

Puzzle Korner

Across

- 1 Flotation device
- 3 Los Angeles right now
- 5 SGA cannot (work together)
- 7 Greek cry of discovery
- 9 Train Station abbreviation
- 11 Greek cheese
- 13 On the other hand
- 15 In French, "from," "in," or "of"
- 17 Andean animal, also Meta AI

Down

- 1 5ks, Marathons, e.g.
- 4 Concerning
- 6 Fauna's flowery partner
- 8 Scotch™ or Duck™
- 10 Made this word up
- 11 Wild state
- 14 Ojibwe term sacred object
- 16 Sixers and City Hall wanted it

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|---|---|---|---|----|----|--|----|----|
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | | 11 | | 14 | 16 |
| 3 | | | | 10 | | | 13 | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | 15 | |
| 9 | | | | 17 | | | | |

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"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again..."

—Theodore Roosevelt, Speech at the Sorbonne, 1910

V W V T T V L S
N E V K E R U E
E L V R E P O O C
O R O E Z V T B V
V L E F L F V R

Mon 51°, Tues 47°, Wed 33°, Thurs 43°, Fri 40° ● 1st Quarter, Wed. Feb. 5, 3:02am

The Independent

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Downfall of Scales' SGA Presidency

PAULINA REYES

On Thursday the 30th of January, Frank Scales, President of Student Government Association (SGA) organized Pizza with the SGA that would be held at the main tables between the Saxby's coffee shop and the library from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Two weeks before, Dr. Jeffrey Markovitz had appointed Brayan Orozco as recording secretary of SGA without a vote from Frank. For some time, SGA leaders who did not want to

work with Frank were meeting and negotiating on good terms with the administration.

Another SGA meeting, also with pizza, called General Assembly was scheduled at 2:00pm that same day in S2-03 of the Winnet Student Life building, complete with sodas and refreshments and an entire lecture room. This meeting was led by Treasurer Maria Baez, Senator Shyanna Davis and Vice President Angie Orozco. There was

Review: *The Lighthouse*

YASMIN BROWN

Directed by Robert Eggers, starring Robert Pattinson & Willem Dafoe.

These days I have found most movies to be lackluster and unoriginal. There are many who agree and possibly more who wouldn't. Genres like psychological thrillers are strictly made to break the fourth wall and reach the audience indirectly. This film completed the task it assigned itself, or as most people say, "they understood the assignment." Robert Pattinson delivered a truly frightened and isolated Thomas Howard. Although at times his accent shifted and changed, it has not tainted the film in any sort of negative way. Willem Dafoe executed an assertive yet lost Thomas Wake. Both Dafoe and Pattinson share a deprived experience even though we as the audience are accompanying them. *The Lighthouse* isn't a film that always makes sense, but we as the audience begin to question what is real and what isn't along with Howard. Are the seagulls truly haunting him? Was the siren real? Is Wake out to get him? As a viewer I wonder if the reason for both main characters having the same first name is symbolism that they are cut from the same cloth and are set upon the same fate of insanity and solitude. Robert Eggers has written, directed, and produced a film with flawless cinematography, simple dialogue, and strong similarities to *The Shinning* with the theme of isolation. The scene with Wake running with a limp and the axe in his hands reminds me vividly of Jack in the hotel running after Wendy or looking for Danny. It seems impossible to avoid repetition in any form of art, but the reuse of symbolism and themes in this film does not take away from the quality and surprise of what Eggers has created. *The Lighthouse* is constantly a reminder throughout the film, as if it is beating us, Thomas Howard, over the head with the fact that we are isolated and out alone at sea. Wake and Howard are together but are still isolated amongst themselves as the tide crashes for weeks or possibly months on end. They are not only driven insane by themselves, but by each other. This twistedly quiet yet loud film has drawn us into it to leave us off after about an hour and forty minutes with more questions than answers. Though, we know as the audience this is the end of the story, or do we?

Another Review: *The Jungle*

M.P. HASSEL

Aaron Bechtel wrote a review of *The Jungle* a while back, featured in Issue 2 of Volume 1 on August 8, 2024. After reading the book myself, I am glad he recommended it so highly. However, while the novel is set in Packingtown, the "muckraking journalism" Sinclair engaged in was not primarily about the disgusting practices that led to tainted and infected meat reaching consumers. That is what stuck with the public, but his real focus was on the brutal economic hardships the packing industry inflicted on immigrants. The novel exposes the grinding exploitation, corruption, and inescapable poverty that defined working-class life in early 20th-century Chicago.

