

Add/Drop Period and Schedule Release Structure Returns to Pre-Covid-19 Model

PRISHA SHIVANI & CINDY YANG

This year, schedules for Winter Term were released at the end of Fall Term, as opposed to their release at the start of Winter Term in past years. In addition, the Add/Drop period was changed to allow for classes to meet twice before the period opened.

The change in schedule release to the end of Fall Term was a return to Andover's former methods. According to Kenneth Shows, Associate Director of Studies for Scheduling, the release of Winter Term schedules at the end of Fall Term was a norm before the Covid-19 pandemic.

"[This] is something we've been doing for a while. We weren't able to do it in the heart of the pandemic because the schedule changed so much, but [in] my time as scheduling officer, it's something we try to do for Winter and Spring Term. Fall Term is different, since when course requests happen, we still don't actually know what the true schedule is. We know which courses we're offering, but not who's teaching them, what periods they're offered, and how many sections there may be. On

the other hand, during Winter and Spring Terms that stuff is more of a known quantity, so it lets us do the scheduling more quickly than we can do in the summer," said Shows.

While certain modifications resembled a return to old scheduling, there were unfamiliar changes made to the Add/Drop schedule. Requests were only allowed to be submitted on December 2, after one period of each selected course, compared to previous terms where Add/Drop was available on the day of classes.

"We've just noticed that some students really decide they like the class after they've been going for a few days. We wanted to give them that opportunity to maybe decide if they like that class before they submit an Add/Drop slip [so] they can have a real sense of their schedule before they make changes. We hope this minimizes shuffling, and maximizes the students' knowledge of the schedule so they can make educated changes," said Shows.

Constantine Krenteras '24 agreed with Shows's sentiment and enjoyed having earlier ac-

Continued on A5, Column 4

Community Engagement Lottery System Aims For Renewed Equality

LUCAS BENARDETE

Since 2020, the Andover Office of Community Engagement (OCE) has run off a chance-based lottery system for selecting students to participate in community engagement programs. On Wednesday, November 30, the OCE opened its sign-up lottery for the Winter Term. While the system aims to promote equality in the selection process, some students have raised concerns about the application and fairness of the system.

The system consists of a sign-up form to select the program that students are interested in.

Zadia Rutty-Turner '23 participated in a community engagement program through the lottery system after two unsuccessful lotteries. She expressed concern that the blind equality of the system could negatively impact upperclassmen trying to participate.

"I wouldn't necessarily say the system is equitable, just because as students get older, here, they have less time to have other opportunities to try again for community engagement. I do know that there are a lot of younger students that get a community engagement that Seniors and

Uppers have really wanted for a long time, which I get in terms of fairness, it's random, whoever gets it is just who gets it, but it is just kind of difficult knowing that those younger students could try again later when there are older students that just don't have that opportunity," said Rutty-Turner.

Monique Cueto-Potts, Director of the OCE, noted how the system had changed multiple times in the past 11 years under her supervision. Cueto-Potts drives for accessibility with the lottery system that chooses candidates without personal biases.

"When I came into the role 11 years ago, students signed up by filling out little pieces of paper. They would write down the programs that they wanted to be in, and then the community engagement coordinators selected who they wanted in their programs. I really did not agree with that system, though I let it play out for a year because that was a system that was in place before I started, so I just wanted to see how it played out. We had kids who said to us that it felt like it was very cliquish, that only certain friend groups were being selected to do community engage-

Continued on A5, Column 1



R.NASSERZADEH/THE PHILLIPIAN

On Monday, December 5, the Pan Athletic Center officially opened its doors to students and Andover community members.

Paul Murphy Becomes Interim Pine Knoll Cluster Dean for Winter Term

JAC GORDON & ADDISON DENG

Paul Murphy '84, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, has assumed the position of Interim Dean of Pine Knoll

Cluster during Winter Term while Jill Myer, Dean of Pine Knoll Cluster, is on maternity leave. Meyer will return as Cluster Dean in Spring Term.

As the former Flagstaff Cluster Dean from 1999 to 2005 and Dean of Students from 2008 to 2015, Murphy is

not new to his temporary role. However, with the recently implemented Community Standards Committee, Murphy had to adjust to an unfamiliar disciplinary system.

"Then there is this role to play with the new discipline system that we have, so I'm learning that because that was not the way it was when I was [Dean of Flagstaff Cluster], so it's a learning curve for me.... There has to be a system of adults that are ready to step in and help when those things don't go quite well, so I think that's one of the most important parts of the job. We spend a good deal of time... talking about situations that need to be talked through because we want to do the right thing for kids that do the wrong thing, and we want to make sure it's done in a way that is consistent across the school," said

Continued on A3, Column 1



E.GONCALVES/THE PHILLIPIAN

Paul Murphy '84, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, and Interim Dean of Pine Knoll Cluster, speaking to students at a cluster munch.

Two Weeks of Classes Between Fall and Winter Vacation Raise Spirits and Stress

JAC GORDON

Following Thanksgiving break, students will find themselves preparing to leave for winter break after just two and a half weeks of classes. While this is common for schools following a trimester system, some students and faculty found it challenging to plan around this schedule, though others had more positive outlooks.

Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, commented that the two-week period of school between two breaks is favorable. However, Esty acknowledged how the more relaxed two weeks of classes may negatively affect students.

"We really are a high school, not a college. In fact, some colleges, depending on their scheduling, made the breaks shorter than ours. We actually make it a bit longer acknowledging that people travel long distances to be here. We've had this [sched-

ule] for as long as I've known. I'm not familiar with us doing it a different way. I actually am a fan of the rhythm of the school year, so that you're really busy and then you get a break and then you're really busy and then get a break and so on. I think it's good for us to take the break and dive in again and then take another break," said Esty.

Esty continued, "The downside of this chunk of time is it's the first two weeks of Winter Term. So in some ways, it's a positive because it feels low-stakes, like [a] honeymoon phase of Winter Term. The negative is that sometimes students can get caught off guard that it's actually a fifth of Winter Term. I've been the advisor to some students who have had suddenly been like, 'I didn't think I had much work then, but now I'm digging myself out of a hole in January because I didn't really grind for those two weeks.'"

Leon Calleja, Department Chair of English, described

some difficulties of planning around the short period of classes, especially for more test-reliant courses, but noted that it can be manageable to work around the starts and stops with thorough planning and choosing topics that can be condensed into the time period.

"If teachers plan it out well, I think it can be okay, but I know for some instructors and for some courses too, it's a challenge trying to get an assessment in before [students] leave in December. The trickiest part is when you return in January, midterm comes really quickly. I know in English classes, for example, you can sort of plan out units that are short in duration and concentrated and get a good start in December so when you return in January it's not necessarily as abrupt, sort of a continuation in that

Continued on A6, Column 1

Notable Increase in Student Migration From Physics 400 to Physics 300

BAILEY XU

During the Fall Term, many Andover students changed course levels from Physics 400 to Physics 300. The influx of new students reportedly resulted in overcrowded classes and the creation of a new section for Physics 300.

Physics 400 is a three-term introductory physics course aiming to expose students to a wide range of physics topics, such as mechanics, electricity, and magnetism. Similarly, Physics 300 covers almost all of the same topics, but at a slightly slower pace. Lower, Uppers, and Seniors in Phys-

ics 400 all have the option of switching to Physics 300.

Tess Lagerquist '24, one of the students who moved to Physics 300 from Physics 400, relayed her experience in switching courses. After the change, she also had to switch between two sections of Physics 300. She attributes this schedule change to an overflow of students in her initial Physics 300 class.

"[My first Physics 300 class] was definitely overcrowded. I think the class [originally] had six people and then it [became] a full table. The whole classroom was crowded, there weren't any open seats.... Now, [in my current class], there's about sev-

en of us, it's much smaller. I think they had to [create new classes] because the sections were so overcrowded, so [my current class] is basically an entirely new section, as far as I know," said Lagerquist.

Michael Kennedy, Instructor in Physics, acknowledged the flow of some students from Physics 400 to Physics 300 this fall. Kennedy, however, did not witness a notable increase in students who did so. He hopes that, by providing the option of a mid-year course change, students will be encouraged to challenge themselves.

"You definitely see [movement between courses] at the beginning of the fall... I

will say this is only my second year here, so I don't have a huge data set to [refer] to, but I wouldn't say there [was] a huge jump this year [compared to] last year in the number of students moving. [However], I would also say that we encourage students to try to push themselves. If you're on the edge of 300 versus 400, then why don't you give 400 a shot, because you can always drop down to 300. So in some sense, that [policy] is purposely built in for students to push themselves with this release valve of [being able to] move from 400 to 300, where we've been talking about the same ideas," said Kennedy.

In the Fall Term, teachers

decided to adjust the course content for Physics 400. Certain topics, such as work and force, typically covered in the fall were moved to the beginning of Winter Term instead. According to Kennedy, the teachers made this decision to provide students more time to familiarize themselves with the concepts and explore them in sufficient depth. Kennedy also discussed the significance of math level in determining a student's placement in physics.

"[Math level] is a big

Continued on A5, Column 3

Commentary, A3

Freshmen Reflections

Two freshmen, Ruby Kokinos '26 and Moumita Dighol '26, reflect on their first term at Andover and the challenges that came with it.

Eighth Page, A8

Missed Us?

"Football," workshops, and KANYE!

Sports, B1

Tam Gavenas '25 Feature

Placing ninth at the Champs Sports Cross Country Northeast Regional, Tam Gavenas '25 qualified to compete at the National Championships.

Arts, B5

Orchestra Concert

This past weekend, Andover's Orchestras presented a "Harry Potter"-themed family concert for Andover.

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Editorial

Pads and Tampons in All Bathrooms.

As more than half of the student body can testify, empty period product dispensers are a common sight in bathrooms all across campus. Menstrual product containers in bathrooms often open to reveal that they’re disappointingly empty, and in many bathrooms, these dispensers and containers aren’t available at all. The lack of readily available menstrual products on campus is not just an inconvenience, but also sends a message, whether willingly or not, that the needs of menstruating students on campus have been deprioritized.

The numbers speak for themselves. This past Wednesday, the board of The Phillipian conducted an informal survey of all womens’ and gender neutral bathrooms in academic and athletic facilities on main campus. Defined as all public-facing student facilities from Graves to the Phillips Academy Ice Rinks, we counted bathrooms where menstrual products were available. We noted if bathrooms were equipped with product dispensers or not, whether these were paid or free dispensers, and whether these dispensers were stocked or empty.

In our survey, we found that of 51 womens’ and gender neutral bathrooms on campus, only 24 were equipped with pad and tampon dispensers. Of these 24, just nine were stocked with menstrual products. These statistics, although informally collected, reflect a common sentiment among students who menstruate: that bathrooms on campus are severely understocked with period products. Students should feel assured that if they find themselves in need of a pad or tampon, they can turn to the restroom down the hall, rather than panickedly texting friends or running around campus searching for one. Regularity and reliability are crucial.

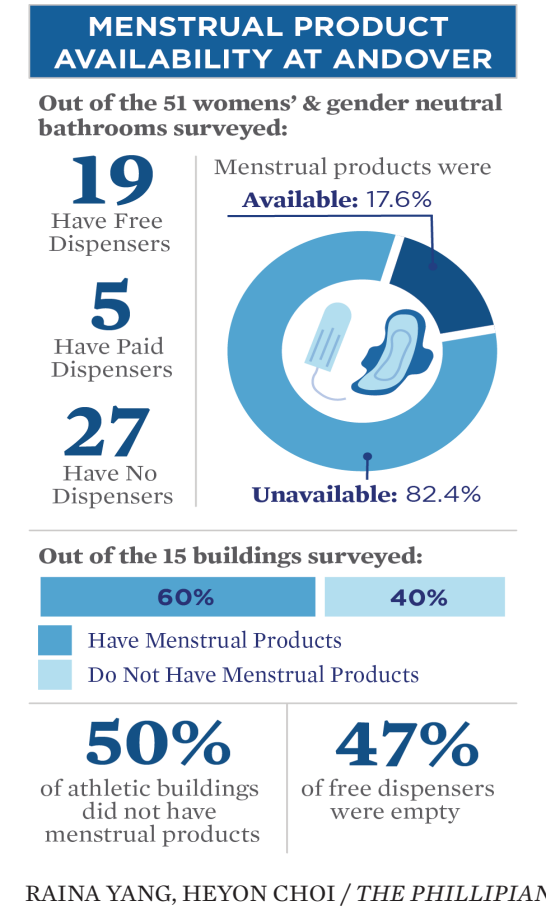
It is important, also, to note that we did not survey mens’ restrooms for period products. Unlike many boarding schools, Andover does not offer menstrual products in mens’ bathrooms, an oversight of the transmasculine students who use mens’ facilities. We recognize that for the majority of Andover’s male student body, pads and tampons may not be particularly useful (aside from a quick stop to a bad nosebleed — as Canada Captain Atiba Hutchinson did during this year’s World Cup). But, we as a community must consider the ways we can make our bathroom facilities more inclusive, whether that be ensuring menstrual products are available in all bathrooms, or installing signs on gendered restrooms that all students — regardless of birth sex — can use a facility if it aligns with their

gender identity (as Exeter does).

