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*"In a peaceful age I might have written ornate or merely descriptive books, and might have remained almost unaware of my political loyalties. As it is I have been forced into becoming a sort of pamphleteer."*

- George Orwell

# The Independent

PHILADELPHIA'S COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS

Vol. I — No. 11

Monday, November 25, 2024

Philadelphia, PA

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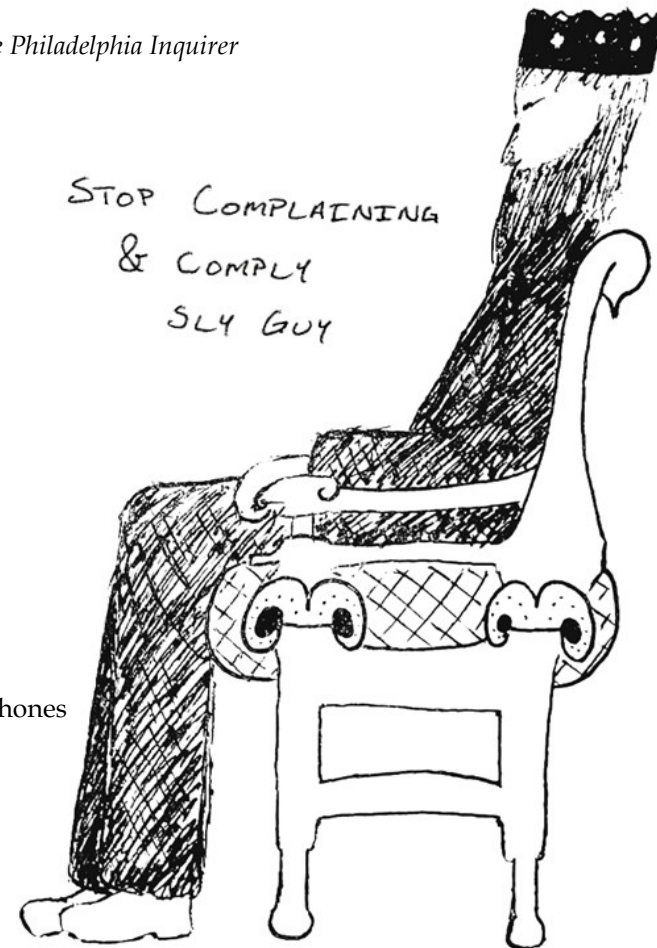
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# Indiscriminate Upcoming Events At CCP Main Campus

Feeling the pressure of finals? Join us at the **Finals De-Stress Fest**, a two-day event designed to help you unwind, refocus, and gear up for success.

**When:** December 3rd and 4th

**Where:** Mint Building, Lobby between the Saxby's and Learning Commons

What to Expect:

**Station 1:** Build Your Own De-Stress Goodie Box/Bag Craft your own take-home kit with affirmation bracelets, stress balls, keychains, and maybe a sweet treat or two.

**Station 2:** Tips and Tea Enjoy a soothing cup of tea (elderberry, chamomile, or decaf green tea) while receiving study tips and stress management advice from counselors. Bonus: Take home printed guides!

**Station 3:** Meditation and Gratitude Reflect on your semester wins and express gratitude on our community whiteboard. Then, relax with short guided meditation sessions led by experienced counselors.

**Station 4:** Coloring Corner Unleash your creativity with adult coloring sheets and crayons—an ideal way to channel some zen energy before finals.

Open to all students.



# SGA Holds No-Confidence Vote on Faculty Advisor Markovitz: Passed 7-1

A.C. WARD

In a decisive move, the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Board voted 7-1 in favor of a no-confidence resolution against Faculty Advisor Dr. Jeffrey Markovitz on November 19, 2024. The resolution cited numerous violations of the SGA Constitution and Faculty Advisor contract, as well as a failure to foster a cohesive and functional student government.

The resolution listed several grievances, including Dr. Markovitz's repeated absences from meetings, refusal to collaborate with SGA President Frank Scales, and allegations of creating divisions within the SGA by labeling members "radicals." The resolution also accused Dr. Markovitz of discouraging student initiatives and providing outdated documents during constitutional review.

"The leaders of any organization shape its culture and operations," the resolution states. "After careful examination and deliberation, the Executive Board finds that Faculty Advisor Jeffrey Markovitz has largely failed to manage the SGA properly."

The vote, conducted in the Main

Campus lobby, met quorum requirements, with over 51% of the Executive Board present. Senators representing regional campuses participated via email, as permitted under voting guidelines.