We open on an overwhelmingly joyous wedding scene, with newly arrived Lithuanian immigrants celebrating modestly, yet even this small indulgence is far beyond their means. Jurgis, young and strong, believes his physical power will sustain his family, but the relentless demands of his meatpacking job in the stockyards drain him, and he spirals in and out of the lowest, most distasteful work of Packingtown. The family struggles to find and hold livable employment, forcing even the children to work. Attempts to unionize fail. Their wages are cut, their bodies broken, and their dreams of prosperity dead as the battle to keep their home falters.

Unlike the speculative dystopias of *1984* or *A Brave New World*, Sinclair's *The Jungle* is a reminder of what has happened, and what can happen again if history is forgotten. More than a century later, the wealth gap in America has widened to levels mostly unseen since Sinclair's time, and workers continue to struggle under systems designed to exploit them. We have a President who openly longs for an earlier version of America that, for many, was defined by unchecked corporate power, worker exploitation, and social inequality. *The Jungle* is not just a book from the past; it is a warning for the present.

I suggest to all the readers of *The Independent* to read and digest for yourself. Develop your own relationships with these seminal works. Never inanely repeat the recapitulated rhetoric forced upon you.

The Fragility of Pandering Ethics:

SGA Pizza with President Thursdays

ANISA HAMID

Human beings are one of the most curious creatures on earth. Even in our day-to-day interactions, we demand answers to subconscious questions that are harbored deeper than we're aware of. All the questions boil down to one primal request; "Who are you in relation to me?" Seeking an answer is why we develop parasocial relationships with influencers. It is why we easily dehumanize politicians. Seeking an answer to this question is seeking asylum. Within us all, there is a desire to be seen and understood. So, when we think about the people who we elect as representatives, that innate desire starts to resemble less of a fascination and becomes more akin to self-preservation.

On Thursday, January 23 at 1:00pm, the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a sort of pizza party for engagement in the lobby outside the Learning Lab. Upon arrival, you were encouraged to sign your name on one of their latest petitions, and in turn earned a slice of pizza. A simple, yet efficient marketing tactic brands typi-

cally use to boost public favor. However, how efficient was this proposal? and even more pressing of a question, what does this say about the values and priorities of the SGA?

These weekly pizza gatherings are an indirect plea for conditional support; it's paying for morals. This can unintentionally communicate to the student body that the SGA doesn't believe it's possible to have an audience intelligent enough to understand when they are being socially manipulated. Or even worse, that the SGA doesn't value their cause enough to intentionally craft a respectable audience. Which would begin to oppose the values and mission they have claimed to support. Both integrity and reliability come into question.

I can't help but wonder, would it be more helpful to garner a target audience? Sure, the SGA ought to represent all students. But surely empowering those new intersectional reaches couldn't hurt? I also can't help but question the apparent emphasis on administrative valida-

tion, rather than networking between powerful attending leaders of the school. Club presidents, liberal arts majors, or even creative students might be willing to assist with the behind-the-scenes labor. Whether that be through better organization or delegating government responsibilities. If only they knew help was requested and appreciated.

If we ask the average CCP student what SGA is, we get few broad answers. If we ask them what their purpose is, even amongst the closest followers, we wouldn't have self-assured answers. Truly, they do not care. Unfortunately, people are selfish. They want to know what you can give them that isn't provided. Like providing a slice of pizza after an intensive lecture, the mission of any advocacy group (if that is essentially what we are to understand them as), is to fulfil the needs of others, before others recognize an unmet need themselves. What students care about is being seen and heard, without having to be spoken to. They do care about you being consistent on promises you deliver. Human beings rarely ask for perfection. Hell, most of us do not even set minimum standards for our intimate relationships. What

most of our non-negotiables though, is to be heard. Even if that is all you can provide for the moment being. Maybe SEPTA Trans-Passes cannot happen tomorrow, but 100 students feeling heard is a better outcome than 100 students disappointed.

