

The Pioneer

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THE REASON WHY

1921 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF M. NISSENBAUM

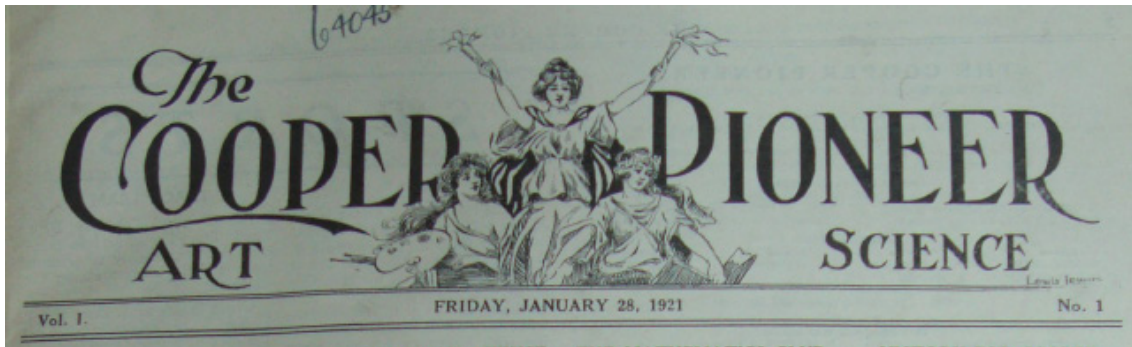
The following is an editorial from the first ever issue of *The Cooper Pioneer*:

The prime motive in issuing this paper is to produce a means whereby the students, the faculty and the alumni of the Cooper Union, can discuss those matters which would promote the general welfare of the institution and its members. This publication will strive to elevate the school status, to promote school spirit, to inspire our athletic teams, to create everlasting friendship and will strive to install co-operative tendencies within those who tend to isolate themselves from the activities of the Union, and further, through these columns, we hope to

expose those individuals or organizations (if there are any), which for selfish or mere power-loving motives, hinder the progress of projects which would benefit the school.

We have long understood the necessity for such a paper. Now, we come to realize its importance. With its rays of truth, it will dispel the fog of misunderstanding. Its words will be a happiness to those who strive for the good and welfare of the school, but will smite, as with fire and sword, the foes of its progress.

Kind readers, with your fullest enthusiasm, give your energies and lend your talents, to make this paper the pride of your Alma Mater and of yourselves. In a simple and convincing manner, write your articles and discussions, which you consider as factors towards making a Cooper Union, of co-operative action.



STUDENT SURVEYS

CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE '13)

In the ESC Open Meeting article last week, the inability for students to take surveys about professors was discussed. Many engineering professors do not give their students a survey to give feedback to them in order to improve the quality of the course. In response to this article, Professor Richard Stock provided us with the following article from the Agreement between The Cooper Union and the CUFCU.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN STUDENT SURVEYS OF BARGAINING UNIT WORK PERFORMANCE

The Cooper Union shall not sponsor, endorse or disseminate a survey of students regarding the work performance of any bargaining unit member ("The Cooper Union Sponsored Student Survey") unless it is consistent with the criteria enumerated below:

A. Participation. Participation in any Cooper Union Sponsored Student Survey of the work performance of any member of the bargaining unit shall be completely voluntary on the part of the bargaining unit member;

B. Survey Results. The results of any such Survey when anonymous shall be given directly and exclusively to the bargaining unit member; and

C. Formulation of Survey Questions. Any affected member of the bargaining unit shall have an opportunity to participate in the formulation of the questions of any such Survey.

Not withstanding the foregoing, the Cooper Union Administration may counsel Cooper Union students about any other independent survey of bargaining unit

work performance conducted by students which fails to meet the above criteria so long as such counseling is not intended to circumvent the provisions of this Article.

Professor Stock wrote an interpretation of this article: "The key provisions in these criteria are that, if the survey is anonymous, then the results of the survey (i.e., anonymous survey forms) must be given directly and exclusively to the bargaining unit member (typically a professor). They cannot be given to the administration, even "for safe keeping" or even if the purpose is solely for the analysis of the survey. Exclusive means exclusive."

