

Karen Tei Yamashita Speaks of Joy, Generational Trauma, and Everything In Between

VERA ZHANG

This past Wednesday, Karen Tei Yamashita, author, playwright, literary scholar, and the recent recipient of the National Book Award for “Distinguished Contributions to American Letters,” visited Andover to present “The Joy Talk.” Opening the presentation with an excerpt from her latest book, “Sansei and Sensibility” that speaks of a narrative between herself and her niece, Yamashita discussed the joy that arises from the unique balance of holding onto and releasing genera-

tional trauma.

Yamashita began: “Your sister opens ‘The New York Times Magazine’ and points to a cute Japanese woman on a pink background in a pose with her finger pointed up and her foot raised behind her in a small kit. You size up the title, ‘The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up, the Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing.’”

Yamashita went on to explain the mantras of Marie Kondo, a popular Japanese organizing consultant, speaking about how Kondo thought the past was meant to be left in the past and should be thrown away once it “no longer sparks joy.”

However, Yamashita challenged this view, referencing her story from “Sansei and Sensibility,” in which Yamashita and her niece go on to travel across America, visiting seven out of the ten Japanese internment camps. Explaining the history and the suffering behind these camps, Yamashita questions whether one should dispose of the past if it no longer brings joy.

“You handle the crumbling

spines of old fashioned obsolete albums and you understand the urge never to open these boxes. You collate by date the old correspondence, handwritten letters, often five pages long and read through the period when your folks were shipped off to concentration camps with only what they could carry,” said Yamashita.

Yamashita continued, “Kondo’s admonition that clutter is the failure to return things to where they belong—her insistence on simplicity and minimalism—all this only reminds you of what you assume is a Japanese American motto. Leave it cleaner than

you found it. Kondo writes [that] ‘no matter how wonderful things used to be, we cannot live in the past. The joy and excitement we feel here and now are more important.’ But you have the deeper urge to exchange the word wonderful for awful, and sit in that spot, and weep.”

Through the use of Kondo as a comparison, students felt it easier to understand Yamashita’s presentation. Attendee Audrey Sun ’23 spoke about how Yamashita’s words resonated with her personally.

“I really liked the, not the comparisons per se, but just the use of Marie Kondo’s idea of you can only keep the [things] that sparks joy, that you feel you have to let things go and let things be in the past. I think using that idea of using that method and comparing it to the idea of preserving these memories [was interesting]. [The] idea of not letting go but also especially as people who are removed from the expe-

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Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet Jericho Brown Performs Reading For Andover Community

LEO PETERS

Acclaimed poet Jericho Brown came to campus and recited over a dozen poems from his collective works on Friday, April 22. Alongside his reading, The Courant held a table selling his books at the event. Brown is the author of three books of poetry, including *The Tradition*, his most recent book, which won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

Following the reading, Brown answered questions from the audience. He repeatedly referenced the idea that he belonged to a community of writers—those both present and historical. He explained that he learned to write by reading the work of other poets and recognizing what he liked and didn’t like, which he then applied to his own writing.

Later in the Q&A session, Brown said that writing well requires falling in love with yourself and your past, particularly with what you don’t want anybody to know. He reasoned that good writing may take a long time to do. Brown explained that he deems a poem as bad when he realizes that he isn’t telling the full truth. He noted that this was also how he tried to read his poems effectively: by remembering the emotional truths he felt when writing the poem so that they could come through in his reading.

Brown’s reading struck many members of the audi-

ence who praised the emotional power of his words. Prince La Paz ’24 said that he had never encountered performed poetry before, which made Brown’s reading powerful and revelatory.

“In the past, or in my whole life, really, I’ve never really heard people reading poems out loud, except for English classes when the teacher or students read a poem. But I’ve never heard a poet that’s really acclaimed read their own poem. This was the first time I’ve heard that in-person and I feel like it really said a lot. It was very powerful because the poet was able to read it in the way that he wanted it to sound, which I feel is really special,” La Paz said.

Dorothy Swanson Blaker ’24 also found Brown’s reading style and the manner in which he enunciated each word to be particularly powerful. She commented that she could feel the genuine emotions that Brown infused into his poetry.

“Brown’s style of reading his poetry was incredible. The second that Brown started speaking, he sent this energy into the room that made it feel electric—it was beautiful. He delivered each line with amazing intentionality and rhythm, and knew exactly how he wanted everything to sound like. I felt his words so intensely, and I feel like everyone else in the room did, too. The fact that he wrote

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Commentary, A3

Ukraine and America

William Buehler ’24 explores why the Western response to the ongoing Ukraine and Russia conflict was lackluster.

Eighth Page, A8

Freshmen off the Hook

Senior assistance for seniors with big egos

Sports, B2

Girls Tennis

Andover Girls Tennis Co-Captain Ananya Madduri ’23 leads as a friend and a mentor.

Arts, B2

Playlist of the Week

This week’s *Phillipian* Playlist features a capella clubs from all across campus. Scan the code to listen now!

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Take Back The Night



M.DOUCETTE/THE PHILLIPIAN

CaMD was open on the evening of April 28 for students to prepare posters for Take Back the Night, a campus walk to Abbot on the evening of April 29.

A Wrap Up for Earth Week 2022: Andover’s First Earth Festival

SOPHIE STAI &
NABILAH NAZAR

A warm spring breeze blew across the Great Lawn as students gathered to celebrate Andover’s first Earth Festival. To honor Earth Day by raising awareness about climate change and sustainability in a light-hearted way, there were various performances by groups such as SLAM, Footnotes, and Indigo, along with multiple soloists including Leverett Wilson ’23 and Esme Young ’23. The event also displayed an art exhibition, spoken word-poetry reading, a comedy show, and food.

Brian Masse ’23, the main planner of the Earth Festival, acknowledged that although education-focused events throughout the week were beneficial to learning, there are also ways to make climate change engagement less infor-

mation-heavy. Masse shared his hopes that the event showed students that engaging in climate awareness can be as simple as going outside and enjoying the fresh air.

“We had a great week of more academic and education-focused services like the Divestment Debate, workshops, all that stuff, so really the main takeaway I was hoping students would have [from the Festival] was just a good time. I think a lot of times when you critically engage with climate action [and] climate awareness, there’s a kind of guilt and anxiety that accompanies that, and to combat that, after having a heavier on of Earth Day, I thought it would be nice to have a like ‘oh yeah, also it’s really fun just to be outside and enjoy fresh air,’” said Masse.

The Earth Festival was the culmination of various events organized throughout

Earth Week, which involved a variety of clubs and organizations. Kicking off with an All School Meeting (ASM) by Sophia Kianni, there was a Climate Creative Writing Cafe with Karen Tei Yamashita and the Andover Writers Alliance, as well as a Divest Andover Open Forum hosted by the Philomathean Society. Students also got involved in a variety of sustainability-oriented initiatives across the Town of Andover, such as the neighborhood trash cleanup and the first Town of Andover Climate Summit led by student representatives Sonia Marnoto ’22 and Erin Kim ’23.

Frank Zhou ’22, one of the student leaders of the PASC, noted the importance of coming together as a community and providing students with opportunities to engage in

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J.CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Slam performed at the Earth Festival, alongside multiple other musicians and dancers.

Outdoor Basketball Court Projected to be Built in the Summer

BIANCA MORALES

If you walk into the Borden Memorial Gym, it is likely that you will find students playing pickup basketball, especially during the winter. However, as the weather becomes warmer, fewer students are inclined to play basketball indoors as many shift to playing Spikeball out on the Great Lawn. While Andover has basketball courts in both Borden and the Snyder Center, there are currently no outdoor courts. Izzy An ’24 and Nathan Bechard ’24 plan on changing that.

The two Lower’s created an Abbot Grant Proposal for an outdoor court in the fall. This past winter, they were notified that their grant had been accepted, and the court would be built in the upcoming

summer. The court is set to be built built in between the Phelps Stadium and Sorota Track. An recalled how she first came up with the idea to create outdoor courts.

“This project’s been going on for over a year now... When we were new freshmen coming into the school and looking for a place to play basketball in a time of Covid-19, all the gyms were closed. And we were incredibly surprised that [Andover] did not have an outdoor basketball court when they seemed to have every other facility. So we kind of both had this concern, and we were talking about it. And we decided to go to our advisors, and see if there’s something we could do about it. And we ended up getting recommended to the Abbot grant program,” said An.

An hopes that the basketball court can be used recreationally by students of all

experience levels. She emphasized the importance of the court being a place to have fun and enjoy basketball outside.

“Our goal was to have this be a community court. So pretty much everyone can be using it. And although varsity players can be using it, we don’t imagine or plan for this to be varsity owning the spot. It should be a place for everybody to have fun, just have a pickup game. Doesn’t matter what level you’re at, just kind of enjoy the game of basketball,” said An.

Bechard echoed An’s sentiment, adding the possibility of student-faculty relations being strengthened through the court. Bechard also noted that faculty children may enjoy the spot for their own use as well.

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Editorial

What We Do When Our Backbone Starts Breaking

Prefects and proctors serve as the backbone of dorm life. Often the primary support systems students turn to for problems big or small, they are the first faces we meet when we step into our dorms, and they are an invaluable resource on campus. However, with a combination of Upper and Senior year stressors, a lack of support systems, and the emotional labor they perform, it is no shock that the image of the “model prefect/proctor” Andover seeks to select as student leaders reveals itself as a mirage rather quickly. The often unattainable expectations placed on these student leaders put students’ sustainable well-being at risk—both prefects/proctors and their prefectees/proctorees alike.

Prefects and proctors face a particular issue—they are expected to balance their academics, health, and well-being while adequately supporting the students under their care, as many students have expressed, often without adequate adult support. Current systems in place to support prefects/proctors fall short, leaving student leaders stranded with no fail safe to protect them. Prefect/proctor personal time, for instance, is not extensive enough to offer students support that is substantial enough to help them. Smaller privileges, such as in-room fridges, also seem to have tapered in recent years. Prefects and proctors are chosen for being mature, responsible, “standard bearing” students. If the Academy trusts prefects/proctors with the well-being of their younger students, they should also trust them with supports, privileges, and flexibilities that promote their own health.

Moreover, the intensity of situations prefects and proctors take on can be immensely taxing. And Andover, in turn, does not provide enough space for prefects and proctors to process those situations as well. It is unrealistic and unfair for the Academy to expect a student to take on such an enormous responsibility. And while we could argue that the student applied in the first place and should have evaluated the position beforehand, it is also essential to acknowledge that most upperclassmen are still teenagers (16-18 yrs old). Expecting every prefect/proctor to know what they are going into and understand how to handle situations such as substance abuse or mental health crises properly is irresponsible and irrational, especially with insufficient leadership training workshops.

This is not to suggest that students should not approach their prefects when they have a problem—in fact, prefects/proctors, as students themselves, are likely the most equipped to handle student issues—but to point out the flaws in the systems that encourage prefects and proctors to act as a student’s primary resource for personal/emotional support. Indeed, the school does not compensate and hardly acknowledges the labor prefects and proctors are performing, often on their behalf. With broader support systems at Andover, such as Sykes Counseling and the Academic Skills Center (ACS) being overwhelmed, prefects and proctors often experience little out-of-dorm support.

Most of all, prefects and proctors are expected to be “standard bearers,” a vague term that promotes an unrealistic ideal as the norm. Students on campus, but especially prefects and proctors, are pressured to live not always the values of their jobs, but always the images of them. And because the position of prefect or proctor is so heavily dependent on the person themselves as “adequate,” if a prefect/proctor does not live up to the almost impossible standard they are meant to bear, it is easily read as a personal failure. Students want someone they can relate and connect to, not someone who seems effortless in their academics, social life, and cocurriculars. They want real connection, not a perfunctory relationship to an ideal. It’s time our support systems, trainings, and applications for prefects and proctors reflected that.

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

Learning From the Epidemic That Destroyed Athens



There may be some light at the end of the tunnel as we finally emerge from the depths of a pandemic that wreaked havoc on all our lives. Confining ourselves to the cagey quarters of our homes throughout the quarantine period made some of us unnerved and uneasy, staring blankly at stark white popcorn ceilings. The seasons came and went and some of us started to crawl on tired limbs out of our cages to take a tentative sniff of the world. When we eventually crawled all the way out of our cage, many of us yearned for the warm embrace of others and slowly, relationships once again bloomed. But Covid-19 is far from over.

What if I told you that we are not all that different from people who lived 2,452 years ago? Maybe it is worth our time to take a look at one of the first documented pandemics in history. Let us take a trip back in time to around 430 BCE. Perhaps the similarities will bring you some comfort as they have for me.

An ominous shadow in the sky smothers the sunlight from illuminating the scintillating and wealthy city of Athens be-

low. The city is bustling within the newly constructed walls that Athens has made to protect itself from the enemy, Sparta. You would have been walking along the cobblestone streets of Athens, going about your everyday tasks.

Catching an everyday cold was common, so a cough would not make you turn your head and run the other way. Until one day, when swarms of people are coughing—not a shallow, common cold type cough. This one made you shiver with fear. The cough was rough and deep. It was also not the only symptom. You would have seen people vomiting, trying to expel whatever “demon” they believed had nestled within the weak cracks of their human skeleton. You would have seen people with high fevers, bloodshot eyes, and bleeding throats, to name a few. As illness ravaged the city, many wondered if this was the end of the human race. Morals, values, and beliefs burned alongside the bodies lying in heaps on funeral pyres. The plague had found its breeding ground. It may have killed up to 100,000 people (roughly one-third of the Athenian population) in four years. The plague, whether it was typhus or smallpox, or even ebola, ultimately destroyed Athens. What was it about this plague that mirrors our own society is a question I have been asking myself ever since I heard this story.

Comparing the Athenian plague to our own pandemic today, it is eerie to see the similarities that appear. For one, the Athenian plague overwhelmed the Greek people. They lost their standards and bearings, which



VICTORIA NAKAWEESI / THE PHILLIPIAN

resulted in chaos, moral, and political turmoil. Our modern Covid-19 pandemic not only saw a spike in mental health cases, especially among the younger generations, but it also crushed economies worldwide and pushed many middle-class families into poverty as stated by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. In Ancient Greece, people stopped believing in the Gods as there was no evidence of them interfering to save their wretched souls. They had once assumed that the sickness would only attack evil souls, but even the most religious died in droves. As the Greeks had created distinctions among people such as morally good or bad and social class, America has created similar divisions. For both civilizations, many who believed they were immune because they were

morally good and of a higher class found themselves vulnerable to the pandemic. They came to believe that their whole lives had been a lie. Who could they turn to for relief and salvation now? Greeks before the plague always had some proper burial rituals, but with the plague, all those rituals were lost. Bodies were stacked on top of one another on large funeral pyres and burned to ashes. As people died, they were hastily thrown onto the pile. In our recent pandemic, in New York, morgues and funeral homes became overwhelmed, Hart Island became the perfect option for an efficient mass burial site for Covid-19 victims who were not claimed as reported by the “New York Times.” In hazmat suits, workers dug trenches and plopped the coffins with bodies into dirt holes.