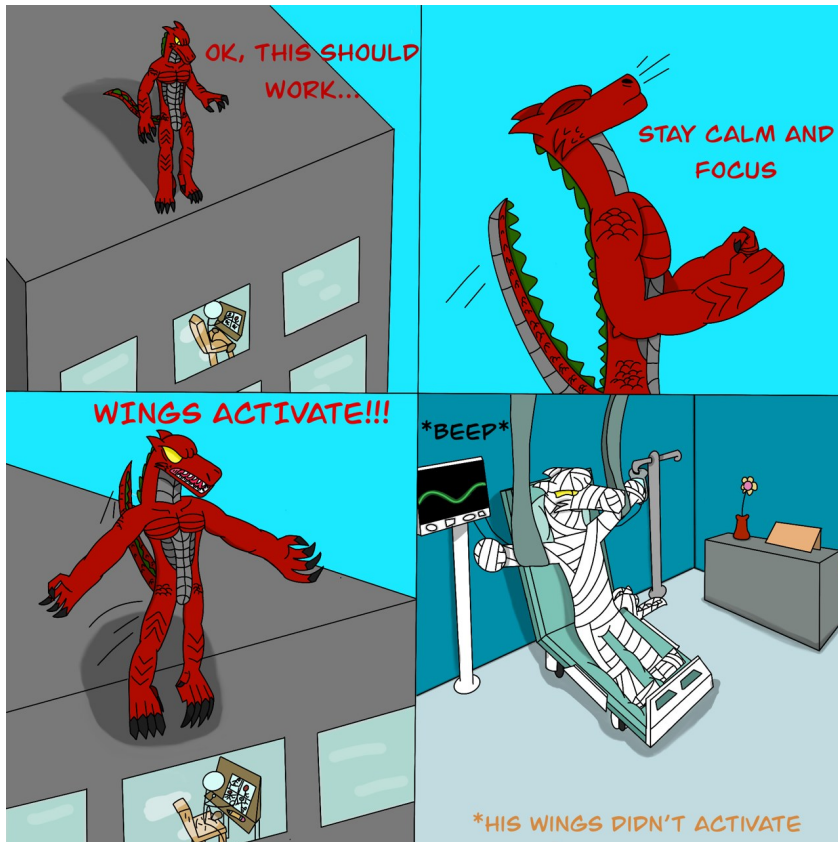
Along with providing general invitations for the SGA to reflect, I have had my own questions and statements about the student government. What I've noticed personally is that there isn't much clarity in their mission. The more questions I asked, the less clarity I obtained. In fact, I began to become overwhelmed by roundabout answers, not to mention the additional confusion of receiving various answers at separate times by different people. I suppose that could be a deterrent for anyone who genuinely expresses interest in committing to the SGA as a supporter or potential member. I am beginning to feel like not only might it be helpful to change the goal post, but maybe the goal, or at least become more specific. In addition to this, after the group dispersed, volunteer pizza eaters began to cause chaos amongst themselves after the meeting was over. So, if all theories are false, we have evidence that the

audience wasn't (or shouldn't) be who we'd want as active members.

I do believe what they are doing is both well-meaning and has worked some. A group of youth, determined to be critical of authorities is what this world is missing right now. They are all passionate, dedicated, and I have heard great personal stories about members of the SGA (especially 2nd Vice President Jar), during nearly every

encounter on campus. Maybe some good publicity is all it takes to get this ship sailing smoother, and all that means is allowing yourself, and your cause, to be expressed more concisely and precisely.

Published January 29, 2025



Ayden the Dragon lacks wings and powers, but he's in denial. If he puts himself in a desperate position, maybe his wings will come out. by Anas Qoraan

continued from front page...

also a zoom link to join and microphones for students' questions and answers.

Frank held his pizza party that had lasted about an hour before he rallied students in the Mint building to go to the General Assembly that didn't include him. For some time, the administration and the rest of the leaders of SGA refused to work or negotiate with Frank organizing any student events. Frustrated after such a long time attempting to do things his way and angry at the administration's hypocrisy, he slowly led with defiance and with a strong willingness to stir the pot in the name of his so-called student advocacy.

