



E.GONCALVES/THE PHILLIPIAN

Students on campus experienced their first snow of the academic school year this week; Wednesday night and early Thursday morning brought a light dusting of snow to Andover.

RAND Corporation Works with Andover Faculty to Provide School Wide Evaluation

STAFF REPORT

The 2021-2022 school year will mark the first year since 1980 in which Andover has done a full system review, according to Dianne Domech-Burgos, Interim Chief of Staff at Andover. A full system review includes the evaluation of academics, curriculum, teachers, athletics, residential life, and various additional facets of Andover life and education. Head of School Raynard Kington is leading these efforts. As a current board member and former scientist for the RAND Corporation, Kington has invited the organization to Andover in order to assist the school's faculty in its endeavors.

Since 1948, the RAND Corporation has served as a data research and analysis group, initially created to serve the U.S. Armed Forces. Now, RAND works as a non-profit think-tank working with the U.S. government and other organizations to study literature on subjects including,

but not limited to, energy and the environment, education and literacy, and international affairs.

In its role at Andover, the RAND Corporation plans to study the current data and literature on teacher evaluations in independent secondary schools, as well as other high schools and colleges alike. The corporation then plans to evaluate Andover's current system for faculty evaluation and collect data. By surveying Andover's staff, RAND will be assessing faculty perspectives on the efficacy of their evaluations. According to Jeffrey Domina, Dean of Faculty, RAND will use their data and research to propose a new potential faculty evaluation system.

"[RAND will] propose options for other systems of both faculty evaluation and academic department reviews... Any system that emerges... from this process would be administered by faculty and

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Home for the Holidays?: Covid-19 Creates Difficulties for Traveling International Students

JENNY JIN

During November, Andover students left campus for a 12-day break following the end of Fall Term. Now on campus for two weeks, students will depart on December 15 for three weeks of Winter Vacation. However, many Andover students do not return home. Specifically this year, with strengthening Covid-19 restrictions, many international students have not been able to go back home, nor will they be able to in the winter.

Melissa Chang '23, from Shanghai, China, stayed in Philadelphia with her sisters and host family instead of flying back to China over her Thanksgiving Vacation. In order to travel back to Shanghai, Chang would have to be quarantined in a hotel for 14 days in the best case scenario. Therefore Chang has to stay in the U.S. for Winter Vacation as well.

"Since we only have 12 days of [vacation,] and the quarantine [can potentially be] 21 days, if I go back to Shanghai, China, that means I won't have enough time to actually spend time with my family and also return back to school on time," said Chang.

Naima Reid '25, a student from Kilchberg, Switzerland, was able to return home for the past va-

cation. However, she will stay in the U.S. for Winter Vacation. The main struggle for Reid was not Covid-19 protocol, but the financial toll of traveling back and forth.

"I do think the two weeks have affected it, not because of Covid-19, but because of financial resources. It's just a lot of money for four flights back to back within two weeks. So, that's why I'm deciding to stay here," said Reid.

Yasmine Tazi '24, who stayed with a host family in the U.S. over the last vacation, was planning to go back home for Winter Vacation. After her ticket was purchased and plans were made, Tazi had to shift gears when Morocco shut down its borders due to Covid-19. According to Tazi, Morocco's spontaneous announcement caused panic amongst citizens in need of returning and departing flights to and from the country.

"Their decisions are very not predictable, so we were not expecting the borders to close, and then one day at 10:00 p.m. there was an announcement on the TV and [they said starting] tomorrow no flights anymore. It was a huge panic, and people who were outside of Morocco started coming back... I have a friend at another

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Dorms Pilot Online Initial Sign-In System

STAFF REPORT

Students racing into the common room at 8:00 p.m. to scribble down their name in the sign-in book has been a common sight at many dorms. However, common rooms have looked different from previous years starting this week—multiple dorms have piloted a new online sign-in method. Designed by Pete Dignard '07, Senior Associate Director of Admission, and proposed to the Dean of Students Office by Student Council, a simple Microsoft Form automatically emailed to boarding students each evening is now replacing the previous pencil-and-paper sign-in method.

According to Dignard, many community members have been pushing for the

implementation of an online sign-in system since his time as a student at Andover. While serving as a house counselor at Foxcroft House during the 2020-2021 school year, Dignard built an online sign-in system program that worked for his dorm, which received positive responses.

"Last year, during the pandemic, you couldn't even share pencils, and so I wanted to think about a new way to do sign-in. I created a system that worked for my dorm, Foxcroft House, and the kids liked it. I think the house counseling team liked it as well—it worked really well for us. I think the word got around because everybody has been talking about online sign-in... At some point, this fall, they created a proposal that they gave to the Dean of Students," said Dignard.

The form sent to students

each day asks for the student's place of study, a rating of their day on a scale of one to six, and optional comments for House Counselors. When the form is submitted, the system automatically collects the student's name and time of form submission, then automatically adds the submitted information into a spreadsheet that House Counselors can easily access.

Dignard prefers using online sign-in in his dorm as he believes the previous sign-in method on paper was not only prone to mistakes, but also lacked a way to track the collected information. On the other hand, Dignard believes that the new online sign-in system makes the sign-in process more convenient for both

Continued on A5, Column 1

Justice Café Seeks to Reform D.C. System by Educating Community Members on Restorative Justice

WENDY WANG & ANGELINE ZHAO

Justice Café—a space created to critically engage community members on topics relating to justice, especially with regards to Discipline Committee (D.C.) reform—held its second meeting on Sunday, discussing the presence and influence of justice on students' daily lives. Led and organized by Mary Muromcew '22 and Tristan Fain '22, Justice Cafe takes place on most Sundays with several speakers planned throughout the year.

Justice Café's meeting on November 8 invited activist and author Leon Ford as guest speaker. Ford, who is currently on the Heal America Tour, a series of events taking place across the nation which examine inequalities in America, is a survivor of a police brutality incident that left him paralyzed from the waist down.

"During an incident in 2012, the police mistook him for another Black man who was wanted, and they shot him five times and left him paralyzed from the waist down. And he's come to fight both his demons, mentally, and learn more about himself through this. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to learn about him and see some



COURTESY OF MARY MUROMCEW

Founders of Justice Cafe, Mary Muromcew '22 and Tristan Fain '22, with guest speaker and activist Leon Ford on Wednesday.

perspective—because as Andover, we're in a bubble more often than not," said Fain.

Hearing Ford share his experiences, Pema Sherpa '23, an attendee of the event, was able to further recognize the importance of equitable access to therapy and mental health.

"My initial reaction to Leon Ford's justice cafe is that we need to make therapy and mental health a priority for young kids and adults, especially those in

marginalized communities. And hearing about how much therapy has helped [Ford] only emphasizes why support and access to mental health care are so important for people regardless of age," said Sherpa.

The inspiration for Justice Café derived from Muromcew and Fain's work in D.C. reform.

Continued on A4, Column 1

Emiliano Cáceres Manzano '22 Kicks off 2021-22 CaMD Presentations, Exploring Magical Realism in Latin America



J.PARK/THE PHILLIPIAN

Throughout his presentation, Emiliano Cáceres Manzano '22 engaged with the audience, bringing up volunteers to participate in activities. Most of Kemper Auditorium was full on Friday, leaving viewers to sit on the floor due to high turnout.

BIANCA MORALES

"Mira Que Larga Tienes La Cola: Magical Realism in Latin America" reflected onto the screen on Friday, December 3, facing the full seats of Kemper Auditorium. Directly translating to "look how long your tail is," Emiliano Cáceres Manzano '22 opened, explaining the figurative title. He delivered an hour-long interactive presentation, inviting some of the audience up to the stage at times

to perform brief skits demonstrating the topic and to read excerpts from magical realist literature.

According to Cáceres Manzano, magical realism is the concept of mystical experiences being morphed into realistic ones. He called two students to the stage to act out a play depicting magical realism, in which a woman did not experience time.

"Magical realism, like we talked about, depends on the unreal happening as part of reality. So in magical realism, we

have fantastical things... coexisting in what is otherwise a pretty realistic story... a key part of [magical realism] is its metamorphosis in perception, in other words, an important part of magical realism is its tone. That means that magical realism values the real and the fantastical side by side and equally, and when a magical realist writer is speaking to us, we can't really tell what really happened, and it doesn't matter... it feels true," said Cáceres Manzano.

Many attendees were new to the term "magical realism." Camila McGinley '23 attended the event, despite not being familiar with the concept. According to McGinley, Cáceres Manzano's initial anecdote regarding his mom's use of the phrase, "mira que larga tienes la cola" helped clarify the term. According to Cáceres Manzano, this phrase adequately captures magical realism, as it links the two terms together in a genre of literature.

"I really liked when he shared the anecdote of what his mom would tell him. I thought that was really sweet and a good way to introduce the topic. I was a bit confused... so I was like 'oh I wonder if I'll under-

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Commentary, A2

Teach Arabic at Andover

Anna Ohm '24 argues for an Arabic curriculum at Andover, writing on its societal and cultural importance for our generation.

Eighth Page, A8

College App Holidays!

If you wanted bad jokes for Christmas, you've come to the right place. Check out Eighth Page (on the actual eighth page this week.)

Sports, B1

Cherry on Top

Field Hockey caps off undefeated season with championship win.

Arts, B6

Bad Spotify Wrapped? We Have the Solution for You!

The Phillipian's first Playlist of the Week premieres with a dazzle of '90s rock, alternative, indie, K-pop, and more. Scan our code to check it out!

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Editorial

Lessons Unlearned

After nearly two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, it's easy to think or even hope that we are approaching “normalcy,” that a day will come where masks won't be necessary and social distancing will become a memory of the past. However, the recent outbreak of the Omicron Covid-19 variant is a reminder that there is more to be learned—in both the realm of epidemiology and human responses to epidemics. Specifically, what are the shortcomings presented in scientific and journalistic approaches to the Omicron Covid-19 and how are these processes harmful?

In particular, after the first outbreak of the Omicron variant in South Africa, the United States and other countries have enforced travel bans to “contain” the mutation. According to António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, however, the virus's borderless nature means that “travel restrictions that isolate any one country or region are not only deeply unfair and punitive — they are ineffective.” Further, rather than serving their purpose of slowing the spread of the Omicron variant, travel bans placed on southern African countries by rich countries like the U.S. and European nations would only impede efforts to combat the Omicron variant, given that border closures prevent biological samples from being transported out of the countries. Furthermore, travel bans only cause further economic destruction in poorer countries already devastated by Covid-19. Rich, powerful countries placing these travel bans must recognize that a significant portion of the world's population does not have the luxury of working from home—much of southern Africa's economy is heavily dependent on tourism and the daily movement of people, which travel bans restrict.

As quick as Western countries are to pose travel bans on passengers from South Africa, however, these countries and big pharmaceutical companies did not extend assistance to South Africa with equal swiftness. According to one “New York Times” article, African researchers have long posted warnings about the prospect of new variants emerging as a result of delayed vaccination support to Africa, yet wealthier countries have stocked up on vaccines that African countries were in dire need of. Meanwhile, big pharmaceutical companies such as Moderna failed to provide fair access to the vaccine in South Africa despite having used the region for testing their vaccines in early stages.

Further, as narratives hyper emphasize South Africa as the location where the first variant was found and scrutinize South Africa's responses, it's worth unpacking how journalism can contribute to racialized sentiments regarding pandemics. Just as the initial designation of Covid-19 as a “Chinese virus” incited a wave of anti-Asian vitriol and violence that, crucially, drew on common stereotypes against Asians, conversations and

reporting surrounding the Omicron variant must be careful not to perpetuate anti-Black narratives. An N.B.C. article, ironically, on vaccine inequality and Omicron, from November 30, 2021, quotes an assistant director of a global vaccine supply as saying “Africa right now is a super-incubator.” Such language, while perhaps unintentional, nevertheless draws on and sustains colonial narratives of Africa as a “source of disease,” condemning South Africa simply for the crime of having dedicated scientists whose sequencing and transparency have been a major boon to fighting Covid-19.

Thus, understanding how current mechanisms can cause further harm, we must also make initiative to combat this harm. First, we must recognize and applaud the efforts and successes of countries such as South Africa. Narratives that continuously paint South Africa as a place of diseases and requiring western aid reduce South Africa to merely that, failing to highlight their medical success and innovative problem-solving methods.

Simultaneously, as we continue to perpetuate narratives that hyperfixate and scrutinize South Africa's “shortcomings,” some of which linked directly to the actions and inactions of western countries as mentioned above, we fail to learn from successful approaches. Whereas news coverage and response by Western countries have mainly focused on the origin of Omicron being in South Africa, they do not raise enough awareness about the actual progress and transparency of the South African tracking surveillance system. Decades of work in African countries has contributed to the success and efficiency of the current surveillance system, which is the only reason why the new variant could have been quickly identified and its severity analyzed. On the other hand, the same cannot be said of the disease tracking systems in the United States, whose healthcare workers and scientists are so overwhelmed with the spiraling amounts of daily infections that many samples are neglected. According to the “New York Times,” Texas and Florida have only sequenced four percent of the new samples. The contrast of the United States's surveillance system exhaustion with South Africa's robust one, nevertheless, is consistently trivialized in news coverage of the new variant.

The world is far from returning to normal, as emerging variants and inequities continue to provide obstacles for global health and safety. However, as we have passed through four letters of the Greek alphabet in naming the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, there are multiple lessons that the U.S. can learn to equip for the future—of which epidemics will unfortunately be inevitable.

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Staff Positions

Teach Arabic at Andover

ANNA OHM



COURTESY OF ANNA OHM

AS SHE MARCHED ME up the gray steps of Sam Phil, my Andover tour guide pointed to the right wing and listed the modern language classes offered here: Spanish, French, German, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, and Arabic. Growing up with half of my family speaking Arabic but being unable to speak it myself, the language enticed me. However, after I received that decorated admission package, I looked through the Course of Study and could not find Arabic listed. The school stopped teaching it. Forced to choose another language, I picked Spanish though I was still frustrated.

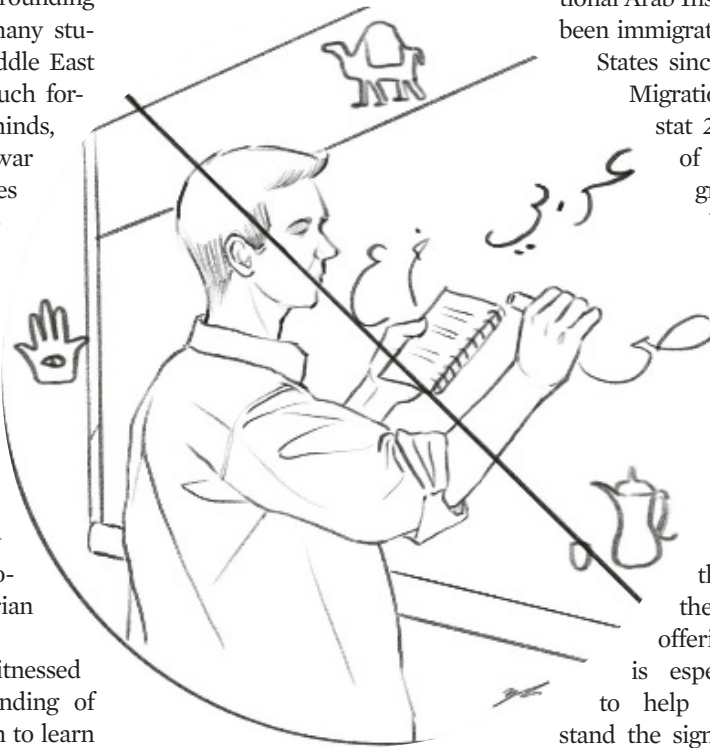
The thought of taking Arabic moved to the back of my mind as I prepared for freshman fall. Throughout freshman year, however, it gradually resurfaced as I realized that this campus is littered with reasons as to why Arabic needs to be taught. As someone who is Middle Eastern, I quickly discovered the lack of understanding surrounding the Middle East at this school. Through this campus' slogan “youth from every quarter,” I

have met international students from Palestine, Bahrain, Somaliland, United Arab Emirates, and Morocco, in addition to other students of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) heritage. Somehow, this school still has no cultural understanding, or even competency, surrounding these “quarters.” So many students think of the Middle East and North Africa as such foreign places. In their minds, these countries are war zones and far-off names heard only on television screens. The word Arabic itself is so uncommon at Andover that on multiple occasions, I heard it pronounced as Ar-ay-bic rather than Ar-ah-bic. My own identity as Jordanian was somehow confused with Gregorian (yes, like Gregorian Chants).

At the same time I witnessed this lack of understanding of MENA culture, I began to learn Spanish. While learning the language, my class studied Latinx art. We read poems, listened to music, and examined artists like Frida Khalo and Ruben Blades. While a 75-minute long Spanish class could never give me an in-depth understanding of the culture, it allowed me a glimpse into it. After all, language is a well known way to experience culture. Even AP language exams have a culture section. Since students cannot study Arabic, they have no way of even beginning to grasp the fundamentals of MENA culture

other than out-of-school experiences. Greats like Nancy Ajram and Amr Diab will hardly ever be uncovered by Andover's students.

Andover aspires to be a member of the global world, yet through this neglect of



CLARIS SHIN/THE PHILLIPIAN

MENA culture they are not living up to it. Without the proper representation of MENA culture, Andover is an institution that fails to accurately represent the diversity of the world to its students.

