



M.DOUCETTE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover become mask optional as of March 25.

## CaMD Scholar Ariana White '22 Presents on Transcending the Barriers of Slavery

WENDY WANG

Exploring the notion of transcendence, Ariana White '22 discussed the ways resilience is manifested in Trinidadian culture in her Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD) Scholar Presentation, "Transcending the Barriers of Slavery: Sub-Saharan Religion, Festival, and Folklore in Trinidad and Tobago." White touched upon her connection with Trinidadian folklore and spiritualism, detailing the cultures, languages, and religions of stolen Africans on Caribbean lands.

Reflecting on the experiences of working on her project, White mentioned the difficulties and challenges of her writing process while also thanking the community for making the experience rewarding for her.

"My mother was my biggest inspiration for this project as she has been telling me

Trinidadian folklore all my life. She sparked my curiosity in the history of storytelling and its representation in Trinidadian Carnival. My biggest take away from [doing this] research was to give myself time away from reading. In those moments away from my work, I found myself brainstorming and analyzing literature I had read with the need to write it down, which was incredibly helpful for the writing process," said White.

White continued, "The most difficult part of this process was probably starting it. It took me a while to initially sit down and start my research because the level of digging I knew I had to complete to have a finished product was daunting. But once started, I grew into my work and found confidence in my words and knowledge."

Continued on A6, Column 1

## World Map Poster Taken Down After Vandalization of State of Israel Flag

BIANCA MORALES

The world map poster that once hung in George Washington Hall was removed after the flag of the State of Israel was colored over, and the word "Israel" was replaced with "Palestine." Linda Carter Griffith, Associate Head of School for Equity, Inclusion, and Wellness, sent out an email condemning the act for its violation of the school's principles of tolerance and inclusion. She was not available for an interview with *The Phillipian*.

After the incident, the administration privately reached out to Marah Quran '22, a Palestinian student. The email sent to her apologized for the campus-wide email sent out just before.

"[They were] reaching out after the email was sent, apologizing about the email, talking about how it wasn't very inclusive-[it] only showed one side to the whole situation. They were just kind of apologizing for their ignorance, basically, and not really being super educated about

it. And sending that email out of haste without really thinking it through, just as soon as they heard complaints, they sent out an email," explained Quran.

Despite being appreciative of the school's efforts, Quran commented that the email was harmful and exclusive of their own identity. She argued that the actions of the school were contradictory to its values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"[Andover] picks and chooses where [diversity, equity, and inclusion] applies. In the case of Palestine, and everything that happened, I think it was just too uncomfortable of a topic to talk about. Also, just the very inclusion of Palestine, just the inclusion of a Palestinian student, and just being aware that there is a Palestinian student to begin with; just recognizing Palestine in and of itself, including it is a big topic of debate. It's very controversial, which is just the inclusion of a specific place. So I think yeah, [Andover's actions] go against [diversity, equity, and inclusion]. It's excluding a specific group of people. But it's also in fear of including a specific

group of people, because in this case the inclusion of somebody kind of contributes to the exclusion of another," said Quran.

Although Quran is trying to be understanding of the situation and the administration's efforts in addressing the conflict, she explained that invalidation of her identity has been a common trend during her time at Andover. She expressed her disappointment in the administration, claiming that their reactions towards her identity consistently goes against the school's values.

She said, "I [never blamed] the faculty for not stepping up because I always felt guilty for expecting anything out of them politically, anything that would affect their position at the school. But then again, just out of human decency, if you see something going on that's wrong you are meant to stand up against it no matter what. Because if something is going on that's wrong- that's another value that Andover teaches- if something is

Continued on A4, Column 1

## Prospective Governor of California: Quinn Novick '23

JULIA FOX &  
JACQUELINE GORDON

Quinn Novick '23 has decided to run for Governor of California. Before deciding on a future in politics, the Orange County native looked at his home state and decided that problems need to be fixed and not when he was finally "of age" to make the change. He plans to run in the near future.

"If you look at Congress, it's mainly made up of people who are 70 and 80, and a lot of these people are quite literally not cognitively functioning, and I think that's a relatively big problem. I'm serious, I'm serious. When you put youth, especially in government, it does a lot of stuff and benefits a lot of people. I've seen my

city, my county, my state really go down the drain, and it's really heartbreaking. From the fires in California or the homelessness, to the drug epidemic, and so on. We need to fix a lot of these problems, but these problems need to be fixed now and not when I'm 70 or 80," said Novick.

Novick developed interests in international and political relations through his participation in Andover's student Model UN club. In addition to his general passion for humanities, Novick specifically enjoys debating and negotiating especially when it comes to international politics.

"I've really been interested

Continued on A7, Column 3



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Quinn Novick '23 hopes bring a young person's touch to California's government.

Commentary, A2+3

Standard or Savings?

Dorothy Swanson Blaker '24 and Langan Garrett '24 argue whether we should stay in standard time or daylight savings time, respectively.

Eighth Page, A8

Co-Pres Election!

Vote for us please, we want to go to Yale

Sports, B1

Boys Volleyball

Despite its inexperience, Boys Volleyball was able to stay calm through close moments as it defeated Andover High 4-0 in its season opener.

Arts, B5

Culture Through Baking

From empanadas to pink conchas, Amina Hurd '23 has been an avid baker, sharing her work on her Instagram account @ami.bakes.

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Editorial

“We Must Re-examine the Pillar”

The long-awaited Andover Anti-racism Task Force (AATF) report, a subject of contention amongst the Andover community since its inception in 2020, has finally been released. Almost a year and a half after its formation in September, 2020, the report, released on March 24, 2022, outlines AATF’s findings over the course of its tenure. Reactions, as expected, have been mixed. The AATF report has been emblematic of deep dissatisfaction within the Andover community—a lack of transparency between administration and students, accusations of performative activism, trustee-level vagaries, frustrations towards a dearth of tangible, affirmative support of its BIPOC students. In view/light of these responses, it may be appropriate to examine the formative ideas of the AATF: what they promised, and what they delivered.

Developed in response to calls to better support Andover’s Black students, faculty, and staff, the AATF sought to interrogate Andover’s history and current efforts towards racial equity. Amid increased attention towards the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020, the AATF intended to bring some of those conversations to Andover’s structural, institutional, and demographic history. “We must undertake a thorough examination of Andover’s policies, practices, and institutional biases with respect to race and make corrections therein,” an email from Amy Falls ’82, P’19, P’21, President of the Board of Trustees, from September 10, 2020, reads, “As befits this critical moment in PA history, AATF’s work will be characterized by accountability and transparency...and will welcome input from all members of the Andover community.”

But this promised accountability and transparency, a major selling point championed by AATF communications, was lacking throughout the AATF’s process—unexplained delays, unclear behind-the-scenes processes, and a breakdown in communication between administration and students and faculty marked the AATF report instead. Though in-depth, extensively researched, and detailed, students and faculty are no doubt understandably sceptical of the report. Graphs, for instance, presented on page 40 and during the AATF ASM, omit key data points, with no acknowledgement that they do. While Graph 1, representing student racial demographics, contains data on white students, graphs 2 and 3, representing faculty racial demographics, does not include data on white faculty. Though longitudinal data is, understandably, missing and may not have been collected in the first place, to include missing data sets without disclaimers and explanations misframes data and erases racial dynamics within Andover. The implication, gleaned from the presentation of the data, no doubt supports the narrative that Andover has already done an outstanding job of promoting diversity at Andover, when in reality, there is much work yet to be done, much of which cannot be measured through hard, quantitative figures.

It is this lack of qualitative data that likely makes the AATF such a

mistrusted source. When students are overwhelmingly asking to be heard, to receive no clear communications over the course of multiple years is no doubt a disappointment. To withdraw for over a year on an intensely-awaited project, with obfuscation rather than transparency, was no boon to the AATF’s reputation. The recommendations for ‘next steps’ the report lays out are largely strong, consistent, and effective, yet trust has been eroded to the point where the likelihood these recommendations will even be installed are in question. A trustee statement from June 17, 2020, announcing the Board’s hopeful steps to combat racism at Andover (and marks the first public communication about the AATF’s conception), reads: “To the Black members of our community and beyond: We see you; we hear you; we are suffering with you.” But how can a board, so far removed from the daily actualities and lived experiences of Black students adequately capture BIPOC student and faculty’s lived experiences of being a person of colour on this campus “and beyond”? When Andover does not feel hospitable to BIPOC seeking to express their criticisms and feedback on the school’s approach to racial equity, promises ring hollow; trust dissipates, and the AATF report is received through open, but hesitant, eyes.

And yet, there still may be signs of hope. If the Academy hosts more opportunities for student-administration discussion (as it recently did with the Deans symposium), implements more widely accessible and functional opportunities to express experiences with racism on campus, and increases transparency and frequency of communication, then it will demonstrate to its communities the values of care and equity it so frequently touts. In short, if the Academy shows us that it is, in fact, dedicated to its purported values of diversity, equity, inclusion, then it must commit, tangibly, to better serving youth from every quarter. One year ago, *The Phillipian*, vol. CXLIII, wrote in its January 2, 2021, editorial that: “Institutional progress requires genuine collaboration between the administration and students, with the first step being clarity from the administration on what actions they have taken, and how students can be proactive in taking part.” It is now up to Andover to make the right choices, and prove to the communities it serves that it cares. “This report is not a panacea,” Gary Lee ’74, Charter Trustee, says on page 39 of the AATF report, and we don’t expect it to be. We ask that now the work has been promised and done, that these promises are honoured, and that this will mark an honest, tangible, and actionable step towards anti-racism at Andover.

Note: The title of this editorial, “We must re-examine that pillar,” is taken from the June 17, 2020, Trustee letter, from an excerpt that reads: “Our 2014 Strategic Plan, Connecting Our Strengths, placed Equity and Inclusion as a central pillar upon which we remain accountable. We must re-examine that pillar, with new context, and ask how Andover can have the greatest impact in the ongoing battle to dismantle systems of racism and oppression.”

This editorial represents the views of The Phillipian Vol. CXLV.



CAROLINE SHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

The Magic of Disneyland

GLORIA CHEN



Before you skip over this article, answer one question. When you think of Disneyland, what comes to mind?

Mickey Mouse, magic, fairy tales, and most importantly, children?

According to my mother’s WeChat post from 2016, the year of my most recent visit to Disneyland, I insisted that I had grown out of the amusement park’s novelty. Lo and behold, you can imagine the irony and surprise I caught myself in when Disneyland was the first place I thought of going after a term of school. Similarly, over the years, Disneyland has become an “aesthetic” tourist attraction for adults and teenagers alike. On Weibo, a Chinese social media app for celebrities, the signature Sleeping Beauty Castle’s pastel, subdued colors are constantly seen in the background of posts. On U.S. TV last year, Disney’s 50th anniversary perpetuated many a celebration and invitation to join. We return again and again to spin in a teacup, ride gentle boats through small worlds, brave thunder mountains, and find Nemo under the sea. We stand in awe of the parades down Main Street and firework shows in fictional castles.

Why does Disneyland matter to us more now that we’re older?

