

Future Student Body Co-Presidents Aim to Strengthen Connections and Rebuild Andover Culture

ERIN KIM

Future Student Body Co-Presidents for the 2021-2022 school year, Mary Muromcew '22 and Sean Meng '22, were notified of their election results through a playful message from current Co-President Salvador Gómez-Colón '21.

“[Gómez-Colón] texted us, and he was super serious. He was like, ‘I’m gonna call you now, make sure that you two are together.’ So we found a space—we were right outside the library at one of the sitting areas—so we got the call from him, and then he started off saying, ‘Oh, your efforts were commendable, these elements of your platform would have been really nice to implement.’ So we thought we lost,” said Meng.

Meng continued, “But then, after two minutes of messing with us, [Gómez-Colón] was like, ‘Just kidding, congrats!’ And I think, at that moment, we were so relieved because while we were getting the call from [Gómez-Colón], we looked at each other, and we were like, ‘Oh my god, this kind of sucks.’ But get-

ting that news was so relieving. Finally having the election process over was really, really nice, and I gave [Muromcew] a hug afterward. We were like, ‘Wow, we did it!’”

As co-presidents, Muromcew and Meng hope to focus on unifying the student body and take the lead in re-establishing the Andover community culture after an unprecedented school year.

“A big question we ask ourselves is, ‘How do we reinstate campus culture?’ [Meng] and I have been talking about not only the spirit side of things but also the policy. A lot of deans we’ve been talking to have been mentioning that we have a lot of [opportunities,] in terms of what’s possible. I think while that does mean that we have a lot that we can do, we obviously need to work harder to really clarify things [in] multiple [areas],” said Muromcew.

Muromcew and Meng plan to tackle this challenge of rebuilding a sense of campus togetherness by visiting dorms and getting more chances to meet people. The pair also looks forward to hosting more all-school

events and opportunities that encourage conversation.

“I think there is a lot of creative space for us to set new traditions that haven’t been done before. We hope to work with the Blue Key Heads—we’re gonna have to be on it next year, and really bring out the best in ourselves... [Meng] and I are also planning some all-school conversation sessions, which will be key for not only student unification but also getting to know teachers and having conversations with them,” said Muromcew.

Another plan Muromcew and Meng have is to bring more student voices to the Deans’ table—a meeting with all the deans. Through this, they hope to foster collaboration and increase communication between the Andover community.

“We want to make it so that we can bring student leaders ... into the Deans’ table system and just have joint efforts working towards a common goal. And we think in that way of working directly with student organizations, working directly with students, [and] not just student leaders who hear things from



COURTESY OF MARY MUROMCEW

Mary Muromcew '22 and Sean Meng '22 aim to create new traditions during their tenure.

different places, but actually, from the voices who care the most about things, we can create a type of community that is productive in terms of policy change,” said Meng.

According to Meng, the pair has already started setting up meetings to collaborate with various student and campus organizations. Together, they will focus on sustainability initiatives, Community and Multicultural Development coalition building, and revamping aca-

demic integrity education.

“There [are] really two parts of being co-presidents. There’s the policy—things to get done. But also just being a [spiritual] leader and representing the student body. I do also hope that people remember us as being really kind and outgoing—that we made an effort to get to know people. Those are things that

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Andover Asian Society Hosts Annual Celebr-Asian to Celebrate AAPI Community

CHRISTINE LEE &
KAREN WANG

To kick off Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, Andover’s Asian Society hosted their annual Celebr-Asian event on May 1.

The co-heads of Asian Society, Ryan Mai '21 and Alex Park '21, organized Celebr-Asian alongside Aya Murata, Associate Director of College Counseling, who specifically coordinated the RU-N4AAPI event. The celebration also consisted of lantern making in The Nest, a talent show in the Hale Tent, and a Gati Thai Bistro dinner.

“Celebr-Asian is a celebration of our Asian identity, especially on campus where we can have performances like these, where we can celebrate our collective talent and identity and come together as a community. I think following a lot of the recent AAPI hate crimes, it’s also good to come together as a community to be together,” said Mai.

This year, Mai and Park worked to plan the event despite new challenges that arose due to the pandemic. In particular, they worked with the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center and the Community and Multicultural Development Office (CaMD) to organize a fun dinner while also following the campus’ Covid-19 protocols.

Mai said, “This dinner is very important to us because I know that there have been a lot of complex regulations that have gone into making food safe and accessible on campus, and I know that a lot of the catering and a lot of the options for off campus food have been scaled back this

year because the school wants to make sure everything is safe for all the students. We were very happy to get clearance from the [Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center] and work in collaboration with the Community and Multicultural Development Office, especially [LaShawn Springer, Director of CaMD] to organize a Gati Thai Bistro catering event.”

Another activity, lantern making, was facilitated by The Nest and gave participants the opportunity to build and design their own lanterns.

“We wanted to do something that was more arts and crafts. So, we reached out to [The Nest] and they provided the space. Someone was helping us make the lanterns and teaching us how to do it with the materials. It was really fun to do that,” said Park.

Stephanie Li '24 found the activity enjoyable and thought it was meaningful to make something related to Asian culture.

“I think the lantern making activity was really fun. I like how it incorporates Asian culture, although lanterns are more of a mid autumn kind of thing, but it’s really fun,” said Li.

Alice Fan '23 and Frank Zhou '22, among others who participated in the run, found this event to be an opportunity to celebrate their Asian identity and thought it was a great way to show solidarity in times of rising hate towards the AAPI community.

“Especially with all of the current events happening and more visible Asian hate on the rise, I think it’s really important to show up. And instead

Continued on A4, Column 4



A.NEAL/THE PHILLIPIAN

Auditions for the 2021-2022 Blue Key Heads occurred this week. Above, the 2020-2021 Blue Key Heads this Tuesday in between auditions.

Commentary, A2

The Future is Digital

How can Andover prepare its students for a more digitally-focused future? Theo Baker '22 reflects on how to approach this soon-to-be reality.

Eighth Page, A6

#WorstWeek

Yes: it was hard to write jokes about the Hindenburg Explosion of a week, but we tried our best! Read the Eighth Page to see how we did.

Sports, A7

Ultimate Serenades

Read about Andover Ultimate’s tradition of serenading the opposing team with a song parody.

Arts, B8

Back in Business

This Saturday, student artists gathered in person and performed a selection of songs in the Musical Theatre Cabaret.

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‘We Stand With You’: Sixth Annual Take Back the Night Honors Survivors of Gender-based Violence



M.WILLIAMS/THE PHILLIPIAN

Due to extremely windy conditions that closed down the tents, Take Back the Night organizers had to restructure the event the day of.

JENNY JIN &
BIANCA MORALES

Meeting in front of Sam-Phil, two lines of students began marching down to the Abbot campus, chanting and holding banners that opposed gender-based violence, with the Brace Board members leading the chants. A performance of “Skyscraper” by Demi Levato marked the beginning of the event: Take Back the Night.

A crowd of Andover students stood around Abbot circle on Friday evening, holding candles, while listening to poetry and songs and watching interpretive dance performances. Brace board members stood in a circle on the grass, reading aloud a list containing the names of those impacted by gender based violence, which was followed by a moment of silence to acknowledge them.

Take Back the Night is an annual event organized by members of the Brace Center for Gender Studies board with the goal of spreading awareness about sexual harassment and gender-based violence, as well as to commemorate and support survivors. Evalyn Lee '23, a member of the Take Back the Night planning committee, revealed the committee’s intention and ideas behind the event.

“I think it’s mainly an acknowledgment and a visible way of bringing [...] community together. Like I said earlier, sexual assault is a topic that isn’t discussed. And I think by having this event where we all come out, march, and stand together, it shows that we care about these issues in our community, care for these victims,” Lee explained.

During the event, the Brace Advisory Board led chants to express resistance against gender-based violence. While some parts of the affirmations were passed down from previous years as a tradition, the current Take Back the Night planning committee also came up with and included new slogans of their own. Emiliano Caceres Manzano '22, Brace Board member, described the planning process as thoughtful and meaningful.

“For us it was a matter of thinking ‘What do we want survivors to

hear?’ and ‘What do we want to put out into the world to combat anyone who doesn’t believe, anyone who’s perpetuating this violence?’ ‘What kind of energy can we put out into the world?’ I do want to give credit, one of the affirmations was originally ‘We stand with you,’ and I believe it was Violet Enes [’21] who changed it to ‘We stand with you even when your institutions don’t.’ And I think that that was very, very powerful and she ad-libbed that in the moment,” said Caceres Manzano.

According to Caceres Manzano, planning for the event was challenging, given that last year’s Take Back the Night was completely virtual and this year’s event must follow Andover community Covid-19 guidelines. In addition to these challenges, an unexpected wind advisory was emailed to the Andover community that morning, causing a sudden change of plans for the Take Back the Night committee.

“Originally our plans had been heavily reliant on tents, the simultaneous marches going on, that were going to rotate through different tents, then they were going to culminate in two separate vigils. But, because of the tents closing, at ten in the morning, we sat down and re-planned the entire thing,” said Caceres Manzano.

He continued, “My biggest concern was [whether or not] the event was going to work, that people were going to know where they supposed to be, that people got places at the same time, and that we would be able to implement all these last minute changes, because we had been planning it for four months then we had to restructure it,” said Caceres Manzano.

Student attendees expressed their admiration for the event. An attendee of Take Back the Night”Emily-Mae Murtha '22 described the importance of events that show group support for survivors of gender based violence.

“I think the gathering of the Andover community in one space just to shed light on this issue is really important. Because, if there’s no reciprocity in mutual passion and care about topics such as this, it won’t be brought up in discus-

sions and students won’t be able to engage in this subject more and in general it could be often overlooked,” said Murtha.

She continued, “Having these events frequently on campus and engaging in discussion makes students think and make connections to topics such as gender based violence and watch out for it more in times where it’s relevant.”

Similarly, Zadia Rutty-Turner '23, a first time attendee, saw the event as necessary to spread awareness of gender-based violence and letting students recognize that the Andover community is always there to support.

“Seeing everybody standing in that circle, everyone’s holding their little light up candles out, very uniting, which is something that I think the community really needs. [...] I think greater awareness is always something that we know we want to focus on. Other than awareness, unity, as I said, or just a sense of reality, I think. Because sexual assault or just some of the topics covered gender based violence, so it’s covered sometimes as like to other people, it’s not something that happens to people. It’s always somebody else, I think it brought the greater sense of like, this happens to people, this is something that you should actively be aware of,” said Rutty-Turner.

While Dr. Flavia Vidal, Director of the Brace Center for Gender Studies, appreciates the outreach of the event, she believes that the event could become even more influential in the future and hopes that all members of the Andover community will be present to participate.

“Just more people can come, this should be a full community event. I think it is time for our students and our adults who did not participate, and I know for a fact that there are people who wanted to participate and couldn’t, and I completely understand that. But I also know that there are people who made other choices. I think that it speaks to the need for this to grow even more and to be something that people really embrace, every single one of our students, not just the 300 and something that have been there,” said Vidal.

Editorial

You Musk Be Kidding Me

Saturday Night Live (S.N.L.) has been a uniquely American comedy show since its creation in 1975. Constant in form and time, yet ever-changing in cast and writing quality, S.N.L. has been an avenue for young comedians to get their starts in showbusiness, for floozy celebrities to promote their projects, and for musical guests to perform slightly worse versions of songs you’ve heard in every commercial on TV that week. *The Phillipian* as an institution loves S.N.L. But this week they are testing us.

On April 24, S.N.L. announced that Elon Musk will be hosting on May 8 of this year. Having been born in South Africa, a child of divorce, employed at the age of 12, fathered the child of a gay icon rockstar, and is now sending his car to space for no reason, Elon Musk is an American dream. The ideal.

His hosting of S.N.L. does not seem to be for any particular reason relating to the media. He does not have a TV show or a debut album on the way. Instead, it is due to the cryptocurrency—Dogecoin—of which Musk owns a significant share. Dogecoin features the viral 2010 doge meme. It was a sensation to invest in after the Reddit Gamestop fiasco, but we will not venture further into the economics of it. Long story short, Elon Musk wants to gain investors in this cryptocurrency by hosting Saturday Night Live.

You may be thinking that everyone who hosts S.N.L. just wants money that’s why anyone does anything in this late-stage-capitalist-hellscape. To which we say,

fair, but this money from S.N.L. publicity should be made in the name of the promotion of art. We need to maintain the illusion that these celebrities really care about “Aquaman 4: Water You Doing??” rather than the second richest man in the world trying to scheme low-income Reddit investors into giving him more money directly.

This choice is not one sided, we understand that. People like Elon. Is he approachable? Attractive? We don’t really think so. He runs a company that notoriously mistreats employees, disbanded Tesla’s public relations sector in order to have autonomy over its outreach, endorsed the views of a sex cult on Twitter, and does not donate far as much of his money as he can or should. But he is very popular among people who don’t know this, or simply do not care. This means S.N.L.’s recent slump may be ended by the public intrigue into this odd choice of host.

Saturday Night Live, and other similar platforms, should avoid letting the meshing of economics, politics, and celebrity that is all too common today affect their choice of host. We would much rather see a celebrity that is featured in Dorito commercials host the show than a temperamental billionaire with goals of space domination.