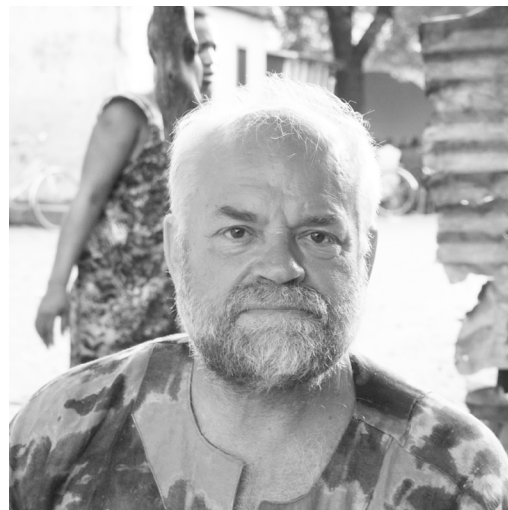
"Once the bargaining unit member has reviewed (analyzed) the survey he or she may share the findings with others should he or she wish but the surveys themselves must stay in his or her keeping."

This article may potentially be prohibiting the effectiveness of student surveys. A professor may give out surveys to students, but in the end, he or she is given "exclusive" rights to the survey, meaning that no one else may touch or even see the surveys. Of course, in an ideal world, professors will take the surveys seriously and try to improve his or her teaching and communication skills. However, this article gives professors the right to do nothing in response to the surveys. Thus, if there is a terrible professor and he or she received a very bad rating from the surveys, he or she can ignore these surveys and continue teaching the same way, harming not only the students, but the grandeur and quality of the institution as a whole.

If the surveys were to go through some other office, like the Dean's office, then the surveys would have more weight and professors will actually do something about bad ratings. What do you think about this survey system? Should professors be the only one to get the student surveys? E-mail us your concerns or opinions to cooperpioneer@gmail.com.

AN APOLOGY AND A PLEA

PROF. TOBY CUMBERBATCH (EE)



I apologize unreservedly for any offence that I may have caused through my comments on public forums associated with The Cooper Union – or through quotes attributed to me in the Pioneer. No offence was ever intended or implied. My comments were directed towards process and procedure – not individuals – and were made without full access to all the information. It was never my intention to insult, tarnish or damage the reputation of the school, the administration or the President.

I believe that everyone connected with The Cooper Union is truly invested in its success, the continuance of its mission and the pursuit of excellence. I also believe that each party desperately wishes to contribute to the current discussion, to know that its voice and perspective are heard and considered.

Since his arrival, President Bharucha has worked tirelessly to listen to all constituencies. I respectfully suggest that open and transparent discussion amongst all alumni, staff, students, faculty and administration be facilitated and promoted to enable each to understand the perspectives of the other and so address fully and directly any misconceptions or misunderstandings.

Once opened, these discussion channels should be respected, nurtured and cherished as we all work together to move The Cooper Union through this difficult time.

Toby Cumberbatch
02/11/12

THE FIRST PIONEER

JASMINE AHUJA (EE '13)

In finding old copies of the Pioneer, we have opened a new window into the life of the Cooper Union's past. Some issues were so old that they looked like they would crumble to dust. The first issue was published on Friday January 28th, 1921, 62 years after Cooper's founding in 1859. Originally, the Pioneer was not "as free as air and water". A single copy cost ten cents and a term-long subscription cost \$2.00. Adjusted for inflation, that would be about \$1.21 an issue and \$24.16 for a term-long subscription. Advertisements also filled the first issue – some were wishes of success for the Pioneer and some were ads for nearby restaurants including The St. Regis, The Irving Lunch, Charles Heitman Buffet Room and the Sagamore Buffet Lunch. None of these restaurants are around today.

(continued on back)

THE FIRST PIONEER

(continued from front)

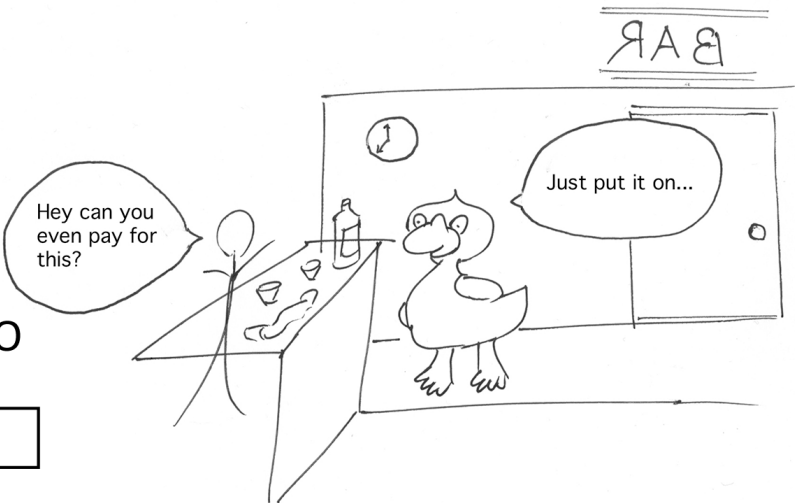
The first edition of the Pioneer had five sports articles (much more than Pioneer issues today). Cooper’s sports teams defeated Manhattan College and Fordham University but lost a game to Seton Hall because “the second half of the game found the Cooperites fast asleep.” Chess was also counted as a sport; an article about chess appeared under the sports section. Cooper used to have a Mathematics Club where students and professors would give talks on topics such as Transfinite Numbers and The Evaluation of Pi.

