

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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Essential to refocus vision, purpose

The newly elected board of trustees should not lose sight of the students' amid construction contracts, controversial policy changes and a faculty infected with fear.

Between the raucous of swapping presidents and board politics, the focus has shifted away from students' education and toward the college becoming a money-making machine.

The shift away from the motto of "Students First" began in 2001 when the board approved a comprehensive facilities master plan with the number one objective to increase classroom and student space. Number 11 on the objectives was to "remodel the Berg Instructional Center (BIC) sooner."

"Sooner" will start this month with the replacement of the BIC's roof, a few years after the completion of three other new buildings totaling more than \$100 million. We hope there will be enough money left in the pot without passing more referendums to finance the BIC's estimated renovation of \$104,945,050.

In all, 21,024 students assembled in the BIC last fall and spring to take general education courses such as English and psychology in classrooms with little sound proofing to muffle videos and active class discussions. Meanwhile, specialized career classes awaited newly

constructed buildings. In an effort to please everyone, the majority suffers.

The beauty of the BIC comes from the students who leave with an affordable education, not the outward building appeal. Students leave with credits, not the tulips growing on the front lawn. The focus of construction needs to be restructured before the objective disappears behind a glorious façade. The grand plans to give COD a facelift won't conceal the problems dwelling within.

Wide-eyed students are left at the wayside with jaws dropped at the sight of a disunited college community. Yet students have the strongest voice; we are the engine of this education machine.

Ironically, not saying anything was the loudest statement students made at the November 2008 board meeting during the silent protest. Former Board Chairman Micheal McKinnon said the protest was counterproductive and when students filed against the boardroom walls, trustees laughed all the way to their chairs. They stopped laughing once Student Leadership members shook their fingers at them.

The new board has a chance to turn up the volume on the student voice. The board should encourage students' political involvement instead of silencing it.

Staff Editorial

John



Ian



Molly



Jane



Amy

What are you doing to avoid the Swine flu?

John O'Reilly, 20 *art, Warrenville*

"I'm actually washing my hands less. I haven't had enough time."

Molly Conniff, 20 *education, Addison*

"I'm not doing anything more than I was before the Swine scare."

Ian Soos, 18 *architecture, Long Grove*

"I'm not doing anything that I don't normally do."

Jane Mocarski, 23 *art history, Villa Park*

"I'm washing my hands more."

Amy Anderson, 20 *undecided, Elmhurst*

"I'm not doing anything."

In Your Words

Should there be dialogue between the Board and public at meetings?

PointCounterPoint

The monthly Board of Trustees meeting is an opportunity for the community to learn about decisions made and how their tax dollars are spent.

It is also an opportunity for the various constituency groups to become aware of how policies that directly affect them.

But how well informed can the citizenry be if the meetings are generally hard to follow? There is an agenda detailing the issues that will be addressed at each meeting, but there is hardly any discussion between Trustees over the issues, let alone between the Board and the public. Each meeting features a public comments section during which people can sign up to speak.

The problem with this set up is that no one on the Board

is obligated to respond leaving much to be desired for dialogue and communication.

The importance of shared governance and transparency can be exemplified if Trustees would open up the meeting to direct exchanges between the community and themselves.

Effective communication would reduce the amount of misinformation and negativity that stems out of the meetings.

Some doubt that a civil debate is impossible and that this type of open forum would create potentially unsafe situations due to anger and lack of respect, but we are all part of the higher education system.

We should challenge ourselves to rise above personal sentiments and focus on the betterment of our beloved college.

Yes

No

Allowing for open debate between the board and the people during a meeting would only create chaos. When people come to these meetings emotions run high and if the people could speak whenever they wanted to there would be no end to the interruptions.

Safety would become an issue if people could speak whenever they wanted to.

The public already has a chance to speak to the board during the time allotted for them.

Arguments amongst the crowd could also break out if a person were to say something particularly controversial. A board meeting is meant to approve actions around the school; it's not an informational discussion forum.

Safety for the people and the board could also become an issue. Arguments and strong emotions could lead people to making regrettable choices. Security would also be needed in order to silence a member of the crowd that wouldn't quiet down. The added security would only increase tension in the room.

The public already has an opportunity to speak in front of the board. Concerned citizens can in fact sign up before the meeting to speak. With people signing up, time can be allotted so each person has a chance to speak.

When speaking in an organized manner there is a better chance for you to be heard as opposed to when you're trying to shout over the person next to you just to get a point across.

Researched by Juan Garza, News Editor

Researched by Alex Glas, Features 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



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

A look back at stories that appeared in the *Courier* throughout the years.

Bound volumes of all issues of the *Courier* are available in the Library Archives Room.

A week in 1968

- Courier Editor Michael Raia reports on excuses students make for missing classes and assignments. Sung to the tune of the "Twelve Day of Christmas," he writes: *Twelve schedule conflicts; Eleven trips to Florida; Ten orthodontists; Nine influenzas; Eight cars-a-stalling; Seven buses tardy; Six backed-up tollways; Five late alarms; Four days out of town; Three flat tires; Two sickly aunts; And a bout with Mononucleosis*

Raia's research found the most common ailments or excuses are mono, a really bad cold followed by a really, really bad cold.