As a kid, the presence and concept of Disneyland did not impact me as much as I anticipate it would, today. I grew up consuming Disney classics, (Cinderella, Snow White, Peter Pan, etc.) truly living and interacting in a world of pure magic and joy. As much as I considered the fictionality of this world, constant immersion guaranteed it a major part of my days. Consequently, stepping into Disneyland was only a real-life simulation of the “happily ever after” stories and magic I was already familiar with. Around the age of nine, I had evidently stopped reading the stories. I still considered myself a child, yet a child simply too mature for fairy tales and too young for the reality of our world. Thus, I was at an awkward age where I explored neither the magical world nor the real world. The result? Disneyland barely impacted me at that age—I didn’t need it.

In comparison, now fifteen, Disneyland may offer me a place of escape. It provides a grand contrast to the world I live in and am fully aware of. In a world often filled with dissonance and sickness, Disneyland is simply a bundle of delight. In that same world where we strive for innocence and purity, Disneyland offers a haven for exactly that. It is truly immersive and convinces me to exist as the kid inside me—even if just for a day. And, with the increase in age, the impact of Disneyland, I believe, grows.

In 2019, a mother posted on Facebook “Disneyland is a FAMILY amusement park!!! Disneyland is for CHILDREN!!! People without CHILDREN need to be BANNED!!!!” In response, this



S. STALL / THE PHILLIPIAN

post was met with opposing comments and even sparked panel debates. From these reactions, it was obvious that “childless adults and adolescents”—couples, newly-weds, college students, high schoolers, working people, the elderly—could all benefit (and perhaps heal) from a trip to Disneyland. As Walt Disney once said, “what I want Disneyland to be most of all is a happy place—a place where adults and children can experience together some of the wonders of life, of adventure, and feel better because of it.”

I listened to a one-hour-loop of “When Will My Life Begin” from Tangled today. It got me thinking: what if Walt Disney hadn’t kept his 20-year promise to his daughter? What if he

didn’t adapt her favorite 1934 children’s book, Mary Poppins, into a big-screen masterpiece? What if the story wasn’t told? What about all the other stories, created, assembled, and put to life at Disneyland?

The world would be all right, of course, but it wouldn’t be as colorful. Up Disneyland’s Main Street, you wouldn’t see tiara-clad, cosplay-ing children, friends buying matching headbands and chocolate-covered Mickey hats, and the most unnoticeable, individuals sitting on the benches, simply relishing these scenes. You wouldn’t look at the person sitting next to you, wonder what they’re thinking in this fantastical world, before walking off to continue your

day. You wouldn’t come back every so often, I wouldn’t strive to go back, to let the uniqueness of this magical world hit you in the heart.

The magic of Disneyland lies partly in its characters and tales, for the children and their delight. The other part, well, lies in its much-needed yet so simple presence in today’s world... this time for you, me, and our delight.

Gloria Chen is a Lower from Germantown, Md. Contact the author at ychen24@andover.edu.

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CORRECTIONS:  
In the News spread “Students Share Reactions to The Russia-Ukraine War,” Marc Vidal and Henry Fagan’s responses were incorrectly printed.  
The Phillipian deeply regrets the errors.



# Keeping the Days Bright

LANGAN GARRETT



I like winter. I like the shorter days. I like the cold. But there's something undeniably joyful and refreshing about “springing forward.” After months of darkness, we emerge from our little hobbit holes of snow and ice to days that are longer, brighter, and seemingly more happy. We do lose an hour of sleep when daylight savings time makes us adjust our clocks, but in that one hour that we lose—we gain so much.

When I was younger, I never understood daylight savings time. Were we adjusting to a “normal” time zone, or readjusting the hours of the day to fit our schedules? It felt like humanity playing God, changing times at what seemed to be an arbitrary date in March and October, then having everyone for the next two months complain about the adjusted clocks. Were we getting more sunlight in the morning or at night? I probably still couldn't answer any of these questions. But what I do know is that I can eat dinner and it's still light out. Not everything is gloomy anymore—it really does bring the light out from the darkness.

As someone from the sea-



H. CHOI / THE PHILLIPIAN

son-less California, I never really understood the big deal of winter. But having gone through two New England winters, I understand now how miserable the last of February is. You want spring; you want warmth; you want green, and life, and vibrance. But the

**But there's something undeniably joyful and refreshing about “springing forward.”**

darkness puts a damper on everything. I now appreciate with much more clarity how the emergence of light represents an ending to that misery.

Besides, we wait for months for the reds and oranges of autumn to turn to the muted grays and browns of winter, and with bated

breath for the mundaneness of winter to turn to the blooming vibrance of spring. Maybe it's the ice melting on the pond, or the grass turning green again, but I cannot wait for the trees to bloom, and the flowers to sprout some much needed color into my life. Daylight saving time reminds me that there is something worth looking forward to, even when things seem to be their darkest. Daylight saving and the sunlight it brings to the later hours of the day—It's something tugging us forward, toward a more colorful and vibrant period. It's the sign that we're approaching the rainbow after the snowstorm. All we have to do is wait until winter is over, and the light reaches us to send this soft but so hopeful message.

Daylight savings also marks not just the end of a winter

but the beginning of spring. A fresh start. A new term, a new year, a new season. It brings up my memories of past springs, flowers blooming, and warmer weather. The

**Daylight savings time reminds me that there is something worth looking forward to, even when things seem to be their darkest.**

longer summer days allow us to enjoy those sunsets, and still have time at night to be with our friends and families. Staying in daylight savings time allows us to extend those good feelings through the rest of the year.

We gain light, and happi-

ness, and color. Think back to your happiest memories of sunny days past: maybe they happen in the fall, or the winter, or the summer and

**Staying in daylight savings time allows us to extend those good feelings through the rest of the year.**

spring—really, it doesn't matter. But, imagine giving those memories an extra hour, to spend with your family, or your friends, or whomever and think about how you can use that hour. Springing forward gives us time—let's use it.

*Langan Garrett is a Lower from Mill Valley, Calif. Contact the author at lgarrett24@andover.edu.*

# Out of the Darkness

DOROTHY SWANSON BLAKER



In the cold depths of winter, I wake up each morning with a sinking heart. I know that when I look outside, I won't see anything but the suffocating darkness, and getting out of bed is the last thing I want to do. As the days go by, though, they brighten bit by bit, slowly lifting the gloom from the world. I hate waking up early—and as a teenager I'm not really meant to—but school forces us to do so day in and day out. The day I finally see brightness when I open my eyes is a beautiful one. Standard time, which we have recently moved out of, means that our mornings would brighten by an entire hour, especially important during the long winter months. On the flip side of the day, the hour-darker evenings are a small sacrifice, a benefit even. The striking sunsets of winter term bedeck countless Instagram stories—they're hard to miss. Switching to permanent Standard Time would be a relief for teenagers everywhere, giving us a beautiful hour of light in the mornings, decorating the sky in sunsets, and beckoning us back to our warm beds at night.

I truly believe that the weather affects my mood, and waking up, one of the hardest parts of the day, is when the darkness has its worst

impact. Take Winter Term: motivation is hard to find, the cold is unbearable, and time feels like it's moving slower than your half-hearted English discussion. Waking up in the dark is one of the hardest parts, and puts me in a bad mood all day. As the days fade into spring, it gets brighter and brighter. Truly, those few glorious days at the end of February, when I lift my blinds to a clear, bright sky are magical. But suddenly, Daylight Savings hits—and the days jolt into black once again. Not only does it jerk my sleep schedule into chaos, it also wrenches me back into the depths of winter, making it twice as hard to believe that spring is really coming.

But what about our internal clocks? According to Eric Suni from the National Sleep Foundation, teenagers are naturally inclined to sleep in and go to bed late. That's part of our natural circadian rhythms, and schools should adopt later schedules to compensate. But the word that echoes is “should.” The older we get, it seems, the earlier we have to get up. As much as I would

**Staying in Standard Time would not take away an hour of our day. If anything, it would allow us to begin our days happier, lighter, and readier to take on the world.**

love to follow my inner clock, it's impossible in the world we live in. Day in and day out, we get up at achingly early hours of the day and have the option of either forcing ourselves to sleep early—or never getting enough sleep. Stay-

ing in standard time would ease this struggle by lightening mornings and darkening nights. This would nudge our bodies' circadian rhythms in the right direction—not necessarily what we want, but what we need to function in modern society.

On a lighter note (get it?), there's the simple beauty that Standard Time would bring. The sun rising an hour earlier means that it would set earlier as well, which boils down to one wondrous thing: more sunsets. These painted skies are an incredible wonder of nature. Sunsets are gorgeous, accessible, and don't require you to shake off your tired morning mood to admire them. And if you really want your morning sunrise? Winter has got you! There's still a few beautiful rising suns to admire during the darkest days of the coldest season. An abundance of sunsets would bring joy to our lives—both on the days that we need it most and on the days we're just there to admire.

Staying in Standard Time would not take away an hour of our day. If anything, it would allow us to begin our days happier, lighter, and readier to take on the world. In the busy, bustling, early-bird-catches-the-worm world we live in, the Standard Time schedule would agree with many peoples' daily schedules, including at Andover. And finally, as the evening descends, we would admire the colors streaking across the sky for a few more glorious days of the year— more sunset dinners and golden-hour photo shoots. Then, finally, more peaceful sleep than ever before. Who wouldn't want that?

*Dorothy Swanson Blaker is a Lower from Portland, Oreg. Contact the author at dswansonblaker24@andover.edu.*

Time Type	Percentage
Daylight Savings	66%
Standard Time	34%

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MELISSA DAMASCENO / THE PHILLIPIAN



# Why the Environment?

*In celebration of Earth Week, the Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC) has planned a variety of events for the month of April to educate and involve the Andover community. Read below for some thoughts from students who helped to plan this month's activities.*

## LENA CIGANER-ALBEINZ '25: Our Last Place to Live

I fight for environmental protection because climate change is the most dire issue the world is facing right now. If we continue to abuse and deteriorate our planet, we will have no place to live and no place to display new human innovations. During Earth week, everyone is made aware of the ongoing issues regarding the environment. Even those who continue to be ignorant cannot avoid this. In contrast, Earth Week is also a week to celebrate our planet and the environment. We can take time to appreciate the little things in our daily life that are provided by nature. All in all, it is a week for us climate advocates to spread awareness, create change, and celebrate our planet.

## CATHY MA '25: Protecting Nature

I enjoy going on walks with my family and being surrounded by nature, which motivates me to fight for environmental protection to preserve as much of the beautiful outdoors as we can. Earth Week is celebrated with the hopes of raising awareness for climate change and the harm that we can do to our planet. It's important to allocate this time of year to have conversations, workshops, and events (which you should attend here on campus this Earth Week!) with an emphasis on how we can be more conscious of our choices. This can hopefully inspire long-term change in ourselves and in our communities while encouraging everyone to more committed to environmental advocacy.