Despite what many of my peers seem to believe, the Middle East and North

Africa hold a significant part of the world's population. It is estimated by the World Bank that in these regions there are 465 million people. For comparison,

that is 136 million more people than in the United States. Statistics states Arabic is the fifth most spoken language in the world — greater than French, German, Japanese, and Russian, all languages offered at Andover. Furthermore, according to the National Arab Institute, Arabs have been immigrating to the United States since the 1880s. The Migration Policy Institute stat 2010, the number of MENA immigrants within the United States was 861,000, and just six years later it rose to around 1.17 million. It is important that Andover reflects the representation of MENA regions throughout the world within their institution by offering Arabic. This is especially necessary to help students understand the significance of these regions and people as they move from Andover into the broader world.

If Arabic returns to the Andover curriculum, it would also have sufficient demand. Arabic was already building a program and has shown previous student interest. The language was constantly taught from 2008 to 2012. The program grew from a single term-contained class to two levels in 2011-2012, the last year it was consistently taught. By this year, the 100-level offered three different types of introductory courses, as well as an accel-

ated spring term option, and the 200-level offered both an accelerated and a standard year-long course. Further demonstrating that the language would be sustained at Andover, similar boarding schools, including Phillips Exeter Academy, Choate Rosemary Hall, Deerfield Academy, and Loomis Chaffee School all teach Arabic, according to each respective school's course of study. By not offering Arabic, students are missing out—after all, they could have gone to a vast number of similar boarding schools and taken the language.

I chose to attend Andover rather than another preparatory school because I truly believe it offers an exceptional high school experience. However, if this school is going to pride itself on being a part of the larger global community, it is necessary that Andover teaches Arabic. This will not only help provide necessary cultural literacy on campus, but it will also allow our school to compete with and live up to the standards of other increasingly competitive preparatory schools. I hope that this school will create a future where prospective students can tour our school and become fascinated with the exciting and world opening opportunities Andover grants, including learning Arabic.

Anna Ohm is a Lower from Madison, WI. Contact the author at aohm24@andover.edu.

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The World is in Everyone’s Hands

AMY OKU



TINA ZENG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Watching the news over the years, I have seen more and more disturbing images of climate change. From posts of polar bears lying lifeless on melting glaciers to reporters covering the blazing Amazon wildfires, I have witnessed worsening environmental tragedies occurring all over the world. To this day, climate change continues to inflict permanent damage on the planet I and nearly eight billion other people call home.

There is no reversing the damage done to our Earth, but opportunities remain to prevent further environmental harm. People can take individual actions to help the environment, including composting food scraps and consuming less meat. Well intentioned as these actions are, they do relatively little to help the climate as a whole. The main source of potential large scale progress is not individuals, but rather initiatives taken by the government. However, the political divisions between Republicans and Democrats in the United States prevent the country from taking the necessary action to protect the environment.

According to past proposals of bills regarding climate policy, a majority of Republicans in Congress are opposed to passing laws that include environmental justice initiatives. Beyond the different priorities between the two

political parties, there is a fundamental difference in understanding the problem: nearly two thirds of Republicans still deny that human actions impact climate change, as reported by The Climate Center. The discord between Democrats and Republicans in the government must be overcome in order to combat the climate emergency.



REBECCA YANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Republican officials who represent our country hold the power to address climate change. Facts about climate science should not be politically charged; regardless of party affiliation, representatives need to recognize the escalating climate crisis and engage with the problem.

Progress is trying to be made, yet America still struggles to implement more en-

vironmental policies. Today, many nations are working to achieve Net Zero by 2050. Net Zero simply means that we would not be introducing any additional greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere by this time. While Joe Biden has proposed and successfully passed several initiatives for clean energy consumption, there

about money.

Along with problems in the United States government’s inner workings, representa-

tives’ close ties to fossil fuel companies and financial incentives to pass policies that support them also contribute to the environmental crisis. The oil and gas industries have primarily supported the Re-

tives that will allow non-regulated carbon consumption and emission. In accepting this financial support, Republican campaigns flourish with little concern about funds, in addition to ignoring the big-

Fossil fuel companies are well aware that Republicans often do not support climate focused policies, which is why the industries endorse them: they want representatives that will allow non-regulated carbon consumption and emission.

ger issue: the global climate emergency.

The climate crisis is not a problem that affects one specific population. Climate change will eventually harm every living creature on this planet, if it hasn’t already. Regardless of whether you support the Democratic or Republican party, climate change is everyone’s problem. The government has the power to create and enforce laws that would decrease the United States’ contribution to climate change, and they have a responsibility to the citizens to do so: once it is gone, the environment, unlike the economy, cannot be rebuilt or brought back.

Amy Oku is a Junior from Hinsdale, Illinois. Contact the author at aoku25@andover.edu

The Guilt of Endings

LEILANI GLACE



YIMANZANO-MALDONADO / THE PHILLIPIAN

I WAS SITTING IN ENGLISH class when my teacher asked us one of his daily questions of the day: “What is a phrase that represents something that you wish you knew after a few weeks of being at Andover?” I answered, “Striving for excellence through continuing what is familiar to you, what you know you can do well, is worth nothing if you don’t enjoy what you are excelling at.” Although I gave this answer, entering into my second term at Andover, I still struggle to follow this advice. Before I came to Andover, I dabbled in a lot of different areas of interest: sports, instruments, academic clubs. I dropped some of them on my journey through middle school, kept some, and revisited others temporarily. I never stressed about becoming uniquely excellent at something and making it mine. I simply continued the things that I felt most passionate about, even if I wasn’t the best at it.

However, since coming to Andover, I’ve felt a certain guilt that I didn’t master the subjects or activities that I tried at a young age. I’ve felt guilty for changing my mind. I’ve felt guilty for wanting to try different things, even though in many ways Andover promotes a culture of exploration. A constant weight lingers on me: “Would I be just as commendable and gifted as the kid I see performing on stage, the kid I see in Math 650, if I had just practiced more and

studied harder? Could that have been me?” Though one might not see it on the surface, due to the social and academic pressure to constantly progress and excel, Andover engenders a feeling of guilt about choosing to discontinue one pursuit and starting another later down the line.

At Andover, everyone seems to have mastered a skill. You hear about the people taking the AMC 12, in 9th grade, and people who are breaking records and qualifying for junior Olympics before even arriving at Andover. When you are surrounded by people who exude brilliance and mastery, it’s easy to feel inferior and blame yourself for lacking those qualities. You start to focus on what would have been if you had put more time and effort into the interests you had begun to delve into as a kid. With this mindset, you lose sight of what could be with the newfound pursuit you are undertaking now, or the one you are still searching for. Everyone appears to have something to show for themselves, something exceptional, and we continuously compare ourselves to these, or what we believe to be, success stories. It is easy to con-

With this mindset, you lose sight of what could be with the newfound pursuit you are undertaking now, or the one you are still searching for.

clude that it is our shortcomings and idle behavior that causes our inadequate abilities. Thus one feels regretful that they did not do enough in the past to have their own success story, to have

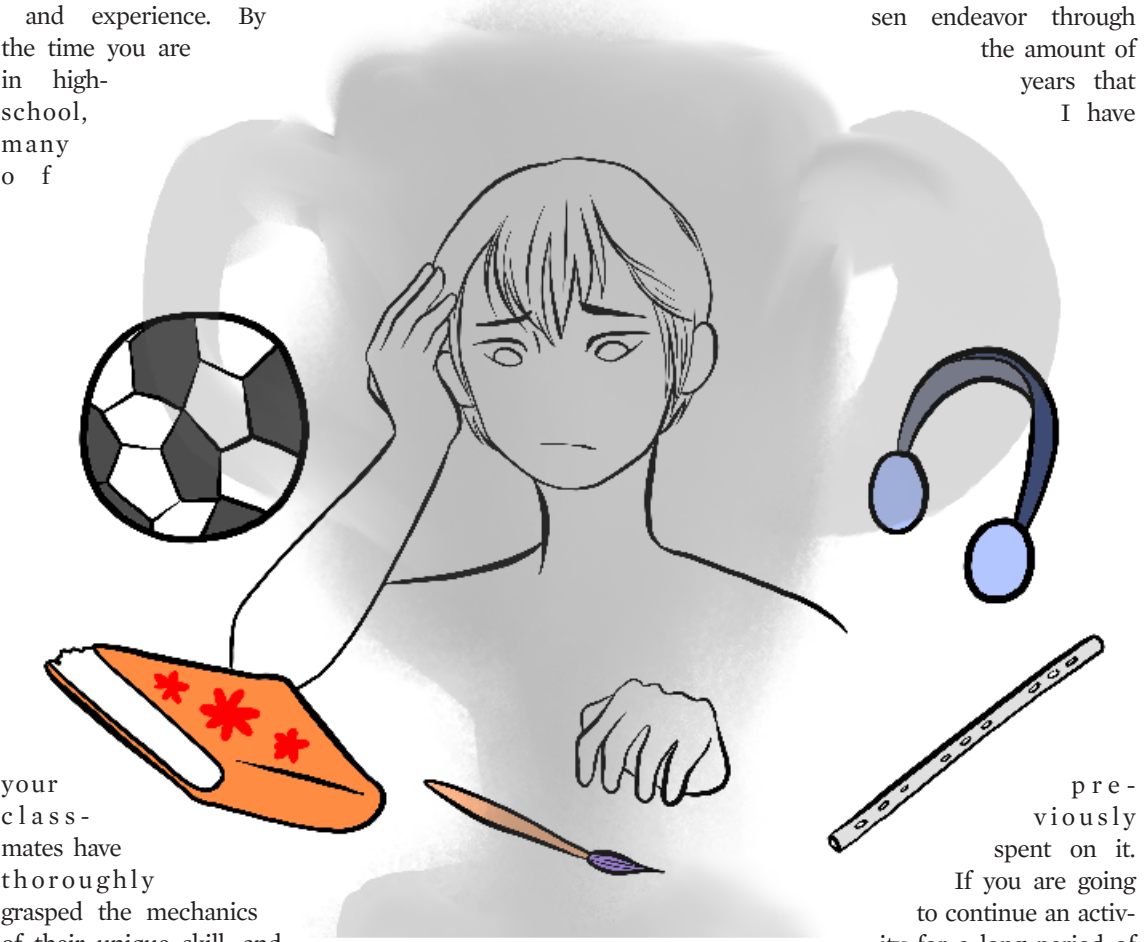
our own praiseworthy talent.

Furthermore, the pressure to choose a skill and hone it till you are the best at it disincentivizes beginning unfamiliar ventures. Being a virtuoso or a genius takes time; perfecting a craft takes years of constant practice

and experience. By the time you are in high-school, many of

rent moment. One doubts the worth of enjoyment if it doesn’t come along with something you can put on a college application, something that makes you stand out.

your classmates have thoroughly grasped the mechanics of their unique skill, and simply aim to further it by coming to Andover. Compared to the people who started refining their interest at four or five years old, starting a new pursuit at fourteen or fifteen years old can seem rather pointless. You think to yourself: “Is it worth starting a new skill, when I am not going to be nearly as good as the people who have been doing it for their whole life?” You start to lose sight of what you want to do, what you enjoy doing, and pressure yourself to continue what you are best at in the cur-



AVIVA CAI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover is a school where the top students are admitted from all parts of the world. It is inevitable that one is going to be surrounded by students who are geniuses or virtuosos, or who excel at what they do. However, we must remember that it is acceptable to not have everything figured out before coming to Andover, to not have chosen your main sport yet, or your main extracurricular club. It is perfectly normal to not have your life figured out as a high school stu-

dent. In striving to be the best, I try to remember that perfection and continuation isn’t all that matters. I choose to pursue the clubs that I enjoy the most, valuing the time and energy spent in activities

that I relish, rather than measuring the worth of my chosen endeavor through the amount of years that I have

previously spent on it.

If you are going to continue an activity for a long period of time, you should enjoy it. In turn, it won’t feel like a burden to commit time to it and hone it. So don’t be afraid to start a new pursuit when you enter high school, because it might turn out to be a decision you won’t regret.

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Justice Café Invites Activist Leon Ford to Begin Year-Long Speaker Series

Continued from A1, Column 5

Their idea of educating the student body on justice in order to achieve D.C. reform led to the creation of Justice Café. The event is open to all students regardless of prior experience with justice and D.C. reform.

“I think giving students the terminology and the awareness of, or just the language to say, ‘This type of justice is applicable to my life in this way,’ or ‘In this facet of identity, I can apply this or that.’ To actually know their standing is really key, especially on Andover’s campus,” said Muromcew.

Realizing that there is a lack of opportunities on campus for discussions about justice, Fain and Muromcew wanted to provide students a space in which such conversations could happen.

“We really want to bring the topic of justice to a lot of different lenses on campus, because oftentimes—or at least we feel—there’s not a lot of outlets for these discussions to happen, especially in our current social climate with all the things that are happening around us. So, we want to give opportunities for students to discuss these in spaces that are productive and not what the administration will push aside,” said Fain.

Justice Café kicked off with an introductory meeting on November 7, where attendees were introduced to restorative justice and received updates on the D.C. reform movement. The second Justice Café on Sunday consisted of a more in-depth lesson on restorative justice, comparisons with other types of justice, and culminated in an activity of re-imagining the D.C. system.

Attendees were exposed to the idea of restorative justice—an approach focusing on righting the wrong through communication between individuals affected by the crime and those responsible—and punitive justice, a response to a crime that emphasizes the punishment of lawbreakers and the compensation of victims. These discussions sparked calls for a reconsideration of the current D.C. system at Andover. The motivation for students avoiding bad behavior being their fear for D.C. consequences, rather than concern for the actions harming the community, doesn’t help rebuild the community, according to Kris Aziabor ’22.

“That’s very distorted because it doesn’t actually put an emphasis on the community; it just puts an emphasis on the intimidating systems that are already put in the institution. And if it is, I think we could see a shift in how students act because people would be acting more in a sense of a unified manner where they would actually want to do good for the community rather than just do good for themselves,” said Aziabor.

Many attendees did not have extensive knowledge about the D.C. system prior to participating in Justice Café. Nigel Savage ’23, who attended Sunday’s Justice Café, explained that most students who have not been through the D.C. process are unaware of the details. Savage believes that understanding ways the system could be improved is crucial to consolidating our community as a whole.

“My biggest takeaway from the Justice Café was really just learning more about restorative justice and trying to figure out ways that we can make the Andover campus

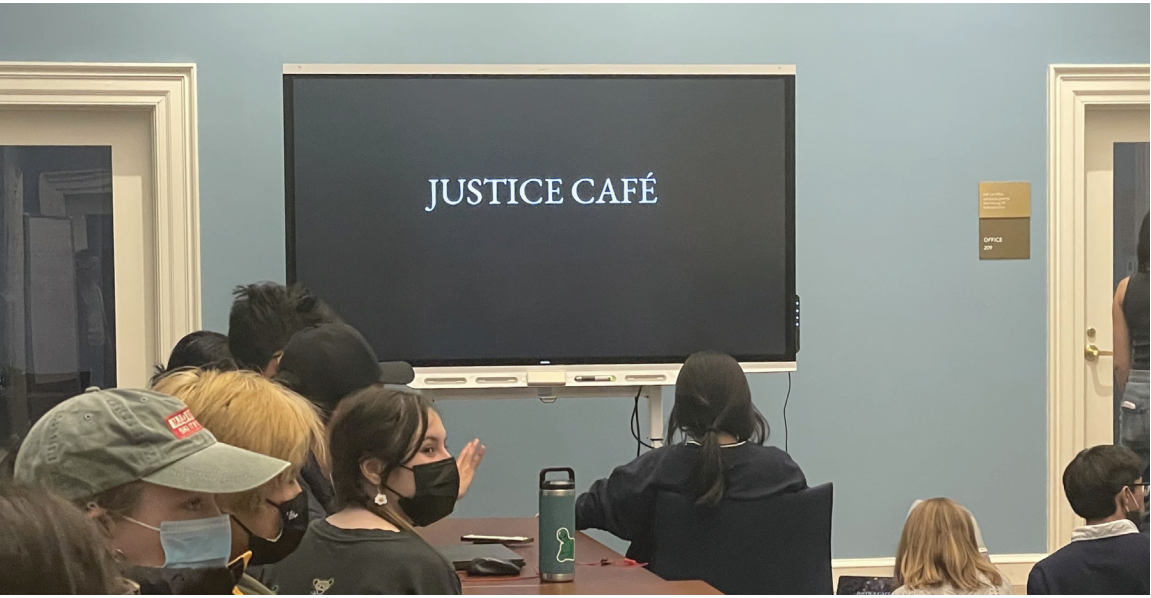
and D.C. system more supportive and not repetitive, because if we take on this conception that Andover is a community, then our first goal should be to strengthen that community,” said Savage.

Eleanor Dehoog ’24 recognized that the road to D.C. reform will be a long and difficult process. As members of Student Council, Muromcew, Dehoog, and Savage will all be working towards expanding the call upon justice on campus.

“Restorative justice is not something that can be implemented in Andover’s disciplinary system very quickly, it’s going to take years and years of working towards a goal. And there’s not really an end goal. You’ll always have to be working towards something. So, this process is really slow, but it’s important to get started,” said Dehoog.

Many attendees viewed students’ active participation in the past two Justice Cafés as encouraging and showed optimism towards the future of the DC system. While acknowledging that generating change would be difficult, Aziabor expressed his appreciation for Justice Café’s role in starting conversations.

“It was just really encouraging to see a relatively large number of students concerned but also optimistic about the future of the D.C. system. A big takeaway I had was just that it is going to be difficult. Obviously, the institution doesn’t seem keen on making large-scale changes. And so, it’s really pretty unified effort from at least the student body to mount some change, but I do think there is something there and there’s definitely the ideas,” said Aziabor.



