



A.NEAL/THE PHILLIPIAN

The four pairs of Student Body Co-President candidates at a town hall on Wednesday, April 21.

Brigitte Leschhorn, Instructor in English, Wins Kenyon Review Short Nonfiction Contest

ERIN KIM

When an email about the 2021 “Kenyon Review” Short Nonfiction Contest popped up in her inbox, Brigitte Leschhorn, Instructor in English, was drawn to submitting—especially after seeing that the contest judge was writer Roxane Gay.

“This one seemed really special, and I’ve always admired Roxane Gay. She’s just such an impressive writer... I honestly submitted thinking like, this essay is super unusual, it’s not going to win, but it feels good to sort of share it with someone. It feels good that Roxane Gay will get to read it no matter what she thinks. I really didn’t expect to get a phone call saying that I had won the whole thing,” said Leschhorn.

Leschhorn’s lyric essay, titled “And We Inherit Everything,” won the First Prize of the “Kenyon Review”’s Third Annual Short Nonfiction Contest, beating over 500 submissions. According to the “Kenyon Review” April 2021 Newsletter, Gay described every line in Leschhorn’s piece as “lush [and] exquisite. ‘We

live at the mouth of grief,’ the essay begins, and from there we are taken on a lyrical journey about grief, yes, but also the wounds of family and the myths of the people to whom we belong.”

Leschhorn was thankful for Gay’s comments and appreciated her praise.

“It just turned out that I was fortunate enough that my writing got recognized by someone who is so multi-talented, and her words will stay with me forever. Really the biggest thing is the fact that Roxane Gay was the judge. And she called my writing exquisite. That’s the biggest compliment I’ve ever received, certainly,” said Leschhorn.

According to Leschhorn, “And We Inherit Everything” originally started out as an exploration of her multiracial identity, an effort to figure out the complex relationships between her different ancestries and identities. Her essay is also centered around the folktales of women that she grew up listening to.

“To me, it was important to figure out what it means to be a woman and what it means to be a woman of mixed heritage, and how do you balance

between the trauma and the pride you have in that heritage simultaneously—balance between acknowledging sort of my whiteness in terms of the oppression that that means in Latin America, particularly in Panama, but also how to honor my indigenous and African ancestry at the same time,” said Leschhorn.

Leschhorn continued, “So it’s just a messy exploration of what that means for me right now. It’s non-conclusive, I don’t have an answer, I don’t have any solution for people in a similar situation. But I am, you know, struggling with what it means to be in this identity, and particularly in the U.S. So it’s more like making that visible to the world: this is how one struggles.”

“And We Inherit Everything” will be published in the November/December 2021 “Kenyon Review,” and Leschhorn will receive a scholarship to attend the “Kenyon Review” Writers Workshop.

Kate McQuade, Instructor in English, shared her im-

Continued on A4, Column 3

What’s It Like Living in a Hotel? Andover Inn Becomes Home to Juniors and Loweres

JENNY JIN

Almost 90 percent of Andover students returned to campus this spring, creating unprecedented scenarios for accommodating boarding students while attempting to follow Covid-19 regulations, especially in the case of one-room doubles and tight housing. As there are no visitors allowed on campus this term, the Andover Inn now accommodates 14 Juniors, 12 Loweres, and two prefects.

According to Emiliano Caceres Manzano ’22, prefecting in the Andover Inn feels very different from his prefecting experience in the Fall Term. In general, Caceres Manzano finds that prefecting is about being there for the underclassmen as much as possible. In the Inn, he finds it harder to “lure” students out of their rooms for more dorm engagement.

“Aside from the accommodations, I think the dorm is pretty normal. We’ve got the normal challenges of bonding and getting to know each other, but we all have at least the common denominator of living somewhere we’re very happy to live. The weirdest thing is definitely the fact that the doors lock, which makes it

harder to socialize, but every time I step into the dorm, I get reminded of how lucky I am. We also have a great house counseling team that is doing a great job making the dorm feel like home with munches and activities,” said Caceres Manzano.

While residents in the Andover Inn are mostly Juniors and new Loweres, some students feel lucky to be placed in the Inn. Jonathan Ji ’24, who has lived in a boarding school in the past, saw the accommodations in the Andover Inn as a significant improvement to his previous dorm experience.

“So my frame of reference in terms of living in a dorm solely comes from my junior boarding school experience. And I have to say that this is a lot nicer. Not only do I not have a roommate, but the best part is that I have my own bathroom,” said Ji.

Like Ji, Leo Peters ’24, a Junior who lives in one of the few doubles in the Andover Inn, described this experience as “unreal.”

“There are so many perks: luxurious hotel rooms (with art from the Addison, armchairs, hotel beds), climate

Continued on A4, Column 1



N.KOO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Phillips Exeter Academy used the Exeter Inn for residential space beginning in the fall of the 2020-2021 school year, according to “The Exonian.”

Fifth in the Nation: Karsten Rynearson ’22 Finds Joy and Self-Pride through Quiz Bowl Competition

ALANA CHIANG & SARAH HASSANEIN

On April 11, 112 competitors from across the United States competed in the Individual Player National Championship Quiz Bowl Tournament and answered questions on subjects like geography or current events. Karsten Rynearson ’22 placed fifth in this tournament.

This competition held significance for Rynearson because for the first time on the national stage, he felt as though he could truly be himself. Wearing his hair up and putting on eyeliner for the competition, Rynearson wanted to do this not just for himself, but also for others who felt like they couldn’t be authentically themselves when competing in Quiz Bowl tournaments.

“I didn’t have to play a role anymore of ‘Quiz Bowl Karsten.’ I just got to be me. And that made it a lot easier... And I just felt really happy that I got to do that. If anything, just going into that final, I wanted to do it for all the people in Quiz Bowl who might have been wanting to hide their identities in order to have clout within the community, because it just felt really good to drop that facade and just do things the way I wanted to do them,” said Rynearson.

Rynearson played six rounds, where participants would try to “buzz out” and proceed to a higher level, in terms of seeding and players. The semi-finals involved

skilled players, but Rynearson, with “very shockingly good game,” managed to be first to “buzz out” and advanced to the finals. In the final round, he was the fourth person eliminated, placing fifth in the country. For Rynearson, literature is his specialty.

“Specialism and knowing a lot about a certain area was really beneficial. So for me, that area has always been literature. I just really love reading and learning about books. So that distribution of questions really helps me get through a lot of the rounds, just being able to get points on things I just know about,” said Rynearson.

Usually, Quiz Bowl is a team game, but this was a specific instance where individual players competed in a National Championship tournament. Rynearson described his pride for the Andover Quiz Bowl club, which has won many tournaments and is ranked around the twenties in the country.

Rynearson said, “Usually I played with the team, which we’ve done pretty well this season. In general, we won - we won, we’ve gotten mostly podium placements and pretty difficult tournaments. I’m pretty proud of us.”

As a boarder at Andover, Rynearson often had help from his friends and house counselors while studying packets. Even though studying for Quiz Bowl competitions has been “fun and satisfying,” preparing for the Quiz Bowl involved significant time.

He said, “It’s a representation of the fact that I am able to, to some degree, have executive function. I’m sorry for that. And that makes me sound like I’m struggling, which I am. So I do enjoy studying for the Quiz Bowl. But it’s also like a process and it requires a lot of time investment.”

Rynearson began his Quiz Bowl career in fifth grade, and since then has accumulated over 3,000 flashcards to study from. In addition to this studying, he has attended Quiz Bowl summer programs to help prepare for competitions.

“I would say, my past experience was really what I was like relying on here. Also, just like flashcards in the past, there’s just certain things I don’t forget. So that was helpful throughout,” said Rynearson.

Through many years of competing in team and individual tournaments, Quiz Bowl has become a big part of Rynearson’s life. He has found joy and passion in competing and hopes to keep participating in tournaments in the future.

“And it’s just really wonderful to take the passions that I have in academics and translate that into this kind of game. I mean, it’s stressful, but I love it. It’s one of my favorite things to do. The team will keep competing. I’ll keep competing. I’m hoping to go back to this tournament next year and get to the top of that podium,” said Rynearson.

Maya Shkolnik ’21 Explores Queer Resistance in Russia Through Art Forms

HOPE NARDONE

Queerness hurts the Russian Image of Masculinity, and is thus, is treated like a Western invention in Russia, according to Brace Center Student Fellow Maya Shkolnik ’21. After months of research, Shkolnik shared and expanded upon these ideas in her presentation entitled, “Queer Oppression, Resistance, and Art under the Gaze of Post-Soviet Russia,” during her virtual presentation on Friday, April 16.

“They believe that queerness is a simple phenomenon that can be removed from society, or that’s what they hope for, rather than having it being about identity. So just to reiterate, the common sentiment is that queerness is an invention of America and Western Europe. Queerness is not considered Russian and it’s not considered real. And this



COURTESY OF MAYA SHKOLNIK

Maya Shkolnik ’21 explored and embraced different aspects of her identity through her Brace Center Student Fellow presentation.

exclusion and denial is violence. And there are laws in place to make this belief a reality in Russia,” said Shkolnik.

An interdisciplinary lens focused much of Shkolnik’s presentation as she discussed queer resistance and what it means to be queer in Russia. According to Shkolnik, she particularly wished to explore more about her personal identity, being a queer individual from a family of Russian background.

“This has really been a looking glass into two identities that I have felt pretty disconnected from. The first being my Russian identity. My parents both moved—immigrated from Russia when they were about my age— and they don’t talk too much about what Russia was like, and I don’t blame them. But their attempts to shield me from what Russia is kind of makes me feel really disconnected from it... The second is my queer identity. Queer people know you’re raised and socialized to be straight and considered very much othered. So I’m still learning to fully embrace my queerness, and this is why I am so thankful again to have the opportunity to present two parts of my identity in different contexts,” said Shkolnik.

According to student attendee Leverett Wilson ’23, Shkolnik not only succeeded in conveying her research, but also established a sense of eager curiosity through her interaction with the audience. Wilson ’23 reflected on Shkolnik’s use of the chat function, where Shkolnik’s

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Commentary, A2

Cars, Carbon, and Congress

Iris Guo ’24 argues that Biden’s infrustruture plan is not enough to tackle climate change.

Eighth Page, A5

Sci-Fi Week

This week’s for you, nerds! But you’re reading *The Phillipian*, so you already know that.

Sports, B3

Sports Opinion: Super League

Daigo Moriwake ’24 on how the attempted creation of the European Soccer League can serve as a warning.

Arts, B4

Same Event, Different Venue

Juniors and Loweres gathered for Casino Night in the Gelb Tent.

