

Campus-Wide Power Outage Plunges Andover Into Darkness

STAFF REPORT

Sharp thuds, slamming doors, the buzz of emergency lights flickering on. A power outage engulfed campus in darkness at about 11 p.m. on December 8, turning off electricity to around 80 percent of buildings on campus, according to Fernando Alonso, Assistant Head for Operations and Finance, Chief Financial Officer. About 90 minutes after the outage, the Office of Physical Plant (OPP) was able to restore power to most areas on campus.

Following an electrical interruption in the town of Andover, the Power Loss Controller (PLC) system on campus activated Andover's emergency campus generator. However, the PLC sensed an overload and deactivated the generator, leaving most buildings on campus without power, described Alonso.

"The generator performed as it was intended. The PLC has an internal protection which also worked and prevented potential catastrophic damage to the equipment and electrical infrastructure of the campus," wrote Alonso in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Although some dorm rooms had emergency lights, others were completely dark, leaving many students confused by the sudden blackout. Edward Cha '27 recounted how, in Stimson House, most people streamed out into the hallways and gathered in the darkened common room.

"About [a third] or half of the dorm was in the common room and we were talking about playing cards [and] going out, but then [Xin Yi Chan, Stimson House Counselor] also came out into the common room... She stopped everyone from doing that stuff and then she told everyone to go to sleep. People weren't going to sleep because everyone was excited [at the idea of] no school," said Cha.

After it became clear that the outage would not be resolved immediately, students reacted in a plethora of ways. Rosie Juma '26 described the varied reactions she

witnessed in Pease House.

"One room immediately got ready for bed, turned out the lights, [and] went straight to sleep. They were going to use that as their excuse not to do homework... The room next to ours, they stayed up talking and screaming every time the power went back [and] every time it went out. They were very active. I had a friend that decided to hibernate in the common room because there was some type of light coming in and they also had to close one of their doors because of the beeping sound... My roommate and I tried to get work done [and] realized half of our devices were dead... I just decided to go to sleep, [but] I kid you not, once I pulled the blankets over myself, the power came back. I was like, let me just unplug everything and go to sleep," said Juma.

Though the power outage did not last long, students trying to do homework were affected due to the temporary lack of Wi-Fi late. Leo Zaidi '25 explained how the blackout made it difficult for some students to prepare for classes the next day.

"Some kids in my dorm were really upset about the fact that the Wi-Fi went out because they just could not do their homework. I think that's a major issue, especially for teachers not doing anything about it the next day and just assuming, 'My students will all have their homework done.' I know the teachers said [they're] probably going to give a little bit more leeway, and I'm sure some teachers did, but it would have been nice to not have classes that day," said Zaidi.

About 90 minutes after the blackout happened, Alonso sent an email to the student body detailing why the incident occurred. He explained how OPP quickly took action to repair the generator.

"The Academy's power plant is staffed 24/7 so when the problem started, the team immediately started working on identifying the cause and bringing outside support to solve the issue. We took a

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Andover Alum and Olympic Medalist Kristen Faulkner '11 Visits Campus



A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Following her Olympic gold medal win in Paris, Kristen Faulkner '11 spoke with David Millian '89 in the Cochran Chapel about her journey to success.

ANDY GAO & KRISTEN MA

Students, faculty, and alumni filled Cochran Chapel to hear Olympic Gold Medalist Kristen Faulkner '11 discuss her careers as a professional cyclist and venture capitalist. Joined by David Milligan '89, the two conversed about Faulkner's upbringing, hardships, and defining moments leading up to her success. Hailing from Alaska, Faulkner is the first American woman to win Olympic gold in two disciplines within the Olympic games; she is also the first American woman in 40 years to medal in road racing. At Andover, Faulkner was involved in Varsity swimming, rowing, and cross country.

Throughout Faulkner's discussion, sacrifice became a common theme that resurfaced throughout her journey. She explained the difficulty of the decision to risk her career as a venture capitalist but also acknowledged gratitude to those who supported her in pursuing her Olympic dreams.

"I graduated [from Harvard] with great grades. I got a lot of job offers when I graduated. I had a career trajectory in my job, and here I was leaving my job to make almost no money in a sport that no one in my family had ever heard of or ever done. No one in my circle thought that I would make it to the Olympics... I was doing something where there was pretty much no external validation, and it was a huge risk," said Faulkner.

She continued, "I had pizza with my brother one night and... he said, 'Is this a goal or is this a dream?' I said, 'It's a dream,' and he said, 'Why are we even having this conversation then? If it's a dream you have to go do it.' I feel so grateful that I have a brother and a family member who was very supportive. If you have a dream, what's more important in life than pursuing your dream?"

Continuing on the theme of sacrifice, Faulkner highlighted the sacrificial nature of road racing. Mentioning that cycling is often viewed as an individual sport, she ex-

For an exclusive interview with Kristin Faulkner '11 head to The Phillipian youtube channel!

plained the immense team aspects that it requires.

"A lot of people don't know that... before the race, the lead director picks a leader for the race, and all her teammates are going to sacrifice their race to help her win. So even though there's a whole team working, it's one person who's going to win. The whole team is helping them. Your teammates will sit in front of you to help you save energy. They will chase down any attacks. They will sit next to you on the climb and give you water or bells or bottles or anything you need... If you crash your bike, they will give you your bike so you can keep going. Everyone is collectively working together to make this win happen," said Faulkner.

Paul Murphy, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, was formerly Faulkner's Girls Varsity Swim coach back in 2011. He recalled an anecdote Faulkner made about a conversa-

Continued on A5, Column 1

Graves Hall Strikes the Final Note: Falls Hall to Open as New Music Building in January



G. VIGNON-VILLANI/THE PHILLIPIAN

With the upcoming opening of Falls Music Center, students and faculty reflect on the evolution of Graves Hall and prepare to say goodbye.

JENNA LIANG & MATTHEW WEI

After housing Andover's music community for well over a century, Graves Hall (Graves) will no longer serve as Andover's music building come the start of 2025. As the department prepares to transition into the newly built Falls Music Center in January, Graves will be repurposed as an administrative building.

Constructed in 1883 to serve as a science building, Graves has since evolved into a center of student life and a shared musical community for many. With 19 private practice rooms and the Clift Music Library — filled with over 10,000 recordings and other resources — the Victorian-style building has become an important pillar of campus culture.

Reflecting on her favorite memories in Graves, Holly Barnes, Director of the Chamber Music Program, recalled the first "Coffeehouse," a concert featuring student songwriters, one of the many traditions that have found its home in Graves. Barnes emphasized her excitement about moving to Falls Music Center.

"When I began teaching songwriting, Music 480, maybe eight or nine years ago, we did our first Coffeehouse in the Timken Room, and now it's become a tradition... We had so many people there that people were sitting outside," said Barnes.

Barnes continued, "Knowing that [Graves] is the place that the music department has built the program, it's a little bittersweet to leave in a way because so many of the programs have taken off in this space. However, at this point, the program far ex-

ceeds what the building can offer, so it's very exciting to begin thinking about moving to a new space, where there's just a more dedicated space for everybody. [Falls] can expand our curriculum with all the different technologies and it opens up all sorts of possibilities that will keep our program more current."

Helios Hong '25, Co-Head of the Phillips Academy Chamber Music Society, described Graves as a center of connection for a diverse community of musicians. Alongside Sophie Tung '25, Hong is conducting the "Memories From Graves" project, which encourages the Andover community to share photos

Continued on A5, Column 1

OWHL Bulletin Boards Removed After Vandalism

CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & IAN S. KIM

The Oliver Wendell Holmes Library's (OWHL) bulletin boards have been removed for the Winter term following multiple incidents of profanity and improper drawings. The boards, first installed in the spring, were defaced four times — once at the end of the Spring Term, again during the summer, and twice in the fall. Despite warnings and signs posted at the beginning of the school year, the incidents continued, leaving clubs without a designated space to hang up posters in the OWHL.

Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL, noted that the OWHL's policy is to temporarily close advertisement spaces to reset the environment. While the boards may return in the spring or next fall, Torres Hoven explained that their removal highlights the inappropriate consequences.

