

Update to Club Renewal Process and New Club Hub Aims to Streamline Clubs at Andover

Considerations for Club Renewal

Membership



Meeting Frequency



Recruitment Effort



Faculty Advisor Involvement



NIKI TAVAKOLI & KRISSEY ZHU

As part of a wider effort to organize clubs, Andover is implementing a more detailed club renewal process this year, which will also be coordinated through a new platform, Club Hub. These new systems aim to alleviate several issues surrounding clubs at Andover, including insufficient faculty advisor involvement.

To apply for renewal, clubs must now disclose how often they meet, average meeting attendance, and membership recruitment. The school will also consider the existence of any other similar clubs more critically than in the past before deciding whether or not to accept the club.

Additionally, club advisors are now required to attend at least the first and last meeting of each term, and one additional gathering. Other responsibilities include authorizing any publicity or advertising, such as Instagram posts, fliers, and merchandise and approving all board applications, before they are made available to students and as well as being

J. XIAO/THE PHILLIPIAN
an active participant in selecting new board members.

Christopher Capano, Director of Student Activities, explained the reasoning behind the school's increased selectiveness about granting recognition.

"As we've been learning about clubs, we've learned that there are a lot of them. There might even be too many; they get very specific, so we want to make sure that all the clubs have enough members to make them worthwhile... We've also heard some clubs get started and exist on paper [but] they don't actually do anything... We just want to make sure [clubs] have a process for getting new members and keeping them involved, teaching them how to lead the club after those Seniors move on," said Capano.

Without official backing from the school, clubs will not be able to advertise events on The Weekender or receive funding from the Student Activities Office, according to Capano. However, due to the wide variety of clubs on cam-

Continued on A5, Column 1

Impact Comes Full Circle: Andover Honors First Jewish Chaplain Rabbi Everett Gendler With New Peace Circle

JEANNE KOSCIUSKO -MORIZET & BAILEY XU

Resting beneath swaying pines next to the Cochran Chapel, the newly built Gendler Peace Circle celebrates the legacy of Rabbi Everett Gendler P'83 '86, who served as Andover's first Jewish Chaplain from 1977 to 1995. The school hosted a dedication ceremony on September 20, formally opening the stone monument to the Andover community.

Gendler was a trailblazer both within and outside of Andover. As the Jewish Chaplain and an Instructor in Religion and Philosophy, Gendler fostered community on campus while promoting his values of empathy and compassion. Throughout his life and career, he advocated for civil rights alongside Martin Luther King Jr., pioneered Jewish environmentalism, and promoted nonviolence. Jana Paley '81, who led the initiative to create the monument with Joe Tatelbaum '78, described Gendler's commit-

ment to building human connection.

"[Rabbi Gendler] was really a cultivator of community. He always said to me, 'Big world, small circles, and you have to bring people together in small circles so they can get to know one another, trust one another, get to know who they really are.' I'd like people to remember that about him. Andover is a very special community, and everybody's part of different circles in it, but it all comes together and all weaves together. He was always big on teaching that to all of us," said Paley.

Placed on the grass lawn between Main Street and the Chapel, the Peace Circle offers a space for personal time and student relaxation. The central stone, sourced from Rabbi Gendler's house in the Berkshires, acts as the focal point around which people can sit and gather. Tatelbaum, who designed the circle, explained the meaning and intention behind the monument's unusual shape, highlighting its structure as a way

of promoting community.

"The circle, which is a place for gathering and looking each other in the eye, is also a universal symbol of the sun... It's a circle to be part of, but it's also the sun radiating out. It was always meant to be a place where people could sit together. If people want to have a dialogue, like a class, everybody can sit in a circle around the speaker on the main stone. Let's say you two just want to have lunch: then just go sit next to each other, either on the big stone or on the sides, and you're facing each other, you're not in a row," said Tatelbaum.

Despite having never met Gendler, Rabbi Joshua Greenberg, Andover's current Jewish Chaplain, expressed how the dedication ceremony inspired a closer feeling of connection to Gendler. Greenberg spoke on his expanded awareness of Gendler's lasting influence.

Continued on A5, Column 4



Rabbi Joshua Greenberg along with other speakers dedicated the newly constructed Gendler Peace Circle outside Cochran Chapel in a ceremony.



I. PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

The Rise of Susie's Prices and Fall of BlueCards

ANDREW CAI & SAKETH LINGISETTY

BlueCard will no longer be used as a payment method anywhere on campus, including Susie's. The change to Andover's payment system comes alongside student reports of changed products and price inflation at Susie's.

Andrew Gagnon, Director of Finance and Comptroller, described the reasoning behind the switch from BlueCard to Clover, a payment processing system that accepts major credit and debit cards. Gagnon also explained that the change enables broader compatibility with off-campus venues as well as more convenience with campus transactions.

"The decision to discontinue the BlueCard payment system was driven by a focus on enhanced convenience, broader acceptance, and streamlined operations based on feedback heard from the community. By transitioning to widely accepted debit and credit card payments, students no longer need to reload a campus-specific card to make purchases on campus. This change also improves the technological capability to accept electronic payments through systems like Apple Pay, further enhancing the ease and flexibility of making transactions on campus," said Gagnon.

David Porto '26 voiced his feelings about the switch from BlueCards as a payment method. He expressed his appreciation for the new for



K. MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

One of the new additions to the Den is a new smoothie machine, Smoodi, with each smoothie costing 4.99-6.99 dollars, a change from the previously priced 3.99 dollar smoothies.

removing the required use of BlueCards to make campus purchases.

"[Removing the BlueCard payment system] is more convenient because before if I ever ran out of money on my BlueCard, I needed to either ask my parents or go through refilling it myself, but just having it all like I have my regular card and just paying with that makes it so much simpler and especially since they streamlined the process like using that. It got more convenient," said Porto.

The payment switch means BlueCards are no longer accepted at Susie's, which has undergone its own changes with the disappearance of its smoothie machine and student reports of increased prices. Eric Choi '27 expressed his disapproval of the changes.

"[The price inflation] is

very upsetting. I can feel the money seeping out of my card more and more every day. There used to be these chocolate ice cream cone ends that [Susie's] used to sell, but now the cones are smaller and they somehow cost more, which is absurd," said Choi.

Similarly, Carter Aime '25 noticed these significant price changes for items sold by Susie's. He notably disliked the replacement of the old smoothies with Smoodi, a smoothie product line that is made with whole fruits as well as features reusable bamboo straws and a customized blender.

"[The prices of] a lot of the snacks I normally [got] last year [and] a couple of

Continued on A5, Column 4

Andover Returns to Test-Mandatory Admissions

CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & BAILEY XU

For the first time since Covid-19 broke out in 2020, Andover is returning to a test-mandatory admissions policy. Beginning in Fall 2025, students will be required to submit an SSAT, ISEE, PSAT, SAT, or ACT score. Additionally, Andover has become interview optional and lifted a policy requiring students from certain towns to apply as day students.

Jim Ventre, Assistant Head of School for Admission and Financial Aid, Peter Dignard, Senior Associate Director of Admission, and Jill Thompson, Associate Dean and Director of Admissions, explained several reasons behind this shift to test-mandatory admissions.

"At Andover, standardized test results often accurately predict a student's potential academic success in the first year at Andover as measured by grade point average. Additionally, with worldwide grade inflation, using standardized test results from different schools and regions helps ensure that students are held to the same academic standards in the admission process. Standardized testing also provides valuable data that can be used to identify where Andover may need support," wrote Ventre, Dignard, and Thompson in an email to *The Phillipian*.

In addition, the admissions office has broadened interview options to include in-person interviews, virtual

interviews, and personal video submissions. Through this change, the admissions team aimed to increase application accessibility.

"We strive to provide as many interview options as possible to applicant families so they are able to do what is most accessible to them in order to complete an application to Andover. No one should be prevented from applying because their family cannot make a trip to campus or tune in for a virtual interview," wrote Ventre, Dignard, and Thompson in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Some students disagreed with this new policy. Criticizing standardized tests as a limited metric, Haoyu Zhang '27 argued that these tests do not reflect personal qualities, a factor he believed equally important in an applicant.

"I don't think it's a positive change. In some places, it can be harder to access or study for standardized tests. I get that they're trying to make it equal, but I don't think it says much about a student's personality or how well they'll fit into the school... I don't think [tests] tell anything apart from the fact that the student knows basic information and can study for a test," said Zhang.

Similarly, Aksel Kohler '28 believed that tests fail to capture the full scope of a student's abilities. He expressed that interviews should play a more central role in admis-

Continued on A5, Column 1

Commentary, A2

The Fantasy of Friendships

Melody Oh '27 encourages students to not let the fear of building deep friendship impede the opportunity of meeting new people.

Eighth Page, A8

Relatable Reddit Story

AITA for infertilizing my rival?

Sports, B1

Andover Football Faces Defeat

Football gets devastated with a 38-14 loss, despite having a 14-0 lead in the second half.

Arts, B6

GHop Tryouts Begin

This past weekend marked the beginning of tryouts for the annual Grasshopper talent show.

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Editorial

[AI]²

OpenAI released their newest model, o1-preview, two weeks ago on September 12. According to OpenAI's report, the o1-preview model now performs at a PhD-level in physics, chemistry, and biology. Again, advances in technology bring about change in knowledge, both in how we understand and consume it. Andover is no exception. According to the 2024 State of the Academy (SOTA), 45 percent of respondents have used artificial intelligence for an academic assignment without explicit permission. At the same time, the Course of Study directs students to "assume, unless the instructor explicitly highlights otherwise, that the use of LLMs is prohibited."

Life at Andover is filled with learning. This, paired with Andover students' ambition and innate desire to know, master, and ultimately progress and move on, manifests in a sort of impatience that is defined by the objective to finish assignments as quickly as possible. But while this mindset may be motivating at times, its heavy emphasis on speed and completion leaves many students vulnerable to the tempting efficiency of artificial intelligence (AI), especially in a high-pressure school environment where we are already spread so thin and always chasing after time. After all, if ChatGPT can spit out perfect proofs for the mathematical theorems on my homework in less than 15 seconds, why should I bother with formulating them on my own? Of course I'll read it over, make sure I understand it for the most part, but at the end of the day, the quicker the better. In this sense, our "ambition" is clouded by our obsession with results and checking things off our to-do lists, and we give up our genuine learning to the magnetic pull of an AI that does everything we don't want to do or don't have the time to. On the surface, it may seem like we are gaining time, freedom to invest in other activities. However, this perceived benefit comes at the sacrifice of the invaluable experiences of working through an especially challenging physics problem or dissecting a difficult and convoluted history reading, a kind of suffering of the mind that is conducive, if not necessary, to the development of critical thinking skills, the ability to synthesize and retain information, and a consciousness of the self and how we learn as individuals. If we choose to rely on AI without truly understanding the answers ourselves, without working through them, we are depriving ourselves of the gratification and growth of figuring out something on our own, of emerging victorious after a long and hard battle. The issue of academic integrity presents a nuanced consideration when it comes to AI usage. Andover, like many schools across the country, places academic integrity on one of the highest pedestals of student virtue, as it rightly should. Plagiarism is vehemently condemned, and the beginning of every term sees teachers reviewing academic integrity policies with their students. In both formal writing and real classrooms, Andover instills the value of academic

integrity into our minds and teaches us to disdain academic dishonesty through rhetoric that praises honest engagement while associating all violations, even inadvertent ones, with an air of punishment. And while it is true that AI usage can entail a severe breach of academic integrity in many cases, it is imperative to note that AI is still a continuously evolving technology. In shoving AI and LLMs under the umbrella of academic integrity violations, Andover's policy has the effect of vilifying them, fostering a culture that overlooks the myriad of ways AI can also be used to support and enhance learning, too.

In many cases, the question of whether AI does more harm than good depends on whether the assignment is process- or result-based. For tasks like textbook readings and analytical essays, the purpose is not only to take in the information at surface level, but to learn how to process and interpret it in a way that allows us to grasp its meaning and form our own ideas about it. In these situations where the value of the assignment comes from going through the process of reading and writing ourselves, the use of AI only hinders our own learning. But for result-based homework like looking over instructions in order to prepare for a lab, AI can serve as a potential tool for both aiding comprehension and reducing the time needed to complete the task, provided that we are not leaning on it as a crutch to understand the content.

Often, the appeal of AI to students lies not just in its expertise, but in its accessibility and memory. When we are struggling with a specific chemistry topic or need help memorizing human anatomy for our next biology test, we cannot expect our teachers to be available at all times of the day, ready to spend as much time assisting us as we need. As a study buddy, AI has a convenient on-demand quality that allows us to call on it whenever, and its ability to remember the context of our previous questions increases its effectiveness compared to simply searching online. It can also perform functions such as formulating practice questions or making flashcards that may be tedious or difficult to do on our own in real life. As long as we are resolutely cognizant of our use of AI and ensure that it does not cross the line from aiding our studies to completing our studies for us, its vast array of capabilities does highlight promising benefits to our learning. At Andover, your teachers can provide guidance on how to use AI appropriately.

Changes in artificial intelligence are irreversible and rapidly incoming. With each new model, each iterative improvement, a new paradigm of creation, learning, and development is unlocked. It can harm us and aid us all at once. And as we look towards the future, our understanding of how to harness AI for our benefit, rather than our detriment, remains all the more vital.

This editorial represents the views of The Phillipian, vol. CXLVII.

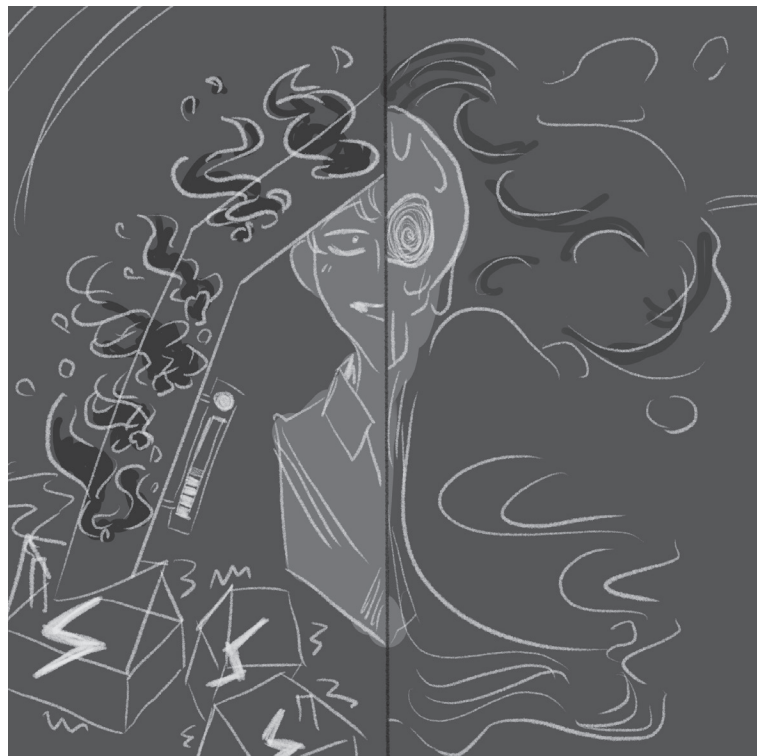
Nuclear Sustainability

LANIA ALI-SVEDSATER



A. TSAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Nuclear energy often elicits negative impressions, rooted in its applications as a burgeoning weapon. Perhaps the most catastrophic instance of human warfare occurred during the 1945 nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, resulting in over 100,000 deaths across both areas. For weaponry purposes, nuclear science poses immense threats to the preservation of humankind, inflicting mass degradation across world powers and citizens alike. Undeniably, the measures taken to prevent nuclear weaponry are justifiable, given the inimical threat of violence they contain. Nevertheless, nuclear energy proves to be the most beneficial form of energy to tackle the climate crisis, and thus strive for a cleaner and more efficient world. Various properties of nuclear energy enable immense benefits for industrialization, as it exceeds the effects of standard energy production by colossal lengths. Nevertheless, the implementation of nuclear energy is often avoided, due to its past associations with violence and turmoil, and there



MARIKA SAITO / THE PHILLIPIAN

are many arguments criticizing the further potential dangers of nuclear systems. The lack of implemented nuclear energy indicates a collective psychological defiance, grounded on its unfavorable connotations alongside a universal human inability to reject the imposition of past dissent. Yet, the incorporation of nuclear energy may be instrumental for the overall preservation of Earth during frequent energy crises and should not be negated solely on the premise of its potential dangers.

