

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.

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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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More transparency

President's office needs to open its doors

College President Robert Breuder systematically has been closing access to him and even his physical office rather than exhibiting more transparency, as he has promised. What should have been a simple request for a Courier photographer to take photos looking out the President's office window for a proposed photo essay turned into an inquisition as to the reason.

In trying to make an appointment for a photo essay titled "A view from above," the photographer was questioned by Joe Moore, associate vice president of external relations, regarding not only the circumstances but the Courier's motivation.

In an e-mail to the Courier, Moore wrote, "I'd need to know what kind of essay it's going to be. If I can't tell my employer that it's not going to be derisive or demeaning, I can't justify recommending that to the president or my fellow cabinet members."

No other department in the school has created such stumbling blocks for the Courier. It is also entirely in the photographer's right to request without justification how and why a story will be used, or even if it will be used. The landmark student press court case "Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District" speaks to the issue of motivation.

The case established that "student expression may not

be censored simply because it is controversial, because school officials dislike its content or because it offers harsh criticism of them and/or school policies."

The Courier's proposed photo shoot would be unlikely to deliver controversy or harsh criticism to the office of the president, but if the photos did evince either controversy or criticism, the Courier would still have every right to publish them.

Although the public has the right to know what is going on behind the president's closed doors on a public campus with public tax dollars, the Office of the President has no right to establish preconditions for the public's right to know when requested respectfully under reasonable conditions.

It is the Courier's responsibility to present unbiased and balanced reporting to the public. This is not possible if the Office of the President determines terms and conditions for Courier editors, or other members of the press, to enter the president's office to do a story.

The Office of the President should welcome students and press, as well as the public, as President Breuder has promised since he took the office. If the president says one thing and then acts in a different manner, it reflects poorly on the institution. The president, and his office of external relations, needs to be as good as his word and demonstrate more transparency.

Staff Editorial



Eddie Janessa
Dominique Brittany Michael

What do you find to be the most offensive in movies: language, violence or nudity?

Eddie Eismann, 18 *history, Roselle*

"The main thing in movies that I don't like is language. Some language is good but in some movies its too much. It kind of takes away from the whole movie."

Janessa Armstrong, 19 *fine arts, Wheaton*

"The most offensive thing that I find in movies is the violence that is displayed. It encourages people to commit certain acts and makes us think that it is possible or popular. I don't like that, so I think it should stop."

Dominique Brazeau, 19 *art education, Wheaton*

"I don't think anything is offensive in movies, because whatever you let offend you is the main issue."

Brittany Livsey, 18 *engineering, Glen Ellyn*

"What I think is they're all hot. If you don't let your kids watch it, than it's your situation, but if you're old enough to watch it, you're old enough to watch it, so I think everything's cool."

Michael Juarez, 21 *business management, Oswego*

"What I find most offensive in movies is language, because young children could be watching and it could be offensive for them."

• view more responses online at www.cod.edu/courier

In Your Words

Have we outlived the rating system for movies?

PointCounterPoint

Years ago, the MPAA rating system meant something, but now it's obsolete. Horror directors are more demented than ever, and comedy writers know no limits.

Everyone in the film industry has upped the ante in terms of overall content in their cinemas. "Halloween," "Friday the 13th" and "The Exorcist" were once the industry standard when it came

to frightening flicks. Now we have movies like "Saw" and "Hostel." These slasher films go with scientifically realistic blood spatter, instead of just shrill screams.

Ten years ago when the Wayans brother's film, "Scary Movie" was to be released, it was supposed to have an NC-17 rating which means, according to www.mpa.org, "No one 17 and under admit-

ted." Due to the rules regarding language, sexuality and violence, the Wayans decided to cut some content. Because the film didn't show as much offensive material as it was originally intended to, it was given an "R" rating. With an "R" rating, the movie wasn't restricted to 18 and above so the Wayans' only slightly modified film could still be delivered to a wide audience.

Years before comedies like "Scary Movie," or slasher flicks like "Saw," there was more than a fine line between what was deemed acceptable to show youth. It was a very defined line. It was one that was never crossed. Now all that has gone out to sea amidst the tidal waves of blood showed in a horror movie.

We have not outlived the Motion Picture Association of America ratings because it still gives guidelines for children's viewing without being unnecessarily restrictive. The MPAA website states, "[Ratings] provide parents with information to help them determine each film's suitability for viewing by their children."

Ratings are information that people should use, but not rely on. It's up to the movie-watcher to decide if the movie is suitable or not. PG and PG-13 ratings state that the movie "should be investigated by parents before they let their younger children attend."

The 1997 movie "Titanic" saw great criticism as a PG-13 movie with nudity and sexuality. However, the rating also has reasons stating that "Ti-

tanic" has "disaster-related peril and violence, nudity, sensuality, and brief language."

Since the ratings are based on a wide range of factors, the rating reasons allow people to decide if they are ok with their child seeing a movie with one of these subjects over the other.

Responsibility of R-rated movies is dependent on the movie theater. Showplace 16 in Naperville officially requires someone of parental age and double the child's age to buy the ticket, while AMC Yorktown 17 will allow anyone over 21 to fund the child's pass. Enforcement of R-rated movies or lack thereof lies with the theater, not the ratings.

It's the responsibility of people to examine the movie with MPAA guidelines in mind.