Above, Sunday’s meeting of Justice Cafe, where students dug deeper into restorative justice, how that differs from other types of justice, and how it might be implemented into Andover’s D.C. system.

E. FAN/THE PHILLIPIAN

From Lieutenant Commander to Founder of Divine Mercy Academy: Ali Ghaffari ’98 Shares on Educational and Military Experiences

VERA ZHANG

Andover welcomed Ali Ghaffari ’98, a U.S. military veteran who served as a lieutenant commander in the Navy, for Andover’s annual Veterans Day Program and Dinner on November 11. After graduating from Colby College, Ghaffari became a FT-18 Navy Pilot Fighter and founded his own school, Divine Mercy Academy.

Ghaffari decided to join the U.S. Navy immediately following his college graduation and attended Officer Candidate School afterwards. Ghaffari originally planned to go to med-school after college, but decided to embark on a career in the military after realizing that he lacked the financial means to go to med-school.

According to Ghaffari, his time in the military enabled him

to grow as a leader. Despite being awarded medals and honors later in his career, Ghaffari attributed the hardships he faced and mistakes as learning opportunities about leadership. Reflecting on his task to organize relationships within a dysfunctional squadron, Ghaffari elaborated on the difficult processes of learning and doing his job correctly.

“The biggest challenge where I really learned how not to do leadership was my last tour flying FA-18s. I pretty much did everything wrong that you could do wrong in there. And so that turned into a situation where I hated going to work everyday. I honestly had no friends in the officer ranks. And it was a really hard place to be, to try to keep going in and try to be friendly and kind to everybody and hope to build relationships and get some traction,” said Ghaffari.

Through the help of his

friends and peers, as well as his teaching experience, Ghaffari was able to develop into a leader and move past his past shortcomings. According to Ghaffari, his experiences in the military helped the interpersonal aspects of leadership positions.

Ghaffari added, “I really learned about leadership in the military. Before, I was more focused on getting things done, like the task element of leadership, but not the people element. At the naval academy, I taught leadership, which at first I felt like an imposter because I just failed. I was a terrible leader, and here I was teaching leadership. But through the process of teaching, you learn, and so I was able to learn about how to be a good leader through teaching it.”

In 2018, Ghaffari initially opened Divine Mercy Academy, a classical liberal arts K-8 school, for his children. He explained

how the schools within driving distance did not provide the type of education he wanted for his daughters, leading him to establish one himself. Ghaffari added how his education and experiences at Andover inspired the values of the school.

“Coming [to Andover], my eyes were just wide open. It was so different. I came from a poor family in Vermont, and here I [was with] a Turkish prince in my dorm and an Indian prince and a brother of an NHL Hockey player. I had all these people in my dorm and in my classes, really smart people from all over the world. I saw, for the first time, the true beauty of diversity,” said Ghaffari.

He continued, “In Vermont, we’re all essentially white farmers up there. And coming down here and seeing that breadth was breathtaking. Simply, having a kid sitting next to you in class be from

Hong Kong or from Nairobi, Kenya or Turkey or India, was crazy.”

According to Ghaffari, his transition to Andover engrained the importance of diversity. In contrast with his socioeconomic background of living in a predominantly white community, Andover provided him the unique experience that ultimately motivated him to make these opportunities and environments accessible for more students.

“At the end of the day, nothing was greater than the high academic standard and for me, the education was transformational from a poor but smart kid in Vermont with a limiting ceiling, the education here launched me. It was like a launch pad from that family situation into a place where I could do anything I want. The importance of education and the transformational power of education, I would say, was a big inspiration,” said Ghaffari.

Editor’s Note: Sophie Glaser is a Commentary Editor for The Phillipian.

International Students Propose Changes to Winter and Fall Break to Optimize Travel

Continued from A1, Column 2

boarding school, she was in Morocco at that time, and she had to take a flight at the exact same day to come back to the U.S. or she would have been stuck in Morocco,” said Tazi.

Tazi was not alone. Other students, such as Siiso Daaud ’23, have been and will continue to be unable to return home for vacation. From Waqooyi Galbeed, Somalia, Daaud had not gone home since March 2021, when he first came to Andover. This meant finding a host family for the summer, a process which Daaud described as difficult, as he had to stay in three different locations.

“My visa is one-entry, meaning every time I leave the U.S., I have to renew it. I could not go back over the summer, because the embassy was closed due to Covid-19. I am not going back home for

[Winter Vacation] either... On top of the disappointment of knowing I will not be able to go back home for another year, finding a host family to spend three months with amid a pandemic was very hard. I stayed at three different places, so I had to travel a lot,” wrote Daaud in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Despite the difficulties faced by many international students, certain individuals are still able to return to their home countries for the upcoming Winter Vacation. Kira Stepanova ’25, from Moscow, Russia, plans to go home for Winter Vacation. In her return to Russia, Stepanova will have to follow a strict Covid-19 testing and quarantine process.

“In order to enter Russia as a Russian citizen (which I am) you have to fill out a form published on the Russian government website before your flight. Once you do that, you are given a Q.R. code that you’ll need to present to one

of the airport workers in Russia. In the next four days after your arrival in Russian Federation, you’ll have to take a [P.C.R.] test and upload the results to the same government website, quarantining while you’re waiting for the results (could be from a couple of hours to two days),” wrote Stepanova in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Neil Shen ’22 from Vancouver, Canada stayed in Massachusetts for Thanksgiving break due to Covid-19. With the pandemic in play, Shen proposed that Andover modify the schedule for the convenience of international students.

“I think it might have been a good idea for the administration to have maybe canceled Thanksgiving [Vacation] and to move the two weeks of class in between either earlier or later, just so that there’s one long break in between, and then more classes, so basically the international students

won’t have to fly back and forth. I think that would be more convenient,” said Shen.

Tazi had similar thoughts and proposed some alternative ways for the school to hold the two weeks of classes. One of Tazi’s proposals was to allow international students to be remote for

the two weeks between vacations.

“An extended break [period] would have been better for many international students to come back home. Maybe [having] the opportunity to have remote classes for this week or something like that would have been very useful,” said Tazi.



L.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY LEO PETERS

Health: Latest on the Spread of Omicron
Omicron, a variant of the virus that causes Covid-19, has spread in the U.S. alongside at least 49 other countries around the world according to The New York Times. On Monday, Texas became the 19th state to detect the variant since the first reported case in the U.S. was identified in California on December 1. This case involved a traveler who returned to San Francisco from South Africa in late November, before South Africa first reported the new variant to the World Health Organization (WHO). Since then, a new wave of Covid-19 infections has surged in the African country, which is experiencing the highest rate of infections since the pandemic started. Scientists say it is likely that Omicron is already spreading undetected in many communities, and expect the number of identified cases to continue to rise. Because the variant contains a significant number of mutations, largely on the spike protein of the virus which most Covid-19 vaccines target, the WHO warned on November 29 that Omicron poses a “very high” risk to public health. Early evidence suggests that the variant may spread quickly but cause less severe symptoms, at least among vaccinated individuals. A high degree of uncertainty, however, remains about Omicron’s transmissibility, resistance to vaccines, and vulnerability to the body’s immune system.

Health/Politics: Overruling of Roe v. Wade Case that Upheld Abortion Law?
Last week, the Supreme Court seemed ready to uphold an abortion law that contradicts the precedent set in Roe v. Wade, according to The New York Times. The law, which was passed in Mississippi in 2018, prohibits almost all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the only abortion clinic in the state, immediately filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law, which resulted in a federal court blocking the law from going into effect. In oral arguments heard last Wednesday, however, a majority of the Supreme Court’s conservative justices signalled they were willing to at least significantly cut down on the protections established in Roe v. Wade, a landmark 1973 decision of the Court, which recognized a constitutional right to an abortion and prohibited states from banning the procedure before a fetus reaches viability. The Court is not expected to rule on the case until June, and it remains unclear whether the Court will only roll back or outright overturn Roe v. Wade. Were Roe to be overruled, though, nearly a dozen states with Republican-controlled legislatures have “trigger laws” which would make abortions illegal almost immediately, while other states would likely rush laws outlawing abortion through the legislature. In total, almost 24 states, mostly

in the South and Midwest, would be expected to take away legal access to an abortion, while only 15 states and the District of Columbia currently have laws that protect access to an abortion without Roe.

Politics: Olaf Scholz, Germany’s Next Chancellor
On December 8, Olaf Scholz, former Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Finance in Chancellor Angela Merkel’s cabinet was sworn in as the new Chancellor of Germany, leading the first three-party coalition in postwar history to govern the country. His chancellorship comes months after Scholz led his Social Democratic Party to unexpectedly win a plurality of the vote in the last election. The Social Democratic Party’s narrow win in late September was the first time the party has won an election since Merkel, whom Scholz will replace, came to power. Now, following months of negotiations, the progressive Greens and pro-business Free Democratic Party have agreed to a three-way coalition deal. The coalition’s plans include raising the minimum wage, building hundreds of thousands of homes, and accelerating the country’s transition to a carbon-neutral economy. In another sign of the transition to German politics Scholz’s ascendance spells, he will be leading Germany’s first gender-equal cabinet in history.

“Mira Que Larga Tienes La Cola:” Cáceres Manzano Intersects Literary Analysis with Latinx Heritage

Continued from A1, Column 5

stand what [magical realism] is” and when I went I really understood because of Emiliano,” said McGinley.

When Juliana Reyes ’24 saw Cáceres Manzano’s name on the CaMD presentation flyer, she knew she had to attend his talk. Although she went because of a familiar face, Reyes gained a much deeper appreciation and understanding for her friend’s topic than she initially anticipated.

“I attended because I knew Emiliano was doing it and I really look up to Emiliano so I wanted to be there to support him and also I think talking about magical realism and colonial trauma is important.”

Reyes continued, “It [fulfilled my expectations] because it was so amazing, but it didn’t because it actually surpassed them because I didn’t know what to expect and all of his talking and slides made me understand what he was talking about,” said Reyes.

Melanie García ’22, attendee and CaMD scholar for the 2021-2022 school year, reflected on how Cáceres Manzano’s work will help her to prepare her own presentation. García plans on presenting this coming February.

“First, I am aware I have big shoes to fill because he did an excellent job. Second, just seeing him speak and seeing how he interwove his thoughts made me think of ways for me to do the same,” said García.

Inspired by his own heritage, Cáceres Manzano focused on Latin American literature, offering new and unfamiliar information to many of the audience members. Specifically, the CaMD scholar explored the power of perspective when researching and engaging with one’s history.

“I think that it’s important to expose people to world litera-



J.PARK/THE PHILLIPIAN
According to friend Melanie García ’22, Cáceres Manzano’s project drew connections between his own life and the lives of others within the Latinx to magical realism.

ture. Well, I felt responsible for Latin America because that’s where I’m from. But more than that I think it’s really important that people understand the concept of engaging with history and the many different ways that you can do that... In my presentation, I chose to [research] history through a very particular lens which is something to grapple with in terms of influences, in terms of trauma and how to put it into writing, but I think the overall concept of what do you do with your history whether if it’s positive or negative how do you tell it, how do you bring it to light responsibly, with love [and] with care,” said Cáceres Manzano.

Although he introduced the concept of magical realism and its cultural significance to much of the audience, Cáceres Manzano also intended to provide a space of recognition and

comfort for those more familiar with Latin American culture.

“I had two kinds of like target audiences: my first is I really wanted to make sure that the Latin-American students in the audience felt seen, felt represented, felt like it added something to their sense of identity to how they viewed themselves and their culture and I think that it’s great if it expanded beyond Latin-American students but I wanted specifically to make sure that those students kind of felt like they had a place... I also really wanted to reach out to all the artists in the audience and... encourage them to pursue their art through the reminder that they have an impact, that art is a really, really powerful force in shaping culture,” said Cáceres Manzano.

RAND Corporation Begins Faculty Surveying Process in December

Continued from A1, Column 2

staff here at Andover—not by RAND,” Domina wrote in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Kington has been a member of the RAND Corporation board since February 16, 2021. He stated that his values lie in agreement with the RAND Corporation, and reiterated their mission. He specifically highlighted their nonpartisan affiliation and strive to build stronger public policy.

“I was asked to join the board, because they respected that I had an unusual career. I had been a scientist there, but they generally didn’t hire their former scientists... It’s an institution whose mission I deeply believe in. It’s about using nonpartisan, evidence-based knowledge to make public policy. A half of what it does is in international relations and a lot of it is military, but you know, I’m all for if intelligence can help us go to war less often,” said Kington.

Domenech-Burgos is one of the faculty members asked by Kington to coordinate with the RAND Corporation. As of now, she is working to assist Andover alum and current RAND member Heather Schwartz ’95 in her data analysis efforts for the project. Domenech-Burgos expressed that Andover’s goal at improving the systems in place within the school made RAND a good fit to help.

“Their charge is to really look at the Andover experience, and if we’re giving the best Andover experience to every student. Part of that is just to look at our academics, our curriculum, our faculty, and our departments. That’s why we went to RAND because they’re known for their work in education,” said Domenech-Burgos.

RAND is not just working with Andover on the project. The corporation also plans to interview another eight independent schools in the area to create a collective work. The research report RAND creates from these efforts will be publicly available, a facet of the project which Domenech-Burgos is especially excited about.

“The other piece is they’re not just interviewing us. They’re going to interview our neighbors, the [schools in the] Eight Schools [Association]. They’re going to interview all of them to find out how they do their faculty evaluations, and then the best part is that we’re hoping to take all this data and write a report and then share it with our neighboring schools and anybody in the independent world who would like the information. We would want to share it for free, so it’s part of our agreement with RAND that we would be able to share that information more broadly so that everybody can be a part of it, so it’s exciting for me,” said Domenech-Burgos.

The RAND Corporation will be coming to Andover next week to begin the faculty surveying process. They will then return to Andover in March once data has been compiled for a meeting regarding their preliminary findings. According to Domenech-Burgos, the plan is to provide their evaluation to the Andover staff by the beginning of May.

Domenech-Burgos said, “They’re coming next week already, so when they come next week, they’re going to start the process of surveying the whole faculty, and hopefully all of that will help us get the best system to evaluate not really the faculty, but our faculty’s ability to help students.”

Different Methods of Online Sign-In Currently Being Tested After At Least 15 Years of Student Advocacy

Continued from A1, Column 5

students and house counselors and further improves House Counselors’ understanding of students’ status.

“Kids have messy handwriting, they don’t know the time, they write something down that’s wrong, and it’s messy... The other thing is that that information is never tracked. It’s on a sheet of paper; nobody’s putting that information into a computer later so you can look at it,” said Dignard.

Dignard continued, “We all know why kids want online sign-in, right? It’s easy. They don’t have to go back to their dorm. The benefit [of online sign-in] as a house counselor or is that it’s so much neater—you can check back, like where the student was a week ago. I also added that question about how’s your day because I think it’s good for kids to reflect on how their day’s been. And it’s good, as a House Counselor, to be on the same page as kids.”

Kennedy Herndon ’23, a resident of Adams Hall, has

found the online system to be much more efficient. Without the interruption of having to physically go back to her dorm to sign-in, the online system has provided her much more flexibility in her time management.

“When I have to sign in I’m scrambling to get out of the library like at 7:50 p.m. and have to run all the way to my dorm, and I know some dorms are far away, so it’s kinda a time crunch there. So having the ability to sign in online lets me avoid all the hurry and allows me to get more school-work done,” said Herndon.

Ethan Weinstein ’23 agreed with Herndon and expressed appreciation for the online sign-in system addressing the issue of inequitable campus access due to dorm location.

“I lived in Flagstaff my whole time here so distance was not really an issue for me, but I think it’s sort of an equity thing for people who live in Abbot who have to walk like 20 minutes back to the dorm to sign in. So I fully support online sign in. It gives people a lot more time to study and allow more flexibility at night when most people do their

work,” said Weinstein.

Nigel Savage ’23, one of the members of Student Council who submitted the proposal, recognized the helpful convenience of online sign-in through his experience of living in Thompson House this year.

“Last year, I was super lucky to live in Flagstaff and not have a long walk to sign in. However this year living in Thompson house I started to understand what it’s like to have to walk a long distance in order to sign in. Our student body is extremely busy so time is a valuable commodity; anything that we can do at student council to erase wastes of time for students is a win,” said Savage.

Tina Zeng ’24, another member of Student Council, shared a similar sentiment as Savage and believes that the previous sign-in system on paper needed improvement.

“Theoretically, I understand [the previous sign-in system] helps house counselors know where we are. In practice, I don’t think it does this. Usually I sign out at 5:00 p.m. In the time between 5:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., I’m in many

different places. If there were really an emergency, what I write down wouldn’t be a way to find me. Besides, people sign in for each other all the time,” said Zeng.

According to Savage, another version of online sign-in on the REACH app, the Student Life Management system for boarding students, is currently being tested. Members of Student Council are hoping that online sign-in, either on REACH or through Dignard’s daily forms, could be integrated into boarding students’ lives as a smooth and seamless process.

“I hope [the REACH system] can remove the sense of stress, if minor, that comes with online sign-in... I want Mr. Dignard’s system to do the same in removing stress for students until the REACH system can be implemented seamlessly. Mr. Dignard has done some very cool work and I hope the dorms that have adapted his system are happy with the change. I don’t know, it just makes sense to me. It’s the kind of online sign-in system that we really should have been using since years and years ago,” said Zeng.