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Andover and the Digital-forward Future

THEO BAKER



COURTESY OF THEO BAKER

COMPUTER SCIENCE is treated as a self-contained branch of study, kept separate from liberal-arts education and the humanities. However, technological advancement has caused a paradigm shift in the very nature of the modern workplace. Computers and their usage can no longer be separated from the reality we inhabit and the work we do. Grappling with a new world necessitates a new pedagogical approach to the intersection of technology and other subjects, and Andover should be at the forefront of this new way of learning if it hopes to retain the value it provides as an institution.

In the last several decades, technological progress and computer science have transformed even the most remote corners of academia. Traditionally human-driven fields like historical research, archaeology, investigative journalism, and other social sciences have utilized technology in unprecedented ways. It is now possible to identify the author of an ancient manuscript, predict and shape long-term economic trends, or compare the rhetoric being used by conspiracy theorists and mainstream pundits, all through the power of computers. Tech-

nology and its dizzying array of uses hasn’t eliminated classical education’s usefulness, but instead eliminates the traditional dichotomy of humanities and STEM, creating a need for education at the intersection of these fields.

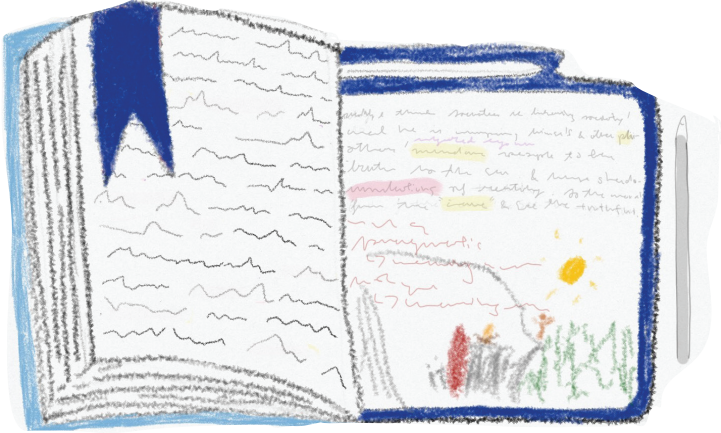
This leaves Andover in the position to create unique opportunities for its students. There is a dire shortage of people who possess both the grounded education and tech-

There is a dire shortage of people who possess both the grounded education and technological literacy needed to thrive in our increasingly digital future.

nological literacy needed to thrive in our increasingly digital future. Pure coders aren’t necessarily equipped to deal with the massive ethical and societal ramifications their tools have on our entire world. Purely humanities-focused graduates don’t have the ability to work with cutting-edge tech to advance their fields or understand the shifting dynamics of technological interplay with novel social science research. Our lives are transitioning more and more online and our jobs are more and more focused on interfacing with AI and computer programs – if this school is to provide us a useful education, it too has to adapt.

What does that look like for a 200+ year old institution? To succeed, a new approach to

technology must be pioneered in all classrooms and by all teachers, mirroring the broader convergence of tech with our ways of living. Requiring Computer Science courses, while potentially viewed as a step in the right direction, is neither the solution nor the ultimate goal; instead, Andover has to tackle the tall order of integration rather than separation



MICHELLE FANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

in preparing its students to have an impact on society.

It begins with a shift in the use of the internet in classes. Jobs and life will be open source. Our generation will have access to Google and Wikipedia and StackExchange – it’s far more important, then, to learn how to properly use these tools than to ignore their existence and use memorization and regurgitation as a way to demonstrate proficiency. Remote learning has already jump-started a shift away from that model of arbitrary fact-dumping, meaning that Andover is in the perfect position to transition into a new system of education.

An emphasis also needs to be placed on understanding computational logic. Even broadly understanding how computers work is vital since

interpreters and compilers as we know them now – the interfaces which people use these days to write code – are sure to be replaced soon by artificial intelligence models and so-called fourth generation languages. This means that it’s far more important to grasp the operational logic of computers than the specific syntax of Java or C++. I believe that Andover ought

to require a course centered solely around logical education. Fermi problems, deductive reasoning, and patterns of thinking about the world are some of the most important things a school can teach and, paired with the quality of faculty already at this school, could make so much more of a difference than vaguely digested facts remembered only until the end of the term. This kind of class helps blur the line between humanities and STEM by teaching tactics and methods needed for both, and provides students with the general problem-solving ability which is made all the more vital by the onset of the digital age.

Teaching deductive reasoning has to be paired, of course, with hands-on experience us-

ing modern tools. There should be an effort to create projects in humanities classes which utilize technology, like having History projects revolving around document analysis, and there also need to be more conversations about tech ethics and AI perpetuating societal biases within our current affairs discourse. Moving even further, the school should offer whole courses of a multidisciplinary nature, involving both CS and History, English, or Foreign Language teachers. This could mean that students are looking at a single problem from multiple perspectives, examining texts using digital tools or looking at case studies of historical events with computational simulation, or pursuing other topics of in-depth social science inquiry using the power of computation. These things together would allow departments to mix for the benefit of students while still respecting the sanctity of their individuality.

There are new, digital-focused ways of approaching topics that very few places have the resources to incorporate; if Andover did, it would be pushing the boundaries of high school exactly as it is designed to do. Technology and classical education intersect constantly, so the thinking strategies and tools we learn in school have to be ones which will serve us in the real, intersectional world, not the world of arbitrary departmental divisions with fields kept separate to the detriment of all. The future is a digital one. Andover has a duty to prepare its students for that.

Theo Baker is an Upper from Washington, DC. Contact the author at tbaker22@andover.edu

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CORRECTIONS: News misdated an event. Students were vaccinated on April 28 and 29, not March 28 and 29.

The Phillipian regrets the error.

Students Pursue Spring Term Independent Projects

REPORTING BY JENNY JIN & CHRISTINE LEE

Each term, the Abbot Independent Scholars Program gives Uppers and Seniors the opportunity to work with an instructor on their own original independent projects in a topic of their choosing, given that they’ve exhausted the available coursework in that area at Andover. This Spring Term, there are six ongoing independent projects, four done individually and two in groups. The groups are Samuel Rosenfield ’21 and Jack Penney ’21, as well as Jesse Cote ’21 and Niara Urquhart ’21, who did not respond to *The Phillipian’s* request for a comment.

CATHY CHO ’22

The course’s name is called “Applied Aural Techniques.” Essentially, what I’m researching is musical elements that are hardest to distinguish and why they are harder to distinguish than others, and I am exploring ways to address those difficulties. Once I do that research, I’m implementing it by creating a music theory, ear training website.

I was having a little trouble with coding the actual ear training website, because I just didn’t know how to load all the M.I.D.I. files onto the website... I just emailed the founder of Tone Savvy, which is the ear training website we use in Spring Term [of Music-550], the one that was kind of flawed. I was like this is a long shot, but let me just ask him how he coded all of this, right? He might help. So I cold emailed, and I was like, “Can you Zoom with me?” and he replied a day later. He helped me a lot with all the coding, loading the M.I.D.I. files, and debugging. We had three Zooms together, each an hour long. He gave me a lot of tips and different ways to organize my code. It was a really cool experience getting outside contact as well.

I like taking all my classes, but this is self-led. It’s self propelled. It’s just so nice doing the homework for research... I definitely enjoyed all my meetings with [Derek Jacoby, Instructor in Music.] He is so helpful, so supportive. Yeah, his encouragement is, “Yeah, go for it,”—that mentality. It’s really nice to have someone to mentor and support you.

Editor’s Note: Cathy Cho ’22 is a Video Editor for The Phillipian.

CHRISTINA LI ’21

My project is in the topic of mathematics, and it’s called “Ring Theory.” What I’m essentially doing is—with my [Independent Project] mentor who’s [Michael McHugh, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science]—I’m reading through this undergraduate textbook on ring theory. Ring theory is a subset of abstract algebra, which is one of the big topics that undergraduates will learn in college. If you’ve heard of group theory before, that’s another very related field. Essentially, it’s a way that you can study symmetry in mathematics. For this project, it’s not as exciting as doing original research, but the thing is, in the field of mathematics, you have to be very well-read because all mathematics research occurs on the frontiers of what is known. Right now, I’m just trying to learn the background for if I did want to do research. So all that I am really trying to accomplish is to get a good enough background in ring theory that would be comparable to if I took this course in college.

My favorite part is definitely my meeting times with my mentor. Because Mr. McHugh is a great teacher, I felt really fortunate to be able to have this one-on-one time with him. So I meet with him two times a week for about an hour, and it’s just great having him be able to give individual advice and also give me individualized feedback, which is something that’s not as common in a normal Andover class where you and 14 other students need to share the time of the teacher.

JEREMY ZHOU ’21

My project is called “Jazz Improvisation,” and it’s essentially about me learning how to improvise jazz. The idea that I listen to a backing track and then I play some notes over it. My homework between every class period is just to practice improvisation, and then I perform it in front of my instructor. He just tells me what he thinks, and then we do the next piece. It’s pretty straightforward.

I just wanted to gain a better sense of music theory and interesting musical constructions, because normally it just doesn’t like classical music, right, which is very standard, like chords. I was like, jazz is cool, gotta figure out what to do there. And figure out how jazz works. Usually in an I.P. they want some kind of final presentable product right, because they don’t want people to just learn stuff as an I.P., it’s more to create something at the end. So that’s why I’m playing improvisation instead of just learning theory. The goal in the end is to be able to improvise pretty well, to the extent that I can within a term.

My favorite part is that the meetings are much more like conversations. Usually, you don’t get that one-on-one interaction with teachers that much. But it’s just when I’m doing this I.P., I can feel free to just express my concerns directly to him during the actual meeting. I’m playing the improvisation, and I finish it, and then I think about what I could have done better. We discuss it one-on-one, and it’s a much more productive process.

LEO DENG ’21

The name of my independent project is “Music, Philosophy, and Political Consciousness” and it’s a course that I created with my philosophy teacher from Lower year. He was actually the one who inspired me and helped me fall in love with the field of philosophy that kind of manifested into theory. I’ve always been an artist, did a lot of music, and a lot of visual art, and for this avenue, I really wanted to explore music combined with theory. So basically, our goal in this project is to see how different genres, and movements, especially in music and subculture in music, affects and impacts political consciousness and listeners and how that spreads throughout.

The progress has been amazing. I’ve actually learned a lot more than any class at Andover. I personally thrive on tutorial style learning, or one-on-ones, or just very small groups. And especially in philosophy, when you’re talking about meaning making, what affects your ideology, what affects how you live your life, and what affects what political stances you take, for me, being on a one-one-one every class and having an intimate conversation is so effective. And definitely, out of all five of my classes that I’m taking this spring, this I.P. has been the most work and the most progress in how much knowledge I’m attaining. I’m learning so much about the historical context that affects the aesthetics of music and the culture of these genres and movements, and just how interesting and unique they are in rebelling or countering a certain mainstream way of thinking or a moment of history that that movement is in, and how they try to create commentary on the movement or how to combat the mainstream problems.

Mary Muromcew ’22 and Sean Meng ’22 Hope to Bring Student Voices to Deans’ Table

Continued from A1, Column 5

we’re really focusing on for next year,” said Muromcew.

Muromcew and Meng hope to be guided by the efforts of previous co-presidents, especially the positivity and kindness shown by current Co-Presidents Megan Cui ’21 and Gómez-Colón.

“I think [Cui and Gómez-Colón] have been amazing. It’s been tough for them, because in this Covid-19 year, meeting with the deans has been incredibly difficult—like really, carrying out their platform plans would have been really difficult. But one thing they’ve done an amazing job with is truly showing

what it means to be an Andover student leader and embodying what Andover is about; if you see [Cui and Gómez-Colón] walking around, they exude this kindness and this confidence... [Muromcew and I] are hoping to be able to emulate that,” said Meng.

Muromcew continued, “Something I’ve also been thinking about is obviously, being co-president, I want to every day show up being positive [and have] a good impact on people. So something I’m trying to be mindful of is how am I going to best prioritize my mental health and be authentic while doing that too.”

Muromcew and Meng also expressed their immense gratitude for the Andover commu-

nity’s support throughout the election process and for trusting them to take on the role of co-presidents.

“First, [Meng] and I are so, so grateful that the Andover student body elected us. Something we were talking about—we’re two Asian co-presidents at the oldest boarding school in America. That just feels really wild. It just feels really incredible and we’re really humbled; so [we would like to say] a big ‘thank you.’ And secondly, we’re really excited. We’re so excited to get to know, work with, and support people,” said Muromcew.

Editor’s Note: Sean Meng is a Business Editor for The Phillipian.

CelebrAsian Hosted with Goals of Building Community

Continued from A1, Column 2

of trying to hide your Asian identity, to really be proud of it and celebrate it. So that’s why I wanted to participate in the CelebrAsian event,” said Fan.

“Especially in light of this year, the events in March, and the continued reckoning of race relations in the nation, there’s this tremendous demand for every single racial group to look into itself and say ‘What is here? What can we celebrate? What are we in the first place?’” said Zhou.

Zhou continued, “Events like CelebrAsian explicitly center that celebration part and it’s all the more heartening to see Andover students and faculty rally around similar events and understand that there’s a community here, and that that community extends beyond your immediate friend group and into the AAPI faculty that we were able to see

at the run for the AAPI event and throughout the CelebrAsian programming later in the day. So I think that is at the heart of the importance, realizing that there is a community in which you belong.”