For an institution that emphasizes “diversity, equity, and inclusion,” offering menstrual products in all campus bathrooms available reciprocates these values. But beyond the bathroom, we must consider how we can dismantle social taboos around periods. Education on the science of menstruation (such as currently in our Biology 100 curricula) and how to dismantle misogynistic language around periods should be implemented in Empathy, Balance, and Inclusion (EBI) and Physical Education programs. We must also support student initiatives, such as womens’ rights and reproductive health clubs, in their endeavours to promote period education and resources.

At Andover, it is a privilege to not only have access to menstrual products, but to expect them to be provided for our student body. Nevertheless, we believe that taking steps to ensure that our students have access to the period resources and education they need affirms Andover’s commitment to tackling sex and gender discrimination, as well as our dedication to gender equity.

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



REFLECTIONS FROM THE CLASS OF 2026

Life Lessons From Fall Term

RUBY KOKINOS



J. JI / THE PHILLIPIAN

Since I got here, I’ve probably had at least ten conversations trying to figure out why in the world I got into Andover. I didn’t have any particularly impressive extracurricular activities, my grades were good but not amazing, my interview went fine, and my application essay about non sibi probably didn’t really “wow” anyone. My parents like to pull out the classic, “you’re here for a reason,” but I’m not buying it. This might seem like a very negative viewpoint, but this wasn’t always my perspective.

On my first day at Andover, only three months ago, I was very confident in myself and my academic success. In middle school, I don’t think I studied for one test, or honestly had to put much effort in at all. It took about two weeks of classes, a fifty percent on a math test and spending three hours on an assignment for my pass/fail English class to burst that bubble. I didn’t listen to the warnings and was somehow surprised to find out that Andover was hard. I studied a ton for that math test, so the fifty percent wasn’t what I expected, but at the time I thought there was literally nothing else I could’ve done. I attended conferences, requested a peer tutor, did

the practice problems, all of it. In the end, I was frustrated, but I had the mentality that “there was nothing else I could’ve done.”

As the term progressed, however, I realized that I needed to take more initiative in my classes if I wanted to succeed. Nothing proved this idea more than finals week, where I learned that there’s always something more to do. In the last couple weeks before Thanksgiving break, I spent the most time I ever have studying. Despite my efforts, as I walked out of my finals, I still felt as though I wasn’t as prepared as I could have been. In this case, I think the “something else” I could have done would have been to determine what was actually important for the final, instead of spending my time pouring over an entire term’s worth of material.

My procrastination habits have also changed drastically since arriving at Andover. In middle school, I did pretty much all my homework at 3:00 a.m. before it was due while sitting on my bed and watching TV. Unsurprisingly, Andover proved more difficult. In order to adjust to that change,

As the term progressed, however, I realized that I needed to take more initiative in my classes if I wanted to succeed.

I now do my homework at a reasonable hour and leave 3:00 a.m. for Netflix. I feel less stressed and have more time for the things I enjoy, which has eased the stress of the transition to Andover consid-



ASHLEY SONG / THE PHILLIPIAN

erably. I’ve made this shift to take more responsibility for my schoolwork.

Another thing that I had a bit too much of is confidence in my social skills. I went to a private middle school. I had 40 kids in my grade, and walking through the halls, I never saw an unfamiliar face. I’ve always been pretty outgoing and friendly, so naturally, I thought this would translate perfectly to high school. It turns out that going from roughly 150 people to 1200 is not quite as easy a transition as I had imagined. I

heard it from everyone when I got here: “It sometimes takes months to find your friends, don’t worry!” But I was worried. After some not-so-great experiences and some tears, I came to my next conclusion: “oh well, it’ll work itself out. If I just keep meeting people, keep trying my best, it’ll all work out in the end.” Now, I’m not sure this is true. Just like my perspective on schoolwork changed, my perspective on friendship changed. There’s always more I can do. I can put myself out there and introduce myself to someone I don’t

know. I could spend more time in public spaces or simply even strike up a conversation with a person in one of my classes. There are so many ways to approach this challenge, and it won’t always be natural, but I know it’s important

There’s always more I can do. I can put myself out there and introduce myself to someone I don’t know.

if I want to enjoy these next four years.

My attitude towards Andover has definitely changed a lot in the time I’ve been here. I went from an almost arrogant outlook on my social presence and my schoolwork to being humbled by the end of the first month. My Fall Term could have gone smoother, but heading into the winter, I want to focus on the most important aspects of my classes, rather than waste time on irrelevant topics. I want to spend time getting to know my classmates and peers, instead of staying safely within my group of friends. Overall, I want to constantly be on the lookout for where I can “do more” in order to have a successful Andover experience.

Ruby Kokinos is a Junior from Arlington, Mass. Contact the author at rkokinos26@andover.edu.

Pedestal

MOUMITA DIGHOL



T. ZENG / THE PHILLIPIAN

It was April 11, 12:13 PM. I was in class, staring at my phone instead of paying attention. I was supposed to hear back from Andover Admissions that day. I conditioned myself to expect rejection because I had romanticized the idea of Boarding School so much that it seemed like a dream—something unreal that couldn’t possibly happen to me. So, when I read the email saying I got in, I couldn’t process it. The words in that email felt distant and unreachable.

Skip a few months, and in September, I packed my bags and yawned straight through a five-hour drive from Queens, New York to Andover, Massachusetts. I went to all the orientation events, my parents got all sappy, and we said our goodbyes as they left after dinner. Of course, I was still feverish. I finally got to campus; at first, it was everything I imagined it to be... and then reality set in—not everything

was great.

The first night I slept in my dorm was terrifying. It was quiet, too quiet for my New Yorker brain. I need to hear approximately ten vehicles honking and twelve people swearing each other out simultaneously to sleep.

I put life here on such a high pedestal, I romanticized every single aspect.

The rest of my first week went pretty smoothly, but I felt excluded and lonely. The type of solitude that drains your enthusiasm, the type that hangs over your head like a cloud, the type that makes everything an absolute bore. I had never struggled to make friends before, and that’s not even what the problem was- I had made many friends. I was upset that I hadn’t found a best friend yet. It’s ridiculous to anticipate your platonic soulmate within seven days, but the people around me seemed to have that already.

The lack of sleep, this loneliness, and my self-comparisons to others around me did nothing but worsen my homesickness. I missed my family so much, I missed my best friend, I missed subway rides, I missed the smell of cigarettes and rain, I missed everything.

But things started to look up. I waited until October to

finally visit the ASC, which remains one of my biggest regrets, but it helped immensely. I got a peer tutor for Bio 100 and Spanish 200; I got a calendar; I found a warm friend group. Everything started to fall into place. Before, I just took the good with the bad of the watered-down Andover in my head, but things were genuinely looking up, and midterms also went well for me. I cruised through the rest of the term. AE weekend, though, I did not go to a single game, and my phone was on Do Not Disturb all day. I studied every second of that weekend. The following week, when I got to take

the actual tests, I was honestly very well rested. Some questions on some tests made me think I worried over nothing, and on others, I genuinely had to do “eeny meeny miny moe.” But you can’t have everything, so I just went with it. After I finished my most brutal finals, I spent the week recklessly—often downtown or in my dorm.

And as I got on the bus at 4:00 P.M. sharp that final Thursday, I felt at peace. The reason why this term was so chaotic for me is that I put life here on such a high pedestal, I romanticized every single aspect. When I got here, I forgot that my notes

won’t always be aesthetic; my hair won’t always look good; sometimes the food won’t be all that great, and the weather on campus won’t always be majestic.

Life comes with ups and downs, and this fall term has taught me to accept that and make the best of it. Some days were high but went by so fast, others would just drag on with suspense while building up, and some days were pretty low, and that’s okay. I got to enjoy the term anyway because of my friends and the wonderful adults on campus to support me. Wherever I am on my individual timeline, things will work out—perhaps not exactly the way I wished for them to, but I will be satisfied in the end.



ASHLEY SONG / THE PHILLIPIAN

Moumita Dighol is a Junior from Jamaica, N. Y. Contact the author at mdighol26@andover.edu.

Photography is a Ruse

LANGAN GARRETT



I. OBIORA / THE PHILLIPIAN

Over break, I was looking at some pictures from when I was probably seven years old. I was lazily flipping through a photo album and came across an old family photo with my cousins. For some reason, I was overcome with this wave of remembrance, and I was transported back to 2013. The photo itself is joyful. My cousins and I are all smiling, laughing at the camera in matching outfits, but before the camera was pulled out, and the picture was taken, all six of us were crying. I don't really remember why I was crying, but it likely had something to do with not getting a piece of candy or not getting to watch another episode of Caillou. But that's besides the point. What struck me as so intriguing however, was the fact that the picture and the moments surrounding the picture had completely different connotations and meanings. Honesty took no precedent, and my association with that family photograph was linked to the lighting and joy portrayed by a professional photographer. I don't think I even remembered that I had been crying not two minutes earlier until my mother reminded me. I began to think more about the connotations that photographs carried with

them, and realized the careful balance it requires to present honesty through a posed art form.

I began to think more deeply about this. Can a photo truly capture the essence of a moment? My answer is no. Even so-called candid photographs on social media have an element of planning and structure to them. You may ask your friend, "Take a candid shot of me drinking my coffee." You are not asking your friend to capture the truth, you are literally asking them to take a picture of you appearing to be honest, but posing and faking that honesty. It all sounds quite absurd.

Photography, in this way, is both an interesting tool and a dangerous weapon. In the age of Photoshop and filters, it is increasingly difficult to delineate reality from fantasy. You see what people want you to see, and photographs are a vessel for that kind of curated messaging. From a picture, how can you glean the emotions demonstrated in that moment? Your friend shows you a picture from their summer vacation of them smiling on a beach somewhere, and immediately you are led to believe that their entire trip was sunshine and bliss. However, for all you know, the trip could have been a disaster. They might have missed their flight. That picture they showed you could have been taken during the ten minutes of sunlight they got on their trip because the rest of the time there was a torrential downpour. Photographs are just a snapshot, a millisecond, that cannot fully capture the emotion of a moment. It is such a fleeting memory, it is essentially meaningless. This just demonstrates that photography is inherently dishonest. It doesn't present reality honestly or truthfully. Instead, it is

founded on ideas of posing and curation.

Can a photo truly capture the essence of a moment?
My answer is, no.

Conversely, the photographs most suited to portray reality are those that stumble on it naturally. They are not searching for the perfect moment, for the right lighting, or the right "meaning" — they see something that tugs at their heart strings and impulsively snap a frame. Take one of the most revolutionary photographers of the modern era: Dorothea Lange. Her most famous photograph, "Migrant Mother," depicts a woman in the throes of suffering during the Great Depression. The wrinkles on her face illustrate her pain and perseverance, as her children tuck their faces into her neck. Lange was able to portray reality, and to make viewers understand the meaning of an era because of the honesty she brought to her art form. She captured the essence of a moment and a memory because she came into it with no expectations. Even more spontaneous photographs take a lot of planning and consideration. The difference, though, is the fact that these photographs still present an honest and true narrative. "Migrant Mother," though planned in terms of lighting, and through the thought that Lange put into her work, still presents an accurate portrayal of an era marked by suffering and poverty.

Reality, then, is in the mo-



AVERY LIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

ments that are not structured, and honesty appears where there are no expectations. Photography is a great example of how reality can be misconstrued and manufactured, but to take an art form that is predicated on posing, and find snippets of truth, is a unique gift. To find snippets of reality, in a world composed of curated fantasy, through photography is a skill that is only possessed by people that are honest with themselves. I find that the pictures I like most of myself, are the ones where I am not posing, where I have no expectations, and I am just wholly and truthfully myself in my body.

