



SGA: SURVEY OF STUDENT CONCERNSS

Student Government wants to know all about the best and worst parts of your student experience. Your feedback will tell us how together we can improve life **for all students**. Give us your honest opinion. Let's make a change!

SGA: PETITION

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SGA will hold a special election for three senator positions.

Contact 2nd VP Jaritsa Hernandez-Orisini for ballot information:
jherna84@student.ccp.edu

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BEHIND BARRICADES: VICE-PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS VISITS CCP, SPARKS PROTEST AND DIVISION

M.P. HASSEL & E.L.K. NOSZKA

PHILADELPHIA, SEPT. 18 — At 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, an electric-blue coach bus emblazoned with “HARRIS-WALZ” turned onto 17th street and parked in front of the Pavilion Building, at the heart of CCP’s Main Campus. Rumors spread rapidly that Vice-President of the United States and DNC Presidential candidate, Kamala Harris, would be making an appearance on campus. By 2:00, a crowd of students, faculty, and community members formed behind the safety barriers at the Pavilion Building’s east entrance, all hoping to catch a glimpse of the guest speaker.

Within the crowd was also a group of student protestors, holding signs which criticized Vice-President Harris’ part in the U.S.-funded Israeli occupation of Pales-

tine. Police from the bicycle and civil affairs units pushed back the crowd of students, while besuited agents stood watch, holstered weapons in view. Hours passed. Despite confirmations about Harris’ appearance and a brief sighting of Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker, many students lost interest and left early, feeling powerless and disappointed. What could have been a momentous event for our students was instead yet another demonstration that the Community College of Philadelphia is valued more as a political prop than a scholarly institute.

After a televised Q&A with the National Association of Black Journalists, Vice-President Harris arrived at the College. The eagerly-Awaiting crowd at the center of

campus, however, never saw her. The Vice-Presidential motorcade arrived on the other side of the Pavilion Building at 4.p.m. and Harris entered through a loading dock. Shortly thereafter, the motorcade departed east on Spring Garden Street, then headed south on Broad Street. College President Dr. Donald Guy Generals described the event as "a massive rally for the students."

Yet, only a handful of students even knew there was a rally and even less participated. Reports from The Inquirer and The Tribune indicate that about 70 preauthorized students from UPenn, Temple, and CCP were given special access codes which allowed them beyond the barricades and into the Pavilion. Harris, known for her curated public image—from limited interviews to a 5-day-long debate prep in Pittsburgh—appears to have curated her student audience as well.

The day's events raised broader questions about who the College truly serves. Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications Dr. Shannon Rooney explained that the Secret Service handled all security, including the diversion on 17th Street. She hinted that CCP

was selected for its low security risk, despite Harris' mentions of the University of Pennsylvania in the previous week's debate. Student President-elect Frank Scales speculated: "If they had gone to Drexel or Penn, they would have protested, and it would have made the news."

Students were not notified in advance of the high-profile visit. Only CCP employees were alerted the day before, via an e-mail mentioning a potential visit from a politician. That same Monday, a union coalition called Labor for Higher Education rallied in the Winnet Courtyard. The coalition, which includes Federation of Staff and Faculty at CCP (FSFCCP), announced their support for the Harris-Walz ticket and called for "full federal funding of public higher education." Meanwhile in the Pavilion Building, staff were seen hanging banners and erecting tables in and around the Sandra E. Klein CUBE (P2-03) above the cafeteria.

Despite the fanfare, political discontent simmers among young Americans. The DNC's assumptions about student support were faltering. Many CCP students voiced dissatisfaction with both the Democratic and Republican

tickets.

Hajra Khan, a CCP student and war protester, could be heard amplifying her voice through a megaphone as she stood behind the barriers. "Protesting Harris doesn't mean I'm voting for Trump," Khan said, challenging the notion that dissent equates to disloyalty. For students like Kahn, third-party candidates like the Green Party's Jill Stein or Libertarian Chase Oliver present alternatives to the binary choice of American politics.