Mai agrees with Zhou and thinks the event allowed participants to connect with one another and find belonging within the AAPI community at Andover.

Mai said, “Even though sometimes the Asian community here feels so big, it can also sometimes feel not that big and not that connected. Events like CelebrAsian, although it’s only once a year, is a reminder to us that we have all these fellow Asian students on campus who share our identity, who share our experiences even though sometimes they’re not exactly the same. It is a way for us to build community, to connect, make new friends, and just overall have a great time.”



A.NEAL/THE PHILLIPIAN
Future 2021-2022 Student Body Co-Presidents Mary Muromcew ’22 and Sean Meng ’22 with current Student Body Co-Presidents Salvador Gómez-Colón ’21 and Megan Cui ’21 after the last co-presidential debate on April 30.

NEWS IN BRIEF

REPORTING BY MAX GUAN

This week:

On Friday, April 30, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 1, from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the Student Activities Office (Stact) hosted **Thinkfast, an interactive trivia game show quizzing students on topics including pop culture and quotes**, in the Gelb Tent. The first-place winner received a grand prize of one hundred dollars.

The **Musical Theatre Cabaret, the first in-person per-**

formance post-quarantine, took place at the Pineknoll tent on Saturday at 8:30 pm. Performers included Dori Rosenstrauch '23, Quintin Moss '21, Case Rosenfelt '22, Simi Gandhi '24, Kate Horton '22, Denise Taveras '21, and Ariana Velasquez '22.

Cellist Evan Tsai '21, violinist Isabel Chin '21, and pianist Emma Fu '21 **performed their Senior Recitals** in the Cochran Chapel last Friday at 6 p.m. and again on Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Blue Key Head tryouts were held on the back steps of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library on Monday, May 3, and Tuesday, May 4. The candidates demonstrated their Andover spirit by rallying a chant and performing a dance or song to the audience.

Looking Ahead:

Casino Night for Uppers and Seniors and Laser Tag for Juniors and Lowers will be held on Saturday, May 8, in the Gelb tent and the Snyder Center, respectively.

Helping the World While Helping Yourself: Vijay Gupta Speaks at All-School Meeting

CHLOE RHEE & DANIEL WAHEED

Renowned musician Vijay Gupta and founder of Street Symphony, an organization that helps enable people in shelters, clinics, county jails, and prisons to experience different types of orchestra-like music, spoke during All-School Meeting (ASM) on Monday about his experiences using music to help others, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Gupta's journey to provide classical music to underprivileged groups began with a reflection upon his musical career.

"I was noticing in these concerts that we would play in fancy hotels and churches, and sometimes even in concert halls. [It was like] I was looking out into a void. I was still performing and we would be playing concerts to raise awareness for homelessness. But we actually weren't playing concerts for the people we said we wanted to help ourselves," said Gupta.

Gupta continued, "Street

Symphony started to metamorphosize. It started to transform from being an outreach concert series, to simply being conversations, where the music wasn't just a performance, but it was the beginning of getting to know people."

Street Symphony transformed into something larger than just music, leading to a larger understanding of what the organization really stood for.

"We started to realize that at any given time, there were always three stories happening in the room, there was the story of the composers whose music we were playing, there was the story of the audience, and then there was the story of ourselves. And all three of those stories came together to create something new in this space," said Gupta.

Gupta's motivation to create music for Street Symphony is characterized by finding his own struggles in the reactions of the audience and empathizing with them through his compositions.

"Oftentimes, when we engage with the people we call marginalized, we engage them from a place of top-down hierarchy. We tell

them that we have the solutions and you have to change. We're often not willing to acknowledge the parts of ourselves that might be broken. This year, the work of my organization Street Symphony has shifted towards presenting virtual concerts very early in the pandemic. Every now and then, I would ask my audience on the other side of the Zoom screen how they were doing. I would ask them what they were hearing. And mirrored back to me in their responses was my own grief [and] ... my own loneliness and brokenness," said Gupta.

Throughout Gupta's talk, punctuated by segments of him playing the violin, was a recurring message of community engagement. Gupta also bolstered this theme of impacting others with his words in the post-ASM talk.

"I think about the teaching from the Jewish or Hebraic tradition Tikkun Olam, which is based on this idea that you leave the world a better place than you found it. There are many ways to think about community engagement in the sense of what you can do to leave each room you [exit] a better place. Now, I think the pro-

found question to ask is, 'Is there a way to do that when it's just you in the room?' That's where the rubber really hits the road for me because the work of improving the world is always the work of improving oneself," said Gupta.

Gupta's words in the ASM elicited mixed reactions from an array of students. Avin Ramratnam '24 felt that he clearly understood Gupta's message and appreciated his central theme of helping the world by helping yourself.

"I feel that Mr. Gupta's message of addressing human grief really resonated with me; a central theme of his talk was that in order to help the world, you must help yourself, and personally I think that those two things go hand in hand in making a real change in the world," said Ramratnam.

Jessica Xu '23 also enjoyed the ASM, yet thought that Gupta could have done a better job framing his excerpts of music in the context of Andover, as many students lack experience with or knowledge of classical music.

"I think that I enjoyed this ASM ... however, I believe Gupta's presentation could have been

better geared towards the Andover audience," said Xu.

Similarly, Ashley Song '23 thought that Gupta's speech was not effectively geared towards the experiences of the audience.

Song said, "To be candid, I thought that Mr. Gupta's talk was over-romanticized in the sense that for the most part, the ASM solely consisted of Mr. Gupta talking of his own experience in the musical lens. In terms of community engagement for students such as myself, I feel that I didn't gain a fundamental understanding of how to get involved and fix the world by fixing myself"

Gupta's talk at ASM ended with a question, encouraging young audience members to think about how to manifest change and improve the world.

Gupta said, "What do we do with this brokenness? What do we do with our own American bowl, our own American teacup which is shattered open, which must be remade to make space for the voices in histories and stories of people who were erased from the initial writing of that history and the making of that container?"

10 Questions with Mia Levy '21

Mia Levy '21 is a four-year Senior from Des Moines, Iowa. On campus, she lives in the Chase-Isham Dorm, and she has previously lived in Paul Revere Hall, Smith House, and Hearsey House. Levy is a co-captain for Andover Girls Crew, a former Copy Editor for The Phillipian, and a former board member of BOSS magazine. In her free time, she enjoys taking photos, which she has submitted to different student clubs on campus.

REPORTING BY ANANYA MADDURI

1. Crew seems to be a big part of your life. How old were you when you started crew? Where do you see yourself with it in the future?

I started the summer after seventh grade and I did a learning to row camp that was five days long and very basic, but I really loved it. Eighth grade was my novice year, so I had one year under my belt when I came to Andover, but I was still very inexperienced. It was at Andover when I became a decent rower and improved a lot. I am going to be rowing in college which is exciting and then we will see if I will be able to row after college, it's kind of hard to tell at this point.

2. What is your favorite Andover memory?

My [Junior] year I was in Hearsey and we were super close. Our dorm had four [Juniors] and a prefect—we were so tight. One day in the spring, a few days before we left, we were feeling very sentimental and we woke up early to go to Holt Hill for the sunrise. At that time you could climb the water tower and add drawings on it so we added little drawings and messages. It was such a good memory that I have cherished.

3. What is your worst/funny worst Andover memory?

When I applied for *The Phillipian*, I had my Copy interview and it was at 9:00 a.m., but somehow I got it in my head that it was 10:00 a.m. and I did not double check the spreadsheet for my time. So leading up to it, I was completely certain it was at 10:00 a.m. The morning of, I woke up at 9:30 a.m. and one of the editors had been texting me "Where are you?" and I said "Are you pulling a prank? I am not late, this is at 10:00 a.m., I am fine," and they said "No, please just come." I really thought they were pranking me so it took me so long to realize that it was at 9:00 a.m. But I made Copy.

4. Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

I can see myself in two different situations: one is living somewhere in the woods alone, very granola, off the grid, self-sustaining. That would be so fun but unrealistic. Otherwise, I would see myself living in a city, but again, I really like the idea of living alone.

5. Where is your dream home?

I really like the Pacific Northwest because I like camping and backpacking and cities, like Seattle or Portland, so I can access nature and city life.

6. What are some of your dreams and aspirations?

This is probably not [*The Phillipian*] appropriate, but I want to be a MILF. When I get old, like grandma age, I want to keep wearing cool things, be a cool grandma. I do not want to fall into the old people stereotypes.

7. If you could do Andover again, would you change anything?

When I applied for Andover, I was already rowing, that was a really big part of my application, and I was really excited about that. I think I am exactly what Andover thought I would be when I applied. I would want to throw in a curve ball or something, like pick up violin or something weird like that and try something totally different. But I am very happy with where I am so if I did it again, I do not think I would change anything substantial.

8. Would you be a hunterer or a gatherer?

I think I am perceived as a gatherer, but I can be a hunter at times. I am definitely perceived as a gatherer because I literally gather things like I'm kind of a hoarder; I collect shells and rocks and stuff, but I often feel like a hunter in the sense that I try to go out and achieve my goals and step out of my comfort zone.

9. What movie would you act in?

I am always imagining if scenes in my life were movie scenes, like what if this was in film right now, what score would I have? My life is a movie! Sometimes I pretend I am acting in a movie but I do not know what movie.

10. What is your wildest dream?

When I was younger, my wildest dream was growing above six feet and I did it in eighth grade. I was like no way, 'No girl is taller than six feet,' and I did [it]!

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JOHN AND LOULOU ROBBED IN RIGGED SCHOOL CO-PRESIDENT ELECTION

THE WEEK'S TOP HEADLINES

Little Known (Possibly Untrue) Facts about Your Beloved, Elusive Head of School

STAFF

With the new prostitution ring of Kington lunches, students are having trouble coming up with what to speak to this stoic brick wall of a Head of School. We at the Eighth Page gained some information about Raynard himself from a close ‘family’ source and wanted to provide guidance to our impressionable reader. (We don't know if all or any of this is true, our close source was a Junior in the makerspace swirly chair) Do not talk about bees. Raynard hates bees. When he sees one he gets all tense. We do not know why

this is. We are dying to ask the man about the origin of his bee hatred, but we are afraid to. If any of you could possibly find that out, the Editors would be eternally grateful. If you start playing any song from Flo - Rida’s discography, RayK will break out into an uncontrollable dance party. He LOVES him some Flo. “My House,” “Whistle,” “Low,” or even Bat-Mitzvah favorite, “Wobble.” The hits and misses of Flo Rida are irresistible to the 16-year-old graduate. He can’t tie his shoes. You see him walk around in his “I



This bee fearing man...

have a house in the Hamptons” and chose the first name he saw. It was Raynard. He then made that his name. Raynard Kington thinks “The Godfather: Part II” is better than Part I. He loves the backstory with Robert De Niro and enjoys the depiction of Sicily. We are not sure if the Head of School has ever been to Sicily

himself, but according to our source, he is very enthusiastic about this sequel to the greatest gangster movie of all time. Please do what you will with these rumors. I am sure Dr. K will love to hear these facts about himself that are all 100 percent true. Joey the Junior said so.

- *Miraculously, the Worst Week of Every Upper’s Life Has Fallen on This Week*
- *Vaccinated Students Now Only Sent Home for Hook-Ups if They End Awkwardly*
- *After Last Week’s Trivia Cash Prize Success, Upper and Senior Casino Night to Have Minimum Bet of \$10,000*
- *Parental Visitation Exposes Many Students for Being from Massachusetts*
- *Intimate Messages Written in Mccarthyism Chapter of Reference Book in Silent Found by Mr. Perry, Writers Still Unknown*
- *E&R Begs Freshmen to Stop Pooping Their Pants*
- *Andover Wins And Loses Water Polo Scrimmage by a Landslide*
- *Your Mom’s Dog Visiting Last Week Causes Great Social Anxiety among Campus Dogs Who Haven’t Seen Anyone in over a Year*

“SHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEESH”

“My I.B.S. is the only thing holding me back from a flourishing sex life.”

“CVS ran out of soap, guess my teachers are gonna have to suffer for a bit longer.”

“Soggy risotto really doesn’t make the jerk chicken any better.”

“Can I sanc you for a Pure Leaf addiction?”

“Just because my dad runs a hedge-fund doesn’t mean I’m upper-class.”

“Mmmm, I love the smell of goose poop in the morn-ing.”

“My favorite color is \$100 bill blue.”

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

History-300 Paper From 2100: “2020, Dumpster Fire Year We Are Still Trying To Recover From.”

By Mary Lord

I’m just getting into my Spring Term here at Andover, but I know a lot of us Class of 2047ers, myself included, have had a lot of trouble finding a topic for my History-310 paper. Last week, I was able to narrow it down to the traumatic life of 6ix9ine or the history of the year 2021. However, after meeting with my history teacher, I finally decided on the latter. The plan for my essay is as follows... It was the year 2021 that we, the generic aliens, discovered Earth, and discovered the human race. The teenagers appeared to be obsessed with the app “TikTok,” and it seemed to affect every aspect of their lives. We often saw them doing small dances to themselves, making awkward movements in public and alone in their rooms. They often made references to the songs of the dances too, singing quietly, or even loudly with friends. Some clothing styles also got introduced through this app TikTok, like overnight hit clothing items, jeans that go to your chin, and shoes that make you fly. One thing that was most popular among all teenagers was resin art. Resin art can be found scattered around the Earth to this very day. Resin art would include glitter and color, and sometimes accessories would be made out of resin, like earrings. The best thing about resin was the resin triangles, where it was just sand and glitter mixed with resin. Resin is believed to be the most important form of the 21st century. Most schools at the time had classes like Resin-100. Furthermore, there seems to be some cultural significance associated with the popular Netflix show “Outer Banks.” The influence of “Outer Banks” can also be seen on Tiktok, as many teens filmed themselves reassuring John B. that they had a brother.