My emotions are captured not because I am trying to look a certain way, but purely because I was so engrossed in reality that I had no choice but to let myself shine through.

Langan Garrett is an Upper from San Francisco, Calif. Contact the author at lgarrett24@andover.edu.

French Economic Neocolonialism in West and Central Africa

WILLIAM BUEHLER



M. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

France was perhaps the most reluctant of the major colonial powers to relinquish its colonies. So strong was the desire to hold Algeria, for instance, that perceived government mishandling and incompetence regarding the Algerian war for independence led directly to the end of the Fourth Republic in a coup d'etat. With the end of that conflict, France would have superficially appeared to many observers to have forsaken the concept of an empire. However, in reality, France's dreams of empire status did not end in the 20th century; they simply shifted forms. France continues to exploit its former colonies to this day, the major difference being that instead of exploitation through direct rule, it is largely through economic and political means.

To understand France's modern exploitation of its former subjects, it is first important to understand the ways in which French influence survives today. The most obvious form of economic control which the French state exerts across much of West and Central Africa is best seen through two currencies which are linked today to the Euro, but formerly were linked to the Franc, those being the West African Franc and the Central African Franc, collectively known as the CFA franc (Franc of the Financial Community of Africa). Up until 2019, France held

what was essentially a veto on all monetary policy decisions within the CFA franc zone. Despite these former colonies now being independent nations which should have their own degree of sovereignty, it was only one year ago that 50 percent of all CFA franc reserves were required to be deposited into the French central bank, and while the nations in question are now allowed to hold their own reserves, France must still be the guarantor if nations opt to do so. While an egregious display of relative power on its own, France also has a history of devaluing the CFA franc against the French franc so as to artificially augment French purchasing power against their former colonies. As long as the CFA franc stays, the French government can purchase natural resources for shockingly low prices that are unavailable anywhere else on the world market, and it is for that reason that the maintaining of the CFA franc is their imperative.

Yet, it's not just the currency but the industry, market, and the nature of politics themselves which are French dominated. Of course, French investment into Africa disproportionately benefits the upper class, as one would expect, and so it is in the interests of upper class African groups to allow a degree of French influence for their own benefit. Political allowance of French investment creates a reliance upon the French, and thus we enter into a positive feedback loop wherein the only benefactors are the French and the upper class citizens of a nation. This is especially true due to the fact that the CFA franc is pegged, meaning directly corresponding, to the value of the Euro. This is beneficial for European companies, including those of the French, as they can profit from the cheap labor of Africa and the economic stability of the Euro while not needing to invest any large sums of money into the host country. The money can simply be sent home to Europe

due to the Euro arrangement, and the host country, which both provides the bulk of the labor and receives the detriments of investment, does not see a fair sum of recompense for its efforts and its losses.

The French economically

France continues to exploit its former colonies to this day.

dominate their former colonies. This is particularly evident when it comes to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). In 2020, there was around 500 million US dollars worth of French FDI in Côte D'Ivoire alone, a nation with a GDP of only around 70 billion dollars. France was the largest international investor. Côte D'Ivoire is but a chosen example in a sea of many, and it naturally follows investment that the industries which

result are ones which bring their profits directly back to France. This is, of course, ignoring the fact that even factoring out investment in local industries, French industries in West Africa are already hugely influential. TotalEnergies, a French firm, is responsible for 17 percent of the entirety of Africa's oil market share, is the leading distributor of oil products in Africa, and has 4700 service stations across the continent. Due to their large presence, French companies also account for a large amount of tax income for West and Central African governments, making it even more difficult to dislodge the companies, a difficulty which will only grow with time. The obvious truth is that French power cannot be said to only linger in its former colonies. It is prevalent, constantly used, and has become so intertwined with the current status quo of

many nations that it cannot be immediately excised without major disruptions to the existing social order.

I would like to explicitly state that although the French prop up the economies of many of their former colonies, they also have essentially set a ceiling for the francophone world's growth. French neocolonialism only appears mutually beneficial. In reality, it is only the French and the various classes of African elites who profit. It is the workers of the exploited nations who bear the burden of the failures of their legislators, and it is the enforcement and furthering of wealth stratification that perpetuates this style of crushing and systematic oppression.

As a conversation, this article is only scratching the surface of what French neocolonialism really is. A whole discourse into the matter could not be done in such a short time period, but a fuller one would speak of the more explicitly imperialist acts of constant military intervention. France may not be the only power to exploit Africa for its resources, but it is one of the primary forces keeping African nations poor so as to enrich themselves. The success of West and Central African nations will rest on whether or not they are able to break free from the French yoke. If we are to see the francophone world ever prosper, it will and must not be under the boot of the French.

William Buehler is an Upper from Greenwich, Conn. Contact the author at wbuehler24@andover.edu.



CAMERON MARNOTO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Lottery System Provides Fairness to Students Interested in Community Engagement Opportunities

Continued from A1, Column 2

ment, and that was really not the vibe that we wanted. We wanted it to be accessible to as many kids as possible, regardless of who their friends were or if they knew a community engagement coordinator,” said Cueto-Potts.

Cueto-Potts continued, “We then moved to a system where it was first-come, first-serve, but we had slots available for each lunch period. So let’s just say that there were six kids in a program; we’d only have two slots available for kids in fourth-period lunch to come to sign up, two slots for fifth-period kids, and then two slots for sixth-period lunch, and so that felt a little bit fairer. But it still was an issue because if you had a class super close to where we were doing sign-ups you were able to get there more

quickly than if you had a class like in [Gelb Science Center], and you’re coming all the way from Gelb to Kemper [Auditorium], something like that.”

Cindy Yang ’26 participated in a children’s after school engagement program during the Fall Term. They believed that the lottery system is convenient and a positive change.

“It was pretty easy to manage. It was just the Google Form, and then you could fill out what you wanted to do. And then since my project was a self-scheduling thing, I like to put in what times I was available, and then they told me when I’d be going. I don’t know how many people are actually trying to do community engagement things, but if they aren’t going to be able to accommodate everyone, then I feel like this is the fairest way that they can do it,” said Yang.

Michelle Yao ’23, coordinator of YDO Chinese, a Chinese

language program catered to primary school students, echoed Yang in that the lottery system is the fairest way for the community despite some shortcomings.

“I think, ultimately, what we want is to have as many students have access to community engagement as possible in the areas that they’re interested in, and a lottery, while it’s not a perfect system, I think it’s the system that achieves that most realistically, with our current circumstances considering the pandemic and the limited amount of offered programs and slots for participants,” said Yao.

Editor’s Note: Michelle Yao is a Multilingual Editor for The Phillipian.

Students Voice Reasoning For Shift to Physics 300

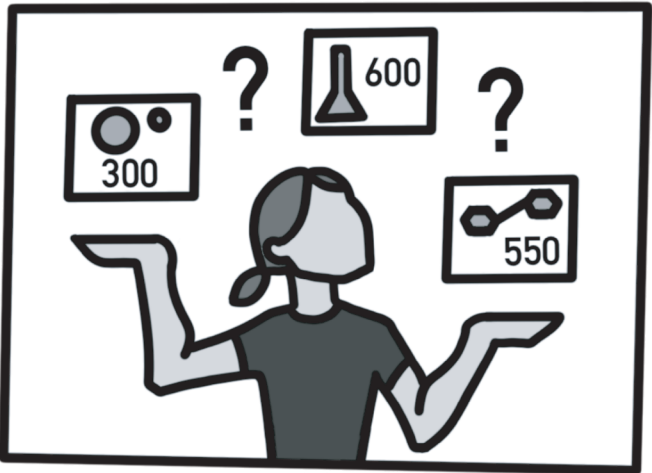
Continued from A1, Column 6

consideration, given that physics could be kind of described as algebraic word problems. Math is going to be a pretty key way to understanding these ideas, because we can conceptually talk about proportionality as in, this quantity goes up, what happens to this other quantity? But that limits you in other ways, so [math level] is not purely how students are placed, but it is a big factor,” said Kennedy.

As Kennedy explained, math knowledge was a large factor in some students’ struggles. Prince La Paz ’24, another student who changed

courses to Physics 300, related his struggle in Physics 400 to not having learned trigonometry. He expressed confusion towards his initial placement into Physics 400, as he did not feel that his math level was not suited to the course.

“I had never taken physics before... I was supposed to, for whatever reason, know trigonometry. When we started, everyone in the class knew [trigonometry] except me. And they were like, ‘Physics 400 and Math 350 go hand in hand.’ [I feel like] they don’t, because... I’m supposed to know trigonometry when I hadn’t learned [that] in math. In my Physics 400 class, [I felt like I was] most definitely [the only student struggling],” said La Paz.



DILNAWA KIZGHIN/THE PHILLIPIAN



D.SWANSON BLAKER/THE PHILLIPIAN
Paul Murphy ’84, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, and Interim Pine Knoll Cluster Dean, enjoying churros with Pine Knoll students.

Paul Murphy Brings Positive Energy to Temporary Role as Pine Knoll Cluster Dean

Continued from A1, Column 6

Murphy.

In taking the position, Murphy was required to teach only one class, forcing him to drop three of his sections. Though saddened in leaving his classes, Murphy looks forward to picking up more math courses again in the spring.

“Part of the workload for cluster deans is that they only teach one [section], so I’ve gone down to one section of math for the winter... I only teach one section [of math this term] when I taught four sections in the fall, so I had to drop all three of my [Math 590 sections], which was sad because I really enjoyed them. We had a really good fall together. Anyways my workload had to shift for the winter and it will shift back up in the spring,” said Murphy.

Following the change, McKenzie Williams ’24 was

switched out of Murphy’s class in the winter. She voiced frustration towards her schedule change as a result of his position change.

“[Murphy] is an excellent teacher who’s always looking out for the students.... When the Seniors were turning in their [college] applications, it was more of a chill class and he’s always super understanding... I was disappointed originally because I was switched out,” said Williams.

Sean Niu ’25 acknowledged Murphy’s active presence at cluster events in his first weeks as Cluster Dean. As a student in Pine Knoll, Niu appreciated Murphy’s warmth towards students.

“Mr. Murphy has been doing an excellent job stepping up as cluster dean. He is already very well-known among students for his kindness and generosity. I think that he is making [Pine Knoll] a better place every single day,” wrote Niu in an email to *The Phillip-*

ian.

In agreement with Niu, Lily Liu ’26 complimented Murphy’s efficiency and organization at Pine Knoll’s first cluster munch. Though Murphy was different from Meyer in his leadership traits, Liu noted her excitement for the term in Pine Knoll under his leadership.

Liu said, “I have not been in any of his classes, but I think he is a very nice guy. He’s very funny... I did meet him [at cluster munch] and he was very organized, because when he was handing out the chicken tenders, everyone was pretty chill with him and everyone generally has a good impression of him...[Meyer and Murphy’s] styles [are] a little different. You can tell just by seeing small things like from emails. But they’re both pretty good, and I look forward to this term.”

Changed Add/Drop Period Poses Difficulties for Students

Continued from A1, Column 2

cess to his schedule in comparison with previous years. However, Krenteras wished for an earlier Add/Drop period.

“[I] definitely preferred having original class schedules released at the end of the term. I guess it would never hurt to have a longer Add/Drop period if that meant starting it before the break. It was kind of weird to have this weird period where you got your course list but you didn’t have Add/Drop, so I would [prefer to] have it earlier,” said Krenteras.

Gabi Vignon-Villani ’25 felt similarly, expressing a hope to change courses without having much work to catch-up on. An Add/Drop after classes began required Vignon-Villani to miss parts of a class he planned to enter.

“I think that Add/Drop should be at the end of the previous term, because during finals weeks sometimes you’ll have extra time, and during those times you can figure out what courses you would take next term. I remember last year I was able to add a class right away, and I didn’t have to miss any of the

class, which was nice. This year I did the same thing, but I still missed two periods of the class I switched to,” said Vignon-Villani.

The delayed Add/Drop period was also to mitigate the influx of requests made according to Shows. While Shows understands the potential drawbacks it could have for students, he hoped that the change would benefit the scheduling office, and indirectly, the students.

