

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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A week to be remembered

Credit goes to the Student Leadership Council and key players on the student Collegiate Council for organizing a week of activities and months of behind-the-scenes details to show that community college students care about extracurricular activities as well as their formal education.

When former SLC President Sandy Kim founded the Collegiate Council in the 2007-2008 academic year, she envisioned a spirit of collaboration and discussion among student clubs and organizations. Now a member of the college Board of Trustees, Kim saw the council as an opportunity for student groups to mobilize together and work on projects. Collegiate Council members met in open forums in the SLC office to prepare for Spirit Week by capitalizing on the strengths of each of their specialties to plan individual events for all.

The week wasn't flawless as some events didn't rein in as much student participation as hoped, but SLC and Collegiate Council want to make the week an annual endeavor. In revitalizing Spirit Week, SLC should include multiple service projects to benefit different groups in the DuPage community. Fundraising and participating in a

partnership walk, Lifesource blood drive, clothing and toy drives, Valentine's Day cards for seniors, and other projects give students the opportunity to give back to the community that supports COD.

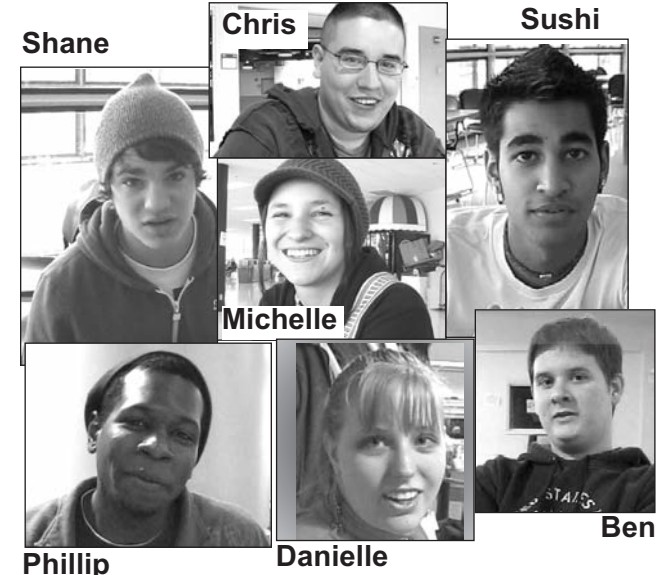
Spirit Week could be the epicenter of a community outreach effort that could align with the college's groundwork to seek support for an operating fund increase down the line. Mobilizing students to enable the community could be a golden opportunity. In some

regards, that's what Spirit Week strove for this year.

SLC and the campus administration came up with a definition of spirit to embody the essence of Spirit Week. They defined spirit as "realizing the human condition and transcending limiting individualism by consciously and actively engaging students through the College of DuPage to humanity."

In the future, SLC and Collegiate Council members should promote and design Spirit Week with the District 502 college community in mind. This would further align SLC's service commitment to the number one goal of college President Robert Breuder: "improve the climate/culture within the college community."

Staff Editorial



What would you do to get out of a ticket?

Chris Nava, 22 *pastry arts, Brookfield*

"The best way to get out of a ticket is to throw a doughnut and run away."

Ben Greene, 19 *theater, Naperville*

"To get out of my ticket I would probably negotiate my way out."

Philip Hammons, 22 *undecided, Sumter, SC*

"Well, if I was trying to get out of a ticket I would act really respectful, make no sudden movements, look him straight in the eye and say 'how you doing officer.'"

Danielle Roland, 22 *business and fashion, Naperville*

"To get out of a ticket I have cried and I have actually tried showing cleavage."

Michelle Oliva, 22 *undecided, Glendale Heights*

"I would probably lie a lot."

Sushi Kumar, 18 *marketing, Naperville*

"I would probably lie like there's no tomorrow. Either there's been a death in the family, or I'm on my way to the hospital because my brother got into a car accident."

Shane Crosby, 20 *broadcasting, Naperville*

"Call him sir, be very nice, maybe try and joke around with him a little bit, be completely cooperative and fight your case. Don't just let him walk all over you."