Worst Blue Key Head Audition Song Ideas

- “Ignition Remix” by R. Kelly
- “WAP” by KIDZ Bop
- “White Ferrari” by Frank Ocean
- “Say Yes” by Elliott Smith
- “Moonlight” Sonata by Ludwig Van Beethoven
- “4 Da Trap” by 654AR
- “Jesus is the One” by Kenny Beats
- “Watcha Say” by Jason Derulo
- “Gummy Bear Song” by Gummibär
- “Space Song” by Beach House
- “Riot!” By Earl Sweatshirt
- “Whistle” by Flo-Rida

Mr. Gates,
Hello my name is Loulou Sloss. You most likely don’t know who I am, unless you have seen my moms Instagram or Anderson Cooper’s Day Time talk show that one time in 2011. I would like to make a proposition to you. Please marry me. I heard about your recent divorce. I am so SO sorry. But you know what they say, the best way to get over Melinda is to get under someone new. And I can be on top!! I am the perfect match for you. You have money, I love money. You are 65, I got a 65 on my last physics test. You went to Harvard, and I have a pair of Harvard sweatpants with a period stain that looks like Illinois on them. Our love is written in the stars, Billy Boy. One last selling point. I have taken the slogan “Eat the rich” to heart... If you know what I mean... :)
Will expect a call from you shortly,
Loulou M.T.S. Gates



The Phillipian SPORTS

Volume CXLIV | Number 10

*i just wanted
my blueberries*

May 7, 2021

SPECIAL FEATURE

Belinda Wolf Adds Positivity and Energy to Her New Role as Assistant Water Polo Coach

TRISTAN MARNOTO

Five-time All-American in Diving, Belinda Wolf, has coached Andover Diving for 31 years. This year, Coach Belinda joined the Andover Water Polo coaching staff as an assistant coach.

Despite initially being apprehensive, Coach Belinda has become more comfortable with the team and the sport of water polo as the season has progressed.

“I was really nervous to coach the sport at first because I never coached it and I never watched it. I did feel honored that Lisa Joel, the athletic director, asked me because she said, ‘These kids need your positive energy,’ and I loved that. One of my favorite things in the world is to make positive and lasting impressions on teenagers that I coach,” said Coach Belinda.

According to Coach Belinda, her depth of experience in coaching diving has helped her in her first season coaching water polo.

Coach Belinda said, “Because I have experience with coaching diving, everything in diving is very visual so I can spot things, techniques for the things that they have to do in

water polo and I can spot them if they’re doing something really great or something that I need to help change.”

As a part of her preparation to coach water polo, Coach Belinda turned to Harvard Water Polo Coach Ted Minnis for advice and guidance.

“One of the best things that has helped me to be able to coach is that I actually reached out to the water polo coach at Harvard; he’s been great, he’s been having Zoom calls with me, he’s been helping me with drills, he shows me videos of things that I should look for, and I am so lucky that he has helped me. He has also told me that there [are] some colleges that are top in the nation for water polo [whose] coaches didn’t [initially] coach the sport, so he said if I work hard and watch the videos, it will be great, and it is,” said Coach Belinda.

According to Captain of Boys Diving and Co-Captain of Water Polo Zachary Peng ’21, Coach Belinda’s hard work and dedication to the team have been evident in practices. Peng also expressed that Coach Belinda’s coaching style has been centered on engaging with the team and instructing her players in a visual manner.

“I know Coach Belinda put in a lot of work talking to past and

current coaches and [Division I] coaches, really trying to figure her own way out. So far in the season, we have spent a lot of time sitting down, using the whiteboard, drawing out plays, so not only [are] the team [and the] newer players learning, but Coach Belinda is always there attentively listening and asking questions,” said Peng.

According to Water Polo Head Coach Alicia Finney and Co-Captain Gwen Empie ’21, Coach Belinda’s passionate personality shines through her coaching and her energetic presence has positively impacted the team.

“Coach Belinda’s amazing energy matches the water polo team very well. I think she was able to step into the role of our assistant coach well even though she didn’t have a super big water polo knowledge behind her because she had the spirit that we needed, she has the drive [and] she has the energy. She brings it even on hard days when it’s raining out and no one really wants to do anything,” said Empie.

“I think the thing she brings most to the table is her incredible high energy and positive attitude. She’s probably the most aggressively positive person I’ve met in my life, so that’s been really fun to have,” added

Coach Finney.

Through her coaching, Coach Belinda hopes to contribute this sense of optimism and excitement to the team environment.

“I think that I’m so positive that I can have an influence on making the energy positive, and just laughing with the kids and I come up with some crazy things that I do with diving,” said Coach Belinda.

According to Peng, Coach Finney and Coach Belinda’s personalities complement each other and through the mix of experience and energy, they

have helped make Andover Water Polo practices an enjoyable part of athletes’ days.

“Both of them are great for the team, but I think [Coach Belinda] just brings the team a very positive [source] of energy, it definitely adds on to Coach Finney’s experience and interactions with the team. Our players are students; we have rough days, and we can come to practice and it is a space where we can relax and focus on something completely different in our lives while having a great time because of our coaches,” said Peng.



T. WEI / THE PHILLIPIAN

Coach Belinda received five All-American titles as a diver in college.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Manifesting the Spirit of the Game: Inside the Ultimate Frisbee Post-Game Serenading Tradition

CHARLIE FERGUSON

Singing improvised songs and cheering for the opposing team, Andover Ultimate showcases the highest level of sportsmanship with a sense of humor. As each competitive game comes to an end, the team rejoices and is given a song written by the team managers to memorize and sing to the competitor.

According to Head Coach Scott Hoenig, the tradition of coming up with a cheer for opponents is a staple of the game and relates closely to the standards that players are expected to play by. With no referees, honesty and respect is crucial to fair play which the cheering tradition aligns with.

“It is something that I came upon when I first started playing ultimate back in 1994, so it is a tradition that has been with me since then. It all stems from the fact that ultimate is a self-officiated sport and for that to work, players need to take a lot of personal responsibility when it comes to the rules and also when it comes to respect for opponents. There is a lot of trust between opponents and between teams. There has always been that special aspect of the sport and one way that it plays out is a little more camaraderie between teams than you might find in some other sports,” said Coach Hoenig.

According to Co-Captain Kam Saalfrank ’21, the outcome of the game is set aside and the teams come together to have fun while singing to each other. He mentioned one of the recent songs that the managers adapted lyrics to be ultimate terms.

“The spirit of the game is a big part of ultimate. There is a good relationship between both teams before and after the game and you show respect to who you are playing. At the end of the game, win or lose, to keep the spirit up, our managers write a song. Our last one was to the tune of Let it Go from Frozen. Our managers make up the lyrics with ultimate phrases. It’s really fun because both teams exchange it. The managers draft lyrics either before the game or during the game and after the game we go into a huddle and learn the song really quickly,” said Saalfrank.

The level of respect is shown through lighthearted songs drafted by the managers and the gift of an Andover frisbee to the other team, according to Ben Perez ’23.

Perez said, “We also give away one of our discs which has the Andover logo on it. If one of the players did something crazy, we usually give it to them as a memory. It is a really good environment because it sets an example to show appreciation for the other team. The older players are keeping up the tradition. It is just a really good time and at the end of the day, it is about having fun.”

According to Oscar Bunting ’21, the younger members of the team have quickly picked up on the tradition and have made it a fun experience that brings everyone on the field together.

“The younger players get really involved with it. Ultimate frisbee is all about respecting the opponent and in other sports, you have a different relationship with your opponents. You may not like them and only care about beating them whereas ultimate is a little different and this tradition is definitely evidence of that. The younger players are definitely intrigued by that and like getting involved just by bringing their energy,” said Bunting.

According to Coach Hoenig, the tradition of a cheering after games is not just unique to Andover as it has been occurring in the sport through his experience as a player.

“In the mid nineties, I do think [the post-game tradition] was still going on because it is part of the culture of ultimate. It wasn’t just something I came up with. When I was playing, whenever I went to tournaments, there was some kind of a post-game cheer, so I just made sure that we continued that when I took over as the coach here years ago,” said Coach Hoenig.

According to David Owyang ’21, he has embraced the tradition in his first year on the team and looks forward to continuing it through the remaining games this season.

“This is my first year on the team. I have only done it two or three times, but it is just about having fun at the end of the game. Even though we are really competitive during the game, afterwards we are all cool again. It is about sportsmanship and we don’t dislike each other because we are on different teams. We have a game this Friday in the stadium under the lights and hopefully I’ll be able to close out the season with a few wins in a fun way in my Senior season,” said Owyang.

Andover Ultimate will look to secure a victory and provide a new cheer against Pingree at home on Friday at 7:00 p.m.

BASEBALL

Big Blue Baseball Sweeps Worcester 3-0

MONISHA KATHIKA

FRIDAY		
Andover		6
Worcester Academy		0

SATURDAY 12:00 P.M.		
Andover		10
Worcester Academy		5

SATURDAY 3:00 P.M.		
Andover		4
Worcester Academy		0

With a busy weekend of competition against Worcester Academy, Andover Baseball secured a 6-0 win at home on Friday and defeated Worcester twice in its away doubleheader on Saturday with scores of 10-5 and 4-0, respectively. Andover now stands strong with an undefeated record of 7-0.

In preparation for the three games against Worcester this past weekend, the team worked on its approaches at the plate and also practiced defensive plays, according to Thomas Savino ’21.

“We focused a lot during the week on our approach at the

plate... making sure that we’re always defensive with two strikes, and making sure that nothing is getting by us. That was one large part of our preparation. Another large part is just making sure that our pitchers were ready to go,” Savino said.

According to Sebastian Mexico ’21, this work on the defensive side of the game proved beneficial as Co-Captain Matt Sapienza ’21 helped contribute to the team’s win this past weekend with his successful pitching.

Mexico said, “I think Matt Sapienza pitched very well in the second game. He pitched a full game and he did not have a very high pitch count.”

According to Savino and Mexico, while the team’s defensive performances were strong, the team struggled to record hits during the games this weekend and plans to focus on its offense for next week’s games.

Savino said, “We’re striking out looking a lot right now and that’s something we’ve been working on in practice. I think that’s something we’re going to continue to work on and something that we look to continue to improve on looking forward to Pingree this coming weekend.”

Mexico added, “Unfortunately, we had a lot of moments this weekend where we were striking out looking and we were getting late in the counts and we’re just taking that last

strike instead of competing. It’s just something we need to work on.”

The team plans to overcome these minor setbacks by working on the two-strike approach as well as continuing to participate in additional training after group practices, according to Skyler Borduik ’22.

“We had a lot of strike-out lookings. I know that one big emphasis on this week’s practice is going to be our two-strike approach which our coach [Kevin Graber] really hammers home... Other than that, I know that a lot of kids are putting in extra work like after practice in the batting cages or in the squash courts in Borden,” Borduik said.

Borduik named their first game on Saturday as his favorite, as it was an exciting and close game in which the team had to step up.

Borduik said, “I [would] definitely say our first game in our doubleheader on Saturday [was my favorite]. We got an early lead; I think it was 4-0 in the second inning, and then Worcester started to fight back and actually tied out the game going into the seventh inning. That’s when Sebastian Mexico hit [a] home run, so it was just a very exciting game.”

Andover hopes to continue its formidable form when it plays Pingree at home this Friday and away twice on Saturday.



COURTESY OF KELLY GRABER

Sebastian Mexico ’21 (pictured above) broke the 5-5 tie in the top of the seventh inning with a three-run home run.

WATERPOLO

Water Polo Co-Captain Hailey Wadell '21 Leads Team With Outgoing Personality Along with Years of Swimming Experience

CHARLIE FERGUSON

Water Polo Co-Captain Hailey Wadell '21 comes from an extensive swimming background and guides the team with her lively spirit. Starting without any experience playing water polo in her Junior year, Wadell gradually earned more playing time and gained a passion for the new sport. In her Senior season, she has focused on preparing the inexperienced players for the coming years of competitive water polo play.

According to Wadell, she began water polo to train for swim season but quickly came to love it as she played in more games.

“I hadn’t played [water polo] before I came to Andover. I am a swimmer and a lot of the girls who do water polo in the spring do crew or water polo because it is good cross training. I fell in love with water polo and it is definitely one of my favorite sports. I started my [Junior] year and I have been on the team for four years. I think all the [Co-]Captains did not really play a lot [Junior] Year [but in] Lower Year, we

got a bit more playing time. I played a lot of the games in full which was exhausting but I loved it. It is a fairly new passion for me,” said Wadell.

Wadell credits her swimming ability for her success in the pool playing water polo. She noted her ability to win tip offs at the beginning of each game.

Wadell said, “I am a swimmer so I definitely think having that type of background helps me. I am normally the person who does the tip offs, which is where you have to sprint down the pool to get to the ball before the other team does, and that is how you start the game. Being the first person back to defend and the first person up to attack is a lot about swimming.”