Roughly, one tenth of those who have died from the coronavirus in New York have been buried there as of 2021 according to the City newspaper.

Perhaps history is repeating itself. Much of what happened in Athens during the plague will remain a mystery, but from what we do know, it may be worth some of our time to comb through these shattered pieces and put together the puzzle. At the very least, it brings me some comfort knowing that others from thousands of years ago can sympathize with us.

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CORRECTIONS:
There are no corrections to report.

Ukraine and The Danger of American Polarization



The war in Ukraine has, by and large, dropped off the radar of most Americans, becoming more of an occasional headline rather than something at the forefront of the average American's mind. Yet, Ukraine should be especially important to Americans not because our support of Ukraine illustrates our great national strength, but because it serves as a lesson on our political weakness.

While it is undeniable that aid to Ukraine has become immense in quantity as of the present day, with Congress having approved more than 13 billion dollars in aid, the initial response to the invasion by the United States was beyond lackluster. The first few days of the invasion saw only diplomatic

condemnations and seemingly meaningless aid. It was not until the middle of March that a proper aid package from the majority of major Western nations was effectively organized, almost three weeks after the beginning of a war which was predicted by Mark Milley, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to last only 72 hours. That is to say that it took far too long to organize a response to what was predicted to be a nearly knockout war.

Part of the reason for the massive delay falls on the shoulders of American politics. The Democratic party has been trying to desperately reshape their image surrounding the war. For them, this is imperative so that when midterm elections come around in November, there is not an, as Democratic strategist Steve Schale puts it, “absolute debacle” ending in a Republican general victory.

When you look at the numbers, the Democrats have become far less popular than they once were as a result of their approach to the war. The “LA Times” reported that as few as 42 percent of Americans support Biden's handling of the situation in Ukraine, and the WSJ reported that 57 percent of Americans are unhappy with his

performance overall, reflecting poorly on the Democratic party's chances this November. With the decline in Democratic support, Republicans have also polled more favorably with regards to who they will be voting for Congress within the past few months. But the most clear example of partisanship influencing governmental response was when 31 Republican senators attempted to shoot down aid to Ukraine in Congress while simultaneously calling for further military aid and an enforced no-fly zone. This is all simply to say that the invasion of Ukraine is an inherently important issue for the upcoming election to both parties. And while this is unavoidable, the effects of politics put on American weakness full display unto the world.

We should not have taken such a ridiculously long time to support a democracy under siege. This is part of our historic role in the international community: we are supposed to be the arsenal of democracy, willing and able to provide assistance to whichever nations so desire it. And undeniably, yes, the United States has committed horribly immoral actions under the guise of protecting democracy—it's understandable

that some may attack that image—but this war should still be simple to approach as a lawmaker. Substantial, meaningful military aid should have been able to immediately be signed into legislation with near complete bipartisan support if this nation truly focused more on its morals than on its partisanship.

Regardless of elections or of polling numbers, the American government should never be so caught up in politics so as to prioritize the success of elections rather than of the interests of the United States and her people. While the two can never be separated completely, we, as a nation, should expect our politicians to be able to act in an efficient way that we, the people, can support. Three weeks without significant support to Ukraine should never have happened. The issue turning into a political mind-game on the scale that it has become is disgusting. Even as a political realist, there are cases where morality will supersede, and at times such as this one align with, national interest.

And, really, we have always meant to be a moral nation, one which supports the ideals of democracy and freedom the world throughout. Even though our re-

cent history is very much clouded by our support of dictatorships during the Cold War, we had a perfect chance to show we have changed. Yet, with that chance, all we have shown to the world is that, once more, politics takes precedence over national values. Russia committed transgressions against every single one of our ideals through the complete violation of Ukraine's sovereign rights while we stood by issuing little more than diplomatic complaints while our senators and congressmen lobbied to gain political power. Our moral values should never be second to politics.

Our political polarization is a weakness that we must rid ourselves of. Voting against the other party solely for the sake of voting against the other party is nothing short of mind-boggling. We cannot function as a nation if we treat every issue like a chance to snub the other party. We must be mindful of our inherent biases, or our nation will collapse under its own growing political division.

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EVERY LIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

Україна та небезпека американської поляризації

TRANSLATED BY YULIYA SOLYANYK

Війна в Україні, за великим рахунком, зникла з радарів більшості американців, ставши скоріше звичним заголовком, аніж чимось першорядним для середньостатистичного мешканця США. Проте американцям варто перейматися війною, не тільки тому що їхня підтримка України показує велику національну силу, а ще й тому, що вона служить уроком щодо їхньої політичної слабкості.

Не можна заперечити, що сьогодні підтримка України набрала величезних обертів, оскільки Конгрес схвалив допомогу на суму понад 13 мільярдів доларів. Та все ж початкова реакція США на російське вторгнення виявилася доволі байдужою. Впродовж перших днів війни можна було спостерігати тільки дипломатичний осуд та, начебто, беззмістовну допомогу з американського боку. Належний пакет підтримки від більшості західних країн-лідерів був доставлений на фронт тільки в середині березня, майже після трьох тижнів від початку вторгнення, на противагу прогнозованому Майклом Майклі (колишній голова Об'єднаного

комітету начальників штабів) 72 годинному триванню війни. Інакше кажучи, знадобилося надто багато часу для того, аби сформувати відповідь на раніше передбачувану нокаутну битву.

Одною з причин значної затримки у постачанні допомоги була нерішучість американських політиків. Демократична партія відчайдушно намагалася змінити свій імідж у зв'язку з війною, оскільки це відіграє важливу роль в успішності партії на проміжних виборах, що відбудуться у листопаді цього року. За словами стратега демократів Стіва Шале, їхня перемога є необхідною для уникнення, так званої, «абсолютної катастрофи», котра завершилася б загальною перемогою республіканців.

Проте, якщо глянути на статистику, демократи зазнали падіння в популярності внаслідок їхнього недієвого підходу до врегулювання війни. The LA Times повідомляє, що лише 42 відсотки американців повністю підтримують створену Байденом стратегію США у налагодженні ситуації в Україні. Більше того, WSJ зазначає, що 57 відсотків американців незадоволені діяльністю президента. Це, у свою чергу, в подальшому може призвести до зменшення шансів

перемоги Демократичної партії на виборах у листопаді цього року. У зв'язку зі зниженням підтримки демократів, республіканці зайняли провідні позиції по кількості голосів у Конгресі протягом останніх кількох місяців. Особливо помітним є зловживання політичною силою 31 сенатора-республіканця у Конгресі США задля збільшення популярності серед виборців через намагання зупинки постачання допомоги в Україну та одночасного заклику до збільшення подальшої військової допомоги, впровадження безполотної зони. Вторгнення росії в Україну виступає своєрідним шляхом до успіху на виборах обох партій, хоч цього й не уникнути, політичні наслідки демонструють світу слабкість Америки.

Нам слід було діяти більш поспішно у вживанні заходів щодо захисту демократичних цінностей в час їхнього руйнування. Це і є основою частиною нашої історичної ролі у міжнародному співтоваристві: ми повинні слугувати арсеналом демократії, здатним надавати допомогу будь-яким країнам, які цього жадануть. І хоч комусь може бути не до вподоби таке зображення Америки, та Сполучені Штати беззаперечно вдалися до жакливо

аморальної політики, нібито, для захисту демократії, хоча й була можливість створення ефективного підходу до війни відповідно до вимог уряду. Істотна військова допомога мала б бути негайно закріплена в законодавстві з майже повною двопартійною підтримкою. Та такий хід подій є можливим лише у тому випадку, якщо нація зосередиться на моральності вчинків, а не їх політичній вигоді.

Незалежно від виборів або кількості голосів, американський уряд повинен раз і назавжди змістити пріоритети з успіху у виборчій кампанії на інтереси Сполучених Штатів та свого народу. Оскільки ці два поняття міцно пов'язані, ми, як нація, очікуємо з боку наших політиків ефективних дій, котрі отримають підтримку з обох сторін. Не мало б бути трьох тижнів бездіяльності щодо ситуації в Україні. Політична гра, яку умовно створили в рамках повномасштабної війни викликає відразу. Навіть у “політичних реалістів”, бувають випадки, коли мораль витісняє національні інтереси або ж зливається з ними, як у ситуації війни в Україні.

І справді, ми завжди воліли бути моральною нацією, яка підтримує ідеали демократії та свободи в усьому світі. Незважаючи на те,

що наша недавня історія дуже затьмарена нашою підтримкою диктатури під час холодної війни, у нас був чудовий шанс довести, що ми змінилися. Проте, маючи таку можливість, все, що ми показали світу, це те, що знову політика має перевагу над національними цінностями. росія вчинила злочин проти кожного з наших ідеалів через повне порушення суверенних прав України, тоді як ми подали лише дипломатичні скарги, а наші сенатори та конгресмени лобювали отримання політичної влади. Наші моральні цінності ніколи не повинні бути на другому місці після політики.

Наша політична поляризація — це слабкість, від якої ми повинні самостійно позбутися. Голосувати за одну патрію задля того, аби не залишити шансу перемоги іншій видається безглуздом. Ми не можемо функціонувати як нація, якщо розглядатимемо кожную проблему як шанс придушити інший бік. Варто пам'ятати про упередження, інакше наша нація впаде через власний політичний розкол, що зростає.

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We Can All Do Good

AMY OKU



Recently, climate change has caught the attention of a much wider audience, whether from schools, social media, or weekly news reports. Through growing awareness of the global issue, more students, consumers, and political figures are getting involved in promoting climate

justice. As Earth Day passes each year, climate change steps into the spotlight of the news again, highlighting how environmental issues continue to worsen with the dangerous rates of human consumption, but more importantly mentioning how individuals can become more involved in climate action.

At Andover, Earth Day was extended to a week full of activities surrounding environmental justice, helping spread awareness and opportunities to promote sustainability. Through the Green Cup challenge, one of the events held during Earth Week, students could become aware of their energy consumption as a dorm, as they were able to compete against others by lowering their energy use. While the competition is a collective effort to reduce the carbon footprint of Andover as a school, the outcome of

the event seems to have little impact when compared to the larger issue of climate change. Yet, the competition endorses the right concept of a student population living more sustainably through lowering energy consumption. It is the lack of explicit purpose and impermanence of the event that prevents the initiative to achieve greater progression in environmental justice. If more students took low energy use as a long term lifestyle on campus, as a community, we would be doing good to reduce a part of our footprint. The same idea can be applied to the impact of individual efforts to promote sustainability. Climate justice activists highlight change rooting from corporations and progressive laws, implying how the impact of individuals is minimal. However, if every individual in a community were to reduce their food waste and use public transportation more frequently, these habits would help in decreasing a larger carbon footprint.

Those who state how corporate

rate level change has the biggest impact on the climate issue reference how industries, such as the fossil fuel industry, are capable of controlling a big portion of carbon emissions. While this is true, our actions as consumers drive the demand for fossil fuel companies. By continuing to drive cars guzzling gasoline and exacerbating light usage in households, fossil fuels continue to be consumed at severe rates. In 2019, fossil fuels were a source of 74 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the US, according to the Energy Information Administration. The choices individuals make everyday directly impact fossil fuel consumption, which then directly impacts the amount of pollution released. As consumers, we are connected to the high levels of greenhouse gas emissions due to how we have decided to carelessly live for years now. Individual lifestyles are one big aspect propelling the increasing consumption rates, which can be easily changed to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Climate change can seem daunting after reaching a global population and showing off its irreversible damages to habitats around the world, but what needs to be understood is that all humans can do at the moment is prevent further damages. The biggest impacts are said to come from corporate and government level change, yet individual action plays a crucial role in establishing a possible future for upcoming generations by standardizing sustainable lifestyles, necessary

to decrease the current human consumption levels that are driving the world into deteriorating conditions. The more people believe that individual impact matters, the more potential they have to create an impact on climate change.

Individual action consists of a spectrum of personal choices, ranging from diets, means of transportation, consumption of products and household energy use. One person choosing to take public transportation rather than their own car has little impact on climate change, but if their friends decide to use public transportation knowing that it reduces overall carbon emissions, a collective effort would be made, working together to lower carbon dioxide emissions in their area. The stigma surrounding how lifestyle choices have no effect is what stops people from choosing to live more sustainably. If the current rate of human consumption, heavily determined by how people decide to live their day to day lives, continues, the world is predicted to hit a critical breaking point in just about 28 years, as shown by The World Counts. Individual action may seem small when placed aside to the global issue, but our choices are able to become a collective act within a group of people, where every individual's actions works to lower the amount of overall consumption.

The belief that climate change is out of individual control cannot be a greater misunderstanding, as we have the power to choose how to live, and one option is to live sustainably. Climate change is a consequence humans well deserve. After decades of abusing the natural resources Earth has provided, it is up to humans to either pay the cost or simply, live more cautiously of individual choices and habits that link to one of the world's biggest issues: climate change.

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ALICIA ZHANG / THE PHILLIPIAN

A Premature Normal

LANGAN GARRETT



Through this pandemic, and for the past couple of years, all we have been able to think about, all society has been able to think about, is when we get to return to “normal.” But that feels impossible, and I truly don’t believe that we will ever go back to how things were. This is hardly an original thought, but one that I find important to stress because we are in yet another period of transition, one where we have to decide whether we will let a virus control our lives, or whether we will have the conviction to live with liberty.

There are things that will probably never resurface, for example, testing public lipsticks in makeup stores, or maybe even those beloved food samples at Costco (I don’t really know; I haven’t been to that paradise in a while). There are habits that we will never shake, such as always carrying around hand sanitizer or an extra mask in our pocket. Expanded outdoor dining is a mainstay now, and carrying around vaccine cards has been normalized. We all know this, and we are all painfully aware of the consequences that this virus has waged in our lives. But this is our new reality, and after such an extended period of time having to deal with these circumstances, we can adjust our lifestyles to fit these new guidelines. We can, and we should, toughen up, and follow

the rules. It really is not that hard.

Recently, the mask mandate was lifted in the U.S., particularly for domestic travel. Some states never had mask mandates or vaccine requirements, but now things seem to be changing again. During the early stages of Covid-19, it was rare to have someone you know contracting it, whereas now we have dozens of people on this campus coming down with symptoms and finding that dreaded “T” line on their test indicating Covid-19 positivity. It feels like everyone was overreacting at first, with hundreds of cases a day, compared to now—when there are thousands of new cases a day, restrictions are being lifted, and people are exercising more of their freedom. There have been constant records for new daily cases, and the media glosses over these statistics with startling regularity. It is almost as if the catastrophe is no longer at the forefront of our minds, that this deadly disease has taken a backseat.