Dignard is pleased that his online sign-in system could serve as a starting point for a change that students have wanted for many years and looks forward to creating more technological systems for the convenience of community members. Another recent project of his is an automated system that converts students’ and faculty’s class schedules in ICS form, which can then be added to electronic calendars.

“I graduated in 2007; it’s been 15 years that people have been talking about online sign-in. My hope is that this, at least, is a catalyst for some change, possibly... if it becomes a catalyst for the school to say, ‘Hey, this actually works, we can do this,’ it’s a win-win, and that’s great. And sometimes you need a catalyst to make stuff like that happen,” said Dignard.

Editor’s Note: Tina Zeng ’24 is a Commentary Associate Editor for The Phillipian.

Class of 2023 Grade-Wide Game of Assassin Continues From Fall Term

REPORTING BY ASHLEY AGYEMAN & VERA ZHANG

In the midst of a return to campus this Fall Term, student council representatives for each grade brought back a commonplace Andover tradition: games of class assassin. In the Class of 2023 assassin game, Uppers signed up for the challenge via a Google Form and received their assignments or targets for the game. The game of assassin started with one goal: to tag the assigned target while they have their phone in their hands, and then take a photograph with said person, elimi-

nating them. However, with the Class of 2023 nearing the end of their game, the rules have changed during periods called purges, times in which anyone can get anyone else out. During the most recent purge, lasting all day last Thursday, students were required to carry a book around with them at all times. If any ‘assassin’ was found without a book by any other participant, they would be eliminated.

Danielle Sarno ’23

I think for our grade, we needed a clarification of rules, because... I was my friend's assassin. I thought I got them out because they opened the tutorial of the game, but apparently... tutorials didn't count. I feel like they need to be clearer on what their rules are because for weeks, it wasn't fun for me because my friend knew I had them, so all they had to do was not have their phone around me. I also feel like they should delay posting who's out because if people know who had them as an assassin, and then they get out, they can see on Instagram who their new assassin is, which I think kind of ruined it a little bit. [For next time], they could change it up a little too, like not always do phones or do something else for the assassin, so that it doesn't impact peoples' grades or performance.

Pierre ’23

I got out in the first two weeks, so I've been existing in peace for most of the game. It's been fun seeing who has to assassinate who because some of the pairings are interesting... I think it helps people meet others in their grade [who] they may not already hang out with... While I was playing, I was so anxious 24/7, so I made bad decisions and my target figured me out. [For next year], maybe we could use a different object because being off my phone was annoying since I couldn't text any of my friends.

Trevor Moss ’23

I think it has been fun. I think it's been kind of a way to have something that is interesting, some excitement, a little bit of competitiveness. It makes things fun, it's a good time. I have to say that the most recent purge where we had to hold a book [in] one of our hands for the whole day, it was a little frustrating. People found ways to kind of tuck it under their arms, which worked and kind of helped of course. Overall, if that went on for longer than just a day, I think it would have been iffy.

Elena Dainora Cohen ’23

I liked the challenge of it. For me, it wasn't much of a challenge. Most of the things I would do on my phone, I could do on my computer, especially with the advanced technology we have. I have texts on my computer, so for me, it wasn't that big a deal. But, I thought it was interesting seeing which people couldn't stay off their phones... At a certain point, lots of people knew who had them, so they could just avoid them. I think it's good we had a purge the other day, so that was helpful, but there was a certain point at the end of last term where it was pretty stagnant.

Around Campus: Snow Edition



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10 Questions with Kevin Siegfried

REPORTING BY AVA CHEN & NABILAH NAZAR

Kevin Siegfried is a music composer who currently teaches at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music. His previous teaching experience includes Harvard University, the New England Conservatory, and the University of Iowa. His music has been performed by renowned ensembles, such as The Cardinall’s Musick and the New York Choral Society. Since 2014, Siegfried has been a composer for the award-winning Capitol Hill Chorale in Washington, D.C. On campus, he lives in Morton House with his wife, Abbey Siegfried, Chair in Music, and their two children. In his free time, Siegfried enjoys going outdoors, cooking, and learning about plants.



EXYANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

1. What inspired you to start composing?

I was always just a kid who was playing around with sounds... at the piano [and] the keyboard. I was a teenager in rock bands, and then later, I fell in love with classical music. But in all the different things I did, there was definitely a common thread from when I was ten years old or so—I was always tinkering with music and sounds, so it was a natural outgrowth of just something that I loved to do, which is to play with sounds.

2.. Do you have a favorite piece you’ve composed?

I do not think I have a favorite piece that I’ve composed. It is usually the one that I am working on right now, and that’s just necessary; it’s part of the journey. Currently, I am in the midst of a two-year period where I have not written a lot of music because the pandemic shut down a lot of long-range projects that I had on the table, as it has for so many people. And so in the absence of a lot of deadlines right now, I have not been writing as much in the last couple of years, but it’s been a good time to take stock of the direction of my career and of life in general, so it’s actually been a good time to reflect on future projects and plan ahead!

3. How has the Covid-19 pandemic impacted your composing, if at all? Were virtual concerts a thing?

I have done some writing, just not big pieces and not on a large scale. I have been the composer in residence for the Capitol Hill Chorale in Washington, D.C. since 2014, and so I worked with them and put together a number of virtual projects last year. Just this weekend, [they] performed their first concert in two years for a live audience. And [the other group is] a small choir called Radiance, based in Seattle, Washington—I’ve collaborated with them and two other programs as well. Radiance in Seattle came up with this wonderful idea last year. They did three programs, and they were all recorded in nature, so they sang outside and they had a program that was filmed at the sea, one in the mountains, and one in the fields. And so I worked with them on their hills concert, and they did a lot of work of the mind, and it was a great project and the first time I have ever seen a choir perform in snowshoes because they had to trek into this location in the Pacific Northwest.

4. What is your favorite piece of music to listen to?

I think one of the pieces I admire most is a piece called “The Lamb” by John Tavener. It is the setting of the William Blake poem, “The Lamb,” and it is a short, three-minute piece. But I think it is one of the best examples of a musical miniature that is really just perfect in its construction, and one of those things that just seems like it has a sense about it that it has always existed. Like the composer sort of just pulled it down and put it onto the page, and I love that about it, and I also love its simplicity and its restraint. It is a choral piece.

5. Outside of composing, what are some things you enjoy doing in your leisure time?

I love spending time outdoors. In the past couple of years, I have really taken the opportunity of more time at home, since I did not have to commute to Boston this past year. I have been doing a lot of gardening, working with native plants, pulling out invasive plants here at Morton House, where we live, and I always had this dream to be able to walk through my environment and actually know the names of the trees that I was passing and that sort of thing. And so I finally said, “Well why don’t I start with that?” So I have just been learning a lot about plants and the environment, here in New England in particular. I also love to cook! Especially this time of year, I love to make one-pot meals, like stew.

6. Do you like traveling? What are some favorite places you have been to? And do you draw inspiration from your travels?

Yes, I love to travel, both with my family and when I have the occasion to work with groups that are performing my music or premiering it. Particularly to the West Coast, to the Pacific Northwest, and to California. I would definitely say, in terms of frequent travel, the place we travel to more than any other is Vermont. During the summer, we almost always go there and stay as long as we can, so yes probably the state of Vermont [is my favorite place to travel.] Absolutely, [I draw inspiration from my travels]! There’s inspiration everywhere.

7. What’s your favorite spot on campus?

The [Cochran Bird] Sanctuary is a favorite spot, the old Bird Blind, which is not kept up any longer. I do not know if you have ever been over there. It is across the street and down the road from Gelb [Science Center,] so it is accessed by Highland Ave. Someone did an Abbot Grant to put up this Bird Blind, and so there were bird feeders, and you could sit by and watch the birds from behind this large fence. But last time I was there this past year, it had not been kept up for a while, and it was going wild again. So yeah, the Sanctuary, the [Addison Gallery of American Art,] and the [Cochran] Chapel are probably my favorite spots on campus!

8. What’s your favorite Andover tradition?

I think the events around graduation are always really powerful! I love the procession with the bagpipers; I always try to make sure I am there for that. I feel like that’s really special, and I love how that tradition echoes the beginning of the year when the ninth graders are welcomed into the Chapel for the first time, and they are led in the same way by a bagpiper. I was able to experience that this year since now my son, Skyler [Siegfried ’25,] is a [Junior.] And the way that comes around full circle at graduation is really a beautiful tie-in.

9. Do you work with your wife, Dr. Abbey Siegfried?

She’s definitely one of my musical confidantes and advisors for sure, yes! I frequently will—before submitting a new piece to a group or something like that, I will always take some time to run it by her. And she is definitely a very solid part of my process. I really really trust her feedback and have come to rely on it.

10. Looking towards the future, are there any pieces you are working on right now, or performances of your music you are looking forward to?

Right now, [I am] looking forward to a lot of recordings, which is kind of the number one priority for me as I have a lot of pieces that are currently held up in the publishing stage because I need some professional recordings to accompany those publications. So right now for me, that is my number one priority. And the thing I am looking forward to—as it’s starting to become easier now—is to assemble groups for singing together!

Campus Safety, Community Engagement Office Support Local Communities Through Food Donations

ANDREW CHINN & DANIEL SEONG

The Department of Campus Safety donated two spiral hams and a trunkful of canned food items to Lazarus House, a ministry based in Lawrence, Mass. that supports people struggling with poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity. For Yoel Sosa, Campus Safety Dispatcher, working together as a department to collect and donate food items was a rewarding process, especially after a pause in in-person volunteering due to the Covid-19 pandemic. “My family has been volunteering with Lazarus House since 2011; once a month, we would go to the shelter in Lawrence to cook and serve a meal, even wash the dishes. But since Covid-19, we’ve been cooking meals at home and drop[ping] it off before dinner

time, once a month. So having Campus Safety Dept. get together to collect canned foods and a couple of spiral hams and drop it off at the pantry was very rewarding,” wrote Sosa in an email to *The Phillipian*. Sosa looks forward to organizing larger food drives in the future, this time involving other departments on campus that expressed interest in joining the cause, one of which being the Community Engagement Office. According to Monique Cueto-Potts, Director of Community Engagement, the Community Engagement Office has been in partnership with Lazarus House for several decades, having consistently sent student volunteers and meals. “We send student volunteers [to Lazarus House] and a meal once a month, though since March 2020 we have just been providing meals once a month

and not sending volunteers due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Stearns House residents also volunteer at the annual Hike for Hope, which benefits Lazarus House,” wrote Cueto-Potts. Cueto-Potts stated that the Community Engagement Office has also been involved in similar charitable causes. In particular, the office is working with the decades-long Break and Roses program to make meal donations once a month in lieu of in-person volunteers. The Community Engagement Office plans to resume sending volunteers to partners as soon as safety regulations permit. Other initiatives of the Community Engagement Office to tackle food insecurity include an annual Thanksgiving meal drive that benefits Neighbors in Need, a food pantry based in Lawrence, Mass. Several groups on campus contribute 80-90 meals, which Neighbors in Need then distrib-

utes to families throughout the Merrimack Valley. While this program has also been paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cueto-Potts stated that the meal drive will resume as soon as Neighbors in Need is ready to do so. The Community Engagement Office has also organized a five-week online program called Hunger in America, which discussed the root causes of food insecurity and communities’ responses to it in the US. The program was offered to Andover students as well as students from several other independent schools and encouraged students to start addressing food insecurity in various ways in their communities. Amber Ting ’23 expressed appreciation for the Community Engagement Office’s efforts to consistently support local communities as the Covid-19 pandemic continues. “I think it’s great the Commu-

nity Engagement Office is now working with Lazarus House. I know a lot of off-campus programs were put on pause during Fall Term, so it’s nice to know that more student volunteer opportunities exist. I can’t imagine food donations aren’t important given that we’re still experiencing the pandemic,” said Ting. Maggie Qi ’24 shared a similar sentiment as Ting and believes that there could be more ways for students and faculty to engage and work with surrounding communities. “At places like boarding schools at the end of the term, a lot of [students] throw away their furniture at the end of the year. A lot of it ends up in dumpsters, while a lot of it could be donated, so the school could open up some space—like a separate bin or something—where you can donate it,” said Qi.

I WONDER IF JESUS GOT INTO HIS ED SCHOOL.

Dear Santa.

There is only one wish I have for Christmas: love. I've been a good girl all year! I brushed my teeth, said my prayers (in the form of listening to Donda), and wore my mask over my nose! There is no way I'm on the naughty list again this year... I finally deleted the Episode app off my phone! I've had the biggest crush on this girl Cinnamon. She's perfect for me. We have so much in common. For one, we go to the same school, and um... well, we are both the same age... I haven't had a real conversation with her, but she always politely tells me to stop staring at her. Also I love her contagious smile, or the smile I imagine behind her mask...I haven't seen her full face either. Santa, I need you to please do me a huge favor and for Christmas give me a chance with Cinnamon.

Let's be real here, everyone knows your reputation. I know what you have done for other girls like me. I know why the captain of Andover Swimming ended up with the girl of his dreams seemingly out of the blue after Christmas. Don't tell me you had nothing to do with my anti-social house counselor getting engaged randomly on Christmas night. All I am saying is if you could get those guys some action, you can easily set me up. I mean I am a total catch. Who wouldn't want to date a JV Lax starter and second chair trombonist of the band? You don't even understand how much this would mean to me, Mr. Claus. You should understand the desire for love, I mean why else do you hole up in the north pole all year with Mrs. Claus and leave her there to make yearly trips to have people sit on your lap? Thanks for doing this for me, and if it isn't possible, please just get me the newest iPad.

Sincerely,
A Girl Down Bad.

P.S. The cookies I left for you have a special ingredient. :)

THE WEEK'S TOP HEADLINES

- 
- *Breaking: Timberlands Replace Golden Geese As Biggest Wearable Red Flag*
 - *“He Sees You When You’re Sleeping and Knows When You’re Awake” New Motto For Andover’s Disciplinary System*
 - *Sykes’ Counseling Prioritizes Honesty, Winter Memo Says “It Only Gets Worse”*
 - *White Students Underrepresented in CAMD Scholars: Students Suggest AWARE Scholar Program In Response*
 - *NFT of Graves Opens At \$69*
 - *Assuming “Holly Jolly” is a New Drug, Deans Ban Christmas Music*
 - *Commons Unhappy with Amount Of Students Asking Santa for No More Clam Chowder*
 - *8p Psychic Reports, Sketchy Show Hailed a Great Success*

Eighth Page's Gift Guide

Feeling stressed around the holidays? Are you out of ideas for gifts to get your loved ones? An iTunes gift card just screams lack of thought. No need to worry, the Eighth Page has got your back with these unique and beneficial gift ideas.

And when have we ever given bad advice?

- ✧ **An Andover needlepoint flask, for my dehydrated friend.**
- ✧ **Smoothie, for the Den cashier. They still have to make it, but it's the thought that counts.**
- ✧ **Counterfeit varsity letter, for senior on JV.**
- ✧ **A Hat that says "It's Doctor Ray K to You," for Dr. RayK.**
- ✧ **Latex gloves, for my Chem teacher to remove the massive stick up their---**
- ✧ **A room, for the PDA couples.**
- ✧ **Booster shots, for the kids going to Florida over break.**
- ✧ **A Big Donation, for our school (just venmo @eighthpage, we promise the acceptance letter will be in your mailbox soon.)**
- ✧ **Deerfield pamphlets, for annoying freshmen.**
- ✧ **The book, "How to be Popular in High School," for Teaching Fellows.**
- ✧ **An apology, for mom.**
- ✧ **A life for UM.**

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

- “The only reason I take chemistry is for my future in the cartel.”
- “So when’s Hanukkah this year? January or something?”
- “How do I tell my parents that my 3.9 isn’t on the four-point scale?”
- OVERHEARD
ON THE
PATHS**
- “Am I good at basketball? Who else can drop 12 points a game in Cluster?”
- “Like I said, if I’m making eye contact with her on the paths, she’s not your girl anymore.”
- “Darn, I grabbed the wrong Canada Goose in Commons.”
- “I can’t believe I have to go home again to the beach house in Jupiter. Why can’t I have a fun vacation like other kids?”

Generic Cluster Email!

Cluster Dean #4 Thu 12/9/2021 4:38 PM 👍 ↶ ↷ ➡ ...

I hope you all are having a great start to the winter term. As Robert Frost put it, “Winter sucks, especially at a rigorous New England boarding school.” With the New Year just around the corner, I think it is best to be positive. For your inspiration, I’ve attached a list of some of my New Year’s Resolutions. I hope you all will write your own resolutions, and stick to them!

- **Make new friends.** It's always great to have some insiders in the student body to keep me updated on trends, comments/concerns, and drug rings to bust!
- **Be more confident and assertive.** I have some great ideas about our Disciplinary Committee that I should definitely share. I would really like to consider the possibility of probation after dismissal, so we could track and punish expelled students by spamming them with donation requests. Wins across the board.
- **Spend more time in Commons.** I'd really like to spend more time around my subjects. I plan to walk the dining halls, listen to conversations, and relate to the children. Do people still do the dab?
- **Cut out distractions at work.** No more will I spend entire days staring into the mirror, practicing my menacing glare for Disciplinary Committee hearings and people who don't use the crosswalk buttons.
- **Discover a new passion besides berating 14 year olds.** Perhaps knitting!!!
- **Look up what "restorative justice" actually means...**

With Disgust and Confusion,
- Dean *****



The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLIV | Number 23

roddy's back

December 10, 2021

FIELDHOCKEY

Field Hockey Completes Undefeated Season with Win over Sacred Heart Greenwich in Nepsac Championship



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Andover Field Hockey, the number one team in New England, won its fourth Nepsac Championship in six years with its victory over Sacred Heart.

