

Puzzle Korner

Across

1. Hardens
5. Boycott
10. Water in Spanish
14. Bard of _____
15. Education Secretary
16. Supplies workers
17. Lawmaker
19. Curve
20. Wear away
21. Margarine
23. Bar drink
24. Lighten
27. Wise ones
29. Enthusiasm
32. Young fellows
34. She in French
35. Go beyond
37. Sounds
40. Queue
41. Ridiculous

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							18			
20							21			22		23		
			24		25	26				27	28			
29	30	31		32			33		34					
35			36						37				38	39
40					41			42			43			
44				45			46			47				
		48					49					50		
51	52							53			54			
55				56	57	58	59		60		61	62	63	
64			65		66			67	68					
69					70					71				
72					73					74				

Down

43. Bundle of hay
44. Last Week Tonight, John ____
46. Burrito skin
48. Give in
49. Heroic narrative
50. Devour
51. Spicy dish
53. Religious song
55. Wriggly fish
56. Recipe units (abbr.)
60. Treaties
64. Surrealism, Salvador ____
66. Disassembles (2 wds.)
69. Raring to go
70. Stand up
71. Ohio lake
72. Nevada town
73. Taste or smell
74. Sluggish

47. Florida City

51. Resinous Tree
52. Throw
54. Neck areas
57. RR terminals
58. Trim
59. Outer covering
61. Poet ____ Sandburg
62. Group of three
63. Fret
65. Groom's response (2 wds.)
67. Hazardous curve
68. Understand

M	O	T	S		E	S	N	E	S		O	N	E	R
E	I	R	E		E	S	I	R	V		C	I	A	V
L	R	V	d	V	S	E	X	V	L		I	T	V	d
S	L	O	V	d		S	d	S	L		T	E	E	
		N	W	A	H					I	T	I	H	C
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V	T	I	L	R	O	L		R	E	A	I	T	O	
E	T	V	E		E	N	V	N	I		E	N	I	T
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		E	T	T	E		S	d	V	T		d	E	d
S	E	D	V	S				E	S	V	E			
E	T	V		O	E	T	O			E	C	O	R	E
H	C	R	V		R	O	L	V	T	S	I	D	E	T
S	N	V	W		V	d	N	I	T		N	O	A	V
V	n	D	V		d	I	O	A	V		S	T	E	D

The Independent

PHILADELPHIA'S COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS

Vol. II — Iss. 4

Monday, February 24, 2025

Philadelphia, PA

Are You Strike Ready?

The Faculty and Staff Federation at the Community College of Philadelphia will co-sponsor informational, organizing sessions

Thursday, February 27

Noon - 2PM Auditorium (BG-20)

6PM - 7PM Zoom Meeting

ON STUDENTS AND A STRIKE AT CCP

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A GUIDE TO POLICIES, RESOURCES, PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

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WEATHER & COMIC

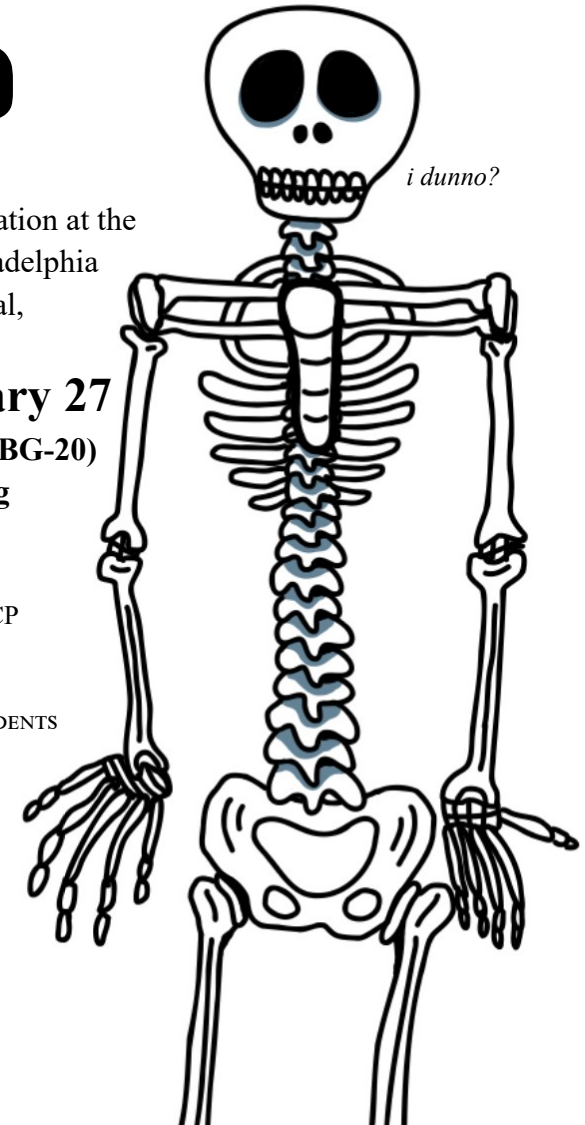
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MORE SGA DRAMA