In short, nuclear energy relates to the production of energy from an atom's nucleus, which is centralized around two central processes, fusion and fission. Fission refers to the separation of an atom into smaller components, whereas fusion is the merging of lighter atoms to form a single larger one. Nuclear fission is more commonly used in various nuclear power

plants for the production of powerful energy. Upon separation, high amounts of radiation and energy are produced by the atom, which is then quantified by electric generators to produce electricity and other forms of energy. Fusion is less commonly used as it requires immense amounts of pressure to occur, which is difficult to replicate on Earth. Both processes use isotopes, such as uranium and plutonium, to enable high amounts of energy production. While generally associated with warfare, nuclear energy can be manipulated for sustainable electricity production, incorporating greater benefits than standard greenhouse gasses. For example, nuclear energy produces zero emissions, preventing an over-polluted atmosphere harmed by incessant emissions from other greenhouse gasses. For example, the usage of nuclear energy prevented the United States from

acquiring over 471 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions in 2020, which incriminate air qualities and, thus, contribute to the climate crisis. Additionally, nuclear energy has a minuscule footprint compared to other energy sources, producing over 1,000 megawatts energy per one square mile. Nuclear energy also has a greater capacity factor, meaning it does not expend large reliance on external conditions as done by many other intermittent energy sources. As a whole, the benefits of nuclear energy cultivate a portrait of robust industrialization development and encouragement for increased sustainability during the climate crisis.

Yet, despite its countless benefits, nuclear energy is continuously avoided and declared a perpetrator of further safety implications. Alas, all effective science has its dangers, and all works of art have their faults. Essentially, the threats of nuclear energy can be combated given viable safety measures and implemented elements of construction designated to avail public distress. The main implication assigned to nuclear energy is the question of its safety. Various incidents, such as the infamous Chernobyl nuclear failure in 1986, have become preeminent in the minds of skeptics. Nonetheless, studies have inferred the impacts of Chernobyl to be less detrimental than other industrial failures, which had caused death rates nearly 50 times higher than those at Chernobyl. Another avid concern of nuclear energy is nuclear waste, a byproduct of nuclear production that is often stored in large underground facilities. Nuclear waste poses threats due to the potential emission of radioactive particles intrinsic to its composition and, therefore, cannot be

disposed of into the environment. Yet, numerous technological advancements have enabled the effective storage of nuclear waste, as well as the possibility of recycled waste for further nuclear production. For example, Finland stores its nuclear waste in a bedrock repository, containing the waste with alloys and clay that are useful to prevent any of the waste from escaping, thus diminishing any health threats to humankind.

The final criticism of nuclear energy derives from capital intensity, as its numerous benefits convey a hefty price for energy production. In truth, nuclear energy is indeed highly expensive in terms of construction but proves cost-effective during its later operation and maintenance. Substantially, nuclear energy is an immensely valuable solution for the climate crisis, acting as an indicator of growth, development, and enhancement for a more renewable world. Industrialization can only grow with the permittance of unconventional sources of energy and must prioritize the statistics for success over infringing psychological preconceived notions. Despite its collective distrust and avoidance, nuclear energy must be assessed from a holistic view of all its benefits and relevant properties, as opposed to its mere implications of safety. In turn, nuclear energy may act as a verifiable tool for climate repose, with innumerable impacts on the development of renewable energy and technology for modern industrialization.

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CORRECTIONS:

In the Sports section, the Boys Water Polo roster should have included Hugo Appen, Carlos Felipe, Ian Kim, Enrique Mercado, Simba Xiong, Dean Vaitos, Alex Ren, Benjamin Levchin, Daniel Liu.



Division Caused by Politics

WINSTON WALL '25

Social media hyperbolizes and takes everything to the extreme. I remember when Kamala Harris was doing a talk right after Biden quit about coconuts, which was supposed to be a story about her mom and it was a good story but [the coconut part] was cropped and it became a meme. This meme took away her power and the meaning and her ability to control an audience. That is a good example of how people assume things just from the little extremities that have been pulled out by social media. Also, it has become harder to find good information about political sources. Overall, politics have made people unified more because I feel like America is generally anti-Trump either because of the crazy things he says about immigrants or the Mexican border. With the diversity of people in America, more people have been able to unite against Trump's outlandish [statements]. There is still a threat to political discourse through people being ignorant to new points of view due to the polarizing things they see online.

SERAFINA SHIN-VON NORDENFLYCHT '25

Most of all, what I struggle with in division is the prevalence of cancel culture and unproductive politics. Rather than discussion and discourse, much of politics has become about technicalities or popularity. In this way, democracy suffers from a reductionist view of policy. Yet, contradictory to this is the expansive language of cancel culture developed on both extremes of the political spectrum. Rather than understanding that people hold their own views and opinions, people attack a person for these beliefs. Rather than creating a sense of unity, this drives a wider divide between people of the same political leaning and erases any chance of discussion or middle ground. So much of politics is either red or blue, that people forget nuance and the importance of actually educating yourself on candidates and platforms.

KAYLA LYONS '28

People are very divided based on their ideas. I don't think our country's collapsing, but based on the current issues, such as the war in Israel, and economic issues, we're focusing too much on the other side but not on each other, more pressing issues. Political divisions are separating us and not these issues. We focus too much on parties rather than helping each other. People all have issues and those who are more fortunate should be focused on helping the less fortunate. Especially people in need or people who need support.

LISA DE BOER '26

The biggest problem in the U.S. is that the political system has only two parties which eliminates any nuanced opinions that people might have. Because of this, it's much easier to categorize people into one side or the other. It's also much more difficult to be able to find any ground because you automatically assume that the other side is directly opposed to everything you believe in which causes a lot of division.

We Can Do Better Than the Death Penalty

SHLOAK SHAH



A. TSAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Last Friday, the state of South Carolina executed someone for the first time in 13 years. Freddie Owens was killed a quarter of a century after his initial sentencing and days after a key witness retracted the testimony that helped to incriminate him. This Tuesday, the state of Missouri did the same, killing Marcellus Williams despite a lack of conclusive evidence in his case. Our federal and state governments are unacceptably unbothered by the prospect of murdering conceivably innocent citizens. And despite a stronger-than-ever majority of the Democratic Party opposing capital punishment, the Democratic National Committee's 2024 platform was the first in over a decade not to propose the abolition of the barbaric practice. Capital punishment is ineffective, inhumane, and rooted in injustice — and we must pressure our governments to do better.

First and foremost, capital punishment has been unjust from its roots. The majority of Americans agree that the death penalty has unfairly been used against Americans of color more than white Americans — even in cases when the crimes in question are the same. Moreover, there is no proof of wrongdoing conclusive enough for the government to take the risk of killing an innocent citizen. Time and time again, supposedly airtight murder cases have revealed



GEMMA PARK / THE PHILLIPIAN

more complex truths — in some cases, too late to save the lives of those murdered by their governments. In fact, a staggering four percent of Americans currently on death row are likely innocent. No government should have the power to murder those it is sworn to protect without sufficient evidence, and history has shown us that no amount of evidence is sufficient enough to ensure no innocent person loses their life. One might argue that a strong burden of proof could prevent innocent people from losing their lives but that burden of proof is already in place, and it clearly is not working. Additionally, imprisoning a murderer for life saves just as many innocent Americans as putting them to death might. As a matter of fact, life imprisonment has the unique ability to save more innocent lives than capital punishment: that of the wrongly convicted. Thus, the death penalty is rooted in bias and, by its very nature, cannot eliminate the possibility of injustice that costs a human life.

The death penalty is also an ineffective means of criminal

No government should have the power to murder those it is sworn to protect without sufficient evidence, and history has shown us that no amount of evidence is sufficient enough to ensure no innocent person loses their life.

justice. If a government wants to achieve the maximum amount of justice for the greatest number of its citizens, it must first go about reducing the number of them affected by crime to begin with — and thus, preventing crime. However, the idea that capital punishment will reduce violent crime more than life imprisonment relies on the rather precarious assumption that violent criminals are in a state to evaluate their actions logically. Furthermore, studies have

shown that states where the death penalty is enforced are not more successful at deterring violent crime. Capital punishment is also inefficient; relatively “humane” executions in the United States of America are so prohibitively expensive that it is cheaper to keep death row inmates alive. Executing Americans — even those who are guilty of heinous crimes — does not make us any safer than life imprisonment, and it inevitably comes with an immeasurable cost to human life. The death penalty does not create more justice. Incarceration might, but it has a long way to go before preventing enough crime to create the maximum justice — but it is indisputably superior to the potential for state-sanctioned murder. Effective, forward-looking solutions — real justice — must entail confronting the social and environmental root causes of crime. We know how to reduce violent crime (after all, the nation has been doing it consistently over the last few decades), and it is not through capital punishment.

Finally, the death penalty is simply inhumane. Lethal injection,

the only form of execution legal in all death-penalty states, has been found to cause fluid buildup in executed inmates' lungs, suggesting they experienced a drowning sensation. Other methods of execution — which inmates are sometimes forced to opt for when states are unable to obtain lethal injections — have been criticized as even less humane. In recent years as well as in the past, botched executions and substandard lethal chemicals have led to unnecessarily cruel exercises of the law. Many have criticized these methods of punishment for violating the Bill of Rights, which is supposed to protect Americans from cruel and unusual punishments, and the methods used to execute prisoners are clear examples of this. Even in scenarios where the convicted are guilty of murder or a similarly heinous act, it is wrong for governments to employ unnecessary cruelty, because eye-for-an-eye barbarity is not the point of the justice system. That is not how you create the most justice for the most people.

The death penalty is an unjust, ineffective, and inhumane form of punishment born out of the archaic notion that punitive justice is the most moral choice, and therefore preferable to its alternatives. But capital punishment is not making our communities any safer. The best evidence we have indicates that it ends more innocent lives than it saves. Though many states have made strides in ending the death penalty, the fight is far from over. It is past time that this nation's political forces — and the everyday voters behind them — leave the barbaric ideas informing today's justice system and work towards a fairer, more effective, and kinder vision for justice.

Shloak Shah is an Upper from San Francisco, Calif. Contact the author at sshah@andover.edu.

On the Kinship of Humility and Confidence

GRACE KIM



J. CARMONA / THE PHILLIPIAN

The first time I went to a Korean school was in fourth grade. As I, with my toothy smile and loud laugh, first stood in front of my peers, I felt their curiosity. I didn't know at the time but Koreans value limits — to contain themselves within their own limbs and make sure to never impede upon other's spaces. So, to these kids, I was one of the first people to be so outrageously free. At first, they seemed amused by my antics, but once they started asking me about myself and I continued sharing, the even scarce chance I had of making friends disappeared. I accidentally broke the first rule of Korean society: you must always be humble. However, I did not stay friendless forever. After much trial and error in that school, I did manage to become adept at speaking the unspoken language of Korean society, but in the process, I started to equate the act of being humble with bringing myself down, making myself a practitioner of the wrong kind of humility.

The main reason why this type of humility was detrimental to me was because constantly placing myself down engrained a sense of low self-esteem in me. In my skewed perception, being humble meant putting yourself down to uplift others. Which in turn had

various side effects, especially on my self-confidence. Humans are programmed to believe what they say, and because I spoke so lowly about myself in a majority of my conversations, my brain started to perceive myself in a negative light. Another side effect was on my social life. As I lost my self-esteem and confidence, I started to lose my friends and instead attracted the wrong type of people who wanted to take advantage of my insecurities. These two factors combined manifested in the form of imposter syndrome for me. As the instances where I tried to diminish myself increased, I began to question my worth. Soon enough, I began to feel insecure, thinking that I was not talented enough to be among my peers. However, as I did not understand the root cause of my lack of self-worth, I continued to belittle myself in an effort to be liked. I didn't realize at the time that this act of self-depreciation was far from humility and was closer to narcissism in the sense that it centers the world around you as you fixate on yourself rather than on others.

Instead of focusing my energy on degrading myself in an effort to appear humble, I focused on uplifting whoever I was interacting with.

It took a long time for me to get out of this cycle. However, by surrounding myself with a strong support system, I realized that I didn't need to practice such excessive humility to be liked. I also learned that there is a fine line between humility that helps you and one that is detrimental to you. The way that I have prevented myself from falling over that line again is by restructuring the way I per-



ANGELA GUO / THE PHILLIPIAN

ceive humility. Rather than thinking of it as bringing myself down, I started viewing humility as uplifting others and myself.

At its core, the reason humility is seen as such an important characteristic is because humble people acknowledge that they are not perfect, thus always strive to respect others and be open to opportunities to learn. In other words, humility causes people to have a good attitude towards everything and everyone. Thus, instead of focusing my energy on degrading myself in an effort to appear humble, I focused on uplifting whoever I was interacting with

— acknowledging their achievements and appreciating the little things that might go unnoticed. Additionally, I made an effort to be open to feedback and seek opportunities to grow. I openly started asking people for help when I needed it and engaged in conversations with my teachers whenever I felt like there were areas that I could improve upon. I ultimately became more open about my weaknesses, not seeking to hide them but rather seeking help to overcome them. Finally, I acknowledged that I am simply a component of a puzzle. Whether it is my family or Andover or this

country, I am simply just one piece of the intricate puzzle that connects everyone together. Therefore, I decentered myself from my perspective and began to try focusing on others, striving to play a positive role in my community.

Humility can serve as a great strength if practiced to the right degree. Therefore, it is vital to find the right balance so that it can serve as a beneficial means to both you and the people around you.

Grace Kim is a Lower from Seoul, South Korea. Contact the author at gkim27@andover.edu.