"The bulletin board removal was disappointing. We created them to solve a problem and make things better for students. Seeing them disrespected was a letdown. We want to collaborate

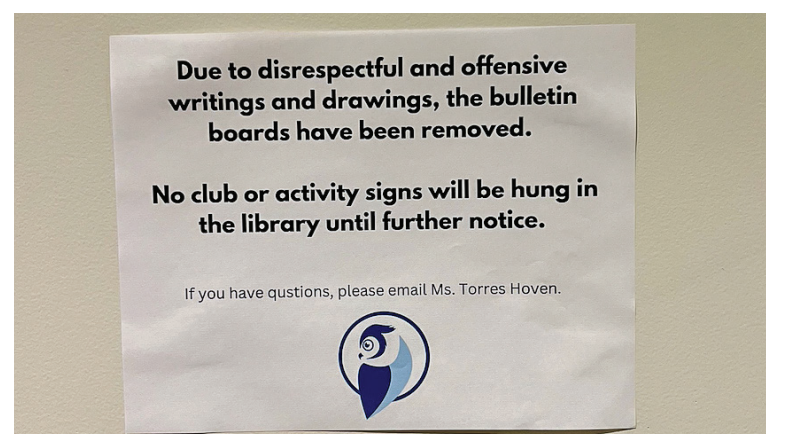
with students and create a space that feels like home, but that requires mutual respect," said Torres Hoven.

Jess Wallis, Research and Instructional Design Librarian, removed the boards before Fall break and explained their decision. They noted that while the majority of students are respectful, the OWHL will maintain stricter policies for student-related spaces going forward.

"After one of the incidents last spring, we considered solutions like covering them with paper or removing the pins... So, we filed the felt boards to remove any writing, but eventually, we decided it wasn't worth the risk. It's about liability, and having something offensive in the library that we can't monitor is unacceptable," said Wallis.

Wallis continued, "We'll be talking internally about ways forward, but it's clear that an unmonitored board space is not the way. Your contributions, like your events, are really valuable. I imagine Ms. Torres Hoven will talk to the Student Advisory Board and the library staff to

Continued on A5, Column 1



A. BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

After multiple incidents of vandalism, signs were put up in the place of the removed bulletin boards, explaining the boards' absence.

Commentary, A2

On South Korea

Melody Oh '27 addresses the responsibility of citizens to uphold democracy in light of the martial law order in South Korea.

Eighth Page, A8

happy holidays from the 8p

the eighth page gets jollier!

Sports, B1

Wins in Wrestling

All-Gender wrestling takes on Saint Pauls to open their seasons with both Dani Nungent '25 and Serra Akyali '28 securing first place.

Arts, B6

Festive Season is Here

Read about the different ways Andover students are approaching the holidays, including a gift guide and overview of holiday spirit on campus.

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Editorial

How Gunga Stole the Holidays (and Brought Them Back)

To our lovely readers,
This marks the last issue of 2024 and we would like to thank you all for another wonderful year! Here is a short poem that we hope can accompany you through these wintery nights and bring some warmth into your days.
Happy Holidays, and may all your Winter breaks be merry and bright!

With lots of love,
The Phillipian, vol. CXLVII

Each Student in Andover liked the holidays a lot
But the Gunga from North Reading surely did NOT!
Gunga was what they called a Scrooge, dreading
December-related fads
But this holiday season, Gunga decided to take
matters into his own hands

Gunga sat up all straight and jumped from his cradle
Signs nailed to his windows, "NO SANTA OR
DREIDELS"
Gunga started his golf cart, which ran on resentment
And set course for Andover, his strategy relentless

First, Gunga would sever all cheer in Susie's
By short circuiting the jukebox that fueled karaoke
And as if that weren't enough for the irritable ape
He'd ruin the Kemper movie by speeding up the tape

Now well on a streak, he could truly weather a storm
By unraveling string lights from the dorms
And in one last hurrah, just before he would go
Gunga'd strap on a leaf blower and melt all the snow

Grinning ear-to-ear with mouth-watering daydreams
Gunga drove slowly up Salem St. so as not to be seen
And with no mishaps, everything went Gunga's way
He'd taken the music, movies, lights, and snow
Gunga'd stolen the holidays!

But as Gunga started his cart, his anger did perish
For he saw the true meaning of the holidays were the
people you cherish
As students emerged from their dorms, wondering
how the snow disappeared
Not for a second did they falter in exchanging holiday
cheer

There Gunga did realize, he had the extraneous parts
For the key to the holidays lies in everyone's hearts
Everyone's hearts, from LA to Manila
Everyone's hearts, except a very lonely gorilla

So with his head held low, Gunga took his cue to go
With the music, the movies, the lights, and the snow
But in the spirit of Big Blue, a stranger jumped in
Gunga's way
"No person should spend the holidays alone — no
student, no teacher, no primate!"

Overwhelmed with emotion, Gunga turned to Big
Blue
He gave back the holidays and gave into them too

Now in these dark nights, when we long for home
Across warmly lit campus grounds, we no longer
wander alone
Turn to those we treasure, whom we share laughter
in the dorm
For they may keep our hearts ablaze, a shelter from
the winter storm

Though the wind may be cold, our common rooms
are snug
Hot cocoa filling our many mugs
Festive lights twirling and dancing within the dorm
Snowball fights becoming a fresh new norm
Holiday cheer easing any dismay
Students and faculty can taste a sweet holiday

Shoutout to Commons Bill, for cleaning our
Commons mess
To the omelet chef, for fulfilling our many requests
We return to eating meals with those we hold dear,
Brought back to holiday music from our younger
years

The snow falls, covering the land in gentle white
Love its quiet beauty or curse its icy misery under
fading light
But as the chill sets, let the fireplaces glow bright and
clear
A beacon of joy, love, and the season's jolly cheer!

SOPHIE STAII / THE PHILLIPIAN

Malevolent Divinity

RANIA ALI-SVEDSATER



A. TSAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

As Trump's second term of presidency looms closer, drastically revised immigration policies become imminent. Trump asserts that reduced immigration will revitalize the American economy and culture, given his frequent claims that immigrants have "poisoned the blood of our country," referring to their increased demographic within prisons, mental institutions, and detention centers across the country. He cultivates an irrational fear towards immigration on the premise of immigrants' ascribed inferiority and incompetence; impressions that are often inaccurate and falsely justified. Trump's primary justification is to dehumanize immigrants as he believes they are not human and cannot be accepted into American society. Despite influencing many voters, such assertions lack validity. Instead, Trump's lackluster justifications stem from past political ideals for slavery, torture, and human misconduct, inferring a backward progression for modern politics.

Such morally incorrect, and therefore false, political ideologies date back to the early Middle Ages. In 1215, the Magna Carta abolished the infamous divine right of kings, which had been primarily exploited by monarchs to reject accountability for immoral actions. The divine right asserted that kings were direct human representations of God, and thus had the power to accurately justify or redefine various autocracies and principles on their own accord. For example, the divine right was often used to justify murder or torture willed by the king, given that the king's desires directly correlated with those of God. Here, the monarch uses absurd religious ideologies to remove their responsibility for immoral crimes. Inevitably, this drastic power imbalance wrought havoc upon the global structure of government and society and thus provoked urgent renouncement. Alluding back to Trump, the best way to manage such blatant absurdity within leadership is to denounce the quality of divinity altogether, as was achieved by the terms of the Magna Carta. Arguably, divinity in itself, omits an air of extremity and ir-

rationality, which is harmful for the operation of a logical and justifiable political system. One cannot rely on unbridled beliefs when navigating politics and must seek attributes of rationality and fairness, which the