## KAREN WANG '24: For Our Future

I fight for environmental protection because I believe that sustaining and improving the environment is the most important thing for ensuring a tangible future for us and generations to come. Fighting for institutional change and environmental justice at Andover is something that I believe will eventually lead to a greener and brighter world. Earth Week is important because of all the opportunities it gives people to start learning about climate change! From a hands-on art workshop in the Addison Gallery of American Art to a Climate Festival, people can get involved in new and unique ways that may be more interesting and approachable to them.

## RHINE PENG '24: The West Coast Fires

I never thought about climate change as something close to me until the West Coast wildfires in 2020 (remote freshman fall), including in my home state of Washington. For days, the sky was a heavy shade of gray, and the sun was a glowing reddish orange color. It meant waking up every day and being reminded that something's wrong, and that it'll get worse if we do nothing. I realized how fragile our environment is, and I thought about communities that are more vulnerable. And it all began there. I hope that by raising awareness, Earth Week can also become a climate wake-up call for many others.

## CARLOS CEPEDA-DIAZ '23: A Time to Acknowledge

I think Earth Week is important because it sets a real date on a calendar where we can specifically and precisely address the problems we face and consider the opportunities we have now to do something about them. Even though every week should be Earth Week, observing Earth Week on campus allows Andover's community to acknowledge that, even though we all lead very busy lives, it is critical that we look up every once in a while to notice this huge issue and make a commitment to ensuring a livable world for generations to come.

## ALICE FAN '23: Encouraging Climate Action

Climate change is one of the biggest issues facing our generation. At Andover, many of us are immune to its detrimental effects and disparities. With Earth Week, we aim to not only raise awareness about these disparities and celebrate our work at the PA Sustainability Coalition, but also encourage students to act based on their strengths and interdisciplinary goals. We build upon previous environmental movements at Andover in advocating for bold climate action to help to mitigate and adapt to a warming world, both within the student body and at the Academy as a whole. Everyone has a role in this process.

## ALEXA VINTON '22: The 2020 California Fire Season

Climate Action really became a focus of mine during the 2020 California fire season. I had known about the importance of climate change before that, yet I hadn't fully felt the urgency of it until I couldn't go outside due to fire smoke. It was a reality check and I feel that Earth Week is a great way to bring awareness to that urgency. We need more people to feel the urgency I felt during fire season.

## FRANK ZHOU '22: Act Now For the Future

Environmental justice isn't about just what we put in our laws, oceans, or stomachs; it's about what we set aside for our future. In an [Oliver Wendell Holmes Library]-sponsored Climate Cafe this school year, author Daniel Sherrell observed that every tick on that thermometer is millions of lives. We all have a collective obligation to safeguard the Earth we cherish; we cannot just stare and hand wring as it floods and burns under our watch. Earth Week—and the program of events that the PA Sustainability Coalition has organized with the enthusiastic activism of dozens of lowerclassmen, upperclassmen, and staff alike—calls on us to heed our charge. Join your classmates. Your friends. Your students. Your peers. The time is now.



# Students Reflect on Cluster Munch: Favorite Food and More

REPORTING BY CHRISTINE LEE

*From cupcakes to mozzarella sticks, cluster munches offer a variety of foods and desserts and an opportunity for students to bond with others within their cluster community. Every Wednesday evening, each cluster holds a cluster munch where students can take a break from their everyday tasks and gather to indulge in a snack with their cluster. Students reflected on their favorite cluster munch food and their favorite aspects of the weekly event.*

## Adele Tissier, PG

“I think it’s the cookies, I really like chocolate chips and sugar cookies. Or when we have cinnamon rolls. I really like cluster munches. I always see my friends here, they all come, and we hang out, and it’s fun. We also get to talk with [Dr. David Gardner, Dean of Pine Knoll Cluster] and see other people from the cluster that we don’t usually see.”

## Ryan Chen ’24

“My favorite cluster munch food is probably something warm, either the cereal or the chicken tenders. [Cluster munch] is something you can always look forward to on a Wednesday night when you don’t have much going on and there’s always food, so if you’re hungry, you can pop in and you can see your friends. For work duty, I bring the cart over and I bring it to Commons, into the den. I get the food and I bring it here, and then I clean up and set the tables. It’s pretty fun because a lot of my friends are also part of the munch duty and it’s pretty chill.”

## Andie Shim ’25

“My favorite cluster munch food is probably chicken nuggets. Chicken nuggets is my favorite Commons food to begin with and I also like all the dipping sauces. One of the things I like about cluster munches is getting to talk to all different types of people and classes. It’s really nice to talk to Seniors and Uppers as a [Junior].”

## John Sanchez ’23

“I would say chicken nuggets [are my favorite] because I feel like that selection brings the most amount of people. I think the environment is just a lot of hungry teenagers consuming chicken nuggets and spilling out how they feel about the term or anything on their minds. I think it’s just a really nice community space and I feel like chicken nuggets just prompt a sort of community. You get to see everyone’s little social niche groups and their smiles, laughter, and the sense of genuine care that they have for each other. [Cluster munch] reminds me that outside of the things you do, there are also people to interact with and the sense of a grander community of [Andover] that is worth tapping into.”

## Dakota Chang ’23

“I like most of the cluster munch foods. I just like food in general, but I would have to say cereal is probably the best one. Even though we get cereal at [Paresky Commons], eating cereal at night with my peers from my cluster just hits different. Being able to enjoy breakfast snacks with a lot of my friends and people from different dorms feels like I’m at home and it makes me feel like I’m a part of a great community that cares about each other.”

## Prince LaPaz ’24

“[My favorite is] probably mozzarella sticks because I love them so much. A close second is chicken nuggets because they’re both classics. [My favorite part of cluster munch] is probably the food. After a long day and halfway through the week we get food - I just love that.”

## Jun Fan ’24

“I think my favorite cluster munch food has to be mozzarella sticks. I just think munches in general are really fun where you get to see everyone together. It’s also cool when you get to take food back to the dorms. I think my dorm also has the general consensus that mozzarella sticks are the best. I feel like we don’t always see everyone in our cluster together, so I think it’s cool when we do get to talk to everyone and bond as a cluster.”



A.JEFFERSON/THEPHILLIPIAN  
Above, students eat chicken nuggets and do arts and crafts at Wednesday’s cluster munch.

## Neil Shen ’22

“I really love the chicken nuggets, especially when they happen not to be soggy. I like cluster munch because of the people. I really enjoy talking to outstanding individuals of the [Andover] community.”

# PA Wings Initiative: Spreading Kindness One Donation at a Time

## ANGELINE ZHAO

Most people have plenty of clothes they no longer wear. The Wings Initiative is a global organization and the PA branch was started by Charlie Benjamin ’23 that is dedicated to donating used clothing for children in need. Since its founding in 2021, the Wings Initiative has raised over 1,000 dollars and collected over 2,500 donations. The PA Wings Initiative aims to encourage more Andover students to donate used clothing to charitable causes. When coming up with the idea for the organization, Benjamin realized that the vast majority of students were unable or did not have time to drive and donate clothing themselves. As such, the initiative provides a simple, fast way for students to contribute to the community without the usual

challenges. “At the PA Wings Initiative, we act as a middleman for getting people’s used clothing items to organizations who distribute them to the community. So far, that’s been through Cradles to Crayons, which makes clothing kits for kids. We’ve also gone and donated to a thrift shop up in Lawrence that’s very cheap—like a dollar for a t-shirt—for the community around there,” said Benjamin. Aside from donating to local organizations, the PA Wings Initiative has recently started a fundraiser for Ukraine. The money raised will be used to purchase clothing and blankets which will then be donated to Nova Ukraine, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing humanitarian aid to people in Ukraine. “Consistent with our community efforts with clothing, I thought we should use our platform to help out with the current

crisis in Ukraine—making it convenient and collaborative. So far we’ve raised a small \$65 on the GoFundMe but I have received other cash donations that we plan to buy items with. We will likely buy medicine and bring it to the Melrose town hall where they are collecting useful items to ship over. We will likely donate a box of 500 pairs of socks too,” wrote Benjamin in an email to The Phillipian. As the PA Wings Initiative is gaining more traction at Andover, the organization has helped start Wings Initiatives at two other high schools and is currently contacting other boarding schools in the area to start similar projects as well. “At first, I got people in the group to reach out to their friends, but it wasn’t very successful at first. It wasn’t getting started. Over this last break, I made an infographic on the process and how easy it is to

start a cycle of people seeing it and people wanting to contribute at a different school. Right now we are in three different locations, about to be more,” said Benjamin. According to Lena Ciganer-Albeniz ’25, Social Media Coordinator of the PA Wings Initiative, she knew she wanted to join a club at Andover relating to welfare. When she saw the Wings Initiative at the Club Rally in October, she immediately signed up. “This is my first time directly being on the board of a club that does donations and fundraising and all that. I was just interested in doing something that has to do with welfare or donations. The Wings Initiative happened to be the first one that I got an email from, so I was like, ‘why not sign up for that and try to get on the board?’ It was a completely new thing,” said Ciganer-Albeniz. Arun Kapoor ’25, Donation Manager of the PA Wings Initiative,

joined the club after learning about it through other students on the board. He believes that the unique aspect of the Wings Initiative is the easy accessibility it provides to students. “There’s obviously a lot of ways that you can help people whether it could be donating clothes or some other way that a lot of people might have a preference for, but this is a school club. We’re a more accessible way for people to help out and donate,” said Kapoor. The PA Wings Initiative currently consists of six board members and has contributions from numerous more student donors. In Benjamin’s own words, the club is “building an empire of kindness.” “Donating doesn’t just mean helping underprivileged kids in the greater Boston area. Donating means being a bigger part of your own community here at [Andover],” said Benjamin.



COURTESY OF CHARLIE BENJAMIN /THE PHILLIPIAN  
The PA Wings Initiative has been raising money and collecting donations since 2021.



COURTESY OF CHARLIE BENJAMIN /THE PHILLIPIAN  
Charlie Benjamin ’23 and Theo Benjamin ’24 collect clothing donations.



HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY LEO PETERS

War and Conflict

A month after Russia launched its military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR reported that more than 10 million Ukrainians, or nearly a quarter of the population, had been displaced. As the war continued and Russian forces largely appeared to stall around major Ukrainian cities, Russia has shifted to using artillery strikes against the highly populated cities, including Kyiv, the capital, according to reporting by The New York Times. Some of the strikes have targeted civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and residential complexes, killing hundreds of civilians from afar. Meanwhile, in Mariupol, Russian forces have surrounded and laid siege to the port city of nearly half a million people for several weeks, cutting off access to water, food, electricity, gas, and humanitarian aid.

Culture

The 94th Academy Awards, or Oscars, was held on March 27. During the ceremony, “CODA” became the first film from a streaming service (Apple TV+), as well as the first film featuring primarily deaf actors in leading roles to win an Oscar for Best Picture, according to The New York Times.

Actor Troy Kostar also won the award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in “CODA” becoming the first deaf man to win an Oscar for acting. During the presentation for Best Documentary Feature, actor Will Smith walked onto the stage and struck comedian Chris Rock, who had made a joke about Smith’s wife, Jada Pinkett Smith’s short hair, caused by her alopecia. In his Best Actor speech for his performance in “King Richard.” In his acceptance speech, Smith, referencing the incident, said “Richard Williams was a fierce defender of his family.”