Fantasy for Deep Friendships

MELODY OH

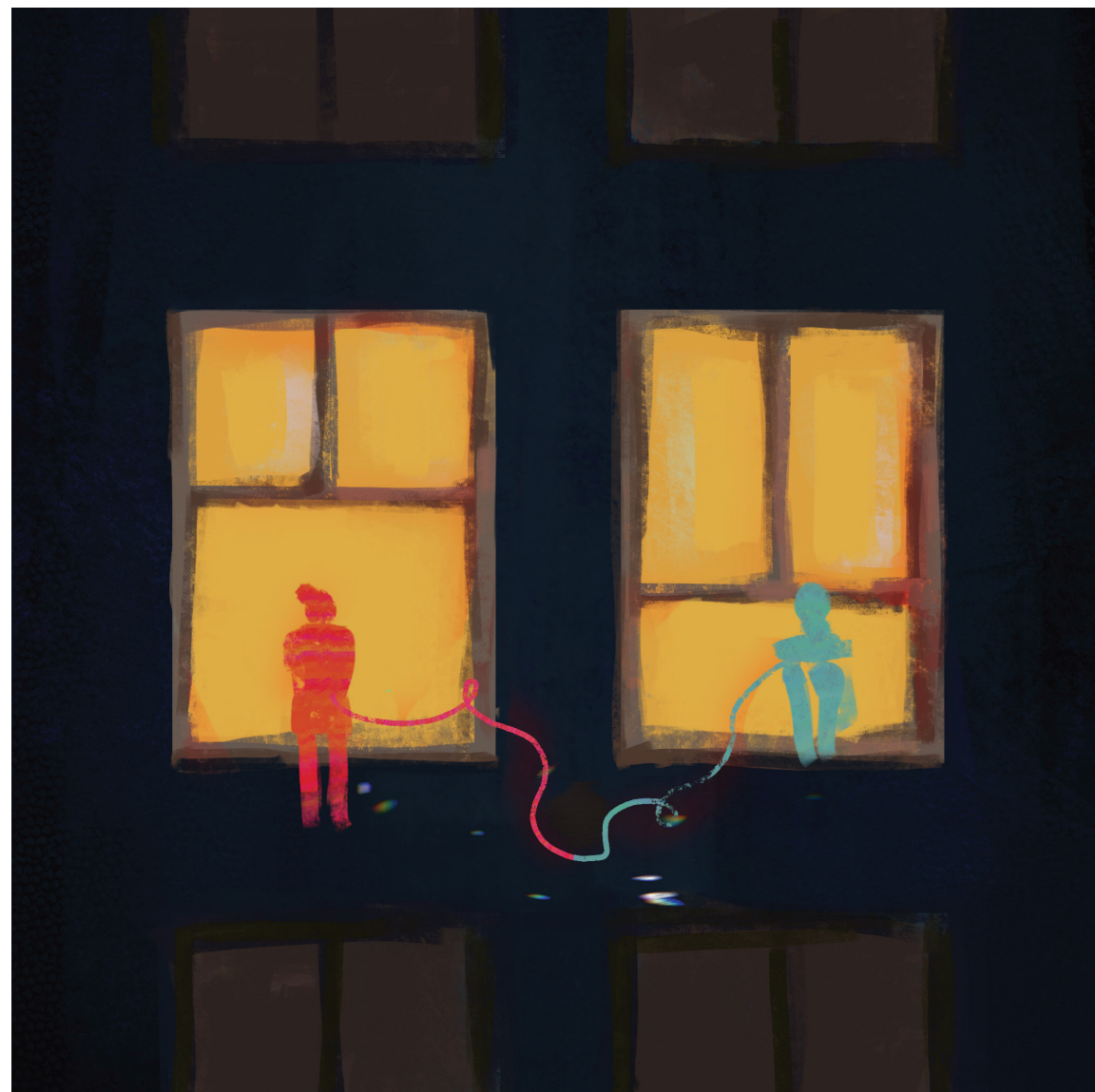


S. VIRMANI / THE PHILLIPIAN

Almost all the movies and TV shows I have watched feature a pair or trio of best friends. They would go to school, hang out during the weekends, and de-stress collectively by pulling the craziest sleepover. Sure, they often had arguments. But those crises only strengthened their bond into something greater: soulmates, the best of the best friends whom you can trust, be sincere and authentic, and have unlimited fun together.

I desperately wanted to have the relationships I saw in the media, which came across to me as so appealing and dreamlike.

Throughout my early teenage years, I was in a constant search for my soulmates-to-be. I desperately wanted to have the relationships I saw in the media, which came across to me as so appealing and dreamlike. Imagine having an extended version of your family at your school: your people whom you can confidently put your trust in. They will cry with you when you are sad, share the joyful moments, and care for you as if you were their own family. Finding my



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soulmates was one of my biggest fantasies in middle school up until my first year at Andover.

Since all the movie characters found their besties so early on in their lives, it didn't occur to me that it's a miraculous fortune of your lifetime to find your soul mates. I didn't know that most people wait decades to find their soul mates and that some people don't ever find those kinds of relationships at all. Unaware of the scarceness of such findings, I set a high threshold for defining who could be my true "friends."

Since my expectations were unreasonably high, my utmost source of stress in my first year at Andover came from making

friends. I often felt stressed or doubtful since it felt as if I was floating around, not docked to an intimate friend group. Of course, I did make a number of friends whom I ate lunch, studied, and enjoyed the Weekender events with. All of them were so kind, approachable, and funny that I still loved being around them. My main problem with making friends was the insecurity that I wasn't always with my friends, that sometimes I didn't have people to go to Paresky Commons to eat dinner with, and that I was falling behind when everyone already began making their firm and deep friendships.

What I want to highlight is not that we don't need deep relation-

ships, but that we don't need to be afraid or feel deprived because our relationships feel relatively "weak" compared to the ones we see in the media. It's common that we desire to have people whom we can depend on and in a boarding school setting. Away from my family, I, too, had felt an urge to find and hold on to a sense of intimacy. It's hard to be alone. It's exhausting when you're floating around in constant anticipation for the moment you can finally land at a place made just for you. But as all unripe fruits eventually burst into full colors, so do your relationships. What matters more is for you to take the time to cul-

tivate the crux of deep relationships: individual independence.

At this stage of life, it's crucial that we prioritize exploring who we are, what we like, what we don't like, and who we want to be around so that we have grounded the foundation for our identity. Finding your soul must come first before you find your soulmate. Without the necessary muscles for standing up by yourself, you and your soulmates aren't capable of supporting each other. Identity and self-reliance is essential in building a healthy and trustful friendship — one that is receptive but not impressionable, authentic while having boundaries.

Time will bring your soulmates to you.

On a similar note, we shouldn't limit ourselves from meeting diverse people and experiencing different opportunities just because we feel the need to develop deep relationships. Throughout the course of your life, you will make myriads of relationships of unique, incomparable values. As intimate as best friends sound like, there are also the ebbs and flows in the intimacy of each relationship. With the ebbing of one relationship may come the flow of another. A catalyst for new relationships resides almost everywhere — your classes, clubs, lunch period, dorm, or just simply a common interest or favorite study spot on campus.

Building identity takes time because it's a process of trial and error. You never know when or where you'll find the people you truly resonate with. So approach all relationships with patience and mindfulness. Time will bring your soulmates to you.

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Club Renewal Process Reform

Continued from A1, Column 2

pus, there will not be a rigid standard or specific numeric targets each club must meet. Capano illustrated his thought process when evaluating clubs through two examples: a very small club that meets regularly and a club that meets infrequently but has large turnout when they do.

“We’d want to ask ‘Why is the [first] club so small? Are they trying to reach out to students to try and find new members? Are they being inclusive and welcoming?’ If not, that might be a problem. There is nothing inherently ‘wrong’ with a small dedicated group depending on why,” wrote Capano in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Capano continued, “In the other case, I think I’d want to inquire why they meet so infrequently if it seems to be very popular. Would it make sense to meet more often? Is there a reason keeping them from meeting more often? We will do our best to look at all the factors and then decide what is the best way to proceed.”

Some students believe the new system puts more pressure on smaller clubs. Though Zadie Robinson ’26 supported the requirements overall, she expressed how the new requirements may have some adverse effects on how small

clubs approach recruiting new members.

“For a lot of smaller clubs it puts a lot of pressure [on them] to be at the top. It’s almost like they have to compete over other clubs. It could get very competitive with that aspect... Clubs can be very self-critical about the numbers, or a lot of people overthink the number of people at their meetings, but I do think the quality of the meetings [really matter]... [but] I feel as though having a very set list of requirements and questions that the club has to go through is very helpful,” said Robinson.

Nathan Ramani ’27, who is currently working on establishing a new club, Andover Service Initiative, conveyed concerns about whether clubs at Andover are able to withstand the extra strain of meeting requirements. Ramani shared his perspective on how this system can create difficulty for students who want to start clubs.

“The most appealing aspect when I applied [to Andover] was [that] everyone could make a club. We don’t need to get permission from a teacher. If you want to make a club, you can make it with very few strings attached. Now, I feel like it’s a lot more difficult to do that... You have to go through this long process, you need to have a lot of members show up to be considered a club, you need to talk to a lot of people. Overall, it is going to

hurt the club community,” said Ramani.

However, other students approved of further regulation of the club scene to ensure that a club is meaningful and active. Sophia Tabibian ’26, Co-Founder of Launchpad, a club that consistently meets multiple times a week, noted that the system has potential to change Andover’s mindset on clubs.

“We need to be building initiatives and investing our time into things that actually address the needs of students. There are a lot of made up clubs that might look good on paper, but are they meeting? Are they having real impacts on students’ lives? That’s another question I think the system will answer... We need to start a new quota where these clubs are active, where they are on top of their things, and they’re actually dynamic, and they’re making an effort to move forward,” said Tabibian.

In December, clubs will be expected to provide status reports approved by advisors, including and not limited to attendance rosters, meeting agendas, and photos of events. Clubs that do not fulfill expectations and have low membership or attendance are instructed to use the remainder of the year to reconcile short-comings in preparation for club renewal next spring.

Susie’s ‘Den’ Faces Critiques on Items and Pricing

Continued from A1, Column 3

years ago have definitely gone up. So it’s hard on my pockets... I don’t really like the new smoothies. I like the old smoothies [because] they had a lot more sugar. I’d probably suggest maybe [that Susie’s] just [have] cheaper snacks, because sometimes when I get multiple snacks, the price does run up,” said Aime.

Alessandra Woo ’27 stated that while Susie’s does have good products, it would be beneficial and more feasible for students if Susie’s kept these products and decreased their prices.

“One time I went to [Susie’s] and there was this nice pho thing in an instant noodle cup. It was good, but I didn’t seem to find it after that. I don’t know if it’s there now, but it was really good. If I had to change anything, I would make things cheaper. That would benefit the welfare of all the students. I think there should be more food options

too, preferably meals down there because Commons is not it,” said Woo.

Karen VanAvery, Director of Food Services, commented on student concerns on item selection, explaining the process used to decide which products will show up in Susie’s. She also specified factors that go into the pricing of items.

“Changes to food and drink items in [Susie’s] stem from many factors, including supply chain availability and seasonal availability. [Susie’s] adjusts its menu to align with current trends and to offer fresh selections for our community. We also rotate in new items, when possible, based on student requests. For example, just this week based on student requests, [Susie’s] brought in Boba Tea and Bare-Bells protein bars. Pricing is then based on cost of product, shipping, fees, and comparable regional market pricing,” VanAvery wrote in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Students Reflect on the Gendler Peace Circle, Highlighting Significance

Continued from A1, Column 5

“I learned about Rabbi Everett Gendler because I’m a rabbi, and my teachers were his friends or his colleagues. I knew there was a connection to PA., but I didn’t feel as connected to him as a chaplain at Phillips Academy as much as I felt connected to him as a Jew, as a Rabbi... In the lead up to this past Friday and certainly after it, it’s very, very, very easy to see his impact here. I feel much more aware of his presence on campus, [how he] paved the way for the current iteration of the chaplaincy that we have now,” said Greenberg.

The circle, as a symbol of connection and community, reflects the strong network of people Gendler cultivated throughout his life. Miklosh Frusztajer ’26 highlighted the significance of this dedication and his appreciation for being able to feel touched by Gendler’s impact.

“I was really lucky that his circle was able to reach me. It’s a testament to his character that he was able to keep such a network of people

around him, and the circle is a very fitting representation of that. Also, people were saying these sorts of contributions are usually reserved for former heads of school... Rabbi Gendler was certainly impactful enough to so many people to merit a contribution of this scale,” said Frusztajer.

Another speaker at the dedication ceremony, Ella Kowal ’25, President of the Jewish Student Union, thanked Gendler for shaping Andover into a home away from home for Jewish students. To pass his legacy on, she hopes that the circle will inspire students to explore his story and values.

“There has to be some way to project his values onto more people, rather than just the small community that might still know his name... My hope is that people will walk by the circle and ask themselves, ‘What’s this? Why is he here?’ and search for the story. In finding that story, they will gain all these values that were so important to Rabbi Gendler,” said Kowal.

Mixed Responses to New Andover Admission Testing Policy

Continued from A1, Column 5

sions, as they provide a clearer picture of an applicant’s character beyond academic performance.

“Interviews should be mandatory because they give a chance for admissions to see who you really are beyond grades. It’s an interview. It’s a way for them to assess your personality. Tests shouldn’t be mandatory because they measure something different, even though not everyone is good at tests,” said Kohler.

Eliza Francis ’26 recognized that going test-mandatory could increase the efficiency of the admissions process. However, she noted that this change can dissuade potential applicants who lack the time or resources to prepare for standardized tests.

“My decision to apply to [Phillips Academy] was somewhat on a whim, and requirements such as standardized tests make that more difficult.

[The admissions officers] are somewhat limiting their applicants. That’s not inherently bad. I’m sure they get an excessive amount of applicants anyway, so that may help eliminate some steps for admissions because I imagine they’re quite busy, but I do think that it probably discourages some people because not everyone has the time to study or the money to hire tutors,” said Francis.

Responding to concerns around the equity of standardized testing, Ventre, Dignard, and Thompson stress the admission office’s commitment to evaluating each application holistically.

“Andover’s admission team knows the limitations of standardized testing. To understand those limitations is to understand the inequities that persist across the world of education. In knowing and accounting for these limitations, the admission committee strives to interpret an applicant’s standardized [testing] within the context of

their entire application in our holistic review process. We are confident in our team’s ability to interpret each applicant’s standardized test score in a way that is both fair to our process and to each individual student,” wrote Ventre, Dignard, and Thompson in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Biweekly ASMs Aim to Keep Students Engaged and Prioritize Quality of Speakers

JENNA LIANG & SAKETH LINGISETTY

For the 2024-2025 school year, students will now gather for All-School Meetings (ASM) every other week in a new effort to prioritize quality speakers and improve student engagement. This new system has now returned to the old schedule implemented in the 2021-2022 school year, after changes that led ASMs to alternate between Thursday and Friday every other week in the 2022-2023 school year before every Friday in the 2023-24 school year.

Last year, the switch to weekly ASM was intended to cultivate community and bring the student body together. Merrilee Mardon, Deputy Head of School, noted that while the meetings united Andover, the schedule also had its pitfalls.

“The positives [of weekly ASM] is that it is so great to get the whole school together every week because it’s a wonderful school. It’s so nice to hear the great questions from students. There were these moments that were really beautiful, and the whole school’s together. It’s also

true that on Friday, students might be coming from two long blocks in a row, and ASM is right before lunch, not every seat is awesome, and not all the acoustics are awesome. Sometimes things did not go that well,” said Mardon.

2024-2025 Student Body Co-President, Nate Liang ’25 elaborated on student feedback that pushed for the change in the ASM system. When ASM isn’t meeting, Liang explained that popular events will improve student engagement, helping the selected speakers reach the Andover community more effectively.

“When people came in to talk about their views, a main theme that came up was that the level of engagement in traditional ASMs just wasn’t there anymore. We know that a lot of people were really excited about Snooze the Blues activities from last winter so we sort of just wanted to build on that kind of hype... to keep student engagement generally at a high this year,” said Liang.

Henry Zimmerman ’27 reflected on how this biweekly format will allow for more student attentiveness at ASM and provide room for community-building initiatives every

non-ASM week. He also recognized that it will take time to evaluate the new format and determine the success of the new system.

“The changes to ASM provide a space where students are more engaged at least every other week. And then when they do come to ASM every other week, they are more receptive to the amazing lineup of speakers we have. On days that aren’t [ASMs], there are many opportunities for community building and more targeted initiatives [that were] previously lacking in scheduled time,” said Zimmerman.

Reflecting on how the new ASM system has changed her scheduling, Star Nunez ’26 commented on how the biweekly ASMs have the potential to provide students with more time. Nunez also commented on the diversity of the speakers and the importance of a theme.

“[Andover] should just give the whole block off, [then] I would have the opportunity to be more productive. It could be protected time or another Conference period. That would help a lot. [They also] need to diversify their speakers, and have a better plan in regards to how they

will connect with each other throughout the entire year,” said Nunez.

Nunez’s sentiment about diversifying speakers is shared by many Andover students. Last year’s State of the Academy found that 43.7 percent of students do not believe Andover promotes ideological diversity in its selection of speakers. With the 2024 elections coming up, learning how to navigate a politically charged climate is essential for Andover students. With this in mind, Mardon explained that biweekly ASMs will incorporate speakers aimed to improve political discourse on campus.

“One of the things we are trying to do this fall is focus on the skills we want students to have. We want to give students the ability to be independent thinkers, make their own decisions, and have respectful conversations with other people. We should lean into helping them find and discern information. For example, Mr. [Leon] Calleja, [English Department Chair], and Neil Siegel, a Duke law professor, are going to look at the Constitution,” said Mardon.