Trump campaign fervently lacks. Nonetheless, the theme of divinity maintained its prevalence in a world previously overburdened by religion. Divinity also played a crucial role during the colonization of the Americas, aiding the motivations of Spanish conquistadors seeking to evangelize indigenous communities, parallel to Trump's false justifications. Conquistador Bernaz Díaz del Castillo stated that "We came to serve God," when occupying native land, aligning their misconduct with religious justification. Castillo asserts his supposed religious divinity as

an intrinsic right for colonizers to abuse native land and power, similarly done by kings to commit obscenities without any repudiation. Divinity persists with the era of American Manifest Destiny from 1812-1867, during which slavery was redefined as a "natural" moral quest for private settlers' enslavement and humane exploitation. Essentially, the rhetoric

of divinity becomes a tactical measure for leadership parties to unfairly avoid responsibility for their moral and political crimes. Albeit in a less drastic manner, Trump abides by the same rhetoric when justifying his extremist policies and views. Trump's justification does not rely on religious doctrines but stems from the same culture of irrational logic used by predecessors advocating for divinity. Arguably, his demoralization of immigrants weakens his political craft, by demonstrating a lack of thorough and fair analysis

expected from a good leader. Trump favors irrational dehumanization over logical truths; immigrants are not animals and have indeed contributed effectively to many sectors of professional, social, and economic life in America. Moreover, modern American nationhood itself could not have existed without past assimilation and immigration. To propose mass deportation and immigration prevention would be simply irrational, potentially harming national resources and political stability, as well as threatening America's advocacy of humanitarian values and fairness. Trump's inhumane justifications decelerate the advancement of American politics, prompting inarticulate and unreasonable policies. Additionally, the extensive support for the Trump campaign triggers grave ideological calamity amongst civilians, as America risks returning to a system that may promote false and irrational beliefs of his divine leadership. This is caused by both the quantity and justification of his support, with 77 million votes, representative of his all-consuming influence through extreme views. Here, Trump assumes the position of a divine king before the Magna Carta to similarly exploit his irrational ideology, thus hindering the progression of politics which seeks a more fair and justifiable system.

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MIA WALKER / THE PHILLIPIAN

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CORRECTIONS:

Holiday Hot Takes

L. HEYD / THE PHILLIPIAN

BRONWYN CROWLEY '27

I hate when people wake up at 6:00 a.m. to open presents. I'd rather sleep in first, then open gifts around noon. Also, eggnog is atrocious.

GARRETT RICHIE, INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH

If an actor has been in more than 20 Hallmark/straight-to-TV holiday films, they deserve an Oscar, or at least a Lifetime Achievement Award. I'm thinking of Lacey Chabert, Andrew Walker, etc. Give them their flowers!

ENRIQUE MERCADO '27

White Christmases, with snow, aren't the best types of Christmases. I prefer having no snow because it slows down traffic.

ETHAN BROWN '27

I think holidays are designed to give a false impression that you can get off the grind. It's hard to really enjoy a holiday when you have to go back to life as usual afterward. Taking breaks is a good idea, but I'm not sure how productive it is when they're added up.

CINDY YANG '26

In my opinion, ugly sweaters get a bad rep. Sure, some of them are kind of excessive and flashy or whatever but some of them have pretty cute designs. I have a cute sweater with a little snowy house on it and it's a sweater I like to wear throughout the winter, not just during the holidays.

SOPHIA TOLOKH '28

The Michael Buble version of "All I Want For Christmas Is You" is better than the Mariah Carey version because it sounds less pop and more like Christmas.

REESE YORK '26

Meme holidays should be federally recognized. More broadly, the government should make an effort to provide holiday-related services on corresponding holidays to make meaningless holidays relevant.

Action Desperately Needed as Global Plastic Pollution Treaty Talks Fail

AARON BAI



A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

International delegates meeting in Busan, South Korea on December 2 failed to agree upon a global treaty to curb plastic pollution. The fifth UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) meeting intended to produce a legally binding global treaty on the production and disposal of plastic that requires consensus among all constituents. An option proposed by Panama and backed by more than 100 countries supported curbing plastic production. However, this option was strongly opposed by a handful of oil-producing countries, including Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Iran, who were prepared to exclusively target plastic waste. The end result was a postponement of talks and key decisions, while countries remained far apart on the basic scope of the treaty.

This outcome is disappointing, to say the least. This INC-5 treaty would have been one of the most instrumental deals related to environmental protection since the 2015 Paris Agreement, where a binding international treaty on emissions was signed. It follows just days after a similarly depressing conclusion to the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) summit in Azerbaijan, where a measly 300 billion dollar an-



SACI VEGSO / THE PHILLIPIAN

nual global target was set to combat climate change, a value nowhere near the full amount of 1.3 trillion dollars requested by developing countries.

Plastic pollution is a critical issue that must be addressed in the fight against climate change. According to the United Nations, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks worth of plastic is dumped into the world's aquatic systems daily, amounting to around 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste each year. The pollution is so extensive that tiny plastic particles from the waste known as microplastics have been found everywhere, from deep ocean trenches and mountain peaks to even within our own blood-

streams.

What I find deeply troubling is the fact that the negative impacts of plastic pollution are very well known. Even primary school students worldwide are taught of its consequences. These impacts can be generally classified into three categories:

First are the impacts on human health. Scientists in 2023 found that plastics cause a wide range of illnesses, from cancer and congenital disabilities to lung and heart disease. Various chemicals used in plastic that contribute to its flexibility and color are highly toxic. These chemicals include carcinogens, neurotoxins, and hormone disruptors, an example being Bisphenol A (BPA)

which affects brain development, elevates blood pressure, and increases cardiovascular disease risks. The entire plastic life cycle, from oil extraction to production and disposal, emits toxic chemicals into the air, water, and soil. Such chemicals do not degrade for centuries after disposal, causing long-term health-related risks for generations to come. Health problems linked to such harmful plastic chemicals contribute 250 billion dollars yearly in health care costs in the United States alone. Compare that to the 300 billion dollars agreed upon at COP 29.

Then there are the effects on wildlife. Less than ten percent of plastic is recycled, while many countries lack proper waste management systems, causing much of the world's plastic waste to end up in the sea. Sea creatures often mistake plastic for food, affecting animals from sea turtles to seabirds. Concurrently, abandoned fishing nets and plastic bags among other discarded plastics ensnare whales, sea lions, seals, and dolphins among others, often leading to death by starvation or asphyxiation. Microplastics less than five millimeters in size are regularly found in the feces, blood, and lungs of animals (including humans). These tiny particles, containing the aforementioned toxic chemicals, can be deadly if accumulated and they are passed along from prey to predator in the food web.

Last but not least, there are its climatic impacts. Roughly 98 percent of plastic is made from petrochemicals derived from fossil fuels oil and gas. The extraction and transport of these fossil fuels and the manufacturing and disposal of plastic all create carbon emissions responsible for global

warming. Worldwide plastic production alone generates around 1.96 gigatons of carbon dioxide annually – around four percent of all global emissions. Certain petrochemical-producing states, however, rely on profits made from oil profits to fund their own projects, whether it be the purchase of soccer superstars or funding military efforts. All important causes that are much more significant than the future of the planet. As a result, they have tried to use procedural tactics designed to reach consensus to delay negotiations instead.

The delay in policy enforcement marks an enormous setback in the fight against climate change. As the 712 billion dollar plastic industry is set to triple production by 2050, the necessity to act with urgency is rapidly increasing. If plastic production stays on track, it will account for more than 31 percent of the remaining global carbon budget for staying below 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming, the UN's target for 2050. "Every piece [of plastic] that we allow to produce without limits is a direct assault on our health, our nature, and our children," said Panama's delegation head Juan Gomez, "for those blocking progress, you are allowing this crisis to fester, and it will kill us." There is little assurance that the next postponed conference, dubbed INC 5.2, will succeed where this one failed.

"Every day of delay is a day against humanity," concluded Gomez, "Postponing negotiations does not postpone the crisis. When we reconvene, the stakes will be higher."

Aaron Bai is a Lower from Hong Kong. Contact the author at abai27@andover.edu.