PATRICIA TRAN

Andover	4
Sacred Heart	1

Just two minutes into the Nepsac Championship between Andover Field Hockey and Sacred Heart Greenwich, Georgia Adams

'22 scored a goal off a drive from Shea Freda '24. Another goal, two penalty strokes, thirteen penalty corners, and five saves later, Andover stormed the field in celebration of the 4-1 victory, claiming the program's first title in four years.

The team's early goal quickly shifted the momentum of the game in its favor. According to Freda, the fast start not only served as a relief from the emotional buildup leading up to the game but also set the tone for the type of opponent Sacred

Heart would have to face for the rest of the game.

"The first goal was really memorable because right out of the gate we knew it was going to be a tough battle; both of our teams were really great. Getting that first goal early was really a tone-setter and gave us the momentum in the game. It gave us a lot of confidence throughout," said Freda.

Ellie Parker '25 noted how the goal boosted the energy of the team and also disturbed the play of its opponent.

"[Sacred Heart] was really flustered with one another, and it caused them to not communicate, which brought our energy up really well," said Parker.

According to Captain Ellie Harrison '22, the team's pre-game traditions, which include a collective team breath to calm the nerves, remained consistent in the championship game.

"One thing our team does is we'll take a group breath. We'll huddle up and remind ourselves that we're in this together, [and that] we can do this because we'll play better relaxed and less frantic. We just take a second to appreciate who we are and who we're with," said Harrison.

A pass under pressure from Aimee Seppenwolde '22 to wide-open Meghan Dunne '22 increased the team's lead to two goals in the first quarter. With seven seconds until

halftime, Gwyn Lapp '22 effortlessly pushed the ball past the goalie in a penalty stroke, ending the half with Andover up 3-0.

According to Freda, the team wouldn't have been able to maintain high intensity and momentum without the energy of both the players on the field and those who were supporting on the bench.

"I think the biggest thing about our team, why we were so strong, was because our energy on the sidelines and on the field was really palpable. During the game you could really see that because the other team was quiet and really didn't have that, which gave us the upper hand," said Freda.

In its efforts to overturn Andover's comfortable first-half lead, Sacred Heart earned a total of 13 penalty corners throughout the game which Andover had to meticulously defend. Parker, Andover's goalie, made five crucial saves, only letting one ball past her. This, according to Frea, gave the defense a strong foundation to build upon.

"On defense, especially our corner defense, we really had to trust each other, trust that we were going out to the ball and that our players would be right there beside us. Staying strong, [and] staying confident. We knew that they had very good hits, and they would be able to score easily. [By] trusting our goalie, Ellie Parker, staying strong, [and]

staying low, we were pretty much able to stop all their corners," said Freda.

Parker believes the strong communication of the flies, players rushing to the ball to disrupt play, also prevented Sacred Heart from capitalizing on its thirteen chances.

"They definitely had a lot of corners, but our defense, especially our flies, did a really good job of preventing them from getting many shots on net, like taking away their drives. Our communication on defense really powered us over them. It made them kind of silent, and they couldn't do anything," said Parker.

The penalty stroke in the fourth quarter by Harrison to the upper left corner allowed Andover to make its final statement of the 2021 season. The team's championship and undefeated record was not the effort of individuals, but rather the collective effort of the team, according to Molly Boyle '25.

"After, we were just so proud of each other, proud that we worked the whole season for this to finally come true," said Boyle.

Parker reiterated the sentiment of selflessness within the team environment.

"No one was proud of themselves; it was being proud of the people next to you because we trusted one another to do what we needed to do," added Parker.

SPORTSOPINION

Expected Goals: The Holy Grail of Soccer Statistics?



COURTESY OF DAIGO MORIWAKE

DAIGO MORIWAKE

Compared to the American sports of basketball, football, hockey, and baseball, the mainstream world of soccer has often rejected advanced statistics. In the last couple of years, however, a metric called Expected Goals (xG) has emerged to challenge soccer's traditional belief that the only statistic that matters is the number of goals. xG now dominates any discussion about soccer, from BBC's "Match of the Day" professional analyses to the pub or Twitter conversations between fans. Having emerged as the first advanced metric in mainstream soccer, fans often wrongly treat xG as the 'holy grail' of soccer statistics.

With soccer being such a low-scoring game, many believe the final score often does not reflect how well a team played; xG attempts to enumerate teams' performances by how many

goals they 'deserved.' The calculation of xG is simple: each shot in a game is given a probability of ending up in the goal, and these probabilities are added together to yield the team's xG at full time. Various models calculate these probabilities differently, but the factors used include the position from which the shot was taken, the part of the body with which the shot was taken, and the position of the goalkeeper when the shot was taken. Most models give special scenarios like set pieces a constant number: a penalty, for example, is commonly given an xG of 0.76.

xG is an excellent predictor of long-term success and a useful tool for analyzing long-term performance. When applied over long stretches of time, xG may indicate clinical finishing, unsustainable success, or a little bit of both. FiveThirtyEight, a data journalism organization, uses xG to calculate Soccer Power Index (SPI), which is essentially the team's recent strength rating that FiveThirtyEight uses for forecasting match results. The use of xG helps to minimise the involvement of 'luck' which comes into play with soccer's low-scoring nature. During a run of form in which Arsenal F.C. underperformed its xG, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta made the analogy that "football is not like basketball. In basketball, you shoot 50 times and the opponent does it once and you win every single game. It doesn't work in football like that. You can do it the opposite way around and

lose 1-0."

The problem comes when xG is used to analyze the performance of a team in a single match or a short run of matches. For example, after every match, fans use xG to discuss if the winning team 'deserved' the win. The Twitter account @xGPhilosophy posts the xGs of each team after every Premier League match, sparking debate about the potential involvement of 'luck' in the match's outcome.

Using xG to analyze long-term performances works because the factors that are not accounted for — perhaps the height of the ball or the position of the defenders when the ball is struck — can be averaged out and made insignificant with the Law of Large Numbers. With the small sample size in data from a single match, these factors stay significant and may cause significant errors in the calculation of xG. A single match of soccer only has around 20 shots combined between the two teams, which is far too small of a sample size for which to use xG.

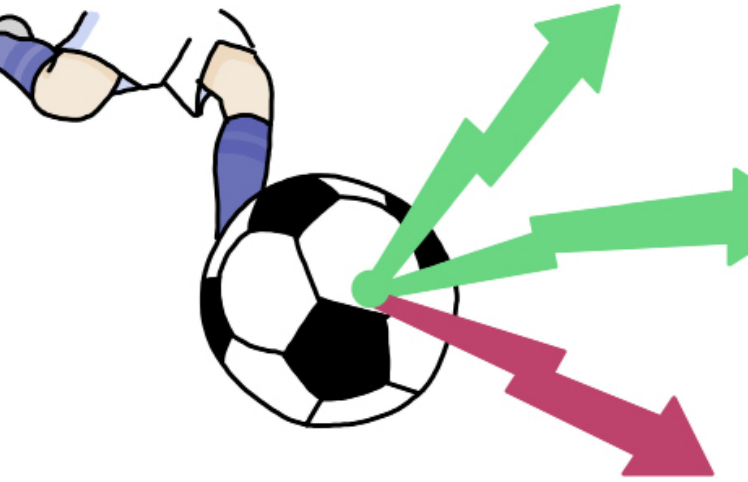
The problem of small sample sizes is worsened when xG is translated into other metrics such as Expected Assists (xA), Expected Goals Chain (xGC), and Expected Goals Buildup (xGBuildup) to evaluate an individual player's performance. One match is not sufficient to justify using these metrics to evaluate individuals, as xG data from a single player has an even smaller sample size than data from the whole match from ev-

ery player on the field.

Moreover, specific situations or tactical decisions in a match may influence the xG significantly. For example, a team may choose to sit back and defend after scoring one goal, increasing the opponent's xG and decreasing their xG. In this particular situation, the team's xGs do not indicate that the opponent played 'better'; rather, it reflects a deliberate tactical decision by the leading team. If we look at xG over a longer period, these tactical factors are likely to be averaged out and made relatively insignificant.

The metric of Expected Goals is mainstream soccer's first step

into advanced statistics. In a low-scoring sport like soccer, advanced statistics are especially important, and xG presents soccer with the perfect gateway to look at the sport through more than the number of goals and shots. Yet, its limitations mean that xG should only be viewed in the context of other statistics and watching the match itself. xG does not reveal tactical decisions and particular shot circumstances that can only be seen by the eye. xG does not and should not replace anything; it is just another tool that fans can use to make conclusions about long-term performance.



M. FANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

INDOORTRACK&FIELD

Indoor Track and Field Faces Collegiate and Professional Competition at BU Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener

ELLE MENDEZ & EVAN CURTIN

Indoor Track and Field took its talents to the Boston University Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener for its first meet since 2019. At this meet, select high school athletes get the chance to compete in the same field as collegiate and professional athletes. Despite the competitive field, the Andover athletes that traveled to Boston University this past Friday opened their season on a strong note, with each athlete securing a personal best.

According to Co-Captain Kiera Suh '22, the formidable competition was not the only obstacle that the team had to overcome. Low numbers at the meet created challenges in regards to the usually large and supportive atmosphere. Regardless, the team was able to generate the same positive energy.

Suh said, "It was definitely different because when you have everyone on your team there, it is a very fun balance of having people cheer for you and you to cheer for others. But it definitely did not negatively impact our performance to have less people there even though there were seven people there,

we were still able to cheer each other on in the game. It is also a much bigger venue than we are used to so we were able to help each other out and figure out where we needed to go."

In its first meet in two years, Andover's goal was to obtain times as a baseline to improve upon throughout the season, according to Suh.

"We were not trying to win or race, we were just trying to simply put a marker down on where we started," said Suh.

As the season begins, Charlie Benjamin '23 is excited to make a return to the sport as he hopes to transfer his offseason training into the season.

Benjamin said, "Last year,

I wasn't able to run track, because of [Covid-19]. This year, I trained all throughout the fall, and I'm getting ready for a strong winter season."

Anabelle Biggs '23 shared a similar sentiment to Benjamin, noting her excitement to return to the track with the full team.

"I've been training since September, so I've had a little more training than other people but it was great to just get on the track with other people," said Biggs.

As a Co-Captain, Suh aims to ensure inclusivity for all teammates by fostering a supportive and friendly team culture.

"This year we have a particularly large group, I believe we have 140 people all together [on

the team] so I think as a goal for me personally since I am one of the captains for the team, I need to make sure that the people on the team are being able to participate in the events that they want to participate in and that everyone on the team feels really comfortable and that the environment is very welcoming," said Suh.

Editor's Note: Kiera Suh is the Executive Digital Editor for The Phillippian.

SPECIALFEATURE

Ellie Harrison '22 Credits Her Nepsac Class A Field Hockey Player of the Year Honor to Teammates and Coaches



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

DAIGO MORIWAKE

Andover Field Hockey Captain Ellie Harrison '22 has recently been named Nepsac Class A Field Hockey Player of the Year. Harrison credits this honor to her teammates and coaches that have supported her throughout her field hockey career.

"It's a really nice honor and I'm just so proud of my teammates and obviously, I owe it all to them for getting me here and supporting me... Thank you to my teammates and coaches," Harrison said.

According to Shea Freda '24,

Harrison is extremely deserving of the award due to being a skilled player and an admirable leader.

Freda said, "I think she is so deserving of that award. She is just one of the most composed, skilled, and fearless players I've ever played with. Just watching her be such a great leader and one of the best players on our team is just so awesome. I'm glad that I got to play alongside her all season. I've been really lucky to be right there with her, I play right behind her on the field, so working on the field with her has been really awesome since she makes me a better player which I really appreciate."

For Harrison, the uniqueness of team culture and dynamic are what keep her coming back to the sport as the bond not only connects players on the field but off the field as well.

Harrison said, "Every team is different, every team has a different identity and strengths. I like every season and growing as a team and learning what this certain group of people can do best. The Andover team is really special because it's different at a boarding school than it would be at a club team or a regular day school because we spend so much more time with the team. We have stronger connections off the field which translates onto the field and you can just see that in the way that we play."

Teammates Neilly Ware '25

and Freda enjoy Harrison's presence as a teammate due to her efforts of inclusion and positivity and are both appreciative of the hard work and dedication she puts into the sport.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Ware wrote, "Ellie's work ethic, her commitment, her enthusiasm, and her positivity all make her such an awesome teammate... She is super inclusive which I think makes her a great captain. She is super positive, always greets you with a smile and an ecstatic hello, which always brightens up my day. I am so grateful to have Ellie as a teammate."

Freda added, "She really focuses on making sure everyone feels included and everyone is focused and has a common goal. She's always talking to everyone, making sure to get everyone's thoughts. She's very diplomatic and wants to make sure everyone's voices are heard on the team. In that way, she has really unified us because everyone feels like they have a voice through Ellie and she makes everyone really feel seen on the field."

Similarly, Ellie Parker '25 notes Harrison's contagious personality, unrelenting work ethic, and commendable character, all making her a fantastic teammate.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Parker wrote, "Ellie was such a defensive and offensive threat on the field this year, not only her character but her calm



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Andover Field Hockey Captain Ellie Harrison '22 will continue her field hockey career at Middlebury College, whose field hockey team recently won the NCAA Division III tournament.

and poise on the field were unmatched. Her work ethic on and off-ball was crucial to our success this season, not only a reliable player but a true team player, willing to work hard for those around her and give her all on the field."

GAMECOVERAGE

Boys Basketball Clutches a Win Against Holderness, Bouncing Back from Loss Against Kingswood Oxford

MONISHA KATHIKA

Andover	65
Kingswood Oxford	78
Andover	78
Holderness	54

With a tough first half of their game against Kingswood Oxford, Boys Basketball picked up its game in the second half through better possession of the ball. Despite a strong fight, Andover lost the game 65-78. However, their improvement in the second half carried all the way to the next game, in which they beat Holderness 78-54. Its record now stands at 1-1.

According to JahVante O'Conner PG'22 and Matthew Murphy '22, the team faced technical struggles on both offense and defense despite maintaining great intensity.

O'Conner said, "Offensively, at first, we weren't really moving the ball too well. Second half, we started to move the ball a little better and that's

just something that's going to get better. Defensively, rebounding. We're tripping on that. We're not rebounding very well. We were intense, though. There was a lot of energy. It's just a matter of controlling that energy."

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Murphy added, "I think we did a good job defensively in the second half, as we were able to communicate effectively and control the tempo of the game. However, we found many things we needed to work on. We had a hard time spacing on offense which led to taking low-percentage shots. We also did a lackluster job rebounding the ball. I think this may have been due to a lack of conditioning."

According to Colby Duggan '23, the team was able to execute on offense during the second game, even out-scoring its previous game while experiencing some defensive setbacks.

"I think we rebounded really well. We scored better than we did Sunday. We improved a lot from Sunday... [However,] defensively, I thought we played pretty bad [on Wednesday]. I mean, [Holderness] wasn't necessarily a great team, but we let them score a lot. We definitely could've

played better on the defensive end. But our offense was very productive tonight. We played on that side of the ball," said Duggan.

According to O'Conner, the team is great at motivating each other whether on the bench or on the court. However, the team is still struggling with getting to know each other's strengths and weaknesses.

O'Conner said, "We're really good at hyping each other up. I think our team has a lot of energy on the bench and there's energy on the court. Doesn't matter who the five is on the court, whoever is on the bench always cheers and goes crazy, so that helps for anyone that's playing. It's really motivating... It's chemistry, it's getting to know each other. Knowing each other's strengths and weaknesses, playing our strengths and playing each other's weaknesses."

According to Jordan Rayford PG'22, the team hopes to improve upon and sharpen its defensive play during upcoming practices to put itself in the best position for the next game.

"I think we'll do a lot of scrimmages and stuff to get in shape and practice playing games rather than just drills and stuff like that. I think we'll

do a lot of defensive stuff. I think that's where a lot of our issues came from," Rayford said.

Boys Basketball looks to keep the momentum up as it faces off against The Hill School away this Sunday.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

In its most recent season, Andover Boys Basketball defeated Phillips Exeter Academy in the Nepsac Class A Quarterfinals (pictured above).

WRESTLING

Andover Wrestling Falls to St. Paul's in Season Opener

NABILAH NAZAR

Andover	36
St. Paul's	48

In the first round of the match, George Ryckman '24 opened his first match on Andover Wrestling with an incredible pin in 46 seconds, earning the team six points. His performance brought up the momentum as the previous four games had been losses, but it wasn't enough to propel the team to a win, as they fell 36-48 against St. Paul's. The team's record

now stands at 0-1.

According to Co-Captain Colin Nugent '23, Ryckman's efficient victory was impressive, especially given the style in which he pinned his opponent.

"[Ryckman] did it really quick. In order to get a quick pin, you have to bring them from their feet to their back, which is pretty tough to do and he actually had a really nice headlock, which is basically grabbing their head and their arm and you hip toss them," said Colin Nugent.

According to Nugent, the team's downfall was its lack of fundamental abilities, due to it being a first-ever wrestling match for many.

Colin Nugent said, "As a team, a lot of our losses came from lack of experience and lack of skills. We have a lot of new wrestlers

and [for] a lot of them, it was their first match ever today. And it's just the basics, basic stuff that everyone can benefit from in practice, including myself. I have been wrestling for [11 or 12 years]. But there's a lot of stuff that I know I can benefit from. Just in practice, staying on the mat, staying consistent."

