



# The Independent

Community College Students' Source for Philadelphia News

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## The Waning Independence of Vanguard

Community College of Philadelphia's student newspaper, Vanguard, stands at a critical juncture. Currently housed in the Student Life Department, its editorial independence is compromised by its placement within an administrative structure that should remain entirely separate from the press.

To truly respect the principles of a student publication, Vanguard should be moved under the Communications Studies & Mass Media section within the English Department. Students working for the Vanguard would then have greater access to numerous English teachers with backgrounds in journalism.

Students majoring in Communication Studies & Mass Media are required to complete internships. Working for the Vanguard could fulfill this requirement. This alignment would be mutually beneficial, providing Mass Media students with hands-on experience while improving the content and operation of the Vanguard.

The need for this change extends beyond educational benefits—it affects the maintenance of press freedom. As of May 1st, all articles for the Vanguard must be submitted to the Director of Student Life, Jenavia Weaver, for approval before being uploaded to the website. This process places an administrative figure in the role of advisor, replacing a faculty member, and also as the de facto editor-in-chief, replacing a student leader. In this dual role Director Weaver holds the power to control what content is published. How could this still be a free and fair press?

Given her responsibilities as an administrator, particularly in negotiations between the administration and the AFT Union, as well as her advisory role with the Student Government Association, there is a legitimate concern about how she can fairly separate these duties from the editorial decisions she makes for the Vanguard. This situation risks transforming the student newspaper into an administrative mouthpiece rather than a platform for free student expression.

To ensure the Vanguard remains a truly independent voice for students, it must be moved under the academic umbrella of the English Department. This proposed shift is not just about optics; it addresses practical concerns for both the newspaper and the students involved. This shift will better serve the university's educational mission, ease the responsibilities of the student life department, and safeguard the integrity of our student press. It is time for the Vanguard to stand free from administrative oversight and return to its rightful place as a champion of student journalism.

The Vanguard has served as vital platform for student expression since 1965, but its current placement under the Student Life Department poses serious concerns for its editorial independence.

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## On Kamala Harris and Calls for a Ceasefire

Jayson Massey

August 10, 2024

The Brookings Institute claims that Vice President Kamala Harris is walking a tightrope about Israel's war against Gaza. She is supportive of Israel yet says that she is concerned about Israel's gross mistreatment of Gazans. I argue that there is no need to be in a middle ground position, nor defend or uphold President Biden's unpopular Gaza policy. Her background, her campaign, and potential administration will all be helped if she would move quickly to push for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Kamala Harris's background provided her the training to follow a non-violent approach to Gaza and beyond in her potential administration. Harris was inspired by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, even met King at a civil rights demonstration at Berkeley, CA per AP. The Vice President's pastor is also in support for a ceasefire. So, pushing for non-violent solutions is something that comes naturally.

The energy in her campaign can only be increased with a call for a ceasefire in Gaza. Many people, especially the younger people that Democrats want to mobilize in the next 100 days, want a ceasefire in Gaza. Per Pew Research Center, Americans under 30 years of age are opposed to military aid to Israel and generally less supportive of a U.S. role in the Israeli conflict in Gaza. Advocating for a ceasefire in Gaza and limiting arms to Israel allows the Harris campaign to solidify its base as it works to get out the vote on November 5.

If Harris wins the election, a non-violent solution in Gaza achieves several important things. First, it gives the Palestinian people a way to recover from the vicious onslaught they have suffered. The Lancet estimates that over 186,000 have died in Gaza, over 370,000 buildings have been razed, and 90 percent of Gaza residents have been displaced. They deserve, and are way overdue for, the humanitarian aid that the Israeli government has denied them. Second, it should cool down tensions in the Middle East, hopefully avoiding a larger war against other countries and factions. Third, many countries are moving to reject the Netanyahu administration's handling of Gaza, including America's closest ally, the United Kingdom. They dropped their objection to the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant for the Israeli Prime Minister Gaza war crimes.

The Vice President has less than 90 days to push and prepare for a more non-violent world by stopping the Israeli government's aggression. This current war is unpopular, immoral, and illegal, and in January, Vice President Harris will have all the power needed to stop it.