The switch will also allow for students to have more input

in ASMs. Saraya Angbazo ’25, the other 2024-2025 Student Body Co-President, noted how the incorporation of student interests in ASM planning will increase engagement.

“A lot of student clubs on campus... have a type of input into what speakers are selected. I know, that for MOSAIC [Andover’s mixed-heritage affinity group], we’ve already selected a speaker in January. The first day when we come back in 2025 will be for Mixed Heritage Awareness Week. With this higher exclusivity of who gets selected to come to speak at ASM it’s having a positive effect on leaning more onto student clubs, [and] into what speakers will come and talk to our student population,” said Angbazo.

Liang continued, “Because this year is an election year, the school is inviting more speakers to discuss political topics. Hopefully this will increase engagement across the student body and help inform students on relevant issues.”

Editor’s note: Nate Liang is a Digital Editor for The Phillipian.

10 Questions With Tamara Elliott Rogers AA '70

REPORTING BY SAKETH LINGISETTY & PRISHA SHIVANI

Tamara Elliott Rogers '70 is a Charter Trustee at Phillips Academy and has had an extensive career in alumni relations and fundraising at her alma mater, Harvard College. She currently holds a number of volunteering roles, including Dean's Advisory Group for the Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Advisory Board of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the board of the Cambridge Public Library Foundation. In her free time, Rogers enjoys visiting art museums, reading for pleasure, and walking in cities.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

You joined Abbot Academy as a New Upper. What drew you to Abbot Academy for your last two years?

I attended public schools in Lowell through tenth grade. In tenth grade, my parents said I could go to a private school, but I couldn't live away from home, so it was their idea. [Attending Abbot Academy] was because I was a total nerd, and all I did was read and ask for more work and ask for more reading. A couple of cousins had gone to [Northfield] Mount Hermon so they knew about the schools, and the most local to Lowell was Abbot [Academy]. It was quite by chance. My parents had offered the opportunity, and I got in, and there I was.

What was one of your most memorable experiences at Abbot? Did you remember a teacher that was specifically memorable?

It was the whole experience of just working with teachers who were so caring, and who offered to make suggestions about additional things to read, who took an interest in me as a person, who encouraged me academically and intellectually. That whole experience was really compelling... [One teacher,] Ms. St. Pierre, she was an English teacher. She was very beloved, and she became beloved in Andover. We shared a specific interest in "Alice and Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass," which even much later in our lives we went to see a film about Lew-

is Carroll and the books together, well after Abbot and college. Also, the college counselor, Marion Finbury, was very encouraging and asked me to set my sights higher than I ever thought possible.

What were your thoughts when you first heard about the merger of Phillips Academy and Abbot, and have your thoughts changed since then?

I was a little sad because Abbot was small and intimate, and it had meant so much to me. But I did not have the intense reaction that some people have of intense loss. Maybe it's because I didn't live there, I didn't board there, I didn't have all my meals there. It was '73, so I was in college at the time. I was cognizant that there were a lot of opportunities at Andover that Abbot could not offer. Andover was larger, it was better endowed financially. I had hoped, and this proved to be true, that it would educate more girls than Abbot could. I had a sense of sadness and loss, but not anything that was so profound that I thought this was terrible. I thought it would probably open up opportunities.

Who or what inspired you to take up the various volunteer roles you hold at Phillips Academy?

I had a call out of the blue sky from someone in the alumni office sometime in the '90s, probably around '95 or something, just asking if I wanted to become a part of alumni counsel. It hadn't occurred to me, because in a way I thought my school was gone. I knew about Andover, but I didn't have any sense of how that could be inclusive of me personally, and I didn't think about it. I thought, 'Yes, my work at Harvard was all about alumni, giving, participation, events, and volunteer work.' I also thought I owed Abbot a

lot, and I could never pay it back because Abbot wasn't there. It would be a great way to do something for the school, so I stepped in and I loved it, and I just kept it up.

How has your role as Abbot as President of the Abbot Academy Association shaped your career as a whole?

That was way back, and the Abbot Academy Association, which is now called the Abbot Academy Fund, was a funding organization. It was very interesting for me because I had always been on the side of soliciting money, asking for money, trying to inspire people to give. The Abbot Association was giving grants, and so to be able to be on that side, looking at and evaluating proposals and suggestions from faculty and students, was very fascinating intellectually. It also enabled me to learn more about the school, and I'm a junkie for learning about schools: private schools, public schools, universities, colleges, I just find it so interesting. It informed me generally about the foundation side.

What inspired you to major in the History and Literature of England? Could you tell us what was most memorable to you about this subject?

I always loved literature. As I mentioned, I was in love with "Alice and Wonderland." I thought I could live in a place where everyone spoke in poetry and you saw all sorts of weird things. From the time I was really small, I loved literature, and I really liked history, and I think it's because of its narrative. Both history and literature are narratives. My entire career has been about people's narratives. In admissions, you're looking at essays people write, doing interviews, understanding them, getting to know them, thinking about them. In

fundraising, interestingly, it's the same thing. You're thinking about what might motivate someone to be interested in supporting students, faculty, or research, so it was the narrative piece. The literature was a natural love. The history part informs the literature in a way, and also I had some wonderful professors at Harvard who had us read original historic material. I just learned so much about how things are interpreted differently over time.

Out of all of the roles and occupations you have held in alumni relations and fundraising, do you have a favorite?

I really loved admissions, because I just learned about so many students all across the world: about their motivations and what inspired them. People would sometimes say, 'Don't you feel bad because so few students are actually admitted to Harvard?' The answer is no, because they'll go somewhere else, and there are so many wonderful colleges. It gives you hope for the future when you see students like you and your classmates, and others, and realize they'll be populating many colleges and universities, and then, they'll be populating the world. It's hard to feel hopeless, even in the face of tough things, when you see a younger generation. It's hard to pick out one thing that I like best, but there is something about students that is very inspiring.

Looking back on your career and experiences, what would you say is your proudest accomplishment to date?

It's not a single accomplishment, but when I retired, I got a lot of letters. Even later in my career I got emails and notes from younger people who worked with me, and women who felt I influenced their career. Seeing

students, I've read their applications and maybe come to know them. It was seeing the longevity of the work, and feeling that there was a positive influence, just as other people had a positive influence on me. That was so meaningful to me. It wasn't a single thing. Although I must say, when we finished the Harvard Campaign at that very large number, it certainly felt pretty good, but it didn't have the same sort of emotional feeling.

Outside of your work and career, what do you like to do in your free time?

My husband and I love art museums and we belong to a lot of art museums, and so we just go and look at art a lot. I obviously read a lot. I do have a lot of volunteer work that does take time, and I love city walking. I walk for miles and miles in Cambridge and Boston, and I never get tired of walking in cities. I'm also on volunteer boards in addition to Andover's.

Is there still a place in the world that you would want to visit?

I would love to go back to India. It was fascinating. It was both the most foreign and familiar place I've ever been. It's familiar because it looks just like what you see in the media, on televisions, in literature, in paintings. It looks exactly like that, and it's a utterly foreign country. It has this effect that's so profound; you see things that look so real, as if you know them but you know nothing and you have to learn. I really adored that. There are probably other places I'd like to go that I haven't been. I haven't been to Ireland, and yet I love Irish Literature. But I've been to many countries, so I've been extremely blessed.

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DYLAN SIEGEL

Climate: Backlash Erupts Over Europe's Anti-Deforestation Law

A recent European Union (EU) backed deforestation law received major amounts of push-back from countries around the world. While the bill would help to protect endangered forests, it would also hurt the economies of many countries. Austria, Sweden, Italy, the United States of America, and various countries within Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America have voiced their wishes for the United Nations (UN) to rescind the law. Some nations have gone as far as to call the UN punitive for attempting to pass it. Not only will large conglomerate businesses be affected, but it will also make it difficult for small businesses and farmers to earn a sufficient profit. According to "The New York Times," "the uproar underscored the bruising difficulties of making progress on a problem that most everyone agrees is urgent: protecting the world's population from devastating climate change."

Politics: U.S. Presidential Candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris Outline Housing Plans

According to "Aljazeera," housing is "the second most common economic concern for American families in the leadup to the presidential election." One of Harris' main policies to put into action is to give 25,000 dollars to four million first-time homeowners. The only qualification that home-buyers would have to comply with is that the buyer would have to have paid their rent on time and in full for the previous two years. According to "Aljazeera," "home prices have surged by roughly 50 percent" since the beginning of 2020, while hourly wages only increased by 23 percent. Harris also hopes to build three million new homes by the end of her first term. Trump's proposed courses of action are to ban mortgages for undocumented migrants, to reduce regulatory obstacles to building new homes, and to place 100 percent tariffs on countries that are deciding

to stop using dollars as currency for global trade. According to "NPR" news, Trump has "spoken out strongly against low-income housing. He says it brings down property values. He calls it an attack on the suburbs."

Conflict: Mounting Children Casualties in Gaza Result in UN Accusing Israel of Breaking Global Treaty

Last Thursday, the United Nations (UN) accused Israel of breaching a global treaty that was put into place in order to protect children's rights around the world. According to the UN, the actions that Israel took in Gaza recently had a devastating impact on the children and were "among the worst violations in recent history." According to "Reuters" news, of the 41,000 people that were killed in Gaza since October 7 of last year, at least 11,355 were children. Israel, who agreed to this global treaty in 1991, has responded by pointing out that the UN has a politically driven agenda. According to Israel, the treaty did not apply to Gaza or the West Bank. The UN has now mandated that Israel provides aid and care to thousands of children who have been subject to war violence. Israel is also now required to provide support to orphans and perform numerous medical evacuations of children from Gaza. Despite the new regulations, the UN "has no means of enforcing its recommendations," "Aljazeera" noted.

Science: American Association for Cancer Research Reports New Findings of Link Between Alcohol and Cancer

A recent report released by the American Association for Cancer Research outlined a concerning trend between alcohol consumption and cancer risk. While the number of deaths caused by cancer continues to decline, the number of cases continues to increase. According to the "Health Policy Institute of Ohio," the report outlined that more than 40 percent of all cancers are linked to modifiable risk factors — behaviors of

a person that one can change to lower a person's risk of chronic disease or cancer. In addition to reducing alcohol consumption, the report recommended avoiding tobacco, maintaining a healthy diet, exercising regularly, reducing contact with ultraviolet radiation, and avoiding pollutants. In an interview with the "New York Times," Jane Figueiredo, an epidemiologist and a member of the steering committee that prepared the report, stressed the need for greater public awareness about the connection between alcohol consumption and the risk of cancer. "Fifty-one percent of people... do not know that alcohol increases your risk of cancer," Figueiredo noted. "Just over one in 20 cancer diagnoses were attributed to alcohol consumption in 2019."

Health: Republic of Burundi Faces Outbreak of MPox virus

The MPox virus (Orthopoxvirus monkeypox) continues to spread at an alarming rate in the Republic of Burundi. With children under 19 making up two-thirds of the 600 reported cases, Burundi follows the Democratic Republic of the Congo as the second most heavily infected country in Africa. According to "Medical Xpress," the deadly, infectious virus is transmitted to humans by infected animals and physical contact with other infected humans. Some symptoms include fever, muscular aches, and boil-like skin lesions. Although vaccinations hold the potential to prevent the spread of mpox, "Voice of America" reported the struggle of implementing them in rural communities. The World Health Organization's (WHO) spokesperson Dr. Margaret Harris emphasized that without access to materials, soap, clean bedding, and clean clothing, the transmission of the virus is near inevitable. With neighboring countries approaching 25,000 suspected cases and 723 deaths, the United Nations Children's Agency continues to appeal for 58.8 million dollars in aid for their humanitarian response across the six infected African countries.

Exploring Opportunities: Highlights From Andover's Fall College Fair

KRISTEN MA &
NIKI TAVAKOLI

Snyder Center buzzed with energy across the rows of stands during Andover's Fall College Fair on September 23. Welcoming representatives from over 100 institutions, the biannual event provided students from Andover and nearby public high schools the chance to explore a diverse range of colleges, offering insight into the numerous possible college pathways available after Andover.

Representatives at each college booth answered students' questions and provided brochures and promotional materials. Meghan Monaco, Vice President of Enrollment at Endicott College, noted how college fairs give students the chance to investigate how their interests will align with the opportunities present in different colleges. Monaco shared advice for high schoolers new to the college process.

"Make sure you're thinking about size, location, and academic program. Those are the three main things that are really easy to capture in a college fair. Then again, some students are looking for something very specific, and

it's easy to go ask about a specific program or major... We, as college [representatives], tend to remember the genuine conversations that we have with students, so the more authentic and genuine you can be in the college fair experience, the more we're going to remember who you are," said Monaco.

In the past year, the structure of Andover's college fairs has undergone a significant transformation, shifting from multiple smaller events to two major fairs held annually. Karina Hernandez-Guarniz, Associate Director of the College Counseling Office, highlighted the rationale of the change.

"We found that the smaller fairs did not allow us to host as many colleges that wanted to be there, so it made sense to switch to two big fairs, one in the spring and one in the fall. It gives students a chance to do some research over the summer and maybe connect or reconnect with colleges that were not on their radar last spring," said Hernandez-Guarniz.

The early application deadline for most colleges approaches around late October and November. Hernandez-Guarniz pointed out how the fall fair served as an accessible chance for Seniors to

familiarize themselves with schools they hadn't been able to explore in depth yet.

"For Seniors, it's an opportunity to do some last minute research for schools if they aren't able to visit or if it's just not feasible for their families because of their work schedules. This is a great opportunity to connect to over 100 colleges in here that they may not have been able to get to physically and visit campus. For the younger students, it's an opportunity to get to know a wide range of schools before they really get into the college process," said Hernandez-Guarniz.

As students all navigate their college search journeys differently and at different times, their grade can greatly influence their approach to the college fair. Alex Giarnese '25 reflected on his evolving experience from being an Upper to a Senior.

"My first college fair was in the fall of Upper year, so I was just starting to look at schools. I just wanted to come and get a sense of what schools were in my area and what places I knew the names of and wanted to investigate further... Now I'm here as a Senior with a finalized list to go to all the schools that are here on my list, speak with an admissions counselor, put



K. MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Students from Phillips Academy and the Andover area lined up to meet with College Admission representatives at the college fair in Snyder Center.

a face to the name, and make sure that these schools are definitely 100 percent places where I want to go," said Giarnese.

Although the colleges at the fair displayed a variety of majors across humanities and STEM fields, the participating schools were largely domestic, with only a few notable exceptions, such as St. Andrew's College and the University of British Columbia. Talia Ivory '25 mentioned a few suggestions for next year's fair.

"[I would like] more varied

colleges. I know we definitely have a good spread here, but there are a ton of U.S. schools, which makes sense since a lot of people come [to the U.S.] for education. Seeing a few more schools that are overseas or have different vocational programs for those who feel they might not want to go to college might be a good idea. And for those who come to Andover, maybe some are looking for even more of a challenge, like going to a different country or moving someplace new," said Ivory.

WRITE FOR NEWZZZZ!!!!

*email crutkoske26,
pshivani26,
jkosciuskomorizet26,
and bxu126 today*

Phinally Phall

u/phonkcrashoutmode



AITA for neutering my rival ?

Last month, I (16M) dropped my pencil, and a fair maiden (16F) picked it up for me. Naturally, I accepted m'lady's proposal, and though her modesty forced her to run when she senses my presence.

However, a fortnight ago, I saw her walking with a 6'6" lacrosse player (16M). Fueled with rage, I took to Reddit that night. Just then, a vision of a scruffy old man appeared before me. I immediately recognized him as Charles Darwin (215M).