Politics

Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Joe Biden’s nominee to fill the seat of retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, faced several grueling days of confirmation hearings in Congress beginning on March 21. Jackson has been widely considered by media commentators to have an especially qualifying mainstream judicial record. Despite this, over the several days Jackson spent answering Judiciary Committee Senators’ questions; she faced several aggressive allegations from Republicans. Notably, several Republican senators used misleading claims to portray Jackson’s sentencing record as soft on child sex abuse, according to reporting by “The New

York Times.” If confirmed, she would be the 166th justice and the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

President Joe Biden proposed a \$5.8 trillion budget on March 28. His proposed budget, which would boost domestic spending by seven percent, included increased defense spending, reflecting security concerns amid the war in Ukraine, and increased health and climate spending, to be paid for in part by new taxes on the richest Americans. The budget included \$733 billion for military spending, a 10 percent increase from the previous year, and included an additional \$682 million in funding for Ukraine. To prepare for the next pandemic, the Biden administration requested \$81.7 billion spread across a period of five years, including funding for pandemic preparedness for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health. Also included were a request for \$127 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services, a 15 percent increase, and \$8.4 billion for the FDA, a more than one-third increase.

Ariana White ’22 Brings Approachable Energy to CaMD Presentation

Continued from A4, Column 1

I loved giving my CaMD presentation and interacting with the school community through a series of topics I had learned so much about and cared deeply for.”

Attendee Dominique Williams ’24 shared her excitement when first seeing the topic of White’s presentation, as it relating to her home country. Williams appreciated White’s candidness and directness in narrating the history of slavery from her culture.

Williams said, “I’m from St. Kitt’s, so this subject was familiar to me, and I was interested to learn more about it from the perspective of research. Ariana really made the entire conversation approachable and amiable. Even when talking about enslavement and its trauma, she made herself like the Trinidadian spirit she spoke about, her presentation was mostly unburdened by the subject.”

Donald Slater, Instructor in History and Social Science, who served as White’s faculty advisor, was impressed by White’s studies. According to Slater, faculty advisors guide through CaMD Scholars’ research, assist with writing the paper, and prepare scholars for the public presentation.

“Ariana’s rich research and dynamic presentation the other night hopefully left the audience with many take-

aways. The most significant take-away, I think, is quite ‘big picture’: any culture’s current practices are a complex palimpsest that has developed over time as the result of internal and external influences; both positive and negative. Resultantly, it is difficult for people to understand our present practices without understanding our past. This, in turn, can help determine which practices we most value and how we can take them with us into the future. I am incredibly proud of Ariana. She has grown as a scholar and young woman through the CaMD scholar program. It was a joy for me to see her celebrate her heritage during the process,” wrote Slate in an email to *The Phillipian*.

White said, “I’d like to add that this was a life-changing experience. I and my fellow CaMD Scholar peers have grown tenfold over the course of this year-long process, and I am thankful to have had the opportunity and team there to support my endeavor.”

Release of Anti-Racism Task Force Report Sparks Conversation on Content Efficacy

Continued from A4, Column 1

students of color are tired of everything being so generalized.”

Kianna Jean-Francois ’23 also shared her frustration with the school’s lack of action, despite the long delays before releasing the final report. Implementing changes also entails responsibilities from the school to bring about actual changes rather than acting out the basic responses, added Jean-Francois.

“I think the openness about the task has been better, with the report coming out, finally. However, I do still feel like it didn’t necessarily fulfill what we had hoped for and wasn’t enough to just have the report and nothing else really. Because it’s been a long time, with the report being supposed to come out kind of a long time ago, I feel like students and even faculty were just hoping for a bit more than just the releasing of the report,” said Jean-Francois.

Jean-Francois continued, “The updating of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion page, there’s like certain groups meeting now like the Student Task Force. So in some ways, I think that progress is being made. In other ways I feel like people expected more progress by now... I think being complete means something different than work being done. Yes, it’s true... But also when they say implement, I think what certain people are also looking for is breaking down that process and the advertisement of employment, an explanation of it, making it more accessible. It just seems like they just checked the box off on a list.”

VERA ZHANG

Under the theme of “Experiments in Education,” 22 senior participants are currently working with their peers, faculty, and community partners on a series of linked, interdisciplinary projects.

Deviating from the traditional education system that consists of strictly divided courses, topics, and even classrooms, The Workshop program allows students to engage in learning from unbounded class settings.

The Workshop provides students opportunities which are typically not feasible within the standard schedule. According to Andrew Housiaux, a faculty advisor of The Workshop, the program strives to increase the immersion of students’ in their studies.

“The Workshop is an effort to think differently about the foundational building blocks of schooling: grades, assessment, learning, teaching, time, and student agency. The program is so immersive because we need significant blocks of unscheduled time to do immersive learning and reflection. For example, it’s almost impossible to take a field trip in our current schedule. The more open structure of the Workshop allows for us to have this kind of off-campus learning, or on-campus gardening, as a regular feature, not a one-off,” wrote Housiaux in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Lesley Tan ’22 is currently researching about the Buddhism Project with Housiaux. Tan described the more relaxed pace of the class with its increased freedom and independence, allowing students to better take advantage of and understand the resources around them.

Tan said, “[I’m] someone who really wants to develop my own curiosity as opposed to constantly being bombarded by what I should do. I’m currently in a Buddhism project, which is directed by Mr. Housiaux. He has helped give us guidance in terms of specific readings that we have during for each day, and then we have discussions. And for



COURTESY OF COREEN MARTIN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Above, students build tables as an interdisciplinary activity for the workshop.

next week or so we are visiting a Buddhist temple every single day, which is a lot more immersive compared to how my other classes usually are. The workshop has really helped me navigate what I want to do, how I want to learn, and just learning about my own mind as a student. Oftentimes, we don’t really investigate how we learn because we’re normally told [what] we have to do. But instead, [in The Workshop] we’re setting our own intentions and goals for our own learning.”

Similarly, Sean Meng ’22 shared that he took the course as an opportunity to reflect on his academic career so far and explore what education meant to him.

“It [is] a really great way to spend your senior spring. You do four years of very traditional Andover education, obviously, [with] excellent schooling. But this is something different. Senior spring [is when] you get some extra leisure time, where things aren’t as high stakes. You get to reflect on your educational career and really think about what has worked, what hasn’t worked, what is the future for education, what has been the most helpful, and what could education be in the future” said Meng.

Led by faculty advisor Christopher Jones, the project focuses on historiography, entailing numerous readings that deviate from typical textbook learning and providing a

unique approach to learning history, according to Meng.

Meng said, “We’re currently looking at the Gilded Age. And we’re looking at different narratives describing the same time period, learning how different historians, world views, and the biases, change the way that they write about history, and how we can derive a fuller picture of this period of time and think about whether there even is such thing as a full picture of a historical time period. We’ve been doing a number of readings, quite long readings, but very, very interesting.”

The program is currently offered exclusively during the spring term for Seniors who have already completed their graduation requirements. While the program is in its early stages, with this term marking its third year for running, faculty members are hoping to extend the program further into the curriculum and be able to offer it to Lowerers next year.

“A tenth grade version [of the program] will be launched next year too, so a tenth grade group will be able to do some version. If we can document how this program actually improves teaching and learning on campus, we can maybe get more support, more resources and be integrated even more into the curriculum. This project could definitely have a direct impact on the curriculum,” said Martin.



COURTESY OF COREEN MARTIN/THE PHILLIPIAN

“The Workshop” has no classes or homework, but instead recommended readings, dissimilar to a traditional class setting, according to Sean Meng ’22.



# Students Reflect on Israeli-Palestinian Tensions, Hope For Future Conversations

wrong, someone is being hurt, we should be bringing it up. No matter how afraid we are of the consequences.”

Ethan Weinstein ’23, president of the Jewish Student Union (JSU) on campus, offered a brief statement regarding the lasting effect of the vandalization. He believes that the act seemed more harmful than beneficial.

“The vandalization of the Israeli flag was addressed as a community concern and, due to the nature of the issue, I don’t want to politicize it by speaking on it as the president of the JSU. I can, however, tell you that as a member of the Jewish community, it felt more destructive than productive,” wrote Weinstein in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Quran thinks that the vandalization shined light on longstanding tensions between Zionist and Palestinian students. She recognizes that the situation created tension, but believes that the tension shows that there are Palestinian voices being heard.

“You can’t eliminate tension like this when the issue is still

standing. And, honestly, the tension may be bad, maybe for the administration and for the school and whatever. But for me, tension in this certain situation, it’s a positive thing. And it just like proves to me that there is the Palestinian voice. If there is a tension, there are two sides and the Palestinian voices present,” said Quran.

JSU board member Isa Matloff ’24 saw the situation as an opportunity to begin discussions surrounding Israel and Palestine. She explained that Andover should foster such conversations, given the diversity in perspectives within the community.

“Our Andover community benefits from a vast number of varied perspectives and experiences. I feel that gives us a huge opportunity to have discussions around difficult topics such as this. It also gives us a chance to better understand each other. I hope we have and embrace those discussions,” said Matloff.

in humanities my whole life—everything from History, Politics, International relations. I think that Model UN is something that really spearheaded my interest in politics more broadly. How you learn to negotiate, interact, and debate with different countries was something I was really passionate about and playing devil’s advocate was something really interesting to me. Also following the different political systems of different countries—for example, I’ve met kids around the world, and I’ve got to experience their different cultures. Following Indian politics or South Korean politics, or the politics of UAE; I think it was international politics that actually interested me first. Then I sort of went, how can I make a change in my local community and that’s how I went more domestic,” said Novick.

Looking ahead to his campaign for Governor, Novick is beginning to think about the logistics of what it would take to run. The process, he specified, would take many preliminary steps before officially beginning his campaign. One of his next goals is to be the leading ranked-choice voting person in California.

“I’m a part of the Libertarian Party of Orange County in California and over Spring Break, I had a really good sort of brunch with this group

called CALRCV or California Ranked Voting Coalition, the leading ranked-choice voting person in California, and the Libertarian Treasurer of Orange County. Their goal is to bring ranked-choice voting (RCV) across the ballot, which means you rank your votes instead of a traditional vote. So it pretty much is like an instant runoff ballot and what that does is it allows third parties to win elections.”

Novick continued, “Once RCV gets passed, I’ll have a realistic shot at becoming the first third party Governor in American history. I’ll work my way up through the 48th district in Orange County, then go more statewide in California, and eventually run for Governor. It’s really important [to note] that it’s not just Libertarians, but also the Green Party, Constitution Party, House Reform Party, and even Social Democrats. It’s for every third party, and it just benefits electoral competition by making districts more competitive, making politicians do their job; it’s a win-win for everyone no matter your political affiliation.”

In terms of his plans when running for Governor, Novick plans to focus more of his political efforts on sustainability, especially in California’s environment. One of his many ideas for increased sustainability includes the develop-

ment of a hyperloop as a way of transport.