Afterward, Khan articulated the frustrations of the day: "Was this inclusive? If you're going to beg for student votes, talk to the students. Don't just go into a room with a few handpicked people." ••

WHAT HAPPENED TO VANGUARD?

PAULINA REYES

I am a student journalist at the Community College of Philadelphia. I began reporting when I was 11-years-old on immigration policy, environmental justice, and healthcare. Being a part of a student newspaper was not only an exciting project, but also an opportunity to publish my writing

and gain hands-on experience. It meant I could work with a team of passionate writers and editors to create a newspaper made by students, for students. In the four weeks since this semester began, *Vanguard* has not yet reached a functional state. Despite our enthusiasm and efforts to revitalize the student newspaper, it remains in limbo. *Vanguard* deserves better. Student journalists deserve better.

Since 1965, *Vanguard* has provided CCP with news, creativity, and community discourse. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic seriously impacted the newspaper, with the former Faculty Advisor leaving in 2022. *Vanguard* fell apart. My fellow editor and now founder of *The Independent* Max Hassel was the first to revive it. We did our best picking it off the ground. We were made aware that funds existed specifically for *Vanguard* news and its student journalists, which could provide camera equipment, a podcast room, and even our own newsroom.

For two semesters, I worked alongside a team of editors: Travis Taylor, Max Hassel, and Allison Miller, with Faculty Advisor Shannon Rooney behind us. We were promised more support than we

were ever given. Students submitted their writing; we edited and posted it on *Vanguard*'s website. We had goals to make print, to get more writers on board, and have a functioning newsroom.

Shannon Rooney suddenly dropped her position as our Advisor and that is when everything hit the fan. I had argued with a teammate on the *Vanguard*, Max Hassel, and decided to step down as an editor.

Discouraged and upset about what became of the *Vanguard*, I tried not to let it hinder my passion for journalism and the news. When this semester came around, I was determined to make something of the *Vanguard* and write some form of media/ document for the students and Philadelphia community. When I got into contact with Jenevia about joining *Vanguard*, she provided me with no information, told me everything was being handled and spoke and treated me as if I were a child. When I showed excitement to join and be a part of something I worked on for the last two semesters, Jenevia provided nothing, she kept telling me to smile because it is hard to keep smiling all the time when life is hard. Not once did she mention what would be of the *Vanguard* or

if students could publish as they did previously. After asking around, unbeknownst to me until I found out, Jenevia had offered an editor position to a student leader that works for her in student life. The problem with this is that the *Vanguard* should provide the opportunity to write for journalism students, and to run the operation as a student newspaper.

I am a Communications student and an active journalist. For a student to run their own news speaks volumes of student advocacy and storytelling. For Jenevia to keep me in the dark meanwhile offering a position of *Vanguard* to a nursing student is not only a slap in my face but it makes it harder for a student like me to have that opportunity to run the news with what I know about journalism and to learn more.

Vanguard will not be the same without its dedicated student writers. Running the news is not easy, especially student news. Students are already underrepresented on this campus even if we make up this school. Students are underrepresented because when students try to take leadership

students try to take leadership positions and attempt to make a difference, students are met with, the classic, "You'll be here for two years." Implying that it does not matter what you do at CCP, it will not last long. *Vanguard* was the only way to connect our students together, really connect to them and keep them informed. Without the care or fight for maintaining a

student-led newspaper, Jenevia is not really acting in her student life position. Most of all, she does not support the freedom of student advocacy and the need for information to be written for our students.