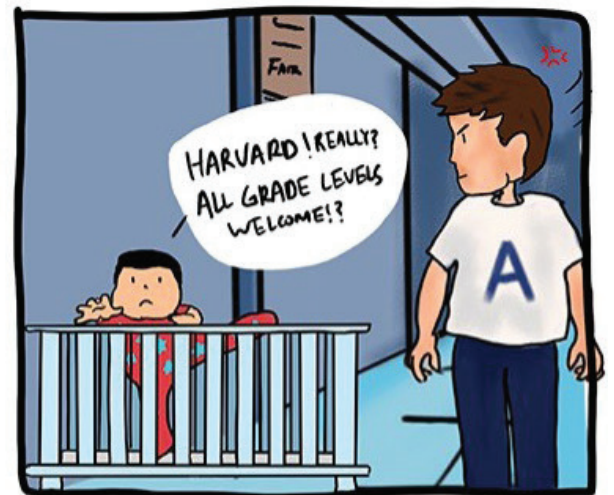
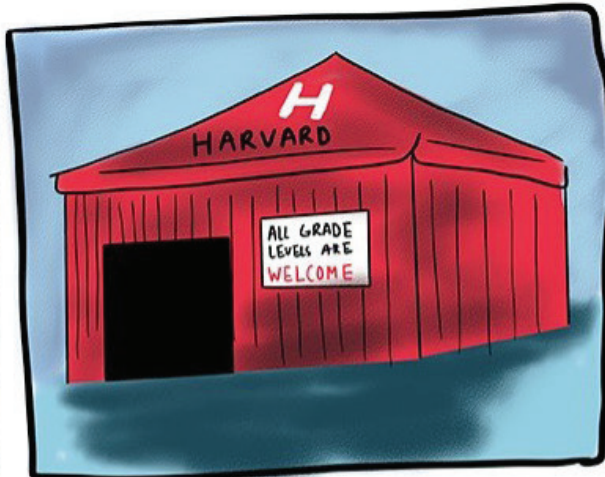
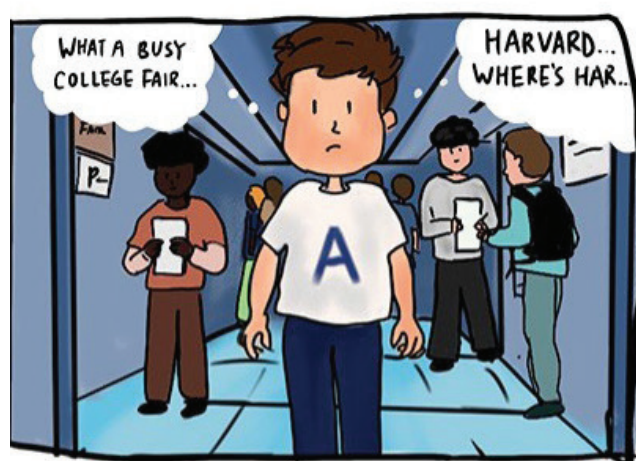
[REDACTED]

I am writing this from the hospital and, though the doctors say my odds don't look great, neither does my rival!

[redacted by Louisa and Jac]

Week's Top Headlines

- *Student Leaders Ascend En Masse After Following the "Identify, Process, Manage" Method*
- *Bell Tower on Lockdown In Anticipation of George Bush's Return to Campus*
- *Andover Liquor Shop Stocks Up 500% In Anticipation of First Dance*
- *Dr. Kington Steps Down After Allegedly "Bernie Madoffing" School Funds*
- *Study Finds that YOU (yes, you reading this) Are Behind on College Apps*
- *Econ Students Find That Adderall is an "Inelastic" Campus Good*



NATHAN WU/THE PHILLIPIAN

"Does the Den sell baby oil? I have an experiment I want to run..."

"Is my peepee or GPA going to be smaller at the end of this term?"

"If it's in my mailbox I just consider it gone to be honest"

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"Why does she not like me?"

"When he's chill, he's chill... I've just never seen him chill."

"Damn there are actually no normal people here" - PG from a public high school

Best Common App Activities

- **Position:** President of Bird Watching Society
Description: I stalk, incapacitate, and violate finches and black-capped chickadees while instructing my fellow elites in the art of bird watching.
- **Position:** Andover Varsity Quidditch Captain
Description: I defended beaters and maneuvered on my big blue broomstick.
- **Position:** YES+ Coordinator
Description: Play show and tell with condoms and dental dams.
- **Position:** TikTok Redditor
Description: I post utterly unimaginable stories read in a monotone voice on TikTok as well as Subway Surfers gameplay.
- **Position:** Eco-Leader
Description: I dealt with composted stiff socks and moldy tissues for several consecutive years.



The Phillipian SPORTS

8th page hogs chips

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Field Hockey Boxes Out Loomis Chaffee in a 9-0 Victory

**ALEJANDRA LASALA
BERGARECHE**

SATURDAY 9/21

Andover 9

Loomis 0

Taking place on Saturday, Field Hockey (3-0) dominated Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) in its third game of the season. The team has continued its win streak and put up over twenty-five unanswered points this season.



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Sarah Lackley '26 whacks the ball across the field.

Quiana Bell '26 noted the complicated start of the game and the ability. Although the team managed to get itself together, the start was not ideal. "It was a very long bus ride. We were a little bit slow because we also arrived a bit late to the game. The refs weren't really helping; they were missing some calls, a bit biased, and backed up. Something we had to work through, but we did manage to turn it around. The score was two goals at the end of the first quarter, so even though we started off a bit slow and our energy was off, we still managed to work through the different challenges together and really finish and

complete our plays, which is good," said Bell.

Despite a high-scoring victory for Andover, Co-Captain Ellie Parker '25 spoke on the high level of competition presented by Loomis. She mentioned Loomis's physical players but highlighted her teammates as they kept calm even in demanding moments.

Parker said, "In the first quarter, Loomis gave us definitely the most competition we've had yet this season in terms of physicality, and it's the way that we kept our poise and responded well. There was definitely a momentum shift."

Peyton Kennedy '25 shouted out one of the younger players of the team, Vanessa Hall '28, for her outstanding performance. According to Kennedy, she stepped onto the team and immediately made herself an asset.

"One of the [Juniors] on our team, Vanessa, scored two goals. She's a lefty and very good. She's a very skilled player, and I am so happy to have her on the team. She really stepped up with being a Freshman and all and scoring two goals is no joke. It was really great to see, and she definitely brought up the energy," said Kennedy.

Bell highlighted the hopes she has for future games and practices. While the team has made a big splash with three commanding victories, she spoke about how she is looking forward to seeing what Field Hockey can accomplish.

Bell said, "I'm looking forward to continuously seeing how we're all going to work together because this



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Field Hockey gathers, excited over their victory.

was only our third game, in which we were at nine goals, which is very impressive. We were able to see a lot of really great passes, sequences, a lot of people scoring... and we're going to see everybody working together, so it's going to be really fun to see how we all continue to grow that chemistry and trust with each other."

Although excited about the success, Kennedy emphasized the need for the team to carefully focus on each game and practice in order to adequately improve and treat every game with full seriousness.

"We just have to take one game at a time. Obviously, we have big goals, but we don't want to overlook any teams.

We try to take it slow and focus on each practice and game one day at a time. We have this saying where we say, 'Be where your feet are.' We live by that every day and we play with gratitude and passion. Our goal is always to just try and be where our feet are every day on and off the field," said Kennedy.

Field Hockey will continue its season by playing against Brooks this Thursday at home.

Football Falls to Williston Northampton

JACOB JONES

SATURDAY 9/21

Andover 14

Williston 38

On Saturday, Football opened its first regular season game with a loss to Williston Northampton (Williston). Despite starting with a fourteen-point lead, Andover was unable to maintain its lead in the second half.

Although the final score was 38-14 Williston, new Upper and quarterback Nate Parker '26 reflected on how the team had successfully dominated the first half of the game with two interceptions on defense and multiple touchdowns on consecutive offensive drives.

Parker said, "I threw a nice ball to [Co-Captain] John Bancone '25 for about 45 yards and then Denzel Pierre [PG'25] punched in from like two-yard line. And then on the next drive, I got the ball and drove down the field on him and then threw about a 15-yard touchdown pass to Nate Cook [25]."

Andover also saw a familiar face in Davian McDonald '25 who originally was Andover's starting Quarterback before transferring to Williston. Senior offensive tackle Byron Johnson '25 reflected on how the team tried to create game-plans to exploit McDonald's distinguishable playing style.

Johnson noted, "It was definitely a pretty surreal moment. We played against him last year, but I don't know. I just feel like now that we're both Seniors, it felt a little bit different. And then because he was here before, we knew he has tendencies. He's a scrambler. And so we prepared for that as best we could. Picked him off twice in the first quarter on defense.

And so that was also a kind of feel-good moment for us. I mean at the end of the day, he outperformed us."

Taking this loss as a learning experience, Parker reflected on how Andover's 14-10 lead was taken by the time the second half started. The team did not continue with the same energy and mentality as before.

"We could have kept competing the whole time but got down on ourselves when we should have been picking each other up more... A few things we could have done better in the second half would be each person knowing our individual jobs and understanding what our goal is for each player," said Parker.

Football has welcomed new additions to the team that will be major contributors for the season. New Upper and wide receiver, Matthew Saleh '26, applauded Pierre, on his athleticism and contributions to the team thus far.

"Our breakout player of the year is definitely going to be Denzil Pierre. He's a crazy athlete. He's a freak athlete with his size, his speed, and honestly, after our first game, all you see is just bodies jumping right off of him. You need at least four or five guys to break him down. He's an absolute unit," said Saleh.

Johnson applauded the team and the captains in leading an impressive unit.

"Even though it's only week one, this is definitely the most I've ever seen the team integrated sort of as one... The PGs help the Freshmen, even the Freshmen can teach us older guys. John Bancone, our Captain, [is] definitely doing a great job leading the team along with [Co-Captain] Seb[astian] Haferd [25], I think they're both doing great jobs and we have our honoring Captain system going on... We do have a lot of leaders on the team and so I think that leadership and also everyone being super coachable, it's been really good."

Although Andover did not



M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Jake Saalfrank '25, defensive end looks warily across the field.

have the start of the season they were hoping for, the players are optimistic about the trajectory of the team. Parker is prepared to face off against his next opponent and is hoping to propel the team into having success for the season.

Parker said, "We look to compete for the rest of our season, and we have a goal

of focusing and competing against each team one week at a time. Our team comes in with the mentality each week and of us trying to go make it to a bowl game. We are going to go at least 6-2, maybe 5-3 to achieve that goal. We can definitely achieve that by coming to practice each day with a good mentality and we should be successful."

Football will host Salisbury for its home-opener on Saturday.

BOYSWATERPOLO

Co-Captain Zach Godsey '25 Leads Boys Water Polo Through Kindness and Confidence

AARON HUANG

Co-Captain Zach Godsey '25 guides the Boys Water Polo team with his supportive leadership and approachable demeanor. Alongside his strong skill set as a player, Godsey aims to inspire the team by fostering a culture of drive and determination.

Godsey began as a swimmer, but in sixth grade, after being introduced to water polo through Hawaii's swimming program, he decided to give the sport a try and found his love for it. He emphasized his fascination with the sport's distinctive demands for both strength and mobility.

"I like how the game is super dynamic and unique. There are a lot of sports that can be similar to it, but it has some unique aspects, and you don't find many movements anywhere else. The physicality is also a cool aspect that I enjoy," said Godsey.

At Andover, many of the players on the Boys Water Polo team are completely new to the sport. With this in mind, Godsey looks to lead the team by instilling confi-



A.TSAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

dence in these inexperienced players.

"I try my best to lead by reaching out and being helpful to everyone. I would say the vast majority of people who end up playing water polo at Andover have never played water polo before, have never touched a water polo ball, have never been in a game, or even watched a game. So, it's completely new

to a lot of folks, and I'd say my leadership style is I try to reach out and lend a helping hand wherever I can for a lot of the people who are learning and who could use a hand with their technique," said Godsey.

Brandon Xu '26 describes Godsey as exceptionally reliable and approachable, always having the answers to any question he might ask.

Xu emphasized how, whether through demonstration or by example, Godsey is always there to assist him.

"He's a great Captain. I would say he definitely leads by example in practice. When I don't know how to do something or a drill, I can look at Zach and be like, 'Oh, I know how to do the drill now.' So, he is very reliable. Also, he is definitely very approachable. He answers any questions I have: if I ask him how do I do something, he answers the questions, and if I ask him to show me or tell me what should I do in a situation, he also demonstrates it, so he's just very helpful," said Xu.

Sean Niu '25 also views Godsey as an outstanding leader, not only for his contributions in the pool but for his humble nature, which enhances his approachability and fosters a close bond with the entire team. Niu notes that Godsey's modesty allows him to connect with his teammates, which makes him a great leader.

"I've known Zach for a very long time. I think my first memory of him was during preseason tryouts in ninth grade during the Covid[-19] year and since then, he's been

one of my best friends at Andover... Zach's humility has been able to allow all of our teammates to get really close to him which is something that I feel a true leader definitely gets close to the people that they were to work with instead of having this false ideology of being above them. If you want to talk about him as a leader, he is one of the best I've ever known," said Niu.

Another goal that Godsey has is to create a strong team dynamic through discipline. He does not measure the team's success through their wins and losses, but rather through its work ethic and culture.

"My main goal is to create a team culture that is very hardworking and very driven. There's not a quantifiable goal because I don't think that we can really measure our success and wins and losses, but I do think that given that our team is so new, I do want the work ethic and the team culture to be something that everybody on the team is proud of," said Godsey.

Water Polo Co-Captain Jason Kokones '25 Passes Down Knowledge to the Next Generation

ALEX DIMNAKU

Water Polo Co-Captain Jason Kokones '25 leads with his passion for the sport, inspiring those around him to improve. After learning from his teammates, Kokones strives to hold newer players on the team accountable, teaching them valuable skills and lessons in the hopes that they too can pass on their knowledge to future generations of players.

Kokones shared that he came into his Junior year at Andover with no prior knowledge about water polo, only choosing to start after a friend encouraged him. Despite the spontaneous decision, he quickly fell in love with the sport and now remains dedicated to his training.

"Freshman year at Andover, I had never heard of water polo before and it wasn't something that I planned on doing. I had a good friend named Sean [Niu '25], who I told on the first day of school that I didn't know what sport to do. He dragged me over to the pool and said, 'Get in, let's do some water polo.' Ever since then, I've just been hooked on it. It's been my new favorite thing, and it's the sport that I resonate with the most," said Kokones.

Jeffery Lim '27 noted that one of Kokones' strengths is his awareness of the team dynamic and his ability to stabilize its energy. Kokones expertly balances positivity and focus, serving as a role model for his teammates.

"We have two Captains. I would say Jason's more like the louder one. He definitely knows when the team is up, which is good on both ends, cause the team can't be too up... He just keeps us on track, even when we're down. He tries to be positive, telling us there's no problem with all that. So just a very positive mindset overall," said Lim.

Kokones mentioned how Head Coach David Fox let players who participated in a game on Saturday take the following Monday's practice off. However, Kokones still chose to train with his teammates who were not present at the game, providing mentorship and advice to newer players.

"After our games on Saturday, our coach gave Monday off to everyone who played. Some of the newer kids didn't go because they were still gaining experience, so instead of skipping practice, I jumped in to train with them. I taught a few skills and shared tips including things I learned from my own role models when I was new to

the sport. I also hold them accountable, offering suggestions and demonstrating techniques. It's my way of paying forward what I was taught, and hopefully, they'll do the same when they improve and become leaders," said Kokones.

Similarly, Kokones aims to create a supportive environment that is conducive to learning and gaining experience, especially for less experienced players. Alexander Ren '26 shared that Kokones accomplishes this through his kind and compassionate approach.

"He's a really supportive guy who is really willing to help the newer people on the team. Jason has always been a fun and nice person to be around, both in and out of the pool. We have team dinners occasionally, maybe once a week or so, and he always will mention ways he thinks that team can improve" said Ren.