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Editorial

Still a Long Way to Liberation

Following the murder of George Floyd this past spring, Derek Chauvin, a former Minneapolis police officer, was found guilty of manslaughter, second-degree murder, and third-degree murder. While Chauvin’s trial is not the first of its kind, it has gained widespread notoriety, spreading anger and feelings of injustice. The continuing emotions and momentum for justice must be followed by real action.

It must be understood that Chauvin’s prison sentence is an individual punishment, but it is not justice. Video evidence, multiple witnesses, and extensive media coverage contributed to Chauvin’s conviction. In many other cases, a lack of societal pressure has led to a very different verdict. The officers who killed Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta last year were fired but never convicted. The officers who killed Breonna Taylor were simply reassigned. We lock up murderers to prevent more murders, but how do we hold accountability when the very officers who are supposed to protect us continually murder Black people? All officers, regardless of the infamy of their actions, must be held accountable for harming and failing to protect their communities.

There is far more complexity to Chauvin’s conviction than a rightful sentence. The celebrations of this verdict cannot blind us from understanding that true change has yet to be achieved. Seen in the murder of Ma’Khia Bryant, just hours before news of Chauvin’s guilty verdict was released, America’s history of police brutality runs deeper than the summer of protests of this past year sparked by

George Floyd’s death. This one court case does not reverse or revoke the systemic power given to police officers used to justify the murder of Black Americans. While many Americans can view this verdict as a satisfactory conclusion, the threats of police brutality are still very real for Black Americans.

This sparks the question: what does actual justice look like? Can justice be achieved in the very courtroom that has historically excused Black deaths? Derek Chauvin, through this guilty verdict, is rightfully penalized for the murder of George Floyd, but the process of holding police officers accountable for their actions still faces considerable hurdles. There still remains state and national systems that work to criminalize Black Americans, legislature that protects officers from facing repercussions, and other legal loopholes that further invalidate Black trauma. However, change can also begin at a personal level. We can be critical and interrogative of narratives that try to incriminate Black Americans, educate ourselves on various institutional-level oppressions and work to uplift Black voices and the validity of their experiences. So while from the perspective of some Americans, Derek Chauvin’s guilty sentence remains a victory, we must not let the feelings and momentum of this summer stop after this verdict. America still has a long way to go.

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Cars, Carbon, and Congress

IRIS GUO



COURTESY OF IRIS GUO

EARLIER THIS YEAR, President Biden proposed the American Jobs Plan with the goal of rebuilding the U.S.’s economy by creating jobs and improving America. The infrastructure section of this bill hopes to alleviate climate change through increasing the usage of electric vehicles and funding innovative ideas. Currently the bill is being discussed in Congress and Biden has said that he is “prepared to compromise” in order to pass the bill. Although Biden has stated that he wants the U.S. to become “a leader in climate science, innovation, and research and development,” this bill is not the most productive usage of our resources, time, and money when combating climate change.

Within the infrastructure bill, the most extensive climate-related policies are dedicated towards transportation. Biden wants to fund the production of electric vehicles and make them more accessible through in-

frastructure improvements. Legislation around electric vehicles seems like a great place to start promoting climate change on a wider scale because they are tangible and accessible to the average consumer. Putting money into electric vehicles is a good decision, but increasing the use of electric vehicles is not the most efficient or helpful path to address climate change, as it does not create enough of a reduction in the country’s carbon footprint. Some alternative methods, such as putting money towards insulating and sealing buildings to reduce the amount of energy used, or increasing the use of composting, are more effective ways to reduce America’s carbon footprint on an individual

level. Switching to electric vehicles will help to reduce the amount of carbon emissions in the air through the consumer, but more widespread legislation needs to be put into place in order to make a big enough impact. The U.S. has to expand their policies to continue to combat climate change.

That being said, there are many different plans and bills that have been introduced to Congress to address climate change, however, they are not all physically possible or politically feasible to pass. For example, the Green New Deal is one of the most, if not the most, ambitious plan that has been introduced. The Green New Deal’s main goal is for the United States to reach net zero-emission by 2030. This

is a hefty goal, and is definitely possible if enough infrastructure is put into place promptly. However, in order for a plan to be put into action, it needs to not only be scientifically plausible, but also politically achievable. The Green New Deal is a plan that is unlikely to pass through Congress because of its partisan nature and lack of support among non-progressive Democrats and Republicans. However, a bill that I think is more likely to pass with more widespread support is a carbon pricing bill. This is a bill that both helps the environment significantly, while being more bipartisan than the more ambitious plans. Carbon is extremely bad for the environment because it traps heat in the atmosphere. This is the leading contributor to global warming, which causes a whole host of problems for the planet and the climate.

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, or the H.R.763, was previously introduced to Congress to combat this specific problem and this act puts a fee on the amount of carbon released when producing a good or service. This bill received support from 86 cosponsors in the House. Essentially, this law will push producers to switch to more renewable energy sources and manufacture more environmentally friendly products, because they want to avoid these fees. Carbon pricing is

a way to regulate the amount of carbon put into the air and help incentivize companies to switch to more renewable energy. This bill simultaneously gathers considerable political support since it will supply dividend payments (money paid regularly to citizens) to Americans. Low and middle income households will benefit the most from these because they typically have lower carbon footprints, which means that they will end up with more money from the dividend that they can use at their own discretion. The original bill is a great model as to what productive and effective change looks like. It received bipartisan support, helps the economy, pushes for renewable energy, and helps the average person through its monetary benefits and long-term effects.

There is no ‘correct’ way to solve climate change. There are many different approaches that the U.S. government can take, and the infrastructure bill may be a great place to start. But, I think this is only the beginning. We need to continue pushing forward, and I think that reintroducing the carbon fee and dividend bill is a great next step in protecting our environment and ensuring a safe and sustainable future for Americans.

Iris Guo is a Lower from McLean, VA. Contact the author at iguo23@andover.edu

An illustration of a man in a suit standing with his arms crossed, looking thoughtful. Above him are three thought bubbles. The first bubble shows a green car with a lightning bolt, representing electric vehicles. The second bubble shows a factory with smoke, crossed out with a green circle and a diagonal line, representing pollution. The third bubble shows dollar bills and a question mark, representing economic costs or benefits. The background is a green field with a row of small green figures.

MEILING CHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

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CORRECTIONS:
An Arts article last week misdated the year of a movie. "Lolita" was released in 1962.
Sports mislabeled a team. Volleyball was called Boys Volleyball.

The Phillipian regrets these errors.

Students React to Casino Night, Other Student Activities on Campus

REPORTING BY BY KAREN WANG AND ALANA CHIANG

This term, STACT has organized many weekend social activities such as Casino Night, Laser Tag, Next Level Gaming, Barn Babies, and Black Light Mini Golf, all adapted to accommodate restrictions due to the pandemic. Many events, such as Barn Babies and Casino Night, are separated by grade to help control the number of people who go at any time. Students have reacted in many different ways to the new changes, with some events being more memorable or underwhelming. Overall, students are glad to have opportunities to connect with their peers more and have great memories.

WHITNEY KANTER '24

I really enjoyed Casino Night! It was so fun to get ready and dress up with my friends after not having an event to get ready for in a few months. I had never played blackjack or any casino-type game before Saturday, so it was fun learning how to play and watching some of my friends get really competitive.

MONISHA KATHIKA '24

I'm not going to lie, but I was expecting more from this year's casino night. I was looking forward to a better setting and food, although I can see why that can't happen due to [Covid-19] restrictions. However, the night was still very enjoyable from the music to spending time with my friends. I can't wait to see what next year brings us.

PRINCE LA PAZ '24

I feel like Casino Night was really nice overall and a lot of fun! I also think that having other students as the dealers or in charge of each table made it a lot better. I do wish that there had been some like big competition or like actual prizes so that there would be more of a reason to actually stay and try to get a lot of chips rather than just play at a few tables and give your chips to someone and leave.

DANIEL WAHEED '23

My favorite Weekender events are class events for ninth and tenth grade, where we get together in the Gelb Tent and socialize and meet new people. To be more specific, I really enjoyed Casino Night. It was really entertaining, I met a lot of people, and I gained a lot of blackjack experience. I don't really go to a lot of Weekender events, but Weekender events that entail painting, like I'm not a very art-oriented person, so I don't go to those.

MICHELLE YAO '23

I would say my favorite Weekender event is definitely the barn babies. I've been aware of such an event before I even came to Andover, it was part of their marketing campaign. I have to say that it's still my favorite event today. It's really stress relieving and they served hot chocolate and Rice Krispies, which was a big bonus. You can't go wrong with cute animals and nice food.

This term, I've mainly liked Casino Night. That was the one people have been looking the most forward to because of last year. There was quite a big difference from how it worked last year to how it world this year. I'm glad I didn't have to pay the entrance fee, but at the same time I understand that it cannot be as classy as being set in [Paresky Commons,] because of the [Covid-19] situation.

SEBASTIAN ALTOMARE '23

In the past, I really like—unpopular opinion—free skates. They're very chill. It's an activity where you don't have to do anything, you can just free skate with your friends and have fun, fall on the ice, and just chill. It's not very involved in activities, just go and have fun. I didn't really like Casino Night because the place is always packed so there wasn't anything to do. I usually just walk around with people instead of being in the event.

LEVERETT WILSON '23

My favorite Weekender event was probably Casino Night. I played some poker with friends and walked around and checked out all the other gambling games. I also went to a Brace scholar presentation that I enjoyed focusing on queer oppression in Soviet Russia and the effects of the Soviet Union by Maya Shkolnik '21.

VICTOR MVEMBA '22

Very underwhelming. Coming to the event, I was expecting laser tag, and what was going on would be more closely described as tomfoolery. There were just a bunch of people doing whatever they wanted, and it seemed a little unruly. But they tried, and I appreciate that.

CHARLOTTE WHITEHURST '22

I really enjoyed the Snyder field night. I think those are the most fun events that they hosted on campus, and I hope that they do more of them. It's great to play knockout, spikeball, ping pong; laser tag was also a big hit. It was wonderful to be on the same team and also on opposing teams with different people and mix up different line-ups. I overall had a great night and I hope that they do the field night again!

SUMMER SEWARD '21

I think the Weekender sports activities were awesome this week. I loved going to the games and feeling a part of the Andover community again. I didn't participate in most of the other activities because they weren't specifically what I am interested in doing.

ISAAC HEITMANN '22

I would say that my impression of Weekender activities is fairly positive. Granted, I haven't had the time to go to many of them (on account of Upper Spring), but the ones I have been to or heard about were a lot of fun. The only drawback (not owing to mismanagement by the organizers) is the often-small scale at which these events take place, which is the result of [Andover] not having that many large spaces open for events.