According to Co-Captain Gwen Empie '21, Wadell uses her voice to lead the team in a caring way and is a leader that her teammates can rely on. Empire mentioned how she has a special bond with Wadell as they have been roommates and on the swim team together.

“As a person, I would say Hailey is very organized, very confident, very loud in the best way, and very, very respectful.

Every interaction I’ve had with Hailey has been making sure I’m okay; she’s, very, very loyal. If I ever need anything, Hailey is the first person I would call. I’ve also gotten really really close with Hailey outside of the pool. We also came in the [Junior] water polo season together; we’ve been on the team together for four years. We’re on the swim team together, she was my roommate last term, so Hailey and I definitely have a special relationship that you don’t get with everyone on your team,” said Empie.

According to Wadell, the absence of past seasons has affected the experience level of the team and she works to provide insight that younger players can use to find success in the coming seasons. With the new ability to scrimmage, she focuses on embracing competitive play and showing the rest of the team the true nature of the sport.

“We haven’t been able to scrimmage for two years because of [Covid-19] but we just got the go ahead to scrimmage with our team with full contact. We are not competing, but right now, we are trying to get our newer players to know what a scrimmage is and know

what contact is like because we have had two years without that contact... Building up to a full game with four quarters for the whole team is something that would be an end goal just because we have players that have not done that yet. We need to focus on building the team for the years to come because the team has not played for two seasons and our lead-

ers next year are going to have one year of playing the sport instead of three that normally comes with being a Senior [Co-]Captain. The younger players haven’t had a season, so giving them the traditions, the experience, and team values should [allow these aspects of the team to] be carried into the next four years,” said Wadell.



COURTESY OF ANDOVER ATHLETICS
Hailey Wadell '21 also served as a captain of Andover Girls JV1 Soccer her Lower and Upper years.

Water Polo Co-Captain Gwen Empie '21 Forms Life-Long Relationships with her Teammates

DAIGO MORIWAKE

Coming to the end of her time at Andover, Water Polo Co-Captain Gwen Empie '21 reflected on her four years in the team and found that the sport significantly shaped her Andover experience.

“Water polo is a social sport [for me.] It has been a huge part of my social network here at Andover, and has become a super big pool of people that I would consider my best friends in the world,” said Empie.

According to Empie, she appreciates how her teammates care for one another and the general team spirit both in and out of the pool.

“I would say my four years, and even this year when we have the guys, the water polo team is a family. We all have team dinner together after practice every day. We all come to the pool and leave everything else behind us and we’re there with each other. We take that hour and a half and we use it, and we have so much fun, so much laughter, so much asking the person next to you that you never would’ve known if you weren’t playing water polo, ‘How was your day?’, ‘How did that math test go last week?’. It’s so connected and it’s so trusting and communicable and just very open. I would say that’s really impacted my career,” said Empie.

Empie expressed that her passion for the sport drives her motivation and desire to win. Additionally, she places value in maintaining a positive attitude in practice.

“We [play water polo] because we like to do it, and if we win a few games along the line, that’s great. I’m not the most experienced water polo player; I started [Junior] year [so]... I feel like a lot of [my leadership style] is less so advice about what we’re doing in the pool [than it is other things]. I only have two full seasons behind me because of Covid-19 last year, but I think a lot of what we do is keep the mentality high out of the

pool, so we can [always] be as positive as we [are] in the pool,” said Empie.

According to Empie, while being co-captain has enabled her to point out things she sees in the team, her general attitude to the team has not changed much.

“I would say I approach [captaincy] in a similar way that I’ve approached other seasons. I would say I’m a pretty natural leader, just sometimes I feel a little afraid to speak up and speak out. I feel like [the title] has definitely given me more of a light and more of a platform to feel like I’m in a stage where I can speak up and speak out when I see things going on and when I feel like there’s something to say. It’s been really nice in that way, but I wouldn’t say it’s dramatically changed how I approach coming to practice and how I approach doing everything.”

Last week, the team was allowed to play with contact again after having to play contactless earlier in the term. According to Empie, this was an unexpected but welcome change, especially after a year without competition.

“It feels really really nice to be back in the pool. We are in a co-ed season this term, but it’s really nice for it to be spring water polo again. Water polo in the spring has been the highlight of Andover since [Junior] year. I’ve always loved fiddling on the lawn before practice and everyone’s getting up and going together... Within this last week, we began contact again, which absolutely just changed the world. It felt like full water polo season again. It really just brought a lot of life back in, and gave our team the energy we needed to push through the rest of the term... We honestly didn’t think we were going to get there this year. You never know how much you’ve missed having an offender on you--almost drowning you--until you don’t have it for a year and a half. It’s absolutely something that I love that it’s back in my life the way I wanted it to be.”



COURTESY OF ANDOVER ATHLETICS
Gwen Empie '21 plays wing for Andover Water Polo.

Water Polo Co-Captain Bianca Rodriguez-Pagano '21 Uses Quick Instincts and Strong Arm on Offense

CHARLIE FERGUSON

Despite having never played the sport before her Junior year at Andover, Bianca Rodriguez-Pagano '21 quickly learned and became adept on offense, swiffling maneuvering around opposing defenders in the pool. Rodriguez-Pagano has focused on creating a close team community and has also served as a mentor to younger members of the team.

According to Rodriguez-Pagano, she started with no knowledge of the sport and followed in her older sister’s footsteps. She loves that water polo is a sport that any athlete can quickly pick up, as she and many of her teammates all did.

“I really did not play water polo before I came to Andover except for the fact that my sister played. She [graduated in the class of 2016] and she played water polo. That is how I got into it—I came to Andover with no experience except knowing how to swim. Water polo is a sport on campus where you can really jump right into it, especially considering the fact that the majority of new players have never played before. They are usually just experienced swimmers, which is what the appeal to it is. It is fun because everybody is in the same boat,” said Rodriguez-Pagano.

Rodriguez-Pagano acknowledges her weakness having not had an extensive swimming background, but she found success as a talented thrower.

“To be completely honest, I am a bad swimmer. I have no stamina and I could not swim across the

pool a bunch of times to save my life. What comes in handy is that I am really small. I am five-foot three and because of that, I can get in between people and around them really quickly when I am setting up at each end of the pool. When I actually have the ball in my hands, I have a quick arm. I would definitely say my strengths lie in faking shots and then shooting because I have a strong arm,” said Rodriguez-Pagano.

According to Co-Captain Hailey Wadell '21, Rodriguez-Pagano’s strengths as a leader originate from her ability to create a positive atmosphere and support the younger members of the team. In the pool, Wadell describes her as an impactful force who helps others reach their full potential.

“Bianca is very aware of the people around her and what she can do for our younger players. She is really positive and comes into practice with a really good attitude. As a player, she is pretty aggressive, so she is an awesome player to train with. She keeps you on your toes and it is great to have someone to go full force against and she’ll come right back with it. She is always a person who is very fun to have in drills,” said Wadell.

According to Rodriguez-Pagano she focuses on getting to know individual athletes and facilitating team bonds and trust that way.

“As a captain, I take on a more passive approach. I get one-on-one with the players in the pool and a lot of times, we help who are new to the team and I take on a lot of those efforts. I play a lot with the newer kids and show them the basics of water polo. It is in the little pep talks and team bonding

where I take initiative rather than yelling,” said Rodriguez-Pagano.

According to Co-Captain Gwen Empie '21, Rodriguez-Pagano brings energy to the pool and provides a unique skillset that allows her to play multiple positions.

“I would describe her as the most energetic, fun-hearted, high-spirited person. She’s always there for you when you need her, very loyal. She’ll always listen to what you need, and either give you that support or that comfort, or will give you that advice if you need that instead. She’s very adaptable in that way, and she’s always very adaptable in the pool. She’s played every position in the pool. She’s super honest about what she needs [and] she’s super willing to take what you need and take that advice and work with it,” said Empie.



COURTESY OF BIANCA RODRIGUEZ-PAGANO
Bianca Rodriguez-Pagano '21 also participates in Andover Girls JV1

Andover Golf Comfortably Cruises past Worcester Academy

DAIGO MORIWAKE

Getting up and down on the fourth hole to save par was the turning point for Nolan Sun '21, who won his match comfortably in the end after a tough start to the round. This result was among several great performances which saw Andover Golf beat Worcester Academy 9.5-2.5 at home at Indian Ridge Country Club.

According to Co-Captain Griffin Hout '21, the general takeaway from the match was that it was a comfortable victory without many obstacles.

Hout said, “I guess I would [describe the match as] smooth. I don’t think we had too much drama at the end of our matches; I think we were able to win most of our matches by a fairly comfortable margin, so that was good.”

According to Sun, the win was important to give the team confidence heading into more difficult matches, both for the team and for himself to play his first match af-

ter an injury in January.

“[The win] felt very great and instilled a lot of confidence in our team. I think we have a very solid lineup from one through eight. It was also the first match I got to play in after being injured back in January and having to recover for such a long time before I could get on top of my golf game again. It felt good to not only win, but also know that I played well and I guess we deserved the win, and we played to the best of our abilities. To add a little bit to that, even though golf is an individual sport, we played as a team and everyone had to play well in order for us to beat their team collectively, so I’m glad that everyone played well and we put out a victory,” said Sun.

Sun says that his ample experience helped him stay calm in key moments, and that he advised his younger teammates to play their own game and to stay unaffected by their opponent.

Sun said, “As a Senior and having played a lot of golf matches, I wasn’t very nervous. It comes with experience and knowing that

it’s just another shot in your whole round, and one shot won’t make it or break it... The most important thing about golf is to play your own game and don’t get intimidated by someone else or don’t do something that you wouldn’t do because you’re influenced by your opponent. The best way to win is just to stay confident and play to your own strengths and not necessarily to the opponent’s weaknesses. I think we have a very strong line-up, and everyone has a very consistent game, as long as they stay composed and don’t get too nervous.”

According to Hout, one of the biggest factors in winning was that the team as a collective played well and that each player put out a good performance.

Hout said, “For the first time, we had most of our players on a hot streak and playing well. We were able to win all but one of our individual matches. I think a lot of things went well.”

Andover Golf will face Northfield Mount Hermon at Crumpin-Fox Club on Saturday, May 8.

GAMECOVERAGE

Boys Tennis Continues Win Streak With 6-1 Victory against Worcester Academy

ETHAN QI

FRIDAY	
Andover	6
Worcester Academy	1

Co-Captains Mac Katkavich '21 and Hudson Elegant '21, Alex Zhu '23, Jeremy Liao '24, and Kian Burt '24 each came up victorious in their singles matches as Andover Boys Tennis defeated Worcester Academy 6-1 inside the Snyder Center last Friday. The team's record now stands at 3-0.

Coming off of two consecutive wins, the team looked to maintain consistency and fine-tune specific technical aspects of its game before its match against Worcester, according to Co-Captain Aidan Burt '21.

Burt said, "Leading up to the match, the past week, our team had been practicing a lot of consistency and rally tolerance and being able to work the point, construct the point, and create opportunities for ourselves to be aggressive which is one thing the team is good at. And I think an area where we did excel was [that] we were able to [outlast] a lot of the guys that we were playing against and then create those opportunities for ourselves to at-

tack."

Defeating Worcester in nearly every match, a driving factor in the team's success was the leadership shown from Burt, according to Alex Zhu '23,

"Definitely the teamwork [was a key factor in our victory]. Aidan Burt was super selfless because he let Mac play number-one singles because his parents came to watch. So that sense of selflessness definitely [brought] us together."

The team was forced to move inside the Snyder Center for its match as windy conditions proved to be unfit for play last Friday. According to Burt, the familiarity of playing in Snyder gave the team an advantage throughout its matches.

"I think that playing inside Snyder was definitely the right choice. It was very windy and a lot of the benches were falling over and the balls were flying, so it would have been pretty tough to compete outside during then. But playing inside Snyder always I think gives us a slight advantage since we're used to practicing there. The courts are multi-purpose, so the surface, compared to outside, it's a little bit slower. But being indoors, you get a lot of pop. As a team, we tend to hit a bit flatter inside, so the ball travels a lot quicker than outside. But definitely,

the ball bounces up a little bit, it gives attacking tennis an advantage since we have a bit more time to set up compared to outside. And I think that playing inside conditions are always ideal, they're always as best as they can be. There's no wind, there's no sun, there's no precipitation, and I think we were able to use that to our advantage and get a really good rhythm right from the start, and I think that definitely helped us get the win last weekend."

Ahead of its next game against Pingree, the team looks to continue refining its play in practice with a focus on starting off strong in its matches.

"Looking ahead against Pingree, I think this week, we want to keep working on the same things on staying consistent, working on constructing points, rally tolerance, and then creating those opportunities to attack. All those things will help us get a good start against Pingree and then carry momentum like we always do. So far, we've been able to do that against every team we play, so it's definitely a really positive start to the season, and I'm really looking forward to this weekend."

Andover will look to extend its winning streak at home against Pingree on Friday.

Boys Lacrosse Shines Offensively in 21-10 Victory against Worcester Academy

ETHAN QI

SATURDAY	
Andover	21
Worcester Academy	10

Liam Hall PG'21, Wesley Maloney '22, and Charlie Ferguson '23 each scored five goals and combined for a total of 11 assists in Andover's dominant 21-10 victory against Worcester Academy on Sunday. The team's record now stands at 2-1.