I think this return to “normal,” whatever that means anyway, is premature. My question is: is it really that hard to wear a mask? Is it so hard to enter an indoor space, and have a piece of fabric, or paper, or plastic wrapped around your nose and mouth? Is that so difficult? And I guess it really comes down to the question of priorities. What matters to you more? Your immunocompromised grandparents or your unending need to breathe freely in an indoor space? Personally, I would rather have five more years with my grandparents and know that the three extra months I had to endure wearing a mask were worth it. I wore a mask for six hours on a plane so that I wouldn’t bring the virus to my family. I want to know that I did everything I could and followed the rules to keep myself and my family safe.



SOLAR LU / THE PHILLIPIAN

Adapting to this new normal doesn’t feel like a lot to ask, at least to me. We have been wearing masks for long enough and dealing with the ramifications of a global pandemic for a long enough time that we should know what to expect. Particularly in a school that prides itself on “non sibi,” it is important to think of the consequences of your actions. This is not meant to be a reprimand because everyone has made decisions that weren’t always thought through. But I urge everyone to

just take that extra moment and think about how your actions impact others. Does wearing the mask over your nose really put such a damper on your day? Can you really not handle the stress of having to be responsible and respectful when you are in an airport? It doesn’t have that much of an effect on you, and it is so easy to brush it off saying that it isn’t your problem. But that attitude, that need to return to a sense of normalcy without thinking of the impact that it has on others is the

whole reason why this mess has gotten so untenable. We need to work together in order to collectively return to a new normal. We need to think about how we can serve our communities more effectively and efficiently. It isn’t about the self anymore, it is about the we.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

REPORTING BY WENDY WANG

This Week:

On Saturday evening, the **Upper Gala** was hosted in Davis Hall at 8:30 p.m. As an Andover tradition, Uppers were invited to celebrate their Upper year through the dance. With colorful decorations, neon lights, and large 2023 balloons, the event served fancy finger foods and beverages. Many students dressed up and took photos with their friends in the photo booth, celebrating their Andover spirit as the upcoming seniors next fall.

The Philomathean Society hosted the **Divest Andover Open Forum** on April 22 in the Freeman Room. After a brief presentation on what it means to divest at Andover, the host questioned four panelists consisting of clubs like Andover Conservative Club (ACC), Philanthropy and Investment Club at Andover (PICA), and Divest Andover.

The audience later participated in a Q&A session to consolidate their understanding of the significance behind divesting at Andover. Furthermore, the PASC promoted a Divest Andover petition at the end of the open forum.

In preparation for **Take Back The Night** this upcoming weekend, students gathered this past Saturday to make banners in the Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD) office. Take Back The Night is a global organization that takes action against sexual violence, and Andover has traditionally organized an annual march beginning at the Abbot campus. Similarly, students and faculty members will do so this year in units of dorms. Another banner making session was also hosted this past Thursday, where students were encouraged to partici-

The **Club Rally** was held outside of the Gelb Science Center last Sunday morning. Representatives from each club presented their decorated boards on the lawn, engaging students and recruiting new club members. Around 25 clubs participated in the Spring Club Rally, playing music and attracting students with candies and chocolates. Though smaller compared to the fall club rally, the event offered younger students to socialize and get involved with more clubs.

Last Sunday morning, some students took a **trip to the Boston Holocaust Memorial** for a guided tour. The memorial is located on Boston’s Freedom Trail and encourages viewers to reflect on the legacy of human rights. The trip was hosted by Andover’s Jewish Student Union in honor of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Jericho Brown Intersects Honesty, Emotion, and Poetry

Continued from A1, Column 2

so personally, from his heart, made it all the more impactful; you could tell that his whole heart had gone into the words,” wrote Blaker in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Jaylen Daley ’25, whom Brown shouted out during his reading as his “favorite person in the audience” for his enthusiasm, said he found joy in identifying with Brown’s poetry and seeing his culture expressed. He also appreciated that Brown’s poetry gave him insight into new ways of looking into his own life.

“It was just really nice to relate. In the questions he said that...how he knows he’s finished, how he knows what to talk about, comes from community, and we share a lot of that community, even if I’m not a poet. I’m still black, and I still have that culture. It was nice to gain a new way of looking at what I know to be life and the society that I know...It’s just culture and it makes me happy to see that expressed. I’m really glad to be an interactive audience member because I can express that I feel seen by [Brown] and express my appreciation. It was thoroughly one of the best events that I’ve been to,” said Daley.

When asked what his biggest takeaway was, Daley referenced one of Brown’s responses in the Q&A session: that writing poetry was a way for him to come to terms with his emotions about his past. Daley noted that Brown’s answer made him realize that his past was something he could try to apply to his own art, opening up the possibility of self-transformation.

Daley said, “Understanding his artistic process made me feel like if I wanted to try to do it myself, I would have a good place to start. I’m a big dancer and I want to choreograph things and I have a lot of ideas. It just makes me feel like maybe I [could] be a lot more powerful and meaningful and resonant if I were more open. It doesn’t sound out of the realm of possibility, that [by being more open] I could make my art a lot more powerful and I can make myself more powerful.”

10 Questions with Michael Kuta

1. What is your role as an athletic trainer?

Athletic trainers are charged with the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. That’s the long standing description of what we do. But over the years, it’s morphed into much more than that we’re on the front lines. We work very closely with the [Rebecca M.] Sykes Wellness team. Dr. [Amy] Patel’s, [Medical Director at Sykes Wellness Center], leadership is instrumental in what we’re doing. So being on the frontlines, we get to see kids every day follow through with medical procedures as described to us. But we often build alliances with student athletes, and therefore, we can help with many concerns with lifestyle, wellness, everything from mental health to nutrition. [There is] this notion of teamwork. I want to make mention of the fantastic members of our team with Mrs. Wiggins, Mr. Kershaw and Mr. O’Reilly are just fantastic teammates they have given our responsibilities.

2. What’s the difference between going to the trainer or going to Sykes?

Typically kids will come to the athletic training room with physical injuries. People will go to Sykes with musculoskeletal injuries as well but also with illnesses or seeking counsel, nutrition advice, and all these other lifestyle wellness things that we talked about. They have a terrific team over there that can help with all those things, and very often we will get kids referred from Sykes to follow through on the program that they established.

3. How did you first decide to become an athletic trainer?

Like many other athletic trainers, I was injured in high school, and I really benefited from the care and treatment of an athletic trainer with my knees, so I was able to return to play football earlier than I thought. I just thought, “wow, what an interesting profession. It has to do with sports and kids.” And what’s a better combination than that? Especially at a place like Andover, where you have some of the most awesome kids, awesome students, awesome athletes; I couldn’t have asked for a better situation.

4. What are some funny stories from your time as an athletic trainer at Andover?

There are a lot of humorous things that have happened over the years. I can’t think of anything in particular right now. But, you know, over 41 years, you’re going to have a lot of things that are pretty funny.

5. How many hours of sleep do you suggest that students, faculty, and staff at Andover get?

We’ve all heard eight to ten hours is really important. You know, the research shows that adolescents should get 9.25 hours of sleep per night and I know that’s difficult to achieve here, but that’s certainly something we all should aim at.

If you have taken Physical Education at Andover, chances are, you were probably taught the sleep lesson from Michael Kuta, Head Athletic Trainer and Instructor in Physical Education. Kuta first started working at Andover in 1981, and enjoys interacting with students and the athletic training team at Andover.

REPORTING BY ASHLEY AGYEMAN

6. What are some health tips for sleeping?

Try to have a regular schedule that starts with a routine getting ready for sleep. Try to have a sane bedtime and get up time wake up time on a regular basis so you have established a routine that becomes part of your overall schedule, because sleep is everything. [It] helps with everything from academic and physical performance and growth and development, but also helps with all those other things that I just mentioned about lifestyle and wellness. If you take out sleep, it’s hard to deal with stress because you’re so exhausted, and if you don’t have enough sleep, it’s hard to perform well in the classroom or on the playing field or the dance floor or wherever. That becomes a stressor, to see how one thing affects another, so sleep is crucial. [Have] a regular routine, avoid caffeine, [and] avoid eating late at night.

7. What is your favorite meal from Paresky Commons?

Stir fry, and salad bar, no doubt, the power bar. they have kids on it... And working with my teammates.

8. Which sports send the most amount of students to the trainer?

Girls soccer, hockey, football, and running sports send a lot of kids. We see a lot of kids from the track teams, cross country teams and so on.

9. Where is your favorite place on campus?

I love the playing field, especially when they have kids on it... And working with my teammates.

10. Where is your favorite athletic training office, among Borden Memorial Gym, Snyder Center and the Harrison Rink training room?

Girls soccer hockey, football, and running sports... send a lot of kids. We see a lot of kids from the track teams, cross country teams and so on.

New Blue Key Heads Selected for Class of 2023

REPORTING BY JENNY JIN

The newly selected Blue Key Heads for the 2022-2023 school year stormed the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library on April 21, celebrating their selection. Blue Key Heads are school spirit leaders on campus, promoting Big Blue energy by dressing up in blue costumes, including their blue skirts, Friday. They attend athletic events to energize the crowds and start cheers. The ten new Blue Key Heads shared their reactions when learning the news, as well as the reason why they wanted to become a Blue Key Head.

MAX GOMEZ '23

I was ecstatic once I realized that I was gonna be one of the Blue Key Heads, it was just an amazing feeling. Just the first day I arrived on campus, I saw [the Blue Key Heads]. They were the first people who greeted me. They were all just going crazy and having the best time ever and getting everyone else to be super hyped, and I just thought it was awesome. I didn't really have that same kind of community culture at my old school, so to see that was amazing. I was just so drawn to it because all I want to do is make other people happy and bring a lot of energy to this campus, because it just makes this place so much better.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

MADDIE YUAN '23

What made me want to become a [Blue Key Head] in the first place was actually seeing all the [Blue Key Heads] during my freshman year orientation. Watching them spread so much joy and laughter was something I really admired and aspired to be like someday. I am really looking forward to doing Friday dress-ups with my fellow [Blue Key Heads] next year, as well as Valentine's Day events, and just blasting music down the paths to hopefully make everyone's day better.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

YSSIE VARGAS '23

I was first very surprised and very happy. I had worked for this position and I was really proud of myself. At the same time, I was also very nervous for what was to come. I knew that [Blue Key Head] is a big time commitment and a lot of work so I was worried about how I would manage my time. That fear was short lived because I knew I had a lot of support from my fellow [Blue Key Heads] and the [Blue Key Heads] of '22. I am very excited for the next year with my new family. I was really inspired by the confidence and energy of the past [Blue Key Heads].



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

DEVAN HERNANDEZ '23

[It was the] most exciting day of my life, honestly. I really wanted to become a Blue Key Head because they were the first people that made me really excited about being at Andover when I was a freshman, so I wanted to be like that for other people. I thought it was super funny how all of the '22 [Blue Key Heads] were meant to us. It made me more motivated to impress them with my audition. I'm so excited to meet all of the new students at orientation and show off my school spirit next year.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

JULIA MONTGOMERY '23

I've wanted to be a [Blue Key Head] since freshman year because they made coming to Andover so much more fun and they all have such a close bond, and I knew that I wanted to be a part of that community. I have always been told that I am super loud and I really like yelling so that was definitely a big motivating factor for me. My favorite part of the audition process was probably my improv skit because I really got to let loose and just do what felt natural, which was a fun experience (I led a mindful breathing exercise while screaming at everyone, and I thought the idea was really funny).



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

CHARLES MURPHY '23

I was just beyond happy [to become a Blue Key Head]. All of the stress and nervousness was absolutely worth it. I am very thankful to have gotten this opportunity and couldn't be happier about it. I saw the [Blue Key Heads] back in 2017 when visiting my brother at school for the first time. I was just in awe of them. They were so cool. From that moment on, I knew that if I attended [Andover] I would do all I could to become a Blue Key Head and bring smiles to people around campus....My audition was likely the most nerve-wracking thing I have done at school, but ended up being the most fun I have ever had at [Andover].



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

DAGNY BINGHAM '23

As a young freshman applying to prep schools, I visited Fall [Andover/Exeter] to get a feel for the different schools...after seeing the [Blue Key Heads] in action, I knew Andover was where I wanted to go.



COURTESY OF SUI YU

For my skit, I had to impersonate the Walmart yodeling kid, and yodeling was never something I had tried so I spent all night practicing my yodel in the dorm with my dormmates which was really fun. During the audition, it was fun to yodel my heart out and I got a big reaction from the crowd which was really fun.

FRED JAVIER '23

I've wanted to become a Blue Key Head for quite a while now, especially through seeing all those who came before me inspire me and so many others through their cheering and positive attitude. I was especially inspired by Jeffrey Steele '20, Ioanna Ninos '21, and Emiliano Caceres Manzano '22, which also makes me incredibly glad to be the '23 [Blue Key Head] to inherit everything in their lineage.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

KELLY BU '23

I first heard about the [Blue Key Heads] when I arrived last year as a new Lower, but I didn't really see them in action until this year. I always thought it would be incredible to just put myself out there regardless of the outcome. I'm most excited about game days. When we all dressed up for the first time, it was the most fun I've ever had while at Andover. The [Blue Key Heads] bring so much joy to campus, and I'm so ecstatic to be a part of it.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

TUCKER NEE '23

I was super happy to hear the news. The 2022 [Blue Key Heads] kept us guessing about when we would hear, so when I learned I made [Blue Key Head] it made the news even better. I'm also stoked about the skirt lineage I have joined; my skirt has been passed down from Jake Jordan ['20] to Kyle Simard ['21] to Kane Goodman ['22] and now to me. It's an honor to be included in a family of absolute legends. When I came here as a freshman, the [Blue Key Heads] were like giants, and I never imagined being able to do what they did. However, through my years here, I have opened up and love to get loud and rowdy, so the cheering part should come naturally.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Nearly \$53,000 Abbot Grant Provided to Build Outdoor Basketball Court

Continued from A1, Column 5

Boys Varsity Basketball

“[It can also be used] for faculty and their kids. That’s another big thing because I feel like the student faculty relationships in [Andover] are really good in the classroom, but it’d be nice to see some stuff out of the classroom. I know there’s a lot of faculty who like to play basketball, and it’d be really interesting to see faculty and students playing,” said Bechard.

player Isaiah Harris '24 shared his thoughts on the soon to be built outdoor court. He emphasized the popularity of basketball and the court will allow more to enjoy the sport.