REIMI KUSAKA '21

I appreciate the efforts that the school is putting in organizing fun activities. However, I do wish that there are more events, especially on Friday nights. Since day students aren't able to come to boarders' rooms, it makes it especially hard for them to socialize with us. But I do think it is important to note that we are in a weird situation and I'm sure that the school is doing the best they can.

Write for News!
Email hjusticz22, jchung22, wyue22

NEWS IN BRIEF

REPORTING BY ANDREW CHINN

This Week:
Boarding students will be unable to secure individual Covid-19 vaccine appointments going forward, according to an email sent to the Andover community by Tracy Sweet, Director of Communications. This is a change from prior protocol where Andover provided transportation to vaccine appointments. In the State of Massachusetts, all individuals 16 years and older are currently eligible to receive the vaccine.

In Medical Director Dr. Amy Patel's weekly Andover campus public health update sent on Saturday, April 17, she shared that there are five campus community mem-

bers in isolation and two campus community members in quarantine. The campus testing positivity rate was 0.06 percent.

After the first round of 2021-2022 Student Body Co-President votes were counted last Friday, April 16, four pairs of candidates remained: Adya Chatterjee '22 and Nick Koobatian '22, Elizabeth Chou '22 and Kiran Ramratnam '22, Kennedy Ndiaye '22 and Sam Elliott '22, and Mary Muromcew '22 and Sean Meng '22.

A Town Hall Forum for the Co-President candidates was held in the Gelb Tent on Wednesday, April 21. The four

candidate pairs presented their platforms and were able to interact with the community. A second round of voting occurred on Thursday, April 22 that will narrow the race down to two candidates.

Looking Ahead:
Aya Murata, Junior class course head for the Empathy, Balance, and Inclusion program, announced that "Minari," a film about a Korean-American family and their relationship with the American Dream, will be streamed in the Gelb Tent Friday, April 23 in preparation for Asian-American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month. Bubble tea will be served for the first 50 attendees.

Students Find Layout of Andover Inn Occasionally Isolating

Continued from A1, Column 5

control, private bathrooms...I could go on for a while. Every morning I wake up in my 2000-thread-count bedsheets and memory foam pillows and feel so lucky to live in the best dorm on campus," wrote Peters in an email to *The Phillipian*.
However, despite these privileges of the Inn, many identified the difficulty for frequent social interactions in the building since the rooms are more isolated and students are more tempted to stay in their rooms, according to Caceres Manzano.
"It is very different from other dorms, it's very self contained. So you have really everything you need in your own room. The doors lock automatically, you have to open with a room key. And so in a way, it's a little bit hard to build a community across the dorm," said Caceres Manzano.
Similar to Caceres Manzano, Carlos Cepeda-Diaz '23 expressed concerns in terms of building connections with other people in the Inn due to the building's set up.
"I'd say it's easy to lock yourself in your room and forget about other things. There are some people that really only leave their dorm to get dinner or to go to the bathroom and so, half of their social interaction has been cut out. So that's true, especially during quarantine, you really didn't see anybody, because you wouldn't pass by in the hallways," said Cepeda-Diaz.
Kiefer Ebanks '23 found this setup to be less isolating than his dorm in Fall Term, Fuess House. In the Inn, Ebanks finds that the students do not separate themselves into their respective grade level as much as in Fuess.
"This term has actually



COURTESY OF EMILIANO CACERES MANZANO
Students in the Andover Inn must clean their own bathrooms, according to Emiliano Caceres Manzano '22. Above, a bathroom in the Andover Inn.

been really nice, we had everybody down in the common room, and we were all just talking and hanging out. So, I'd say it's pretty mixed, everybody's just friends here, and it's actually really nice," said Ebanks.
The prefects, Caceres Manzano and Chenault Ellis '22, and the House Counselors, organized several dorm-bonding activities after the quarantine period. To Caceres Manzano, these events have been important for getting the dorm outside and together.
"We had an Easter egg hunt the weekend we got out of quarantine, and we had stuff all around the outside and the inside. And then we were gonna have a munch and some

movies. We had a Dominos munch, and we bought some games, spike ball and frisbee, with the dorm fund," said Caceres Manzano.
Ji also commented on how people could still connect really well despite the challenges brought by the building's layout. Students are able to bond in the lobby area of the Inn, where a few accommodations are provided.
"People go to other people's rooms. There's this 50-inch TV downstairs that we hook the switch up to, and we played [Super Mario Smash Bros] last night. It was really fun. People also play cards downstairs together, so it's pretty lively in the evening, to be honest," said Ji.

Leschhorn Examines Multiracial Identity in Award-Winning Essay

Continued from A1, Column 3

mense joy at Leschhorn's accomplishment.
"I am beyond thrilled for Brigitte! She is a phenomenal writer, someone from whom I have learned so much about writing and pedagogy, and I feel incredibly lucky to call her my colleague. And I suspect her writing students feel just as lucky to have her as their teacher," McQuade wrote in an email to *The Phillipian*.
Leschhorn, who joined the Andover community last year, currently teaches English-100 and English-300.
"I think one of the things that I love the most about both my classes is the kind of learning community that we've been able to build together. They're just really, really amazing students who are getting to try all kinds of things. My ENG100 classes are doing weekly workshops where they workshop each other's writing. And that's one thing to do with analytical writing, but we'll be doing that with personal essay writing next. They are just like, okay, we're game, we're going to do this, and we're going to get something out of it. And they're just so amazing at that," said Leschhorn.
Germán Sanz-Rios '24, a student in Leschhorn's English-100 class stated that he feels very proud to be Leschhorn's student and appreciates Leschhorn's detailed feedback.
"This is my first year at [Andover,] and it hasn't even been a normal one. Yet, whenever I join the Zoom to my online English-100 class, Ms. Leschhorn is always there to welcome me. Ms. Leschhorn is also very specific. She can easily pinpoint what we need to improve on and what we need to fix. She also incorporates

several cultural components that broadens my perspective. It's a very unique experience. As for the writing contest that she won, I'm very proud to be her student. Being told "good job" or "interesting thought" by a winner of an official writing contest makes me feel respected, like I'm truly improving my English skills," wrote Sanz-Rios.
Leschhorn's English-300 classes have had active conversations about connecting the texts they explored with current events.
"They've just always been open to the conversation, self-reflection, and educating themselves, and I've been so proud of the work they do. I know that one of the things like, probably now my English-300 students will know why it's so important for me that they connect with the text and that one of the essays I had them write was where they included their personal experience as part of the evidence of understanding and analyzing the text. And it comes from my own experience with writing a personal essay—I think it is a crucial self-reflection tool. And so that's one of the things that I also hope to impart to my students," said Leschhorn.
Frank Zhou '22, who is in Leschhorn's English-300 class, feels very lucky to be Leschhorn's student and appreciates her teaching style.
"As a student of Ms. Leschhorn's, I've found every class and conversation to be a masterclass in language—on the page and stage alike. Her spoken musings (whether on my work, queries, or quibbles) always buzz with an infectious intensity; her outstanding success in the K.R. Short Nonfiction Contest only confirms that her written musings do, too. I couldn't be luckier to be her student, and couldn't be prouder of her accomplishment."

Shkolnik Encourages Students to Pursue Passion Projects

Continued from A1, Column 5

mother—an active participant—shared aspects of her own experience in Russia.
"[Shkolnik's research] really seemed like it came out of pure curiosity and intrigue. She talked about how she had a disconnect with her identities and this presentation was sort of a way of uncovering it, and it was really interesting. Her mother was in the Zoom chat and giving some little excerpts of certain historical facts, because she had lived in Russia... it didn't feel artificial at all. It felt like she was really speaking to us about something that she was really interested in and something she was sort of intrigued to create change," said Wilson.
Shkolnik's international lens prompted students to consider queerness in other international communities, according to Kassie Archambault, the chair of the Russian department and Shkolnik's faculty advisor.
"A main takeaway from [Shkolnik's] presentation is that queer resistance will look different in other parts of the world based on a country's historical and political context. I hope that [Shkolnik's] presentation has inspired students not only to research further what [the LGBTQIA+ community] experiences in Russia (and she provided some great activists to follow on social media), but that she has also inspired students to look into queer resistance and activism in other countries," Archambault wrote in an email to *The Phillipian*.

According to Shkolnik, the ongoing homophobia within Russia can be attributed to Western capital imperialism, one that is characterized by its social and political atmosphere. Shkolnik believes that further conversation of queerness with a local focus may lead to more acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community.
Shkolnik said, "A take away is queer space in Russia proves to be contradictory in its foes, intentions, and even, the circumstances of how it came to be. It may be pretty hard to contextualize that a country so much like us, might take as long as we did or longer to wrestle with social, political homophobia. Homophobia is about a manifestation of Western capital superiority. And local context is really important, conversations of queerness and its revolutionary aspects depending very much on where you are in the world and what has been going on."
Shkolnik concluded her presentation by encouraging her audience to perform their own research about Russia, the LGBTQIA+ community, or anything that might interest them. Shkolnik's emphasis on the power of conversations specifically resonated with her friend and fellow Women's Forum board member, Ingrid Appen '22.
"[It's a] very important message that I hadn't seen in other CaMD and Brace presentations, but I think it's definitely important to tell students to learn about what they're passionate about, and take research into your own hands rather than just kind of listening. It's important to go out and try to learn something," said Appen.



Above, a student's room in the Andover Inn.

COURTESY OF EMILIANO CACERES MANZANO



Andover received snowfall on Friday, April 16, causing the temporary closure of some tents on campus.

EXANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT BY I JUST NEED SOME SPACE? RIGHT JESSICA??

THE GALAXY'S TOP HEADLINES

Alien Abduction Scandal! Astronomy Students Share Experience With the Extra-Terrestrial

STAFF REPORT

Andover is in the headlines yet again, but this time it's not for racism. Three astronomy students claim to have been "abducted" by "aliens" during a study session on Wednesday night. As the only people willing to hear out their case, the Eighth Page conducted an interview.

The interview, although starting normal, took a turn for the strange very quickly. We got a hold of three apparent survivors: Tilda McClinton '23, Curston Pavlov '23, and Moe Sloman '23. They were very eager to talk to us, almost as if they were under a trance. "Yes, welcome to the light," they said as we walked into their astronomy classroom. The three students were sitting on the floor in a circle around an icon of Neil Degrasse Tyson made of toothpicks and gumdrops.