“I have a lot of plans as a big advocate of the environment, but one of the key things I would do is actually build a hyperloop. It sounds a bit ridiculous but it’s actually already built in Nevada, and I would actually contact Richard Branson and see how we could contract a hyperloop from Los Angeles to San Francisco. It [the hyperloop] would really reduce gas pollution in Los Angeles, reduce energy costs across California, and also reduce fracking and oil drilling across California. This would bring tens of hundreds of jobs to hard-working Americans and you could go from LA to San Francisco in roughly about half an hour actually with a hyperloop.”

Looking towards the immediate future, Novick emphasized the importance of ranked-choice voting as an integral part of his election trail for California Governor.

“For anyone reading this, make sure to support ranked choice voting especially from or in California... Whether it’s the Forward Party, the Libertarian Party, or the Green Party, it doesn’t matter, whoever is supporting RCV is awesome in my book. I hope to see you on the ballot in ten years.”

Write for News! Contact  
jchyu23@andover.edu,  
hnardone23@andover.edu,  
and clee23@andover.edu!

And interested in drawing  
and art? Join Illustration!  
Contact  
acheng23@andover.edu  
and asong23@andover.edu



# NICKY AND EVALYN FOR CO-PRESIDENTS



We are definitely not exploiting faculty dogs to solicit votes!

## EVALYN: ★★★★★★★★★★

- Eats Takis and Kimchi (also predisposed to rectal cancer)
- Email boyfriend applications to my grandma with your intended major and projected income (applications currently on hold)
- Happy. (listens to mitski and phoebe bridgers)
- Born and raised in Illinois. (loves corn and waving to strangers)
- Overqualified for Andover Co-Pres (put me on your 2024 ballot, lets beat 2016 Deez Nuts)

## NICKY: ★★★★★★★★★★

- Always gets the job done, I have an Adderall prescription
- If you are a girl, my mother needs to interview you before we can speak
- Despite being from Greenwich, I am an avid listener of Pop Smoke (RIP the goat)
- Will suck your toes for vote
- My record is as clean as the bathroom floor of Rockwell. (Mom and Dad, don't worry it's getting better)

## ★ COMMUNITY:

- Room visits: sign a slip with your name, dorm, year, and a lifelong abstinence pledge
- Mailbox in GW for love letters to your hot teachers
- (we don't actually care about the Andover community, @yaleadmissions notice us!!)
- Pine Knoll Sleepovers (bug spray, gas mask, water filter, and squirrel traps recommended)

## ★ SUSTAINABILITY:

- reuse Covid-19 nose swabs to reduce waste (herd immunity full charge ahead)
- distribute free butt plugs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Earth Day: Cancel classes and take a break from compulsive littering for a day
- A slop bucket of leftover Commons food for Cluster munches

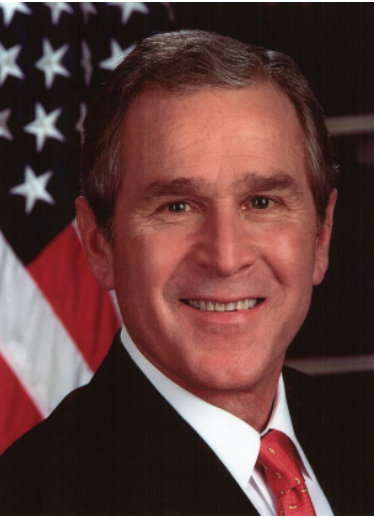
## ★ “EQUITY AND INCLUSION”:

- POC in every dorm (Printers of Color)
- Issuing a twenty-NINE page Anti-Racism Report that everyone will read
- Everyone gets the patagonia vest that Dr. Kington wears
- Add Private Equity 100 to Course of Study (course requirement: 4+ BTC)



## GEORGE W. BUSH ENDORSES NICKY AND EVALYN FOR CO-PRES

MARY LORD



I, George W. Bush '63, am more than excited to endorse Nicky Essaid and Evalyn Lee as the next Co-Presidents of Andover. As a proud alum, Andover has shaped so much of adult life. Andover taught me the importance of school spirit (can translate to patriotism), cheating to get by, and that having a dad who's done it before makes the silver spoon taste even better!

The aspect of their platform that really drives my endorsement of this wonderful candidate pair is their outstanding and morally commendable abstinence pledge for room visits. I worked so hard to ban abortions, so I'm so proud that young people these days are taking charge and avoiding that route all-together! During my time at Andover, I wish I had signed an abstinence pledge. I had a little too much fun, and it hurt daddy's credit card to fund all those feticides. My sperm, my choice.

Also, it fills me with pride that Evalyn and Nicky aspire for higher academic pursuits at the best university in America, or the globe...YALE. I can also be called George W. Bush '68, for Yale Class of 1968. Or George W. Bush '75, for Harvard Business Class of 1975. You get the gist. At Yale, I was president of Delta Kappa Epsilon and member of the Skull and Bones Society. My grades were pretty bad and I drank liquor like water, but I still got by. I was very popular for all the right reasons, clearly. My years as a student truly reflect my presidency.

I am also impressed by their initiative in recommending bug spray, gas masks, water filters, and squirrel traps, because not only will this prepare you for the Pine Knoll, but also war! (I LOVE WAR).

\*I, George W. Bush, have some questions and comments for you, Evalyn and Nicky. Who is Pop Smoke? Is that some type of new vape? Please retract the "Equity and Inclusion" section, it sounds too commie. Daddy hated communists, so I do too. I'm also glad to see that you are finding alternate methods to save the environment other than divesting from fossil fuels. Me and the fossil fuel buddies are tight. But what is a butt plug? Could you please send me an email on that topic in careful detail? I will also ask my secretary for a briefing.

## WEEK'S TOP HEADLINES

- Family With Private College Counselor Has One More Person to Blame for Son's Rejections
- Student Finds Gunga And Donates \$500 to Mental Health Resources for Deans
- Stop Making Fun of Your Teacher's Hairline Or He Might Pull a Will Smith On You
- If Your Girlfriend Doesn't Break Up With You After Getting a Whiff of the Pile of Clothes in Your Room, She's the One
- Mask Optional Gives Dr. RayK's Stubble a Grand Debut





# The Phillipian SPORTS

Volume CXLV | Number 6

pineapple on pizza<

April 1, 2022

## GIRLSLACROSSE

### Girls Lacrosse Cruises by Austin Preparatory Shool in Season Opener

LENA CIGANER

With just minutes left on the clock and a big point gap, Andover Girls Lacrosse continued to hustle, taking any given chance for offense. After playing five scrimmages hosted by Lincoln Sudbury on Sunday, Andover Girls Lacrosse cruised through a 20-3 win against Austin Prep. This was the team's first match, and first win of the 2022 season. Andover's record now stands at 1-0.

Prior to the season openers, the team went on a spring break trip to Nevada. According to Lauren Herlihy '25 and Grace Hammond '23 the trip allowed for the team to bond on and off the field, and the newly-forged chemistry contributed to victory on the field.

"I feel like it really let everyone bond and get closer together and I feel like the bond and the teamwork really makes a big difference on the field," said Herlihy.

Hammond added, "I think the lacrosse trip really helped solidify our team atmosphere and culture. It was great to meet new players and get to know everyone in the entire lacrosse program. I made a lot of friends on that trip that I really enjoy hanging out with outside of practice."

According to Hammond, a crucial aspect in Andover's victory against Austin Prep was the team's aggressiveness.

"When there were turnovers, we worked really hard

to get the ball back through hard rides and came up with every ground ball," said Hammond.

Hammond highlighted Kate McCool '23 in the scrimmages and against Austin Prep as a leader in defense.

"She is a lockdown defender who we can always count on [to] have great slides. She ran a bunch of midfields today and scored two goals, which I was super super excited about," said Hammond.

In addition, Coach Ware identifies captains Emily Smith '22 and Victoria Rider '22 as great leaders on the field, serving as voices to help their fellow teammates gather confidence to execute plays that the team has not had the chance to practice yet.

"Tori and Emily did a great job kind of dictating the play and helping everybody figure out what we are doing because we haven't had a chance to practice them too much in practice yet," said Coach Ware.

Coach Ware was also excited to see how the team was able to come together from the very beginning in their full length game.

"[Today's game] was really exciting to be able to see how our team came together in a full length game. It was really nice to see... how deep our bench is. Everybody played and everybody contributed significantly and we were able to really try people out in a lot of different positions and we have so much depth on our bench. It's really amazing," said Coach Ware.



CBARBIE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover will look to continue its impressive attacking play against Hotchkiss.

Coach Ware emphasizes that the number of talented players in the program this year has also forged a strong JV team with lots of promising players. This, she says, gives the team a sense of confidence and security.

"So we have a big team this year full of tremendous talent and we didn't have room for all the talent in the program because there are a lot of really strong girls on the JV team, too. But by depth on the bench, I mean that we can only start twelve girls, right? Eleven field players and the goalie and anyone we sub in, we have full confidence in the depth of talent on our team is amazing. Meaning, like, every single girl, whether they're

starters or they go in off the bench, they bring so much to the game and they have so much talent," said Coach Ware.

Coach Ware believes that beating Austin Prep has allowed for the team to get prepared for their big game on Saturday against Hotchkiss.

"I think my biggest takeaway from today's game is that every single player on our team contributes when they step on the field and everybody has full faith in each other. Like our teammates have full faith in each other that they know whoever's coming out is going to be able to make an impact" said Coach Ware.

Herlihy and Hammond

both expressed their wishes for their game against Hotchkiss. Herlihy hopes that the team would maintain its high level of offense by utilizing strong cuts and leveling up on its communication. Similarly, Hammond expressed exhilaration and desire to maintain aggression and possession in play.

"My hope for Saturday's game is to keep up our aggressiveness, bring the energy, and hustle a ton. I am super excited for us to work super hard against Hotchkiss," said Hammond.

Andover looks to extend its winning streak as it welcomes Hotchkiss on its field on Saturday.

## BOYSVOLLEYBALL

### Boys Volleyball Surmounts Andover High School 4-0 in Season Opener

NABILAH NAZAR

Pulling through during multiple game point ties, Andover Boys Volleyball was able to defeat Andover High School (Andover High) in the team's season opener. Despite welcoming a roster full of new players, the team was able to overcome its lack of experience and limited time together for victory. Boys Volleyball looks ahead to a bright season, so far standing 1-0.

Logan Suryamega '23, a new addition to the team, expressed his excitement for the season, especially regarding the new talent. However, considering the largely new team, Suryamega touched on the team's need to improve its bond and ability to play as a unit.

Suryamega said, "The team played really well considering that over half the team is either new to the game, or new to this level of play. There are some spots that we need to work on, like some rough edges, but I think we have a really, really strong team this year."

Eddie Lou '24 shared a similar sentiment to Suryamega, commending the team's

performance in spite of the obstacles presented by a new year and new players. Lou was satisfied with the result and expressed his excitement for the rest of the season.

Lou said, "I think a good amount of the players on the team are basically new, so giving them this first chance. It was actually a really really great game because this is, for some of us, the first Varsity match, but for some of us this was the first actual volleyball match and to see them actually perform well was really really comforting to see because we can see that there's a lot of potential in this team."