On South Korea's Martial Law



When South Koreans March, We Enjoy, and We Win

JEANNIE KANG



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

South Koreans are the marching people. During times of unsettling historical injustices, Koreans of all ages, genders, and backgrounds have stormed out to the streets and protested for democracy. During the April Revolution in 1960, more than 100,000 citizens marched for the impeachment of the illegally-elected President Lee. The protestors, including thirty thousand college students, were greeted not by deserving praise and claps, but by indiscriminate violence. The oppression notwithstanding, President Lee eventually succumbed to the thundering voices of the people, and citizens claimed victory. In 1980, then-military General Park claimed political power through a bloodshedding military coup. Men and women, adults and children, once again marched against the tanks and armed soldiers, posted there due to martial law. In response to the calls for justice, President Park was forced down from his throne. Just recently, in 2016, Koreans held up their candles through many freezing winter nights to impeach the daughter of President Park who was elected in his place, for her unconstitutional abuse of power. These sacrifices show that South Korea's de-



GEMMA PARK/THE PHILLIPIAN

mocracy has not been provided freely. Each martyr, activist, and protestor contributed to the construction and maintenance of Korean democracy.

And on December 3, when Korea's republic was threatened by the illegal declaration of martial law, the marching people stood firm to guard our well-deserved democracy.

On December 3, President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law, accusing the opposition parties of anti-state activities. The first set of published regulations contained the ban of any political activity including Congress, protests, and the press. The publication further declared that any citizen who disobeys the law, including medical professionals who are currently on strike, can be subject to brutal punishments. Despite the armed forces bar-

ricading the Congress, the strength and the spirit of the South Korean people shined through the pitch-dark night. Thousands of Korean citizens formed human barricades in front of the doors of Congress, firmly standing in the way of the army and hindering their ability to block the National Assembly members. As the citizens chanted "Impeach President Yoon! Arrest President Yoon," politicians climbed over the walls of Congress to cast their vote against the martial law. The passion of the Korean citizens to risk their lives to defend the politicians they voted into office expresses how much they value the precious democracy that was built off of our ancestors' effort and suffering. That night, everyone in the crowd understood the risks

that accompanied protesting against an army that had been awarded the power to rule by the president, yet they still surrounded the congressional building throughout the night.

The spirit of democracy illuminates the country as Koreans are marching once again towards justice. The streets next to the National Assembly are full of protestors, holding LED lights and candles, chanting for the impeachment of the president. What impressed me was not merely the quantity of people, though one million is an astounding number, but the diversity of the people who contributed to this new protesting culture. Protests in Korea now resemble outdoor music festivals. Younger protestors have joined the demonstrations with LED light sticks from pop concerts, and

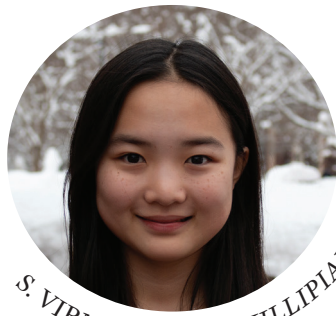
rewritten lyrics of popular carols and K-pop songs to criticize President Yoon. The range of protestors from different age groups symbolizes the depth and maturity of Korea's democracy. We are the first in the world to send the daring message that the fight for freedom does not have to involve negative emotions. Rather we can find comfort in the grace of melodies and the beauty of colorful LED lights swarming around the protests. This peaceful demonstration will last long as more and more protestors feel the urgency and join the streets, and at the center of the excitement still lies the will to serve justice to the corrupt president.

I would not be standing here had it not been for the Koreans who have marched, protested, and lost, yet continued to strive towards justice. Though pessimism lingers on how the Korean democracy shall unfold, I am incredibly proud to witness the unity and maturity of my country. The bravery to storm out of the streets as soon as injustice seems to take control; the wit to sing songs and wave LED lights; the passion to preserve democracy: this is what makes us Koreans. As soon as winter break arrives, I will be one of the protestors on the streets. We all know that through all the pain and laughter, excitement and fury, comes victory.

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Significance of the Martial Law Order in South Korea

MELODY OH



S.VIRMANI/THE PHILLIPIAN

The citizens of South Korea sat in unrest before their TV screens on December 3, watching President Yoon Suk Yeol declare martial law at 11:00 p.m. in an unannounced live speech. Despite the late hour, the overnight frenzy happened in a matter of hours: hundreds of citizens gathered at the front of the National Assembly building, huddling together amidst the biting winter winds as they protested against the President's decision. To an outsider, the decree of martial law in South Korea may appear as a quirky incident, caused by a poorly-planned scheme of the country's president. However, this "quirky incident" has much more significance, applicable to all the democratic countries in the world: as inherent as it may seem, our liberty is highly vulnerable.

The purpose of martial law is to allow a country to act promptly and effectively during war or an emergency equivalent in severity. Therefore, martial law grants absolute authority to the president and the military, including control of the press and any type of public assemblies. It also prohibits political assemblies outside of the National Assembly building, which is the only place the members of the National Assembly could gather



ANGELA GUO/THE PHILLIPIAN

and vote to revoke martial law. Despite lacking a clear rationale for why South Korea was in an emergency equivalent to war, President Yoon issued the martial law order and blocked the entrance to the National Assembly to prevent its members from voting against his order. If the members had been unable to enter the building at all that night, the martial law order would have continued indefinitely, permitting President Yoon a virtual dictatorship.

Living in the United States of America, liberty comes across as a built-in structure to our society, a privilege unimaginable to be taken away. Unfortunately, as shown to us recently in Korea, liberty can be threatened as easily as a president of a democratic country making an announcement. The more horrifying truth is that the restoration

of the easily lost liberty takes a thousandfold time and effort.

Most of the current middle-aged South Koreans learned the lesson the hard way in the 1980s when General Chun Doo Hwan rose to power after leading an overnight military coup. To gain back democracy, South Korean citizens had to organize multitudes of protests throughout Chun's regime. In the notorious Gwangju Uprising, university students across South Korea gathered in the city of Gwangju to protest against Chun's authoritarianism, to which the country responded by directing its muzzles to their youth. Countless brave citizens were arrested, tortured, and killed before the country finally retrieved democracy in 1988.

The memory and trauma of Chun's regime persist in Korean

culture, reminding Koreans of the rock bottom of an oppressed society. Strong emotions associated with this past resurfaced the night of the recent martial law order, compelling the citizens to rush out of their homes in the middle of the night to protest and even block the military from entering the National Assembly building. Those who appeared at the building risked their lives to prevent the potential dictatorship of President Yoon: at worst, they could have gotten shot by the barging soldiers following the unconstitutional order of the President. On the same night, a high-ranked South Korean government official, Ryu Hyuk, Inspector General of the Ministry of Justice, actively discouraged such injustice by not only refusing the Minister's offer to hold a meeting about martial law but also resign-

ing from his office. In his interview with MBC News, a leading South Korean broadcast company, Ryu explained that it is his and every Korean civil servant's duty to defend the constitution and law. He added by claiming that civil servants are responsible for defying any unlawful orders, even if their job is to follow those orders. In Ryu's words, any civil servant who submissively follows an unconstitutional order is the equivalent of a "wardman who runs an Auschwitz gas room."

Defending liberty from its vulnerabilities requires participation in substantial democracy: active voicing of opinions against injustice. Substantial democracy almost always involves risk-taking and altruistic sacrifices. In the 1980s, young scholars in Korea participated in a deadly protest to cry out their disapproval of the oppressive government. In 2024, the government official Ryu Hyuk refused to work with an unconstitutional order, although he had a family to support and may have been abandoning his life-long career. As unfair as it sounds, once liberty is preserved, the fruit of the sacrifices is shared with all — even to those who were indifferent or had too much fear to make themselves heard. Consequently, we may desire to leave the sacrifice to others, believing that we aren't needed to preserve liberty. However, upholding liberty must be a collective effort since indifference inspires corruption, and resurrecting fallen liberty is a costly endeavor. It's in our best interest to be mindful, readily protecting liberty as a democratic citizen.

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Faulkner Inspires Faculty and Students Alike in Chapel Conversation

Continued from A1, Column 5

tion with her psychologist while deciding whether or not to chase her cycling career, stressing the importance of pursuing things that make one feel alive.

"I liked when she was talking about her psychologist and how, at one point, she [said], 'How do I leave venture capital? How do I leave a big-money-paying job for something that I love to do but is making no money?' He [responded], 'Kristen, people spend their whole lives looking for things that make them feel alive. You found something. You need to follow that.' I found that to be pretty awesome... I thought everyone needs to hear that every once in a while. That if you find something, not everyone knows what that thing is, but if you feel good about what you're doing, and it makes you feel alive, there's value in that," said Murphy.