The no-confidence resolution outlines a series of incidents that led to the vote, including an email on October 29 in which Dr. Markovitz declared he would no longer work with SGA President Frank Scales, stating that Scales' "ethics and behaviors are in direct conflict" with his own.

Scales responded by pointing to the Faculty Advisor contract, which mandates regular meetings with the SGA President. "We rely on the guidance and presence of our advisor to execute our responsibilities," Scales remarked in a follow-up email to the administration. "Dr. Markovitz's disengagement has significantly hindered the SGA's ability to serve its mission."

The resolution further accuses Dr. Markovitz of failing to provide a 2021 version of the SGA Constitution during a constitutional review, instead distributing a version from 2015. De-

spite being informed of the oversight, Markovitz allegedly declined to correct the issue, hampering the SGA's efforts to modernize its governing framework.

The resolution requests that Dr. Markovitz step down by December 7, 2024. In the interim, Administrative Advisor Jenavia Weaver will oversee event planning, including the SGA Winter Formal on December 5.

President Scales has urged the college administration to honor the vote. "The SGA understands the importance of sound leadership," Scales stated in a letter to the administration. "We look forward to working together to address these issues and appointing a new advisor through a transparent and constitutional process."

The SGA plans to begin interviewing candidates for a new advisor by early December, with the goal of ensuring a seamless transition. "We are committed to restoring the functionality and unity of the SGA," Scales said.

Dr. Markovitz was unavailable for comment at time of publication.

## HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

Write a letter to the editor:  
mhassell1@student.ccp.edu

# Letter to the Editor

JAYSON MASSEY

Cathy Hicks, the Philadelphia NAACP president, continues to stand up for billionaires, not the people. The mayor's office and the NAACP have failed to secure anything extra on the table for their constituents, meanwhile, the Sixers arena will cost taxpayers money via tax incentives to billionaires, and increase housing costs and remove neighbors via gentrification. They are bowing to billionaires instead of fighting for Philadelphia.

Other problems are being ignored. Fifty-four percent of the city's renters are cost-burdened. Public schools have been underfunded and falling apart for decades. SEPTA is potentially in a death spiral which threatens to disrupt Philadelphia's 700,000 daily transit riders. City Council's endless arena hearings address none of this, nor does the NAACP's unusual support.

While all of this is happening, our neighborhoods are not going to benefit from this arena. We know that 76% of trades union members were white and 67% lived outside Philadelphia. That money misses our pockets. Also, most jobs at an arena are part time and do not pay a living wage. And of course, the tax shelter and revenue goes to

three billionaires. So there's no reason for the NAACP to support this legislation.

Over two-thirds of Philadelphians oppose the arena. We need our leaders to listen to us. We need people power, not trickle down economics from absentee business owners. NAACP, support the people, join the fight for our neighborhoods!

## Book Review

### Matthew Quick's *Boy21*

AARON BECHTEL

*Boy21* is a book written by award-winning author Matthew Quick. His titles all have distinct messages in them, but *Boy21* stood out to me because it was based in Philadelphia. In the Belmont area to be precise. Our main character, Finley, is a die-hard fan of basketball and has played the sport since he could shoot a ball. While not especially talented, the sport helps him cope with the very real problems that surround his place of residence. The Irish mob is ever present in their town, and Finley's girlfriend, Erin, has a brother who is quite high up and has a lot of enemies. One day, Finley is tasked by his coach to become a transfer student's friend, a 17-year-old boy named Russ.

However, there's a catch. Russ is one of the top recruits for basketball in the entire country. Not only that, but his normal position is the very one Finley plays on his team. The real problem is that Russ was traumatized by the cruel murder of his parents, which has caused him to believe he is an alien from space, and that his mom and dad will pick him up in a rocket in the near future. Russ now goes by the name *Boy21*. The coach hand-picked Finley for this task because he thought that Finley would be the best influence on him. Finley's outstanding grit to keep training to make up for his lack of talent inspires *Boy21*, and he soon joins the team. As they grow closer, Finley's life seems to grow a little easier, day by day. However, Erin has a target on her back, and Finley is tested to his limits when she is struck by a car and goes missing quickly afterward. Now, I wouldn't spoil the whole story for you, but I think that this story is worth a read. After I finished the book, it felt like my eyes had been opened to a new world, one I didn't even know existed. *Boy21* is a powerful book that rivals other titles like *Buck* by M.K. Asante. Whether you're not a big reader, or you read a lot but lack good books, *Boy21* should be your next. I guarantee you will love it.