“The additional outdoor basketball court is for sure going to be an amazing additional space to our campus. I know so many people that love to hoop, even if it’s just for the fun of it. Every single day there are people playing pickup and enjoying time with their friends. In my opinion, this court is a way everyone could build new connections, while still engaging

in friendly competition. I can’t wait to see what the future holds,” said Harris.

According to Bechard, the total cost of construction amounted to nearly \$53,000. He thanked the Abbot Grant Committee for its generosity and willingness to help with proposals both large and small.

“I think the biggest thing is coming to a school, having an idea, seeing a need, and then being able to go through this program to fulfill it is a really great resource that I think more students need to know about. It’s something that al-

lows the students to really give back to the campus and it’s a great outlet for student feedback as well... I think, [our grant was] \$52,700. [That’s] a lot, but they can range from \$100 if you want to start a club, and I think that’s what’s really great about Abbot Grant proposals. If you have something that’s conceivable and is a good idea, they’ll find [the money] for you,” said Bechard.

The court will first open in a school-wide event that An and Bechard are planning for this upcoming fall. Bechard shared that students can expect to see

tournaments and varsity players showcasing their skills on the new basketball court.

“We’re going to have a big opening event in the fall where we can have a tournament, maybe some varsity players showcasing the details that we figured out,” said Bechard.

Booths Display PASC Work and Encourage Student Activism at Earth Festival

Continued from A1, Column 5

conversations about sustainability.

“The Earth Festival... is the celebration of the work that we have done and a solemn look at what is to come. The tone of the event, then, is just as celebratory as it is solemn, and looking very much to convene people in a space that is at heart inclusive and friendly, but also we have a shared mission here, there’s something to galvanize around here. And so the festival [is for] student performers of all kinds—writers, artists, and singers—to showcase both the talent within the community and what we can do with that community,” said Zhou.

Karen Wang ’24, who helped with the art displays and advertisement for the festival, appreciated the Earth Festival’s emphasis on community building. Wang believed that the performers were able to communicate important issues in an accessible and engaging way.

“I think it was really cool just to see such a big group of people who were passionate about climate change come together for the first time in a long time, since before the pandemic started. I think the comedy act was cool, and how they incorporated climate change into how they can create something more light-hearted but also educating people on actual real change and making realistic goals,” said Wang.

Along with various performances, there were also mini-booths that displayed PASC’s work. Sebastian Lemberger ’25, a member of PASC involved in climate lobbying, explained how the festival allowed people to directly contribute to climate action by giving them access to making

an amendment to a budget bill.

“I was there to get people to email the Andover representative about a specific amendment on the budget bill that needs to get passed. I am hoping that at least three people sent an email, but I also hope that it made Earth Week memorable, so that people take something with them, because often the reality of large activism-related events is that they happen for one week, or one day or something, and then they go, and people forget about them like two days later,” said Lemberger.

Zhou showed appreciation to the different groups around campus that collaborated to bring everyone together. As a Senior, Zhou hopes PASC’s work continues to encourage people of diverse interests to become engaged in learning and working towards change, no matter the medium.

Zhou said, “[I’d like to show] gratitude for the community members who have worked so tirelessly to support us, everyone from Student Council, to the Office of Sustainability, to the [Oliver Wendell Holmes Library], to the various academic departments, to the Dean of Studies Office. [And] if you’re interested in climate action, welcome, you’re among a community that has so many interests, that is sort of plugging into a movement that relies on the synergy of disciplines, interests, mediums and passions. So reach out to somebody who you’ve seen talking about climate action; we’re all an email or text message or Instagram DM away.”



Leverett Willson ’23 performing a solo for the Earth Festival.



JVNE, the K-Pop dance group on campus, performing at the Earth Festival.



Iris Guo ’23 and Jason Zhang ’23 performing as part of their band, Indigo.

Yamashita Discusses Sites of Japanese Incarceration, Representing Memory Through “Painful Joy”

Continued from A1, Column 2

periences of Japanese American in the concentration camps, it is a responsibility to not let go of those memories and to keep telling these stories. And not getting rid of all this ‘junk’ by preserving them,” said Sun.

Darren Zhu ’24, who also attended Yamashita’s talk, noted not only his previous knowledge regarding Japanese

internment camps, but also how Yamashita expanded this knowledge. Zhu appreciated how Yamashita presented “The Joy Talk” and told the stories of generations before her.

“The way [Yamashita] talked about [the concentration camps] provided many new perspectives about the ways in which the daily lives of the camps’ prisoners were impacted and how they were forced to choose the few items they were allowed to keep among

their belongings. It was more from the views of people in the camps than outsiders looking in, from during that time period or from the future,” said Zhu.

Before proceeding to a question and answer session with the audience, Yamashita concluded her presentation with one final remark. Yamashita drew on each aspect she talked about in her talk: the past, the present, and joy.

“But in each of those remote

sites of Japanese American incarceration, there are monuments, interpretive centers, museums and real people, volunteers and docents that all decry the racism, hatred, and fear of unjustly imprisoned citizens and honest, hardworking immigrant families. These sites and their caretakers stand as places of evidence, accountability, resistance, and hope. You return home to your personal Tokyo Bay, a landfill space of junk you cannot abandon. You know you

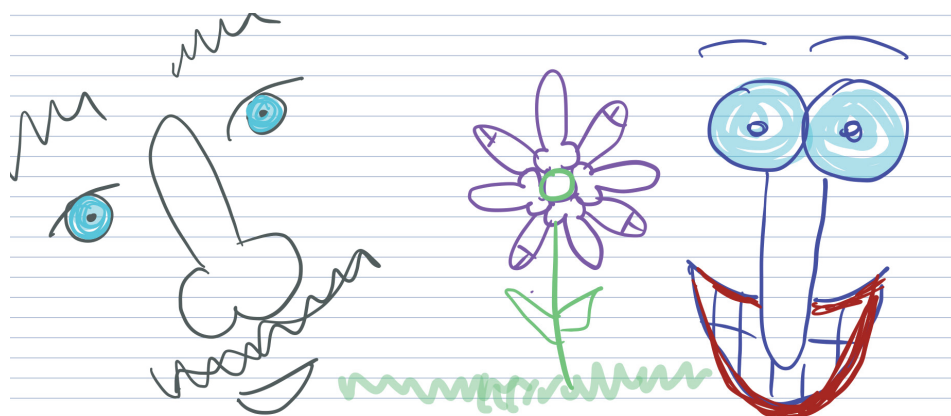
cannot hold each item and feel the spark of joy. Take your foot back and point your finger up in the joy position. If there is joy, it is a painful joy,” said Yamashita.

Write for News!!!
Contact jchyu23,
ardone23, and
clee23 for more
information!

SENIOR SPRING IS SO DEGENERATIVE

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SENIOR

MARY LORD



I begin the day by waking up at 8:27 a.m. for my 8:30 a.m. poetry elective class. At 8:30 a.m. sharp, I gulp some Advil and go back to sleep. No one tells you drinking on a Tuesday night is such a commitment! Don't worry about me getting marked absent because in poetry, a lot can be said in silence. Plus, my teacher's compromised immune system is probably safer when I am farther away.

When I get up, I diligently check my email. I search admissions@xcollege.edu, and I admire my acceptance letter... such beautifully composed words; poetry is truly everywhere. Then I DoorDash an Egg & Sausage McMuffin because now that I'm in, I don't

care at all about numbers, including my accumulating credit card bills and cholesterol levels.

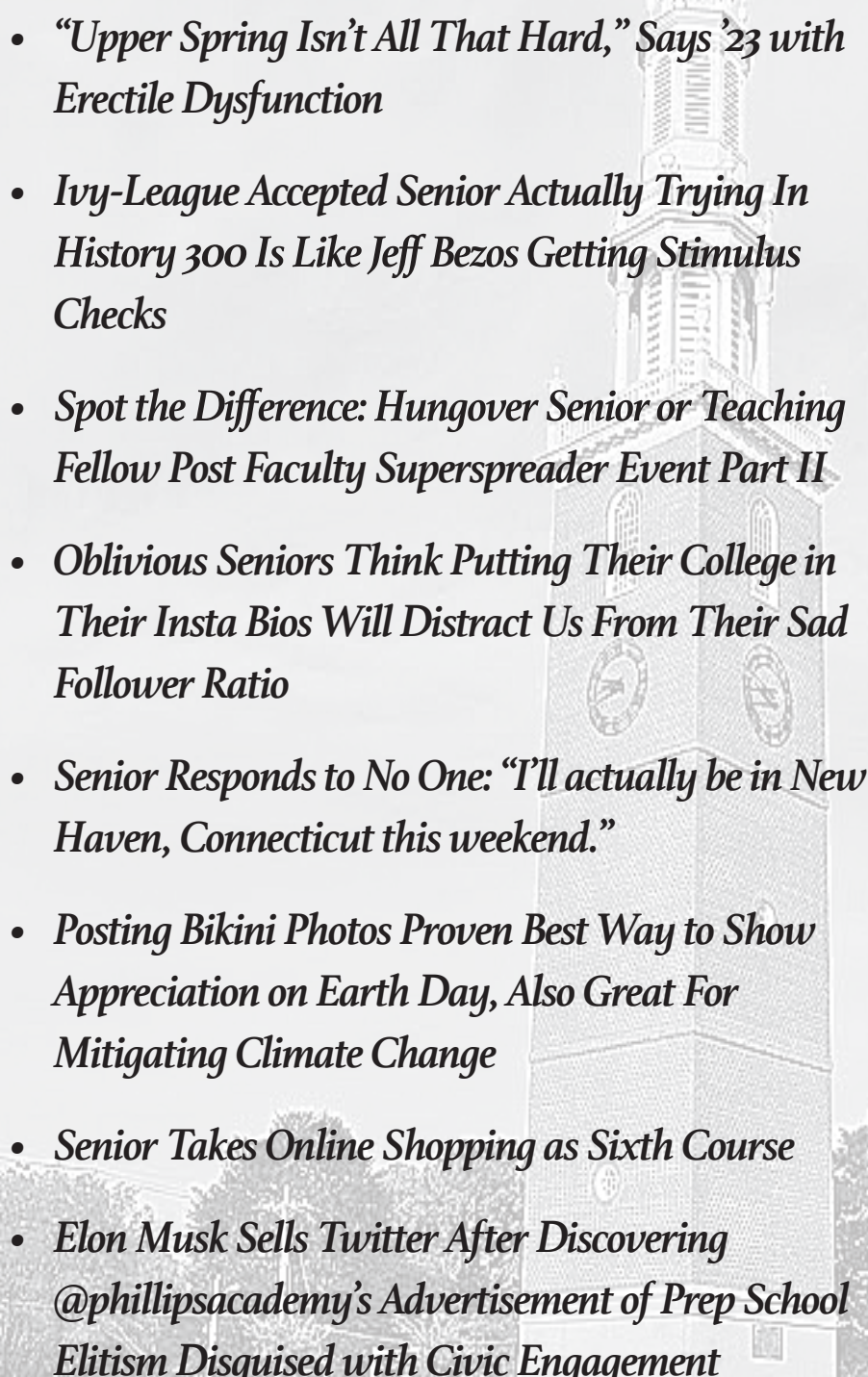
After that, I'll head to my extremely intense art elective, cartoon drawing. I normally draw a few phallic shapes and call it a day. My teacher praises me for how I experiment with a minimalist avant-garde personification of masculine suppression. I feel slightly bad for all the sweats (Uppers) in my class who scribble those pencils to stubs to get a 6 in a supposed easy elective...who is gonna tell them legacy matters more than a 5.8?

For lunch, I'll take an Uber downtown—asking for car permission is the last thing on my mind—and charge a full course meal at La Fina to my

Mom's credit card. Now that I'm in college, she can start paying for all the tiger parenting trauma that I've endured. I'm not really a fan of walking, so I will Uber back to my last class of the day. Somehow my Uber will get lost and I'll end up back at my dorm! Then a wave of amnesia will hit me, a common Senior spring occurrence, and the next thing I know, I'm back in bed!

I also would usually go to my extraneous sport of dog walking, but last I checked, a faculty's senile shelter dog can walk without my assistance. Now that I'm in, I don't lift a finger to do any more volunteer work, even if it's for a dog.

WEEK'S TOP HEADLINES

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- *“Upper Spring Isn’t All That Hard,” Says ’23 with Erectile Dysfunction*
 - *Ivy-League Accepted Senior Actually Trying In History 300 Is Like Jeff Bezos Getting Stimulus Checks*
 - *Spot the Difference: Hungover Senior or Teaching Fellow Post Faculty Superspreader Event Part II*
 - *Oblivious Seniors Think Putting Their College in Their Insta Bios Will Distract Us From Their Sad Follower Ratio*
 - *Senior Responds to No One: “I’ll actually be in New Haven, Connecticut this weekend.”*
 - *Posting Bikini Photos Proven Best Way to Show Appreciation on Earth Day, Also Great For Mitigating Climate Change*
 - *Senior Takes Online Shopping as Sixth Course*
 - *Elon Musk Sells Twitter After Discovering @phillipsacademy’s Advertisement of Prep School Elitism Disguised with Civic Engagement*

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

“It’s nice to see that my teachers put as much effort into my midterm comments as I put into their assignments.”

“Does the ‘F’ on my midterm report stand for ‘fantastic?’”

“Have I ever told you the definition of insanity? It’s doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting different—hang on, the new Covid-19 guidelines just dropped.”

"I don't know what's worse: Andover Night Live being cancelled or my entire family being murdered."

“Bro, we should get Dr. RayK on the Joe Rogan Podcast.”

“I don’t trust *The Phillipian*. They sell our SOTA results to big data.”

“Lefties are the most oppressed group in America... and they deserve it.”

“I wish Elon could buy Andover and reinstate free speech here.”

“Of course Hale’s winning the Green Cup Challenge. Do they even have electricity?”

SENIOR SPRING ATTENDANCE



Date/Status	Reason
04/19/2022 Excused	Rectal blindness (they couldn't see their ass going to school that day)
04/19/2022 Excused	Still "jet lagged" from their campus visit in Cambridge
04/20/2022 Excused	Quit the student life to become a day trader
04/20/2022 Excused	New Supreme Drop
04/21/2022 Excused	Internship interview for the ones who "chose" a gap year
04/21/2022 Excused	Reading the 8th Page
04/22/2022 Excused	Rating local Olive Gardens on Yelp
04/22/2022 Excused	Botox
04/25/2022 Excused	Prom date scouting, not stalking
04/25/2022 Excused	Climbing the mountain

UPDATE ON SENIOR'S NON-PROFIT FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

NED THORNTON

Hello Mom, Dad, other various donors (copy to greater Andover community),

I am glad to share that our non-profit has been more profitable than ever, for the greater community, of course. The charity's commitment to teaching so many at-risk youths the wonders of nautical flags is stronger than ever. In fact, so many of these children are able to spell their names using only signal flags. I love empowering underprivileged youth by crossing language barriers, even though they'll probably never be able to afford a boat. Seeing the smiles on so many of their faces is really what it's all about. My Dartmouth acceptance means very little to me.