Seeing that Faulkner had

succeeded so late in her athletic career, Kaylee Xie '28 also found inspiration from Faulkner's accomplishments. She applied it to her own perspective on opportunity and athletic experience.

"The fact that she started less than a decade ago and is racing against athletes that have been training for so long... [her career] is definitely very inspiring. Sometimes, when you watch athletes on TV, you always hear they started from a very young age and then had this major success as a teenager. There's this pressure to start young and be good throughout your career. But, it's cool to see someone who started later on but still found that same degree of success. So, even if you're not in the best place right now, there's always room to grow and places to go. You should never stop trying," said Xie.

Clara Isaza-Bishop, Faulkner's former Spanish teacher at Andover, expressed her appreciation for Faulkner's return to campus. Reflecting on the event, she felt inspired

and highlighted Faulkner's influence both within and beyond the Andover community.

"It's amazing to have a gold medalist, but also we always say, our motto is to [support] kids from every corner. Though she's from Alaska, her legacy is here. [She's] someone who works really hard, has an ethic of work, is not afraid of trying new things, and meeting new, different people. It was nice to see her, and she was the same kid inside. She didn't change," said Isaza-Bishop.

OPP on Power Outage Procedure

Continued from A1, Column 2

systematic approach, prioritizing safety along the way," wrote Alonso in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Students had mixed opinions on OPP's response to the situation. Though some thought the outage should have been resolved sooner or should not have even occurred given Andover's resources, others appreciated OPP's timeliness, as the blackout happened in the middle of the night. While Elise Zhang '26 appreciated Alonso's clarifying email, she believed that an earlier update would have been helpful as well.

"This may not be possible, because I know [OPP] would likely allocate their efforts towards dealing with the event, but I think having a notification earlier about what's going on so that there's less panic and more clarity as to what our steps are moving forward would be nice. Maybe an email saying that the entire town of Andover is experiencing this loss, not to panic, [and] we have backup generators that we will get working," said Zhang.

Since the blackout, no further complications with the generators have occurred. Alonso noted the rarity of this occurrence and also

thanked the OPP team for working to address the blackout.

"The OPP team takes extraordinary care and pride in the work they do to maintain the campus and all its operations. The Academy has annual service contracts with vendors to help ensure safe and reliable power to campus, however, with any mechanical systems there is always a chance something can go wrong or break during a time of need. OPP typically does testing and maintenance when the students are on break to reduce the impact to the community... In my 20 years at the Academy, we have not had a power outage like this one, so it is a rare occurrence," wrote Alonso.

Alonso continued, "We apologize for the duration of the event. It is important to mention that throughout this power outage, the power plant staff was able to manually continue to provide steam heat and hot water to the community. I would also like to thank the entire OPP team [led] by director of facilities Joe LoBuono, and in particular, a special thanks to Rusty Langlois our Chief Engineer who was immediately at the power plant and spent countless hours coordinating a solution to the problem."

Librarians and Students Discuss Reflect on Library Culture Following Bulletin Board

Continued from A1, Column 5

find a mutually agreeable, monitored solution. It was necessary to take them down because we can't have offensive content in the library, especially after four warnings."

Although guidelines are posted on the library's website, many students are not aware of their existence. Vedant Bajaj '28 stated that having the guidelines visible in the library lobby would decrease the amount of prob-

lems that accumulate.

"They should clearly advertise their rules, because unfortunately, some people don't know about them... Personally, I didn't know that eating food in the library wasn't allowed until recently. If they clearly advertise their rules, and clearly say what they will do to offenders, then people will be much more conscious about their actions," said Bajaj.

The disrespectful drawings on the bulletin boards underscore a wider set of misbehaviors

from students, as food is consistently left in the OWHL's basement and librarians frequently report high levels of noise. Although he believes further action is needed, Michael Mechechia '25 suggested a sectioning of the floors instead of applying stricter rules on the entirety of the OWHL.

"I understand if they ban food and if they ban snacks or drinks other than water, that could make sense, but banning the noise levels in the library would have to be in only certain places

because the library is also a collaborative working space, and it is a place where a lot of students do make new friends. Sectioning off the floors would be a little better: we could have the basement as our most collaborative place, and the middle floor as all working space, even rooms next to silent, and also have this silent-ish working place," said Mechechia.

According to Daniel Liu '28, such rules would have to be carefully balanced, considering that not everyone agrees with the plan for stricter rules for the

library. Liu believes that while a new regulation might be needed to remove vandalism, the implementation might backfire and shatter the current atmosphere of the library.

"The OWHL could probably, instead of removing [the boards], try to implement some strategies to reduce this level of vandalism. Having stricter rules really makes the overall atmosphere more suppressive and restrictive, [so] there shouldn't be too many strict rules," said Liu.

Students Hold Onto Memories of Graves Hall, and Say Goodbye

Continued from A1, Column 3

and reflections about Graves through an online form, in hopes of preserving Graves' musical legacy.

"When I was a freshman, the [Cochran] Chapel wasn't available once for orchestra rehearsal, and so we had to squeeze the entire orchestra into the Timken Room... I remember that rehearsal very well because we had to make a lot of adjustments in terms of

our volume. I think that it's in those moments where there's a problem that we tend to make the best music because we're really listening to each other," said Hong.

Hong continued, "Graves is like a big family. Everyone plays different instruments. Some people sing, play drums, and produce music, so it's a very diverse group of people. Graves is a space where we can all just connect with each other no matter our backgrounds."

Elliot Chai '28, who wakes

up at 6:00 a.m. most mornings to practice on Graves' Steinway pianos, described a deep feeling of connection to the building. Chai looked forward to spending time in a more modern building with newer instruments, though he hoped that Graves could be kept as a music building.

"My favorite memory was playing pieces with nice single notes on this one Steinway in room G4, because it had crisp, clear notes, and it's able to also show a lot of dynamics on that piano... The windows

[of Falls] are very big, so they let in a lot of light. While its design is modern, I remember seeing bricks, so it still fits in with the materials of the other buildings. I feel like a lot of people, especially non-music people, would go there, so it would be nice to keep Graves as a music building. I will miss [Graves'] interesting architecture. The downstairs area of Graves with all the practice rooms is very cozy," said Chai.

Zach Godsey '25, who has been involved with the music program throughout his four

years at Andover, also appreciated Graves' memorable architecture. He noted how the design lent Graves a distinct sense of comfort and warmth.

"Graves has been a bit of a small space for a long time, but part of me is really pretty sad to be leaving it. It has a lot of character. I really like the building itself, all the wooden beams. It just feels very lived-in, and that's something that I'll definitely miss," said Godsey.

A Preview of Thao Pham's CaMD Presentation

AMELIA HICKS
& KRISZY ZHU

Thao Pham '25 will kick off this year's Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD) presentations with her talk, "Beauty or Colorism? The History of Vietnamese Attitudes Toward Light Skin and Its Lasting Social Implications," on December 13.

Pham's presentation aims to explore colorism through historical context and personal insight. Drawing from her experiences growing up in Vietnam, she emphasized how casual comments about skin color often went unquestioned.

"Part of the inspiration for choosing this topic came from growing up and hearing people comment on my skin every time it got darker. Back then, I didn't think much of it, but when it came time to choose a topic, those memories resurfaced. It wasn't one specific moment but an accumulation of experiences throughout my life," said Pham.

In her research process, Pham used her understanding of Vietnamese to broaden her sources. She reflected on her growth as a researcher and

writer while working on her paper.

"I had to engage with more types of sources: whether that be with conversations, or by analyzing Vietnamese-language sources, and not just English ones, to see how language and culture change the way situations are written. As a person, I feel like I am now more confident in going in-depth with topics that I care about and addressing problems I find in my community in my own way," said Pham.

Theodore Parker, Instructor in History and Pham's advisor, provided guidance as she navigated the challenges of organizing her extensive research. He emphasized how Pham's project offered a unique non-Western view on colorism and highlighted the resulting difficulties in compiling sources.