In Your Words

Is the US presence in Afghanistan helping or hurting?

PointCounterPoint

Since September 2001 the United States has been in Afghanistan. For years it has been to find Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind behind the combined attack of the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and the plane that crashed in a field in Pennsylvania on September 11th that resulted in 2,935 casualties.

Some say the US should leave the middle-eastern nation but reports by Reuters suggest otherwise, "Insurgent violence has reached its highest level since the Taliban was ousted from power in late 2001." Also thoughts of corruption have surrounded the Presidential elections in the country in the rocky land in between Iran and Pakistan.

Seventeen other prominent countries including Britain,

Germany, France and Canada seem to disagree that the US presence is hurting. All other 17 prominent countries, mostly from Europe, have at least 340 troops stationed in the small country. Including the United States, 10 countries have at least 1,000 troops. The total amount of troops worldwide, totals to 100,700 according to Reuters.

Corruption in the Afghani Presidential elections is another reason why the U.S. and its allies are in Afghanistan. UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown said, "No one can be satisfied with what happened during the elections in Afghanistan. Every one of us has questions that has got to be answered... about the amount of ballot-rigging that appears to have taken place."

Helping

Hurting

In 2001, the US invaded Afghanistan to remove Taliban regime after the Sept. 11 attacks. Since then, the US and has sent more than 38,000 troops to Afghanistan to win a costly war on terror. Eight years have passed and US troops are still present. Afghanistan is located in an area that links South Asia to Central Asia, making it a strategic location in the eastern part of the world. For this reason, it is believed that the US is keeping, and increasing troops in this area in order to maintain a hold on that region of the world.

President Obama announced in February that he planned on sending an additional 17,000 troops to set up a string of bases and combat outposts, allowing the troops to move around and engage

in counterterrorism.

According to the Washington Post, the Afghan public does not welcome reinforcements. In a recent ABC-BBC-ARD poll of Afghans, 18 percent said the US and NATO should increase their troop levels, and 44 percent, wanted fewer outside forces. Additionally, a February U.N. report, along with a report on Afghanistan by the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC), noted that rising civilian casualties are the source of deep resentment among the Afghan public. Although the UN said that "anti-government elements" were responsible for 55 percent of last year's civilian deaths, CIVIC reported that "the international coalition in Afghanistan is losing public support, one fallen civilian at a time."

Researched by Melissa Pointer, 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

Cell phones driving auto accidents

Laws exist, but they don't go far enough

At one time, or another, the majority of U.S. citizens have taken part in a dangerous activity; talking on a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle. Some states and several U.S. cities, including Chicago, have passed laws banning the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. Even with the laws that have been passed over the last few years the number of motorists still using their phones while driving appears to be climbing. The act of engaging in a conversation on a mobile device while driving, even in low population areas of the country, distracts the driver and is a danger to both the driver and others.

It is my opinion that banning only hand-held cell phones in limited areas is not enough. A ban of all cell phone use while driving should be nationwide since studies have shown that a driver is just as likely to get into an accident while using a hands-free device. Whether searching for the phone, dialing, or talking on the phone, the driver's attention is taken away from where it should be; on the road. Anytime a driver is distracted the possibility of an accident occurring is increased. A nationwide cell phone ban could have helped prevent a near fatal accident involving my aunt and a motorist searching for her ring-

ing cell phone.

My aunt was one of the lucky ones. Each year thousands of people suffer from debilitating or fatal injuries as a result of careless drivers using their cell phones. The suffering of these victims was unnecessary and many could have been prevented had a nationwide cell phone ban been instituted at an earlier date. Having the law in effect will not guarantee compliance by all, but will hopefully deter many from using their cell phones while driving.

Andrew Bondlow,
Student

H.O.M.E. claims science justifies heterosexuality

Once again, members of our group, H.O.M.E., were recently at COD passing out flyers on homosexual issues. We come around every two years. We unfortunately have to report that homosexual students and their well-intentioned but misguided straight supporters haven't made any progress over the last two years. They still use pseudo "arguments" and emotional appeals instead of logical arguments based on science and natural law.