After falling to Deerfield Academy last weekend, the team headed into Sunday's matchup against Worcester having improved specific areas of its game. According to Ben Garozzo '23, the hard work the team put in at practice this past week translated to success on the field.

Garozzo said, "I think Deerfield was a really hard opponent. If you check Inside Lacrosse, they're ranked number two in the country. So coming off that, I think we learned a lot, especially because we were really challenged by them, and I think we realized how much work we need to put in... We definitely worked on [our] off ball pressure ... our two-man game, [and] our pick game. It showed because we had good defense against Worcester [and] we were able to stop them on a lot of opportunities that they [had] just based on the pressure we gave them. I think the biggest thing was staying alert on defense which we were able to do."

Outscoring Worcester by 11 goals, the team excelled both offensively and defensively and found success in areas of its game which were previously lacking. According to Head Coach James Beaudoin, quick transitions and caused turnovers moved plays forward and resulted in strong finishes from the attackmen.

Coach Beaudoin said, "I think our starting offense, especially our starting attackmen for the day, I think they each got five goals. So I think a lot of that came off transition, whether it be a faceoff win, this was our first game where we actually won the majority of our faceoffs, or clearing from a goalie save or a caused turnover, I think we had 14 caused turnovers. A lot

of that translated into goals from our attackmen who were just burying the ball at its final leg of the journey, but through three, four, five different sticks before it got there. So that was a pretty great accomplishment that we were finishing through the guys up the field with some pretty quick transition."

According to Jack Pearlson '23, the team benefited from the experiences of its upperclassmen and its high energy levels maintained throughout the game.

Pearlson said, "I think that we definitely benefited from the experience of having our Seniors and Uppers who have played for so long in high school. They also had a lighter bench, so they didn't have as many players to rotate in and out. But I think we were able to keep our energy up the entire game, and we were able to show that spark that we weren't able to show in the second half of that Deerfield game. We just wanted to come out and just put them in the dirt early, just make sure that we weren't going to lose that game because we all really wanted it for each other, our coach, and for everyone else. I'd say that our biggest advantage was just our energy levels and valuing the ball, and just wanting it just as much as we wanted anything before."

Looking ahead, the team looks to maintain its composure in-game and train well at practice in preparation for a strong Pingree team, according to Pearlson.

"Pingree is a very good team, they recruit pretty heavily from middle schools and clubs in the area, so they're very good. And also, our coaches let us know that they pressure the ball really heavily, which means that if you carry the ball outside away from the goal, they'll still have a guy on you. So I think in preparation for that, we're just going to have to get used to being able to run away from pressure pretty quickly and moving the ball and just staying composed on offense. And then we'll have to shut them down on defense too. I mean the best offense is a good defense, so I think we're preparing for a dogfight, and we're ready to take them on," said Pearlson.

Andover will look to carry its offensive dominance into its next matchup against Pingree at home on Friday.



COURTESY OF NATA LOUMIDIS
Charlie Ferguson '23 (pictured above) is Andover's leading goal scorer this season with nine goals.

Girls Tennis Wins 7-0 in a Comfortable Victory at Worcester

TRISTAN MARNOTO

FRIDAY	
Andover	7
Worcester Academy	0

Despite the windy conditions at its away game on Friday, Andover Girls Tennis eased over Worcester in a 7-0 sweep to stretch their winning streak to two matches. Andover's record now stands at an undefeated 2-0-0.

According to Ananya Madduri '23, away games are often more difficult due to the lack of Andover fans. In addition, the severe wind at Worcester served as a further challenge to the team.

"It was super windy on Friday, so that affected play because it felt like we were battling the opponents and the wind, but I think, overall, away games are an opportunity to bring even more spirit but I definitely prefer playing at home and having my friends there supporting me," said Madduri.

According to Co-Captain Chloe Lee '22, playing in this

unique weather condition forced her to alter how she approached the match.

"I think [the weather] definitely played a role in the way that we thought about strategy. Feeling out the direction, which way [the wind] was pushing the ball, and making those adjustments with our footwork, and also the type of ball we wanted to hit with more spin because that allows the ball to stay in the court, and using wider margins as well [were aspects of the game we had to focus on]. So aiming for larger targets was a major focus for us to eliminate any chance of unforced errors," said Lee.

According to Elizabeth Zhang '22, away matches are a great opportunity to create team chemistry.

"I think the whole aspect of going away is definitely contributing to the whole team bonding because you go on the road trip and it was about an hour ride so you spend an hour with them just chatting it up about things that are not necessarily tennis pertaining, but also just talking about our lives. It's a Friday, so getting back on the bus, eating dinner, it all contributes to the team's chemistry. Getting to

know people even better, I think [away matches] definitely gives opportunities for that," said Madduri.

According to Madduri, the lack of Andover fans at away matches means that the team had to rely on each other for support.

"Being away at someone else's campus provides for more of a closeness within a team because you want to rial each other up, you want to get yourselves [energized] with a lot of spirit so I think that away games are super fun," said Madduri.

According to Lee, the team will continue to practice finishing points off in the next week of practice.

"A big focus for us has been both in singles and doubles, being more aggressive and taking the opportunities [to win the point] when they're given to us, because that's really where the difference [is] between winning 6-0 versus a tight 6-4 match, so we've been doing a lot of drills and activities as a team on that," said Lee.

Andover will look to remain undefeated against Pingree this Friday.

Softball Comes Up Short on Friday, Wins by a Combined 23 Runs in Two Games on Saturday

SIA GANDHI

FRIDAY	
Andover	7
Worcester Academy	8

SATURDAY 12:00 P.M.	
Andover	14
Worcester Academy	1

SATURDAY 3:00 P.M.	
Andover	11
Worcester Academy	1

Despite falling 7-8 to Worcester Academy in the team's first game of a three-game weekend this past Friday, Andover Softball emerged the decisive victor in its two games against Worcester on Saturday, winning 14-1 and 11-1, respectively. Andover's record is now 3-4.

Kylie Frank '22 described how working as a team helped shift the momentum of the games and the mindset of the team.

"I think at our first game on Friday, our energy was a little down which is why we probably ended up losing, but our two on Saturday, we came in with really good energy, really high, really excited energy, and that's what I think led to our very high-scoring wins... I think one of the things that stuck out to me is us being able to

come back the next day and beat the same team that beat us by a lot; I think that was a pretty cool thing in general for this team this season," said Frank.

The team came into Saturday's games with a new and positive attitude, thinking through its plays and supporting one another on the field. According to Olivia McManus '23, the team's camaraderie was one of its key factors in the victories on Saturday.

"On Saturday when anyone was up to bat, everyone was screaming and cheering for them and when we were in the field, the people who weren't playing were cheering for our pitcher and when anyone made a great play, it was so loud, and there was so much more energy than there was on Friday and I think that really helped the

team," said McManus.

After losing Friday's game in the seventh and final inning, the team was able to learn from its mistakes and implement solutions to give itself an advantage during the next two games, according to Sophia Eno '23.

"I think a big takeaway was using communication... [during] the Friday game, we were going pretty strong until the last inning. We were trying to get that last out and [the inning] kept going on and on and we lost a lot of runs there. That was a big learning experience I think for all of us. Going into Saturday's games, we were a little more conscientious of throws and calls in the middle of the game and were able to make very smart decisions in the midst of the stressful game. We were able to value runs versus outs in a

way that allowed us to hold up a lot better than we did on Friday," said Eno.

Eno also expressed that the support from friends and family in Andover's third game was a welcome sight. Having spectators not only made the game feel more engaging but also reminded players of competitions before Covid-19.

"[The third game] was just really fun, a lot of friends were there and it is always nice to see people that you know, especially after [Covid-19] and finally coming back, it is much more like a real game experience when you have friends and family there," said Eno.

Andover looks to add to its two-game winning streak at Pingree this Friday.

GAMECOVERAGE


Boys Crew Defeats Hingham in the First Race of the Season

JACK ROGUS

In the 2021 season opener race, Andover Boys Crew’s quick starts allowed for a full sweep on Hingham on the Merrimack River this past Saturday. This race established the team’s record at 1-0.

According to Kevin Guo ’21, the team looked forward to the race due to the long period of time since many teammates had last competitively raced. Guo noted how the experience in the days leading up to the race was similar for both new and old players.

Guo said, “A lot of people were pretty excited for this race considering it was the first race for many people and the first race in a long time. For me, this is the first race in an [eight-person boat] since my Lower summer, so we were definitely looking forward to the race. Expectations were reasonable; we thought that we would win, and we did. Everyone was hyped after the race and it was well de-



COURTESY OF HANNAH ONO

Andover’s first boat (pictured above) defeated Hingham by 16 seconds.

served.”

Coming into the first race of the season, the team worked on perfecting its technique and coordination to best prepare for the race, as well as construct and finalize boat lineups, according to Michael Choi ’21.

“[The race made us] able to practice with the same people over and over and getting to know who they are working with and what their strengths are. Also, knowing the river better than the other team has helped a lot. There is not much to prepare for a race, because you won’t know what the conditions are, how good the other crew may be. From our side though, I think our crew did the best they could in terms of preparing,” said Choi.

Andover attributes its success to the effort and time the team had put into perfecting its technique to gain an advantage in the early stages of the races, according to Jack Savell PG’21 and Guo.

“In practice we were working on our starts and getting our blades in and staying all together. In the race, we got off to a good start and began to push away from the other crew,” Savell said.

Guo continued, “For my race in particular, it was defined from the beginning. Our start was quick, we got off the block and within our first twenty strokes, we were a couple seats ahead. That lead sort of continuously built over the course of the race.”

According to Guo, despite the team’s convincing win, the team hopes to continue blending the novices into the lineups and the team culture.

“Right now we are working on continuing to integrate and build up the novices more. Today, we are rowing in mixed lineups to try to get everyone some competitive racing and that went pretty well. One other thing to work on is rowing when you’re getting tired. It can be easy to lose your form and concentration when you’re exhausted, but keeping it together is key if you want to win races,” said Guo.

Andover hopes to maintain this momentum as it takes on Boston College High School this Saturday at home.

Girls Crew Get Swept by Hingham in the First Race of the Season

TRISTAN MARNOTO

Despite losing to Hingham High in the opening race of the season, Andover Girls Crew gained crucial experience working together as a team. With this loss, Andover’s record now stands at 0-1.

According to Sofia Garcia ’21, the race served as a learning experience for many beginner rowers. She noted the perseverance of the team, particularly [that of] the less-experienced rowers, and highlighted the overall composure of the team.

“I’m really proud of how our race went because we didn’t know what to expect. We have a lot of new members on the team in our boat, and although we didn’t end up winning our race, I’m really proud of some of the newer rowers because we were able to stay really composed and really aggressive. It was a great chance for novices in the boat to get racing experience and to have a lot of fun with it, so it gives me a lot of hope for how the rest of the season will go,” said Garcia.

According to Ameri Vest ’23, the race gave Andover an opportunity for the team to bond, especially because of the fewer number of crew races in this season than in past years. Garcia added that maintaining an encouraging environment has been important, especially since many of the rowers are new to the team.

“It was definitely a learning experience for a lot of people, it was a lot of people’s first race, including mine, but even though my boat lost, the

energy was great, everyone was pulling their hardest, and even though it didn’t go as we wanted, everyone still got the most out of it that they could, and we had a lot of fun while doing it,” said Vest.

Garcia continued, “I’m very happy about how we’ve managed to create a new team culture with so many new athletes, it’s really warm and welcoming, and it’s amazing to see new rowers not only enjoy the athleticism of the sport, but to really have fun and make the team a wonderful environment.”

According to April Arbian ’24, being surrounded by many beginner rowers like herself has made joining a new sport a much smoother transition.

“I think that it has made it so much easier because you have people around you who need help, so it opens a space for you to ask more questions,” said Arbian.

While there is only a small number of people that row in each boat, the team has made sure to rotate the groups to facilitate team chemistry, according to Garcia.

“This year we’ve been really intentional about mixing up the lineups because we have so many novices, and because of that, just the very nature of the sport, no one can do anything alone, and everything is in the spirit of cooperation and teamwork, and I think that that very well lends itself to creating a strong team dynamic,” said Garcia.

Andover looks to earn its first victory of the season next Saturday against Phillips Exeter Academy.

Girls Lacrosse Continues Winning Momentum With Two Victories

SIMI CHEEMA

FRIDAY	
Andover	15
Worcester Academy	0
SATURDAY	
Andover	16
Governor’s	9

Isabela Miller ’21 drove through multiple defenders to nail a behind-the-back shot to score a point contributing to Andover Girls Lacrosse 15-0 win against Worcester Academy on Friday. The team continued its winning streak on Saturday with a 16-9 win against Governor’s, establishing the team’s record undefeated at 4-0.

According to Tory Rider ’22, Friday’s game against Worcester was a good opportunity for the team to run through new plays and get as many players on the field as possible. Rider also noted that playing a team not at Andover’s level was a great way for the team to build

confidence.

“I think it was a good game to play because a lot of people got to go in, a lot of players got to go in and score, we got to run through plays, and try a new type of defense,” said Rider.

Friday was a unique opportunity for goalie and Co-Captain Kennedy Everson ’21 to watch the offense play. Everson was able to note areas of improvement for the offense and midfield due to the ball being in Andover’s offensive possession for the majority of the game.