Lim also highlighted Kokones' leadership both in and out of the pool. When running into teammates outside of practice, Kokones makes sure to check in on them and improve their day any way he can.

"A lot of people think he has a leader mentality, but also when you see him outside, he definitely makes it fun. Making sure your day's going well or if



COURTESY OF JASON KOKONES

you look depressed or something, [he'll] make sure that he does something to [cheer] up your day," said Lim.

Looking forward to the season, Kokones has many aspirations for his team. With values like focus and discipline, he hopes to forge a culture of competitiveness and commitment to improve both individually

and as a team.

"Throughout this season, I'm trying to create a culture within the water polo team where we have both a desire to win and also a desire to improve ourselves. That starts with focus, discipline, and doing things the right way. I am really determined to instill those elements within the team," said Kokones.

Waterpolo Head Coach: David Fox

ETHAN LY

Boys Waterpolo Head Coach David Fox uses his experience as both a referee and coach to lead Boys Water Polo to success. With last year's Head Coach, Howie Kalter '07, on paternity leave, Fox fills the position in hopes of improving team performance and forming a positive connection with the team.

Fox wrote in an email to *The Phillipian* that he began his foray into the sport at 13 years old in Tulsa, Oklahoma after some swimming friends invited him to compete in a water polo tournament. After playing, Fox decided to continue, and following his graduation from Bates College, he returned to Tulsa to coach water polo. At Harvard, where Fox received his graduate degree, he went on to help train the school's men's water polo team.

"When I was 13 and living in Tulsa, some older friends from swimming invited me to spend the weekend playing in a water polo tournament. It was not because of any potential talent they recognized; they just needed a seventh person in order to have a full team. I had much fun and played until I finished college. Right after college, I landed a job in Tulsa coaching



S.BAHNASY/THE PHILLIPIAN

water polo, and I was fortunate to coach a few players already on the USA National Youth and National Junior Teams. One went on to the National Team and was national collegiate player of the year. Because of the players' success, by the time I was 26, I had spent several years with access to, and mentoring from, many of the top coaches in the country. I then went to graduate school and helped coach the Men's Wa-

ter Polo Team at Harvard; in the off-season, I worked with college players as part of the Olympic Development Program," wrote Fox.

With Kalter not coaching this season, Co-Captain Jason Kokones '25 mentioned the team's skepticism coming into the fall and seeing a new face. Kokones noted Fox's tendency to focus on hammering down water polo fundamentals. Mas-

tering the basics of the sport has forced the team to compete with as few mistakes as possible, which Kokones has attributed to the teams' strong performance in-game.

"[Coach] being new this year, a lot of us were skeptical about his coaching style and what he's going to do to our team and whether or not he could piggyback off of what Coach Kalter... was doing. He does things a little differently than Coach Kalter, but he does it in a way that holds all [of us] accountable. One thing that he's been doing a lot is focusing on our fundamentals. For the first, two, three weeks of school... a lot of what we've been doing [is] focusing on doing the small things right in order to allow us to have a good, clean water polo play," said Kokones.

Co-Captain Zach Godsey '25 corroborated his teammate's comments on Fox's tendency to focus on building up the team's fundamentals. He added that while repeating drills seemed odd at first to many members of the team, Godsey has since noticed the benefits of doing so this season.

"Coach Fox is a very fundamentals-oriented coach. A lot of times, the [basic] drills can feel a bit obscure within the context of the game, but then you start to play, and you find out in

scrimmage how these drills that he does really apply [to better performance]... He's very fundamentals-oriented, and that's his coaching style. He likes to really try to build up a strong base for all the players," said Godsey.

Fox mentioned his hopes for the team's takeaways from his coaching: not just to learn how to perform better in the pool but also to have his players leave the Water Polo program as adults more capable of taking on life's challenges.

"Too often, there is a disconnect between what I hope to do as a coach and what I actually do as a coach. I hope players exit our program better positioned to be good teammates and partners, sacrificing the wants of the one for the needs of the many, in life, and to be good, modest, and diligent adults," wrote Fox.

Looking forward to the remainder of the season, Fox hopes to foster a sense of family among the team's players so that they can perform at their highest level towards the end of the season.

"In terms of the water polo team this season, our goal is just to create a family in which everyone is supported and to play the best we can, with the context of life at Andover, at the end of the season," wrote Fox.

BOYS WATERPOLO

		3			5		
		Ⓞ ZACH GODSEY '25 HONOLULU, HI			Ⓞ JASON KOKONES '25 BROOKLINE, MA		
13	17	1A			7	2	1A
LINCOLN TOMLINSON '27 WINTER SPRINGS, FL	DAVID PORTO '26 VINHEDO, BR	SEAN NIU '25 NEWPORT BEACH, CA			NATHAN EGBUNA '26 EL PASO, TX	DANIEL SEONG '25 WYCKOFF, NJ	HUGO APPEN '27 NEW YORK, NY
4	6	18			16	9	2
ANDREW CAI '27 FORT WASHINGTON, PA	JEFFERY LIM '27 SEOUL, KR	JOSHUA CHANG '27 DAVENPORT, FL			BRANDON XU '26 SIMPSONVILLE, SC	RYAN LOH '28 HONOLULU, HI	CARLOS FELIPE '27 BOCA RATON, FL
15	10	11			14	12	3
BEN ZHOU '25 LARKSPUR, CA	ETHAN ZHU '26 DHAHRAN, SA	AUSTIN STERN '27 ANDOVER, MA			OLIVER STABACH '26 GLASTONBURY, CT	SEAN CHOI '27 SEOUL, KR	IAN KIM '28 ANDOVER, MA
8	14	10			5	5	6
ENRIQUE MERCADO '27 BRONX, NY	SIMBA XIONG '28 BEIJING, CN	DEAN VAITSOS '27 NORTH READING, MA			ALEX REN '26 DULUTH, MN	BENJAMIN LEVCHIN '28 SAN FRANCISCO, CA	DANIEL LIU '28 CLYDE HILL, WA
MANAGERS: ADZ MORALES '25 (NOKOMIS, FL) ZIXUAN RU '27 (BEIJING, CN) HANNAH SONG '27 (SEOUL, KR) ARIANA ZHAO '25 (NORTH READING, MA)							

Andover Boys Water Polo Bounces Back with Wins Over Westminster and Deerfield

ALEX DIMNAKU

SATURDAY 9/21	
Andover	13
Westminster	2
SATURDAY 9/21	
Andover	7
Deerfield	6

Backup goalie, Nathan Egbuna '26 blocks critical shots during the second half against Deerfield, securing the Andover Boys Water Polo to pick up two huge wins against Westminster and Deerfield. These wins bounced Andover back from a rough start to the season and showcased the team's capabilities.

Ethan Zhu '26 commented on how the team relied on improving their fundamentals of shooting, egg beating, pacing, and counterbacks to succeed in the double-header. The team meticulously practiced possible plays and came up with offensive strategies for a fast paced offensive team.

Zhu said, "We had to make sure to position our body so that we wouldn't get any fouls called



Jeffery Lim '27 prepares to pass the ball to a teammate.

on us or kick outs. Those are definitely things that we wanted to keep in our minds while we were playing them."

The team's mental composure and positive attitudes secured Andover the win, commented Oliver Stabach '26. Regardless of the scoreboard, the team pictured it to be 0-0, a reset for each new offensive play.

Stabach said, "[We] just played like every goal was important, which is kind of important if we

were up. And we would play the same as we would if we were down points, so we wouldn't play cocky or we wouldn't play nervous."

The key to the Westminster win was communication and teamwork, noted Co-Captain Jason Kokones '25. Kokones discussed how Andover consistently passed to one another and anticipated each other's moves which created great chemistry.

Kokones continued, "In pre-

vious games, we haven't been necessarily on the same page, but definitely when it came to our Westminster game... We just came right off the bat and we were super strong. We were all on the same page and we got off to a super big lead. I think we were all super happy with how we performed and the work that we've been putting in."

Playing together for four years, Co-Captains Kokones and Zach Godsey '25 were applauded on

their communication to callout upcoming plays and in noting the ball's position in the pool. The captains' vast experience helped them create numerous scoring opportunities and other offensive plays for their teammates.

Zhu said, "[They] make sure to yell out 'Hey, this player is doing that' or 'X number is doing that' or 'Watch this certain play, watch out for this'... Overall, the team is always pretty excited to go to the games. Even if we lose, we come out with an open mind and we're open to having improvements."

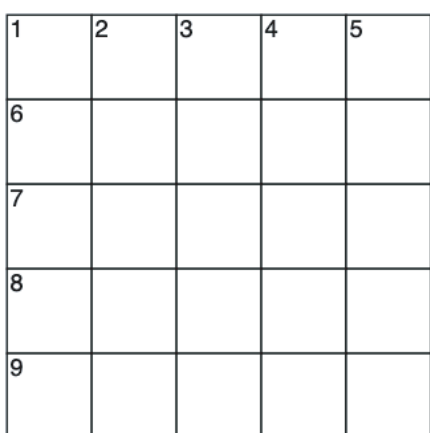
Kokones noted that because the team had gone through adversities in its first few games, they were fueled to overcome their defeats by dominating against Westminster and Deerfield. Andover hopes to continue honing its skills and team chemistry to defeat Williston Northampton (Williston), who had previously beaten Andover at the beginning of the season.

"We had our morale beat down a little bit and we were a little upset and I think that kind of set a spark under us that we need to get it together so that next time we play a strong team, we'll be more prepared and we can match them in regards to skill, teamwork, and all the things that play into playing good water polo," said Kokones.

Water Polo plays Williston on Saturday.

Crossword Corner

BY MAX LANGHORST

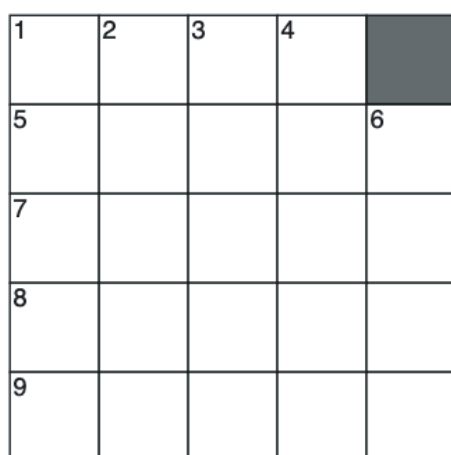


ACROSS

- 1 French ____, commons bagel flavor
- 6 Musical about an orphan
- 7 ____ Cum Laude (second best academic honor)
- 8 Stacks
- 9 Came up, as a problem

DOWN

- 1 ____ Bay Buccaneers
- 2 Broadcasting on TV
- 3 ____-Saxon
- 4 Trig Ratios
- 5 Make fun of

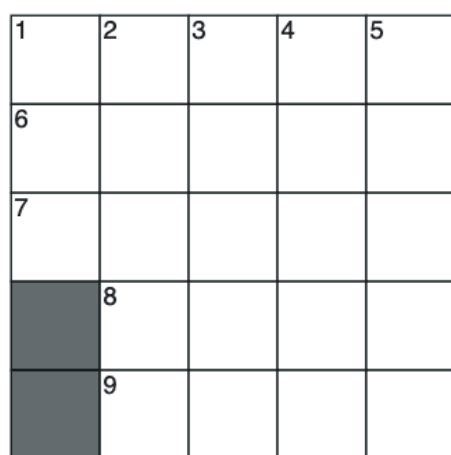


ACROSS

- 1 Go Big ____!
- 5 Beatles drummer
- 7 Straighten up
- 8 State of dark melancholy
- 9 Hearing or Sight

DOWN

- 1 Gloats
- 2 French city
- 3 State of the ____
- 4 Toaster waffles
- 6 That's __ __! My Bad

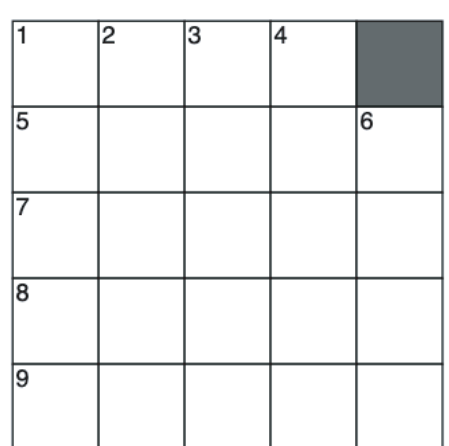


ACROSS

- 1 Breaths with surprise
- 6 Writing, to an english teacher
- 7 Pitch-related
- 8 Place to go shopping
- 9 Right to bear ____

DOWN

- 1 Chat ____, AI tool
- 2 Smell
- 3 Submarine detector
- 4 Hymn
- 5 Opposite of buys



ACROSS

- 1 Tree part that might be red or orange right now
- 5 Enough
- 7 Intense enthusiasm
- 8 Docks
- 9 Flaky rock

DOWN

- 1 Genie homes
- 2 Thing to send to your teacher to ask for an extension
- 3 Sleep ____
- 4 Rizz up
- 6 At ____, call for a military man

Boys Soccer Bounces Back Against Austin Prep After Loss to Loomis

MICHAEL WILLIAMSON

FRIDAY 9/20	
Andover	1
Loomis	4

WEDNESDAY 9/25	
Andover	7
Austin Prep	0

On Friday, Boys Soccer (1-1-2) faced a roaring student section full of red which changed the tide of the game, resulting in a difficult loss against Loomis Chaffee (Loomis). The team then came back and beat Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep) on Wednesday.

The game against Loomis started off with an exciting goal for An-

dover before the half. Co-Captain Spencer Madge '25 highlighted Alex Mitarachi '25 and his header to give Andover the lead at the beginning of the game.

“Alex Mitarachi really got the team going. He had a great header goal in the first half, which really brought our energy up. He also played lockdown defense and made some great plays that kept us in the game. He really locked down everyone,” said Madge.

Although the team began with a goal, the atmosphere at Loomis was different after the half. According to Louis-Thomas Vincent '25, the tone of the game changed drastically as Loomis players leaned into the advantage of the home crowd.

Vincent said, “It was funny to see their home crowd reacting after every single action in the game. Props to them for really showing out. My highlight of the game was when we scored the goal, and we just celebrated in front of their home crowd. Unfortunately, we definitely poked the bear a little bit, and that’s what maybe made them really hyped for the second

half.”

The effect of the Loomis crowd was felt by the entire team. Following the game, Madge spoke about improvements the team wanted to make going into its next game.

“We just need to work on being composed. We panic sometimes when we’re under pressure, so just working on playing under pressure and controlling the ball out from the back. We can improve in practice as the intensity in practice could be a little better. That will help us create a better game environment and be able to handle the pressure a little more,” said Madge.

Looking past the loss on Friday, Kai Myles '27 spoke about the team camaraderie. He highlighted the energy, togetherness, and differences from last year’s team environment.

Myles said, “Right now, the team dynamic, especially after the win against [Austin Prep], couldn’t be any better. We do everything as a team. When somebody makes a joke, we all laugh as a team, and we all chip in every now and then just

to help and support each other throughout everything. Of course, we had a little bit of a rough start, but we’re still sticking through it together because it’s one team. It’s never one specific player’s fault, everybody can help, and the environment we’ve fostered feels way better than last year.”

While the team is forming chemistry and connectivity, it is also developing a relationship with the new Coach [Joe Donnelly]. Madge highlighted how the team is beginning to adjust to the new coaching and how he and his fellow Co-Captains are bridging the gap between the players and the coach.

“We’re adjusting well, obviously with a new Coach and all, but it’s important to realize that the adjustment isn’t going to go perfectly smoothly in the first few weeks. There’ve been some tough moments, there’ve been some highlights, but we’re communicating with the team, and as the Captains we’re talking it out with the Coach. We’re getting better every day, and that’s what matters, and overall, we’ll see some

upward trajectory,” said Madge.