The story as it stands is that Tilda, Curston, and Moe were working on their group midterm in the classroom when they saw it. The Saucer. A large silver disc with a distinct leopard print pattern on it. It fit perfectly in the opening between the observatory and the great cosmos. Confused and intrigued by the leopard print, the students felt drawn to this vehicle. As Moe reached out to touch the saucer, a bridge opened up between the U.F.O. and the students. "My arm almost came clean off," adding

Leopard print is SO in!

ed Moe. "Luckily my lacrosse reflexes kicked in and I still have my game winning arm." Our writer confirmed that Moe still has his arm, but the games still go unwon.

After the bridge lowered, exited two rodent looking creatures both about three feet tall in purple smoking jackets. Their first words to the students apparently were "Hola Humanos. ¿Que Pasa?"

"As someone in Spanish-300, it struck me just how informal these alien rodents just were with us. We're Andover students, and who are they? Three foot tall mole rats," said Tilda about the introduction. None of them thought it strange at all that these aliens spoke Spanish, which confused our writers.

"We then were all sucked by a vacuum and into the U.F.O., it looked strangely like the waiting room outside of the Counseling offices of Sykes with the little tissue packets and everything," adds Curston. "We soon realized we were not alone. It was not just me and my lab partners, and the moles... but a whole colony of these aliens." The students sat in the beige chairs and watched as the alien rodents spoke broken spanish in their smoking jackets.

This story went on for much longer, with more and more graphic details of the moles' actions and more and more incorrect grammar of their Spanish, but we at the Eighth Page have decided to stop the story here and leave the rest to our trusted readers' imaginations. (Three words: biblioteca, perro, ¡espera!)

Anyways, Ms. Hilton, that's why they were late to sign in. The Phillipian is not taking a stance on whether this is true, but the Eighth Page believes them.

- Ego of Lower with "Pulp Fiction" Poster in His Zoom Background Easily Seen from International Space Station
- In Attempts to Keep Snow Off Of the Tent Roofs, They Will Be Kept Aflame at All Times
- Deans to Patrol Campus in Helicopters on Saturday Night to Prevent Hook Ups
- SOTA Question "Who's Joe?" Sadly Left Out for Another Year, Maybe Next Time
- With Spectators Allowed on Campus, Fairfield County Parents Will Hold Vaccine Clinic at Girls JV Lacrosse Game
- Beefless Meatballs on Earth Day Proven to Be Ground Flesh of Students Who Left Their Green Boxes on the Lawn
- After a Long Decision Making Process, Senior Decided to Write "Bulldogs" Instead of "Yale" in Instagram Bio to Prove Quirkiness

DIARY OF A STUDENT ON THE ANDOVER DEATH STAR

"Why do boys go to Jupiter again?"

"Do you know how long it took to do eyeliner on all 20 of my eyes??"

"I can't hear you, we're in space."

"Astrology is like astronomy for people with friends."

"Haha come in peace... get it?"

OVERHEARD IN SPACE

"I knew he was boujee when he showed up in the new Space X."

"Yeah I can see the Gelb Tent from here."

"Bro, look how long I can hold my breath."

"You know, just this morning I found a satellite floating around in my living room."

Dear Diary,

After a long delay due to the Space Sneezing pandemic, Spring Term on the Andover Death Star is officially underway. It is wonderful to see both familiar and new faces throughout the corridors, even if we are all wearing masks. We all do have our complaints about how the school is being run. I mean, do we really have to hit every single comet in our general vicinity? Do they not understand that some of us get ship sick? At least once a week we hit a patch of flying so rocky that half the students body has to sprint to the bathrooms to throw up. And every single week, we get the same response. In order to save efficiency, we must fly through comets. Efficiency to do what? To shoot at Exeter Death Star? To lose to SpaceShip Hill at Comet Lacrosse? High Command speaks so much about efficiency, yet I know for a fact that they dump all our food waste into space. It's just plain disgraceful, as many of us are pretty dedicated to cleaning up our universe. And of course, don't even get me started on the food. Our community farm on level 4 is thriving, but that's only enough for teachers and stormtroopers. For us students, the only thing to eat is leftovers. I mean, just yesterday I had my third straight meal of Bantha tartare. And it certainly didn't help my mood that my lightsaber was confiscated during our bunk search. I am so tired of the way that this death star is being run that I find myself hoping we get blown up for the third time.

WHICH SCI-FI CHARACTER ARE YOU?

SHOULD PLUTO BE A PLANET?

YAS

NO

LENIN OR STALIN?

WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ROLLIN DOWN IN THE DEEP?

LENINGRAD

STALIN ALLDAY!

A LOT.

ALMOST NOTHING

CANTALOUPE?

VANILLA WITH CHOCOLATE ICING OR CHOCOLATE WITH VANILLA?

LIECHTENSTEIN OR LUXEMBOURG?

DOG HALLOWEEN COSTUMES?

GROSS.

DELISH

LIECH ME

LUXELIFE, BABY

CALL PETA.

CUTE!

SPOCK

JABA THE HUT

E.T.

YODA

ALF

MORK

MR. MEESEKS

CHEWBACCA



The Phillipian SPORTS

Volume CXLIV | Number 8

new writers <3

April 23, 2021

SOFTBALL

Softball Falls 2-5 and 11-12 in Double-Header Against Cushing

TRISTAN MARNOTO

SUNDAY 1:00 p.m.	
Andover	2
Cushing	5
SUNDAY 3:00 p.m.	
Andover	11
Cushing	12

Despite Fallon O'Connor '23 batting five for seven with three runs batted in, Andover Softball came up short in both games against Cushing this past Sunday, losing 2-5 and 11-12. The team's record now stands at 0-2-0.

According to O'Connor, being at home and having fans cheering for the team helped players rebound after mistakes, and the supporters' energy fueled Andover's players to succeed.

"I think that having the fans was really supporting, and I think for the whole team and myself it felt more encouraging and more positive. The louder the fans were, the more energy the team had as a whole. It was easier to come back from an error made defensively or offensively, and it really picked up the team," said O'Connor.

According to O'Connor, in the second game of the double-header when the team was down 7-0 heading into the third inning, maintaining a supportive and positive attitude with one another led them to gain a 9-8 lead in the fourth inning.

O'Connor said, "Even though we were losing at the time, the fact that we were all staying positive and encouraging one another, and being

part of the team, [everyone] on the team supports one another and that kept us going because we know that we have the ability to beat other teams as long as we work together."

A pivotal moment in the game two comeback was the 3-run home run by Kiley Buckley '23 in the bottom of the fourth inning, according to O'Connor.

"In [the third and fourth innings] we got a bunch of hits, and usually when you get a bunch of hits, it keeps rolling, and it brings everyone's energy up, especially Kiley Buckley's homer really brought the team up," said O'Connor.

This year, Andover Softball only has one player rostered with previous experience on the team. Because of this, one of the differences both offensively and defensively from the first game of the double-header compared to the second was getting comfortable as a team and recognizing the abilities of each player, according to O'Connor.

"Even though we've been practicing, it was our first game all together, so I thought that it was really great in the second game versus the first game because we had actually played together in that first game and it helped us in the second game because we knew where our strengths were as a team and we executed in those areas," said O'Connor.

According to Softball Captain Katie Morris '21, Sunday's games served as an opportunity to get rid of the nerves that come with the first game of the season, as well as the first game on a new team.

"First game playing in high school, first game with this group of girls, first game probably in a while for some

people who didn't get to play over the summer. I think a big part of [these two games] was getting our nerves out, so I'm not at all disappointed about our losses. Honestly, I'm really happy that the girls had fun and that everybody is really excited for the rest of the season. I think that's what's important. Everybody got experience and we got the first-game jitters out," said Morris.

Putting the two losses behind, O'Connor and Morris still believe that there were many positives to take away from Sunday's double-header.

O'Connor said, "I think that it was a really great start to the season. Even though we lost, it will fuel us to do better in the future, and now we know what we need to work on for our next games. I thought that offensively everyone was taking swings and hitting the ball, and defensively we made many great plays that were executed well including catches in the outfield, plays at first base, and so on, which I thought was great."

"I don't really think of it as a defeat so much because

I think what was really important was getting that experience for all of these girls because it was their first Andover game ever. The focus was more a post-game reflection, like how did we play as a team, how we can work together, and how we can support each other to do better. As the season goes on, I think we'll get more into the technicalities of the play," added Morris.

Andover hopes to earn its first win of the season against Deerfield this upcoming Saturday.



COURTESY OF FALLON O'CONNOR

Andover Softball will play its first away game in almost two years on Saturday, April 24 at Deerfield.

Co-Captain Katie Morris '21 Takes on Responsibility as the Only Returning Player on the Softball Team

MONISHA KATHIKA

Andover Softball Co-Captain Katie Morris '21 began playing softball in elementary school after watching her brother learn tee-ball. Although she is inspired by her brother, Morris also looks up to her former coach, Maddy Ryan, as a role model. Morris' brother and her former coach Ryan have helped push Morris from novice to co-captain of Andover's team her Senior year.

"I started playing when I think I was in first or second grade. It was because my brother had just started playing; he's a year older than me... I looked up to him so I wanted to sort of be like him, so that's kind of why I picked it up. [I also look up to my former coach, Maddy Ryan]. She really has encouraged me to be the best player I can and was probably the most influential coach and softball role model I've ever had," said Morris.

As a co-captain at Andover during the Covid-19 pandemic, Morris has faced unprecedented circumstances while leading the team. This year, Morris has been trying to focus on team bonding exercises since many of the players are new to the team.

Morris said, "I've been trying to focus a lot on building some team camaraderie. I've really been encouraging team dinners, trying to make the warm-ups fun, playing music, talking to other girls, getting to know them... As much as they're trying to get to know each other, I'm trying to get to know them. Most of this team has never met each other before, which is crazy to think of. It's also a really young team, so I think part of it is giving guidance to the younger girls that are just experiencing Andover

for the first time with all this craziness."

According to Kylie Frank '22, Morris helps build the aforementioned camaraderie as a strong communicator, especially with the younger players on the team.

Frank said, "One thing that's really good about Katie is that she's nice to everyone and she's good at communicating with younger players, which oftentimes can be difficult with Seniors and freshmen."

Besides her skill as a first basewoman, one of Morris's more important traits as a co-captain is her supportiveness, which makes her well-suited for her leadership position, according to Co-Captain Gracie Flanagan '21.

"Not only is she incredibly talented, but is always supportive, and an amazing teammate. I don't think anyone deserves captain more than her, she is truly perfect for this position," Flanagan said.

According to Morris, on the first day of practice, she felt nervous because of her desire to make the sport enjoyable for the other young players. As the only returning player, Morris feels as if she bears a large responsibility to lead the team.