“In the fall, we received somewhere between 700 and 800 course change requests, not counting the early scheduling that happens before the start of the school. It’s a big number of requests, but manageable because we have a system to handle the volume. We’re hoping it will be fewer in the winter. If we get 500 requests instead of 700 that’s a big difference in terms of our ability to pay attention and handle each request with care,” said Shows.

Shows continued, “I think the pros from our perspective is that it may minimize requests overall, and maybe give students the opportunity to make an informed request. The cons are that students certainly will be in classes for one or two days even if they are dead set against taking a class.”

Scenes from Pan Athletic Center

R.NASSERZADEH/THE PHILLIPIAN



WORLD IN BRIEF

Sports: FIFA World Cup Round of 16 Comes to a Close

The end of the group stage of the FIFA World Cup left eight competing teams, according to the Associated Press. Numerous upsets occurred during the competition's first stage, along with six scoreless draws. The countries moving up to the quarter finals are: France, Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Netherlands, England, Morocco and Portugal. Even countries that did not advance had notable matches, such as Japan's victory over Germany, despite the pair's difference in rank.

World Issues: Ongoing Covid-19 Lockdowns Spark Protests in China

Protests are arising in China following weeks of harsh Covid-19 regulations, with some even condemning the government on a larger scale, according to The New York Times. However, the Chinese government has employed police forces to remove protestors from the streets. The recent protests continue to have significant effects in China as well as the entire world. Some other major goals of the demonstrations have been towards efforts to nationally recognize the independence of Hong Kong and Taiwan.

War/Conflict: Russian-Ukrainian War Continues

According to CNN, Russia is still pushing further into Ukraine, taking control of territory and causing many fatalities. Ukraine, suffering the effects of an over-nine-

month war, remains partially annexed by Russia and searching for an end to conflict and the multitudinous war crimes that have come with it, while also looking to reclaim the territory under Russian occupation. According to The New York Times, in an effort to lower Russian oil profit, Europe has instated on it a price cap of 60 dollars per barrel, though Russia has claimed they will ignore it and keep on selling their oil at the same price they would have otherwise. Most recently, Ukraine has climbed onto the offensive to an extent, sending drones to retaliate against Russian control.

Natural Disaster: Hawaiian Volcano Erupts for First Time in 38 Years

Mauna Loa, situated on Hawaii's largest island, globally speaking the most sizable active volcano, is still in the process of erupting according to The New York Times and Fox News. This eruption began one week ago, and it is the volcano's first eruption after 38 years. Many scientists consider such eruptions great opportunities for a deeper dive into understanding volcanoes and controlling the havoc they sometimes wreak on human populations. Mauna Loa's volcanic history has been active, yet recently not so, at least not comparatively speaking; from the year 1950 onward, it has erupted a mere three times, while from 1843 to 1950, it erupted a grand total of 30 times.

International Conflict: Iran Abolishes Morality Police

After much protest, Iranian officials have declared that they will do away with the country's morality police, who are meant to keep in place laws and rules regarding clothing. According to The New York Times, roughly 450 people have died as a cause of these regulations. Protests were sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, who died in police custody after violating the country's strict dress code, and have been happening since September. The protests reached a milestone in ridding the country of the morality police, who uphold these dress codes, although the world remains uncertain about whether the statement will lead to real legal change.

Politics: Former President Donald Trump Criticizes the Constitution

Donald Trump has criticized the Constitution ahead of his 2024 campaign for president. After a Twitter employee published images showing the company's decision to censor information about Hunter Biden's laptop before the 2020 election, Trump took to the platform, calling for a "termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution" in the face of what he deemed a "Massive Fraud." Due to historical precedent for the role that Presidents undertake, many people are finding this to be a controversial statement. According to the New York Times, Trump's statements have been rejected by some members of his party, although many Republican politicians have remained silent on the issue.

Students Voice Mixed Feelings Towards Two Weeks Between Breaks

Continued from A1, Column 6

sense," said Calleja.

Some students still feel the discrepancy in learning due to the approaching winter break. Christopher Ramnath '23 feels that finding a schedule of consistency after returning from break poses the greatest challenge. He described how it can be particularly difficult to have the break of momentum in regard to learning.

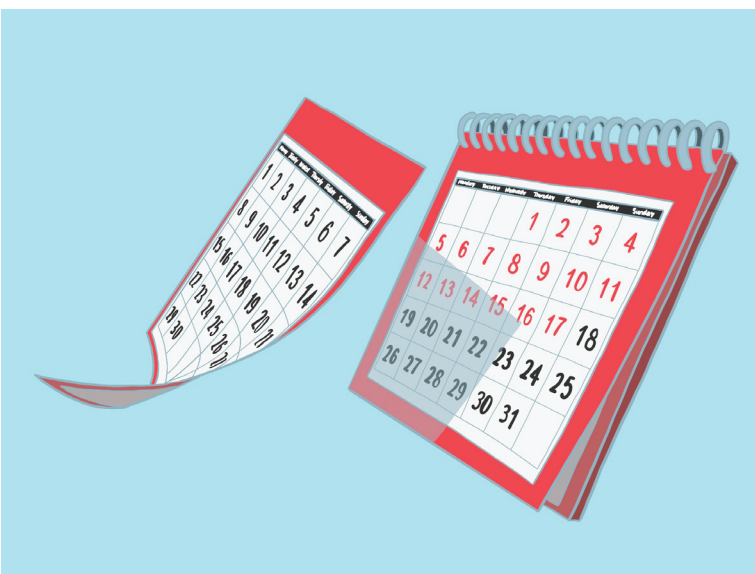
"I actually really enjoy the two weeks in between in my opinion, just the fact that it's the beginning of a new term and [it's] relatively chill. [But] for the most part, you want this consistency of learning

as it relates to the amount of time you're able to spend on it but then [there's] a break. In reality, it's not going to be spent remembering and learning the things you learned in class over the two weeks. So then you're coming back from an almost-three-week break expected to remember everything you've covered within the last two weeks. In regard [to that], there's a discrepancy in learning," said Ramnath.

Eleanor DeHoog '24 shared similar sentiments regarding the winter break, commenting on how most teachers try to cram major assignments into the curriculum before the break. DeHoog also mentioned that it can be difficult

for students who live far away to be traveling extensively in such a short period of time.

"It's kind of frustrating to go all the way home and then come all the way back, mainly because I live pretty far away, but I imagine for international students that's even more of an ask. I will say that these two weeks are kind of fun because it's not super stressful, because what can really happen in two weeks? I just think it's really difficult to, especially from a teaching standpoint, start a term with only two-and-a-half weeks and having to stop it, then expect students to remember what you were teaching," said DeHoog.



AVERY LIN/THE PHILLIPIAN

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10 Questions with Santi Morgan

REPORTING BY AJAHLA JEFFERSON

Originally from Argentina, Santi Morgan joined Andover this year as an Instructor in Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics. He loves the wilderness and helped lead Outdoor Pursuits last term. In his free time, he enjoys rock climbing and riding horses.



T.SAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

1. Why did you decide to join the Andover community?

I decided to join this community after I came to visit the campus in April when the Tang Institute invited me along with other grad students. At first, I was just amazed by the campus, I couldn't believe that a place like this existed. But what really made me want to work here was the conversations I had with the Senior students in the Tang Institute. Their intellectual levels, their social abilities, were just amazing, I couldn't believe how mature they were. I remember two of the students gave us a tour around campus and for half, or the first 40 minutes, I thought they were faculty, I didn't know they were students. I just wanted the experience to work in a place where students are really engaged with their learning and to be in a place where students chose to be. They work hard to be here, I'm used to working in schools where students just go because it's mandatory. Their parents send them and that's it. They don't push themselves and they don't put that much effort into work compared to what I see here.

2. What is it like raising a family on campus?

It's been great so far, I'm so surprised. I didn't know that before coming here to teach, but that is another reason I would choose this campus once again. It's an amazing community, how kind and how thoughtful everyone is. I remember the first week this year I didn't even know the names of many of my colleagues, but all of my colleagues knew my children's names. When we came across them in Paresky [Commons], for example, they say, "Oh, hi Francisco," and I was like "wow," those small gestures really bring the community together and they really make us feel that we are at home. One of my colleagues found out that my wife Rosario loves sewing... and yesterday she invited Rosario to her house and gave her a lot of fabrics for free that were from her mother. So it's just tiny gestures that happen all the time that really make us feel at home. It's a great place to raise a family.

3. What has been your favorite memory with Outdoor Pursuits?

Where to start? We had so many good trips, but I think the best memory I have was during an overnight trip we made to the White Mountains. We did a part of the hike during the night and the stars and the moon out there in the White Mountain were just fantastic. Hiking with this amazing group of students, and my colleagues... who are great, and just staring at the stars and listening at how philosophical or spiritual the students turned out to be — they started sharing super deep reflections. It was a great memory.

4. I notice you wear the same blue jeans a lot.

How did you get those blue jeans and why do you like them so much?

I love those blue jeans because they were really cheap and I found them in a store nearby the school, and I like them because they combine with everything. I don't have to think much, I just put them on. I'm not into fashion that much, as everyone must have noticed, so I love them because I can use them for work, for hiking, for everything.

5. What is your favorite movie?

I have a couple. There's one called "Coach Carter" with Samuel Jackson, I love that movie and I take a lot of my teaching inspiration from that character, Coach Carter. Also one called Unbreakable [directed by] M. Night Shyamalan with Bruce Willis, a 2000 movie. It's not on TikTok so I don't think you have heard about it. But I love it, it's kind of like the first superhero movie that there was in the millennium, but it's about the journey of a hero to adopt his true identity. It's awesome. I just love that movie.

6. How has WD-40 (a multi-purpose cleaning product changed your life and do you have any stories involving WD-40?

WD-40 has changed my life forever since I noticed how a powerful tool it is. I've traveled through many countries and [in] every country I visit, I come across this tool, and I just love the story behind it, how failure leads to success. It's funny how I use WD-40 as a metaphor for a learning philosophy in many different countries with many different students and it's very easy for all of them to get the message after hearing the story.

7. What has been your favorite country to visit?

There are so many great countries I have visited, our planet is fantastic. But if I have to choose one, maybe I would choose Brazil because it has many similarities to Argentina, which is my country that I love, but at the same time, Brazil has its own identity and spirit. Walking through the Beach of Copacabana is just an experience every human being should have at least once in their life.

8. What is your spirit animal?

I think that if you ask me this in different moments of my life the answer will be different but right now I think maybe a condor. A condor is a huge eagle, a huge bird from the Andes Mountains back in South America. It's a really majestic bird that can fly really really high but the trick is in order for him to take off and start flying he needs the help of the wind. So that's another thing I like. [Just like] WD-40 explains part of my education philosophy [so do] the condors, because condors remind me of students. If you provide them with the right wind, they can take off, they can unleash their majesty, and fly really high and really free.

9. Who is your role model?

My dad certainly is. He raised a big family with many children and he provided us with lots of love. Again this is a question you may ask in different moments of my life [where the answer will be different]. There's a former politician in Argentina that I admire a lot, too. He was president until three years ago. [Before that] he was a really wealthy successful man who could have retired and lived a peaceful life with his family, but instead, he chose to get into the swamp of politics. He almost got his life ruined for it but because he cares about the people in the country he did it for free, he didn't have a salary and I really admire the people that put their own well-being at risk in order to help others. His name was Mauricio Macri.

10. How did you feel about the World Cup this year?

The World Cup? Mixed feelings and I know we're [Argentina] going to win the World Cup, so in that sense it was good, but at the same time I know it's been done in a place that implied a lot of suffering to a lot of people, a lot of families who lost their loved ones during the constructions of the stadiums and so that makes me really really sad. I couldn't enjoy a match 100 percent because every time they filmed the stadiums I could not help myself and think about the families that lost like a father or husband building those places for the rest of the world to enjoy. And it was not a sacrifice like D-Day in World War II, that is a worthwhile sacrifice because we are fighting for freedom, this was just a lot of death and suffering that could have been avoided if the World Cup had been taking place in another place.

Early Admission Release Dates Approach, College Counseling Office Hosts Senior Class Meeting

WILL GE & TIANYI GU

With many colleges delivering their early admission decisions in these upcoming weeks, the College Counseling Office (CCO) hosted a class meeting for Seniors on December 1. According to the CCO, during the first two weeks of November, over 90 percent of the Senior class submitted applications for early admission to colleges.