"Her project stands out for its personal connection to the topic and the way she weaves her lived experiences with academic inquiry. Unlike many projects that focus on Western-centric perspectives, Thao's research brings a fresh and nuanced exploration of colorism within the context of Vietnamese history and culture. Her inclusion of

interdisciplinary elements, such as folklore, literature, and contemporary media influences, provides a multifaceted understanding of the issue," said Parker.

He continued, "The hardest part was synthesizing the vast scope of research into a cohesive narrative while maintaining a clear focus. Thao had to navigate a wealth of historical and cultural material, often translating Vietnamese sources into English, which added an additional layer of complexity."

Sam Clare '25, another CaMD scholar and one of Pham's close friends, underscored the international perspective Pham brings to her project. Clare expressed their confidence that the presentation will resonate deeply with audiences by connecting a specific cultural issue to global experiences of colorism.

"Being in America, we don't always get to see perspectives of other countries, and as an international student, she'll bring a really good perspective. I love CaMD presentations, and I think that's what will be really great about hers. It's about colorism in Vietnam, but it will also relate to colorism all over the world.



C. TANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Thao Pham '25, the first CaMD Scholar presenter of the 2024-2025 cycle, will discuss her research on "Beauty or Colorism? The History of Vietnamese Attitudes Towards Light Skin and Its Lasting Social Implications" on Friday December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Kemper Auditorium.

I think she'll take this really specific topic and relate it to a lot of people and different experiences," said Clare.

Pham spoke about her hopes that her presentation will inspire others to reflect on their own communities and explore social justice topics that matter to them. She sees her work as a way to reconnect with her heritage while addressing an enduring societal issue.

"I hope [the presentation] gets you thinking about what

other problems are in your own communities. Whether it's a topic similar to colorism or another form of social injustice, I hope my presentation can act as inspiration for your own research," said Pham.

Editor's Note: Thao Pham is a Copy Editor for The Phillipian.

Changes to Scholar/Fellow Programs Aim to Expand Opportunities for Students

JEANNE
KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET

The Office of Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD), Brace Center, Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL), and Sustainability Office have recently updated their application requirements for scholars and fellows, removing the need for students to secure a fac-

ulty advisor before applying. This change allows the application process to start in December instead of February, giving students more time to plan, research, and develop their presentations. If selected, students will be paired with a faculty advisor by the program to support their projects.

Allowing students to begin working on their projects well in advance of the summer, this

change ensures that scholars have more than a year to develop their ideas instead of having to complete everything in a compressed time frame. Aquita Winslow, Dean of CaMD, shared more insight behind the decision to modify the application requirements.

"In the past, every student who applied had to get a faculty member to agree to be their mentor in the initial process. Since we may not take all

of them, instead of asking all students to do that work, we are taking care of it...We don't want you to just pick a teacher because you know them or because they're your house counselor, we want to match you with someone who can really help you grow your skills, which is why we're asking teachers who are interested in doing that work to volunteer and we're going to pair you up together," said Winslow.

As faculty advisors have to meet with their students at least once a week during summer, supervising scholars and fellows is a significant time commitment. In response to concerns about overburdening faculty and ensuring diverse faculty involvement,

Continued on A7, Column 1

10 Questions With Jake Montanaro

REPORTING BY IAN KIM & TOMAS TEJAPAIBUL

Jacob Montarano is a Teaching Fellow in Physical Education and a House Counselor in Taylor House. After graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 2023 and working as a substitute teacher in the King's School, Montarano came to Andover in 2024. As the Boys JV Football Coach and Girls JV Hockey Head Coach, he is committed to developing students into thriving and dedicated student-athletes. Outside of his teaching career, he has interests in landscape architecture and sports management.

How did you arrive at Andover?

I didn't have much experience just one year out of college, my major was sports management, and I built my own minor tailored around education... I've met people who were teaching fellows at other schools, and I was able to find a teaching fellowship program at Andover. It was just a no-brainer that I needed to apply, and it was fate that it opened up. I put my name in and got a call from Lisa Joel [Director of Athletics] asking if I would be interested in coming to campus for an interview last April. I quickly said yes. I got to meet a lot of the staff, and I fell in love with the campus. It's been the best opportunity I could've asked for, and there's plenty of opportunities that keep arising that I never even thought possible for me.

Was there any specific person who inspired you to have a passion for sports and landscape architecture?

For landscaping, just doing it with my dad. We would work at my grandfather's house. It was nothing professional, mowing the lawns, weeding, mulching. I just really enjoyed it. It was very hands-on and something that I still like to do. I'll still go to my grandfather's house and work over the summers for him and even at my own house. Then for sports, I credit the first professor I had. He wasn't my mentor or advisor but everyone in that department treats you like you're one of theirs and someone I always would go to for advice. So when I, halfway through college, knew I wanted to enter a boarding school space such as Andover, he was someone I went to talk to all the time.

What are some of your hobbies or things you like to do during your free time?

I don't play sports anymore, but my sisters got me into CrossFit [about] three years ago, so that was something that I did with them. I didn't know if I was going to like it. It was very difficult, and it still is, but it's something that's been eye-opening for me. The people that are there, everyone is just so good and so kind to me. That would probably be the one thing I've picked up recently that I really enjoy doing when I get to go home, especially when [my sisters] are home... It's quick, but it's a good feeling to spend time with them even if it's only for an hour or two.

What's a piece of advice you have for the community?

[This] might sound simple, but something I always try to remember [is that] everyone has an off day every now and again. It's just part of [life]. Just trying to always remind myself that tomorrow is a new day, and there's always moments in every



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

day that can help. Even if I'm having a bad day, I'm still here being open and available to anyone. I always remind myself that every day is a new opportunity to learn and grow, and that we're made up of millions of moments, so don't let one thing that happened define you. That's really important for sports, too, because you can't let one small moment define you. So even in the classroom, obviously we all want the best grades we can get, but I've had my fair share of low scores as anyone. Learning from it obviously hurts. You put in time, and sometimes it doesn't shape out the way you thought it would, but it's important to know: "Okay, I got a bad grade one time. I still have the rest of the term." I put in the effort. It didn't work out. But re-evaluate. What can I do differently? Feedback from the instructor. Super important. Wash your hands with it, learn from it. You got another test coming up. Homework? Use it as motivation to improve.

How did you develop an interest in physical education?

I went to public school, so I always have had physical education as a course. I believe we did quarters, but I would get two report cards for a half-year class. I had to take two semesters worth of physical

education in high school. I've always been playing sports, and I was always outside growing up. It's a class that I always used as a good break and an escape in my day. I used it to destress. Our PE was a lot different than here. We did not have a swim portion, a pool unit, or a ropes course. It was more like learning to play games. We had a soccer unit, basketball, floor hockey, and a physical fitness test requirement. We had to do a mile run, push up, sit up tests, sit and reach [to] test your flexibility... Physical education was always appealing.

What do you think makes a good athlete or a student-athlete here at Andover?

The student is first in that. School always. That's the way it was when I was in high school. School is first. And if you don't maintain the grade, you're not eligible to play. So school is very important, especially here, because it's a tough school. The most important piece is: you've got to work hard so you can also have fun, like going out with friends.

How was your experience growing up and how is it similar or different from the community here?

I grew up in Connecticut, a small town, and every-

one knew everyone. My sisters went to boarding school, actually, so we had a very different experience in high school. They got to see friends from absolutely everywhere, which was something that I didn't have until college. This place is just so diverse and students are from all over the globe, even in this building. Kids [are] from everywhere, and it's really unique, and something that is very valuable.

What are some things you look forward to this coming school year and in your next years here?

Over break, I went home for a little bit, as everyone did, but I really found myself missing the dorm. It's a special community. I lived in a dorm in college, but never as a [resident advisor] or a house counselor. I just really missed being here. I came back a few days before students were able to come back, [and] I just missed the buzz with everyone here, just the life that you all bring to campus every day.

What have been some of your favorite parts of Andover so far?