Morris added, "I was probably more nervous for the first day than they were. I was really nervous because I didn't know any of them and I wanted it to be a really good experience for them and sort of this whole season. I felt like I had sort of a lot on my shoulders just because I was the only person passing down the team dynamic because there are no other returning players."

Despite feeling a large responsibility, Morris is excited about the prospect of having a young team. Although she will not be pursuing a softball career in college, Morris is look-



COURTESY OF KATIE MORRIS

Co-Captain Katie Morris '21 aims to use this season to build team spirit and comradery.

ing forward to seeing the program at Andover grow in the upcoming years.

"I think that this team is sort of special because it's just such a young team... This is the first time we get new players and it's exciting for me to sort of see where the program is going to go in the next couple of years... More than anything, I'm excited to see our program grow. That's what's been most exciting for me," said Morris.

Co-Captain Gracie Flanagan '21 Supports and Leads Team Despite Being Remote

JACK ROGUS

Co-Captain Gracie Flanagan '21 first began playing softball when she was four years old and with her parent's support, she developed a love for the sport from a young age. Now, over a decade later, Flanagan is still playing the sport and was chosen to serve as a Co-Captain of Andover Softball.

According to Flanagan, the community the sport fosters is what helped kindle her love for softball and kept her engaged throughout the years.

Flanagan said, "My favorite aspect of softball is how strong the sense of team is. Teamwork is key in a sport like softball, so bonding with fellow teammates is a really fun and important part of the sport."

Flanagan's dedication to her teammates manifests itself in her leadership and the effect she has on those around her, according to teammate Kylie Frank '22.

Frank said, "She's very outgoing, very 'Let me help you,' and 'How are you?' that type of thing. I think that's important in sports, just to have someone that's there and not all about themselves."

According to Flanagan, these qualities of selflessness and camaraderie are what she values most as a captain. Whether it be on or off the field, Flanagan aims to display these traits in her support of her teammates.

Flanagan said, "I really value not only my own success but the success of my teammates as well. Whether it be providing support, or just cheering the other girls on, I think that I am a good leader because I'm able to be a caring and encouraging presence on the team."

According to Flanagan, she is always working to improve upon the atmosphere of the team and is thankful to have such meaningful bonds with the other girls on the team.

Flanagan said, "[The Andover

Softball team] is such an amazing group of girls that I wouldn't trade for the world. The energy in the dugout, on the field, and even during practice is always high, which keeps all of us motivated. We also spend time getting to know each other and bond. My best upperclassmen friends I met through softball, and I am very grateful to have such an amazing team."

Although she is not on campus this season, Flanagan is still doing her best to stay connected with the team and has been actively participating in whatever way she can. Co-Captain Katie Morris '21 noted Flanagan's ability to lead from afar and believes that the team benefits from her perspective as a remote teammate.

Flanagan said, "It's been difficult because of all of the complications that come with this pandemic, but before the season started, Katie and I worked together as co-captains to help design new uniforms and team apparel. Now, after unexpected circumstances caused me to be a remote student at the last minute, I can't be on campus with my team but I still try to watch the games, and cheer on from afar."

Morris added, "It's nice to have someone that is a little bit removed from the team in a way that can give sort of that advice, it's sort of like a new perspective on things that she can give because she's not here."

As Flanagan is not on campus, she has continued her training by practicing independently. She hopes to maintain ties with the sport as she wraps up her last year at Andover and heads off to college.

Flanagan said, "I am personally working on hitting. I was able to do a lot of private practicing during my Upper year last year, but after Covid-19, I haven't been able to get back to that yet. I hope I can still stay connected with the sport, and possibly continue through college!"

LACROSSE

Girls Lacrosse Showcases Offensive Firepower in 18-3 Win Over Cushing

CHARLIE FERGUSON

SUNDAY 1:00 p.m.	
Andover	18
Cushing	3

With a swift behind-the-back shot, Tory Rider '22 scored one of the 18 goals tallied by Andover Girls Lacrosse at home this past Sunday. In its first game of the season, the team's offense led the way in a convincing 18-3 win against Cushing.

According to Head Coach Heidi Wall '94, the team was grateful for the opportunity to play competitively for the first time in almost two years, and their excitement translated into an energetic atmosphere. She also noted the dynamic environment created by the team and students in the crowd.

"It was a terrific team effort with contributions from all 24 team members. Mostly, we were all just so happy to be out there playing again after such a long time. It's been almost two years since we have competed as a team. The energy from everyone on the field and on the sidelines was super positive," said Coach Wall.

According to Co-Captain Abby Ryan '21, the offense created numerous highlight plays and was able to work together and produce assisted plays that included many different players.

"[Shea Freda '24] had some

really good draw controls and so did [Grace Hammond '23]. A highlight was having goals from eight different players with 12 assisted goals. The fact that we had 12 assisted goals was really impressive because that means a lot of people were touching the ball and a lot of people were focused on moving and setting up other teammates. Our offense was really strong and we were making good moves and securing a lot of assists that we needed for offensive movements and transitions up the field," said Ryan.

According to Co-Captain Lily Rademacher '21, this ability to work as a cohesive unit on offense was a result of the team's focus on communication leading up to the game.

"The highlight of the game was Tory's behind-the-back shot. There was also a really great passing sequence from [Ellie Harrison '22] to [Indi Wagner '22] to Tory. It was a really good offensive sequence that led to a goal and that's the best. The offense is still improving each week and that is a great example of the work we have been putting in shown on the field," said Rademacher.

According to Rademacher, the team was also scrappy in retrieving the ball back after lost possessions and the defense was in sync as Co-Captain Kennedy Everson '21 skillfully directed the defensive movements.

"The attack coordinated really well to get back balls that we lost. Our defense also did really well and Kennedy was very vocal in telling us who to



COURTESY OF ANNA BARGMAN

Indi Wagner '22 [#26] has played midfield for Andover Girls Lacrosse during her two years on the team.

mark and when to slide. That was really clear of us working together really well and becoming more comfortable with each other on the field," said Rademacher.

According to Coach Wall, the team will focus on strengthening the defensive side of its game and practicing ways to have controlled possessions on offense in preparation for its next game.

"Deerfield will be tough. This week we will need to work on tightening up our defense throughout the field. We will also need to work on maintaining possession on offense and not turning the ball over."

Andover will travel to Deerfield this Saturday to look to build off of its strong start to the season.

BASEBALL

Andover Baseball Comfortably Wins First Game at Home in Almost Two Years

DAIGO MORIWAKE

SUNDAY 1:00 p.m.	
Andover	16
Cushing	4

A symphony of applause erupted from the crowd as Co-Captain Jack Penney '21 hit his second triple of the game against Cushing. From the bleachers and through an online live stream, Blue Key Heads and students watched Andover Boys Baseball win their first home game in nearly two years 16-4.

According to Eric Giarnese '21, it was not just the doubles by Joshua Keevan '21 or the triples by Penney which gave them the victory—it was the team working together to get as many runs as possible on the board.

"A lot of people were contributing offensively, which helped us put sixteen runs on the board. So that was our offensive approach, and our offensive game plan was the deciding factor in the game," said Giarnese.

Giarnese says that the team stayed confident after conceding two early runs through fielding errors and the nerves that came with playing their first home game in nearly two years.

Giarnese said, "I think [the early errors] was [us] getting the jitters out. We had not played home in a really long time and there were some fans in the game, and I think we made a couple of mistakes in the field and that allowed them to score two runs. We weren't worried at all when we came back to the dugout, we just knew that now we were just going to have to go out and score two runs, and we did that. We scored two runs in the first two batters we had that went up to the plate, so we just knew that we put our mistakes to the sides and went to do our job on the offense."

According to Sebastian Mexico '21, another reason for their big margin of victory

was their excitement for the game and their desire to improve on their performance against Belmont Hill the week prior.

"We were really jacked up... because it [was] the first game of the season at home and we did good against Belmont, but not as good as we wanted to do the first game. I think after having a lot more practice, having to put together all pieces and being on the same page, we were really ready to destroy Cushing," said Mexico.

Mexico added that another positive consequence of the large margin was that the younger, less experienced players on the team were able to have an opportunity to showcase their talent.

"When we went up by such a high margin, we were able to put in a lot of kids that probably won't get a lot of playtime this year... because unfortunately for them, this year is a very special year in that we have eleven Seniors on the team... seven or eight of which are going to play college baseball and are very good calibre players, so it's really nice to give those kids playing time and give them a chance to show what they can do. Even with them in the game, we still kept upping the margin," said Mexico.

Mexico says that although he anticipates the game against Deerfield on Saturday to be more challenging, the team's approach to the game remains the same as usual.

"I think [our approach is] the same as always, just show up to the game, ready to have some fun, and realise this is a game, and we don't have to take it too seriously, but at the same time, we're trying to be competitive and win, and we're definitely trying to kick Deerfield's butt. I don't see it going the same as the Cushing game; I think it'll be a lot closer of a game, there's a lot more talent in Deerfield and I think they're ready to match us," said Mexico.

Andover Baseball will next face Deerfield away on April 24.



COURTESY OF KELLY GRABER

Thomas White '23 (pictured above) plays pitcher and first base for Andover Baseball.

Boys Lacrosse Defeats Cushing 14-5 in Season Opener

ETHAN QI

SUNDAY 3:00 p.m.	
Andover	14
Cushing	5

With Liam Hall PG'21 being awarded the Lightning Offensive Player of the Game for scoring two goals and assisting six more and Aidan Fenton '23 being awarded the Thunder Defensive Player of the Game for securing seven ground balls and six face-off wins, Andover Boys Lacrosse defeated Cushing 14-5 in the team's season opener on Sunday. The team's regular season record now stands at 1-0.

Bouncing back from a tough loss in a scrimmage against Belmont Hill last week, the team headed into its first matchup with excitement and determination to start the regular season off on a strong note, according to Co-Captain Troy Pollock '21 and Ben Garozzo '23.

Pollock said, "We wanted to excel on all different aspects of our game. I think we had the potential, and I think we have the potential every game to really go out there and exceed the expectations. We really wanted to beat [Cushing] good coming off the loss that we had last week and show our friends and family all the work we've put in."

"We were excited, it was our first regular season game. It was actually [Head] Coach [James] Beaudoin's first ever game at Andover which was exciting. We always have high expectations that we're going to win because you just have to stay confident like that, but we never have too high expectations because we don't want to sleep on a team that could be very good," added Garozzo.

During this past week of practice, the team worked on fixing the mistakes prevalent in its scrimmage against Belmont Hill last week. According to Coach Beaudoin and Garozzo, attempting for more swift transitions and faster breaks were key factors towards the team's success against Cushing.