# The Idea of Hajile by Ava Hampton

Part I in iss. 7

Part II in iss. 8

## III

A concept, easily acknowledged, but not very easily understood: the idea that one's thoughts may not completely reflect the situation they're in.

It's not a very concrete, tangible thing to grasp. The average person cannot take hold of the possibility and apply it to every aspect of their life indisputably; they cannot do so because then every action comes into question, and those questions usually include:

'Which parts of my memories are real?'

followed by,

'What is real?'

The topic of reality - discussed by many - has never not been argued and thus has never truly been identified. We, as humans, are always discussing the possibilities of what is real and true, within our own bodies as well as beyond the little rock we inhabit. We try to explain the unexplainable with language we haven't fully developed, and we make up for the gaps in information with stories to regulate our fear.

But what happens when the impossible occurs? What happens when the foundations of our world - as we've understood them to be, what we've implemented into our lives as concrete - disintegrate beneath our feet? What do we tell ourselves as we fall through the earth? When our only destination is that of searing end?

So, at the lake again, when her memory caught up to her again after years of subconscious fleeing, and the presumed cracks in her foundation were identified as sink holes, she did the only thing any sane person would do in the same situation: she escaped.

## IV

She did not know where she was. There was no memory or emotion or memory of emotion tied into the land where she lay. There were no synchronicities in the sounds of the birds or in the lapping of the waves at her feet, no familiarity of the wind that danced through her hair or of the grass that whispered to her skin; their language she did not understand.

Regardless of context, the position she lay in was uncomfortable. She and her clothes were soaked, and her feet were continually submerged in the cold water from the incoming waves of the bend of the river. The water from the delta must've come in more during the last of the morning or evening? What time was it? Where was she? How did she know that the volume of waves from the lake and river differ at different times?

She collected herself and began to formulate her next steps: first things first, she must get up. She placed her hands on the rocks and miscellaneous items left behind by past wanderers and propped herself up. She didn't feel well, her head was pounding and there was a weird feeling in her chest and nose, like she might've swallowed or breathed in some water. But when? She had no recollection of how she got here or where she was. She looked around and found no sign of anyone there with her. No one to ask where she was or how to get home.

Home. Oh shit, she didn't remember home.

Her stomach dropped as she began to understand the gravity of the situation: she did not know where she was or how she got there, she did not know where home was or how to get there, or if she even had a home. Did she have a job? How long was she at the river bend? What day was it? What month, year? Who was she?

She got up, slowly. Her legs were asleep, and she strained to keep herself steady as her extremities regained blood flow. She wiggled her toes and rolled her ankles as she prepared herself to walk. She looked around to decide where she would go, finding a small sign to the far right of her. She walked towards it.

# Tips on Prepping for Finals

DHEBORA CASTRO

Final exams are just around the corner, and the pressure is on! Don't worry, though—whether you're feeling overwhelmed or just want to level up your study game, these practical tips will help you tackle your finals with confidence.

## 1. Plan, Don't Panic

Start with a study schedule. Break down each subject into smaller, manageable sections, and set realistic goals for each day. Prioritize the topics that need the most attention and schedule breaks to recharge. A solid plan helps you stay focused and reduces last-minute cramming.

## 2. Create a Study Sanctuary

Your environment matters. Find a quiet, well-lit place free of distractions. Turn off notifications on your phone or use apps that block distracting sites. A clutter-free desk can mean a clutter-free mind.

## 3. Use Active Learning Techniques

Instead of passively rereading notes, engage with the material: Teach it to someone else (or pretend to). Use flashcards for quick recall. Practice past exam papers under timed conditions. Active learning helps you retain information longer.

## 4. Take Smart Breaks

Studying for hours without rest is counterproductive. Use techniques like the Pomodoro method—study for 25 minutes, then take a 5-minute break. During your breaks, stretch, hydrate, or take a quick walk to refresh your mind.

5 More Tips Coming Up! Keep Reading on the next page!

## 5. Fuel Your Brain

What you eat affects how you think. Opt for brain-friendly foods like fruits, nuts, and whole grains. Avoid sugary snacks and energy drinks—they cause crashes. Stay hydrated and get enough sleep; an all-nighter isn't worth sacrificing mental clarity.

## 6. Join or Form Study Groups

Two heads are better than one! Study groups can help you clarify doubts, share resources, and stay motivated. Just make sure the group stays on task and doesn't turn into a social hangout.

