



COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

**Courier Student Newspaper
Chaparral Student Magazine
COD Today Orientation Issue
Courier Web Edition**

July 20, 2010

Dear Personnel Director:

425 Fawell Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137-6599
www.cod.edu/courier

I would like to recommend Steve Bert to you as a candidate for your position based on my knowledge of his writing ability, persistence, and managerial skills as both the Arts Editor and most recently Editor-in-Chief of the Courier student newspaper at College of DuPage since January 2009.

In his role at Editor-in-Chief, Steve was responsible for the production of the COD Today annual orientation issue and Chaparral feature magazine. In addition, he was in charge of six section editors who worked 20 hours a week during the academic year.

The role of Courier editor is no small task because the weekly newspaper is the largest circulation and frequency among community colleges in Illinois, and among the top four college newspapers in the Chicago area. Under Steve's leadership, the Courier continued its dominance as the best community college weekly paper in the state as judged by the Illinois Community College Journalism Association.

What stands out in my mind about Steve is his winning way to get the so-called "blood from a turnip" from an editorial staff that is hired from scratch each year. He definitely sacrificed his time, putting in an average of more than 30 hours a week to accomplish the required task of getting the paper out on time. In addition, Steve lent his speaking and acting talents to the production of the weekly video introduction to the Courier's photo poll.

Steve reinvented himself in learning how to develop a photo slide show with voiceover and music in the very first summer he became editor. He never lost his temper despite the daunting task of applying both creativity and technology to the project until he perfected the timing and delivery.

While a gentle soul for the most part, Steve confronted his conscience each week to write a staff editorial calling for improvements at the college. This frequently put him at loggerheads with the college president and external relations associate vice-president.

One of Steve's shining moments came in the development of several front pages in which he worked with me to experiment with new layout techniques that he learned as part of an Associated Collegiate Press conference that we attended in Austin, Texas.

Steve very much was a go-to person who remained good-natured despite my weekly ripping of his work in the editing process. He always fixed his work without much need for prodding or supervision. It was an adviser's dream scenario. He left his mark on the paper's call for more environmental stewardship that helped bring publicity to the college's recycling policies. His absence will leave a hole in our force.

Sincerely,

Cathy Stablein, faculty adviser to the Courier student newspaper