see how other students view a particular instructor, but is not a soothsayer in determining every student's experience.

No

OPINION



Editorial Cartoon

Write a Letter to the Editor

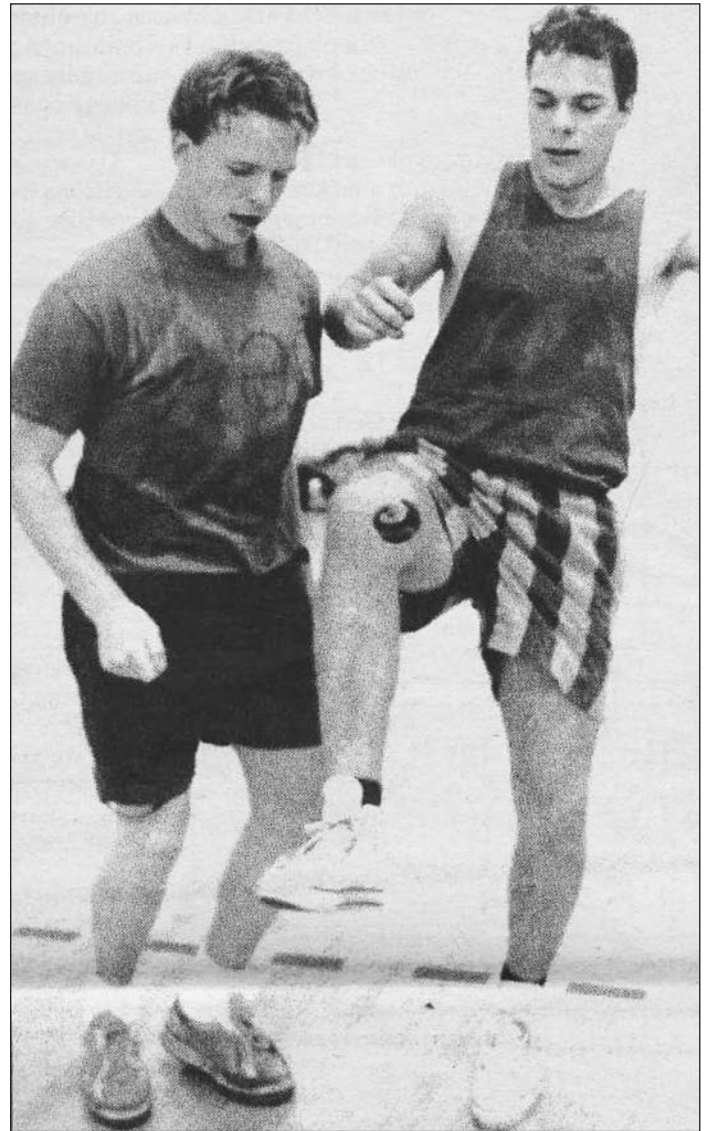
The *Courier* accepts letters to the editor from students, staff, faculty and community members. Letters are due by noon on the Tuesday prior to publication. Letters must include the authors name, occupation (student, staff or community member) daytime phone number and street address for identity verification.

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.

IDEAS: _____

Way Back When 1995



Alpha Schwa Omega Joe and Nick, kick the foot bag around the Athletic Center. (Fourteen years later "kick the foot bag" would be referred to as hacky-sack.)

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COURIER
COLLEGE OF DUPAGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHED FRIDAYS SINCE 1967 • APRIL 8, 2005

FALL TUITION HIKE APPROVED
16 percent tuition increase for fall 2005, In-district students will pay \$87 per credit hour
By Kristina Zaremba
News Editor

CAPTURING THE YOUTH VOTE
Record-breaking voter turnout made the recent student election a success
By Kristina Zaremba
News Editor

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER HONORED
By Kristina Zaremba
News Editor

PHOTOPOLL
Do you prefer the quarter or semester system? Why?

1967 *Courier* Student Newspaper • Weekly on Fridays

Chaparral
A College of DuPage Student Magazine
Summer 2002, Volume 12, Issue 3

Stepping into travel

1994 *Chaparral* Student Magazine • Spring & Summer

COD TODAY
Web site is a wonder for students

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Be heard.

Write a letter to the editor. Letter must be sent via email to: editor@cod.edu

The *Courier* has one more issue left this semester.