Coming up from JV the year prior, both Lou and fellow teammate, William Janghops Suh '24 felt nervous for the game. Nonetheless, both of teammates, as well as the entire team, were able to create an exhilarating experience by breaking through their nerves, something that will come more easily as the season progresses, Suh noted.

"It just comes naturally with more experience and more advice. There's not really anything you can do to prevent your nerves from coming out I'd say, but just with more experience you



J.REYES/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover is led by Co-Captains Caleb Blackburn-Johnson '22 and J.X. Smith '22.

feel more confident as well," said Suh.

Furthermore, the specific areas of improvement for Andover begin with communication. Suryamega explained the importance of calling the plays, from the bench or on the court, to aid the urgent judgment that players need to make. Also, Suryamega noted that working on the defen-

sive side would be another great area of improvement, though the offense holds a solid stance. Suryamega added upon Co-Captain Caleb Blackburn-Johnson's '22 ability to lead by example in his offensive plays.

Suryamega said, "I think we need to be a little bit louder. Right now, there's a lot of miscommunication. Nico [von Eckartsberg '23] was taking up a lot of that yelling, calling, making ball calls, helping out the team. But even from the bench and on the court, it's quiet and we can help out more. Just having extra information is always helpful, I guess whether or not a server is in or out. Because it is split second decisions, knowing whether it's in or not, it's just very helpful. I think, besides that, our defense needs a little bit of work. Our offense is really strong. As you saw, our front row is huge. You have [Blackburn-Johnson], [Alex Mitchell '22], [Matt Murphy '22], [Eric Tynes '22], all gigantic. So our offense is really good. But we have to polish up the defense sometimes on weird balls, we have a little bit of miscommunication and then

we lose free balls that are really easy points."

Lou also praised Andover's offense and described a moment where his play did not pan out well. The coaches provided advice for the next plays, encouraging players, and disassembling the tension that was getting built up with the setters, Lou explained.

"I think what Coach basically said to me and for the setters is that sometimes we just have to be good, we don't have to be perfect. So I think you know, consistency is something that we need to really work on. But our offense is incredible," said Lou.

"Just look out for us this season. I think this is the best team Andover has had in a really long time, I think we're all expecting really great things," said Suryamega.

Boys Volleyball's next match is against Choate on Saturday.



J.REYES/THE PHILLIPIAN

Two Andover players prepare to block an attacking Andover High shot.



GIRLSTRACK

Co-Captain Kiera Suh '22 Embodies Inlusivity in Her Leadership

MATT LEONARD

Holding the school's triple jump outdoor record, long jump indoor record, as well as its 4x200 meter relay record, Co-Captain Kiera Suh '22 has been a record breaking competitor for Andover Girls Track and Field. Aside from the marks she will leave in the record book, however, Suh seeks to leave a positive mark on the Andover Track and Field through her leadership.

Suh began track in her sixth grade year. After seeing her brother's love for the sport, she decided to join a team herself, and has competed ever since.

"I started running track in middle school and I did it because my younger brother ran on a club team. He was always having a lot of fun trying out the events and I guess I just watched him have the experience of being with a team that is doing all different things and I wanted to try that once I got to middle school," said Suh.

Suh noted that while track relies seemingly on individuals more so than team unity,

developing bonds with fellow teammates and cultivating a team atmosphere is what sustained her interest throughout her career. Meeting and competing alongside runners of all experience levels is something that truly sets track apart from other sports, according to Suh.

Suh said, "You are always meeting new people, everyone is always doing something different, and also, because of that, everyone has different goals. It's a lot of fun to support one another and their goals. Generally, track is one of those sports where you don't need a ton of experience to get started. You just need the will to go out to the track and run. I think that's really great, and it's a really inclusive sport."

Throughout her captainship, Suh has tried to emphasize this sense of inclusion and inspire her teammates to try new things. Because Suh was able to find success in open-mindedness regarding new events, she hopes to impart the same mindset onto her teammates in order to spark passion.

"For me personally, it took me a while to find my event. When I was in middle school,

I ran long distance. Now, here at Andover, I am a jumper and short sprinter, which is entirely different to my previous event. I think it's important that people don't feel tied down on our team, and I want to encourage everyone to explore their options within the sport," said Suh.

Langan Garrett '24 acknowledged Suh's ability to form personal connections with each individual on the team. She highlighted how Suh was able to mitigate her qualms leading up to a race and how her acts of encouragement stuck with her for long afterwards.

Garrett said, "She always expresses an interest in me and how I am doing, and it's small, but it really makes a difference in my day. I remember last spring, my first 4x400 relay. I didn't know her very well, but she stood on the sidelines and cheered me on. My nerves and anxiety were really bad leading up to that race, and seeing that kindness and compassion made me feel so much more confident. It was a small thing, but made such a difference in my life and my day. That's what [Suh] does."

Fellow Co-Captain Myra



J.CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Bhathena '22 shares a similar sentiment to Garrett, praising Suh's humbleness and team spirit. Bhathena specifically touched on Suh's after practice workouts, which not only display Suh's physical capacity, but her ability to lead with empathy and inspiration.

Bhathena said, "Anyone that watches our practices will know what an incredible leader Kiera is. Not only does she strike the perfect balance between being a friend and

being a leader, but her work ethic and kindness inspire all of us to do better ourselves. For example, Kiera's famous 'Killer Core' set that she leads at the end of practices leaves all of us in awe of how strong she is, holding a V-Sit for minutes on end while cheering the rest of us on."

Suh looks to continue her athletic and interpersonal success competing for Yale Track and Field next year.

Co-Captain Myra Bhathena '22 Exemplifies Hard Work and Enthusiam

MONISHA KATHIKA

Holding 9th grade school records in the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles, two-year Co-Captain Myra Bhathena '22 had a quick start to her Andover Track and Field career. After taking up track in middle school, Bhathena grew to love the individual aspect of the sport. Coming into Andover, Bhathena knew that she wanted to run track.

Bhathena values the connections and bonds she's formed while being a part of the track team. According to Bhathena, track has been a central aspect of her time at Andover.

"There's always people to cheer you on and people to cheer for, like [when I came] into Andover I knew I wanted to run track... I feel really grateful to be able to be a part of PATF for so long. It's been one of the core aspects of my Andover career. I've just met so many people on the team and connected with so many different athletes because it is such a big sport that draws from so many different people around the campus. Especially heading into my senior spring and my last season of track here, I'm just really grateful. It's been great to be able to have met like all my amazing teammates and coaches. It's been a really good time," said Bhathena.

Bhathena has served as co-captain for the past two



N.NAZAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

seasons. Taking her previous experience, Bhathena hopes to serve as a friendly teammate and supportive leader for her teammates to rely on.

"I was fortunate enough to be Co-Captain last year. So each season that I was that I have been co-captain. I feel like I've been improving and working hard to be a supportive teammate and a leading figure. So I want to first and foremost be a friend and someone that every teammate

can lean on. But of course, I'm working to lead by example and encourage my teammates to be leaders themselves," Bhathena said.

According to Jazzy Cormier '24 and Patricia Tran '24, Bhathena leads as a friendly, caring, and hard-working co-captain.

Cormier said, "Myra is an incredible leader because she cares about her teammates on and off the field. She always checks up on us and ensures

that we're doing okay, not just as a player but as a friend and a student in general."

Tran added, "She definitely leads by example because she's very hardworking. And her work ethic just radiates to other people. With her work ethic and her energy, she's always enthusiastic."

According to Bhathena, she strives to be a friendly figure to teammates even outside of practice. In addition, she also hopes to inspire her

teammates through putting in commendable effort in practice and performing in meets.

Bhathena said, "Outside of practice, I sort of assume a friend role for every teammate, or I try to because it's always so nice to see a friendly face on campus. And then just be able to connect with all my teammates, off the track and outside of practice, and check-in with them and make individual relationships and build individual relationships with each person. I still try to be that friend figure that people can turn to and I work hard and motivate myself by working to be a leader like by examples. So anytime I PR or win a race I feel one of the best feelings. One of the best parts of like winning a race or PR'ing is the fact that I'm inspiring other teammates to do the same."

According to Tran, Bhathena's energy is what sets her apart from other captains. It provides the team with positive energy to propel them to perform well.

Tran said, "I mean, all captains show leadership, I guess. I think her energy is what makes her different. She's always one of the loudest, always cheering on people. Even if she doesn't know their name, she still goes to the quietest part of the track to cheer people on. Her voice is very distinct."

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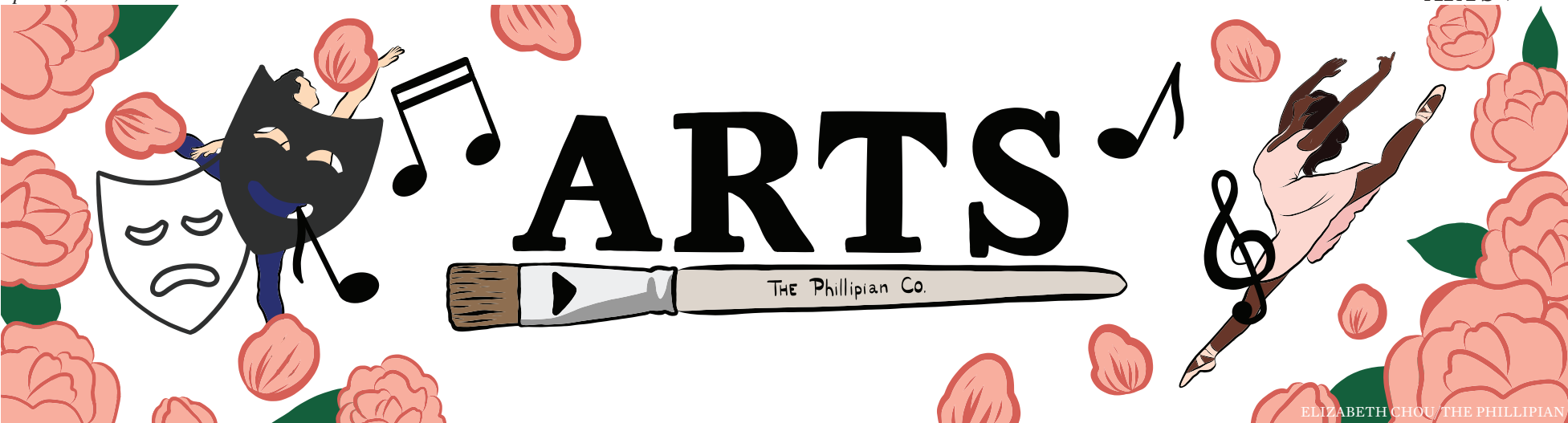
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## Dancer Yuliya Solyanyk '23 Transitions from Club Team to Dance at Andover

**SARAH HASSANEIN & AYDIN HIRSCHMAN**

When Yuliya Solyanyk '23 and her dance partner won the Art Land Fest Kyiv in 2019, the audience erupted in applause. Looking into the crowd, Solyanyk saw her friends and teammates cheering her on. Their support in that moment became a memory that she would never forget.