Coach Beaudoin said, "We really worked on transitions, trying to basically get the ball from when our goalie makes a save or when we steal the ball to go down to the offensive end and try to make that quick. I think that was probably our strength against Cushing was the ball; I think the statistics that I saw on our Hudl were that we were clearing it over 80 percent for the game, which is a really great percentage... and it translated to at least a third of the

goals [we scored.]"

"I think we did really work on fast breaks [in practice], which was something I was really happy about because we ended up performing really well in those since that's something we really struggled on in the Belmont Hill game. We also worked on clearing which is something we were better at in this regular season game," added Garozzo.

While the team continues to adjust to each other's playing styles, multiple individual efforts stood out on both the offensive and defensive fronts, according to Pollock.

Pollock said, "[Charlie Ferguson '23] had a couple really fancy behind the back goals which were really fun to see. Great confidence from a young player, and he's stepping into his role which is awesome. On the defensive end, [Co-Captain Will Rickards '21] played great, our goalie. Overall, all four of our d-poles played great team defense but also individual takeaways. So [Co-Captain Jayme Wilde '21.] [Preston Whitehurst '22.] Aidan Fenton, and [Aidan Reidy '21.]"

Even though the athletes faced some challenges throughout the game against a chippy Cushing team, the team managed to adapt, according to Coach Beaudoin.

"I think it was a very physical game... But we still have to temper that with penalties and making sure that we're adhering to our high standards of how we're supposed to act. But towards the end of the game, I was happy with how the players were reacting

to the coaching of [Coach Kate Dolan.] [Coach Martha Fenton '83.] and myself. So I think every game has challenges, but when we called timeouts and talked about what we would like to see changed, [the players] were really receptive of that which was extremely positive for this early in the season," said Coach Beaudoin.

Moving forward, the team looks to continue to build camaraderie between players and maintain composure and performance under intense conditions, according to Garozzo and Pollock.

Garozzo said, "I think we need to continue to stay cool, calm, and collected in high pressure moments. Heading into a team like Deerfield, it's going to be a really intense game, so we're going to need to stay calm. Also, I think we need to just work on overall team play. Being a team, meshing well together, playing for Non Sibi, which we do, but we can always improve upon that. And that's how we'll beat Deerfield."

"I think we played well for our first game, but there's a lot to work on. You could see how much potential we have. So I think overall, our performance was good, but it can always be better. That's why we get after it the next day in captain's practice, and we go strong throughout the week because we've got a huge opponent next week against Deerfield," added Pollock.

Andover will look to carry its momentum into its home game against Deerfield this Saturday.



COURTESY OF NATA LOUMIDIS

Co-Captain Jayme Wilde [#22] leads Andover Boys Lacrosse alongside Will Rickards '21, Baron Abrishami '21, and Troy Pollock '21.

Write for Sports! Email ttang22, lboshar22, or csadowski22!

VOLLEYBALL

Andover Volleyball Suffers Defeat to Exeter in Close Season Opener Matchup

ETHAN QI

Alex Mitchell '22 received a pass from Violet Enes '21 to set up Co-Captain Caleb Blackburn-Johnson '22 for a crushing hit over the net, giving Andover Volleyball the win 27-24 in the third set. Despite these advantages, the team fell short 3-1 in its season opener against Phillips Exeter Academy on Saturday. Leading up to its first game of the season, the team looked to give its best effort and prove its capabilities to Exeter, a team they've had difficulties against in the past, according to Mitchell and Co-Captain Jerry Shu '21. Mitchell said, "[The goal] was just to play as well as we could. [Exeter] beat us up pretty badly in the past. I don't think we've ever won a set off them, and then we took the third set off them. So it definitely sent a message that we're there to play, and they can't just take us for granted. We were definitely trying to surprise them and be consistent." Shu added, "We wanted to beat the crap out of Exeter. Unfortunately, our mission was not accomplished, but we did take a set off of them

which felt good because we haven't taken a set off of them in a couple [of] years." With all other competitions canceled on Saturday, the gym was packed as Andover students filled the seats to watch the rivals battle it out on the court. According to Mitchell and Shu, playing in front of a solely Andover crowd brought the team energy and motivation throughout the game. Shu said, "It was crazy. We had a massive crowd come out, just cheering for everything. There were some chants out there that some people were going out and chanting, and we didn't really expect it. It felt good to sort of have that energy in the building." Despite Andover falling to its rivals in a close game, the team was proud of its performance against a strong Exeter team, according to Mitchell. "I think we're really happy, I think this is the best we've played against Exeter. If we made slightly fewer errors, we definitely would have won. And we're definitely planning for our next game, I think we're playing them in three weeks' time, so we're definitely getting ready for that, and we will come back

swinging," said Mitchell. Having not played a formal game in over a year and still adjusting to new teammates with the all-gender team format this spring, the team found sparks of success through multiple individual efforts, according to Shu and Mithcell. Shu said, "My man, Caleb 'Big Shark' Blackburn-Johnson, he was just manhandling the ball. He was killing it.

Every time we fed the ball to him, there would just be an instant kill. I think he left some dents in the linoleum floor on Saturday that we'll have to get patched up on the floor for next Saturday." Mitchell added, "I think our back row quickset to Caleb Blackburn-Johnson, was just an absolute weapon because they had absolutely no idea where it was coming. [Luke Gordos PG'21] would

set a screen and then Caleb would have the entire middle of the court wide open... Also, we had some great plays on defense. Violet Enes and [Michelle Brunetti '23] were making some great pickups." Andover will look to capture its first win of the season at home against Northfield Mount Hermon next Saturday at 1:00 p.m.



COURTESY OF DAVID OWYANG

Although Andover had three less kills than Exeter, the team out-blocked its rival 5-0.

SPORTSOPINION

A Billionaire's Little Toy

DAIGO MORIWAKE

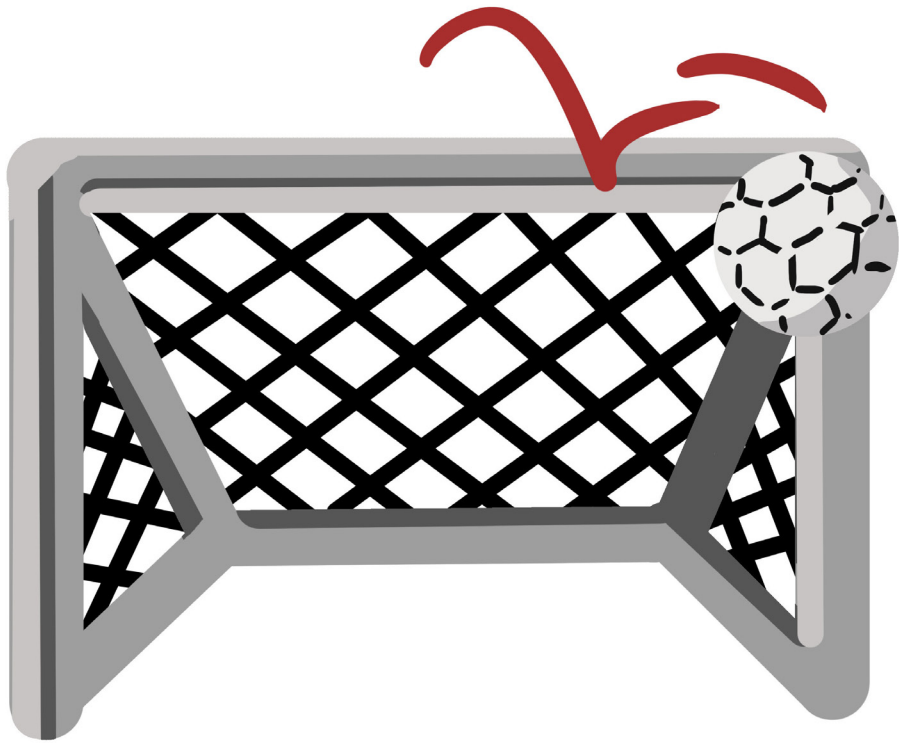
Miracles happen in soccer. Leicester City F.C., who was promoted to the Premier League in 2014 and survived a relegation battle in 2015, won the Premier League against 5000/1 odds in 2016. Aston Villa F.C. won the European Cup in 1982 just 10 years after it was promoted from the third division of English soccer. These miracles—last-minute goals, penalty saves and most of all, rags-to-riches stories like those of Leicester and Aston Villa—are what fans remember and treasure in soccer. The twelve founding clubs of the European Super League tried to kill this magic. On Sunday, A.C. Milan, Arsenal F.C., Atlético Madrid, Chelsea F.C., F.C. Barcelona, Inter Milan, Juventus F.C., Liverpool F.C., Manchester City F.C., Manchester United F.C., Real Madrid C.F., and Tottenham Hotspur F.C. released a joint statement on their respective social media pages and websites announcing the formation of a new elite European soccer competition called the European Super League. According to the joint statement released by the twelve clubs, the league was expected to start “as soon as practicable,” and would have featured fifteen permanent clubs in addition to five teams who would have gained qualification through merit. After facing intense backlash from fans, players, coaches, and even politicians such as Boris Johnson and Emmanuel Macron, most clubs pulled out of the competition on Tuesday and it looks as though the Super League will not become a reality. Despite the fact that the plans for the Super League did not come to fruition, this three-day catastrophe gave fans a warning and a remind-

er of what the owners of these clubs really want. Advocates for this new league said it would increase the number of “big games” for fans to watch, and that it would generate more revenue for the participating clubs during a pandemic in which club finances have been impacted drastically. While this may be true, for the clubs outside of the permanent fifteen, the Super League would have been a disaster. Currently, there are 32 spots in the U.E.F.A. Champions League, all of which are earned through qualification by league position or winning the U.E.F.A Europa League. If the European Super League replaced the Champions League as Europe's elite soccer competition, only five spots would have been available for qualification. This means it would have been much more difficult for the

clubs outside the permanent fifteen to get an opportunity to play in the elite European competition. Qualifying for European competitions comes with a massive financial package, and clubs often use this package to strengthen their squad. When clubs are undergoing a transitional period (e.g. building a stadium), they rely on European football to keep the club functioning. Therefore, the fifteen permanent teams would have a guaranteed source of income while others would struggle to ever reach the level of these clubs because they wouldn't have the same resources to strengthen their teams. The organizers of the Super League knew this, but still tried to go ahead with the league because of the revenue it would have brought to the participating clubs. Moreover, the Super League would have also sto-

len viewership from domestic leagues, as spectators are theoretically more keen to watch matches between two “big teams.” A part of the entertainment of the domestic leagues like the Premier League or La Liga Santander has always involved qualification for the Champions League and Europa League. In 2020, the final two English spots for Champions League qualification (third and fourth places) came down to the final day of competition in the Premier League, which provided great entertainment for fans of the English top flight. The Super League would have taken away that aspect of the league, and with it, much of its entertainment value. I am an Arsenal fan—I have been since I was six; I would, and still do, stay up until five in the morning to watch a league match against