The Independent exists because in *Vanguard* our freedom to write on student advocacy, and our right to leadership has been taken away from the students who love to write, know the news and love to read it. *The Independent* was made to be what *Vanguard* cannot be, a student-led newspaper. Within it, you find word puzzles and writings from students like me. There could be an instance where *Vanguard* gives access to leadership to students to write again, one where we have an English professor as an advisor. I am not saying a nursing

student cannot do a newspaper, but at least keeping journalism students in the loop of what would be of *Vanguard* would have been nice. *The Independent* is a fun experiment of what student writers can do when we are limited. So far, it is coming along, and we will continue to publish students works on here.

This school has made great strides with the Catto scholarship opportunities, dual enrollment program, and the wonderful people like those at Single Stop and the Keys programs. The faculty has done its best, and so have we.

Student writers should have freedom to control and write their news, we deserve to speak up about what's not serving us on this campus. It is only natural for students to advocate for the betterment of our education and college. If this school prevents students from doing that, and if that means for us to make our own newspaper then that is exactly what we will do. ☺



GOT A PROBLEM?

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

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

PHILADELPHIA TENANTS' RIGHTS

ERICH STURN

Sept. 25—Successfully navigating the rental landscape in Philadelphia requires familiarity with the landlord-tenant laws. This article focuses on key aspects of tenant rights, specifically concerning security deposits, habitability, communication, and the eviction process, and helpful resources.

One of the most common concerns for tenants is the return of their security deposit. In Pennsylvania, landlords are required to return security deposits within 30 days of a tenant moving out—provided there are no damages beyond normal wear and tear. If the landlord charges a tenant for repairs, the landlord must provide an itemized list of charges within the same 30-day period.

In order to safeguard yourself, you should take photos or videos of the rental unit when you first move in (including inside cabinets, closets, and appliances.) Once you move out, notify your landlord in writing of your new address and make sure to keep a copy for your own records. If you do not receive your deposit within 30 days, you have grounds to sue

the landlord for double the amount of the security deposit and for any court costs you incur in the process.

Pennsylvania law requires that rental units meet basic habitability standards. This means that landlords must provide a safe and livable environment, including proper plumbing and heating, safe electrical wiring, and clean and sanitary conditions. Many leases in other states include an “as-is” clause, which implies the state of the property is acceptable in its current condition. This clause is legally invalid in the state of Pennsylvania, which means landlords are legally obligated to maintain a livable space regardless of any contrary agreements.

When you submit a repair request to your landlord, be sure to do so in writing and to keep record of all exchanges. E-mail is ideal. Text messages are not as easy to submit as evidence in court. You have the right to request repairs for any issues affecting the habitability of their unit.

If your landlord attempts to evict you, there are specific steps they must follow. First, the landlord must provide you with a written notice, including the reason for eviction, at least 10 days before the landlord can take further

action. If you haven't vacated within 10 days of receiving the notice, the landlord can file an eviction claim in court, and a hearing will be scheduled. You will be served a notification with the date and time of the hearing. It is very important for you to show up on time to the hearing—otherwise the court will side with the landlord.

The City of Philadelphia has a special provision called the eviction diversion program. Landlords are required to go through this process before they can proceed with an eviction. If you cannot pay rent, the city also offers a one-time rental assistance program, which covers up to \$3,500.

Philadelphia tenants can access additional resources to protect their rights, such as atlas.phila.gov, which allows tenants to check business licenses and report any property violations, such as an expired rental license.

If you're in need of assistance, you can contact the Philadelphia Tenant Union at **(267)-443-2500** or at <https://phillytenant.org>. In some cases, they will even be able to find a pro-bono attorney. Always remember that, as a tenant, you have rights that should be respected and upheld. ☀️

—FEATURED POET—

BALANCED

Savannah Outen

I want my life to be balanced
Only allowing good energy to flow
Doing all the things that are necessary

For me to succeed and grow

Work hard on my goals
But also allow myself rest
And with everything I do
I will always give my best

And when my emotions rush
I will allow myself to feel
Because I know this is
One step in my journey to heal

Accept that failure is possible
To myself, I need to be the most kind
Hove patience in my future blessings
And protect my piece of mind