I remember when the children and I reviewed the nautical flag alphabet together one meeting (of many). At the time, mind you, these children were very at-risk. They could hardly tell the difference between a swallowtail and a fimbriated argent! Ha. Now, they all know so much more about international maritime signal flags. It is safe to say that I've given these kids a glimpse of their bright futures, and none of them will be out on the streets anytime soon.

However, like all non-profits, there comes an expiration date, or how I like to see it, a commencement of a new era. I feel that our non-profit has run its course (maritime reference); the children know the blazons and meanings of each letter and number flag. Unfortunately, there are only 26 letters, and numbers only go so high. It does not make sense to keep teaching such a large number of children the same thing when they have so much potential for greater aspirations.

At the end of the day, this non-profit is a business. Therefore, as Founder, Chairman, and CEO, I've decided to liquidate our assets and disband. Thank you for your continued support, and please know that donations are still greatly appreciated (venmo @nedthornton).





The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLV | Number 10

GIRLSTRACK

hakuna matata

April 29, 2022

Girls Track Distance Medley Relay Team Qualifies for Nationals

NABILAH NAZAR

Enduring the cancellation of its first meet, Girls Track headed to Deerfield, where it was narrowly edged out of first place by Loomis Chaffee, despite boasting 68 points. The team's record now stands at 2-0.

Pierre '23 expressed their appreciation to have an away meet—a mark of the outdoor season. The new environment and numerous competitors from various schools allowed throwers like Pierre to engage and compete fiercely.

Pierre said, “We don't ever leave for the winter season, because we have the best indoor facilities and Covid has prevented us from anything in general, for the past couple of years. It was fun to see everyone, like a lot of schools compete... A lot of schools that are great at throwing. And we're actually comparatively pretty good.”

Caroline Ho '22, who competed in the 4x100-meter relay pole vault emphasized the speciality of having a relay meet. These types of meets are unique since they allow for the collective team to compete for each other, rather than with each other, fostering a new sense of team unity.

“I had never seen a pole vault relay before or any other jumps individual event relay. So it was really interesting to see... but I think the relay really made it seem like a group effort. Even though track is like a lot of times an individual sport, so [that was] fun,” said Ho.

Abbie Cheng '23 highlighted



J.CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Hayden Fischer '24 ran the 800-meter leg of the Girls Distance Medley Relay.

the successes of the meet, more specifically on the distance front. Cheng noted how the grit and perseverance of the runners allowed Girls Distance Medley Relay team to qualify for nationals.

“The girls distance runners performed really well and broke a meet record as well as qualified for nationals! It was fun to watch them crush it on the track and keep their drive even when they were so far ahead,” wrote Cheng in an email to *The Phillipian*.

According to Pierre, even though competition is the basis of these events, sportsmanships

is the foundation where competition is built upon. Pierre highlighted Loomis' performance in all the events, and that its dedication was appreciated by fellow competitors.

Pierre said, “Loomis has an amazing track record, and they got first overall. The throwers were so fast, and they threw so far, and they just had very high standards for themselves, which I really enjoy seeing them compete as a competitor. And you could just tell them like [they had] amazing coaching.”

Similarly, Cheng values the level of enthusiasm the competitors had, which seeped through

the whole meet, encouraging others to join in. All the different events received a plethora of cheering, which encouraged a positive atmosphere.

“For me, the highlight was the energy that other teams brought. The Deerfield athletes were super supportive of each other, and it was great to feed off that energy. They were so supportive [of the] high jump, too, so I loved how field events were valued as much as track events,” wrote Cheng.

Additionally, Ho noted the importance of building chemistry within the large track team. As a relay meet, teammates

were expected to work with and for each other. While doing so, a level of familiarity is needed to perform the best people can. With so many different people on the team, Ho enjoys being a part of a community with different backgrounds—a valuable aspect that track has brought into her life.

“I'd say that a lot of it comes from team culture. We have team norms that we follow that are outlined. And we go over those, we started going over them this season. It's just a very supportive group. Especially since it's so diverse across grades. And I'd say that is a big part of it. Also, specifically with the Deerfield meet, it was all relay events. So even like jumps, events that typically don't have combined scores, it was all combined together as a group. So that made it a lot more fun and a sort of team-way,” said Ho.

Regarding personal goals, Pierre hopes to improve their events through extensive practice and working closely with the coaches. But also engaging with different competitors they meet at events, which can bring a lot of joy.

“I want to PR. I [also] want to meet more people. Our next meet is at St. Paul's, and I want to talk to other competitors. I just have so much fun at those meets. Especially like just getting to know everyone else,” said Pierre.

Andover will compete away against Concord Academy and St. Paul's on Wednesday.

Editor's Note: Abbie Cheng is an Illustration Editor for The Phillipian.

BOYSCREW

Boys Crew Succeeds With Quick Starts and Consistency

MEG STINEMAN

As Boys Varsity Crew Boat One (B1) approached the middle 500 meters of the race, Duxbury was closely rowing next to them. B1 pushed past Duxbury with a power ten to successfully move ahead, finishing in first place for Andover.

According to Captain Seamus Dallman '22, after two races that did not turn out as hoped, the boat was motivated to win this past weekend. Led by its fire to improve, the team flew through the middle of the race.

“We had a scrimmage against Belmont and a race against Kent and those were kind of rough. Those are both fast programs. I think we definitely sort of faced some challenges against those programs and whatnot, so I think what we try to take away from those losses is just to be aggressive off the start and try to keep the intensity high throughout the race. We had a really good middle move around the island... we put some power collectively,” Dallman stated.

Coxswain Chloe Rhee '24 highlighted the middle portion of the race as well. She explained how up until the mo-

ment she called a move, the boat hadn't been as fast as hoped. However, when she called the middle move, the boat really picked up the pace.

“Pick it up around the middle. There is a start 500, middle 500, [and] last 500. In the middle 500 we were on even footing with one of the other boats, I think it was Duxbury. We were kind of close to each other the entire time. In the middle, they started to pick it up and they were gaining seats on us. I called a middle move to get us ahead and that middle move pushed us ahead for the rest of the race, so they did a good job getting it together,” Rhee said.

According to George Stoodly '24, the beginning of the race was powerful and resulted in an immediate lead. As the race continued, the boat remained consistent and maintained successes.

“We were really great on our starts today. We came out super aggressive with our power five and we took over a length at the very beginning, and then we were able to sustain and hold that lead and make it even larger as the race went on. We came out hungry and we stayed hungry,” said Stoodly.

Dallman hopes to clean up the early stages of the race and



M.DOUCETTE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Boys Crew has three competing boats on the Varsity team.

improve consistency. He believes that consistency is the key to winning races.

“I think we have to refine our start a little bit. The energy is there but we are not the cleanest yet and we can work on just getting more consistency with each stroke. We will have a few good strokes and it will feel good and then fall apart a little bit and then we will pick it back

up again. So I just think staying consistent is something we need to work on,” said Dallman.

According to Rhee, the boat's mindset in this race was to beat themselves more than the other teams. The team wasn't focused on the other teams' skills in the boat, and rather to race its own race.

“I think it was just to go fast and try our best. I don't think

we had any expectations for where certain boats were going to be in comparison to us, and if we did we tried to get rid of it. I think the mentality we were emphasizing was that this race is about us and not where we are in relation to anyone else and we should just be pushing as hard as possible,” said Rhee.

Boys Crew will race Hanover and Brunswick on Saturday.

CYCLING

All Gender Cycling Races Through Turbulent Weather Against Holderness

LENA CIGANER

Despite the unfavorable conditions caused by rain and wind, Andover Cycling has continued to show improvements since the start of their season. In a trip away to Holderness where two pairs of four teams competed in races, the girls pairs placed fifth and sixth while the boys pairs placed fifth and ninth respectively.

Amelia Vinton '23 noted that the team was unsure whether they would even be able to race. She added that the slick course caused by the rain made her and her teammates concerned about their safety.

“I think it was definitely a bit more difficult than it was last week. We had rain like an hour before the race, and so some of

us were like, ‘are we even going to be able to race?’ I was really nervous about it because I was like, ‘are the conditions going to be so slick that I'm going to fall?’ Then we had a pretty big headwind on a few parts of the race and some cross winds too. We had wind last week, but it was definitely a bit more intense this week,” said Vinton.

Nonetheless, each member of the team collaborated with their partner to race to their best abilities, according to Yuta Kojima '22. Kojima, who came in fifth alongside his partner Daniel Zou '23 with a time of 39 minutes and 57.9 seconds, showed appreciation for Zou, whom he claimed “pulled” him a lot.

“I'd like to highlight Zou. [He] and I were a pair, so he literally pulled me a lot. He was a great [partner], and he was a great team worker. Also he

pulled me in the hills. He helped me a lot. I want to say thanks to him in particular,” said Kojima.

Vinton highlighted the two Juniors on the team, Elliot Famiglietti '25 and Paul Wehner '25. The two displayed outstanding teamwork through drafting and well-coordinated racing strategy, according to Vinton.

Vinton said, “Every time I saw them come through, they both looked really good as a team and they were drafting off of each other really well and were really coordinated in their switching and pacelining. That was really cool to see because I know that a lot of our teams were struggling a bit today with that, so to see them do it so well is really cool.”

Alongside the progress made by younger athletes, Vinton highlighted the team's practic-

es. She claimed that climbing hills and position switching, along with pacelining, is something the team has been putting a lot of effort into.

“We focus on pacelining and some hill sprints. Those are the two major things because in our course there's two hills that we have to get up... and then also just pacelining with the team time trial this week was something we practiced,” said Vinton.

In the face of adapting to new strategies for partner-timed races, the team plans modify their strategy. The upcoming race hosted by Gould will be a criterium, or ‘crit’ race, where all bikers start at the same time. Vinton expressed mixed emotions about the brand new racing format.

“I think we're scoring as a team and I'm nervous about the

format of [the ‘crit’] because we haven't done any pack riding, but I'm also excited about it just because we're not going off at time intervals. It should be way more exciting and fun so I don't know, we'll see,” said Vinton.

Despite Vinton's nervousness, Anna Ohm '23 feels excited for their upcoming ‘crit’ race. She highlighted the new format, stating her excitement to start the race alongside the rest of her teammates.

“I look forward to the next race because it is a ‘crit,’ which means that it will be a mass start. Pretty much everyone will be starting at the same time, which we haven't done before this season, so I'm very excited to go as a group and we're going to be on point,” said Ohm.

Andover's next race will be hosted by Gould on Saturday.

GIRLSTENNIS

Head Coach Deborah Chase Leads Girls Tennis with Reliability On and Off the Court

MONISHA KATHIKA

Girls Tennis Head Coach Deborah Chase's main mission is to blend the individual aspect of tennis with a more team centric approach. By promoting and emphasizing the core values of togetherness and unity, Chase looks to impart upon her players the same love for the sport that she found during her childhood.

Coach Chase notes the importance of mutual respect among both the players and the coaches alike. She believes that appreciation and positive energy are something critical to the foundation of the team and something she strives to embody in her leadership.

"Hopefully, I [bring the team together] by treating everybody with the same respect no matter where they are on the lineup and with the same kindness and I have the same expectations for the number one on the team and number nine on a team as far as work ethic and the respect that they have for the game. I think, as best I can, I try to make everything about the

team and not about individual wins. But we win as a team, we lose as a team. We also do activities off the court as well. You know, things like coming to my house. I encourage the captain's to focus on team unity as well," said Coach Chase.

Co-Captain Ananya Madurri '23 touched on Coach Chase's ability to connect with players on a personal level. Madurri thinks of Coach Chase as someone she can always count on both on and off the court.

Madurri said, "I admire her calmness and composure throughout this entire term of like, random matches because of you know, Covid and all this stuff. She's like a little second mom to me, she's always checking on us every day so I love it. I love everything about her."

Fellow Co-Captain Nicole Lee '22 shared a similar sentiment to Madurri, noting that Coach Chase is as helpful as she is reliable. She pointed out how Coach Chase helped nurture her into the captain she is as well as provides technical tips to improve specific areas of her game.

Lee said, "I've really learnt so much from Coach Chase. I

have been fortunate to be on the team since my [Junior] year. And I think the things that she's taught me and the values that she's instilled in me have all been in preparation to take more of a leadership role on the team, now being the senior captain. Of course she teaches us technical or tactical strategies for when we get out there and play, but she really showed me the influence I can have on the team because I think as a freshman, I didn't see that in myself. Having her support at all times through everything, not just tennis, has been super amazing. She's always someone I can turn to for everything."

Coach Chase does her best to get the best out of others. She believes that oftentimes, players may not feel confident or feel like they can perform, but part of her hope as a coach is to guide every player along their own path and get the most out of themselves.

"I try to be challenging, encouraging, motivating, and, you know. Like I know what I do, but I try to get them to see the best in themselves and to work on to focus on one or two things in their control and to set measurable goals,



COURTESY OF ANDOVER ATHLETICS

short term and long term. I just keep encouraging them, and help them find pathways to be their best selves," said Coach Chase.

While she certainly does acknowledge the tribulation that the last couple of years have brought, Coach Chase doesn't want it to get in the way of her players achieving their goals and hopes that as the season progresses, the team can work together to

achieve them.

Coach Chase said, "I try through mentorship and through words and actions and following through and making sure that I know the needs of the players. We're all focused on that we know what our goals are, and that we, you know, do our best to work together, this year, especially with so many people being in and out with different illnesses and injuries.

Co-Captain Ananya Madduri '23 Brings Experience and Work Ethic to the Girls Tennis

PATRICIA TRAN

Initially interested in skiing and gymnastics, Andover Girls Tennis Co-Captain Ananya Madduri '23 suffered a knee injury at eight years old that forced her to make the switch to tennis. Largely under her father's guidance, she soon came to love the competitive aspect of the sport and now enjoys using



COURTESY OF PANET

the sport to empower herself.

According to Madduri, her success as a player and love for tennis stemmed primarily from her family's devotion to watching and playing high-level tennis. Once a collegiate and pro tennis player, Madduri's father served as her tennis mentor.

"My dad was obviously a big help through that because he was super experienced. He also played on the pro tour for six months after graduating

from college, so he was my initial coach... My family's like a big tennis family in general. We'll travel to play different tournaments and also watch big tournaments. Recently we went and we watched Indian Wells, which was really good, so that's what keeps me going. Also I just love the competitive aspect of it. I think it's a sport that combines a lot of different elements of the competition and also rivalry, which is very enjoyable," said Madduri.