According to Adrian Morrison '23, the first match in two years provided both excitement, as well as nerves.

"I think I was a little nervous going into it. Especially because this is one of the first meets where I actually had to be careful about maintaining weight. But I also think that after Covid it's just like, it's kind of wild wrestling again. I haven't been in that sort of intense situation since [Junior] year. I

wasn't doubting my abilities or anything because I knew it was the same for the other guy. But it was like your mind kind of enters a different place when you are in a match," said Morrison.

According to Daniella Nugent '25, the performance from Miles Palmer '23 brought a sense of intensity to the meet. The pin from Palmer gave Andover a 36-30 lead.

"The most exciting part of the meet was when we came down from a 30-point deficit to tie it up, 30-30. Miles Palmer, [who] pinned his opponent late in the third period, leading to our comeback. The close score made the rest of the match both tense, and exciting," said Daniella Nugent.

According to Colin Nugent, despite the loss, the team must

look forward and build strength as the season goes on.

Colin Nugent said, "Overall, I was more excited than nervous. I just knew I had to go out there, and just put my best foot forward and just try to win, no matter who I was wrestling [against]. It didn't go my way, but it was still a lot of fun seeing my teammates wrestle. And it was exciting just being on the mat. And now, you know, I got the first match out of the way. So now... I just got to get some momentum and just go uphill from here."

Andover's next meet is away at Brooks.

Editor's Note: Adrian Morrison '23 is a Copy Associate for The Phillipian.

2021 Fall Season Individaul Awards

FIELD HOCKEY



Ellie Harrison '22

Nepsac player of the year

NFHCA All-Region



Georgia Adams '22

Nepsac all star



Shea Freda '24

Nepsac all star



Ellie Parker '25

Nepsac all star

GIRL'S CROSS COUNTRY



Tiffany Tang '22

All-New England



Charlotte Whitehurst '22

All-New England



Caroline Empey '22

All-New England



BOY'S CROSS COUNTRY



Tam Gavenas '25

All-New England

Football



Dean Sokaris PG'22

All-Northeast Prep



Jesse McCullough '22

All-Northeast Prep

All-Nepsac



Cato Legaspi '22

All-Northeast Prep

All-Nepsac



Girl's Soccer





Lulu Rourke '23

Nepsac Jr. All-Star



Sofia Traversari Sotomayor '23

Nepsac Jr. All-Star



Mary Stuart Kerrigan '22

Nepsac All-Star

Boston Globe All-Star

United Soccer All-State

Boy's Soccer

Ellis Denby '24

All-Nepsac



Derek Polanco '22

All-Nepsac





Volleyball



Michelle Brunetti '23

All-Nepsac Honorable Mention



GIRLSBASKETBALL

Girls Basketball Starts Off Season with a Win and a Loss from Tough Away Fixtures

DAIGO MORIWAKE

Andover	45
Pomfret	38

Andover	38
Worcester Academy	83

With two minutes left on the clock and a tied score, Kennedy Herndon '23 and Hope Nardone '23 scored back-to-back three-pointers to bring Andover Girls Basketball a 45-38 victory over Pomfret in its first game of the season. The victory was followed by a 38-83 away loss against Worcester Academy, bringing the team's

record to 1-1.

In the match against Pomfret, Head Coach Elizabeth Monroe highlighted the team's defense as an important asset in a low-scoring game, despite mistakes by a young team that lacks in-game experience.

Coach Monroe said, "I think it was a win that was fueled by our defense... We certainly had some miscues in the first game of the season. Obviously, we didn't even have a season last year, so it was a little bit sloppy. But our defense was really able to keep us in the game and help us come out with a win."

Regardless, Coach Monroe believes that the team's offense will improve as the season progresses and the players get more time to better understand each other's strengths and weaknesses.

"We only have four players returning from two years ago, so most of our team has never really played together before.

We still need to sort of learn each other's styles and gel. But I think we're definitely on the way to get in there," said Coach Monroe.

According to Captain Kiley Buckley '23, the dynamics of the team have changed within the past few years. Thus, she stated that it is important for the more experienced players to step up as leaders on the team.

"We have had a pretty different group of girls on the team since then, two years ago. We have four [Uppers] that were on the team my [Junior] year. And I think for us just to step up as leaders as we are the older girls on the team and just coming together with all the new players. I think we've bonded as a team these past two weeks," said Buckley.

Ahead of Andover's loss against Worcester on Wednesday, Monroe recognized that Worcester was going to be one of the team's toughest opponents in the season. Heading into the game, the team's main goal was to maintain defensive intensity, as well as limiting turnovers.

Coach Monroe said, "Worcester is always one of the hardest games this season. They're an incredibly good team. And, I always look at the Worcester game as something that's going to really, really push us to see how far we can really take this. I think what we're going to focus on right now, getting ready for the Worcester game is [to keep] up the defense. We had such great defense and that always puts us into positions to be able to win. And we're working on trying to limit our turnovers. We had too many turnovers against Pomfret. So, we're working on that if we can keep up the defensive pressure and limit our turnovers. I think we're in a good position."

The loss against Worcester was a learning opportunity for Andover because of the notorious strength of the team's opponent. The team began to discover how to prepare for different games through this experience, according to Sophie Dandawa '25.

Dandawa said, "You can learn all the different plays because we're playing against a whole other level of great players. And so it teaches us a lot about how these different teams play and how we should get ready against each of them. But then we can also learn a lot about ourselves, like I said before, about how we do against these teams."

Andover will face Loomis Chaffee in its first home game of the season on Saturday.

GIRLSSQUASH

Girls Squash Captain Mafi Pinot '22 Leads with ‘Infectious Determination, Passion, and Enthusiasm’



COURTESY OF MAFI PINOT

PATRICIA TRAN

Following in the footsteps of her mom and aunt, Andover Girls Squash Captain Mafi Pinot '22 began playing squash at eight years old at a local sports club. In addition to leading Andover Girls Squash, Pinot has recently represented Guatemala at the 2021 Junior Pan American Games, where she claimed bronze in the women's doubles.

According to Pinot, her love for squash comes naturally, and for her, the sport serves as an outlet in times of boredom, social stress, or emotional struggle.

"I think motivation just comes easily because I have tourna-

ments to look up to, big competitions always coming up. I love the game so much that it's just like what I do instead of a chore or something that's really hard. It just kind of flows," said Pinot.

Pinot doesn't take her natural talent for granted. Rather, she pairs her passion with an intense work ethic that inspires her teammates to do the same, according to Head Coach Jennifer Elliott.

"I've had captains who are the best players on the team because of their talent. I would say Mafi combines both of those qualities; there's [no one] who works harder than Mafi and I think everyone knows that. They try to work to aspire to be like her that way," said Coach Elliott '94.

According to Karen Wang '23, Pinot's work ethic persists even during the more mundane parts of practice, her enthusiasm contagious amongst the team.

"After squash, we have an ab circle where we do ab exercises together, and before the game we have warmups. I remember Mafi would always go above and beyond everything we're doing. We even joke about her having her own fitness channel too. Everyone else was struggling with the exercises and she was just doing them so effortlessly and it looked really cool," said Wang.

Although Pinot's dedication and rigor may seem intimidating, she remains open and in communication with her teammates, according to Cathy Cho '22.

"I thought she was someone I

could never talk to because she's all the way up in #1 seed and I'm struggling to be at the bottom. She's so human, she's so relatable. I think that's one quality that makes her so liked and respected," said Cho.

With teammates often challenging each other to achieve a higher seed within the team, Pinot prioritizes the team as a whole over the individual and competitive nature of squash.

"I don't want challenge matches to feel like us as players against each other. It's just us as a team trying to be the best version before a match either on Wednesday [or] Saturday, not really to create tension between the players," said Pinot.

In charge of setting the example, Pinot hopes to nurture an inclusive team environment this season, especially with newer members on the team.

"We're starting and building a brand [new] team. A lot of [my old] teammates and a lot of my friends graduated. We didn't really get a last season with them, but I'm really excited because it's an opportunity to start from scratch. I think the most important thing for me is that everyone feels welcomed like they really belong to the team. I just want them to feel safe on and off the court," said Pinot.

Caring for her teammates and playing high-level squash at the same time requires maturity and poise, according to Coach Elliott.

"It's really hard to tell whether she's winning or losing when you walk up to her court. She



M.DOUCETTE/THE PHILLIPIAN

In addition to earning the bronze medal in the women's doubles at the 2021 Junior Pan American Games, Mafi Pinot '22 also reached the second round in the women's singles.

just has tremendous composure on the court and I can trust that she is going to compete in a way that she's proud of, that she represents our school and our team, and the program that we're really proud of. I think that Mafi combines a lot of the best qualities of a lot of our captains that

have come before. She's really, really special," said Coach Elliott.

Editor's Note: Cathy Cho '22 is a Video Editor for The Phillippian. Karen Wang '23 is a Graphic Associate for The Phillippian.

Girls Squash Head Coach Jennifer Elliott '94 Focuses on Getting to Know Players ‘On and Off the Court’



M. LAI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Both Head Coach Jennifer Elliott '94 (left) and Assistant Coach Midori Ishizuka '11 (right) both played for Andover Girls Squash, with Elliott also coaching Ishizuka.

MONISHA KATHIKA

Andover Girls Squash Head Coach Jennifer Elliott '94, Assistant Head of School for Residen-

tial Life and Dean of Students, focuses on fostering a tight-knit team as it competes competitively for the first time in two years. Beginning her squash career when she was eight years old, she played with her brothers and father. Eventually playing for Andover, she continued to play squash at Dartmouth College.

Elliott said, "I really enjoyed my squash at Andover and college much more than I did prior to high school when it was more of an individual sport. The team aspect of it was really compelling to me."

As a coach at Andover, Elliott strives to coach the team in the same way she teaches her students in a classroom. Specifically, she emphasized the importance of a strong understanding of the players, both as athletes and as individuals.

"I coach a little bit like I teach, which is that I think it's really important to know your players in order to be a good coach for them. It is important for me to know what matters to my kids on

and off the court and what interests they have, about what things they're curious about... what's really frustrating, and help them through their frustrations, [etc.]. Squash can be a really frustrating sport, so trying to help them understand and push through that frustration, I think about that a lot in teaching. In order for me to do that well, I really need to know my kids. And I'm lucky that way to have a pretty small team, so that way I can get to know my players pretty well," Elliott said.

To her players, Elliott hopes to engrain the value of not only winning but also losing with honor.

"For me, we talk a lot about deserving to win, we talk a lot about respecting ourselves and the rules of the game and our opponent, and winning with integrity and losing with integrity. But, I also think hard work is really important, so I think that's true to my priorities as an athlete and also as a coach," said Elliott.

According to Cathy Cho '22, Elliott's desire to get to know her players has really allowed her to

be an inspiration for the players on the team. Further, Cho stated that Elliott's coaching style makes her a more easy-to-approach and reliable coach.

"Getting closer to her and talking to her more on a personal level just makes me feel more inspired. [Do] you know how your superheroes can be your mom or the closest to you? She felt like some figure like that. At first, she seemed like an Iron Man, but after getting to know her, I was more inspired because she's human, everyone's human. As a coach, she really values personal character over technique. That's what really stuck with me," Cho said.

According to Karen Wang '23 and Cho, Elliott's extensive experience as a player and emphasis on sportsmanship makes her a better coach. In particular, she is able to offer specific advice for each player while emphasizing the importance of character in any match.

Wang added, "Because she knows so much about squash and has coached so many people be-

fore us as well, she's able to tell me exactly what I need to work on, [which] sort of ties [in with her precision as a coach]."

Cho said, "[Elliott] gives you constructive criticism, she gives you feedback, but also she never gets mad or never lets her emotions get in the way of her coaching. She acknowledges that things happen and things are unfair, and she doesn't talk bad about that. She discourages the team from talking badly or showing bad sportsmanship... The fact that she puts sportsmanship first and cooperation, collaboration before winning, I find that really inspiring and it just made me more comfortable playing. She made me feel like if I'm a good person or if I show good sportsmanship then it doesn't matter if I win or lose. Sure, it might be great if I win, but I've been a good player and that's all that matters."

Editor's Note: Cathy Cho '22 is a Video Editor for The Phillippian. Karen Wang '23 is a Graphic Design Associate for The Phillippian.

Girls Squash Opens Season with a Dominant Win Over Milton

MATT LEONARD

Andover	7
Milton	0

Under the pressure of both the packed stands and the expectations of her debut match, Migyu Kim '25 composedly took the final game against Milton this past Saturday. Kim's win secured Andover Girls Squash's seventh match win of the day and safely ensured its first victory of the season. Andover's record sits at 1-0.

According to Head Coach Jennifer Elliott '94, the two-year break since the last squash season rendered expectations for Saturday's match against Milton a blank slate.

Coach Elliott said, "Our knowledge of Milton was quite limited going into the weekend. We have had a range of results playing against Milton the last few years, so we did not have concrete anticipations as to how the matches would go. One of the outcomes of Covid-19 was that we haven't been able to see their team develop over the last two years. I wasn't exactly sure what to expect. I understand now that Milton has a few really excellent players, especially a certain incoming junior. Their team is certainly going to get stronger in the future."

Similar to Coach Elliott, Karen Wang '23 recognizes the difficulty of playing against the unknown, while retaining much excitement about returning to the sport.

"Because it was our first match, most schools hadn't come up with their rosters yet. Milton was one of those schools. Also, because I lost my [Junior] season to Covid-19, I did not know what to expect. I was very excited, though, about the games and season ahead of us. I believe we have a strong team this year, and we all share a similar excitement. Today went very well. We went into the matches with no injured players, all ready to play, and left similarly with the win. It was a great way to start the season," said Wang.

Coach Elliott explains how, often, players in the early part of the season feel nervous. However, this was not the case Saturday. The team quickly adapted to the atmosphere of the crowd and built off that energy.

She said, "Kids are typically nervous during their first matches of the year, which, in turn, causes some unpredictability. Especially this season, due to the anticipation of the season after Covid-19, as well as the number of fans in the stands, I expected these things to make the kids especially nervous. I was very proud of how each of our players quickly found their rhythm. They all kept calm [mentally] which allowed them to compete to the best of their ability."

Coach Elliott and Christina

Yen '24 note the dauntingness of not only returning from a two-year break but also, for the new players, playing on the team for the first time as well as the importance of team culture. According to Coach Elliott, the older players on the team have been able to establish a welcoming and supportive space for newer members of the team.

Coach Elliott said, "A lot of that support came from our four seniors, who all have an understanding of what it is like to compete, play, and practice as a team. They are definitely excited to get back to that and missed it last year. Our whole team was, is, and will be feeding off that energy. It's largely for our newer players, as they do not know what to expect, and establishing a good team environment is important. It's been awesome to have some older kids who have already experienced the team, who are committed to bringing back the level of positivity and connection"

Yen added, "I feel like the sheer enthusiasm we had was almost a winning factor against Milton. Every time that someone had a match, the whole team tried to cheer them on as much as possible. I think the support and encouragement are something I really enjoy about the team. It helps boost your confidence on the court, knowing your team has your back. As someone who came from playing individual matches, when the environment changes from having just your mom in the crowd to having your

friends and teammates cheering you on, it feels like there is more to fight for."

Kim explains that the encouragement does not just come from others on the team, but rather the atmosphere is created off of the fans, and their positive energy transfers to the team.

She said, "The crowd was encouraging. To know, to hear, and to feel the support of teammates,

friends, and even strangers gives you unique energy on the court and a kind of 'extra push.' It helps most evidently during hard moments during the match. You are tired, sore, but the cheers give you something to grasp onto to hopefully take the point."

Satisfied with its performance this past weekend, Andover looks ahead to its second game against Deerfield Academy this Saturday.



J. CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover Girls Squash's Kennedy Ndiaye '22 (left) recieved the US Squash Scholar Athlete Award for the 2019-2020 season.

BOYSHOCKEY

Boys Hockey Claims Two Straight Wins
against Thayer and Tabor Following Loss to Pomfret

MEG STINEMAN

Andover	3
Pomfret	5
Andover	4
Tabor	1
Andover	5
Thayer	4

With a powerful shot from Bobby Corkery '23, Andover Boys Varsity Hockey gained momentum, leading the team to a 4-1 win against Tabor this past Sunday afternoon. The win followed a 3-5 loss to Pomfret on Saturday. Andover additionally claimed a 5-4 overtime win on Wednesday, bringing its record to 2-1.

According to Joey Zheng '23, the team started slow but picked up the pace of its play going into the second and third periods of the first game against Pomfret.

“Well, I would say for sure that our team did generally generate a lot of shots. Though

we started off kind of slow, we kind of picked it up, and we were able to start challenging the goalie a little bit and that led to [the rise of] the amount of shots we got after a rough start. I think that's something we did well,” said Zheng.

Rory Booth '23 elaborated on the team's slow start and noted that the team started to connect more in the later periods of the game as well as later games.

Booth said, “I think that's something we could certainly say that even though the first period of our first game was rough, we picked it up and really started to become a team for the second and third period, and we really brought it all together in the second game for the weekend.”

Booth also highlighted goalie Shane Shelest '22 for his remarkable performance and his ability to focus on the present and not the past.

“I mean, our goalie is always reliable. In the first game, he was able to recover from a quick one early, and that's something I admire about him, just being able to shake off something that happened and just quickly get comfortable again and be able to play at his best. Then the second game, he played really well. He only let in one,” added Booth.