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WANDERER, A POEM

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On Students and a Strike at CCP

The college's refusal to meet faculty and classified staff bargaining demands has forced the Federation to prepare for a potential strike in March, which could threaten classes, student support services, and graduation. However, this is solely a means to secure long-term improvements for faculty, staff, and students at the college.

For too long, students at CCP have been treated as passive consumers rather than active participants in shaping their own education. So, as students, what is to be done?

History shows that student activism can lead to tangible change. In 1970, CCP students staged a strike and sit in at the college president's office, establishing Student Government Association (SGA)



1970 student strike held in CCP's old 11th street campus building.

and securing student representation on standing committees.

Decades later, members of SGA now serve as student liaisons to the administration. Though all of SGA's authority derives from the Office of the President and the Board of Trustees, the most tangible work accomplished in years is bickering about who gets power.

A unionized student body would operate differently. A student union would only exist to serve students and derive power from a "grassroots movement" for student rights.

The opportunity, right now, is if students support a robust strike, the Faculty and Staff Federation could secure smaller class sizes, improved student support services, on-campus childcare, and SEPTA TransPasses.

One of the most important of the Federation's demands is for free or heavily discounted SEPTA TransPasses for all students and employees of the college, reducing financial strain and improving access to education. Many CCP students rely on SEPTA to commute, and rising transportation costs create a financial burden that impacts

retention and academic success. This year SEPTA fares increased from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per ride. The costs add up quickly, especially for those commuting between Main Campus and the Northeast Regional Campus, having to take both the Broad Street line and the 88 bus. Students driving into school are often late for class because the parking lot on 17th Street fills up and closes, forcing them to find street parking.

Another important demand is for on-campus childcare. Student-parents face unique challenges in balancing academic and childcare responsibilities. CCP once provided an on-campus childcare facility in the open-air parking lot next to the Bonnell Building, where early education students could work and gain hands-on experience. The college shut down the childcare center during the pandemic and has yet to reopen it.

Many students struggle to find time with counselors or academic advisors due to limited staffing. Counseling sessions often reach full capacity, forcing students to return another day. A few more than a dozen academic advisors are responsible for serving around 17,000 students. Without additional

investment in student support services, access to academic guidance will remain inadequate.

Adequately staffed counseling and advising offices, smaller class sizes, and improved working conditions lead to better educational outcomes.

The college administration is sitting on more than \$80 million in cash, investments, and receivables. Construction projects in the Winnet Building and the Center for Business and Industry continue. They have publicly posted plans for new plazas, walkways, and academic buildings online, begging the question: if there is money for these projects, why is there not money for the Federation's common-sense demands?



QR code links to student union interest/membership form

A Guide to Policies, Resources, and Protections for Immigrant Students

PAULINA REYES

During Trump's first run at Presidency in 2016, I was a target of passive-aggressive racism, full of "go back to your country!" jokes, or the classic "wetback dirty Mexican" insult. My entire community was a target. I was scared my father would be taken away because he was brown, undocumented and had a track record that wasn't squeaky clean. I had family and friends and community I had to look out for as a child. My own mother was at risk too. There were children and mothers in my life where I feared if they faced Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) if they'd return to see me again? To this day nothing changed, there is still this fear in my heart. A loss of words of what has become of the United States. Donald Trump is not my leader; he's not my president. I will never endorse him. My existence has often felt like a rebellion in a country that doesn't love my people or my community but profits off our backs to make this economy run. It's important to educate and recog-

nize your place in the world and how your actions affect others. During this time, hold your friends close and get active in advocating and organizing. There are ways on campus for immigrant students to feel safe. Many times, the resources that exist for immigrants only help if they possess DACA status, this must change.

All undocumented students deserve to feel safe at the Community College of Philadelphia, to have food security, safe housing and support in academic endeavors. I believe access to higher education must be equitable regardless of citizenship status and economic background. You are not alone. You will never be alone. My community and I stand with you. You deserve to be successful in this country and find peace. Different proposed policies and programs have resources that advocate for a sanctuary campus. The intent of sanctuary campus is adopting policies that support and protect immigrant students from being deported. It gained traction in 2016, when Trump an-



announced he'd end DACA and get strict with immigration enforcement. Even with a sanctuary city, it's not enough. Here are specific policies that help and are important to investigate.