Madduri describes her leadership style as captain to be one that is more focused on setting the example. Madduri is hopeful that her experience and dedication to playing can inspire her teammates.

"I'm not a very giggly, laughy person as a captain. I think I lead by the way I play in practice and the effort that I put in. I do practice very seriously, although it's nothing to get too stressed about. I take it as a way to constantly keep improving. Each hour I get with my coaches is very important to me because that's that one hour that I can tweak something to make my game stronger and also to help others," said Madduri.

Fellow Co-Captain Nicole Lee '22 shares a similar sentiment to Madduri. Although

the two captains have known each other since middle school in Hong Kong, Lee appreciates Madduri's impact on both the new and returning members of the team.

"We attended the same school back in Hong Kong, so I knew her from around there, from tennis centers and training and tournaments as well. It's been great to see her grow, both as a person and player... I think she's allowed me to also step up my game both on and off the court," said Lee.

Though noting major difficulties in fostering an inclusive team community due to Covid-19 circumstances, Madduri further stated that leading the team through it wouldn't be possible without the help of Lee and her coaches.

"I feel like with me and [co-captain Nicole Lee '22], we have nine people on the team, we usually have eight, so obviously our team really reconstructed this year given Covid-19 and seniors leaving last year. So we're really just trying to be able to foster that inclusive community where everyone feels empowered, and they feel like they can be the best versions of themselves as an athlete, tennis player, and generally as a person," said Madduri.

As a new member of this year's team, Tara Phan '24 recognizes Madduri's efforts in playing with newer, younger members.

"Ananya is a caring and supportive captain as well as teammate, and she is excited to always play with us. And she's happy to join us on the court and warm up with me if I ask, and she's always willing to play with us," said Phan.

Without a Junior season due to Covid-19, the Spring Term of last year marked the beginning of Madduri's Andover tennis journey. For her, last year's match against Deerfield was not just one of the most memorable, but also introduced her to her place on the team.

"I really enjoyed playing Deerfield last year because I don't know, I just remember it very distinctly... It just felt very empowering, a very memorable match. I played pretty well, and last season obviously got pretty good results as a team and individually. I think it was just a very memorable moment in my life that I'll never forget, so that kind of marked the beginning of my time at Andover on the tennis team," said Madduri.

Girls Tennis Co-Captain Nicole Lee '22 Leads With Care, Passion, and Discipline

PATRICIA TRAN

Andover Girls Tennis Co-Captain Nicole Lee '22 picked up a racket for the first time at just three years old. Since then, she has played on the Andover Girls Varsity Tennis team for four years and has led the team as co-captain for two of the four.

According to Lee, her initial experiences with tennis were primarily focused on the individualistic side of the sport. After coming to Andover, however, she has learned to appreciate the relationships and camaraderie found within the tennis community.

"So I first started playing tennis around the age of three, but not competitively until I was eight. Initially, I really loved that it was an independent sport, that out there you kind of had no one but yourself in a weird way. And what keeps me coming back from more especially now playing at Andover is the team aspect, which is a big contrast to when I was younger. I think the community and the sense of camaraderie that Andover Tennis has allowed me to experience has really kept me going and really motivated me to be a better player and always love to improve," said Lee.

In cooperation with the other co-captain, Ananya Madduri '23, Lee hopes to nurture a team environment that prioritizes support, understanding, and

respect. With players across all grades new to the team, she believes it is the role of the captains to set the example.

"I think Ananya and I are always trying to maintain and build a really strong team environment of support both on and off the court. Our team this year is quite new. We have a lot of Lower and Freshmen and even new Seniors who weren't on the team previously. And so for us, it's been super important to set that precedent as players, as leaders, as a team of students of support, of understanding, respect. It's important to always try your best and be competitive, but also have that mutual respect there for one another," said Lee.

According to Madduri, Lee's constant care for the team allows its players to feel comfortable in approaching her. In addition, her extensive experience on a high-level tennis team is crucial in keeping the team organized, efficient, and disciplined.

"She's a very warm and caring person. I think her experience makes her very easy to approach if you need anything. She's super organized because again, going back to caring, she really cares about the team, and she puts that as the first and foremost thing, which is really impressive. This is her second year as captain, fourth year on the team, like that's very impressive in and of itself. And so I guess her experience is really inspiring and motivating and then her care for the team. She leads with a direct sense of purpose, and therefore,

she's organized and disciplined," said Madduri.

Lee believes tennis players thrive in practice environments that mimic game-like scenarios. Not only should there be similar effort levels but also similar energy levels and mindsets, according to Lee.

"I think we always want to simulate practice kind of as if we were in a game. With that same motivation and spirit and energy at all times, I think you'll perform well in a match if you put in the work and do everything you can in a practice, so we always want that effort level to be up there, the energy up there. Just bring a positive attitude and willingness to work hard," Lee.

Head Coach Deb Chase notes that Lee has been learning how to be an effective leader since first joining the team. As her second year taking on the leadership role, Lee has shown drastic growth in finding her own voice within the team, especially when clear communication is needed.

"I remember conversations, and she used to be really quiet. And she really found her own voice and found her own way to lead both through doing the work on the court, but also through messaging the girls about organizing events and organizing practices. She comes to me and is a conduit if any of the girls had questions, and she was able to communicate them to me in a really mature and forward thinking way," said Chase.

For Lee, winning the singles NEPSAC championship in her

Junior year proved to be one of the most memorable highlights of her time on the team. Besides successful matches, Lee also values the priceless memories of spending time with her teammates at team dinners.

"I loved winning NEPSAC, the championship, my Freshman year. Traveling to Kent and also winning the single championship there. But more importantly, I just loved my team members. Every year, I'm so lucky to have been able to be part of such a strong team that is always caring and supportive. And anything from team dinners to Friday night practices when we go to Coach Chase's house after a long hard session. Like all of that

has made it so meaningful and worthwhile," said Lee.

With her Andover career nearing the end, Lee just hopes to make the most out of the remaining few weeks. On top of winning, she hopes all nine team members can overcome injury and sickness to play as one bonded team.

"I'm hoping we can continue our undefeated streak, and I really just want the team to come back all together. We've had quite a number of players out here and there—injuries, sickness, all these other things. I just want it to be solid and unified, and have a great final few weeks all together," said Lee.



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ANDOVER

Andover Boys Lacrosse Extends Winning Streak to 5 After Surmounting St. Paul’s and Holderness

NABILAH NAZAR

With another save from goalie Ben Garozzo '23 and active communication across the field, Andover Boys Lacrosse clinched a 12-7 win in a competitive match against Holderness. With their 11-2 triumph over St. Paul's on Saturday, the team has extended their winning streak to five. The team's record now stands at 6-4.

According to Jack Pearlson '23, the team struggled in the beginning of the season due to a lack of team chemistry. However, its sixth game against NMH marked a turning point as the players all came to understand their commitment to one another as teammates. He believes that the two recent games were the two best of the season yet.

"I think they've been our two best team wins of the season... Overall, we weren't playing super well in the first couple of games of the season, and we really had a turning point after the third or fourth game where we started. We told ourselves 'all right, we're going to buckle down and this is going to be here.' I think the last two games really reflected our commitment to each other to be really good teammates. Everyone sort of did their part and it all came together in the end perfect-

ly," said Pearlson.

Charlie Ferguson '23 claims that St. Paul's was a less challenging opponent compared to Holderness; the latter required the team to focus in every moment of the game to clinch the win.

"I think Holderness was a more competitive game and a better game since it was really close. There was a lot of energy on the sideline. St. Paul's... was a weaker team, so I think it didn't test us as much, but I'd definitely hold it as a highlight of the week," said Ferguson.

Nevertheless, the team had some major improvements which eventually allowed them to clinch the win against Holderness. Pearlson claims that the team was able to regain momentum rather than allowing their opponents to take the lead after getting scored two goals in just two minutes.

Pearlson said, "I think it was in the third quarter, we were up by seven to four. [Then] they put in two [goals] in like two minutes. And that's just a point in the game where maybe in the past we would have sort of let them take the lead or the game would have gotten out of hand. But today we really sort of dug down and were able to get the momentum back in our favor...that was a key moment where [we were like], all right, this is our game and we're going to take this one."



Co-Captain Preston Whitehurst '22 is one of three Captains on Boys Lacrosse.

In addition to the shift in their mental game, Pearlson claims that the tremendous versatility of the skill in the team allowed for the favorable result.

"I would say any of our attack had a tremendous game. That's why the result went the way it did. All of our attack men played extremely well today and they [did all they] could to help the team out. I also think that our mid-

fielders defense were very locked down in the middle of the field and in...riding and clearing [the ball] and making sure we actually have an opportunity to score on the other end. So I think everyone played super well today and that's why the game went the way it did," said Pearlson.

Ferguson shares Pearlson's sentiment, claiming that each and every player on the team has contributed to the favorable outcomes of the games. He specifically highlighted Garozzo, the goalkeeper, and John Bainbridge '24.

"I'd say Ben Garozzo recently has been playing lights out and saving almost 60 percent of shots shot at him, so I think he's really stepped up recently. John Bainbridge, a long stake midfielder, has also done really well and been a crucial member of the team on defense and getting ground balls and pushing it in transition," said Ferguson.

According to Pearlson, the team's recent performances on the field have reflected the "little things" that the team has been working on consistently in practice.

"We've been working on the little things in practice, we're not talking about big things here. I mean, like catching and throwing ground balls and communicating on [those] balls. I think that's really been indicative of the way

things have gone in the past two games...we've really been picking up the talk on the ground balls. Sometimes we're more consistent and then once you build those little things which are sort of like the foundation of other things, [the other things] will come along the way," said Pearlson.

The team has also been focusing on both offensive and defensive strategies, something that Ferguson hopes the team will be able to utilize in its upcoming game against Deerfield. He also wishes for the team to lock down every possible opportunity to score.

"We have been working on two defenses, one being a zone...then focusing on when we should shift in demand versus shifting into a zone and making those crucial adjustments. On offense, [the team has been practicing] off ball work, making sure we're getting a lot of assisted goals and capitalizing on those opportunities off ball. Obviously, we're going to be tested against Deerfield. We know our potential and we're confident, but we really need to focus on focusing and locking in these next days of practice. We really need to capitalize on every small opportunity and be all near perfect on Saturday," said Ferguson.

Andover will look to extend its win streak to six as it travels to Deerfield on Saturday.



Head Coach James Beaudoin began coaching Andover in the Spring of 2020.

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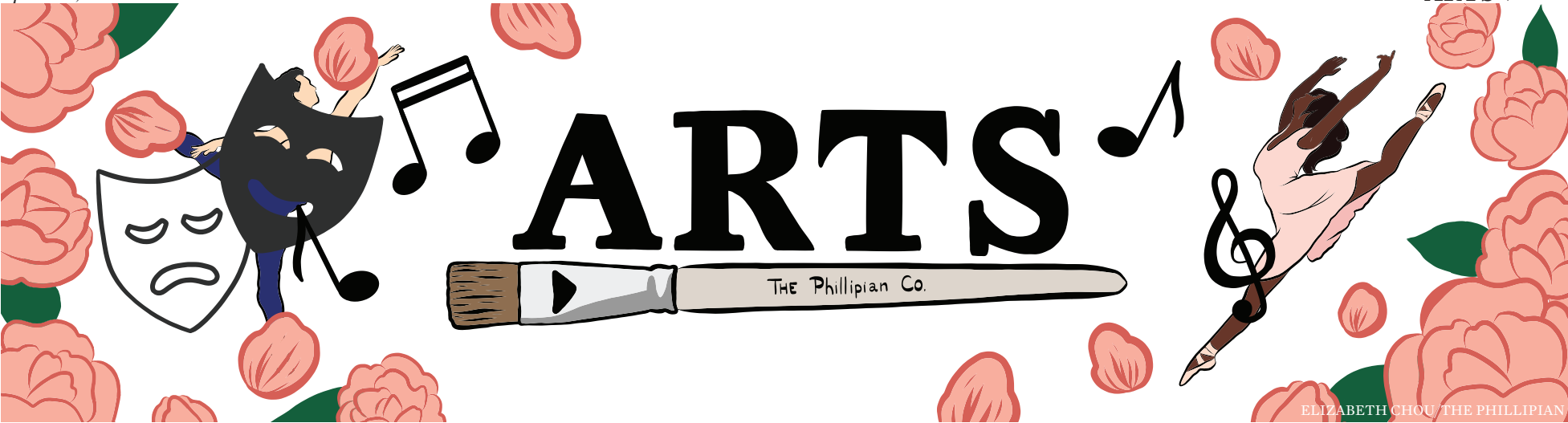
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Addison Earth Week Workshop Promotes Activism Through Cyanotypes

SARAH HASSANEIN

Deep in the darkness of room 116 in the Elson Art Center, students lay stencils, leaves, and flowers on chemically treated paper in hopes of creating cyanotypes. After designing their artworks, students brought their pieces outside, exposing the paper to sunlight, and watched as the cyanotype developed.

Celebrating Earth Week, the Addison Gallery of American Art planned an art and cli-

mate change workshop which focused on artists who raised awareness about the environment through their work. First, participants viewed cyanotypes in the Addison exhibits and then created their own. Sophie Staii '25, an organizer of the event, commented on the significance of the workshop.

“These workshops prompt really good discussion, because we have the Addison Gallery, our museum, right here, and it has a lot of really notable and thought provoking artwork. So I think looking



K.WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN



S.HASSANEIN/THE PHILLIPIAN

An example of a cyanotype before it is developed.



S.HASSANEIN/THE PHILLIPIAN

The cyanotypes turned blue when it comes into contact with water after exposure to sunlight.

Students observe the cyanotypes as they develop in the sunlight.

at that artwork, talking about it with other people, and also learning about it from Ms. Gibbons, and when she presents, can really help us help people learn more, especially if you do workshops about a topic that you're really interested in, like climate change, rather than just going to Addison for classes,” said Staii.

The goal of the workshop was to promote the intersection between art and activism to get students thinking about how they can each individually raise awareness. Victoria Nakaweesi '24 created a piece inspired by the locust plagues that have affected her family in Uganda.

“One thing I was looking at when I learned about climate change, is the proportionality of who produces the most emissions and gases, and who actually experiences the effects. And so that's what I wanted to portray, in my art piece, the frustration between the two. So I had a hand holding a cigarette to show a person who was just living their life, and I guess, kind of making an impact on something. And then the effect of which a hand was holding the locust, where it was kind of like they're the ones that are im-

pacted, but they're not necessarily the cause of the problem,” said Nakaweesi.