## 7. Stay Positive and Manage Stress

Mindset matters. Instead of focusing on how much is left to do, celebrate what you've accomplished each day. Practice deep breathing or mindfulness exercises to keep stress in check. Remember, you've prepared for this all semester!

## 8. Prepare for Exam Day

Lay out everything you need the night before: pens, ID, snacks, etc. Review key points in the morning but avoid cramming—it can heighten anxiety. Get to the exam venue early to settle your nerves.

## 9. Know When to Ask for Help

If you're stuck on a concept, don't hesitate to ask your professor, TA, or classmates for help. There's no shame in seeking support; it's smart time management!

Finals can be tough, but with these strategies, you've got what it takes to succeed. Take it one day at a time and remember: the hard work you put in now will pay off. You've got this!

Good luck and see you on the other side of finals week!

## FINALS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, **November 27**—Deadline for full payment of tuition and fees for all students registered for Winter 2025 classes

Thursday-Saturday, **November 28-30**—College closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, **December 4**—Deadline for full payment of tuition and fees for all students registered by this date for Spring classes starting January 13, 2025

Saturday, **December 7**—Final day of classes for Fall semester

Monday-Saturday, **December 9-14**—Final Exams

Monday, **December 16**—Deadline for final grades submitted by faculty / 2025 Winter term begins



# Hooked on our Smartphones

ENISA NAZAI

We are so consumed with technology that we fail to enjoy the little things in life, which make us happy, as well as physically, mentally, and socially healthy.

How common is it for you to feel irritated when in the middle of a conversation with your companion, they bring out their phone and start scrolling on it? Sadly, many of us can relate to this scenario. People find it hard to disconnect from their smartphones. They have become an addiction that is hard to cure. I check my phone almost every ten minutes and I always feel like I'm missing out on things if I don't. Frankly, I don't really miss out on anything, but the idea of a new message popping up on the screen is engrossing. On a scale of one to ten depending on how addicted I am to my phone, I would give myself a seven, because I can't go a day without this device, but I am conscious of its pernicious outcomes.

Let's be realistic: it is impossible to not use your phone today. Technology has advanced to that extent, where it is crucial for everyday tasks. It helps us to manage work emails, pay bills, make appointments, connect to friends, family and colleagues, as

well as read news articles, listen to music, create content, and organize our day. Of all these, social media and music are my favorite features. My instinct tells me to check my Instagram account or open TikTok whenever I get the tiniest bit of boredom.

Phones enable us unfettered access to short-term entertainment, which has made us allergic to boredom and similar malaises. These devices seem to ameliorate even the slightest inconveniences. Namely, the way the content on our smartphones programs is organized can be very addicting. Social media platforms, such as Instagram or TikTok, contain what we know as "Reels," which are short videos, less than one minute in length, that display dynamic content.

The videos could show people doing everyday activities, like cleaning, working out, dancing, painting, cooking etc. However, the trick is that they show only parts of these activities, making them fit in a one-minute time length, often accompanied by musical background. We get the illusion that we are saving time by watching these short recaps of activities rather than actually doing them. According to a web article by Rohit

Shewale, over 200 billion Reels are played over Instagram and Facebook every day. As tremendous as the figure may be, the phenomenon of phone addiction exists, and it extends past social media. People are hooked on online shopping and games as well.

In an ideal world we are supposed to have a healthy relationship with technology, not let it overwhelm us. The worst is that we don't even realize how deep into the abyss of phone addiction we are because society promotes it vigorously. When you scroll on the phone to relax after a long day at work or try to find inspiration on programs like Pinterest, you unknowingly enter an anxiety inducing environment.

It is not hard to cope with this compulsion. We must first be aware of its perils to our mental, physical, and social health, then use "baby steps" to alleviate it. We can start by reducing our phone time. Instead of searching for inspiration online, we should look around us, visit art galleries, museums, or even do something as simple as sitting in your backyard. When you need information for a writing don't look it up online, but try

to find it in your local library. My best advice is to focus on the people around you, listen to them and express yourself more. One of the conveniences of the phone is that you don't have to talk to it to make a sort of connection, but that makes you callous to people around you.

I speak from experience when I say that smartphones limit your line of thought. By over simplifying things, they confine us inside a space of short-sightedness. They make us distant from other people and hinder our social interaction skills. We often become so caught up with technology that we forget our key role of existence: to be human. Time flies and the only way to preserve it is by being present. The best memories are not caught on camera.