Everson said, “Friday was a unique game because I don’t really get a chance to see the ball that often, but it was a great way for me to work on communicating with the defense, and to see how our whole team plays. I was able to watch the offense play a lot and notice some things that we have to work on there, and also what the midfield and offense need to work on.”

During Saturday’s 16-9 win against Governor’s, a consistent one- to two-point margin was held throughout the game until the third quarter, when Andover began to score more consistently. According to Abby Lamontagne ’21, Governor’s was a strong team that required Andover to play its best game.

“They were probably the best opponent we’ve had overall, they worked really hard, and they beat us on a lot of ground balls. They were very fast and aggressive, and challenged us and made us have to think fast,” said Lamontagne.

According to Everson, she attributes Saturday’s 16-9 win against Governor’s Academy to the team’s cohesiveness between the offense and defense.

“I think one thing that happened in particular was that we had a lot of caused turnovers on the defense, so we were able to get the ball back from the offense a lot... we were able to stop them more frequently than they were able to stop us, which is also accredited to the offense shooting the ball really well,” said Everson.

According to Head Coach Heidi Wall, the team will work on moving the ball and transitions during practice to prepare for this weekend’s games against Noble and Greenough and Pingree.

“We need to work on moving the ball more on attack, our off-ball movement, transitioning into the attacking zone; those are some of the key things that we’re gonna be working on,” said Wall.

Andover will travel to Pingree this Friday and play Nobles at home on Saturday.

Andover’s Exceptional Defense Leads to 3-0 Victory Over Northfield Mount Hermon

JACK ROGUS

SATURDAY	
Andover	3
Northfield Mount Hermon	0

With blazing hits from Luke Gordos ’21 and the combined force of Violet Enes ’21 and Brooklyn Wirt ’21, Andover Volleyball defeated Northfield Mount Hermon in 3 sets this past Saturday. Andover’s record now stands at 1-1.

According to Alex Mitchell ’22, the team was working on incorporating everyone into the offense and getting inventive with its plays in the practices leading up to the game.

“[We worked on] aggression, we had to see the ball and get ahead of it. Also creativity, for example, we set the libero way more than expected. Our libero is kind of short so he doesn’t look like a big attacker, but he kept flying out of the back row. So that was definitely something we were working on,” said Mitchell.

Despite the preparations

made, the energy levels were low as there were no fans to cheer on the team, according to Mitchell.

Mitchell said, “The energy was actually terrible because there were no fans and that’s because NMH requested no fans. And we are usually a team that feeds off the energy of the crowd, but our bench did a good job of being very loud.”

According to Zane Olmstead ’21, Andover’s communication and consistency were definitely on point, but the team occasionally found itself coming up short in important moments.

Olmstead said, “Sometimes under pressure, we were not as good as we could have been, but I see that changing in the future with improvements being made to my pregame playlist.”

While the team fell behind in the second set, Mitchell’s serves were able to bring Andover back into the game, according to Henrique Chamon ’21.

He said, “We were down 14-22 in the second set, and we made up a few points getting us to 20-24, but then it was Alex ‘A Money Mitch’ Mitchell’s turn to serve and he was a monster... Some players on

NMH were chirping about his game glasses, but what they didn’t know was that it allows him to see who the weakest player on the other team is. ‘A Money Mitch’ was able to methodically choose who to serve [to] because of that, and this gave us some nice aces bringing us a 26-24 dub in that set.”

As the season progresses, the team hopes to improve its communication and energy and also stray away from predictability, according to Mitchell.

Mitchell said, “We got [Phillips Exeter Academy] next week so we’re definitely going to be working on communication and our offense. Also our unpredictability, we want to be sort of like an eight-ball where you never know what you’re going to get. We can’t just set the same person every time; we’ll get predictable.”

With Olmstead’s addition of DJ Khaled’s new album to his pregame playlist, the team hopes to see a strong performance as it takes on Exeter away this Saturday.

Andover Ultimate Wins in Tiebreaker After Losing in the First Half

SIA GANDHI

SATURDAY	
Andover	10
Northfield Mount Hermon	9

After trailing by three points in the second half of its game this past weekend, Andover Ultimate made an extraordinary comeback, triumphing 10-9 over Northfield Mount Hermon. Andover’s record now stands at 2-0.

According to Devan Hernandez ’23, after struggling to gain momentum in the first half, the team was able to improve thanks to Head Coach Scott Hoenig’s pep talk. By bringing Coach Hoenig’s tactical feedback to fruition, Andover was able to begin the second half strongly, scoring within the first minute.

“At halftime, the coaches talked to us about what the other team was doing and how to counter that and they gave us some good reminders about what we needed to do.

Basically, as soon as we got back from the second half, we scored in the first 30 seconds from what the coaches told us because we played it how we were supposed to perfectly. I think the whole team didn’t want to lose; we wanted to play a good game and push ourselves and that’s why I think we were able to make such a big comeback in the second half. I think we scored five points in a row [in the second half] which was pretty awesome,” said Hernandez.

According to Oscar Bunting ’21, coming back to win from a three-point deficit was a difficult task and one that showed the team’s determination and resilience.

“I thought it was a great win because after the first half, we were down 8-5, so the overall team mood was dejected and frustrated, but then we really rallied through the second half and ended up winning 10-9 so something about the halftime speech made by the coach [made us] really energized and we played really great, especially on defense. I don’t think they got [many points during] the second half which was exciting; it was a

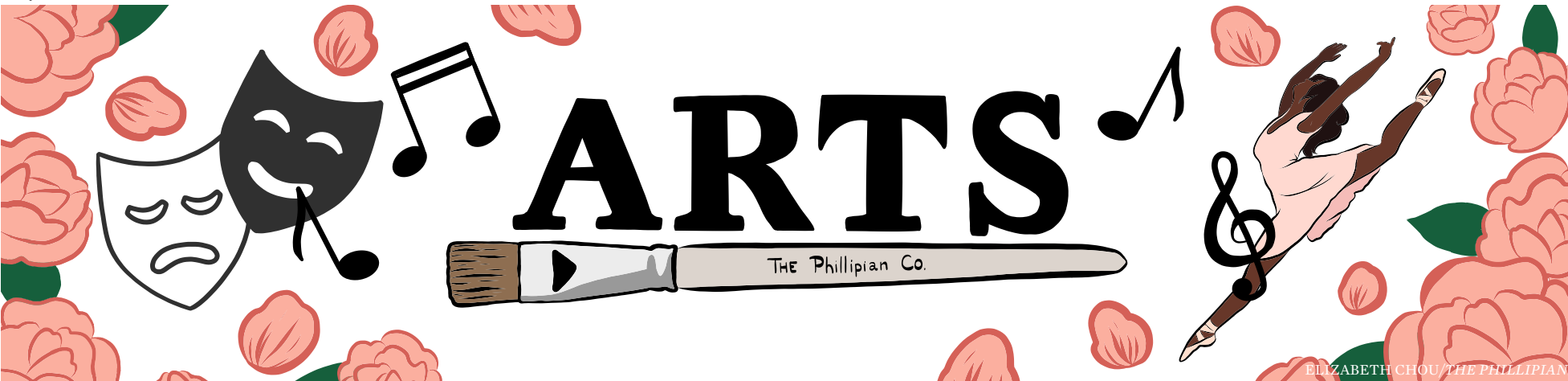
great win,” said Bunting.

At the very end of the game when the teams were tied, the team was able to display its perseverance and precision in the game’s decisive moment and complete the comeback, according to Bunting and Lucas Kim ’21.

“When it was 9-9, whoever scored the next point would win; it was sudden death basically and it was the very last play and I think [Cory McCormack ’21], one of our captains, tossed it to [Kam Saalfrank ’21] our other captain... it was a pretty windy day so it flew, fluctuating up and down. It went right above the defender’s grass and it went to the end [zone] and he caught it [in what] was the highlight of the game,” said Kim.

“[The highlight of the game was] definitely the final winning point. That was by Kam, one of our captains; he had the final catch in the end zone to win the game and then we all ran out to celebrate. It was a great overall possession that led up to that moment,” added Bunting.

Andover Ultimate will next face Pingree at home on May 7.



Student Performances at Take Back the Night Vigil Bring Solidarity

SARAH PAN & SARAH HASSANEIN

On Friday, April 30, the annual Take Back the Night vigil took place in hopes of raising awareness about gender-based violence and sexual harassment. After a unified march from Samuel Phillips Hall to Abbot Circle, a series of student performances followed. Myra Bhathena '22, a participant in the event, shared that the initial march established a sense of solidarity among the attendees.

“The unison and strength of the chants felt empowering and connecting. I believe it is so important to make sure survivors of sexual assault know that they are never alone and that there are always people there to support them, even when institutions and others do not. The march helped create an environment of healing and power, which carried on throughout the entire event,” said Bhathena.

A diverse range of student performance groups was featured at the vigil, including Azure, Gospel



M.WILLIAMS/THE PHILLIPPIAN

Choir, Downbeat, Keynotes, and Andover Dance Group (ADG). Midway through the event, Lexiana Tucci '22, a dancer for ADG, performed a dance solo portraying a sexual abuse survivor.

“[ADG] performed a dance piece consisting of six solos, and we wanted to show the individu-

al stories that each survivor has. In the end, we came together to represent this unity that we all have together... I think these events are really important because many people that do experience some sort of assault or sexual violence often get their voices taken away from their sto-

ries. And these are times that we need to amplify their voices and give them the support that they need,” said Tucci.

Unlike the singing groups who performed, ADG members danced on the grass in the center of Abbot Circle. According to Tucci, performing on the grass

presented both challenges and unforeseen advantages.

“It was a bit harder because we’re on grass, and it was super windy that night so it was very cold for everyone. But I really liked being able to see all of the audience members that we had, because typically on a stage, you can’t see everyone there. And you really felt the support from all around,” said Tucci.

In addition to the student performances, each participant was also given candles to turn on as the sun continued to set and a blue ribbon to pin onto their shirt as a symbol of support. During moments between performances, the candles would light up the dark nighttime sky. According to Cristina Donovan '24, an attendee, the scene of all the candles shining together added to the impactfulness of the performances and was her favorite moment of the night.

“When it got really dark, you could turn around and see that everybody’s lights were on. That was really powerful, especially along with the performances,” said Donovan.

Musical Theatre Cabaret Spread

CHLOE KINDANGEN & EMILY FAN

During what has proved to be an unprecedented school year, the Musical Theatre Cabaret on Saturday was a rare opportunity for student performers to showcase their talents in person. Students explained their thoughts on returning back to musical theatre and their own performances, specifically amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

Quinton Moss '21

I really enjoy musical theatre; I have been doing it for years. I never get the opportunity to just do random songs that I enjoy doing, and [the] Musical Theatre Cabaret [was] my opportunity to do that. So, once I found out it was happening, I hopped on to the opportunity to just perform a random song that I have wanted to do ... A most memorable moment would honestly be watching the people performing ‘Six.’ It was just such a good song and I was vibing so hard in the background, pretending to play the drums and every other instrument; it was fun.

Simi Gandhi '24

I performed ‘Dead Mom’ from this musical called ‘Beetlejuice’ ... It’s an edgy pop-rock song and it’s just a whole lot of fun. There’s a whole lot of emotion in it and I actually love to perform songs like this where I can just go all out and be one with the character ... Musical theatre has always been a massive part of my life, it has helped me improve as a person and as an artist in so many ways and I want to give that experience to other people as well. Besides, I just love performing and I haven’t been able to do it much since the pandemic. This is a great opportunity and it was just so much fun.

Dori Rosenstrauch '23

I haven’t done a live performance, especially singing, in a really long time. So, I was really nervous, but I was really excited about how it turned out. I got all my friends to come and it was lots of fun to perform for them... I think the song was a little bit different from the other songs since ‘Little Miss Perfect’ isn’t actually from a musical. It’s very easy to perform in a cabaret, something where it’s just a collection of music as opposed to an actual story.

Case Rosenfelt '22

I first decided to do ‘Happiness.’ That was the first one I ended up in. I got asked [to perform] and everyone in it was a good friend. So, when Kate [Horton '22] asked me, I of course said yes. It was super fun. I really wasn’t sure about whether I was going to do the solo performance. I debated it a lot, but I haven’t been able to do theatre with Covid[-19], and [theatre is] a community at Andover I’ve really cared about. So, I wanted to take the chance to jump back into it now that we’re in person.

Aleisha Roberts '22

We got to see a lot of new faces along with returning faces, which is super great because over the isolation time, over [Covid-19], when we were at home, people weren’t really engaging with theatre. I was really nervous that the freshman class and the Lower class would have a hard time engaging with theatre at Andover. So, it was nice to see them incorporated into the act [and make] friends with the returning performers and really [get] a sense of home in the theatre department... I am hoping that whoever was there or whoever is talking about it will take away that theatre at Andover is back [and] we’re really trying to get crowds.

Ariana Velasquez '22

I did two performances. The first one I did was a solo which was a song called ‘I Couldn’t Know Someone Less’ from the musical ‘Daddy Long Legs,’ which I have been learning in my voice lessons, so I thought that would be a good opportunity just to put into practice what I’ve been working on. I also just think that it’s a pretty song. It tackles a lot of vocal [techniques] I have been working on, so I thought it would be nice to perform it because there hasn’t been a lot of performance opportunities since last year. It was good for practice and just for the opportunity to put myself out there as a singer again since it’s been a while.