Burnley F.C., Fulham F.C., or West Bromwich Albion F.C. There really was not much I wanted more than to watch the Arsenal players lining up in pre-match jackets under the floodlights with the Champions League anthem booming throughout the stadium. It still fills me with immense excitement and pride when I watch old videos of the stands painted red and white before a losing match against Barcelona or F.C. Bayern Munich. Yet, I am absolutely embarrassed that Arsenal opted to take part in a competition in which we are guaranteed qualification. We are ninth in the league, so we didn't play our way into the Super League. Instead, we paid for it with the potential revenue we would get over more deserving clubs such as Leicester and West Ham United F.C. Stan Kroenke, the owner of Arsenal, wanted a guaranteed source of income that he wouldn't get with the current system and didn't mind sacrificing the meritocracy and the spirit of sport to get it. The same goes for all the greedy presidents and owners of the twelve founding clubs. They didn't care that clubs like Leicester, Sevilla F.C., or S.S.C. Napoli would not be able to compete in the Super League even if they deserved it. They simply wanted a free pass to elite European soccer and all the financial incentives it provides. They wanted what should be earned through competition and got it through money. So, while the suspension of the Super League has shown the power fans still hold in their clubs, this fiasco was a reminder that soccer clubs are not “clubs for the fans” anymore. It was a reminder of the harsh reality that the Arsenal I have been watching and admired for more than a decade has always been a greedy billionaire's little toy.



DANIELA VELASQUEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN

HOME GAMES 4/24/2021

Boys Tennis

1:30 p.m.

Girls Tennis

1:30 p.m.

Boys

Lacrosse

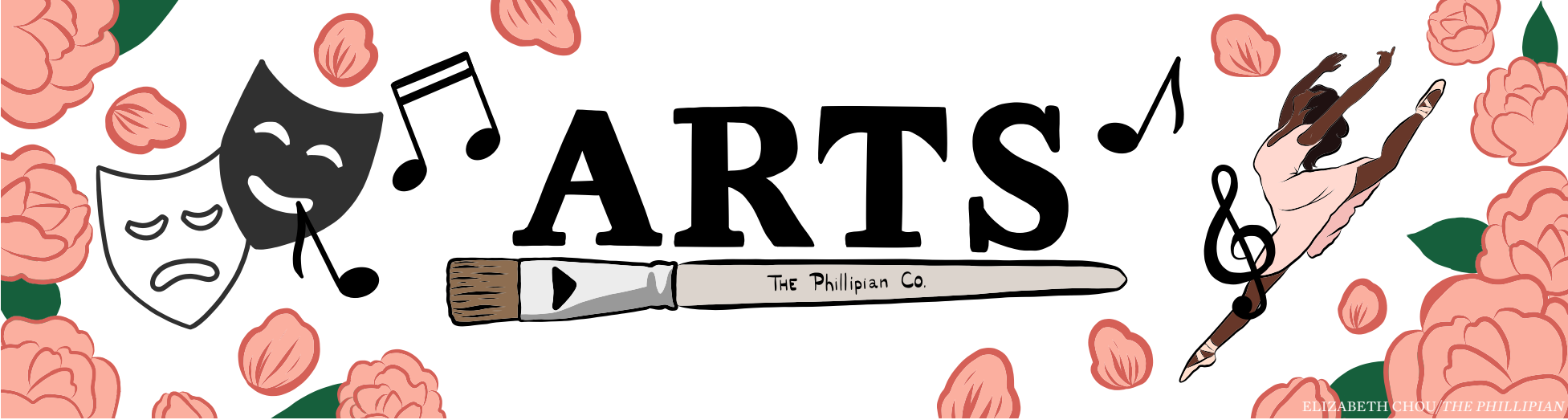
1:30 p.m.

Ultimate

1:30 p.m.

Track & Field

1:30 p.m.



Juniors and Lowers Attend Spring Term Casino Night

DORIAN WANG

Students gathered in the Gelb Tent on Saturday to attend Andover’s annual Casino Night. Open to only Juniors and Lowers, students were provided free chips for games and unlike in past years, there was no entrance fee. While students remarked on the significant differences between this Casino Night and previous ones, they also expressed that they were glad to partake in the activities and dress for the occasion.

Victoria Ortiz ’23:

I’m not really a dress person, I’ve always really wanted to buy a suit, and I just also really love the color green, so I thought that’d be dope. Originally I was going to [wear] blue [to] match with the Andover vibe, but I found this really nice green one four days ago, and I thought it would look really nice with some white [to] keep it nice and springy, but also good for a casino.



DORIAN WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Devan Hernandez ’23:

Basically, when I got out of the shower, I put my robe on, and I was like, ‘this will do.’ I put a chain on, slapped a hat on, and that’s basically how the outfit came together... I’m looking forward to hopefully winning some big money, and maybe some prizes even. Me and my friends, we’re gonna pool all of our chips together at the end of the night and try to win some big prizes.



DORIAN WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Michelle Yao ’23:

I’m wearing a tank top with long pants that have a Japanese style pattern on them, black leather shoes, and a matching belt. I also have a short black jacket with sleeves falling off-shoulder. The conditions are different [this year], but [Casino Night] still achieved the goal of having everyone interact. Everyone seems to be enjoying it, myself included.



DORIAN WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN



Alana Chiang ’24:

[I came to Casino Night] to meet new people and talk to my friends, obviously to take pictures... It’s pretty fun. There are so many games you can choose from, and it did live up to my expectations.



DORIAN WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Magnus Adams ’23:

Really, it all started when I found a pair of white pants in the Uniqlo clearance section, and I thought: ‘I am going to make this the greatest outfit that I have ever worn.’ And so I did. I went to a Lord & Taylor nearby that was going out of business and got a nice shirt... I picked myself up a nice waistcoat and white blazer for a pretty good price. From there, it just sat itself together.



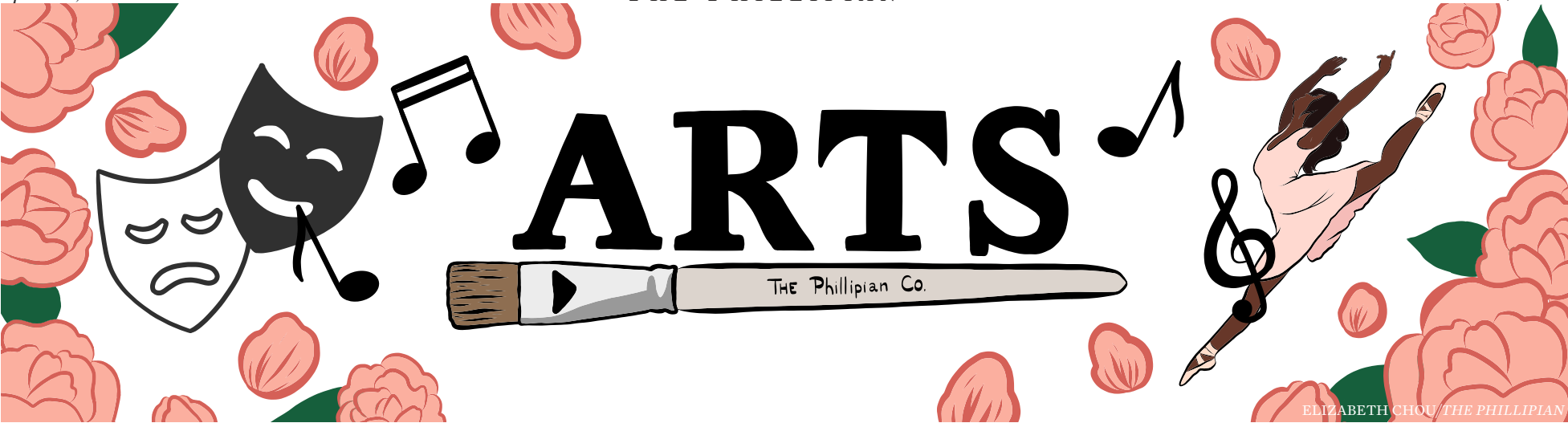
DORIAN WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Arim Lee ’24:

This dress was actually from Halloween... I thought that everyone else was going to wear black and velvet and red, so I decided to go for a more flowy, pastel kind of vibe... I honestly have not been participating in the actual games a lot, but it has been fun dressing up, talking to everyone, and getting to meet all the people that we were so separated from during Winter Term.



DORIAN WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN



Review: Atmospheric ‘Honeydew’ is a Double-Edged Sword

DORIAN WANG

Chock-full of used horror clichés, oversaturated with disorienting bells and whistles, and lacking a cohesive core, Devereux Milburn’s “Honeydew” feels like a bit of fluff picked off an art-house floor. “Honeydew” stars Sawyer Spielberg (yes, as in that Spielberg) as Sam and Malin Barr as Rylie, and the two are a young couple who get stranded on a camping trip. They seek shelter in the home of the off-putting Karen (Barbara Kingsley), who seems to be hiding more than she lets on. Released in U.S. theaters on April 15, 2021, the film takes us through rural wheatfields of New England horror, meandering in slick but incoherent montages (of food, an overuse of close-ups, split screens, etc.) and struggling to wade through the tension necessary to support a not just cohesive,

but compelling horror narrative. Spoilers ahead.

“Honeydew”’s chief virtue also precipitates as its tremendous downfall. The film’s fixation on atmosphere, at first glance, seems tight and aesthetically well-woven, until you realise it’s just pretty wallpaper to paste over the massive cavities in its crumbling drywall of a story. We open on a discombobulating mess of cuts from flashing image to image that ultimately sets up close to nothing in the story. Jump to an inundation of split screens during our introduction to the protagonists, and the clanging soundtrack underneath keeps our headaches going long enough to ignore the gaping holes in the film’s construction. This method works well (and does, in fact, show off Milburn’s background as a music video and short film director) until the film’s tension requires

more than flash to carry it. From then on, critical moments feel undercut by the lack of substance set-up throughout the film; we realise the tension hasn’t been built, but rather, has just been a plasticky veneer slogging on under the mantra of ‘fake it until you make it’ And yet, even as a sheer drape over the film’s deep flaws, the atmosphere is the film’s main triumph, well crafted and unsettling (I have to admit, even though I’m suffering through a headache induced by the clattering and utterly unpleasant soundtrack as I write this review, it added to the atmosphere tremendously). Still, it is immensely disappointing to feel the mounting, layered dread creep up behind us throughout the film only turn on the lights and find out it’s not the hulking figure of terror we were expecting, but a dust bunny in a discount Party City Halloween costume.