FERPA: Data use/collection and privacy protection. This policy protects students' education records, the institution cannot give information about these records unless the student gives them permission. These include transcripts, family names and social security. It applies to all educational institutions that receive government funding.

Look out for warrants or subpoenas. The U.S citizenship and immigration services often have intimidating methods and aggressive tactics to forcefully coerce immigrants into cooperating with the

federal immigration cops. Understanding the difference between a warrant and subpoena is a step in exercising your rights in an informed, badass way.

The fourth amendment of the constitution limits ICE power because it states everyone is free of unreasonable searches and seizures of persons or objects. Only if you have a reasonable expectation of privacy like at your home or school.

Under the Fourth Amendment, to be legally valid, an immigration subpoena must not be unreasonable. This means that immigration subpoenas, which are formal written requests for information or witness testimony, must be tailored in scope, relevant, and clear in describing what specific information

is being sought, why the request is being made, and for what purpose. Thus, the Fourth Amendment functions as an important limit on both immigration enforcement power and immigration subpoena power.

Still, immigration agencies continue to test the limits of Fourth Amendment protections by seeking new ways to conduct enforcement activity and compel people to hand over sensitive information. Their most common ways of doing so are through the increased use of immigration warrants and immigration subpoenas and by inducing consent by presenting warrants or subpoenas to the people they’re targeting for enforcement.

To determine what type of document you received, first scan the document for the word “warrant” or “subpoena”; usually, the document will be titled or labeled as one or the other. Also, skim through the document to confirm whether its content matches what the document claims to be in its title. If the document seems to generally authorize the officer or agent from ICE or Customs and Border Protection office (CBP) to conduct a search or make an arrest, the document is likely a warrant. Unlike a judicial warrant, an administrative warrant

does not authorize a search without consent, but does authorize an officer to make an arrest or a seizure.

If the document says that a person must appear in court at some later date to give testimony as a witness or that a person must produce or hand over certain papers, forms, materials, information, etc., then the document is likely a subpoena.

If ICE comes to your door DON’T CONSENT, don’t do it. I mean it. Be careful to review the document, demand that they shove it under the door. If they have unenforceable documents, you are not required to have them search you or your home. If needed, and they persist, contact an immigration lawyer or community defense group to advise you as you interact with ICE.

You have the right to remain silent. You don’t have to speak to them. Exercise this right.

The local hotline number to help immigrants is HIAS Pennsylvania, their number is (215) 832-0900. And their number if you have asylum already is (833) 344-2772. They can help to document what is happening and follow up afterwards.

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Preyes11@student.ccp.edu*

Wouldn't You Like To Know Weather Boy

Monday Feb 24	Tuesday Feb 25	Wednesday Feb 26	Thursday Feb. 27	Friday Feb. 28
Sunny High of 53° Low of 35°	Partly Cloudy High of 52° Low of 36°	Partly Cloudy High of 53° Low of 40°	Chance of Rain High of 53° Low of 36°	Windy High of 43° Low of 30°

New moon on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 7:46PM

TheIndependentNews.org

IndependentPhiladelphia725@gmail.com
Instagram: TheIndependentNews

|||||

A Comic Submitted by a Student



Godzilla and Mothra together on the boardwalk getting ice cream
ANAS QORAAN

More SGA Drama, Advisors 1st VP & Treasurer Find Ways to Oust President

M.P. HASSEL

A battle for leadership and student representation has erupted within the Student Government Association (SGA) at the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), as powers devoted to SGA President Frank Scales continue to dwindle.

Scales had been a vocal advocate for student representation on the Board of Trustees. His efforts culminated in the Board granting the SGA President an ex-officio, non-voting seat at its January 9 meeting. However, just weeks later, on January 30, SGA Vice President Angie Orozco reportedly led a unanimous no-confidence vote to remove or impeach Scales from his position. SGA President Scales has since refused to step down.

Every Board of Trustees meeting, including this February meeting, is preceded by an executive session among the college president Dr. Generals, various vice-presidents, and the mayor-appointed trustees, so they can calmly discuss their agenda over food and drink. Once the meeting opened to the public, students and

members of the Faculty and Staff Federation of CCP, who sign up 24 hours prior to the meeting, are each given exactly two minutes to the second to deliver public comment.