A large part of the ASM focused on encouraging Seniors to think mindfully about reacting to their early admission decisions. Sean Logan, Dean of College Counseling, commented on the takeaways that he hopes Seniors draw from the meeting.

"Andover students are hard-working, they're really smart kids, very aspirational. But they're also looking at schools that have very low admit rates:

20 percent, 15 percent, 10 percent. We try to remind them of what holistic admission is, and then really think about 'how you want to get your decision?' 'Who do you want to be with...?' As a group and as a school, this is a place where the more supportive we can be with each other through this process, the easier it's going to be for everyone," said Logan.

Charlie Benjamin '23 felt the ASM helped Seniors prepare for a variety of outcomes from the early admissions process. As many Seniors continue writing applications for the regular decision cycle, Benjamin found the presentation motivating.

"Right now, most people are figuring out whether they're going to enjoy their Winter Break or not.... As a lot of us are getting to the point where we're submitting a lot more applications, it's easy to overlook things. That's always a fear. [The ASM] was moti-

vational, reassuring, and generally informative in terms of learning that 50 percent of the people get in, or just that we shouldn't talk about [decision results]," said Benjamin.

Benjamin also shared his insight into the current culture around the college admissions process among Seniors. The tension around the college process, which has been steadily building since the end of Upper year, is now at its peak, according to Benjamin.

"It's not only that you're competing with the general Andover population, but it's that you know the other kids that are applying to certain schools. There are people who have spreadsheets of who's applying to where, their GPA if they can find it out there, their race, their SAT score, and a number of other factors. People are kind of obsessed with it, [which] adds to the tension," said Benjamin.

Describing an unhealthy

focus on test scores and admission to schools perceived as more selective and prestigious, Kurt Meyer '23 observed that the current culture around the college admissions process was ultimately harmful to student's mental health.

"I think it's good that kids feel pressured to an extent to pursue academics, because I think that's important. But also, I think that people tend to assume, [since] everybody at Andover is applying to really selective colleges, everyone's like, 'if you get into a really selective college, then you succeeded. If you don't get into a selective college, you failed,' which I think is not how it should be, because it's more important to find a college that actually, is strong in whatever you want to pursue, even if it's not selective," said Meyer.

Confronted with record low admissions rates to many of students' preferred schools,

Logan encouraged students to take a bigger picture view of the college admissions process. Regardless of whether students got accepted to their first choice, he highlighted the potential for a number of other educational institutions to provide meaningful opportunities.

"Andover kids have typically earned what they've wanted... But when you get to the college process of highly selective schools, it's another level. So then it's also, 'how can I deal with that disappointment?' But also, there are so many good schools out there. Even if you don't get your first choice, in my experience, I've been around so many kids who come back and say 'I can't believe I ever didn't want to be at this school.' But it's a hard lesson; so prepare yourself, be thoughtful, and be kind," said Logan.

THE EIGHTH PAGE

NICKY AND NED ARE ECO-LEADERS

True Patriot Gives Opinions On World Cup

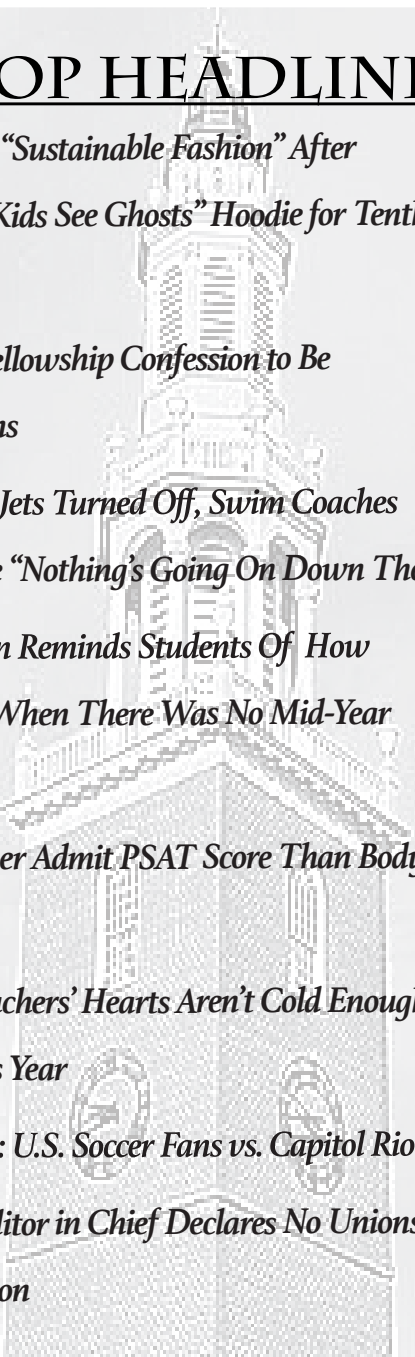
Luke Piasecki

Okay, I’ve been hearing a lot about this “World Cup” going on, and it’s starting to re-ally annoy me. I mean, why does anyone care what happens anymore? America lost. But we stay winning. #BACK2BACKWORLDWAR-CHAMPS. And Kwater? Isn’t that the one the Taliban controls? And another thing I can’t stand is how people have the nerve to call it “football.” I heard that in a bar, and I almost up and left with my triple-bacon cheese-burger, Marlboro Reds, and AR-15. The absolute nerve of these people, trying to pawn off soccer as “football.” I think it’s a big conspiracy, all because some redcoats got mad at us for throwing some tea in the water. They just want to get us back. They’re still furious about blowing a 13-colony lead. And these soccer commentators are blatantly an-ti-America. Just yesterday, I heard one of them say the field was 105 meters long, instead of 114.829 yards. And also WHAT THE [expletive] IS A KILOMETER?! Unacceptable. These other countries could never beat us in real football, so they go and invent their own version. And there’s not even any tackling! How do the players get head injuries? It’s just so sad how people can’t accept America’s greatness. The English and the French are so snobby, like, can I get a “thank you”? I heard we literally saved you from that guy Kanye loves. I guess they’re just jealous because we get a whole Super Bowl, and those clowns are trying to win a cup.



WEEK'S TOP HEADLINES

- *Student Claims It’s “Sustainable Fashion” After Wearing Kanye’s “Kids See Ghosts” Hoodie for Tenth Day in a Row*
- *Catholic Student Fellowship Confession to Be Conducted by Deans*
- *Pan Center Jacuzzi Jets Turned Off, Swim Coaches Want to Make Sure “Nothing’s Going On Down There”*
- *Mid-Year Reflection Reminds Students Of How Precious Life Was When There Was No Mid-Year Reflection*
- *Lower Would Rather Admit PSAT Score Than Body Count*
- *The Chemistry Teachers’ Hearts Aren’t Cold Enough to Make It Snow This Year*
- *Spot the Difference: U.S. Soccer Fans vs. Capitol Rioters*
- *The Phillipian Editor in Chief Declares No Unions, Threatens Castration*



Everything We Can Learn In These Two Weeks:

- Who are the hottest World Cup soccer players
- The rigor of Photomath
- What the edge looks like
- How to say “goal” in Spanish
- Where to find the syllabus on the Canvas page
- Which Sykes nurse makes the best ice water
- How many times socks can be reworn
- Mr. Shows’s limits
- Another reason to transfer
- Where the clit is (no wait, this requires more than two weeks for some)
- How many minutes you can cut class before getting a tardy
- The devastating effects of climate change on the town of Andover’s winter aesthetic

WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FOR MiLK DAY!!!

Louisa Carter

When I first heard that Andover was looking for workshop ideas for MiLK day, it felt as though God had heard my cries. I know my proposal may seem strenuous and perhaps a bit far-fetched, but in a generation of non-believers, the opportunity to visit Santa’s workshop in the North Pole seems too good to be true. Santa is a big fan of milk, so this fits the theme perfectly! Students are so often blinded by materialism and consumerism that they forget the hard work that Santa’s elves put in each Christmastime to make their Dyson Air Wraps and G-Wagons. A trip to his workshop will be a fundamentally grounding and eye-opening experience of the labor industry — the Christmas behind the scenes.



While I know getting to the North Pole may seem daunting, it is actually quite simple because Buddy blazed the way for us in the movie “Elf.” Buddy was such a revolutionary. The hardest bits will be marching through the Candy Cane forest and the Sea of Swirly-Twirly Gumdrops. Once we get to the workshop, the elf union will give speeches about labor rights and working conditions. The main elf will give his speech about pursuing his own dream instead of fulfilling children’s material dreams. If my proposal were to get approved, I, of course, would reach out to the Papa Elf and make all of the arrangements for a day to make sure students get the optimal Santa experience.

The chance to go to Santa’s workshop is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I would hate to see it wasted over a trip to the Burlington Mall Build-A-Bear Workshop, or worse — an identity show.

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

“Your dad hasn’t adjusted your allowance for inflation yet?”

“I’m going light this year. Trying to cap my Christmas list at ten grand.”

“Just found out Kanye makes music, too. This guy is getting even cooler.”

“I’ll hit her up when the winter depression starts to hit.”

“Inside of you there are two wolves. Inside of me there is a woman who wants to be Miss New Hampshire.”

“My Comp-Sci teacher is wildin’. I can calculate a random number in my head.”

“That could be offensive. Christmas is kinda niche.”

“Yeah, the deans copped my protein powder when they searched my room. I think they were afraid of the monster I’d become.”

“You can separate art from artists, but you can’t deny the genius of the German highway.”

“Will there be a land acknowledgment on our Christmas card this year?”

“I just added ‘Silent Night’ to my sex playlist.”

“Why won’t you tell me what ‘gatekeeping’ means?”

Uses for the Pan Center

- Play Marco Polo in the pool
- Sit mysteriously in a corner table waiting for the love of your life to meet you
- Drink something fizzy and yeasty in the hot tub
- Gaze at the skinny boys in unitards brawling
- World’s largest toilet
- Slip ‘N Slide
- Almost enough showers for a polo team
- Space for modern dance (a.k.a. T-posing and disturbing contortions)
- Trapping competitors in its labyrinthine halls
- Money laundering
- Honoring the generous donations of Peter Pan ’53
- An excuse to text your sneaky link
- An outlet for your ingratitude
- An upgrade for your goldfish (maybe the bigger tank would make it stop floating upside down)
- A shiny reason to #sayyestoandover



The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLV | Number 25

December 9, 2022

*you're a mean one,
mr. grinch*

Tam Gavenas '25 Qualifies for Champs Sports Cross Country Nationals

ANGIE LUCIA

Placing ninth at the Champs Sports Cross Country Northeast Regional on November 26, Tam Gavenas '25 earned himself a spot in the National Championship race. Gavenas was the youngest of ten to qualify from the region.

Gavenas battled in a tight race against two other runners, outrunning both of them in the final 200 meters of the race with a time of 15:44.0. Gavenas reflected on how the support from his teammates and the preparation from his coach helped him push harder than he had ever had.

"It was a tough position for me because it was all mental... [11th place] was the only thing I didn't want to get. It was just a long battle... and I hadn't realized in that race what my potential was. It was just like you got to stick to it, make your move in the last 200 meters, finish well. If it wasn't for my teammates being there and my coach preparing me, I definitely wouldn't have had that mindset, and my legs wouldn't have felt strong enough to finish strong," said Gavenas.



Gavenas among a pack of runners at the one-mile mark.

COURTESY OF CHAMPS SPORTS

Alongside Gavenas, Max Huang '24 and Robert Budzinski '26 represented Andover at the Northeast Regionals. Huang, placing 44th with a time of 16:47.9, noted how the start of the race differed from what the team was typically used to, forcing him, and his teammates, to adjust accordingly.

"I expected the race to go out super fast, and it did. It was basically an all out sprint for the first minute of the race with everyone jostling, and there was a sharp turn 400 meters into the race. The start was really fast, and then after that, it was about settling, finding your rhythm. I tried to keep passing people throughout the race. On the hills, I was just like, pass one person at a time and work my way up," said Huang.

Held at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, New York, the Championship regional race featured 137 runners from 12 different states. According to Budzinski, who placed 37th in the Freshman/Sophomore race, many spectators lined the course to cheer on and motivate runners, alleviating the pressure and nerves of the race.