Yet students noticed times when their SGA President hadn't kept his promise as a leader. For example, he hadn't donated his stipend to the Snack Rack in S1-12 as he said he would. Students also complained that he organized the winter formal to celebrate his girlfriend, Jules Meas, making everyone there sing her happy birthday. When he went to his Instagram to claim corrupt acts by the Director of the Department of Student Life Jeneavia Weaver after cancel-

ing his Pizza with SGA, stating she was trying to "SABOTAGE SGA" in all caps to express his anger and intensity, students grew tired of this drama. His leadership, which at times included being hostile and disrespectful, never really gained full student support. He constantly expressed his anger and motives that students felt didn't center around helping students anymore. Like going against the teacher's union or his reported letter to Dr Marshall, in which I quote, "Dr Marshall must stop this DYSFUNCTION in the Department of Student Life and DO HER DAMN JOB." He signed it with determination.

With Frank's pro-Trump rhetoric, and disrespect to administration people on campus are becoming less confident in their trust in their CCP student body elected President. One could say he crashed the SGA General Assembly held in room S2-03 as he made the entire environment uncomfortable, kept taking the microphone and going about how he's been excluded from these events even though he's a student, highlighting the Student Life's Department hypocrisy by refusing to work with him. When he stormed to Jenavia's office, they

had a heated argument as Frank demanded her time and attention despite Jenavia's scheduled meetings and full bladder. As she exclaimed, she really needed to pee since 8am. They had been in that room since 2pm and the argument felt like forever as both Frank and Jenavia bickered to each other, refusing to hear one another out. Jenavia interjected with her office hours schedule, every Thursday any SGA office member can come meet her in her office from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. But she could not answer then because she had other business to attend to. "If my door is closed, I have business to take care of," Jenavia said, "right now, my door is open because TMI I was going to get up to go to the bathroom."

Frank: "Yeah well me and Jar weren't part of that vote. The faculty advisor refuses to meet with Jar and [me]. You have power and responsibility to make him do his job."

Jenavia: "Yes, well, if you didn't speak aggressively, maybe he would cooperate."

Frank: "He was breaking his contract, and I was asking why. If he could explain why he was breaking his contract..."

Jenavia: "Yes Frankie, he asked that you not speak to him aggressively or disrespectfully and that you all have a conversation. To this day, I haven't seen any follow up, just back and forth. What you should do, Frank, is go and participate in the meeting and hopefully come to some consensus. You are invited because you are a student. Make your voice heard and make a vote."

Jenavia Weaver had another 2 o'clock meeting and exclaimed to Frank she couldn't make anyone do anything and it wasn't up to her to make Jeffrey Markovitz work with them. Finishing her remarks, "Your constitution right is democratic; a vote can make progress with yay and nays of all 8 of you. Let the democratic process play out. Aside from all these personalities issues."

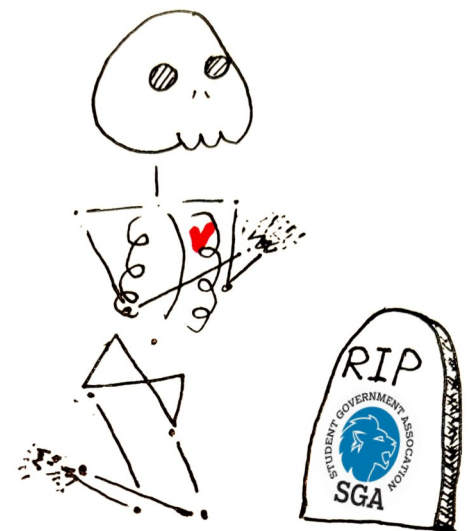
President Frank went on about SGA Faculty Advisor Jeffrey Markovitz's breach of contract by refusing to work, or even talk, with himself and Jaritsa Hernandez Orsini, stating SGA's Executive Board members voted 7-1 to vote Markovitz out. Despite this, they treated Markovitz as the same advisor and allowed him to appoint Brayan Orozco as recording secretary without counting all members' votes.

Second-Vice-President Jaritsa Hernandez-Orsini summarized the problem to Jenavia in a final plea, "Now you're treating the recording secretary as legitimate, but we didn't get to vote on that. Everything after that is illegitimate. And it's reflected in the emails. We were not invited to these executive meetings. When we hold our executive meetings, they don't show up or talk to us." Jaritsa expressed the same frustration; this has made student organizing and leading hard for her.