I really enjoyed the Cluster Olympics at the beginning of the year. I know it started raining, but seeing how that might have paused the event, [instead] seeing you all

leave the stands and run to the middle of the field and have a dance party. Making the most of it was really cool. Then, I would also say something I look forward to every day is seeing my colleagues I've become close with. The teaching fellow cohort.

There's a lot of us, and I'm super fortunate to call those individuals friends. Going somewhere for the first time without knowing anyone is scary. As I'm sure [students] know, coming here for your ninth grade year, probably not knowing anyone, is a little frightening, but being able to call those people my friends, people I look forward to seeing every day, is really cool.

If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

I would say dedicated. I've always put a lot of effort into whatever I do. Definitely accountable. Growing up, you have a schedule to follow, and then now, in a space where I'm living in the dorm, I have 34 students when I'm on duty that could come to me for anything, even when I'm not on duty. I make sure I've got everything balanced between workday, residential life, coaching, practice, planning, and then always trying to find new drills that I think would excite everyone. And caring... for students, helping anyone talk through their feelings is what I like to do because I know I need that too sometimes. I go to my friends all the time and talk through situations that happen to me. Just knowing how much that means to me when my friends listen to me, I hope to give my students the same feeling. I hope if someone comes to me with anything, they have my full attention and [I'll] try to work through it as best as I can.

What's your experience been like coaching here?

Coaching has been great. It's been something I've done, [but] I'm still new to the space. I started coaching my first team as an assistant coach in college. I'm doing [Girls JV Hockey] this year, but it started off here in the fall because I was a part of JV Football. I didn't play a fall sport in high school, so when they asked if I wanted to do football, I was a little nervous because I've never played football. I used it as a space to get to know the kids and also learn from the four other coaches who know the game very well. I'll be doing JV Boys Lacrosse in the spring. [So] just picking up on things and learning from other adults in the space who've been doing this for a lot longer than I have.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY ELLAH KOTLARSKY & ADELYNE LIU

Conflict: UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson Shooting

UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson was shot and killed in New York City on December 4. Over the years, UnitedHealthcare has received complaints from thousands of unhappy customers, and Thompson's wife told "NBC News" that her late husband had been the subject of threats before the shooting. Recently, police arrested "strong person of interest" Luigi Mangione in a McDonald's in Altoona, Pennsylvania. A high school valedictorian and University of Pennsylvania graduate, Mangione was found carrying items thought to be related to the shooting and a manifesto criticizing health insurance companies.

Technology: TikTok Closer to Ban in the U.S.

After nine months of deliberation, a panel of federal judges denied TikTok's bid to overturn a law that could lead to its widespread ban in the United States of America. The law mandates the sale of the app to a non-Chinese-owned company by January 19 because of national security concerns about the privacy of American citizens. According to "The New York Times," lawmakers say that the Chinese government could obtain sensitive information about Americans through the app. In response, TikTok argued that banning the app was a violation of the constitutional right to free speech. The likelihood of the ban has been called into question. Although TikTok has publicly refused the sale, with the new law confirmed on December 6, experts say it's become more likely.

Entertainment: "Wicked" Breaks Box-Office Records

Following its release on November 22, "Wicked" has broken records, scoring the biggest box office opening weekend ever for a Broadway feature adaptation, both domestically and globally. According to "MSN News," ticket sales totaled 164.2 million dollars, surpassing the previous record set by "Les Miserables" by 34.2 million dollars. The movie, starring Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba and Ariana Grande as Glinda, is already the sixth highest-grossing movie of 2024 at the domestic box office. With critical acclaim and audience enthusiasm fueling its success, "Wicked" has both captivated fans of the musical and drawn the attention of new viewers.

Conflict: South Korean President Declares Martial Law

On December 3, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law, causing substantial public backlash and protest. According to "AP News," this declaration allowed the president to deploy military forces to maintain order, which included suspending press freedoms and limiting judicial authority. However, Yoon's move was quickly deemed illegal and unconstitutional by a unanimous vote of the South Korean National Assembly, including members of his own party, as reported by "BBC News." Facing significant backlash, Yoon has since faced pressure to step down from his role as President: an impeachment vote held on December 6 fell short of a two-thirds majority by just eight votes, and another is expected to be held soon.

Medicine: Countries Vote to Legalize Assisted Dying

Last week, the United Kingdom made a landmark decision to legalize assisted dying, joining approximately twelve countries where the practice is legal, partly legal, or under discussion. Assisted dying is the practice of a person with an illness or condition who is helped to take their own life using drugs provided by a doctor for that purpose. According to "The New York Times," almost two-thirds of people in England and Wales support assisted death, reflecting a social shift toward liberalism in Great Britain. Globally, assisted dying remains a controversial topic.

Government: Syrian President Flees to Russia

After 13 years of civil war, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad fled the country as rebels stormed into the capital city of Damascus. The Al-Assad family has controlled Syria since 1970, and much of their regime has been characterized by authoritarianism and violence. According to "CNN," in the past eleven days, the rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) took over several Syrian cities, culminating in the takeover of Damascus. These events caused the president to flee to Moscow after his resignation. For now, the future of Syria remains uncertain. HTS, which has been classified as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, has yet to publicize its plan for the country.

Students and Faculty Outline Changes to Scholar/Fellow Programs

Continued from A5, Column 5

Winslow emphasized that the program's new pairing process will allow students to connect with a range of faculty.

"We want to make sure that we're giving students the opportunity to connect with different types of faculty, and we don't want to burn faculty out as well. There are some really amazing faculty who have been in this program a long time, and those are the faculty that get tapped first. We appreciate all the work that they do, and we want to make sure that we're honoring their time as well," said Winslow.

Although acknowledging that the shifted requirements

will help students apply, Olivia Isacson '26, a CaMD scholar, expressed reservations about how the new application process might lead to a weaker student-mentor connection.

"I don't completely agree with changing the faculty advisor side of the application. It's really important to have a strong relationship with the teacher beforehand. My faculty advisor, Ms. [Camille] Torres Hoven, [Director of the OWHL], is part of a club that I do, the [OWHL] Book Club, and we had the opportunity to understand our working environment before getting involved in that... but I also understand that finding a faculty advisor is complicated, and that change might help students apply," said Isacson.

Kristen Ma '27 highlighted the potential challenges in maintaining the quality and credibility of applicants without faculty endorsement. Ma explained how a faculty member could speak to more dimensions that an applicant may offer.

"They'll definitely receive more applications now that they don't require you to go in with a faculty advisor, because having to ask for someone else to vouch for you is a more rigorous process. I will say that makes it easier for the applicants, but if you don't have the approval of a faculty member, you could start to question the validity of some of the applicants, because you could basically just apply with whatever you want and get a reference," said Ma.

Changes in Brace, CAMD, OHWL, and Sustainability Fellow/Scholar Applications

1

The application process starts in **December** instead of **February**

2

Students **do not** need to apply with a faculty advisor anymore (*the program will pair up selected students with advisors*)

C. WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Upcoming Snooze the Blues Events and Cluster Olympics Seek to Boost Morale in Winter Term



A. ZHU/THE PHILLIPIAN

JEANNIE KANG

To ward away the winter blues, departments on campus such as the Head of School Office, the Office of Alumni Engagement, and Cluster Council have come together to organize a series of "Snooze the Blues" events and cluster-based activities to boost moods and school spirit.

Introduced last year at the suggestion of Paul Murphy '84, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, Snooze the Blues consists of various pop-up events throughout the term.

The year's first event, to be hosted on December 16, features a hot cocoa bar and sugar cookies. Aya Murata, Assistant Dean of Students & Residential Life, outlined other upcoming events.

"The Office of Alumni Engagement and the Office of Academy Resources [are] going to do [an event where] if you go dancing into the Alumni Engagement Office, you'll get a prize. I know that the [Rebecca M.] Sykes Wellness Center is combining with Snooze the Blues to offer UV light boxes. You sit in front of them to get the UV light that you're not getting from sunshine naturally in the winter," said Murata.

Additionally, both Winter Term and Spring Term will have individual Cluster Olympics events, with scores determined by a series of standalone competitions taking place throughout each term. These contests include a gingerbread house-building competition on December 13 and the Winter Cluster Olympics Dodgeball, scheduled for February 22.