"This is a high stakes, populated meet. The energy is definitely very serious, but also people are really cheering hard for people. I was watching Tam come down the final stretch, and he was in a battle with these two other kids. It was very visible that this was the hardest all three of them had ever ran to try and qualify. People were screaming, and it was pretty crazy energy for that race," said Budzinski.

Last year, Gavenas won the Northeast Region's Freshman/Sophomore race. After improving by 63 seconds on the same course, Gavenas credited this year's success to teammates Avin Ramratnam '24, Lundeen Cahilly '24, and Glen Cahilly '23, who traveled to New York to provide support.

"It's a lot about motivation. If I hear someone screaming at the top of their lungs cheering for me, I'm like, 'Okay, I can't let this person down. They really believe in me,'" said Gavenas.

Despite facing an injury early in the season, Gavenas recovered and served as the team's frontrunner for the rest of the regular and postseason. Budzinski emphasized how qualifying for Nationals was a goal that Gavenas had been working towards since the summer.

"Tam works really hard. I mean, you can see it in his face when he runs. He gives a ton of effort into it. He dealt with a little bit of injury at the beginning of the season, but then he came back and was working really hard. He's the fastest on our team, so he's always leading our team in the races. I was definitely really happy for him because I know he really wanted it. I had talked to him over the summer, and he had said that was his goal," said Budzinski.

Huang shared a similar reaction to Gavenas' qualification.

"I knew he was going to be



COURTESY OF CHAMPS SPORTS

Gavenas kicks in the final stretch of the race.

up there contending for top ten. Obviously, I was quite a bit behind him in the race, so when I finished, I looked over at the tent. There's a tent where the ten people that qualified were in. I looked over, and I saw Tam, and that just put a smile on my face. I was hurting from the race, but to see that Tam qualified, I was so happy for him," said Huang.

Gavenas hopes to stay injury-free in the two-week period leading up to Nationals. As just one of two sophomores who will be in attendance, Gavenas wants to use the race

as a learning experience for future large-scale races.

"No injuries, that's the one thing [in preparation for Nationals]. Training with the team, mostly focusing on what I can do best or better. I'm only a sophomore, so it's just a lot about placing wherever I can be," said Gavenas.

The Champs Sports Cross Country National Championship will be held at Balboa Park in San Diego, California this Saturday, December 10.

Girls Basketball Wins by 53 Points in Season Opener

MEG STINEMAN

SATURDAY	
Andover	74
Pomfret	21
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	48
Worcester	57

Andover Girls Basketball opened its season with a dominant 74-21 victory over Pomfret School on Saturday. In addition to surpassing 70 points, the team showcased an impenetrable defense, only allowing Pomfret to score nine points up until the final five minutes of the game.

Four days later, however, the team lost by a margin of nine points to Worcester Academy, putting its record at 1-1.

The team entered Saturday's matchup eager to continue its three-year win streak against Pomfret. Although confident, the team never un-

derestimated its opponent, maintaining high quality play throughout the game, according to Head Coach Liz Monroe.

"We went out there and played our game. We didn't slow down to Pomfret's speed, we didn't play down to them. We were definitely the more skilled team out there, and we went out there and played like it. That sounds simple but it's not always easy to do," said Monroe.

By the middle of the second quarter, the team had already pulled away by 35 points, while only giving up one point to Pomfret. Ava Davey '25 reflected on the team's efforts in building a strong defensive foundation for its season opener.

"We have been working really hard in practice on our full-court press and defense. This is what prepared us for that game. Everyone works so hard at practice and puts their full effort in. We all got to the gym super early and shot around together before we warmed up, and it got everyone in the zone and ready to play," wrote Davey in an email to *The Phillippian*.

Saturday's game featured



JGIRO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Hope Nardone '23 lines up for a shot.

the team's entire roster, where all members of the starting lineup and bench were given playing time. Monroe emphasized the importance of increasing the pace of play for future games, which is dependent on the team's chemistry.

"We're really focusing on creating an identity for ourselves this year that's about lots of pressure, fast pace transition, and kind of speeding up our game a little bit. And trying to go out there and set the tone for that this season," said Monroe.

In the final five minutes, a three-pointer from Davey put the team above 70-points. She noted two of the team's Co-Captains taking charge against Pomfret, allowing the team to capitalize on its offensive opportunities.

"Two people that played really well today were [Co-Captain] Hope Nardone ['23] and [Co-Captain] Kiley Buckley ['23]. Hope's 3-pointers were on point while playing Pomfret, and she had a ton of

layups in the paint. Kiley also played very well. She played aggressive defense and hustled the entire game," wrote Davey.

Immediately after Saturday's win, the team shifted its focus towards its matchup against Worcester. Worcester's reliance on high defensive pressure forced the team to develop counter-strategies, which Monroe spoke on prior to the game.

"I mean we know that it's going to be a much tougher team, and I think what we are working on is trying to slow them down a little bit. We know they like to push the ball. We know they like to run the court, so [making] sure that we are pressuring them, trying to protect the paint and make sure they don't get those easy points, [and making] sure that we are being aggressive on offense. They always play with a lot of pressure, [so we want to] make sure that we are really focused on attacking the basket," said Monroe.

The team trailed Worcester by less than ten points for the entirety of Wednesday's game. Although ultimately unable to overcome the deficit, the team found positive takeaways from both sides of the ball, according to Emerson Buckley '25.

"Offensively, I think we really capitalized on our chances and stuff like that. I think we definitely think we finished when we needed to, which was really big since it was tough to get chances off of their defense. Defensively, I think we played great. We limited them to a lot of drives and stuff like that, and they barely hit any threes. I would say we really put a lot of good pressure on them. If anything, we could have just limited their second-chance shots," said Buckley.

Girls Basketball will play at Loomis Chaffee this Saturday and St. George's on Wednesday.



JGIRO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ava Davey '25 drives towards the net.

Boys Basketball Falls Short in Season Opener, Rebounds with Win

NABILAH NAZAR

SUNDAY	
Andover	66
Kingswood-Oxford	73
SUNDAY	
Andover	77
Holderness	48

Andover Boys Basketball fell short 66-73 in its first game of the season against Kingswood-Oxford. The team came back in its home opener against Holderness, ultimately winning 77-48. Andover's record now stands at 1-1.



Simon Kane '23 dodges a Holderness defender for a shot attempt.

Captain Colby Duggan '23 described how the team picked up its energy and mobilized its defense to slow down Kingswood-Oxford after Andover ended the first quarter down by 15 points. According to Duggan, the team can improve in multiple facets of its game. "We lost 73-66, but the game didn't go too bad. We started slow, but we were able to fight back into it. We led with a couple minutes left, but ultimately didn't go our way.... We can get better in a lot of places, but we moved the ball well. We played good defense, but I think we can always be better on defense. We can be better at rebounding," said Duggan. On Wednesday, Andover welcomed Holderness for its

home opener. According to Isaiah Harris '24, the team focused on its defensive game and saw contributions from everyone on the team. Harris said, "As a team, we played pretty well. Everyone contributed, off the bench, too. We worked on a lot of things from the game on Sunday defensive-wise, and we really picked that up this game.... We talked and communicated a lot more. On cuts and things like that. We [did] switches and stuff like that off screens. It was good communication." Robbie Nyamwaya '24 credited Andover's success against Holderness to addressing issues from its game against Kingswood-Oxford. Nyamwaya said, "On both sides of the ball, there was a lot of energy. We focused on some of the little stuff that we had been focusing on in practice, and I think that played a big role. Just communicating, making sure we were in the right positions when we're off the ball. Executing the plays, stuff like that." Andover's win against Holderness also provided an opportunity for players coming off the bench to excel, according to Dylan Bronner PG'23. Bronner credited his teammates for maintaining composure throughout the game despite the high pace. "I think offensively, we moved the ball really well, communicated really well in defense. And I think our bench players executed the plays and defensive sets really well. Again, given a lot of them don't get a lot of in-game reps... [We] started just going up early, and just staying disciplined even though we played a weaker team," said Bronner. According to Bronner, certain individual performanc-



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Titus Ivory '25 escapes a Holderness defender.

es played a large part in the team's success. Bronner highlighted Nyamwaya's strength in the post and his ability to perform set plays. Bronner said, "Some players exceeded [expectations] for sure. Robbie stepped up big time today, especially as a player who didn't get a lot of minutes last year. Stepping into a bigger role this year, I think this was definitely a big confidence booster for him... Robbie being one of our dominant big scorers, he just kind of exposed that by executing a lot of our post plays for him, making a lot of good cuts and reads and rebounding the ball." Although Andover found success against Holderness, Nyamwaya believes that there is still room for the team to improve, such as maintaining possession and not fouling too

often. Nyamwaya emphasized the importance of maintaining composure when games get intense. "I think we can work on just playing less out of control. Sometimes, we have a little too much energy, and it's easy to make mistakes that way. It's easy to foul or maybe turn the ball over. So I think we need to learn how to play with energy but also play composed and in control... I think we're doing well playing fast paced. I think we really want to get the ball out and run and get layups, easy layups. So I think we're trying to focus on that. We're doing pretty well, and we're trying to continue to do that," said Nyamwaya. Andover Boys Basketball will play Millbrook away on Sunday.

Dramatic Comeback Propels Andover Wrestling to First Win in Pan Athletic Center

MADDIE REDMOND

SATURDAY	
Andover	45
St. Paul's	30

Four pins and two 6-4 decisions allowed Andover Wrestling to overcome an early 3-24 deficit to St. Paul's on Wednesday. With a final score of 45-30, the team opened its season by securing a victory in Andover's new facility, the Pan Athletic Center. After over two years of construction, the Pan opened its doors on Monday, allowing the team to gain access to the building's new Lawrence Family Wrestling Suite. Just two days after Pan's opening, the team hosted its first dual meet. Isa Matloff '24 explained that the facility change boosted the morale of the team and spectators. "It was really fun to be in the wrestling environment and the new wrestling room... The crowd was very hype, for lack of better words. Everyone being in that room for the first time and being the first matches of the year. The first blood drawn on the mats of the year. It was just a really exciting time," said Matloff. In addition to the new environment, the team's new wres-



R.NASSERZADEH/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover Wrestling previously competed in the Borden Memorial Gym before moving to the Pan Athletic Center.

tlers contributed to the high level of energy and excitement on Wednesday. Dani Nugent '25 highlighted the excitement of newer wrestlers to showcase the moves they had learned just a few days prior. "We had a lot of excited wrestlers here for their first match, so the wrestlers that weren't currently wrestling were cheering everyone on. It was a really good atmosphere," said Nugent. After a teammate's loss in the meet's opening match, Ben Forman '23 leveled out the team score with a tight 6-4 decision. Forman shared a similar sentiment to Nugent, explaining that the support of the crowd and fellow teammates served as motivation on the mat. "I was definitely a little out of shape and could work on my pinning combos, but I was very happy to come away with the win, especially since it's the first time I've gone the distance in a match. Also, [it's a] very fun team environment and great to have a crowd supporting us since we've had such few home meets over the past year," said Forman. For the rest of the team, the successful season opener will provide a foundation to build upon in the coming weeks. Matloff explained how teammates received frequent feedback during their matches. "We got a lot of notes about sprawling, which is one of our wrestling moves today. We got a lot of notes about conditioning and being able to stay wrestling for all six minutes if we need to. I think just generally keeping up the team spirit, which we have no problem with. Trying to keep everyone getting bet-

ter. Not just trying to work your own moves, but work them with people in a way that will get you both better," said Matloff. William Buehler '24 noted aspects the team could improve on for its next meet. "We'll work on condition for endurance. Building up better move sets, being able to adapt to what we've seen on the mats. It's an adaptive sport. I think our strategy for us now revolves around what we've seen these weeks," said Buehler. Looking ahead, the team will be hosting three more regular season meets in addition to the New England Championships at the end of the season. In the meantime, the team hopes to better adapt to the new facility in order to gain the home team advantage. "It's much easier hooking up to the speakers, so practice music is always a little bit nicer. And also, I think just being in a new space gives a little bit of space to spread out. Also new space to create a new team identity, especially for a lot of the kids who are rookies this year.... We have a little dedicated space for possibly some weight training stuff and a new office which will also give us a new spot to hang our banners and trophies," said Matloff. Andover Wrestling will compete in the Holiday Dual Tournament at Avon Old Farms on Saturday.