## The Waning Independence of Vanguard

continued

To ensure that the Vanguard remains a true voice for students, we support the proposal to move it under the Communications Studies & Mass Media section within the English Department.

The curriculum coordinator of

Communication Studies & Mass Media has recognized the potential benefits of this move and is prepared to advocate for it within the department. We call on the Dean of Liberal Studies to seriously consider this proposal and take the necessary steps to realign Vanguard under the appropriate academic department.

However, we cannot rely on faculty alone to make this change. Student voices must be heard. If you are a student at CCP, urge Director Weaver to reconsider her role in the editorial process and support this transition to preserve the integrity of student journalism. Vanguard was the student publication; it is not your little club.

## Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle," A Classic You Haven't Read

Aaron Bechtel

August 8, 2024

Take a journey back to the early 20th century when socialism was just a spark in the United States. Huge companies controlled the elections by paying people to vote for their candidate. The guiltiest of these companies had to be the ones based in Packingtown, a stockyard in Chicago. To try and unearth these unjust actions, novelist Upton Sinclair wrote *The Jungle*, a book centered around Packingtown from the point of view of an immigrant and his family. Enter Jurgis, a healthy man who recently moved with his family from Lithuania in search of wealth. Though at first it is a promising endeavor, the family soon learns of the harsh cruelties of man. This novel was intended to move the public's heart, and though it did for many, the book's true message was lost in the sheer amount of unsanitary things the meat packing industry did to cut costs for more profit. In a famous quote from Upton Sinclair himself, "I aimed for the public's heart, and instead hit them in the stomach."

If you want to read a piece of literature that earned its place in history along with so many others, this is definitely your next read. Check it out and pick up our newspaper next week for another review.

Interested in writing or reporting about CCP?

Email [independentphiladelphia725@gmail.com](mailto:independentphiladelphia725@gmail.com)

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## Phishers Target CCP, ITS Nipped it in the Butt

Max Hassel

August 9, 2024

On August 8th, the myccp.ccp.edu portal issued a warning notification to Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) students, faculty, and administrators about the threat of phishing scams.

Phishing scams typically start with a scammer sending a flood of emails to addresses within our domain (ccp.edu or student.ccp.edu). These emails often contain malicious links or instructions designed to trick recipients into providing personal information. If someone falls for the scam and clicks the link or follows the instructions, the scammer gains access to their account. The scammer then uses this compromised account to send similar phishing emails to all the contacts in that person's email history, further spreading the scam.

A common phishing scam circulated during the summer months reads as follows:

*Dear Friends,*

*This opportunity should be done at leisure taking at most 1 hour per day, 2-3 times a week and earn \$500 Weekly.. During this time that we are in, working from home would be great. Therefore, you have been offered a Job Opportunity at the convenience of your home or school, which serves as a gateway to pay all expenses incurred on campus. It's a Flexible Opportunity where you will determine your working time. You can be in any location and work from your home/school.*

*Send { I'm Interested } to { the phished email } using your personal email address such as gmail, hotmail, icloud, yahoo and not your school email so that you can effectively receive response from us.*

According to Aristidis "Eddie" Bekas, the Lead IT Help Desk Technician for Information Technology Services (ITS) at CCP, to counter phishing scams, ITS must take control of the original account that fell for the scam, forcefully log it out of Outlook, and change the password.

For most students at the school, however, the problem seems to linger because people check through their email weeks later and still see several scam emails. Some signs of phishing attacks according to IT Services at CCP are emails of "job offers with unrealistic or exceptionally high hourly wages," suspicious email addresses, misspellings, "lack of contact information in the signature block," unusual attachments, or "hyperlinks and websites that do not match the text when hovering over them."

If you see any emails that seem suspicious, do not interact with them. The IT Help Desk suggests you "create unique and strong passwords for each account" and "avoid clicking on hyperlinks in emails; hover your cursor over links in the body of the email—if the links do not match the text that appears when hovering over them, the link may be spoofed."

For ongoing issues regarding suspicious emails, you can contact the IT Help Desk at [4itsupport@ccp.edu](mailto:4itsupport@ccp.edu) or 215-496-6000. The ITS office is in the Bonnell Building, B2-41.

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