In addition to looking at pieces in the Addison Gallery and creating cyanotypes, the workshop also featured a short presentation in which the presenters shared how climate change impacted their hometowns. Valencia Zhang '25 noted how the presentation and workshop motivated her to reflect on her own community and how art can bring attention to climate issues.

“I realized, taking a step back, that it also affected me and my hometown, and it's incredibly personal...it's not just something to be talked about, or something that you can just try and solve it. A lot of it is activism, a lot of it is making art to spread awareness,” said Zhang.

Jamie Gibbons, Head of Education at the Addison, valued how the workshop was able to provide students with a new outlook on using art as a means for activism. She hopes that students will be inspired to continue creating their own pieces and visit the museum.

“I think it's good for students to see the ways in which artists are expressing their relationship to the environment through their art and then find inspiration in that. So hopefully, beyond the work that they saw today, whether it's Arthur Wesley Dow's work, whether it's Andrea Chung's work, but hopefully it also inspires them not only to come back to the museum and see more, but to search out other artists who are doing similar things,” said Gibbons.



S.HASSANEIN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Review: “Heartstopper”—Warning: This Cute Queer Romance Will Stop Your Heart

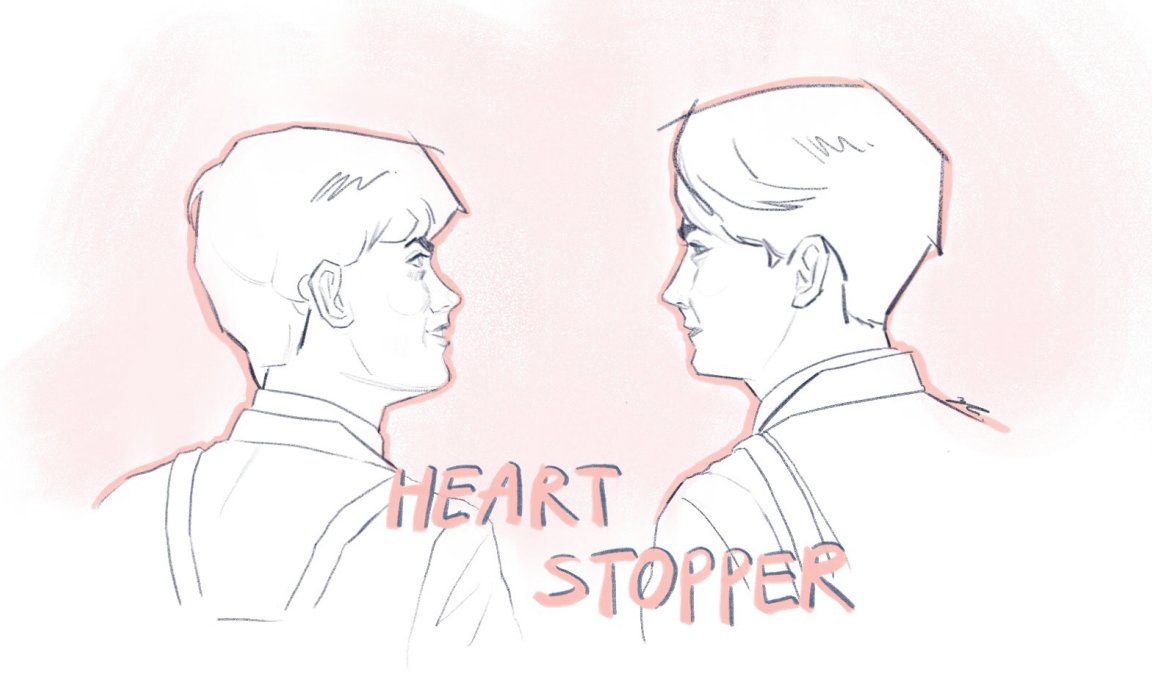
★★★★★

ALICIA ZHANG

In a time when popular media tends to get overly caught up in the thrills and throes of desire, a reminder that high school romance can be as simple and charming as “boy meets boy” is like a breath of fresh air. Netflix’s “Heartstopper” does exactly that more, spinning a heartwarming, coming-of-age tale of friendship, self-discovery, and romance. Following 9th grader Charlie Spring (Joe Locke) as he navigates life as an openly gay teenager at an all-boys school, the show captures the twists and turns of his new school year as he finds himself falling for Nick Nelson (Kit Conner), Truham Grammar School’s star rugby player and Charlie’s endearing classmate. Spoilers ahead.

What Season 1 of “Heartstopper” does fantastically well is its realistic and healthy depiction of high school romance: the awkwardness, constant confusion, and the anxious typing and retying of texts to crushes. In popular (and somewhat unhinged) teenage romance movies like “Twilight” or “The Kissing Booth,” we often see toxic, unrealistic, and mostly heteronormative portrayals of high school relationships that are often rushed, romanticize harmful behaviours, and completely misinterpret young love. Characters will go from meeting each other in one moment and kissing the next. People have increasingly begun to characterize volatile mood swings and violence as part of the “hot bad boy” trope. According to media portrayals, vanilla romance is boring—love must be dramatic and brimming with tension. Suffice to say, the list is endless.

In contrast, “Heartstopper” allows its characters and their relationships to grow over



the season, establishing that a good friendship is the basis for a healthy relationship. Despite condensing dialogue and scenes from the webcomic, the show doesn’t rush the relationship between Charlie and Nick. We are able to see Charlie and Nick’s relationship grow as they bond over rugby, homework and Mario Kart. Over the episodes, their friendship slowly morphs into something more before they share a spontaneous kiss at a birthday party, which despite having a bit of a dramatic build-up, still exemplifies the sense of normalcy their teenage relationship is meant to embody.

However, the show does not excel in just capturing the highs of a first love—it also highlights the realistic issues that come with having a relationship. While it does tend towards portraying puppy love as pure and sweet, we see that their depiction also does not shy away exploring the depths and deeper conflicts of romance. In

several instances, Charlie and Nick’s relationship becomes strained as the episodes progress, with Charlie worrying that he is not good enough for Nick and even believing that he has to choose between ending his relationship with Nick or ruining his friendship with Tao Xu (Tony Xu).

The show works unequivocally well as a live adaptation, bringing the characters to life in a way that adds dimension to their personalities, but doesn’t expand too far from their established behaviors. Joe Locke delivers on Charlie’s awkward and flustered energy while Kit Conner perfectly captures Nick’s sweetness, excitement and conflicted emotions in a way that black and white comic panels cannot. The brilliant performance by the actors deepen the viewers’ connection to these characters, even if we have already met them before in comic form. We now are able to feel their embarrassment, their flushed faces, their

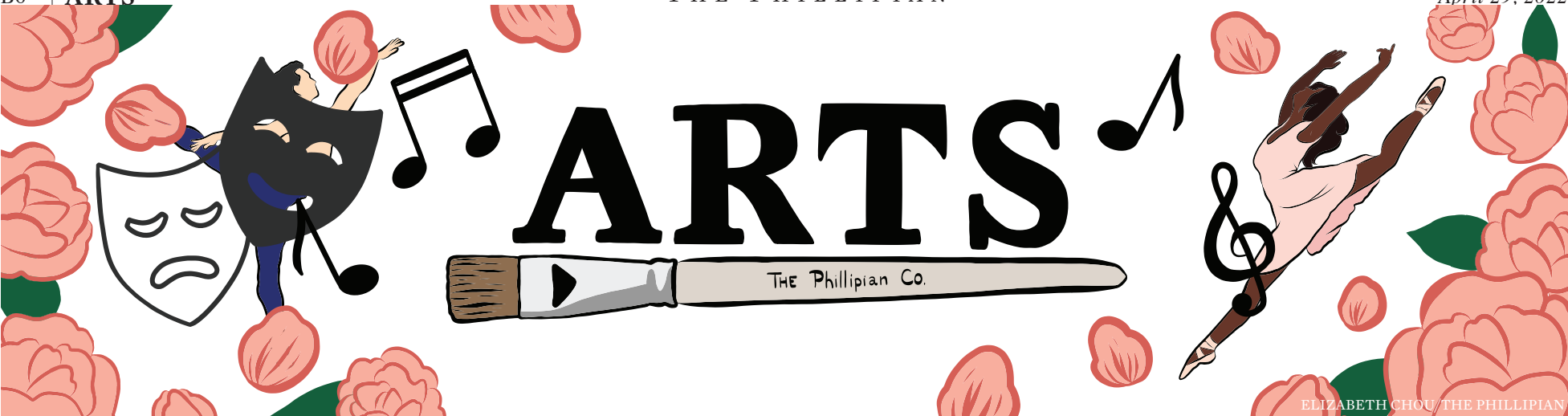
anger, excitement and anxiety—in a dynamic visual medium, we feel a greater sense of immersion and can appreciate the story on a much more nuanced level.

The show also manages to stay grounded in its roots without straying from the story. It pays homage to its origins as a webcomic and graphic novel, creating a unique blend of film and animation that highly respects the original art style of the comics. The show is a frame by frame replica of the comics—Charlie’s bedroom looks exactly the same, with its messy bookshelf, light-up “Music” sign, and miscellaneous posters. When emotions run high, the show takes a page straight out of the graphic novel; as Charlie’s feelings towards Nick grow, whimsical and colorful cartoon leaves flutter across the screen, imitating the ones that are present throughout the comic. In moments of particular excitement and passion, for instance, as they sit in

the dimly lit room at Harry’s party and confess their feelings towards one another, colorfully animated stars and fireworks sizzle and spark between them. Overall, the show offers a unique, gorgeous blend of animated visuals and artistically lit cinematography that make for an immensely colorful and engaging watching experience.

The show also features a diverse cast of characters and explores an umbrella of sexualities and queer identities. It also dives into teenage questioning and exploration of sexuality, with Nick googling in the darkness of his room questions like “am I gay?” and “how do you know you’re bisexual?” The show is not only its romance and comedy, however—it also dedicates screentime to portray discrimination faced by queer people. “Heartstopper” is not afraid to acknowledge the continuous harm of society and careful not to misrepresent the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people: a lesbian couple, Tara Jones (Corinna Brown) and Darcy Olsson (Kizzy Edgell), receive ignorant remarks from a classmate while Charlie is ruthlessly bullied by Harry Greene (Cormack Hyde-Corrin) and his friends. These scenes not only allow queer audiences to resonate with the characters based on similar experiences, but also reveal and emphasize to cis and straight audiences the depths gender and sexuality-based harassment and bullying can truly hurt someone.

Despite the many problems the characters run into, Season 1 of the show ends on a high note—Charlie, Nick and Tao reconcile while Nick comes out to his mother as bisexual. All in all, season one of the show receives a 5/5 for its truly sweet and heartstopping story, sure to give any viewer the warm and fuzzies.



A Journey of Self-Discovery: Solar Lu '24 Experiments With Unique Centerpieces and Sustainable Fashion to Create a Distinct Style

AVA CHEN

From stylish corsets to thrifted button-up shirts, Solar Lu '24 interweaves a diverse selection of items into striking yet cohesive outfits that subvert the binary, establishing a distinct set of styles that range from masculine to feminine, from form-fitting to loose. They accentuate their everyday looks with accessories such as a snake ring and jade bracelet, finishing off with smoky black eyeliner and their signature Doc Marten platform boots.

"I think their fashion is unique because they're able to utilize so many different pieces in so many different ways. I know they really like corsets for example, and I've seen them wear a corset in so many different ways, where it's formal, it's sometimes not formal, sometimes with a skirt, [...] I feel like with them they're still able to put many different pieces together to create something new every single time, which I think is really cool," said Lu's friend Victoria Nakaweesi '24.

As they feel that specific aesthetics are too confining, Lu instead draws from a variety of fashion niches including emo, goth, dark streetwear, and more. One of their major fashion inspirations is South Korean model Sora Choi, whose edgy style they greatly admire. However, while Lu does incorporate a range of fashion types into their outfits, they always find a way to add their individual flair.

"Personally, I found that aesthetics were very hard for me to get into because they're very boxed in, certain things for certain aesthetics... I like to just wear what I want to wear and sometimes they fit into a certain aesthetic and sometimes it doesn't... I like looking at androgynous styles because I think it helps me center myself and branch off from there," said Lu.

Lu typically centers their outfit around a staple piece, such as their iconic red Nascar bomber jacket (Wednesday's outfit), black corset, or various button-up shirts. They also take the weather and athletic commitments for the day into account when choosing outfits. One of their favorite combos is a purple button-up, corset, knee high socks, and Doc Martens (Monday's outfit). They also like outfits that are monochromatic or incorporate two to three main colors, such as their green sweatpants and hoodie (Tuesday's outfit).

"A lot of times I like making my button up shirts stand out because they're nice. Sometimes I like skirts and pants and drawing attention to there. I generally like playing with silhouettes, though. I think that's really cool. [...] But I think it just depends on the day; I definitely don't want attention drawn to everything. So I generally pick



A.CHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Solar Lu '24 styles their iconic red Nascar bomber jacket as the staple piece of the day.

a place, but it depends on whether I feel more feminine or masculine or which staple piece I chose for the day," said Lu.

Over time, Lu's fashion has evolved to reflect their journey of self-discovery, gravitating towards a self-defined style characterized by shapes, colors, and combos specific to their tastes. In addition to clothes, hairstyle is also a hugely influential factor in their gender expression and identity. Lu has learned to cut and dye their own hair to most accurately represent who they are and now sports a stylish wolf cut.

"I think [fashion] helps me along with my gender identity a lot and also just finding myself and my confidence. It helped me along self discovery... I think clothes are literally like a personality in itself; I feel like when you look at someone you can feel a vibe and a style from it. I just think it's a really cool way of self discovery and once you find yourself, it's a great way of self expression," said Lu.

Aside from outfit centerpieces, some other influential aspects of their fashion include jewelry and makeup. Lu emphasizes the importance of meaning in their jewelry, which range in style from a black choker with silver chains to a necklace of a miniature bottle with resin and fake moss. As an artist, Lu finds the artistic aspect of makeup fun and also thinks it is a cool way to accentuate their features and match their outfit.

"Jewelry is a big thing in a lot of the setups that I enjoy, especially chains, silver, rings and whatever. I'm someone who values the meaning a lot, and I would only like it if there's meaning behind it. My jade bracelet, obviously it's something within Chinese culture and I wear it every single day and my parents got it for my birthday. This is a citrine bracelet, citrine is a crystal and I got into crystals

for a bit and this is for energy, for happiness and for your own emotions," said Lu.

Over the past year or so, Lu has become more aware of the fast fashion industry and how detrimental it is to our planet, so they make sure to only buy clothes they will only wear long-term. They also occasionally go thrifting as it is a sustainable practice, but also feels it should not be a widespread trend so as to not unfairly capitalize off of this resource for people in need.