After Sweep Against Belmont Hill, Boys Varsity Squash Turns Attention to Deerfield Academy

MEG STINEMAN

SATURDAY	
Andover	7
Belmont Hill	0

This Wednesday, Andover Boys Squash swept Belmont Hill in their season opener, winning all eight individual matches. The team's record now stands at 1-0. In an email to *The Phillipian*, Head Coach John Roberts highlighted three areas of discipline for players centering conditioning and technical drills. "A combination of fitness/strength, more disciplined choice of shot and keeping our unforced errors to a minimum. All [three] go hand in hand so that's been the focus of practices thus far. There

wasn't [anything] specific for this match. We've only had one week of practice so it's been mostly about getting the lineup sorted and squeezing drills in where we can," wrote Coach Roberts. According to Bryce Farr '23, Andover will focus on enhancing its skills for its upcoming matchup against Deerfield. For the 2021-2022 season, Deerfield held a 14-6 and ended as the fourth seed team in the New Englands. Farr said, "I think we went into this match projected to heavily win, so I think the team, they went to their matches with the mindset that we wanted to practice what we've been working on in practices prior to this match, in order to better prepare for our match this weekend." Coach Roberts reiterated the importance of a strong start to the season to better prepare Andover for this season's upcoming competitive matches. "From start to finish, [the team] didn't take their foot off the gas and didn't give them any easy points or unforced errors. We have 3 tough matches before winter break against strong opponents. We wanted to be clinical here and try [to] build momentum for Saturday which is going to be a really hard match away to Deerfield," Coach Roberts wrote. Additionally, other forms of preparation include challenge matches to maximize Andover's victories, according to Farr. These matches will be played to determine an established lineup. "Deerfield has a really strong lineup. Their top three are really strong, so we're trying to solidify our ladder at the bottom spots so four, five, six, and seven spots. I think we're probably gonna have a few challenge matches before that to make sure that we have the correct lineup and the best chance of winning possible,"



R.NASSERZADEH/THE PHILLIPIAN

Avery Lin '25 is Andover's sixth seed player.

said Farr. Corey Shen '26 explained lack of composure at times during the Belmont Hill match. Shen emphasized the importance of staying poised to avoid incidental mistakes that could cost the team points. "Right now.... some of us will get too frustrated after

losing consecutive points, or if we start losing consecutive wins. We don't know how to start [to] adapt, so our opponent kind of beat us with that," said Shen. Boys Squash will play Deerfield this Saturday.

Girls Squash Falls Short to Milton in Season Opener

HENRY SNOW

SATURDAY	
Andover	3
Milton	4

In its season opening match, Andover Girls Squash fell short to Milton 3-4. Andover's record now stands at 0-1.

In the few practices leading up to the match, the team focused on improving its fitness on the court. According to Liz Zhao '24, certain workouts left some players feeling sore.

"We only had a couple days of practice before our match this time, so we worked a lot on fitness because, coming

into the season, a lot of us had not really done that much exercise. We had to work on our cardio and especially our endurance. To do that we would often run up and down the stairs in [The] Snyder [Center] which made many of us sore coming into the match," Zhao said.

Prisha Shivani '26 noted confidence as one of the team's core strengths leading up to the game. Shivani emphasized the importance of being confident in each other as well as yourself, especially since squash is an individual sport.

Shivani said, "Confidence was one of our strengths because going into the first match of the season we all went into it thinking we should all have fun. Squash is not a team sport, rather

everyone plays individually which adds up to the score so it was important that everyone was cheering each other on."

According to Zhao, the matches started off slow for Andover. However, Zhao was impressed by the team's persistence and composure despite how tough its competition was.

"One important moment that I thought about was a common theme throughout the entire match where the opponent hits a really good shot that we don't expect our teammate to get, but somehow makes the effort to get the ball and puts a lot of pressure on the opponent. For example, our number one, [Co-Captain] Migyu [Kim '25], was playing a girl that was ranked very high nation-

ally, maybe even internationally, she is good enough to be a pro player. Most of the shots that she hit were incredible and Migyu was able to return many of her shots which was very inspiring," said Zhao.

Kim highlighted Devika Hajarnavis '26, noting her spirit and ability. Despite playing her first match with Andover this past weekend, Hajarnavis maintained a strong attitude, according to Kim.

"I think one of the Freshmen, Devika Hajarnavis, stood out today because it was her first match with Andover. Even though it might have been a nerve racking situation, she came in with a really great attitude and was enthusiastic. I really appreciated her energy despite any nerves she could have been

feeling," said Kim.

Despite the loss, the team was able to identify various areas for improvement within its game. According to Kim, the team will be focusing on its serve returns and general mechanics.

"For the upcoming week, we had one very specific thing that we talked about which is practicing the return of serve because that caught us in a lot of situations. The return of serve starts off the point which is a very crucial part of the game so it is something that we are going to work on this coming week as well as footwork and movement in general," said Kim.

Andover Girls Squash will face Groton away on Saturday and St. George's away on Wednesday.

Scenes from Boys Hockey vs. Thayer

PHOTOS BY ANDREW CHINN '24



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The Phillipian

Violinist Audrey Sun '23 Inspires Peers through Musical Interpretations and Expression

STAFF REPORT

Violinist Audrey Sun '23 was on tour in Greece with the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, about to perform “the Fifth Symphony” by Dmitri Shostakovich, when an audience member stood up before the performance and yelled, “No more propaganda!” According to Sun, “the Fifth Symphony’s” composition is recognized as a form of artistic protest against Stalin’s government, and although the audience member was quickly escorted out of the building, the phrase made her reflect on the meaning and power of the music she would perform.

“When I was playing the symphony, I just kept thinking about her words, and I was like, ‘I need to show that this music is not propaganda. This is what he wanted to say.’ Shostakovich was conveying that people actually do have individual voices beneath the Stalinist government, but they couldn’t say that out loud or else they would basically get killed. I just felt real-

ly moved, even as a performer... I had a strong conviction when I was playing, and I felt like the whole orchestra felt that,” said Sun.

Since beginning violin at the age of four, Sun has developed her playing to not only convey her own individuality but also the different emotions and messages represented within the notes. This connection to the music has not helped her grow as a violinist, but also understand more deeply what it means to be a musician.

“I really liked the work of trying to translate the music into sound. [When] you see the notes on the page, you need to think about what each of them means and how they all tie together into phrases, how you can make different characters and colors from it, and how to make that sound on the violin, and how to bring it to audiences,” said Sun.

At Andover, Sun has been able to explore music further and contribute to the Chamber Music Society and Academy Orchestras, where she serves as a co-concertmaster. According to fellow violinist

Karen Wang '24, Sun’s dedication and deep connection to her music can be felt by the orchestra and peers in the music community.

“[She] tries out various interpretations and tries to find the version that is the most musically appropriate. The way that she interprets the music, just [from] the way she’s playing or her body language, you can tell she’s connected to the music, and that ripples to the other players in the orchestra. She really takes what she plays to heart,” said Wang.

Sun also stated that her music experiences at Andover have encouraged her to take the initiative and gain new perspectives on music. One of her fondest memories at Andover is from participating in Andover-Lawrence Strings, a community engagement program where string players at Andover teach elementary school kids from Lawrence how to play string instruments.

“[It’s] the first time I taught music to people, and it just made me better at communicating and listening to peo-



A.CHINN/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Audrey Sun '23 plays at last weekend's Family Concert.

ple. The first thing I taught them was how to hold the violin and then we taught them how to play ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.’ I worked with two fourth graders, and both of them [were] so energetic. When they finally learned how to play [it], it brought

me a lot of joy to see them really happy. It also brought me a new perspective on music, before I [realized] music could bring me to other people who I might have not [met otherwise],” said Sun.

“Wingardium Leviosa!”: Andover’s Orchestras Perform in “Harry Potter”-Themed Concert

STAFF REPORT

Dressed up as Professor McGonagall from “Harry Potter,” conductor Christina Landolt waved her hand at the piano, announcing to the audience that she would perform a magic trick. On her cue, pianist William Ge '25 played the beginning notes of “Hedwig’s Theme” as the orchestra joined the melody.

Ge found Landolt’s cue to be-



A.CHINN/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Conductor Christina Landolt pretended to use her baton as a magic wand to engage young audience members.

gin the concert fun for the audience, alongside the musicians. He noted that throughout the concert, Landolt performed magic tricks with various sections of the orchestras.

“[Landolt] told us in advance that she would be doing magic tricks with the strings section, winds section, and obviously, me. During the concert, when she cued the second time, I actually did not see, I didn’t know she wanted me to come in, but she

played it off very smoothly... that type of optimism and attitude was really great for our orchestra,” said Ge.

Last weekend at the Cochran Chapel, the Family Concert featured the Amadeus Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, and Chamber Orchestra, all conducted and directed by Landolt. The reception included several “Harry Potter”-themed treats, such as butterbeer, Hagrid’s rock cakes, chocolate frogs, golden snitches, and more.

“I’ve been wanting to do a family-oriented concert for years and when we discovered this ‘Harry Potter’ arrangement and heard how truly magical the orchestration was, I thought this was the perfect opportunity. I was pleased that other faculty in the department were willing to go on this journey with me for this particular concert. While it was a relatively short concert, watching the audience, especially the young kids, get pulled into the magic of the music was exactly what I had hoped for,” wrote Landolt in an email to *The Phillipian*.

The Family Concert was open to both Andover community members and residents of the town of Andover. Alexandra Booth, Instructor in History and Social Science, attended with her husband and daughter. With this being her first concert in the Chapel since the pandemic, Booth talked about how her family enjoyed this opportunity to hear Andover’s orchestras perform.

“[We] just were basking in the music. It was so incredible, so many talented musicians. On top of just beautiful theatricality on the part of both the musicians and the teachers and the whole event, all the baked goods and sweet treats, the raffle, all of these things just made for such a beautiful community event, and I was really glad to be a part of it,” said Booth.

Because most of the audience members were children, the performers ensured that the concert included interaction with the audience. In the middle of the family-oriented concert for years and when we discovered this ‘Harry Potter’ arrangement and heard how truly magical the orchestration was, I thought this was the perfect opportunity. I was pleased that other faculty in the department were willing to go on this journey with me for this particular concert. While it was a relatively short concert, watching the audience, especially the young kids, get pulled into the magic of the music was exactly what I had hoped for,” wrote Landolt in an email to *The Phillipian*.

“Instead of focusing on [every single note], as we normally would have, we focused more on making the piece more interactive, exaggerating dynamics, exaggerating the articulation, so we focused more on the musical side rather than the technical side... My role as the [gift distributor]... we put [the raffle] in the middle to split up a very long concert and to keep the attention span of the children,” said Hasagawa.

The Symphony Orchestra meets every Tuesday for an hour and a half, and Chamber and Amadeus Orchestras meet on Thursday for the same amount of time. According to Meara Wang '26, a cellist in the Symphony Orchestra, despite the short time between returning from Thanksgiving Break and the concert, the

groups managed to pull together a successful performance.

“Rehearsing takes up a lot of my time. Honestly, I wouldn’t trade it for anything else, though... We have to rehearse every week. It’s been kind of stressful, because we pulled it together kind of quickly, because of break and all that, we’re coming back and doing a performance right away, but it actually went pretty well,” said Wang.

However, preparation for the concert was not free from challenges. Will Lucas '24 recalled a tough decision his group had to make before the concert.

“There was one song in particular that we were supposed to play. But we, unfortunately, weren’t able to pull it all together. It was a really hard piece.... We’ll hopefully be able to play that one at a future concert,” said Lucas.

The theme, the performance, and the overall environment of the students was heavily impacted by the conductor, Landolt, Ge added. Ge emphasized that members of the orchestras were inspired by her efforts to make this family concert unique.

“I think Ms. Landolt did a really good job of making us excited and eager to play, I know that oftentimes having rehearsals at that time of day and it being so late, a lot of people will be tired, I think Ms. Landolt just brought a lot of great energy and overall was very inspiring,” said Ge.

Andover Cheer: An Anticipated Addition to Big Blue Spirit

PIPER LASATER & SOPHIE TUNG

From the energetic Blue Key Heads to dance groups like SLAM, Andover has always found dynamic ways of invigorating the crowds. This year, Irene Ledo '24 wants to provide a fresh take on school spirit. As the founder of Big Blue Cheer, she and her team debuted at the pep rally before the Fall Term’s Andover/Exeter Weekend in an effort to bring cheerleading into the community.