Zheng believes that throughout the season the chemistry



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Conner Fitzpatrick '22 (left) and Patrick Last '22 (right) are Andover Boys Hockey's two co-captains for the 2021-2022 season.

will improve, as well as the team's ability to transition into the offensive zone.

“In practice today, we worked on different zone entry situations. I would say one thing we need to improve on is our ability to get out of our zones smoothly. Like the defense transitioning smoothly and establishing chemistry because there's a lot of guys that haven't played with each other

before,” said Zheng.

Jake LeDoux '24 noted that although the Thayer game was close, the team stayed focused. He also added that Jonathan Surette '22 had a standout performance with four total points.

“The score was 5-4 and we won in overtime. We kept our heads in the game at all times and Jonathon Surette had four points tonight and led us to the

win. I think one specific play that was really good was when Nicholas Royster ['22] scored the game-winner in the first shift of overtime. I think the team played very well today, and I think we just need to keep pushing ahead and focusing on winning games,” said LeDoux.

Andover hopes for a win against Brewster Academy this Friday to improve its record to 3-1.

BOYSSQUASH

Boys Squash Sweeps Historically-Strong Belmont Hill

DAIGO MORIWAKE

Andover	7
Belmont Hill	0

After falling 5-2 to Belmont Hill in the 2020 Head High School National Championships in the teams' last meeting, Andover Boys Squash began its 2021 season with a 7-0 sweep away at Belmont Hill. The team's record now stands at 1-0.

Having not played a competitive season in two years due to Covid-19, the extra time gave players the oppor-

tunity to sharpen specific areas of their game. According to Andy Weissman '23, he has focused on building his strength and fitness which has allowed him to gain an edge over his competition.

“I think over time obviously my skill level has gotten better, just from playing a lot more. I think [my] fitness and strength as well [have] improved and that's allowed me to sort of beat some of the kids that might be a little bit stronger skill-wise, but I have that kind of fitness and strength over them,” said Weissman.

Despite historically being a challenging opponent, Weissman believes Belmont Hill's weaker team this year allowed Andover to capitalize with a sweep.

Weissman said, “In the past, we know they've been a very strong team, but I think as of right now, they're not as good as they used to be.”

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 season, the team is composed of multiple new players. According to Aidan Lin '23, Andover has become a better team over the last two years with the greater depth across its roster.

“I'd say [we've become] better. In terms of depth... we're a lot better. Everybody on the ladder is quite similar, so there's going to be a lot of change in the rankings. It'll be fun to watch,” said Lin.

According to Sean-Winston Luo '24, the nerves of competing in his first game caused him to be flustered, and de-

spite his play being affected, he was still able to triumph in his match.

“I was actually a lot more nervous than I thought I would be. I played this kid who is definitely not up to my skill level, but I didn't play that very well against him, and it was a pretty tight match in general, I would say. Just like some nerves and a lot of new kids on the team, [Juniors] or even some of the Uppers who haven't played in a while, don't have as much experience as Seniors. They were also very nervous and all of us didn't play up to our best, but it's definitely going to get better as we get more accustomed to the match process and stuff like that,” said Luo.

According to Luo, Andover has been working on its overall strength and fitness from the start of the season to capitalize on longer matches, which he says are common weaknesses in other opponents.

Luo said, “The team has been doing a lot of fitness, trying to build up endurance because I know a lot of other high school teams lack it, especially when it gets deep into matches. You [have] to stay strong and stay physical. So we're working a lot on fitness in general.”

Andover will face Deerfield Academy at home on Saturday.

GIRLSHOCKEY

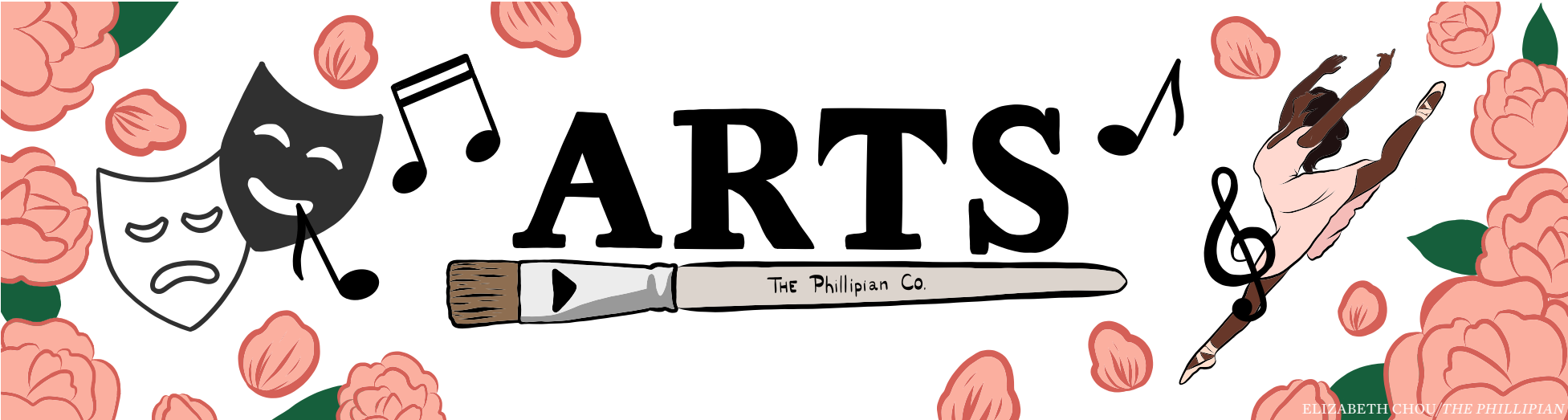
Andover	5
Winchendon	0

In Photos: Girls Hockey Begins Season with Comfortable 5-0 Victory



ALL PHOTOS: M. DOUCETTE/THE PHILLIPIAN

After a one-year hiatus due to Covid-19, Andover Girls Hockey will look to build off of its Nepsac runners-up finish in the 2019-2020 season.



“Hellbound”—The Sinner’s Struggle Between Fate And Hope

★★★★☆

HEYON CHOI

In a world where sinners are damned to hell for their wrongdoings, Netflix’s “Hellbound” creates a world where Korean civilians are forced to live under the watchful gaze of God. Released on November 19, 2021, the show quickly reached the Netflix Top 10 TV shows chart. Directed by Yeon Sang-ho, this six-episode dark fantasy and drama thriller contains a thrilling premise, but also examines the dangers of religious extremism. Caution: spoilers ahead.

“Hellbound” successfully evokes a resounding sense of dread within viewers through the conceptual and visual design of its monsters. Yeon’s initial development of “Hellbound” was inspired from his own personal nightmares, making the show feel more genuinely terrifying and capable of resonating with audiences. In one of Yeon’s dreams, he was being chased by unrecognizable beings and this fear left a strong impression on him, inspiring the plot of “Hellbound.” In the show, the monsters based on his nightmares are looming shadows of dust and darkness; they are depicted with unnerving smiles and deformed features, an artistic choice that intentionally takes viewers away from their visual comfort zone. Evoking an intimate and collec-



DANIELA VELASQUEZ/THE PHILLIPPIAN

tive fear of the supernatural unknown, Yeon artfully triggers an innate terror that resonates with most, if not all audiences.

By establishing scenes of gruesome deaths and feelings of false hope and inescapable fear, Yeon offers a realistic and chilling depiction of a compelling, apocalyptic world. In one particular scene, as a distant rumble gradually gets louder, anxiety spreads amongst a crowd of people before the window of a café suddenly bursts.

The show quickly cuts to a horrified man being chased down by the dark, hulk-like monsters before being burnt into a crisp, leaving only remnants of his skeleton. This, apparently, is only one of the many violent and mysterious killings that have been reported across Seoul. As people quickly connect the murders, they begin to realize that all the victims have pasts of crime and wrongdoing. At this moment, a realization finally settles in; a divine, inescap-

able force has come to punish all the crimes of humanity. The inevitability of absolute judgment in “Hellbound” not only evokes the audience’s vicarious dread of inevitable punishment, but also somewhat forces them to confront their own morality.

The show does more than just establish fear, however. It also discusses themes of religious extremism in today’s society. Particularly, this show raises the question of to what extent reli-

gious beliefs should influence our obedience to the law. In order to survive, people must now resort to what is right or wrong according to God. Because of this, police are shown to be inferior and irrelevant to how people should live. This brings danger to the public, as there is no clear method for how people should behave or live righteously. Furthermore, the way to approach people’s wrongdoings also becomes more ambiguous. Should a criminal be sent to jail or beaten by those who uphold the ‘justice’ of God? And as more communities begin to form around this idea of ‘righteousness,’ what happens when they take it a step too far? Members of one such organization, “The Arrowhead,” do not hesitate to use violence to show their extreme dedication to establish their own perceptions of righteousness. For example, one of their most brutal attacks was to assault an elderly woman whose daughter was speculated to be a sinner to death. Ultimately, the world loses stability and people have no choice but to live in fear.

“Hellbound” is disturbingly violent yet hooks an audience with a fresh take on divine punishment and human morality. Taking on the relay baton from “Squid Game,” Yeon’s work also demonstrates the artistic creativity and importance of non-Western television.

Rating: 4/5

‘House of Gucci’—Even Lady Gaga Can’t Save This Sinking Ship

GUILHERME LIMA

Though Ridley Scott’s “House of Gucci” attempts to capture the glamour and luxury of its titular brand, it remains a structurally uneven, lifeless caricature of the Gucci family’s history. Released in theatres on November 24, 2021, the film follows Patrizia Reggiani (Lady Gaga) as she moves from humble origins to the gilded halls of fashion icons when she falls in love with Maurizio Gucci (Adam Driver). Mingling with giants—Aldo Gucci (Al Pacino), Paolo Gucci (Jared Leto), and Rodolfo Gucci (Jeremy Irons)—Patrizia and her rampant ambition end up changing the Gucci landscape forever. Manipulating the family structure, her actions unfurl a tale of betrayal, crime, and death. Caution: spoilers ahead.

“House of Gucci” cannot choose a tone for itself to save its life. Oscillating between Patrizia and Maurizio’s love story and a gritty saga of betrayal, the film fashions itself as a

cartoonish opera. The opening of the movie sees a more calm beginning, with Patrizia and Maurizio’s quirky romance delivering on its promises. However, later in the film, all this earnestness is replaced with a more back-stabbing, cold approach. In other scenes, attempts at humor feel misguided at best—this inconsistency is what hurts the movie the most. While the love story is cute, the chronicles of deception are intriguing, and the extravagance is entertaining, combining all of these elements together, however, lowers the quality of each one.

This inconsistency manifests in the sprawling ensemble of the movie. For instance, take Jared Leto and Al Pacino, the main supporting characters of the movie. Both of them try to embody the Sicilian and extravagant aspects of these characters, which works to mixed results. Jared Leto’s performance in particular was too silly for the movie, his character being clownishly incompetent. His performance was frequently annoying, often

halting his scenes completely. In addition, while Jeremy Irons had a smaller role in the movie, his presence still sticks out like a sore thumb. He is the only member of the ensemble playing completely seriously, and therefore his clashes with other characters is rather off-putting. Adam Driver also felt out of place: his soft-spoken character and feeble screen presence making him a strange lead in many scenes. Lady Gaga, as always, is the highlight of the film. Her performance consistently remains grounded and commanding.

At the heart of “House of Gucci”’s plethora of weaknesses lies the screenplay. Written by Becky Johnston and Roberto Bentivegna, it fails at delivering an engaging experience, packed with dull, on-the-nose dialogue with no deeper meaning. While the film’s second act is solid and exciting, with Patrizia planning how to win the company and expand her and her husband’s presence, this section is too brief to achieve the desired effect. Most every other scene in the movie



VICTORIA NAKAWEESI/THE PHILLIPPIAN

is too slow. Everything after the climax of this sequence, which roughly starts with Maurizio divorcing Patrizia, is flat and boring. This final section in particular is the weakest: Maurizio is plainly not an interesting protagonist—the corporate antics are tedious, and Lady Gaga’s character, who is the most fascinating, is barely present. This third act felt more like an especially dry documentary than a film. It’s clear that “House of Gucci” is a bloated, overlong drag, with a 157-minute runtime the rotting cherry on top of a whole, weary sundae.

In all, “House of Gucci”’s cardinal sin is its utter,

monotonous blandness. The movie promised to be an entertaining, fast-paced affair. However, it does not fulfill these goals in the slightest, with many scenes feeling dry and creating no emotional entry for the audience to attach to any character at all. These mistakes can be attributed to the editing, music, and screenplay. For all the espressos, sprawling villas, and silky cigarette smoke, “House of Gucci” feels like a scattered amalgam of unrelated movies, and receives 2/5 stars for its unbalanced pacing, indecisive direction, and subpar screenplay.

Dancer and Choreographer Amithi Tadigadapa ’23 Creates Narratives through Dancing

SERAFINA NORDENFLYCHT & ALICIA ZHANG

For Amithi Tadigadapa ’23, dancing is not just a way to express herself, but also a way to tell different stories. The movement of her body across a dance floor or stage is not simply physical. Instead, Tadigadapa focuses on the ways in which she can create an engaging narrative.

“I think that... dance [is a form]



COURTESY OF AMITHI TADIGADAPA

of storytelling, and to be able to tell a story to its full capacity, there needs to be a need to understand and fully comprehend either what you’re trying to say, or be a vehicle for what somebody else is saying,” said Tadigadapa.

Tadigadapa first began dancing when she was three years old. Her family encouraged her to try participating in a sport, which prompted her interest in dance. She later tried a variety of other sports, such as gymnastics and basketball, but always went back

to dance. According to Tadigadapa, trying new things, whether it be these sports or in a musical setting, has helped her to grow as a person.

“I kind of just stuck with it [dance] ever since. It became like a little family, like a home away from home that I could kind of go to,” said Tadigadapa.

In addition to dancing, Tadigadapa has been playing the cello for 14 years. On campus, she is a part of the symphony orchestra and chamber orchestra, and has just begun working with a piano trio with the Chamber Music Society with Holly Barnes, Instructor in Music. According to Tadigadapa, her dedication to dance and music has helped her to adjust to new situations.

“Being exposed to different environments—as I got older, I got more exposure to different teachers who have different learning styles, and different ways that people expected me to play. So, I was able to adapt to different styles, different environments, [and] different needs for what someone wants for me,” said Tadigadapa.

According to Bella Murray

’23, a friend of Tadigadapa and a fellow dancer, Tadigadapa’s elegance is one of the most notable characteristics of her ballet dancing. To her, Tadigadapa makes dancing look almost effortless, as it has been a part of her life since the beginning.

“I think [Tadigadapa] has great movement quality. She’s able to make everything look so graceful and... really close together. It’s not like you can see that she’s trying... very effortless,” said Murray.

In addition to her physical talents, Tadigadapa has a special skill when it comes to choreography, from the way she learns new choreography quickly or makes up her own. This talent was demonstrated when she had to successfully learn an entire dance in less than one week for the fall show.

“There was some debacle with another dance group. But she learned it in less than a week and ballet is her forte so it was really nice...I think that she’s more sure of herself, especially as a choreographer since we have more time to make up our own dances,” said Murray.

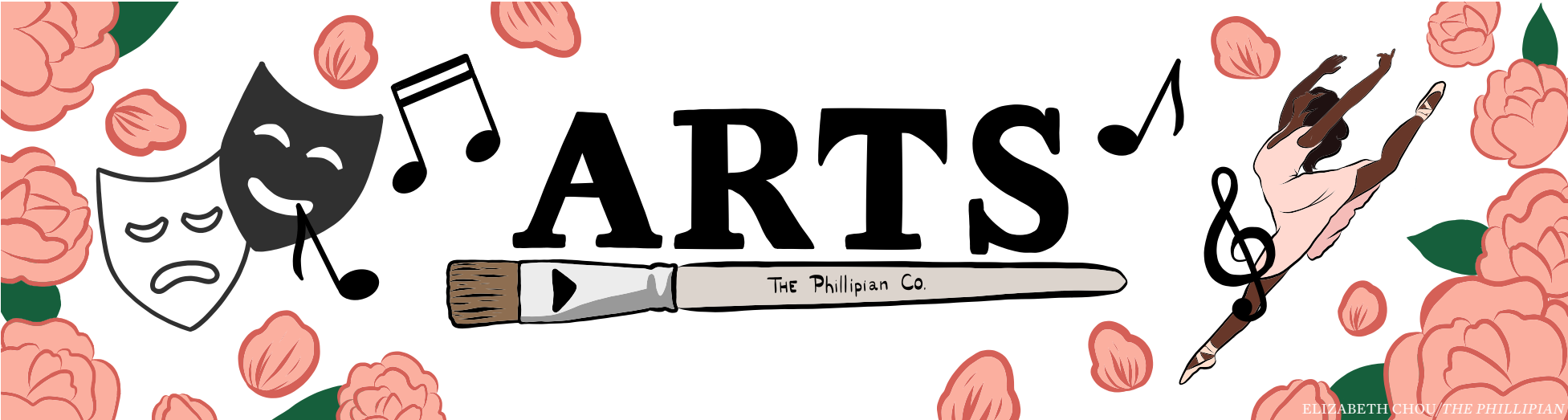
Taking part in the dance programs at Andover, specifically in



D.BAKER/THE PHILLIPPIAN

Andover Dance Group (ADG) and choreographing for the upcoming Dance Open, Tadigadapa feels supported by her fellow dancers at Andover, and often channels their love and encouragement while performing a solo.