After an impressive performance against Austin Prep, the team walked away with confidence to take on its next game. Myles spoke on the mentality of the team and the player’s drive to win at home.

Myles said, “We had a rocky start with a really rough schedule, but we did well throughout those first three games, and this [Austin Prep] win is only going to push us even further and give us the confidence to know that we can score goals and defend in the system we’re using, we can concede barely any goals, and just do everything as a team. Taft is going to be tough, but we have the lineup... to cause them a big problem. It’s going to be nice to feel like we need to protect our home, considering that we lost on it last time, so we can’t let it happen again.”

Boys Soccer will play against the Taft on Saturday.

Girls Cross Country Faces Challenging Conditions With Strong Spirits in Season Opener

KENDRA TOMALA

Girls Cross Country kicked off its season at the Manchester Invitational, a notoriously difficult course that challenged both newcomers and seasoned runners. Despite facing adverse conditions, including rain and muddy trails, the team united together, laying a strong foundation for the upcoming season.

The meet served as an important starting point for the season. Co-Captain Emma Hagstrom '25 highlighted the significance of using the race to assess its current performance while encouraging the team to enjoy the experience and learn from it.

“Our biggest goal working into the meet is just getting baseline times for us to improve in. For this

meet, although it’s really hard, we were just trying to go out there, have fun, and see what we could all do so we could benchmark for the season and see how we can progress through the season,” said Hagstrom.

The team’s preparation proved as critical in tackling the rough conditions, including a steep incline. Hannah Jung '28 emphasized how the team’s workouts prepared it for the course.

Jung said, “We worked on starts and interval running, and it helped a lot because we did the interval running in the [Cochran Bird] Sanctuary, which also had a steep hill. It helped prepare me for the harsh terrain at the Manchester meet.”

Conditions at Manchester were particularly challenging, with rain earlier in the day leaving the course soaked and the trails

muddy. Chloe Song '26 explained that the team walked part of the course beforehand to assess the conditions.

Song said, “We walked the woods part of the course, and we realized that it was going to be tough. We knew it was going to be muddy, and it was already raining. Digging that before the race was pretty crucial for building that sort of prepared mentality for the race and just getting us ready.”

Despite the difficult conditions, the team still delivered impressive performances. Amelia Alvazzi '26 placed 11th overall with a time of 19:48 in the 5K, which contributed to the team’s 11th place finish as a whole.

“Amelia had a pretty good race. This was her first race with the team ever, so, overall, really proud of her for putting her best foot forward and representing Andover,”

said Song.

In the girls Freshman race, Jung finished third overall with a time of 13:40 in the two-mile event. Her feat contributed to the Freshman team achieving a fourth place finish. With many spectators and runners lining the course, the team showcased inclusivity and supportiveness, cheering one another on from during the entirety of the race.

Jung said, “The strength of the team was that we all stuck together, and the coaches really emphasized cheering on each other when we were running. So it was a really inclusive environment, and I felt like I was being supported throughout the entire race because people were running to all the parts where they could cheer us, and that was really engaging.”

Looking ahead, with its next meet coming up soon, the team

plans to focus on building endurance and refining race starts. Hagstrom mentioned her excitement to see how the team progresses this season.

Hagstrom said, “I’m super proud of the team after this race. They showed up, performed well and did really well overall. I’m super excited for what’s to come in the rest of the season.”

Girls Cross Country will compete in the Black Bear Invitational at Coe Brown Academy next Saturday.

Editor’s Note: Kendra Tomala is a Copy Editor for The Phillipian.

Boys Cross Country Opens Season in Spectacular Fashion at the Manchester Invitational Meet

EMMA HONG

The final scuffle of shoes as the runners prepare at the start line, followed by the deafening shot of the starting pistol, signals the beginning of the Manchester Invitational’s Boys Large School Varsity Race. Last Saturday, Boys Cross Country (BXC) made a bold statement in their season opener at Derryfield Park in Manchester, New Hampshire, with the Varsity team placing eighth out of thirty-six schools.

Andover was headed by Tam Gavenas '25, who led throughout the race into a thunderous first-place finish, beating the second-place runner by thirteen seconds. Head Coach Patrick Rielly believed that Gavenas’s performance of 15:24 versus the second-place finisher’s 15:37 was by far the highlight of the meet.

“The commanding win in the Boys Large School Varsity Race by

Tam Gavenas [25] was the race of the day. Tam ran brilliantly from the gun, taking first place, holding it through the muddy hills and chewed-up trails of the legendary Derryfield Park course. In such big races, the race had 249 runners, you try to gain a good position at the start without expending too much energy. Our athletes found their spots, moved up throughout the race, and finished strong,” said Rielly.

Soren Heintz '28 noted how the team’s emphasis on practicing hills paid off in their performance on the challenging, hilly Manchester course. He also mentioned that the increased running during practices paid off during the race.

“It definitely helped that, during practices, we’ve been running a lot more than we are in races – four to five miles versus the Freshman two-mile race. It helped to build our endurance and prepared us for Manchester’s

really difficult, stamina-testing course. A lot of hill work is really helping, too, because this course was really hilly,” said Heintz.

Sean Kim '26 said that the hills at Derryfield felt similar to those of Andover’s home course, and the team’s practice with attacking longer, steeper hills contributed to their uphill competence in Derryfield. He also noted that the team would benefit from a further emphasis on increasing their aerobic capacity.

“Because we practice on longer, not-as-steep hills, that helped us this meet. It simulated the beginning of Manchester, which is similar to our home course. Training in the [Cochran Bird] Sanctuary helped us get used to the field quicker and run up smaller hills better. Running Heartbreak Hill in practice definitely was especially helpful. Going forward, the team should work more on base-building and developing more aerobic capacity so that we

can have more VO2 max in our lungs. Overall, that’s always a good thing to have, especially for new runners, and we have a lot of those this year,” said Kim.

Russ McClaren '27 emphasized the atmosphere of the meet, noting that the gloomy weather actually helped bring the team together as teammates bonded during the rain. McClaren also noted the areas for improvement that the team could focus on in the upcoming season.

“The rain felt gloomy at first, but it contributed to us feeling more connected as a team because we were sitting around in the cold rain together in between our races. And even though the meet was great and the team spirit was amazing, I feel there was still room for improvement. Not everybody showed up for every race, which is something we should improve on,” said McClaren.

In addition to focusing on strengthening the sense of com-

munity and fostering greater team spirit, Coach Rielly outlined some ambitious performance goals for BXC this season. He hopes the team will work towards growing with every practice, ultimately building towards a winning season.

“Going forward, the team will continue to get a little bit stronger every day by working out on the trails, roads, and hills of Andover. Every mile the athletes run is building toward championship season. Both BXC and [Girls Cross Country] (GXC) took second in New England last fall, and we’re going into this season aiming for the top of the podium,” said Rielly.

Boys Cross Country will race at the Black Bear Invitational in New Hampshire on Saturday.

Girls Volleyball Shows Resilience and Energy in Back-to-Back Battles Against Loomis and Groton

ETHAN LY

SATURDAY 9/21	
Andover	0
Loomis	3

WEDNESDAY 9/25	
Andover	3
Groton	2

Girls Volleyball (2-2) played Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) on the road last Saturday, ultimately falling short and losing in straight sets. The following Wednesday, the team was on the road again, battling Groton and winning a tight match.

Despite the loss, Selene Xu '27 noted the team’s strong

and energetic performance against Loomis, a powerhouse in the league. She highlighted her teammates’ collaboration and hustle in giving their all throughout to deliver a strong performance in the game.

“As a team, we did really well because Loomis is a very strong team. They’re number one in our league, but we definitely played really well. We had great teamwork, everyone dove for the ball and everything. It was probably one of the best games we played, and we had so much fun,” said Xu.

Xu also pointed to the team’s belief in their own abilities as an area of potential improvement. At the same time, she praised her teammates for their unwavering positive attitude.

“Sometimes I felt like the team was overthinking instead of trusting our skills and having a mindset and rhythm right away. Because of this, we could have done better during the start of the first set, adjusting quickly to how the other team

was playing. Even with that, one of our strengths was definitely our attitude. We were all cheerful and smiling even though we were down,” said Xu.

Sophia Fang '28 shared that following the game against Loomis, the team did drills that focused on covering the ball after a hit, in addition to maintaining confidence throughout the game. Those drills and mindset aided in the team’s win on Wednesday against Groton.

“After Loomis, our team decided that we had to work on covering the ball after each hit, and the following practices, we did a lot of drills that involved this skill, and our coach drilled into this mindset that it’s not enough just to be there, you have to have the mindset that you’re going to get the ball up and that the ball is going to come to you. This really paid off in the game because this game we had a lot of good covers and balls that would have resulted in a loss of points and ended up being a really good rally,” said

Fang.

In its win against Groton, Co-Captain Sophie Holten '25 praised the team’s libero, Ashley Schuman '27. Despite the unfamiliar court and equipment, Schuman adapted as a reliable player throughout the whole game.

“During the Groton match, Ashley did really well. She is always on her toes, always going after every ball, and overall very reliable as a libero and as a teammate. She did really well today, especially because Groton’s gym is a bit odd, the lines on the court were not very clear. The difficult equipment made it a difficult game to adapt to, but Ashley stood up, and she was there for every ball. I just really appreciated her throughout the game so much,” said Holten.

Holten noted that the first set at Groton felt quiet but, as the team adapted, it ticked the energy up a notch. She emphasized the team’s infectious energy, with their predetermined cheers for each play.

“In the first set, it was a bit quieter, and everyone was just getting into the swing of things. It’s like that at first with most of our games, but as we moved into the second, third, fourth, and fifth sets, the energy was so much higher, and you could feel it radiating off the bench, off every player. We were loud. The gym was echoing and was very, very loud and that’s just something about our team that’s special, constantly cheering after every single point. We have specific cheers for specific plays or types of hits or offensive strategies. It’s just a very warm, welcoming environment, and I’ve never been more proud to be on a team like this one,” said Holten.

Girls Volleyball will host Tabor Academy at home this Saturday.

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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Grasshopper 2024: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Elements of Production

MAGGIE SHU

Months before the lights dim and curtains rise, an extraordinary amount of work is already underway for Grasshopper 2024. The annual student talent show is set to amaze audiences on October 25 and 26 during Family Weekend, and while the performers may be under the spotlight, it's the producers that make the show possible. From selecting the theme to managing logistics, the team has been working tirelessly to perfect every aspect of the production.

This year, Grasshopper's audition process has undergone several changes to align with Core Blue. Co-Heads of ensembles, who are often part of the production team, are not allowed to judge their own groups, and a new auditioning rubric allows groups to understand the criteria. Kareem Lewis, Instructor in Dance and Theatre, and Robert Lazar, Instructor in Dance and Theatre, discussed the changes to the system.

"[The groups are] doing a 30-second first check-in,

30 seconds of the piece, and then they're doing another audition. Usually [cuts are] done earlier, but we want to give people more time... It's really quick to make cuts this early. If someone isn't ready, we need to make sure people have time," said Lazar.

After careful consideration, the production team has decided on the theme "The Elements." Sebastian Lemberger '25, one of the dance producers, described his excitement and anticipation for the show.

"My biggest hope for the theme is that it leads to some really cool transitions because the cool thing about doing a show where the theme lends itself to having different sections is that you have an opportunity to be very dynamic and change between different styles over the course of the show. Our hope is that we get a really nice sense of flow between the different elements and have the sense of all kinds of things coming together. I hope that is the effect that the show will have," said Lemberger.

Changes have also been implemented to ensure that acts align with the theme. The team is hoping that the theme

manifests itself through each performance by assigning each group an individual element. Lazar explained the unique organization method for the theme.

"The producers have asked people to list their theme when they audition, and last time we looked at the list, it was relatively balanced. But if we get to the point where we see one area is more heavy than the other we may need to ask groups to switch their element to something else, but it doesn't seem to be an issue so far," said Lazar.

Being the first show the producers have done so far, the team has made sure to plan everything out accordingly. Starting in early May, the team prepared for a range of obstacles, making changes as they went. This extensive preparation set them up for smooth sailing thus far. Dance Producer Michelle Chen '25 talked about her hopes for the process and final product of this year's show.

"I'm super excited for auditions. I'm just excited to see the wide variety of shows that we have. We have Irish step dance, maybe also sword fighting. So, I'm super excited



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Sebastian Lemberger '25, Michelle Chen '25, Adele Ciociola '25, Karishma Caro Del Castillo '25, and Saumik Sharma '25 are the 2024-2025 producers.

to just see the different types of pieces we'll have... This is definitely the biggest role I've had where I had to work super close with adults, and just see how the whole department is run, which I think is really cool... I think the big-

gest thing that we've had to learn how to do is juggle what the students' needs are and what the faculty also need, and just trying to figure out an in-between between that," said Chen.

What Backpacks Are Andover Students Wearing?

ADEN HWANG

From unique keychain-covered backpacks to trendy tote bags and purses, students at Andover carry around their class materials in a variety of ways, whether to optimize convenience or reveal their distinct personalities. This week, The Phillipian interviewed students about their backpacks and what they loved about them.

ADRIAN PEREZ '27

My dad got [this bag] for me last summer... It has really cool features, and I liked it enough to not go bag shopping again. It's really durable and it's got a lot of time left... My bag's really cool in the sense that it's more like a sack — it closes by twisting the top and using buckles instead of zippers. It uses these many layers and a water-resistant material. The bag is super strong, and its water resistance is really great for rainy days.



SOPHIA YOU '26

Collecting keychains is a hobby of mine. Each keychain is from a different place and holds its own memories, so I like to decorate my bag with them and make it look unique. I have a lot of fun memories with it... All the keychains are from different places: some are Europe, some from Japan and China, and some are from here in the U.S.



NNEKA EZEIKE '26

Over the summer, I used a purse a lot, going about my day-to-day life. So, I started wanting to wear a purse for school as well, since I got so used to it over the summer. It's a Kate Spade bag, and I bought it over the summer to use it like an airport bag. I just like how sturdy it is, and it's just comfortable to carry around in school, since I don't carry around a lot [of things].



LARKIN TECHENTIN '27

[The bag I have] makes me feel more put together, but I also don't carry a lot around with me because I just use an iPad for notes, so I don't need a full backpack. They're also really durable and stylish, so I really recommend them.

GIULIANA CARDINALE '25

It's pretty unique just by looking at it... It's Monster High. I'm using it because it's Senior year, and it's just a funny tradition to have these funny backpacks. My friends call me "ghoul," so that's how I ended up choosing this backpack in particular.



JULIA LAMARCHE '25

I have the Polene Cyme bag in Camel... I picked it because it is big enough to hold my laptop and all my books, and it has a little pouch that comes attached to it... It's a good fall neutral, and it's really good quality... When I'm looking for my bag in [Paresky] Commons, no one else has it, so it's easy to find. There's also magnets on the side so you can make it bigger or smaller, and I always have it on the bigger setting cause I carry a lot of stuff around. It's [also] convertible. There's a lot of straps and stuff, so you can make it a shoulder bag or an elbow bag, and it clips so none of your stuff falls out.



Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

The World Around Us: Kay WalkingStick's Inspiration for Artworks

ANNA TSVETKOV

Kay WalkingStick, a Native American landscape artist and member of the Cherokee Nation, spoke at Andover this Sunday afternoon. With her artwork currently exhibited at the Addison Gallery of American Art on campus, students, faculty, and other community members alike gathered to listen to her motivational words, gaining insight into the inspiration and meaning behind her work. At 89 years old, Kay WalkingStick has been painting for nearly 70 years. Her art is a culmination of her lived experiences and ideas, expressed through colorful strokes on a canvas. Each step in her life has been documented with paintings, blossoming into the successful career she leads today.

"I just stay alive and keep making paintings. I've been making paintings since I was in my early 20s. I am 89 now, so that's a lot of years. I've been doing it regularly, I've been making art throughout a complex life: I have children, I have had two husbands, I had a lot of years alone, I had a major teaching career. I've done everything; I've had a full life. But throughout that,

I have always made paintings, always, every day. So that's how I got where I am, just doing it, just being. I try to stay alert, I try to stay awake, I try to pay attention," said WalkingStick.