At the age of four, Solyanyk started pursuing dance at her local studio in Ukraine. At first, she felt her skills were lacking compared to her teammates, but she stuck with the sport. Soon, dance became a major part of her life. As her dance career progressed,



T.JEFFERSON/THE PHILLIPIAN

Solyanyk began traveling across Europe with her teammates, whom she described as family.

"You learn how to be a member of something more than just a club. Our coach was literally like our mother... I remember we went to Bulgaria, Hungary, [and] Slovakia... [Through] those bus trips, those train trips, I learned how to be a team member and interact with different people around the world," said Solyanyk.

After dancing with her club in Ukraine for over a decade, Solyanyk made the decision to attend Andover this fall as a new Upper. At Andover, she had the opportunity to start collaborating and choreographing with her teammates, which were areas of dance that she had not previously explored.

"I love how we have space to have creative processes together. We can choreograph together, and take risks in dance together, which I didn't have before because we had a very huge club and so we were just learning choreography that our choreographer gave us, but here, we have space to learn and take risks to communicate [our] feelings through [move-

ment] however [we want]," said Solyanyk.

Since arriving at Andover, Solyanyk has taken advantage of many dance opportunities. In the fall, she took dance as her sport, performed in Grasshopper, and became a member of Blue Strut. Her friend, roommate, and fellow dancer, Viktoria Georgieva '23, commented on Solyanyk's ambition and drive to try new things.

"You see her never getting enough, never settling down, never stopping. She always wants more and she always has this ambition of 'I'm going to be more committed,' [and] 'I'm going to be more engaged.' It's just a great environment to be in... She radiates this energy [and] you can't help but really try to be like her, which is just so great," said Georgieva.

As Solyanyk looks ahead, she plans on expanding on what she has already accomplished at Andover and continuing to explore her creativity in dance. Georgieva shared her hopes for Solyanyk in the future.

"I am very, very proud of what she has done up until that point, because as a new student, it's so



COURTESY OF YULIYA SOLYANYK

**Contemporary dance is Yuliya Solyanyk's '23 favorite genre of dance.**

scary. It's so hard, especially in 11th grade. Everyone's already had so much experience. Putting yourself out there [is] super hard, and she has already done so much... she never fails to sur-

prise us. I feel like she is going to continue what she's been doing. She's going to grow even more as a dancer, [and] she's going to work on her technique even more," said Georgieva.



COURTESY OF YULIYA SOLYANYK

**Before joining Andover as a new upper, Solyanyk had been dancing with her club in Ukraine for over a decade.**



COURTESY OF YULIYA SOLYANYK

**Solyanyk performs a war dance piece with her club.**

## Inspired by Golden-Age Hollywood, Noemi Elliott '22 Flaunts a Purposeful, Vibrant and Elegant Style

**CHLOE RHEE & ASHLEY PARK**

Donning a sharp and striking scarf that complements the softer silhouette of a fiery rose-colored sweater, Elliott finishes her casual yet dynamic outfit with cuffed blue pants and a pair of simple white shoes, a choice that not only captures her vibrantly elegant style but also deliberately and simplistically complements her appearance.

"I think I aesthetically like things that are more embellished but also pay attention



C.MURPHY/THE PHILLIPIAN

**The outfits of Noemi Elliot '22 often consist of vibrant colors such as the fiery rose-colored sweater she is wearing.**

to what I think would match my features...There's a scarf that I love that's multi-colored and I repeat that a lot because... it has reds, browns, and so many different colors that it goes with everything... [even] most of my accessories

"I would use those days to try new outfit choices, wearing flowy dresses, for example, with cropped leggings underneath. While I would never wear something like that now, that was the starting point for my interest in

fashion that eventually transformed into my own personal style and aesthetic," said Elliott.

More than anything, Elliott finds that her style centers around the implementation of classic color palettes. This holds especially true for many of her shirts and sweaters, which often contrast her more neutral pants and skirts. Elliott also believes that many of her outfits have a clean and complementary style, an idea directly influenced by the character Blair Waldorf in Gossip Girl.

"My closet consists of...vibrant colors. Everything is sparkly or bright, and even the pieces of clothing that are black contain some kind of color, like yellow or red, that matches the rest of my clothes. I also make sure my outfits look put together, which means everything's ironed and the colors coordinate. When I shop, I always look at colors before anything else, so if there's a rack with... my favorite color, I would look at it and then think about whether it would look good on me," said Elliott.

While Waldorf serves as inspiration for the early foundations of Elliott's development of preferred color palettes and overall cohesiveness, the general aesthetic and tone of her fashion was inspired by famous actors' clothing pieces, specifically those from Golden Age Hollywood movies. Primarily borrowing aesthetics from fashion icon Audrey Hepburn, Elliott aims to emulate charm and elegance in her outfit choices.

"Actors like Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, and Katherine Hepburn... carry themselves with such grace and poise, and I think the whole glam aspect of what they and their characters embody is something like what I would wear to Abbot," said Elliott.

Elliott particularly derives inspiration from the movie



C.MURPHY/THE PHILLIPIAN

**In addition to keeping her warm in the cold, the colorful scarf is one of Elliott's favorite accessories and recurs in her outfits.**

My Fair Lady, which stars Audrey Hepburn in its leading role. The movie's most iconic outfit—Hepburn's white dress with detailed neckline beading and embroidery—served as the base idea for both Elliott's prom and graduation dresses.

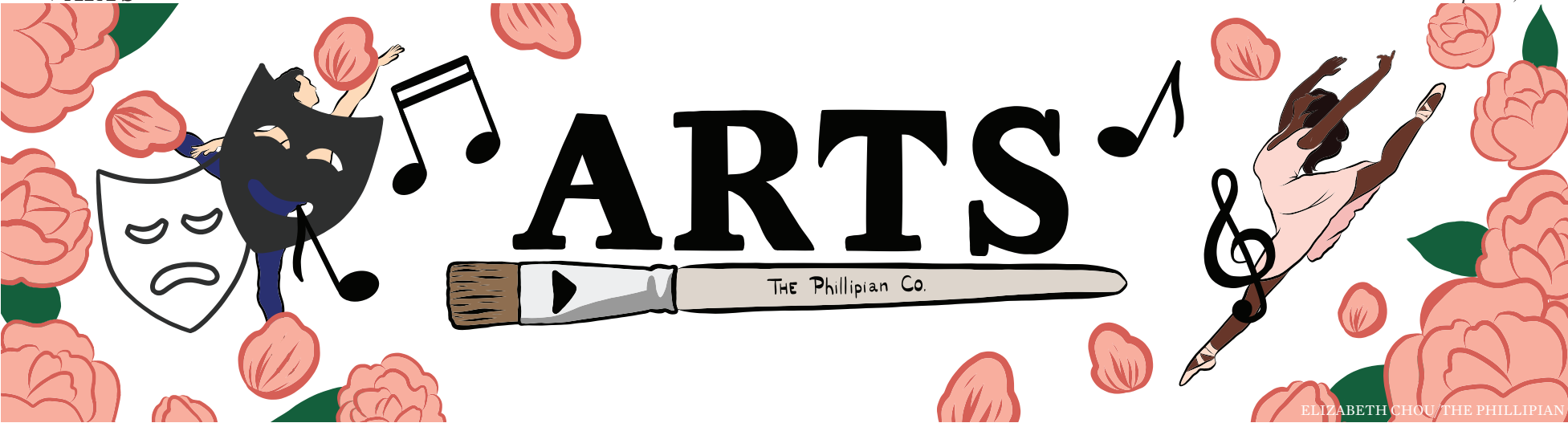
"My graduation dress is inspired by My Fair Lady, because it has this really similar dainty look with sequins and sparkles. Thinking about this dress transports me to the moment in the film where Hepburn goes to this ball and surprises everyone with how she's transformed. The entrance she makes is the entrance and exit I hope to make, because it's going to be my last time here," said Elliott.

As Elliott's time at Ando-

ver draws to a close, she also notes that many accessories, specifically jewelry, have become emblematic of her time and growth at the school. Specifically important is her charm bracelet, which was given to her as a matriculation gift and has been used for luck during all of her tests at Andover.

"I got my charm bracelet from my aunt when I came here—she gave it to me a few days before I matriculated as a Junior. It reminds me of how sad I was when I first left Singapore to come here, yet as I've continued to wear this and make new memories here, I've really come to love this place, and the bracelet is a representation of that," said Elliott.





# Amina Hurd '23 Innovates and Explores Different Cultures Through Baking

**AVA CHEN & GUILHERME LIMA**

Amina Hurd '23 is an avid baker, creating delicious confections ranging from French macarons to Ukrainian honey cakes. She interweaves different cultures and styles into her baking, experimenting with existing recipes or even creating her own dishes. Hurd shares many of her creations on her baking Instagram account, @ami.bakes.



COURTESY OF AMINA HURD  
**Pink concha.**



COURTESY OF AMINA HURD  
**Lemon cheesecake tart with elderflower merengues.**

ing I would say I do a lot of French because I really like making macarons. I also like delving into new cultures, new cuisines... I can't really say that I have a favorite one but I do return to, of course, Mexican and probably classic French for baking," said Hurd.

Hurd's baking process has evolved throughout the years, becoming more creative and less by the book as she gains more experience. Hurd often

puts her own twist on established recipes through altering quantities of specific ingredients, changing the flavoring, and more.

"I started writing my own recipes and modifying the ingredients to make the textures I want ... And then I'll test them out as soon as I have access to a kitchen, and sometimes they'll work really well—I actually made some of the most fluffy scones I've ever had in my life from the recipe that I created; that



COURTESY OF AMINA HURD  
**Pre-baked chorizo and cheese empanada.**



COURTESY OF AMINA HURD  
**Chocolate raspberry entremet.**

was cool. But sometimes I get something very wrong, and it just does not work," said Hurd.

Hurd fondly remembers watching her uncle create intricate cakes at just three years old, helping spark her culinary passion. Nowadays, Hurd looks up to several "Bon Appétit" cooking idols, including Claire Saffitz, Molly Baz, Julia Child, and Rick Martinez. To find visual inspiration, she draws inspira-

tion from other baking art accounts on Instagram.

"I have a few cooking idols. My uncle definitely is one of them ... He makes the craziest cakes I could never do, even now. I remember when I was younger, he'd always make my brother's cakes, and he made a scale version of Darth Vader's helmet, and he used fondant and black food coloring. It was shiny, and it looked like the real thing, and it was absolutely amazing," said Hurd.

However, Hurd often finds it difficult to bake on campus due to kitchen inaccessibility, so most of the baking she does while on the East Coast is at a nearby family member's house. Nonetheless, she still manages to find ways to share her baking with friends at Andover, such as mailing them individualized Christmas cookies over the holidays.

Hurd's friend, Kianna Jean-Francois '23, said, "I really want her to bake while she's on campus, which is kind of hard because she needs access to a kitchen, but if she can find a faculty who'll allow her to, I hope she bakes on



COURTESY OF AMINA HURD  
**Amina Hurd '23 baked an apple tart rembling the pattern of a rose.**

campus, so I can eat it ... But now that we have a little bit less restrictions on campus, and everyone's, for the most part, able to go unmasked in places, maybe she will find a way to bake and let us all try some [of her baking]."