For example, since the high homosexual AIDS rate in this country does not help their case (American homo/bisexuals are 50 times more likely to have HIV/AIDS than the average American), some students try to introduce AIDS stats from other countries (e.g., South Africa). The fact that we live, vote, and pay taxes in America not other

countries doesn't count with some pro-homosexual people. It's an inconvenient reality they want to ignore or deny.

Some students condemn us for wanting to (in their words) "segregate and discriminate against" homosexuals, saying there is too much segregation in this country as it is. But they hypocritically have no problem ostracizing and segregating people like us who logically believe homosexual activity is relatively unhealthy, financially costly, and immoral. (We actually prove the latter on our website: home60515.com.) Some extremist students even want to go so far as to censor us, take away our right to free speech.

Some students say that the facts we present can make homosexuals feel bad, like that's some sort of valid argument. They don't seem to care, how-

ever, that when they label and smear people such as me as homophobic bigots not much different from Neanderthals, some of us might feel bad too.

Here is the truth about homosexuality in a nutshell: it is clearly a physiologically unnatural lifestyle that, because of that unnaturalness, has certain diseases associated with it (e.g., male homosexuals have a high anal cancer rate). Also, a homosexual mind trapped in a heterosexual body, in a body obviously designed for male/female sex, is a sure sign of a disorder. And, because homosexuality is a deviation from the norm, like consenting-adult exhibitionism (e.g., public masturbation) and consenting-adult incest, homosexuality is clearly a bad legal precedent.

Wayne Lela of H.O.M.E.

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:

Dear Editor,

GLBT student reacts to gay relationships story from Oct. 2

I think it's amazing how the *Courier* published this story. It's about time that we talked about being gay without all the stigmas and stereotypes. As a member of the GLBT community, I think that wonderful that there are people and better yet, students, showing that gay relationships aren't solely based on sex and that we are capable of love. Though I do disagree

about them being exactly the same. I believe it's harder to meet someone who is gay and ready and willing to have a relationship, but this does show that its not like an elusive mythological creature and that a true loving gay relationship can happen.

COD Student

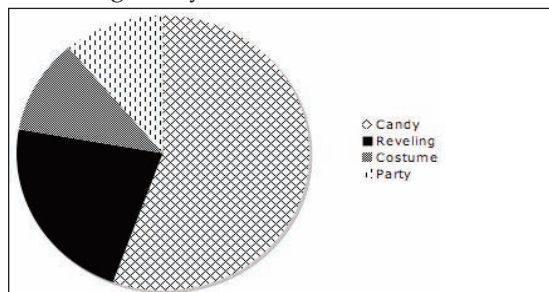
Stop by SRC 1560 or send an e-mail to editor@cod.edu to voice your opinions.

At The Polls: Last week's answers; this week's question

Last week's poll

Which of the following is the best part about Halloween:

- 1) Bringing home the prize for best costume
- 2) Enjoying life at a Halloween party
- 3) Reveling in the excitement surrounding Halloween
- 4) Getting candy



Nine people responded to last week's poll.

- 55 percent chose getting candy
- 22 percent chose reveling in the excitement
- 11 percent chose enjoying life at the party
- 11 percent chose having the best costume

This week's poll:

If dances were to be held at the college which of the following would you prefer to take part in:

- 1) Swing/Big Band
- 2) Waltzes
- 3) Disco
- 4) Other

Vote online at www.cod.edu/courier

Join the *Courier's* list serve to receive the poll question as soon as it comes out and to receive the latest *Courier* updates.

e-mail editor@cod.edu with a subject line requesting to be put on the list serve.

Have an important question you'd like to place in the newspaper? E-mail editor@cod.edu with the question you'd like presented.

No construction issues were reported to the Courier this week

Feeling impacted by construction?

Let the *Courier* know how you're being affected and we'll make sure your issues are addressed. Send an e-mail to editor@cod.edu. Include your name and the pertinent information.