"Our current world values the quickness of consumption much more than the sustainability and the quality of it. And as soon as a trend passes people stop wearing a piece of clothing, so they throw it out or something. So I think it's something that I'm very conscious about when I buy a piece of clothing. I think my perception is that I'm gonna be wearing this piece for at least a couple of years, more than five years or so," said Lu.

Looking to the future, one of Lu's dreams is to create their own fashion brand that emphasizes accessibility and style, moving away from the gender binary and size constraints that characterize many mainstream labels today. Lu also enjoys sewing and wants to explore creating more unique pieces for themselves as well.

"I want to have a brand where just in general switch the ideas of fashion and accessibility according to sizes and gender because I think fashion in general is so gendered. At least it's becoming less now, but clothing stores are still men's section, women's section. So I want to make pieces based off of style and color rather than sizes... but I think as according to fashion for myself, I just love to make my own clothes and just explore more unique pieces. I really want to make my own clothes and kind of shift the perspective of clothes in general culture," said Lu.



A.CHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Lu's Monday outfit.



A.CHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Lu's Tuesday outfit.



A.CHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Lu's Thursday outfit.



A.CHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Lu's Friday outfit.

The Krista River Guest Recital: A Moving Experience For All

ATHENA RHEE

Filling the Cochran Chapel with her mellifluous voice, Krista River, along with soprano Ilana Davidson and pianist Stephen Porter, gave a captivating performance in this weekend's recital hosted by Phillips Academy's Music Department. River is an accomplished singer and voice instructor at Phillips Academy.

River shared her musical journey, starting with her love for the cello. She started

as a classical cellist, as well as in her local church.

"Well, it's a bit of a long story, but I started singing in my church and in choirs when I was very young, in elementary school. I sang a lot of religious music, but I was more of a serious cellist. I didn't get serious about singing until I was in my twenties actually, so I switched over to singing much later," said River.

River also experimented with various genres in singing. She explained that although she has dabbled in many genres, such as musical theater and jazz, she enjoys

singing classical music the most.

"I've done a little bit of everything classical-wise. I've played around with musical theater, and I've been in a couple of shows, but it's just never been quite as much of a passion for me as classical music has," said River.

As a winner of the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording and numerous other prestigious competitions, River acknowledged her more famous and recognized performances. Simultaneously, she highlighted the importance of her more senti-

mental performances.

"[Winning the Grammy Award] was very fun and exciting, it felt like a nice affirmation that I spent a lot of my life trying to do good work...I think the performance of Messiah was just an incredibly emotional experience for everybody, so that was an experience I will always remember, too," said River.

Today, River enjoys interpreting various facets of music, and believes that music has the power to deliver emotion and change people. River hopes to spread her passion for singing to her current

voice students at Andover.

"Personally, [music is] a really wonderful mode of expression. It feeds both the analytical side of me, because I like the puzzle aspect of it, and the artistic side. I also just think it's a really important thing. It's something that can help people process things and helps transport people and can really be moving and transformational for people... [I] love that I get to pass along my passions," said River.

The Phillipian Playlist: A Cappella Edition

ASHLEY PARK & JASMINE MA



Lighting up the stage of nearly every important performance on campus, the a cappella groups at Andover have long been an integral part of the school's culture and tradition. From the all gender a cappella groups, Keynotes and Downbeat, to the all-tenor and base group Yorkies and all-soprano and alto group Azure, each of these student-led groups rehearses weekly, exploring a wide range of repertoire as they build long-lasting friendships. Without further ado, enjoy this thoughtfully-curated playlist of favorite a cappella songs from the co-heads and members of these groups.

Sean Meng '22, Co-Head of Yorkies — “Pompeii” by Bastille

“[This] is one of Yorkies' most iconic songs, [and] we sing it at every practice [as] a tradition that was started by the 2015 Yorkies. We split into different vocal groups and we'll just sort of sing the song as we know it and figure out the harmonies as we go. It's also sort of special as a song because it's repetitive, [so] it leaves you a lot of flexibility and a lot of room to add your interpretation to it. As you keep going, you find different ways to branch off of each other. I think [this song] is a really nice way to come together [and] sound like one unit instead of different people singing, which is one of the most important aspects of a cappella”

Troy Keller '22, Co-Head of Yorkies — “Sunday Morning” by Maroon 5

“I remember singing [this] song [at] A Cappella Night of my freshman year, [and] we've been getting ready to perform [it again]. It's an old arrangement from previous years and one I've always been fond of. It's fun, light, and warm. It's a strong mix of low background vocals. The high pitch of the soloists part is something I love about the arrangement. I hope we'll be able to perform to some part of the school this year when spring is at its peak, as I feel that's when the song should be heard.”

Jane Park '22, Co-Head of Keynotes — “If I Ever Fall in Love” by Pentatonix ft. Jason Derulo

“There's a fullness in the song that makes you doubt whether the song is actually a cappella or not. It's this magical moment when you witness how a human voice can transform into a vessel of music. When you imagine Pentatonix, it can be hard to envision another additional singer just because there are already so many amazing voices in the group. Pentatonix, in other words, is complete in and of itself. Yet, Derulo's addition adds a sense of wholeness and character to the piece. This song would be missing without him.”

Marie Faugeres '23, Member of Azure — “Lollipop” by the Chordettes

“I'm a big fan of old-sounding songs, and [this song has] a very basic composition for a cappella but it's a classic sound and very nostalgic. It's still very unique compared to [songs] nowadays and reminds me of how much history music and a cappella has, especially considering it's from an all-female a cappella group like the one I am in right now. I just really enjoy how old music quality from the 1950s sounded and how simple yet satisfying the harmonies are.”

Sebastian Altomare '23, Co-Head of Keynotes — “DaPunk” by Pentatonix

“[This song] is a seamlessly blended medley of some of Daft Punk's most popular tunes. One element of the composition is Pentatonix's display of their vocal range. There is a section in the tune where they sing in drastically different octaves, and still manage to piece together a melodic line. And that's not to mention the beatboxing, which sounds robotic (for the Daft Punk vibe) and employs the use of audible outward breath sounds mixed in with the percussion.”

Lauren Mahoney '23, Co-Head of Azure — “Valerie” by Amy Winehouse

“Our SSAA (soprano 1, soprano 2, alto 1, alto 2) group had so much fun figuring out the percussive background vocals and channeling the rasp of [Winehouse's] voice [in this song]. The rhythm of the song always gets our group moving and we are actually performing it at A Cappella Night. [As] for the composition, I really think it highlights our wonderful bases in the sense that they carry the prominent drum beat throughout the piece. It is truly special how the harmonies overlay in the call and response aspects from the soprano part as they echo the soloist in the verses.”

Kate Horton '22, Co-Head of Downbeat — “Let the Road” by Rixton

“[This song] is about letting life bring you back home, and it doesn't necessarily need to have religious connotations, but more so trusting your path and making decisions and knowing that at the end of the day, you will get to come back home and be with those who you love that with which you love. [It's] got some great harmonization in it that is beautiful, [and] I think structurally, it's very moving. It has a great arc to it. I like the lyrics, 'If you don't belong and the world feels too strong / And you're scared of the darkness to come / ... hold on cause love will show all the ways.' It just gives the 'coming back home' and that you are loved no matter what kind of feeling.”

Han Chin Toh '22, Co-Head of Downbeat — “715-CRΣΣKS” by The Nor'easters

“[This song was] originally written and performed by Bon Iver, but later on arranged by Elliot Von Wendt and sung a cappella by the Nor'easters. I love how it took Bon Iver's electronic sound and reimagined it, which is what makes a cappella and arranging so exciting for me. I've taken a look at the sheet music online and it's full of small details so that every time I listen to it, I feel like I'm hearing something new in the song. There's also lots of dynamics and contrast between space and dense chords, fluid movement and sudden bursts. It's an arrangement that I keep learning from and looking to for inspiration.”

“Tokyo Vice” Pt. 1: Journalist’s Neon Descent Into Gang Life Off to Promising Start



AVA CHEN

Content Warning: Mentions of Suicide.

A flawed yet dynamic deep-dive into Japan's sinister circles of crime, investigative journalism meets Tokyo's lush cityscape in HBO Max's colorful new series, “Tokyo Vice.” As American crime reporter Jake Adelstein ventures into the depths of Tokyo, his pursuit of truth starts to uncover a far more sinister agenda seeping beneath the city's neon streets. Though its first four episodes are somewhat dogged by initially flat characters and tropey plot points, “Tokyo Vice's” effective buildup of tension and diversity in representation make a promising start to the crime drama series.

Where “Tokyo Vice” excels first and foremost is its production. The show effectively creates tension through a variety of cinematography techniques portraying Adelstein's slow

descent into the criminal underbelly of Tokyo. Shots of his everyday life peppered with humorous dialogue are first tinted with rosy filters, but are gradually replaced by mafia meetings captured in dim lighting and backed by tense and ominous instrumentals. In one such scene, Adelstein falls asleep under warm lighting listening to light-hearted tapes from his teenage sister but is jolted awake by an emergency news report detailing a bar break-in. Tense drumming beats start as Adelstein hurries to the crime scene and witnesses a man held at gunpoint, the room tinted a dark green. As the show progresses, it becomes clear that the insidious danger of the criminal world has become inextricable from his regular life—this omnipresent threat from the shadows keeps the watcher on the edge of their seats.

However, some plot points are overly predictable, exacerbated by banal dialogue and trope-y settings. Specifically,

Adelstein's characterization can simply come off as somewhat one-dimensional at times. While based on the experiences of a real life crime journalist who used journalism to deliver justice, the show's dramatic antics can make the main character seem archetypal at times. This somewhat generic development is best seen when Adelstein—flabbergasted by the comically unreasonable censorship at Meicho Shimbun, the news firm he works for—is once fiercely reprimanded for referring to a death by stabbing as murder. “Did the cops tell you he was murdered? He was not ‘murdered’ until they say so!” his superior yells at him. The exaggerated contrast between the honest reporter and corrupt media outlet almost plays out more like humor than serious commentary despite it having good intentions in making an important critique of mainstream media.

But the use of generic tropes does not stop there; like any character on a purposeful journey to save society, Adelstein needs to recruit a wise, older mentor who can help the protagonist learn the ins-and-outs of the Japanese crime world. Fulfilling this trope is criminal detective Hiroto Katagiri (Ken Watanabe), who guides Adelstein on his pursuit to find the truth when he stumbles upon a suspicious connection between two deaths both supposedly dubbed “suicides” by the police. While this plot point helps carry the story forward, it is admittedly not the most original. However, this can be forgiven as it does help push the plot into action, especially as it starts to get more involved in later episodes. With the intricacies of gang relationships and Adelstein's role in the delicately maintained peace, the story shifts from more predict-

able developments to complex, layered plot points as more information is revealed.

In terms of side characters, their initially one-dimensional personalities start developing towards the third and fourth episodes, elevating their often vacuous filler scenes to meaningful minor storylines. Emi Maruyama (Rinko Kikuchi) is first introduced as Adelstein's robotic supervisor who epitomizes the mindless regurgitation of facts within Meicho Shimbun—a typical corporate authority antagonist. Yet she later surprisingly agrees to help Adelstein with his story when he shows her key pieces of evidence from the suicides, which brings out her humanity and challenges the audience's perception of her as purely cold and relentless. She goes from another obstacle in Adelstein's path towards justice to a powerful ally, eventually helping discover the insidious truth behind the connected murders.

Another important side character is Samantha Porter (Rachel Keller), a hostess that works in Tokyo's red-light district; she is initially portrayed as a typical street-smart femme-fatale. It is only until later episodes where we begin to see Samantha beyond her good looks and charisma—audiences learn the darker aspects of Samantha's backstory and begin to understand her deeply complex morality. By defying or expanding on archetypes that many side characters were meant to follow, the show helped bolster its otherwise predictable main plot through a strong supporting cast.

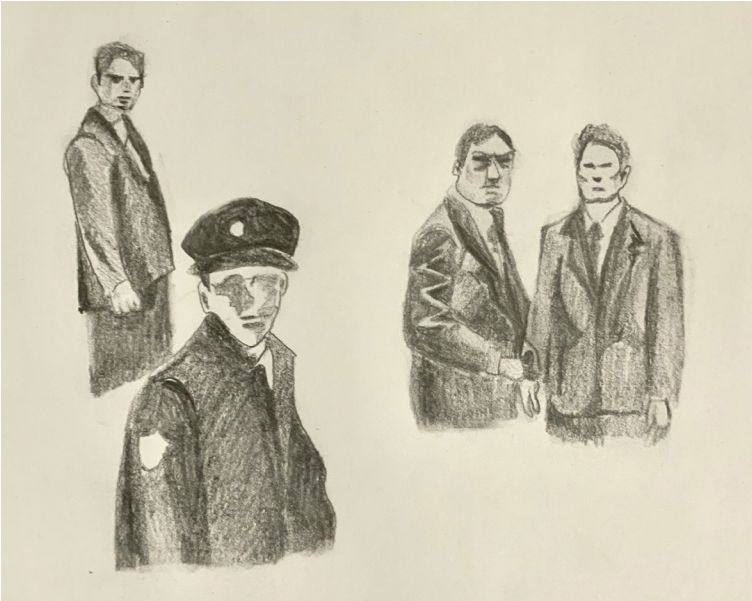
In terms of language, “Tokyo Vice” does a commendable job of an accurate portrayal. Most of the show is in Japanese, with non-Japanese actors such as Elgort still being required to have

a decent grasp of the language. Specifically, it appears that Elgort did need to learn how to speak and write the language—we see in close-up shots that he handwrites and types notes in Japanese, and he speaks with the right cadence and inflections of the language.

Regarding representation, while far from perfect, one of Adelstein's close office friends is homosexual in the largely heteronormative society, and the boss of a typically male-dominated news firm is female. Discrimination due to xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and misogyny are also seen throughout “Tokyo Vice.” Because I've never lived in Japan, I can't say how accurate the level of prejudice portrayed is, but I think such representation generally brings awareness to these pertinent issues facing society today. However, one big problem is Adelstein's alarmingly flippant reaction to anti-Semitic comments, as he is a Jewish character. All in all, I think “Tokyo Vice” definitely makes an effort in accurate and diverse representation, but it still has much room for improvement.

So far, “Tokyo Vice” earns four out of five stars for its effective building of tension, creative cinematography, focus on cultural accuracy, and promising character arcs, despite some flaws. I look forward to where the yakuza will take us next, and how far Adelstein will descend into the corruption of Tokyo to uncover the truth.

(Fun Fact: The fourth episode of “Tokyo Vice” —“I Want it That Way”—was written by Japanese-American playwright Naomi Iizuka, who was also responsible for creating “Anon(nymous),” the production performed by the Theater 920 class in the fall.)



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