WalkingStick believes in the spiritual and cultural value of nature, cherishing aspects of her Native American culture. Her artwork reflects this appreciation, which she hopes to cultivate in the communities around her. Additionally, WalkingStick and her artwork function as part of the social movement to acknowledge the land the United States was built on and which we all still inhabit today.

"I hope they take away an idea of the value and preciousness of our earth. I think that all of the show, not just my work but all of it, is about this precious planet that we have, that we should take better care of. I would also like to remind them that all of us who are living in this hemisphere are living on Indian land, and most of it was stolen. The Indians didn't gift it. So this is important for people to recognize that this is Indian land, and that we should be taking care of it," said WalkingStick.

WalkingStick reflected on her past, dissecting the mind-

set that has led to her current career success. In terms of advice, she stresses the importance of passion and commitment to all endeavors whether they are art-related or not, recounting her mother's wise words on utilizing the life one already has.

"It's important to dedicate yourself to something and really enjoy it. You know, whether it's dance, or whether it's another art form, or whether it's building bridges, to dedicate yourself to that and really enjoy doing it, is crucial. Enjoy your life, that's what it's about, enjoy your life, make the most of it. My mother used to say to me, 'A smart little girl like you outta make something of herself,' and that's what she was telling me, to find something to dedicate myself to and do it," said WalkingStick.

Kay WalkingStick's visit also overlapped with some of the History 300 curriculum's unit on Native American presence and United States history up until 1861. By offering a first-person perspective beyond textbook readings and secondary sources, WalkingStick allowed these students' learning to transcend the classroom. Drew Wasylyshyn '26 commented on how his interest in the event was piqued by an announcement in class.



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Kay WalkingStick (right) has been creating art for nearly 70 years.

"In my history class, we were learning about Native Americans and their connection to art and how different perspectives vary different art styles. Our history teacher told us about this unique opportunity of seeing this very talented artist come and talk to us about her work, and I just sprung at the idea," said Wasylyshyn.

Wasylyshyn also pointed out how WalkingStick's presentation and exhibition taught him that art is much more than something beautiful. Art encompasses ideas, feelings, personalities, and

movements; it holds so much influence over our opinions and can have an equal, if not greater, power than words.

"[My] biggest takeaway is that art has many forms, and culture influences art. We can express our feelings, our heritage, anything really, in art... Just have open eyes and open doors. Art can be a very special thing to the creator but also to the audience and it can really influence our ideas, and it's great that she's getting the recognition she deserves," said Wasylyshyn.

LOTW: Migyu Kim '25's Curated Classy Closet Emulates Professionalism

STELLA SEONG & PENELOPE TONG

Donning a chic fall outfit, Migyu Kim '25 layers sheer leggings with a black mini skirt and cream-colored fleece jacket. Paired with thrifted gold accessories, a plaid scarf, and black boots, Kim's style takes inspiration from European fashion and embodies a timeless look.

"I have always tried to go for a little bit more of a classy, elegant, and elevated look. I take a lot of inspiration from European fashion which is very clean, and I don't like the word prep-

py, but kind of like that. I get a lot of my fashion inspiration from timeless looks and European fashion," said Kim.

Kim has been experimenting with fashion since middle school, maintaining the same tasteful foundation. Over the years, she has started to explore different accessories and hairstyles, adding color and detail to her outfits. Through these additions, she is able to personalize and elevate her look.

"Ever since I was in middle school, I liked to play with my own sense of fashion, some of it very unsuccessfully now that I look back on it. I've always had the same foundation of style in terms of a little bit more dressy, a lot of people say I have kind of

a 'mom style.' Most recently, I have been playing around more with accessories, so whether that's jackets, scarves, jewelry, I really like fun earrings, pops of colors, and different shoes. The foundational elements of my style have really stayed the same, but it's really about how I dress them up with accessories and hairstyles," said Kim.

The majority of Kim's clothing comes from second-hand stores, like flea markets or thrift shops. When making purchases, Kim seeks essential clothing items that can be utilized in various outfits. Her personal identity really comes through in her use of eye-catching accessories to pull her outfit together.

"I find a lot of my clothing and accessories just in general second-hand. A lot of my earrings are from a flea market right by my house, 75 percent of my clothes are from my local thrift store, which I am so lucky to have such a great selection. When I'm looking for pieces I really look for, in terms of clothes, is something that's like a capsule wardrobe, very simple, and can be used for a lot of things. When I'm looking for accessories, that's where I'll look for flashier statement pieces, so I can dress up the simple clothes with more exciting details and embellishments," said Kim.

When it comes to building everyday outfits, Kim pays attention to her accessories along with the combination of fabrics, colors, and shapes. She enjoys experimenting with adding unique jewelry or colors to a base of an outfit, while also creating minimalist monochrome looks that uphold her signature chic style.

"I like having different textures or pieces, a flowier bottom means a tighter top, that sort of thing. Basing an outfit off a piece I want and then going from there. Once I have the foundation, I'll think about the sweaters or jackets I want to wear and then the jewelry to go with it and my hair to finish it... My staple accessory has definitely been my earrings. I feel like the way that you ac-



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Kim matches her green Adidas shoes and green earrings.

cessorize, you are able to wear the most simple things, and it's special how your jewelry can really add that extra touch. Most recently, I've also been playing around with belts that I've thrifted," said Kim.

Marcela Hernandez '25, a friend of Kim's, admires some of her staple pieces, particularly her striking jewelry. She emphasized how elegant accessories elevate Kim's overall style, standing out as the heart of her outfits.

"[Her staple items are] her green Adidas shoes and then she also has these green earrings she wears, so she will sandwich those two together. I would definitely say, in general, any of her earrings. They are bigger and, I wouldn't say showy, but they definitely make her outfit more unique and very noticeable," said Her-

nandez.

Overall, Kim's journey with fashion has been a cumulative one, with the end goal of working towards being able to express herself authentically. Despite not describing herself as particularly artistic, Kim uses her style and closet as an outlet to channel her creativity and set the tone for her day-to-day lifestyle.

"Every time that I dress well, it sets an intention for the day about how I want to approach the day and present my best self. Even if I'm not feeling that good inside, I can try to become the person I look like on the outside. It's my favorite form of self-expression and creativity. I'm not an artistic person, but I feel like I can really use fashion to test my imagination and explore," said Kim.



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Kim takes inspiration from timeless European styles.



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75 percent of Kim's clothes are sources from a local thrift store.



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POTW: Falling Leaves and Melodies

HLUMA MANGCU

Autumn marks a significant transitional period, as the leaves begin to fall and Andover students settle back into their busy routines. The shift in temperature seems to inspire a shift in students' music taste as well, reflecting the comforting, and introspective essence of the season.

SEAN PAO '26: "LUSH LIFE" BY ZARA LARSSON

"During fall, campus starts to get dull and kind of depressing, but this song reminds me of fun and summer... I know most people probably wouldn't consider 'Lush Life' to be a fall song, but the positive vibes really get me through the cold and also motivate me when I have a lot of studying to do."

NATHANIEL DAROCHA '26: "ONLY U" BY PARTYNEXTDOOR

"'Only U' came up as one of my recommended songs on Apple Music, and I have been listening to it on repeat ever since... It's different to PARTYNEXTDOOR's other stuff because it's a bit more upbeat, but I really like that because it puts me in a good mood."

MATY BAH '26: "ALWAYS" BY DANIEL CAESAR

"Daniel Caesar has a very smooth voice, and it goes well with his melodies because they are all very calming... For me, 'Always' evokes feelings of happiness and reflection. It puts me in a mindset where I can just focus on my thoughts and not everything else that's going on at school. I also like that it's slow because it can be a good study song."



DYLAN SIEGEL '26: "BOONS" BY ZACH BRYAN

"Zach Bryan's energy in general, is pretty folk-y and also kind of soulful so that sort of music resonates with me in the fall... With going back to school while the seasons are changing and everything moving really fast, this song reminds me to slow down and to think about what and who I value. Zach Bryan is really great at making his lyrics impactful so I really enjoy listening to him during this time of year."

ALEX GIARNESE '25: "THERE SHE GOES" BY THE LA'S

"If anyone is familiar with the show 'Gilmore Girls,' 'There She Goes' is the opening song for a lot of the episodes in the earlier seasons. That song means a lot to me because 'Gilmore Girls' is a show that got me through many hard times, and I've loved it for years. I watched it with my mom, so 'There She Goes' reminds me of my family and being home and feeling safe. At the same time, it gives cozy, chilly vibes especially because 'Gilmore Girls' is often associated with fall."

SOPHIE STAI/THE PHILLIPIAN

ALANI RODRIGUEZ '27: "BIRDS OF A FEATHER" BY BILLIE EILISH

"I like this song because it captures what it's like to have a really, really strong group of friends around you... When it starts to get cold and lonely on campus, I like listening to 'Birds of a Feather' because it reminds me of hanging out, being cozy, and just having fun with my friends."

The 2024 MTV Video Music Awards: What is a Legacy?

ELIZA FRANCIS

Whether it is Lady Gaga's avant-garde meat dress or the origin of Taylor Swift and Kanye West's infamous feud, MTV's Video and Music Awards (VMAs) are a stage for the unexpected. The history of the award show confirms its place in the pop culture sector. While celebrity appearances have ranged from Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake to Taylor Swift and Sabrina Carpenter, the same public anticipation exists: What will my favorite artist's performance consist of? What awards will they win? And above all, what will they be wearing? While the VMAs affirm artists' creative hard work and success, they are, like many broadcasted and commercialized events, more for the audience than the performers. Luckily for the audience, the VMAs, contrary to the pretentious nature of The Oscars or Tonys, embrace the eccentricity of celebrities.

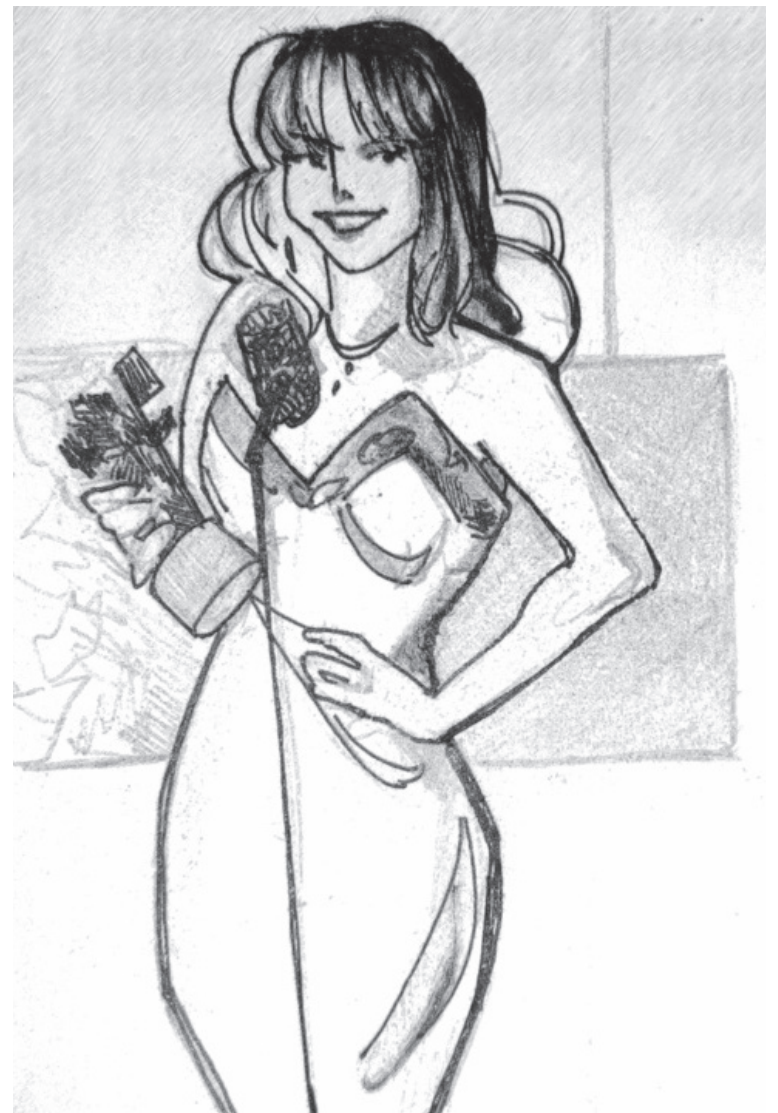
While this year's show may not have featured Michael Jackson's 44th birthday or Drake's love confession to Rihanna, the 2024 VMAs did not lack excitement. Highlights include Chappell Roan's medieval-inspired staging being set aflame, Sabrina Carpenter's homage to Madonna in vintage Bob Mackie, and Jordan Chiles being awarded an honorary bronze medal following the 2024 Paris Olympics controversy. Naturally, Taylor Swift accumulated multiple major awards including Video of the Year and

Artist of the Year; with a total of 30 wins, Swift now ties with Beyoncé for most victories in VMA history. However, given the unprecedented success of The Eras Tour and the release of "The Tortured Poets Department," Swift's victories have lost their novelty. Likely due to overexposure, many have begun to criticize Swift's dominance over the female pop industry, arguing that her celebrity status now eclipses her artistic merit. The 2024 Grammys catapulted such discourse, and this summer's pop chart war between Billie Eilish and Charli xcx cemented it. But despite Swift's critics, she has continued to succeed both commercially and creatively.

This is not the norm. Stereotypically, mainstream media rarely portrays thriving female pop artists over 30. Career longevity is seldom an indication of talent, but instead a product of circumstance. Katy Perry, this year's Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award recipient, reaffirms this female pop star dilemma: everyone is replaceable. The Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award, or the Lifetime Achievement Award, is presented to artists who have imprinted their artistic voice on the music industry and thus, fixed their legacy as a singer, songwriter, and performer. In reviewing the award description, however, one must evaluate the semantics of a singular, critical word: legacy. Someone's legacy refers to their impact — something that is left behind rather than still forming. While names like Sabrina Carpenter, Billie Eilish, Chappell Roan, and Olivia Rodrigo are

omnipresent in current pop music dialogue, their legacies are yet to be determined. Instead, conversations circulate around the now — a latest music video, outfit, or interview — and in some cases, the future — a new album cycle, collaboration, or upcoming tour performance. These artists are not referred to in the past tense because the art they produce is a living, breathing component of pop culture. Why is this?

Billie Eilish's breathy vocals drastically vary from Chappell Roan's passionate belting, so what is the connection between maintained public interest? They are new. Of course, 'new' is relative, with Eilish, Rodrigo, and Carpenters' career breakouts occurring in 2019, 2021, and 2024 respectively. Still, each of these artists are, uncoincidentally, under 30 years old. Aided by increased access to cosmetic products and procedures, modern society associates youth with beauty. Likewise, social media encourages, via its unlimited access to content, overconsumption. When perfectionistic ideals are combined with limitless media, we normalize disposability, and considering that music is a microcosm of pop culture at large, societal conditioning leads us to view artists as disposable — especially women. Therefore, despite Katy Perry's irrevocable contributions to the "bubble-gum pop" 2010's sub-genre with "Teenage Dream," she is now deemed outdated. Perry's 2024 album release, "143," generated minimal buzz with most of the public ignoring, if not heavily criticizing, her work. A mom



SACI VEGSO/THE PHILLIPIAN

nearing 40, Perry is undoubtedly not the same woman that rested nude on a bed of pink clouds in her inaugural album, and this should be okay. Artists, for both their creative output and mental health, should be allowed to evolve rather than conform to maintain mainstream attention. If

we can celebrate and award artists for their past contributions to the music industry, then we can also offer grace as such artists navigate new chapters in their work. After, of course, we watch Sabrina Carpenter steal a kiss with a blue alien.

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