“There’s been moments where you’re on stage by yourself and I think when in those moments, you harken back to the feeling of being in a community, being with other people who support you... there’s like 30 other people backstage cheering you on and supporting you all the way. So, just pulling off like a communal strength,” said Tadigadapa.



‘Throne of Blood:’ A Retrospective

GUILHERME LIMA

In one month, “Throne of Blood,” a film inspired by Macbeth and set in 1500s Japan, will celebrate its 65th anniversary. The film was directed by Akira Kurosawa, a famous Japanese film director known for his 1950s to 1960s samurai films such as “Seven Samurai” and “Yojimbo.” “Throne of Blood,” inspired by Shakespeare’s Macbeth, is one of three Kurosawa films inspired by Shakespeare plays.

The recurring aspect of fog is one of the film’s most distinct ci-

meratographical choices. Kurosawa is known for his recognizable use of nature and weather, such as rain or clouds to add interest and movement to still shots. Fog is unique to “Throne of Blood,” where it is used in most outdoor shots, from a heavy veil of fog in the forest to the wisps of smoke-like tendrils sweeping shots of the valley. Scenes that display the most fog emanate a feeling of mystery and the supernatural: the opening scene, with a foggy magical forest; surrounding the mysterious evil spirit; and the final scene, with the forest seeming to magically move towards the castle, the low fog obscuring the humans carrying each cut-down

tree.

Like most of Kurosawa’s films, the acting in “Throne of Blood” is exceptional. Toshio Mifune, who is the most famous recurring actor in Kurosawa’s films, such as “Yojimbo,” “Seven Samurai,” and “High and Low,” plays the character of Washizu (the equivalent of Macbeth) who starts off as a samurai staunchly loyal to his daimyo. However, he quickly abandons his loyalty in exchange for power guaranteed by the evil spirit. The terror of Toshio Mifune’s death was effectively depicted with his very own soldiers shooting him down with arrows, the advent of the trees in the forest advancing forward the castle.

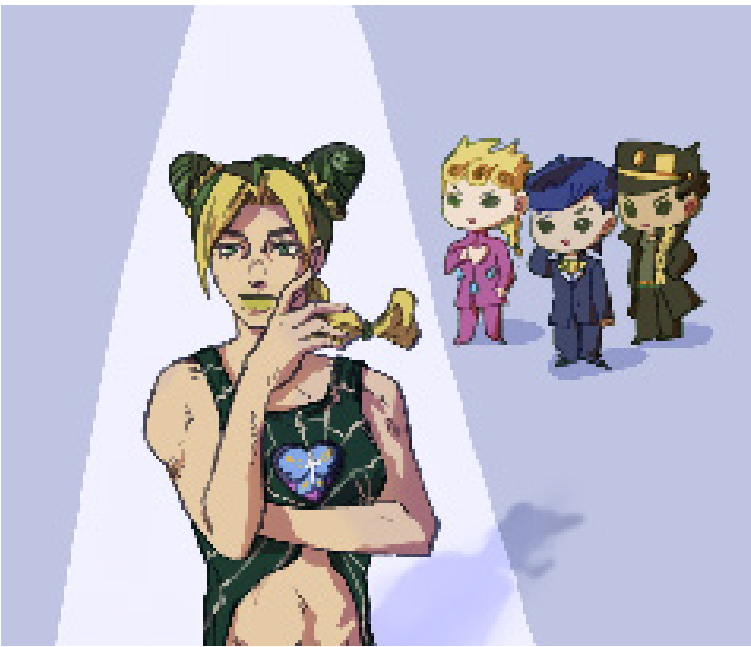
To capture authentic emotion, real arrows were shot at the Mifune, his genuine expressions of terror making it one of the most memorable scenes in the entire film.

Kurosawa was a consistently successful film director that “Throne of Blood,” as spectacular as it is, is not commonly considered one of his top five films. I give the film a 9.5/10—I cannot identify something that ‘should have been done differently’ or that I was dissatisfied with, yet Kurosawa has many films that are considered to be better, so therefore I cannot give a perfect score of ten without further comparison.



AVIVA CAI/THE PHILLIPIAN

‘JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure Stone Ocean: Part 1’ Breaks Stereotypical Molds with Representation, Ingenuity, and Style



MEILING CHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

JACKIE LI

Diving into the action-packed world of JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure, “Stone Ocean Part 1” unravels protagonist Jolyne Cujoh’s (Ai Fairouz/Kira Buckland) misfortunes in prison as she fights against a sinister agenda threatening her entire

bloodline. Released internationally on Netflix on December 1, the 12 episodes-series is a larger adaptation of Hirohiko Araki’s popular manga series, which features multiple parts and main characters. This newest season distinguishes JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure from other anime series through its empowering female cast, creative world building, and unique animation. Caution: spoilers ahead.

“Stone Ocean” defies the mold of its male-centric predecessors by challenging the representation of women in Japanese media. Anime often depicts women through the male-gaze; female characters are typically objectified for fanservice, either through oversexualization or being characterized as demure and submissive. However, “Stone Ocean” approaches its female characters with tact. Both Jolyne and her confidant Ernes Costello (Mutsumi Tamura/Tiana Camacho) are characterized by strength and independence: they are bold, confident, assertive, and unafraid to defy authority. Jolyne’s initial character arc specifically features her growth from being overly reliant on her boyfriend to subsequently abandoning their toxic and controlling relationship. Through this presentation of characters, the show actively works to contradict the existing definition of how women in anime “should be.”

Another aspect of the show that circumvents tropes is its ingenious world-building. “Stone Ocean” not only explores the potential of the characters’ abilities, but also creates more sophisticated and exciting fighting mechanics. A notable example of this is Weather Forecast (Yuichi-

ro Umehara/Stephen Fu), one of Jolyne’s allies who possesses the ability to control weather. By creating atmospheric layers around him and greatly increasing air resistance, Weather can deflect projectiles as a form of defense. Additionally, his ‘atmospheric shield’ can set any object that has entered its range on fire through aerodynamic friction. The specificity of his abilities and inclusion of scientific reasoning help develop more engaging plots and nuanced progressions in fights. With nearly all the characters receiving a similarly thoroughly-developed skill set, JoJo’s mechanics and conflicts become much more compelling compared to other superpower-based shows that tend to leave abilities as unexplained plot devices. For example, other shows might have their characters inexplicably conjure storms and lightning, requiring viewers to suspend their disbelief due how unrealistic it is. As a result, watchers might not be as invested in a fight simply because of the lack of thinking they need to do about it. However, “Stone Ocean” forces audiences to fully engage in the logical reasoning behind its complex fights, allowing for a more stimulating experience.

“Stone Ocean” also excels in

its smooth transitions from 2D and 3D animation styles and color palettes. While the use of 3D animation—done with 3D models rather than being drawn by hand—was most likely to reduce the labor and stress for the animation studio, it was still implemented in an extremely artistic and masterful way. The 3D models used were all extremely detailed and served to make parts of the animation and certain characters’ movements appear more realistic. Additionally, the visual disorientation of switching from 2D to 3D almost seems like an intentional move to add more depth to fights. Through switching between animation styles and color palettes, the show creates a separate perspective for audiences to view the fight between within, conveying that it has reached a new level of intensity and complexity. By not following conventional animation standards, “Stone Ocean” gains room to offer audiences a more immersive and dynamic experience.

Overall, “Stone Ocean Part 1” receives a 4.5/5 for its high quality and presentation; not only did it successfully build from the legacy of the series’ previous parts, but also made the show more enjoyable by incorporating more creativity and depth.

Playlist of the Week 12/10: Regina Spektor, BTS, Cosmo Pyke, and More!

CHLOE RHEE



Natasha Muromcew ’22

A song I would recommend is ‘Way It Goes’ by Hippo Campus. It’s a really happy and relaxing song, and I love listening to it when walking around campus. Its genre is alternative/indie, which is a style I am drawn to because it calms me down when I am stressed. There aren’t many lyrics in the song, but one that stands out to me is ‘that’s the way it goes,’ which is repeated multiple times. I like it because it reminds me to chill out and be okay with the way things are going, even if I’m unhappy about my current circumstances.

Christian Gomez ’24

[My] song is ‘Boy in Luv’ by BTS. Although a lot of their music has become very popular, this song was released much earlier in their career, around 2014. Broadly, the song belongs to the K-pop genre, but has a lot of hip-hop influences and blends different forms of artistry [such as] dancing, rapping, and singing, [which] adds a lot of depth. Listening to this song released earlier in their career and seeing what they’ve accomplished now is really impressive and a good representation of their evolution as artists. Also, the song definitely opened my eyes to other songs that aren’t sung in English, [and] I think that’s pretty cool.

Fae Ross ’24

I love the song ‘Doll Parts,’ by Hole. A ’90s girl grunge classic, this song uses a metaphor of a broken, dismembered doll to lament unrequited love... [it] is so raw and powerful that you can’t help but be drawn to it, and Courtney Love’s voice is ragged but controlled. It’s pretty simple composition wise... just three or four chords, but it’s the simplicity that makes it so powerful. I’ve been listening to this song since I was nine or ten, and... it makes me feel powerful and mournful at the same time, which is an incredibly fun combination of emotions.

Alex Giarnese ’25

‘Two Birds’ by Regina Spektor. The song talks about these two birds who are together on a wire. The meaning is pretty clear—it represents two people...who do everything together, and it talks about how close they are. Gradually throughout the song, it implies how one might be holding the other back and how they start drifting. This song is important to me as someone that’s gone through something similar—I had a very close friend that unfortunately drifted apart from me through Covid-19... I enjoyed the time that I had with that friend, so I think it hits home for me because Regina Specter does a good job talking about the details of drifting from a friend. [The song] helped in recovering from the friendship ending.

Jacqueline Gordon ’25

A song I would recommend is ‘I Wanna Be Yours’ by Arctic Monkeys. This song is a cover [of a] song based on the poem by John Cooper Clarke of the same title. This song is considered to be part of alternative rock...[and] I’m drawn to this particular style because I think it’s a mix of some of the better genres of music. It’s slower than usual rock, but still has strong drum beats. Plus, I enjoy the guitar riffs that make the song more expressive, climbing at the end of the song...[and] becoming very trancelike and powerful. This song is one of my favourites and is important to me because this was my starting point into the band. I enjoy listening to it to take a break from everything for a few minutes—like a comfort song.

Hanbie Park ’23

‘Chronic Sunshine’ by Cosmo Pyke. This is an alternative/indie and pop song, [and] I think I’m drawn to this song because it has chill vibes. It’s laid back, not too happy or exciting, but also not sad. Its mellowness makes it a very pleasing listen. [In the song,] there’s a line in the second verse that says, ‘She said you’re a star Cosmo/But you’re a star and we’re all star stuff.’ This conveys that we’re all made of star material, and that resonates with me because it’s reassuring— none of us are alone in our struggles. Overall, I like how carefree this song makes me feel, because we all need downtime where we stop caring about all the stress going on academically and socially.

A 25 Year Tradition: Mrs. Paulson Showcases Festive Outfits for the Holidays, Honors the ‘Hideous Whimsy’ of Childhood Teachers’ Christmas Sweaters

CHLOE RHEE & SARAH HASSANEIN

Since the start of her teaching career in 1996, Mrs. Paulson has made it an annual tradition to dress up in festive outfits during the holiday season. Taking inspiration from her childhood teachers, Paulson wears a different outfit every day until Christmas. Every single one of her outfits has a unique color theme. Choosing from her collection of 27 Christmas sweaters, Paulson hopes to spread joy to students and faculty alike.



M.DOUCETTE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Huda Abdulrasool '22 Builds Style Around Bold ‘Centerpieces’ with Versatile Wardrobe Staples

SOPHIE STAI & AVA CHEN

Huda Abdulrasool '22 couples a black top and leather jacket with vibrant red pants and short boots, pairing this ensemble with two silver lock necklaces and a chain belt. As a finishing touch, Abdulrasool adorns her fingers with a variety of gold and silver rings.

“[I dress using] the sandwich theory...red here, then black at the top, and then black at the bottom again, so it all connects. Then for my accessories, I usually only wear either silver or gold...I don't think I stick to one particular aesthetic. As long as I feel like myself in the clothes, and I feel good in them, then that's what I care about more,” said Abdulrasool.

Building her closet around sustainable staples, Abdulrasool works around “centerpieces” to create her looks. Combining this approach with her “sandwich theory” method, Abdulrasool grounds each of her outfits in a cohesive color palette.

“I start, usually, from a single piece. For example, [if] these pants are the centerpiece of the outfit, I see what would go with them, what would complement them, and I try to make it work. These pants are red, so they in-

form my makeup, so I do red eyeshadow under my eyes, and because I chose to wear [a black sweater], my shoes have to be black,” said Abdulrasool.

A typical outfit of hers includes carefully matched makeup and accessories with her signature jacket, pants, and boots. Abdulrasool's fashion covers a wide range of styles, reflecting her daily moods, different color palettes, and gendered aesthetics.

“It depends on the day; sometimes she just likes to be comfortable, and she just wears a hoodie and goes. Or sometimes when she wants to feel good she's gonna be more trendy, and maybe wear her leather pants or the other pants that she likes,” said friend Emilia Fonseca '22.

Not only does Abdulrasool incorporate a variety of styles in her wardrobe, but she has also learnt to adapt her fashion to different environments. According to Abdulrasool, she strikes a balance between dressing to serve her surroundings and remaining true to her stylistic personality.

“I have to change my fashion sense depending where I'm at. Back home, I dress more modestly. It's a problem solving skill too, where it's like, 'how can I change this depending on the environment, but I still want it to feel like

myself;” said Abdulrasool.

Abdulrasool expressed that she finds joy and comfort in conveying her individuality through fashion. Even while navigating a uniform requirement at her previous school, she found ways to express herself through a ‘funky’ style.

“We weren't allowed to wear makeup, so you'd have to be sneaky about it...and I really really like fun socks, so I would express myself through my socks, which were illegal to wear, [as well as through] my accessories...I think it's just a fun way to push boundaries in a visible way. And sometimes you wear things that only certain people will pick up on,” said Abdulrasool.

In addition to expressing individual identity, Abdulrasool stated that she believes fashion can also help her better connect with others. She cites outfit compliments as a common conversation starter, as well as accessory matching and photoshoots as a way of bonding with friends.

“When I wear these [red leather pants] it's always a good conversation starter, because people are like ‘Oh, pants!’ and I'm like ‘I know!’ I also really like matching with my friends...I have matching rings with my best friend...One of my favorite things to do is to put



COURTESY OF HUDA ABDULRASOOL

Huda Abdulrasool '22 built this outfit around her red pants, then “sandwiched” the pop of color with a black sweater, coat, and boots. She often accessories with gold and silver, and brings attention with rings.

on a cute outfit and then go out with my friends...It's just such a sweet human thing,” said Abdulrasool.

Finding Freedom in Music: Bobby Hickman '22 Adapts to Novel Experiences with Percussion

SARAH HASSANEIN & ATHENA RHEE

During a concert, percussionist Bobby Hickman '22 switches between waving tubes in the air and shaking cylindrical instruments in order to play the whirly tube and thunder tube. According to Hickman, this experience of playing unorthodox instruments was one of his most memorable music memories at Andover.

“[One of the instruments] looks like a long plastic flailing tube... When you spun it around, it made a high pitched sort of echo sound... Essentially, at some point, I had to climb up on the stage and swing around this thing for about two minutes... It was fun to handle a lot of weird instruments that

[performance],” said Hickman.

Such experiences have led Hickman to find freedom in his experimentation with different percussion instruments. Though starting learning music at a young age, Hickman did not get the chance to be part of a larger band, only broadening his sights upon matriculating to Andover in 2018.

“Coming to Andover was different... I didn't [get to] play individual drums, so it was a bit of a shock, but the conductors are all great, I love them all, and of course there's the other percussionists who also came in with me that made it a little bit easier. They took some of the harder roles while I tried to figure out what it feels to play in a big band with multiple percussionists and whole other instrument sections,” said Hickman.

Andover not only changed Hickman's experience with playing in larger groups, but also defined his interactions of being an engaged member of the music community. According to fellow percussionist Christopher Ahn '22, Hickman's growth since his first year indicates how well he has adapted since then.

“Bobby is a team player who is always willing to take a supportive role in a piece to allow his fellow bandmates to shine...ever since we were both freshmen, Bobby has expanded his instrumental skillset to fit a variety of roles in the orchestra, uniquely expressing himself through [music]. [He] enjoys the feeling of rhythm and the sense of community which comes from playing in a band,” said Ahn in an email to *The Phillippian*.

Hickman is currently a member of Symphony Orchestra, Tuesday and Thursday Concert Bands, and other smaller jazz groups. In addition to inspiring his involvement in music communities, Andover has allowed him to delve into different styles of music, fueling his growth as a musician. Specifically, Hickman cites his experimentation with the jazz group as a turning point in his music career.

“A defining moment for me [in learning music] would probably be—Upper Spring—playing in a small jazz group and actually getting to perform with the drum set on stage, just because that was something I never did before. I didn't play jazz before coming into Andover, and [it] was something I learned to play because of the instructors here that I was doing lessons with. That was an

[important] moment for me, just because it was something I never actually got to show people that I could do,” said Hickman.

Although he is actively involved with many groups on campus, Hickman does not wish to pursue music professionally. Instead, he hopes to continue casually practicing while experimenting with different instruments and songs.

“I play music for myself and then I happen to be able to share that with other people... I want to actively share my music with other people. So going forward, I mean, I like having fun with my instruments. I like learning new things and I plan on keeping that up,” said Hickman.