According to Ledo, while the process of creating a new club was difficult, she believed the team’s progress so far has been a result of strong marketing strategies and establishing positive relationships with the rest of the community.

“I wanted to start [Big Blue Cheer] because it felt like we had so many untapped resources that could be pushed towards enhancing our school

spirit.... Initially, the club rally helped get my club started but it was also important... to talk to people in person. I feel that when you make a personal connection with someone, it’s way better and easier to have them put a face behind the club, so I think that word-of-mouth has really helped my club succeed,” said Ledo.

In making good use of their resources, Big Blue Cheer invited Belinda Wolf, a former New England Patriots cheerleader and Andover’s diving coach, to help train the team. As a long-time faculty member at Andover, Wolf commented on how she always wanted to help establish a cheer team, which is why she found Ledo’s club to be a great opportunity.

“I opened up an email from Irene asking me if I would be interested and telling me the mission statement. She also approached Mr. Capano about this idea, and I was so flattered when he asked her to reach out to me... I would be able to

pass on the greatness and my knowledge of cheerleading to the kids. I’m so excited about this. It feels like a dream to me,” said Wolf.

In planning for their first performance, Big Blue Cheer had held practices in the Borden Memorial Gymnasium’s Ballet Studio. Transitioning to the much larger gym for the pep rally was a challenge — it required the cheerleaders to adjust to the different acoustics and size. There was also an additional concern of whether or not the team was going to perform at all. However, club member Natalie Murphy '24 believed that these and other challenges helped the team grow and come together.

“It was challenging to perform at the pep rally because we only practiced in Borden once or twice [beforehand]... The spacing and volume was completely [unknown to us].... [However], we had a lot of good practices and team spirit it right before and it felt like a

sports team getting ready for a big game, it was fun,” said Murphy.

Looking forward, the cheer team has set goals and clear boundaries for themselves to continue performing at the pep rallies and possibly performing at Grasshopper next year. They also aim to make Big Blue Cheer a sport, so that everyone can try out for it and so it can be taken more seriously. In addition to the expansion of the club, Wolf expressed her hopes for development in the club’s gender diversity as well as better addressing the overlap that they have with existing teams.

“I want Andover Cheer to be a team where all genders can cheer. Cheering has usually been exclusive for girls. But it makes me happy to see boys cheering in high school, college, and even NFL cheer teams. Apart from that, I want it to be known that in no way, shape, or form will our team interfere with the great per-



M.MACKINNON/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Irene Ledo '24, founder of Big Blue Cheer.

formances of the school’s Blue Key Heads or SLAM. I will let someone in my team be constantly in touch with the Blue Key Heads because we want to add to their blue spirit, not take it away from them,” said Wolf.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Vintage and Victorian: Exploring Dark Academia With Bellina Zhou '26

PIPER LASATER & SOPHIE TUNG

Reminiscent of Victorian-era fashion, Bellina Zhou '26 embodies a dark academia aesthetic in a muted color palette of comfortable browns and sleek whites and blacks.



A.CHINN/ THE PHILLIPIAN
Transferring to a new school amidst the pandemic, Zhou found fashion to be a great way to express herself.

She dons a tweed plaid jacket over a white dress shirt and knit sweater vest, finishing off her look with a black skirt and black dress shoes with a golden clasp. Zhou discusses how finding her fashion style helped her gain a sense of confidence.

“I think it definitely

changed my confidence in myself and the way that I act around people. I used to be very shy and reserved, but fashion sort of helped bring me out of my shell,” said Zhou.

According to Zhou, her sense of personal style developed in seventh grade. Since she had just switched schools, she felt that clothing was an effective outlet for self-expression, especially with the virtual nature of classes during the pandemic. Zhou reflects on how she wanted to switch up her style and found fashion inspiration on social media.

“It was a different set of people I was meeting and I just wanted to change something. I wasn’t really content with the way I was and I wanted to change something... so [when] I saw some photos of dark academia clothes online or just on Pinterest, I thought, ‘That’s interesting and completely different,’” said Zhou.

A few staple items in Zhou’s wardrobe include her brown sweater vest and white dress shirt. Generally, she acquires her clothing from thrift shops, but sometimes even borrows pieces from her mother’s closet.

“I find a lot of the clothes that I’m wearing are from my

mom or from thrift stores. My mom doesn’t dress exactly the way that I do. I think a lot of the clothes in my closet or that she has sort of influenced me,” said Zhou.

When picking out her outfit for the day, Zhou usually puts emphasis on her tops; she owns a variety of dress shirts, turtlenecks, sweaters, and more. In addition to cycling through habitual outfits, she also enjoys trying out new clothing combinations sometimes.

“I have a bunch of outfits that I have already put together in my mind, like pieces of clothing that go together to form an

outfit that I wear regularly. So usually I’ll pick out one of those to go with, sometimes I like to experiment and do different outfits that I might not wear normally...I wear [my brown sweater vest] pretty regularly. Or this white dress shirt, it goes with basically everything,” said Zhou.

Looking toward the future, Zhou hopes to further diversify her closet. She has also begun to explore sewing, in both creating clothing from scratch and personalizing thrifted pieces through tailoring.

“I hope to keep evolving and keep adding pieces to my wardrobe. I also want to be able to learn to sew my own clothing or take thrifted clothes and be able to adjust them to my own size, which I’ve sort of begun to start doing. Instead of continuing to buy clothes, [I’ll hopefully be] making them in the future,” said Zhou.



A.CHINN/ THE PHILLIPIAN
Zhou particularly values styling tops, from blouses to turtlenecks.

All You Want For Christmas: The Top Five Holiday Songs

REPORTING BY WENDI YING '25

As we all flip our calendars to the second week of December, we officially enter the holiday season. There’s no better way to get into the holiday spirit than listening to some cheery holiday music. This week, The Phillipian interviewed students on their favorite tunes to listen to in December. Be sure to add some of these hits to your own playlist!

GRACIE AZIABOR '26

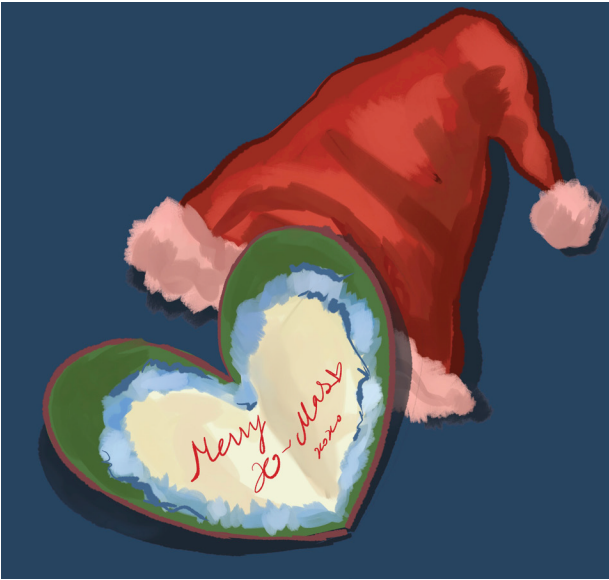
“I would say my favorite Christmas song is probably ‘The Greatest Gift’ by Leroy Sanchez. It’s not a classic one. I personally like more upbeat Christmas music, so it’s kind of a Christmas pop genre. The message is very nice because it talks more about spending time with people that you care about compared to things that you would want for Christmas. So, I think it’s very heartfelt, and it’s very fun to listen to.”



ANH VU/ THE PHILLIPIAN

MICHELLE FANG '24

“‘Santa Tell Me’ by Ariana Grande. I like how the melody is cheerful and Christmas-y but the lyrics are a good take on the Christmas theme. Additionally, Santa does not get enough recognition in Christmas songs even though he’s the main character. Ariana Grande gives him the respect he deserves. Also, the lyrics actually tell a story so that I can visualize the feelings and sad memories.”



ANH VU/ THE PHILLIPIAN

LYDIA MECHEGIA '24

“My favorite Christmas song is ‘The Christmas Song’ by Nat King Cole. It reminds me of many classic Christmas movies and makes me feel so warm and happy. It never fails to get me in the Christmas spirit.”



ANH VU/ THE PHILLIPIAN

NAHILA HUTCHINSON '24

“My favorite Christmas song is ‘Underneath the Tree’ by Kelly Clarkson. I love it, it’s a classic. Some people say that it sounds like a Target commercial song, but it really just gives me that Christmas feeling. Like the twinkling sounds in the beginning, I love it. I can listen to it on repeat.”



ANH VU/ THE PHILLIPIAN

GINNY MARSHALL '25

“My favorite Christmas song is ‘Wonderful Christmastime’ by Paul McCartney. This is a classic Christmas song that wraps the holiday spirit and the holiday feelings up into one beautiful, sparkly, snowy bundle. I enjoy listening to this song with my family, and I love the Beatles, so this really caters to my love for [them]. If you could have a soulmate that’s a song, this would be my soulmate song.”



ANH VU/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Campus is Cookin’: Fall Flavors For a Festive Thanksgiving!

REPORTING BY LANGAN GARRETT

Surrounded by turkey’s fragrant aroma and comfortable chatter permeating the room, family members, friends, and loved ones gather around the dinner table for a lively Thanksgiving experience — with no school or other stressors in sight. Different families all have their own traditions, yet we can all agree on one staple for the holidays: food. This week, The Phillipian wanted to honor those festivities — we interviewed students on what dishes their communities cooked to celebrate Thanksgiving. Make sure to check out their recipes for next year!

NICO VON ECKARTSBERG ’23

“I made this a few times in the past, but I didn’t make it this year. It is a caramel rose apple pie... I think it looks really cool. It tastes much like another apple pie or apple tart that you might make, but I think it’s really fun when it comes out and it looks like a rose... You have to soak the apples in a cinnamon, nutmeg mixture, so they get a lot of that flavor in them... I would maybe say the novelty is what makes it special.”

CARLY HOPKINS ’24

“We made an apple crisp for dessert after the turkey.... We’ve had this recipe in my family for years, and it’s very heartwarming and easy to make. So it was the first dessert I ever learned to bake... [I put] lots of cinnamon and nutmeg, I put way more than the recipe requires, I just dump a lot in there, and then I always like to top it off with vanilla ice cream... I think apples are a very fall flavor, so it contributes to the autumn aesthetic of Thanksgiving.”

SARAH BAE ’26

“I bake [chocolate chip] cookies for my family... I don’t get to bake often because I am at boarding school now.... The cookies are always a hit... I think food is a big part of my family, and we all like to eat... It’s nice because we’ll all usually watch a movie and then have cookies with it... Everyone likes the cookies, so they get appreciated.”



SOLAR LU/ THE PHILLIPIAN



SOLAR LU/ THE PHILLIPIAN

MARGOT FURMAN ’25

“Me and my friends eat [minestrone soup] at my friend’s house on Sunday night for dinner, and it’s really nice and fun, and festive and homey... You have to make sure to add pasta at the end to make sure that the soup doesn’t get too heavy as you are making it. It tastes really nice and fresh afterward... There were a lot of different vegetables in it, which gave it a really nice, rich flavor. I think there were carrots, celery, and beans of some kind.”

EMILY TURNBULL ’24

“[For] our most perennial dish, we make cornbread stuffing and cranberry apple pie.... So, we’ll make the cornbread, and we put in bacon, onions, celery, a bunch of dried fruit [and] dried apricots and cranberries, and then [my grandma] bakes it the next day. I think the cornbread has to have dried apricots, those are so good. And the cranberry apple ribbon pie has a lot of ginger in it. Those are probably the most special ingredients.”

JACOB KAISER ’24

“Every year, we make beef stew around Thanksgiving. It’s a nice, comforting food...[and] a really warm and filling meal... It’s just been a tradition for us for so long, and I can very clearly remember a couple years ago, my grandma made it, and it’s been around in the family since then.... My favorite part [is] chopping up the pancetta. After I chop the pancetta, I fry it, or cook it really lightly and then add it to the stew later. It adds a nice, rich flavor.”

GINNY MARSHALL ’25

“We have a special recipe for a cherry-cranberry pie... It is a tradition that has been passed down in my family for as long as me, my mom, and my grandmother can remember. We’ve been making it since the time that we have been little children. It’s really good, and the flavors are really vibrant and colorful.... The special thing about the pie is that it is really easy to make.”



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