For the first time Scales was seated at the table in the boardroom. Tensions simmered among other SGA members about whether Scales deserved to be there, given he was voted out.

SGA's Administrative Advisor Jenavia Weaver and Faculty Advisor Dr. Jeffrey Markovitz stirred the simmering pot in emails sent out the day of the meeting. At 1:12pm, approximately two hours before the board meeting, Advisor Weaver sent an email to Advisor Markovitz quoting the Board of Trustee's decision from a month earlier "to permit the College's Student Government Association President to serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees."

In turn, Faculty Advisor Markovitz notified the entirety of SGA of the ongoing situation, writing in

an email, "Frank has indicated that he will not step down despite promising to do so with the unanimous no confidence vote. That means he is still appointed to this board." Markovitz has indicated that he will not step down as faculty advisor despite his own no-confidence vote in November.

He then added his encouragement for SGA members to attend the Board of Trustees meeting, stating, "If you would like to attend to articulate your objection to this, please do. If you would like to pursue impeachment as previously discussed, please let me know."

Before the public comments commenced, members over Zoom complained about loud feedback. SGA Treasurer Maria Baez, attending the meeting for the first time in-person or over Zoom, both sat in the back and signed into the Zoom link without muting her microphone.

As public comments went on, with speeches from students about the student experience and from the Faculty and Staff Federation of CCP on the need for a resolution to the long-expired full-time faculty, part-time faculty, and classified staff contracts.

She requested a speaking position from the Treasurer of the Faculty and Staff Federation, Jamie Zigarelli, who graciously but unknowingly gave up his speaking slot to Baez to publicly challenge Scales' legitimacy before the trustees. At the end of the public comments, Board Chair Harold Epps acknowledged Baez's comments but urged SGA to handle its internal disputes independently.

SGA Treasurer Baez has used that Board of Trustees meeting and the Business Affairs Subcommittee, which is meant to provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees, as spaces to object against Scales' presidency in SGA. Students went on strike in 1970 to establish SGA and earn a shared governance model in standing committees with equal voting delegates each from the administration, the Faculty and Staff Federation, and the student body.

As many of these delegates were appointed by Scales earlier in the academic year, these spots are now being substituted with new SGA members.

1st Vice President Angie Orozco has been unanimously interviewing and nominating friends as

Danny Emdin as senator, McKayla Mignake as senator, and, as previously reported, Brayan Orozco as recording secretary.

Advisor Markovitz has also been working closely with Vice President Orozco to discuss proposed revisions to the SGA Constitution, including a one-year term limit for officers and a clause allowing the Dean of Students, Brad Kovalesski, to remove officers for conduct deemed “detrimental to the college.” Markovitz, who has not yet attended any General Assembly hosted by Scales, urged to SGA members, “I’d like to expedite the process toward the General Assembly as soon as possible.”

With SGA leadership divided, the future remains uncertain. Scales has refused to resign, while other SGA members continue efforts to stifle his power and remove him. Markovitz appears unwavering in his push to revise the SGA Constitution, particularly provisions that could make it easier for administrators to remove elected student leaders.

The status quo for Markovitz as Faculty Advisor of SGA—as it had always been before Scales was elected as president last year—is marked by minimal student support

and many days elsewhere from the college. Attempts to reach Markovitz for comment have consistently been ignored. Whether the SGA can escape his trained apathy and effectively represent students remains to be seen.

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mhassell1@student.ccp.edu*



Wanderer by Ava Hampton

I am a wanderer in my mind,
powerless to the enticing projections of life surrounding me.
An observer of thought
paralyzed by the perceived pains of my moving pictures.

photographs, screenshots
videos, words

They speak to me
and tell me of the prestige that becomes me,
of the pains that succumb me,
of the knives that could bleed me
and of the beautiful splatter it might leave behind.

I am a wanderer in my mind and I have always been such,
much to my amusement and much to my dismay.

I traverse this land and feel like I'm flying
and feel like I'm falling
and I never want to do it again
until I am doing it again.

I find maps useful
and quite useless-
for being warned or serenaded
of the masses that tower you
leaves no veracious account
of how the world inside you might crumble at the sight,
or how the dust that is you
might awaken life in the ground
of where you stand.

For this is not a land of knowing,
but of speculation;
In every answer lies expounded questions therein
and I would be a fool to ask to know
when the only thing I can be sure of
is that I know nothing.

But I am that fool.
So,

I wander through the expanse of myself
and I am horrified of the things I see.
And I am in awe of the things I see.