According to the editorial section, “the prime reason in issuing this paper is to produce a means whereby the students, the faculty and the alumni of the Cooper Union can discuss those matters which would promote the general welfare of the institution and its members.” The first issue also had an article on the importance of cooperation. These values have not changed; with Cooper’s current financial crisis, the need for open discussion and cooperation still remains.

Jumble

ROBIN KUTNER (CHE ‘13)
SAIMON SHARIF (CHE ‘15)

Unscramble these four word jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. After solving the four jumbles, arrange the circled letters to form the final answer, as suggested by the cartoon below.



B C I L M

G H L P Y

A L T U V

B E F I L O

"

"

KENKEN

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE ‘14)

KenKen is a Japanese paper puzzle by Tetsuya Miyamoto much like Sudoku, only it involves both math and logic. It roughly translates to “cleverness-cleverness.”

Instructions: Like Sudoku, each row and column must contain the numbers from 1 to 5. The number in the upper-left corner of the bolded shape made up of squares is the number you need to get by using the operation next to the number. For example, the rectangle in the bottom, with a “2-” must be filled in with numbers that subtract to 2, but the order you put them in must satisfy the conditions given earlier (each number must appear once per row and column). So, you can put in 6,4; 5,3; 4,2; or 3,1.

The solution to this puzzle will be released next week. And this time, there is only one solution.

The Valentine’s Issue of the Cooper Pioneer’s Sudoken Solution is to the right. This is one of the possible solutions. We apologize for the multiple solutions in the last puzzle.

15×		2+		72×	
	30×		30×		
4+		24×			10×
	11+	3+		13+	
10+					8+
		2-			

4	1	3	6	2	7	5	8	9
7	8	5	9	4	1	3	2	6
2	9	6	5	3	8	4	1	7
5	7	2	8	9	6	1	4	3
9	4	1	7	5	3	2	6	8
6	3	8	4	1	2	7	9	5
3	2	9	1	6	5	8	7	4
8	5	4	2	7	9	6	3	1
1	6	7	3	8	4	9	5	2

FINALS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED!

As many of you know, the finals schedule have been announced and it can be accessed through: <http://esc.cooper.edu/exams/>. It is not complete yet.

The finals schedule was meant to make it easier for students during finals week by spreading out finals throughout the week rather than having 3 or 4 consecutive finals in one day.

If you have any conflicts, please contact your professors.

CRYPTOQUOTE

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE ‘14)

A Cryptoquote is an encoded quote. It is encoded such that each and every occurrence of a letter is substituted with a different letter of the alphabet. Using clues such as frequency of occurrence and placement, the original quote can be found. For instance, the word XBDIKCXXBZ could be deciphered to reveal the word LONGFELLOW.

R JGHA NMUJWGS WD NHORB
AIABJU LWHKC UNWL JNRJ R DRG KRGEAG
FGWFWGJMWB WD WHG RTJU RGAJNA GAUHKJ
WD UHCCAB MOFHKUA RBC RTTMCABJ JNRB
WD JNRJ GARUWB WD LNMTN LA UW OHTN
ZWRUJ.
-FAJAG TWWFAG

STAIRCASE DESIGN CONTEST

This is a reminder that the staircase design contest deadline is March 6 at 12PM. The grand prize is \$50 and there are two runner up prizes of \$25 each. Please submit your designs to cooperpioneer@gmail.com. Visit our website to see the Valentine’s issue for full details.



Jenna Lee (ME’15)

SHOWCASE YOUR WORK

Do you want to show off your work? We will help you do so. *The Pioneer* wants to showcase architecture, art, and engineering projects from Cooper students!

Get some recognition for your work by publishing them in our paper. E-mail them to cooperpioneer@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF COOPER PIN-UP STRATEGIES (FREE FOOD)

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 - 7PM
Room LL101 (NAB)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!
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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
Shortlink: goo.gl/YkmW1



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