Jenavia expressed she does not pick sides, only making sure this machine runs. They must include all students in the meeting. She asked if a meeting was happening for students to help students, why isn't Frank there instead of arguing with her. He can use his vote. She expressed that no one has been able to come to a consensus because no one wants to talk to him. She asked Frank whether he's really doing a good job leading his team and being a leader. When you're a leader who stands and can respect without letting anger cloud you, students are more likely to trust you and stand by you. They will invite you to their general assembly and count your vote.

This is the direct consequence of how Frank Scales has led SGA through the entire fall semester and into the first month of the spring semester. It hasn't been the best. After the meeting, executive board members including Jaritsa Hernandez-Orsini, who was the only one still working with Frank, voted him off the SGA board. First-Vice-President Angie Orozco, who had previously raised allegations of student misconduct against Frank, is the likely candidate take his place as SGA President.

Published February 2, 2025



Revolutionary Acts of Self Care

PAULINA REYES

When I'm on my period, I realize how sacred the body truly is. My body repels its natural ways of existing. I am forced into retrospection, into a jarring, stabbing pain as my blood flows out of me. I am forced to find my creator, to return to the sacred root of womanhood. Sounds poetic right? Well, along with the period diarrhea and emotional bouts and cravings for steak and chocolate and hot Cheetos, I end up feeling really disgusting and in a lot of pain. Here are my essential guide tips to alleviate emotional pain, physical pain and overall make it a priority to leave everything in your week behind and prioritize your body and its process of bleeding. If you're a guy who doesn't bleed, it doesn't mean you can't take this advice of revolutionary selfcare. Everyone can use this guide. I'm usually always busy and never stop my school schedule but when my period comes, I'm forced to rest because there's not much else for me to do when the pain is unbearable. To tell it like it is, women endure pain all the time.

Tip 1: Stay home, make tea and roll a joint.

For me, I'm all about resting. In this capitalist society, resting is a defiant act every person deserves to have. Staying home, making your favorite tea and smoking weed will help you feel better. I promise. If you don't like smoking, alleviating pain with a hot water bottle and a heat pad is essential and useful when you need extra warmth. Trust me. Just try it. Staying home if you're in a lot of pain is honestly not a bad choice, don't make it a habit to be absent from class once a month but prepare yourself for that time and if you're like me, who's in too much pain to concentrate and go. Communicate with your professors, work team or anyone you hold any obligation to. It's important to play your cards right if you need to take care of your health and not fall behind. Even if you do fall behind it's okay. It doesn't really matter; what matters is YOU. Good teas that help are ginger tea, peppermint tea, clove tea, cinnamon, chamomile. There are so many great teas out there.

Tip 2: Make a hearty meal:

When I'm on my period and sick I usually get really nauseas and struggle to eat. Other times I get

really hungry and ravenous I could eat anything. Making yourself a comfortable meal is a great way to help feel better and make sure you're nourished. Depending on who you are, a favorite meal can be different for everyone. I like saving money and I'm picking about my restaurant food, so I usually cook at home. For me, my favorite meals include hot soups, like tom yum soup or Pho. I like to make myself chipotle chicken tacos with potatoes with avocado, sour cream and cheese. Or green enchiladas, meals I grew up on always make me feel at home. Get creative and you don't need a lot of money to make a good healthy meal. Be daring and let yourself go. Season and add salt accordingly.

Tip 3: Watch a movie, take a hot shower and do magic.

Practicing being intentional with what you do is something we can all learn to lead our lives. Being intentional with caring for yourself helps you learn to care for your community and people you love. It's important to realize this world keeps moving, if we don't take the time to stop and breathe our health will physically suffer. Period cramps can become worse with more stress.

Finding solace in yourself with meditation, a warm bath or saying magical affirmations helps us feel better and reminds us we can support and hug ourselves when we need it, if we're hurting or whenever things are tough. Taking it easy and enjoying some kind of art, whether it's a film, music, drawing or a book you are reading. Doing things we love and cleaning ourselves is a revolutionary act of self-love; eating healthily and taking time to slow down is good for us. It keeps us sane and gives us time to check in on one another. To check in on us and give ourselves the care we need to fuel our creativity and education.



We Can't Spell It Either by Jaritsa Orsini
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