Hurd also feels that the cultural aspect of food is very important, and loves learning

about what different foods mean to those all around the world. Identifying as half Black herself, an example Hurd gave was that many Black families eat collard greens on New Year's Day, as it is believed to bring wealth.

"If you have the opportunity and you're traveling, expand your horizons, try something that you don't think you like, or if there's a burger on the menu and then there's also something else that's more regional, try the regional thing; why go with something you could have anywhere? So I think it's really important to learn to think that food is a vessel for culture rather than just something to nourish," said Hurd.



COURTESY OF AMINA HURD



**Lucky Charms Macarons.**

COURTESY OF AMINA HURD

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## An Unlimited Expansion of Possibilities—“Jujutsu Kaisen 0” Delivers Excellence, Paving the Way for New-Gen Anime

**JACKIE LI & ALICIA ZHANG**

Haunted by a powerful manifestation of his trauma, high school student Yuta Okkotsu (Megumi Ogata) finds himself bound with the enigmatic evil spirit of his deceased childhood ‘lover’ Rika (Kana Hanazawa) that could either be the downfall of society, or the only entity in existence to save it from the looming threat of destruction. His quest to understand the nature of his newfound supernatural abilities thrusts him into the mysterious world of “jujutsu”, where ill-will and dark desires feed into the creation of cursed monsters that can only be defeated through exorcism. As it slowly becomes clear that the jujutsu society is no longer at peace as a string of mysterious tragedies begins involving dangerous curses, Yuta and his friends at Tokyo Jujutsu High School must work together to prepare for imminent danger—death, or something much worse. Released on March 18, 2022 in North America, the film’s elegant execution of its themes, complex characterization, strikingly beautiful animation, and quality as a stand-alone allows it to transcend the barriers of medium and language as a worthwhile watch for fans and strangers alike. Caution: spoilers ahead.

Perhaps the greatest highlight of “Jujutsu Kaisen 0” is its success in bringing its cast to life. Through dedication to taking its source material beyond its limits, the movie pays great attention to detail with subtle mannerisms, fitting voice casting, and other methods to humanize the characters’ experiences. Take

our protagonist as an example. On paper, Yuta Okkotsu is a bit of a nervous wreck with deep eyebags, shifty glances, and a slender stature. The manga’s depiction of Yuta gets audiences to acknowledge his anxiety and trauma, but it lacks the dimensionality to help viewers fully immerse themselves in his character. On the silver screen, we get creative point-of-view shots from his perspective, imbuing us with his adrenaline rush, resolve, and determination; we get to hear and resonate with the raw tones of anger and guilt underlying his voice, a quality that establishes him as more than just a ‘weak’ victim of trauma. By skilfully interpreting the nuance of his character in the manga and expanding on that depth of his portrayal with detailed and creative animation, the movie allows us to understand Yuta as more than words and still frames.

The story of “Jujutsu Kasien 0” finds further nuance in its development of clear, strong themes that speak to more than just fans of action and gore. Yuta’s narrative arc throughout the story makes a greater commentary on the dehumanizing nature of society, especially in their treatment of young teens. Perhaps in parallel to the way that modern-day society tends to push children beyond their limits, stories of heroism in fictional media have a trend of neglecting the mental health of their characters, especially when they are under strenuous circumstances not suitable for them to handle. In movies and shows like “Spiderman: Far From Home,” “Hunter x Hunter,” and “Demon Slayer,” we either see

young characters being held to ridiculous standards of saving the world, or being called or depicted as ‘weak’ for failing to do so. Yuta almost ends up in a similar state; as a child, he is forced to bear the burden of a loss that he is too young to even be thinking about, and subsequently is assigned the responsibility to take care of and resolve his trauma through the appearance of Rika, the manifestation of his suffering. But “Jujutsu Kaisen 0” subverts this trope and focuses on not only protecting Yuta and the rest of its underaged characters, but giving them a space to foster proper relationships and receive the care that they need to nurture their mental wellbeing. In the end, Yuta’s climactic resolution comes not at when he knocks out the antagonist, but during a heart-to-heart with his teacher, peers, and the source of his trauma. The point of his character isn’t that he trained and grew stronger than the mental health issues that made him ‘weak’—it is the fact that through the help of a community around him, he was able to healthily come to terms with his suffering and the death of a loved one. The themes portrayed through Yuta’s story clearly humanize struggles with mental health and convey the importance of letting children live without burdens of adulthood weighing them down.

Another strength of “Jujutsu Kaisen 0” is its stunning animation that immerses viewers into the world of jujutsu. Particularly during fight scenes, the animation’s point-of-view zips back and forth, allowing audiences to see every aspect of the bat-

tle. Most notably, in the final conflict between Yuta and Geto (Takahiro Sakurai), the frames flit between the movements of each character, spiraling through the air to follow them as they parry, dodge, and leap. The attention to detail further brings this scene to life, from the golden sparks created when their weapons clash, to the flying debris and the colorful flashes of cursed energy. The animation focuses on not only building up suspense through crafting and depicting engaging fight choreography, but also on the typically overlooked details. Gojo Satoru’s eyes is a particularly good example of how the movie’s animation excels in precision. While the base color of his eyes is a pale teal, there are also darker flecks of color that add depth and white highlights to show light reflecting. Combined, this achieves a transparent, crystal-like effect that reflects his cryptic character and the mysterious and exciting yet somewhat unsettling tone of the movie.

Despite being a part of the Jujutsu Kaisen universe, the movie is fantastic as a stand-alone. The movie is able to both successfully introduce new viewers to the world of Jujutsu Kaisen while expanding on a fan’s understanding of the franchise. The movie’s genius lies in the fact that it is a prequel—audiences don’t require any previous knowledge of the universe in order to understand it, but it won’t waste any experienced watcher’s time. As Yuta is a new student to Jujutsu High, he is also oblivious to the ways of jujutsu. So, as Yuta learns about the rest of the characters and the system of

magic they function in, first-time Jujutsu Kaisen viewers are also introduced to the universe. However, even if the viewer is already a fan of the series, this reintroduction is anything but boring; the movie, taking place before the main series, dives deeper into a set of secondary, older characters in the show, like Maki and Inumaki, revealing their previously unknown backstories and their growth from freshman to reliable upperclassmen.

The film’s high quality may not have been a surprise, but its reception certainly was; within its first week in North American theaters, the movie accumulated a solid \$18 million USD, falling close to the opening weekend sales of “Demon Slayer: Mugen Train,” which made around \$21.1 million USD in comparison. More impressively, “Jujutsu Kaisen 0,” for the weekend domestic sales of March 18, 2022, managed to place second just behind “The Batman” (The Numbers). But beyond the numbers and ratings, what “Jujutsu Kaisen 0” has changed is the presence of foreign animation in domestic markets. With the film showcasing the capacity and true quality of a medium that American audiences might usually have dismissed, there becomes a potential for a new era of media diversity in America, not to mention an infinite expansion of opportunities for other forms of Japanese animation in Western markets. This movie deserves no less than a 5/5 to honor what it has done in re-defining the anime standard for quality and what it hopes to do for the industry in the future.

## Review: “Our Flag Means Death”—Pirates at Sea Have Never Been Funnier

**JORGE BRIONES SAUSA**

Stede Bonnet (Rhys Darby), an aristocrat coming from a cushy and luxurious lifestyle, has a dream to sail the high seas and become the “Gentleman Pirate,” but he soon becomes his own worst enemy when trial and error reveals he is somewhat unfit for the job. Created by David Jenkins and released on HBO Max on March 4, 2022, “Our Flag Means Death” is a refreshing comedy drama imbued with adventure and charm that follows our wannabe pirate protagonist and his merry crew through their journey across the sea. The show has a certain allure that is hard to come by these days; its ingenious comedy and unique interpretation of the historical narratives and periods that it borrows from entices audiences and keeps them hooked. If you’re ready to dive into a story of high sea hijinks, oceanic action and maybe a bit of romance, get on board—we’re going full speed and spoilers ahead. (Note: this review only features the first three epi-

sodes of the show. A second installment to this article will be released next week.)

The show’s wholesomeness in characterization and plot development during the first three episodes is comforting: a nice touch to get audiences emotionally invested and satisfied before the rest of the show takes its course. For one, Stede Bonnet is an incredibly entertaining protagonist that always brightens up the screen. His kind heart and innocence are traits that might get him into trouble, but shines through to enhance the show’s atmosphere when he finds himself in a predicament. Rhys Darby’s acting and line delivery also elevate the show and its sense of immersion. While comedic, “Our Flag Means Death” also does a good job of being dramatic when it has to, which establishes an overarching plot rather than following the episodic story format of other comedy shows. Another enjoyable and important part of the plot is Stede Bonnet’s pirate crew. The crew always

supports the plot, and they add a lot of flavor to the show. The cast also does a great job of being effortlessly diverse and also shining in their own way so that no one ever really fades into the background.

Just to start, “Our Flag Means Death” is hilarious and what audiences seem to love most about the series is how inventive and natural the show is. Nothing feels necessarily redone or typical. One of the side plots is especially interesting, with one of the characters, Bonifacia/Jim (Vico Ortiz), a disguised crewman running away from their past enemies they have wronged. Their character is disguised as a mute assassin called Jim. Their protector and “friend,” Oluwande, also falls in love with them and is protecting them which at this point is a one-sided love. The show has this energy that I have never really witnessed before. Even in the very first episode when everyone starts attacking and brutally murdering other people from another ship, Bonnet starts

panicking once he murders the captain of another ship with a mug. While violent it’s still amusing, because he has absolutely no idea what to do next and holds a lot of regret. The writing is impressive, but massive props to all the cast because the line delivery and the way they act together is phenomenal. It ties the show as a whole together very nicely.

Another thing that I greatly appreciate about this show is how diverse all the characters are. In pop culture and in other forms of media, depictions of pirates often neglect people of color. While Our Flag Means Death” is not at all very historically accurate they included more people who aren’t only white. In history, there were indeed pirates who were not white. However, most historical pirate fiction tends to only include POC when they are enslaved characters; most experiences that I’ve had watching other movies about or with pirates are always just a movie with white

main characters and the slim chance of any non-white person in the background. “Our Flag Means Death” bucks this, featuring pirates of color in major roles. While casting people of color in a main role isn’t groundbreaking and is in fact the very bare minimum. I am proud that they were able to cast so many talented actors of color who were able to shine in their respective roles.

HBO Max has released several good shows this year, but they certainly outdid themselves on Our Flag Means Death. With its unflinching humor, clever writing, and incredible acting, I think that fans everywhere can find some aspects of this show enjoyable. Though some people may find this show a bit over the top, its exaggerated story and amusing concept of a “gentleman pirate” are nevertheless what makes it fun. Overall, the first three episodes of “Our Flag Means Death” receive a 4.5/5 for the actors’ convincing portrayals and their success in the genre of comedy.

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