Jack Warren '22 Unites People Against Anxiety Through His New Single ‘Wallflower’

JASMINE MA

While upbeat drums and baritone melodies intensify, a tenor note soars through the accompaniment, leading in the harmonized climax of “Wallflower” by singer, music producer, instrumentalist, and songwriter Jack Warren '22. However, upon closer examination of the song, beyond the cheerful and hyper tunes, there is a story about struggling with anxiety and loneliness, according to Warren.

“[This song] is about the duality of introversion and extroversion. I’m naturally a very extroverted person, but there are definitely times when anxiety just gets the best of me and I shut down entirely and become borderline antisocial. It touches on wanting to be able to com-

municate with anyone at any given time but feeling like you can’t because of your anxiety. I feel like it’s something that people can relate to, so that’s the inspiration behind the song,” said Warren.

On April 30, under his band name, “Headrush,” Warren released “Wallflower” onto all popular music streaming platforms. According to Warren, this single, which has been in the works since September 2020, was written and performed solely by him, and he completed all of its mixing, mastering, and producing in his bedroom at home. Warren explained that the instrumental and production stage was completed by February 2021, but he waited a few months before writing the lyrics.

“I was sitting with the instrumental, because I really liked the chord progression

and how the song moved and how it felt, and all the production elements of it, so I wanted to make sure I did the lyrics right,” said Warren.

Warren’s thoughtfulness in creating lyrics can be felt throughout the song, noted Sean Meng '22, a friend and fellow musician. Directing the context of the song toward the Andover community, Meng asserted that the lyrics convey Warren’s experience with anxiety, which is also shared by many people on campus.

“I think this song reflects the way that [Warren] approaches his own anxiety. He doesn’t talk about it in a somber way, but rather in a very energetic and optimistic way. He approaches life very energetically, and this song is his way of spreading encouragement to others,” said Meng.

As Warren’s fifth single released over the past year, “Wallflower” demonstrates Warren’s growth as a producer and vocalist, noted Sofia Garcia '21, a friend and fellow co-head of the capella group, Keynotes. Having listened to Warren’s previous singles, Garcia noted that “Wallflower” expands upon the production and style of Warren’s second-to-last single, “Surreal.”

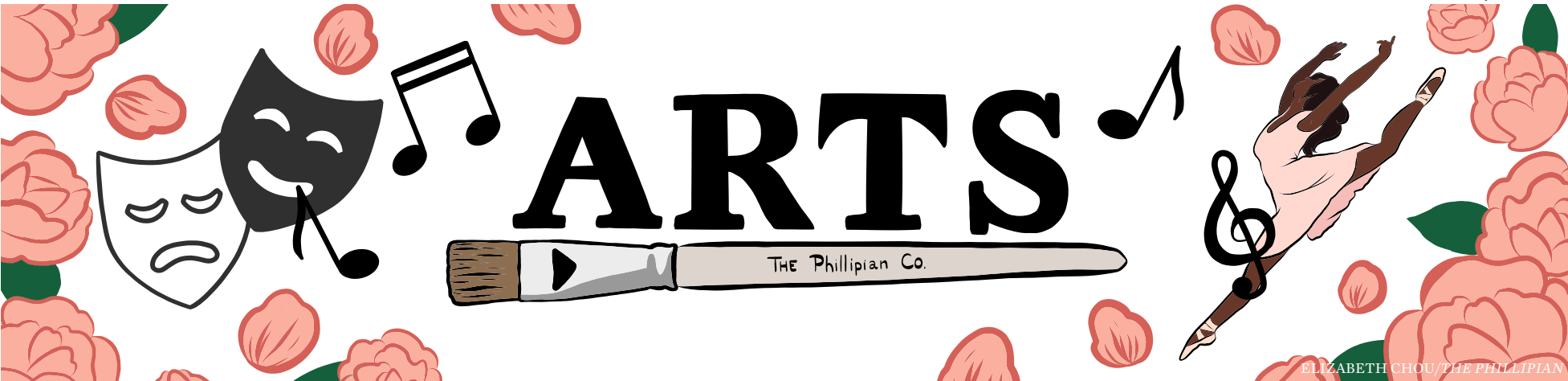
“‘Surreal’ was definitely [Warren] leaning deeper into pop/rock type aesthetics, and I think he builds on that in ‘Wallflower,’ [where] he plays around with layering really well. He always has ways to combine different vocals that are interesting and unique, and they add so much more depth to the song,” said Garcia.

Determined to continue

developing as a musician in the future, Warren is currently working toward releasing either an E.P. or album. Regardless of where his music career takes him, Warren noted that he hopes the message of “Wallflower” will continue bringing awareness to people struggling with anxiety.

“It’s a pretty common concept that people struggle with their anxiety and want to talk to other people about it. I want people to feel they’re not alone when they listen to [‘Wallflower.’] It is an energetic song, [so] I want people to feel the energy and have fun and approach it with optimism and still feel like, ‘Yeah, I got this, this is me too. I’m not alone,’” said Warren.

Editor’s Note: Sean Meng is a Business Editor for The Phillipian.



Review: “Things Seen and Heard” Really Shouldn’t Be Perceived at All

JACKIE LI

Netflix, being the ever-so-prolific media company that it is, has returned with its newest release, “Things Seen and Heard,” a Gothic horror movie with underlying themes of religion. While the movie has a solid foundation, its half-hearted development and ending are lackluster and uninteresting, making the film exceedingly hard to watch as it drags on for 2+ hours.

For the most part, the movie centers around Catherine Claire and her ever-increasingly rocky relationship with her husband, George, as they move to a small town. During that period of time, like most horror movies, she starts seeing traces of spiritual power. Rather than leaving the matter of the spiritual world’s existence unattended, the movie takes to explain the world’s paranormal behaviour through famous theologian Emanuel Swedenborg’s ideas of heaven, hell, and the spiritual world. This use of Gothic themes forces the production team to deeply consider what kind of imagery would fit their aesthetic. Luckily, the production crew didn’t seem to have much of a problem with that. The film does a good job picking out vast landscape shots alongside eerie and ominous paintings that could be heavily associated with religion and the



ELIZABETH CHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

supernatural. These images all help demonstrate the lack of power our main characters have against the natural forces of the world.

The plot and its development, however, only serve to disappoint. Namely, the biggest problems it suffers from are pacing and development, especially regarding the climax of the movie. Within the film, we find out alongside Catherine that the house is inhabited by two ghosts: one evil and one good. The good

spirit works with Catherine in an effort to vanquish and exorcise the evil spirit, who is influencing George. (Spoiler Warning Ahead:) The movie eventually progresses to establish George as the main antagonist as he attempts to get away with not one, but two murders. The climax occurs as he is provoked into killing Catherine.

However, the movie fails to establish George as powerful enough of a threat. Though supposedly a big douchebag

and hypocrite, he is more pathetic than disgusting. Rather than fearing him and for Catherine’s well-being during her murder, he seems more pawn-like and therefore less “dangerous.” Though George successfully murders three people throughout the course of the movie, he still appears about as intimidating as a wilted piece of bok choy. Two of his kills are off-screen, and he cries and whines so much while he murders his wife that it almost feels like

he’s the one dying. Simply put, he’s just not that frightening. Though this may help demonstrate his complexity as a character, by extension, it also eliminates the feeling of satisfaction and relief when he finally gets killed and sent to Hell—it evokes more of a feeling of disappointment that has the audience thinking, “Why couldn’t this be done earlier?”

As the horror genre continues to evolve and expand, companies and screenwriters are continuously coming up with more and more innovative ways to spook their audience—it almost feels like Hollywood is trying to pull off some sort of Monsters Inc. operation with the way they attempt to outscar the general public with their newest fright. With the heightened focus on shock value, horror movies often forget to establish deeper themes or satisfying resolutions. As a result, this movie fails not because of Netflix’s production alone, but rather the mentality that people have begun to approach horror movies with. Netflix should start thinking about how the things audiences want to see and hear in horror movies may not just be fake-deep expositions and shock value scares...

“Things Seen and Heard” receives a 2/5 for its poor character development, predictability, and overall lackluster plot.

Emma Fu ’21 Senior Recital Reflects Her 12-Year Piano Experience

JENNY JIN & SIMI GANDHI

After speaking about the impact that Ballade No. 1 in G Minor Op. 23 by Frederic Chopin had on her life, Emma Fu ’21 calmly lifted her hands to the piano keys and began playing her final piece’s soft melody. After the conclusion of the piece, the audience instantly rose for a standing ovation.

Playing in the Cochran Chapel for the last time, Fu’s Senior Recital was attended by her closest friends and other members of the Andover community. Fu viewed her Senior Recital as especially meaningful and important, as it not only concluded her three years playing piano at Andover, but it was also a performance dedicated to people she loved.

“Today’s performance for some of my friends was the first and also the last time they’ll ever hear me play. So I really really wanted to make that special for them and also for me because this is probably one of the last times that it was the first time and last time that I got to play in the Chapel. And so today was super super special to me,” said Fu.

According to Fu, all six of the pieces in her program were meaningful to her, especially the Chopin Ballade, as it was the



COURTESY OF EMMA FU

piece which made Fu seriously start to pursue the piano.

“It’s a combination of the past 12 years of my piano experience. I have to play this piece. And I want to end the entire recital on that piece as well, just because of how important it has been for my piano journey,” said Fu.

During the recital, the passion and story behind each piece Fu played was clearly apparent, according to Fu’s friend and fellow pianist Lexie Mariano ’21.

Mariano has witnessed how Fu progressed as a pianist and believed that Fu was demonstrating a lot of enthusiasm, effort, and commitment in her performance, especially in her playing of Verdi’s “Rigoletto.”

“It’s just so impressive, the fact that she can pull it off technically, as well as put all of her willpower and passion, and just all of her energy into that piece, it’s really incredible,” said Mariano.

Before she played “Rigoletto,” Fu explained that the piece was based off of an opera about a love triangle, which audience member Patricia Tran ’24 found useful in connecting with the music.

“In one of the pieces, the story behind it was this opera, this love, romance thing, and with her background information, I could really hear the voices, especially with the soprano and the bass fighting over each other... I could really hear it in my

head,” said Tran.

Fu explained that she finalized her program only a month before the recital, heightening her nerves. Despite her nerves at the significance of the recital, she ultimately felt proud of the performance she gave.

“It was a sense of a mix of pride, satisfaction, and love. I think I really wanted to share the love that I had for music and for the piano with everybody in the audience... I just felt so loved at the end of my recital. I just felt so supported. My closest friends were in the audience. My closest family, they couldn’t watch because it’s not live, but I knew they were thinking of me, and I was surrounded by everybody I loved and they were all cheering for me,” said Fu.

Fu expressed gratitude towards the entire music department at Andover for providing support throughout her time at Andover, and to everything her friends have done in the past three years to support her at Andover both as a pianist and as a person. She plans to pursue a dual degree with piano in college.

“I feel like this was such a big milestone in my life. I feel like now, for the next three years, I’m doing a degree, so piano is moving from my lifelong friend to my lifelong partner,” said Fu.

Celebr-Asian Talent Show Brings Unity Within the Asian Andover Community

ZOE YU

With purple lighting cast onto the stage of the Nathan Hale Tent, wearing a red t-shirt, Phil Ko ’22 danced a solo before a large crowd. A few acts later, he returned in a dark blue hoodie alongside the members of K-Pop dance group J.V.N.E., and performed to the tune of “Get Cool,” bringing the Celebr-Asian Talent Show to a finale.

“You’ll often see Asian-Americans just being put to the background in terms of issues in the U.S., but that’s really not the case at all [here]. By showing power

through performance, we can bring that to the forefront,” said Ko.

This year’s Celebr-Asian talent show consisted of a wide variety of acts, from singing solos to comedy and poetry recitation. Similar to Ko, J.V.N.E. member and performer Emily Huang ’21 noted the significance of the event in relation to Asian representation.

“We’re bringing a spotlight onto the K-Pop industry and showcasing different sides of the industry that we normally do not see. I think our group is becoming more and more diverse and more and more recognized on campus,” said Huang.

Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March of 2020, the Celebr-Asian talent show did not take place during the 2019-2020 school year. Noting how the talent show celebrated Asian culture and community through its showcase of Asian artists, co-organizer Alex Park ’21 described the event as the “crux of the day.”

“I love getting to see people be at their best, and that’s what Celebr-Asian is about. It’s about culture, it’s about celebrating that culture and community... I think that while we must return to what we used to do [and] what’s familiar, [I] also think we have to take into account other

things we’ve learned from the past year as we move forward,” said Park.

As the host of the show, Park also included some last-minute trivia questions between different acts, such as which Academy Awards the Korean film “Parasite” had won. According to event co-organizer Ryan Mai ’21, the talent show was also an opportunity for AAPI students to congregate and enjoy each other’s company.

“I think having a talent show specific to celebrating our Asian Heritage, especially on May 1 to kick off the first day of AAPI Heritage Month, is such an important way to come together and to cele-

brate our identity together,” said Mai.

Cheryl Tugade ’21, who performed her original song, “I’ve Been Lost,” noted that her part in the performance and community pertained to fostering AAPI solidarity. Tugade added that the choice of rap song reflected positivity and an upbeat energy.

“It was super fun, honestly... I typically never associate songwriters and singers and rappers with being Asian, so I feel like just me performing, me expressing myself as an Asian person [tied into AAPI solidarity],” said Tugade.