“Honeydew” is a highly atmospheric, superficially tense, and surprisingly disturbing trudge around the bowels of New England in search of a point. Carried mostly by eccentric cinematography (a series of close-ups at the opening make the film feel very claustrophobic), a jangling soundtrack, and a sharply done atmosphere (the color palettes are sometimes truly delectable), “Honeydew” could have been a lot more than it turned out to be. An almost Hansel and Gretel tale that skipped the trail of sweets and went directly for the children (or, in this case, late ’20s city slickers) in the oven, the film wandered around indulgent expanses of aestheticism and atmosphere without a mind to its story or plot. It was bloated but sparse, empty but too much, too cluttered but not complex enough. Truly, “Honeydew” is the poster child for style



OLHA YARYNICH/THE PHILLIPPIAN

over substance. “Honeydew” receives a 3/5 for its well-constructed atmosphere but hollow story.

ArtRage Renga Writing Workshop Fosters Collaboration and Solidarity Among AAPI Students

ArtRage Renga: A renga is an ancient Japanese poetic form comprised of haikus alternating with a couplet. Traditionally, a haiku is a three-line poem of 5-7-5 syllables, followed by a two-line stanza of 7-7 syllables. For this ArtRage poetry project, however, we can play/bend the rules. What matters most is that your words get amplified on the page. Please write your name and grade level. You may participate more than once, so long as there are poets contributing between your last and current post.	1. Soph Ma, Senior Aberrant When "bad days" pattern murder, Our "a" yronas break loud.	2. Harry Champaloonwat, Senior When their hatred fails to budge, A nudge is no longer enough.	3. David Zhu, Senior Paper sons soaring bitter wounds are silent scars Paper, still not yet old.	4. Izzy Torio, Senior Suppressed, where does the path go We're buried before we live.
	5. Victor Malzahn, Senior They ask my mother why you, the shining day no, it's a my how	6. Soph Ma, Senior Stay home. Hide your face, for sale. I court my grandmother.	7. Amy Jiang, Senior my warm embrace through your worn struggles as far you're not alone	
	8. Amelia Cheng, Senior In Spring, blooming cherry blossoms for victory, hearts to mend.	9. Clara Tu, Senior Reeling 'twixt, we Moans: through paper until Words are not as distant.	10. Soph Ma, Senior Reeled with holes, news paper's edges.	11. Izzy Torio, Senior heads turn: once your place blend splits, after a once the laughter silence falls, always
	12. Sarah Pan, Junior But you were silent, but only You felt us as we fell.	13. Amelia Cheng, Senior My wings are silent Sink in the night, falling Sins died broken.	14. Clara Tu, Senior When we're not What we hid at the bottom.	
16. Rhina Peng, Junior Should I be scared of what My parents can't not because?	14. Clara Tu, Senior Wings of a new dawn rise To show a world of us	15. Zao Yu, Junior To singlet, we To be a new piece of a night, Struggling to know how	17. Sarah Pan, Junior When we're not What we hid at the bottom.	18. Eleanor Benn, Junior

COURTESY OF BIG BLUE PADLET

In response to anti-AAPI hate crimes in the country, AAPI students utilized the online platform Padlet to form a renga, which will later be exhibited in the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library.

ZOE YU

Seated in tables of four, approximately 20 Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students gathered at the Graves Tent this past Saturday for a writing workshop taught by writer-in-residence R. Zamora Linmark as a part of ArtRage, a poetry initiative by AAPI students and faculty in response to both the recent and historic anti-AAPI hate crimes in the U.S. Students found solidarity through the workshop, according to attendee Amelia Cheng '21.

“I think just having a space to gather and find solidarity through creative means is really fulfilling in this time of turmoil and processing a lot of shared anger and trauma. Having the space [allowed me] to not only find an outlet but also find inspiration by existing among my AAPI peers,” said Cheng.

Amy Jiang '21, one of the coordinators of ArtRage, organized the workshop along with other AAPI students and faculty to maximize Linmark’s impact on the Andover community. Jiang stressed that Linmark’s passion for teaching

bountiful experience with facilitating group work through the ancient Japanese poetic form of renga in his classes. Renga consists of haikus and couplets, which historically itinerant monks and poets exchanged with each other to write about and read about nature.

“What is the equivalent to group work in poetry? Well, renga... So I said, maybe I can get a bunch of [AAPI] students from [Andover] to do something with [renga], except that in this case, it’s not a meditation on nature, but a response to the violence on Asian-Americans,” said Linmark.

The interactive workshop fostered teamwork among the groups of four, as each student wrote their individual haikus and couplets before piecing them together as a cohesive poem. Through the collaborative process, attendee Sarah Pan '24 found connections between the writing of hers and her peers.

“Seeing what I wrote reflected in other people really gives me this feeling of solidarity, but also in a creative way that could really put everything together and make a finished product that can really convey all of our feelings,” said Pan.

Traditionally, the three-lined haiku was composed of 5-7-5 syllables, while the couplet was com-

posed of seven syllables per line. The ArtRage project, however, allowed students to bend the syllable rule in hopes of encouraging more free expression, which attendee Aidan Burt '21 enjoyed.

“You don’t have to worry about the exact number of syllables and I think that when it comes to creative expression, not limiting yourself to a template or a certain standard way of doing things can actually help create more evocative language,” said Burt.

With the name ArtRage being a pun on the word “outrage”, Linmark hoped to encourage students to enrich their frustration and disappointments by incorporating artistic elements. He was impressed by the students’ ability to confront the complex anti-AAPI history with such brevity that the poetic form offered.

“That’s the challenge about poetry. Giving it language, fueling it with imagery and with sounds and rhythm and music, so that it doesn’t just stay angry. It’s elevated to a poetic level or artistic level... What I find very rewarding as a teacher is the students’ determination to address this problem, the history of this problem, in such few words and with strong images, that reverberate even after you read it,” said Linmark.

Cast of Theatre-910’s ‘Behind Our Masks and Screens’ Explore Vulnerability Remotely

JASMINE MA

Against a black background, the Zoom screens of eight performers light up one by one. They each recite a sentence of the opening monologue on personal freedom as they commence the Theatre-910 Identity production of “Behind Our Masks and Screens,” directed by Denise Taveras '21.

“The whole point of this identity show is that people get to see another layer of people’s identities that you don’t share out loud. Since a lot of us were at home... people were able to see some people’s homes [and] the background of their rooms. We were like ‘oh what is going [on] behind your screen and who are you behind your mask?’” said Taveras.

The annual production centered on the cast’s exploration of their identity. Through community building, individual work, and free writing, the “Behind Our Masks and Screens” cast explored their vulnerabilities through monologues, which ultimately worked together toward creating the larger production.

“The thing that we’re scared about was that sometimes it’s hard to feel that vulnerability if [the audience is] not in the same space [as] the performer, but we tried to find a way to make it personal so that it feels more like a conversation and so that when people share their pieces, they don’t feel [like] they were just talking to a screen... We wanted

to make sure that everyone felt they were putting their voice out there for someone to hear them,” said Taveras.

Echoing these difficulties posed by distance and remote learning, performer Victoria Ortiz '23 also reflected on how their collective bonding experience was affected. According to Ortiz, the cast’s mutual respect and support fostered a safe online environment, which reflected in the success of the final production.

“If one person has enough courage to share whatever because they wanted to, our support kind of pushes the next person to be ‘Ok I can do this’ and so on and so forth. It was all a very collective experience towards trusting each other,” said Ortiz.

Having performed in last year’s Theatre-910 production, Taveras strived to shape this production while deriving inspiration from her in-person experience. According to Ortiz, Taveras goal stabilized the normalcy of this year’s production, and provided the experience that she hoped for.

“I think a lot of her performance experience helped because she knew what should happen ideally if we had been in person. She was very keen on approaching it as if we were in person, then adapting it for the virtual environment, which I think was very helpful. We felt supported and encouraged by her actually caring about all of us,” said Ortiz.

Gaia Rajan '22 Challenges Traditions and Expectations with Poetry

JACKIE LI

At the age of 17, Gaia Rajan '22 has published over 40 different poems in various literature magazines, and in November 2020, she published her first chapbook entitled “Moth Funerals.” According to Rajan, she strives to break down norms, stereotypes, and establishments with her emphatic words, bringing new perspectives and insights into the world of poetry.

In Rajan’s poems, she often jumps from one scene to the next with no pauses, creating a degree of ambiguity for readers at certain points. She notes that her experimentation with such enigmatic content was most prominent within her poem “Pine Street,” which was published in the magazine “Split Lip.”

“At first when I was writing [“Pine Street,”] I was really invested in making sure the reader understood every shift that I made, but my incredible mentor Claudia Cortese said, ‘You need to trust the reader more. You don’t need to worry about things making sense.’ Once I removed that expectation, the poem really opened for me,” said Rajan.

Though slightly hard to grasp at times, Rajan’s writing style is still effective in conveying her themes and subverting expectations, according to fellow writer Frank Zhou '22. Zhou explained that the appeal of her writing comes from how nebulous and consequently nuanced it is.

“Her voice is very distinct, and there’s a degree of not being able to really fully get what she’s going, a degree of knowing that there’s more out there [within her writing]... A lot of her work also fea-



COURTESY OF GAIA RAJAN

tures young women, girls... she’s pushing back against so much of what literature is done with major canonical figures being white men,” said Zhou.

Throughout her published pieces, Rajan not only tends to explore and experiment with a variety of ideas—she never finds herself fixating on certain topics—but also criticizes the tokenization of writers of colour, a pattern that she notes to be harmful and pervasive in the poetry scene.

“I have a poem that’s called ‘Inside of a Poem You Can Hear Muffled Screams,’ and it’s about how a lot of the field of poetry forces a kind of packaging of trauma or violence in a way that isn’t necessarily constructive to healing... Writers of color can sometimes feel pressured to write about heritage trauma or other trauma they

faced in a way that is specifically geared towards white editors,” said Rajan.

The issue of tokenisation is not the only matter Rajan brings up within her writing; she also uses poetry as a medium to discuss themes of social justice and political action. Diverging from the belief that poetry does not have a purpose or that it only exists for aesthetic reasons, Rajan is among a school of poets that believes poetry is a form of political action.

“I think a poem can make moves towards or away from explicit political actions... There’s this choice to make something violent, beautiful, or not beautiful. This choice to euphemise or to not use euphemisms at all. Language itself—the way that we name things—matters, and it will always matter,” says Rajan.