A week in 1996

• Courier Editor-in-chief Chris LaFortune writes about his return for the fall and experience as a student journalist at the *Courier*.

He writes, "You may wonder: Why would you return? You work long hours, you write so many stories, you have go to committee meetings, you basically have no personal life. Why would you

return?"

To that, I have only one answer: How could I stay away?"

A week in 2004

• Two police reports on possession of drug equipment are filed. On May 3, 2004 an office spotted a vehicle with no front registration plate.

Office discovered the male driver's license was suspended and was taken into custody.

The female passenger said that there was nothing illegal in the vehicle but Office found a small gray bag with a draw string under the driver's seat.

The bag had a clear glass pipe with a white burnt residue in the bottom of the glass. The female said that the pipe was given to her as a gift and she used it for smoking methamphetamine.

• The second report was filed three days later. Officer stopped a vehicle that had an article hanging from his rearview mirror.

Officer determined he was wanted on a Failure to Appear Warrant out of the DuPage County Sheriff's Office. During a search of the vehicle Office found a small black pouch containing a black ceramic pipe, commonly used to smoke cannabis.

The male said he didn't know what the warrant was for and forget the pipe was in his car because he hasn't cleaned it out for along time.

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COURIER
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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

A 16 percent tuition increase was recently passed by the college's Board of Trustees bringing next fall's tuition up to \$67 a credit hour.

"The tuition increase has killed hope and opportunities for a be-

ter life for many poor and working class students," said Student Body President Melissa Forrester. Currently a full time, in-district student pays \$50 per credit for 26 credits a year including summer quarter. This course load costs \$1,800 a year.

Under the semester system, a full time student will only take 24

see "Tuition" page 3

Capturing the youth vote
■ Record-breaking voter turnout made the recent student election a success
By Kristina Zaremba News Editor

March garnered the college's highest voter turnout for a student election at 731 votes.

The students elected were David Ellis for Student Trustee; Samantha Youse for Student Body

The youth vote may be suffering across the nation, but here at the college it's doing better than ever. The student election held in

see "Election" page 4

Outstanding faculty member honored
By Kristina Zaremba News Editor

"I never wanted to be a teacher," said Paul Sivratka, recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Member Award. "But I got the opportunity to grad school to lead a course. I loved it. It grew to see it as what I wanted most in my professional career."

see "Sivratka" page 3

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

Caroline Parno, 18
Business

Sandra Anderson, 40th
Des Plaines
Spanish Professor

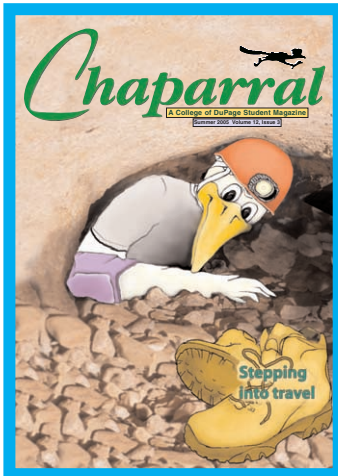
Marcus Gates, 22
Wheaton
Physical Education

"Considering this is a community college, when we're transferring to semesters it kind of screws things up during the course."

"I don't know because I have never been on semesters, so this will be new for me."

"Having done both systems already, quarters are faster, semesters give you more time to think and catch up."

1967 *Courier Student Newspaper* • Weekly on Fridays



1994 *Chaparral Student Magazine* • Spring & Summer



1992 *COD Today New Student Issue* • Annual



1999 *Courier Web* • 24/7

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This is the last issue until September!

Please contact Steve Bert, Editor-in-chief at (630) 942-2683 or editor@cod.edu in the fall with Letters to the Editor.

Be Heard.

Past issues can be seen on our Web site: www.cod.edu

Register today for summer and fall classes!

Use *myACCESS*, a new self-service web site for students.



You can:

- Register for classes
- View your schedule and grades
- Check class availability
- Make payments

Follow these simple steps to set up your *myACCESS* account:

- 1.** Go to myaccess.cod.edu.
- 2.** Click on *myACCESS* for Students.
- 3.** Under User Account, click on the link "I'm new to *myACCESS*."
- 4.** Follow the instructions on the web page. The system will then generate a *myACCESS* login for you and send a temporary password to the e-mail address on file.

Summer semester begins Tuesday, May 26.

Sessions also begin on June 8 and June 29.

Fall semester begins Monday, Aug. 24.

Returning students can register based on earned C.O.D. credits between April 30 and May 17. All returning students can register beginning May 17. New student registration starts May 21.

New Payment Policy Begins Summer 2009

Payment is due within seven (7) days of registration, except when registering 14 days before the semester starts. Beginning 14 days before the start of the semester, payment is due by the end of the next business day.