Researched by Vikaas Shanker, Correspondent

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

Share the wealth

Student gives his two cents on helping the homeless

Dear Editor,

Last week, I read about a homeless man who is having a hard time adjusting with life here at COD. And, obviously, it's not like we run into homeless people every day of the week (unless you live in downtown Chicago, or walk across Chicago Ave in Naperville between Washington St and North Central College...there's a "homeless" man there), in an case, it's very hard for us to understand and relate to those certain people. I understand that there's a "fear of the unknown," and there is a common misconception that homeless people either have some sort of mental problem, or are just incredibly bad with their finances (or maybe just incredibly lazy as well). But I've met and talked to a good number of homeless people that aren't either. It's called bad luck, and they're finding a way to do whatever they can to counter that bad luck. They are good people that are experiencing extremely difficult times in their lives. Maybe someone can explain this to me, but why do people treat homelessness like it's some sort of disease? Are people afraid to be friends with a homeless person?

This is the way I look at it: If a friend of yours is going through a difficult time with a long-term relationship, you'd want to try and do anything you can for that person. Whether it means having late-night conversations that would last to 3 a.m. in the morning...whether it be hanging out with them just to get their minds off things...or even willing to be a mediator between the both of them, and clear the line of communication. And, yes, we do have more of an inclination to go out of our way to help out our friends, but aren't we (at least when we were younger) encouraged to help others? Like helping walk old ladies across the street? Or assisting those who have fallen and can't get back up? Even in sports, it shows good sportsmanship to offer a hand to help

pick someone back up, even if it's the other team. We're constantly encouraged to help others, whether it is friends, or a neighbor down the street, or some bumbling kid who falls off his bike and scrapes his knee.

Too often though, these things go unnoticed. Too often, someone (figuratively speaking) is caught in a ditch, and no one is paying any attention. I've heard of several suicide cases where their friends claim they never saw it coming. I've seen people fall through the cracks of society, and people walk by them pretending that they don't exist. We keep saying "The Golden Rule" over and over and over again until our heads are blue...but is there anyone that practices that on a regular basis?

You know what helps me when it comes to these situations? Imagining myself in their situation. I mean, in all honesty, whether I want to or not, I could be in that exact position. They're human, just like me. They've made mistakes, just like me. They don't like being in the position that they're in just as much as I wouldn't. And, heck, the way this economy is going, the growing number of homeless people is getting closer to our reality than we want to admit to, and it's sucking more and more of the "regular" people, making that fear a legitimate fear in our lives (if it wasn't already).

What we can do

Instead of running away, what if we faced it? What if we (pardon the cliché) shared the wealth? Now, I'm not meaning in just a financial way (which helps, don't get me wrong), but what if we offered not just a listening ear, but a listening heart? Not just a reaching hand, but a reaching friendship?

You know what all people, struggling through whatever difficulties in their life, want the most? Hope. If there's that hope that they can make it through...if there's that hope, that they won't be left alone in the dark,

cold night...if there's that hope that one day, everything will be alright, they'll be willing to do whatever it takes to make that hope become reality. As a nation, we had that hope. Abraham Lincoln had that hope that we could all live in a free country. Martin Luther King Jr. had that hope that all people would be treated equally. In WWII, we collectively had the hope of rallying together, despite being in the midst of the Great Depression, and defending our country. But the rallying cry can't really be heard by one voice, but a collection of voices...and the more voices, the louder the sound becomes. The ability to look to our brother, look to our sister, and offer them what we can. This "every man for himself" doesn't seem to be working too well, does it? It's leaving people out to dry. We talk about the "strong" people in our world...but what about the weak? What about the "have-not's"? We're just going to leave them out in the dust?

People don't realize, but those people you see on the news, hear in those heart-breaking stories...that's someone's son or daughter, or brother, or mother, or cousin, or best friend...or, one day (God forbid), could be you. It's easy to say "Oh, it won't happen to me"... but try telling that to the father who was suddenly laid off from a job that he held for 20+ years. Try telling that to the people who are on disability pay, and can't keep up with the rising prices. Try telling that to the widows and widowers whose spouses were suddenly and tragically killed and now have to support their family based on their own income.

Yes, I know it's hard. I know life is hard enough as it is right now...working, going to school, trying to spend time with friends, making sure you have enough money to pay for rent every month...I understand. And, I'm not asking people to be the next Mother Theresa, but we all have the ability to help out others in some way. Not just with our friends (who we

"What if we offered not just a listening ear, but a listening heart?"

J.A. GREENE,
STUDENT

know will repay us...maybe), but helping people that we probably don't know all that well. Like seeing someone on the side of the road, asking if they need help, or helping someone pick up their books, or even just striking up a conversation, just to talk and engage with someone. Random acts of kindness I believe is what they call it. Never waste a perfectly good opportunity to help someone (to coin the phrase)...because you never know if it just might brighten their day...or even their life.

J. A. Greene
Student, Undecided Major

Write a Letter to the Editor
e-mail editor@cod.edu



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 info.

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

Last week's poll

Is noise pollution a stress inducer in your life?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No



36 people responded to last week's poll.

- 72 percent chose yes (26 votes)
- 28 percent chose no (10 votes)

This week's poll:

To what degree would noise from construction affect your final exam(s)?

- 1) **Extremely:** the college should definitely stop construction for finals
- 2) **Moderately:** noise will affect my exam(s), the college should seek alternatives to construction.
- 3) **Minimally:** noise will hardly make a difference on my exam(s), and the college should operate as normal.
- 4) **Not at all:** noise will not affect my exam(s) whatsoever.

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.

To participate in the poll:

vote online at www.cod.edu/courier