Murata expanded upon the thought process behind planning various events. The primary goal of the events is to create opportunities for the community to come together, especially in the bleakness of winter.

"This is still slowly coming together. Over the course of the winter, we're trying to bring the community together, instill fun, and get people out of their dorms when it's cold and dark. We'll have a series of standalone Cluster Olympic events that will add up to determine a winner at the end of Winter Term. This winner will count toward something at the beginning of Spring Term. Spring Term is fast and furious, so it feels hard to schedule a separate big event. I wanted every term to have a cluster winner," said Murata.

Eliza Francis '26 highlighted her enjoyment of going to the fall Cluster Olympics. However, she questioned whether the new format of optional, standalone competitions would lead to less student participation.

"I like the idea that they're trying to incorporate more activities or community bonding, but I'm not sure the new format will be as effective as the beginning of the fall term. I think that having all the events put together on one night, and being mandatory and a full school event forced a unity that ended up being really genuine and organic, whereas I feel like there won't be as much excitement circulating around little activities or games throughout the term," said Francis.

Cluster-based programming during the Winter Term underwent scheduling changes due to weather restrictions. Inti Stephenson '25 and Talia Ivory '25, Co-Presidents of the Pine Knoll Cluster, elaborated on some of the factors that went into play while planning.

"This term's competitions are definitely more focused on individual competitions because there are not many competitions you can do outside or with big groups. This one's going to be more focused on which cluster can perform individual competitions well. Dodgeball is the biggest, in terms of size, it's going to get. This is going to be a bunch of smaller competitions to break up the monotony," said Ivory.

Possible competitions in the future include a cluster-wide spirit day and a snow sculpture-making contest. Murata hopes that these events can serve as a reminder that stu-

dents can get a better sense of the community that they can rely on as a support network.

"My hope is that students feel like 'Wow, look at the community of adults rallying around us to support us through the Winter Term.' I don't know how much that resonates with students, but that's definitely a goal I had in mind. Part of these activities is helping students recognize and realize, 'Oh my gosh, there are so many adults here who care about us and want to do something nice for us.' It's also a chance for them to get exposure to different departments they might not know much about," said Murata.

Stephenson and Ivory reiterated Murata's message of student support. Inviting students to participate in the upcoming activities, they emphasized the importance of fostering community on both a cluster and school-wide scale.

"We want to uplift the student body's spirits [into] a festive holiday mood. The biggest priority of Co-Presidents is the community, so [the Cluster Olympics] is a facet of that," said Stephenson.

"Cluster Olympics is meant to be an event that is fun, exciting, [and] gets you out of the dorm, as you feel your cluster spirit. It is not just the house you live in, we want to give students the feeling that we are an Andover family," said Ivory.

Scenes of Snow



I. PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN



I. PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Phailed Dreamz

Andover Christmas Carol

By Matthew Wei

"Jig - gle Bælls. Jig - gle Bælls. Jiggle all the Weiii,
 Oh, what fun it is to ride in a golf cart with Canda-ay!
 Jiggle Bælls. Jiggle Bælls. Jiggle all the Wei,
 Oh, what fun, I'll confide, I read Fifty Shades of Grey.

Flashing with the bros, but PAPS is in our way,
 Under the hills we go, wear socks so it's okay!
 The bells on Bob's tail ring, he shakes them with delight,
 What fun it is to swing your sword in a dorm sword fight!

Ahem.

I'm getting expelled, the Deans told me today,
 But because I'm a spiteful lad, I'll report you anyway-ay!
 Jingle Bells, Borden smells, Santa's broke the sleigh,
 Santa's sack is empty, because he came on Christmas day!

Rudolph got a GAP, for "cruising" in Santa's sleigh, (no REACH!)
 Santa's elves revolted and bombed the workshop yesterday,
 If it's not snowing, Santa's not going
 Sorry kids in Florida, your gift was climate chaaa-ange!"

Week's Top Headlines

- *Sykes Scrambles to Hide the Identities of Top Leadership. On an Unrelated Note, Sykes' Accommodations Budget Has Increased by 300%*
- *Santa Claus' Sleigh Shot Down Over Kazakhstan – UN Confirms St. Nicholas Was Harboring Georgian Prime Minister En Route to Russia*
- *North Pole Whistleblower Who Exposed Poor Elf Working Conditions Found Dead, Autopsy Reveals COD as Homicide "Accidental Death Via 17 Candy Cane Stab Wounds to the Back"*
- *Looming Ivy Admissions Date Forces Admissions Officers to "Deny, Defend, Depose" Applications*
- *Ghost of Ted Kaczynski Appears at AMC Test in Morse, Reminded Students of the Rising Prices and Corruption*
- *History Teachers Reportedly Hired by the Grinch "To Curtail Students' Jolliness"*
- *Police Discovered That Luigi Mangione, Alleged Killer of United CEO, Was After the Company's Shrooms to Give to His Brother Mario*



Ins and Outs of 2025

Ins:

- Commons omelettes
- Watching Instagram Reels instead of doing work in Silent
- Nightly DoorDash order rotations
- Spring Term Head of School Day
- Continuation of the annual bioengineered super flu
- Sexy murderers

Outs:

- Outlook's daily two-factor-authentication
- Ultimate week
- Winter Term
- Blue and Silver Dance
- High school being four years long
- Buzz cuts and bleached hair

Naughty or Nice

2024 Naughty:

- **Dr. Kington**
- **South Korean Prime Minister Yoon Suk Yeol**
- **The People of Springfield, Ohio**
- **Drake**
- **Raygun**
- **Jayson Tatum**
- **Jimmy Carter (old)**
- **Jake Paul (Beat-Up on an Old Guy)**
- **Mike Tyson (Scared the Eyes of Millions)**

2024 Nice:

- **Andrew Tate**
- **JD Vance's Couch**
- **Beyonce**
- **Sam Bankman-Fried**
- **Truong My Lan**
- **Luigi Mangione**
- **8th Page**

BOYSHOCKEY

Grayden Robertson-Palmer Sets the Standard for Leadership for Boys Hockey

ALEX DIMNAKU

Grayden Robertson-Palmer '25 has established himself as a cornerstone of the Andover Hockey team, not only through his on-ice performance but also through his exemplary leadership. As the sole Captain, Robertson-Palmer balances his vocal presence with leading by example, fostering a culture of hard work, unity, and mutual respect.

Reflecting on his leadership style, Robertson-Palmer emphasized how he focuses both on action and communication when being a leader. Not only does he try to be vocal, but he also tries to lead by example.

"It's important to have some vocal presence on the team, but I've experienced captains who can be too intense or in-your-face, and I don't think that works well. I try to be vocal, but I also focus on leading by example. If you go out there, work hard, and put your head down, I think others will follow your lead," said Robertson-Palmer.

Teammate Edouard Lord '26 praised Robertson-Palmer's qual-



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

ities as a leader. He mentioned that Robertson-Palmer excels at creating a supportive team environment and looks out for the newer members of the team.

"He's always looking out for the younger guys, making sure they know what's expected and helping them get up to speed, it's one of the things that makes him

such a great leader," Lord continued, "I feel like he's the kind of guy who's always there for you if you need something or just want to talk. He's good at making sure everyone's in a good mental state," said Lord.

Robertson-Palmer also addressed the team's assistant Captains, Charles Sabre '25 and Peyton Millitello '25. He shared that he views them as Co-Captains who work just as hard as him when it comes to helping the team.

"I don't really think of them as assistant Captains—I see them more as Co-Captains. They do everything I do and help the team just as much as I do. They're both great guys who work as hard as I do. I think the dynamic is more about us working together as equals rather than me being above them," said Robertson-Palmer.

Robertson-Palmer's leadership transcends the rink, planning holiday events, such as a Secret Santa gift exchange. According to Luke DeAngelis '25, he is almost always leading the team and plays a big role in helping set up the team get together outside or practice or games like dinners or activities.

"He plays a big role in organizing stuff like dinners or activities. He's pretty much always leading

everything. For example, we're doing a Secret Santa, and he's the one coordinating it, making sure everyone draws names and stuff like that. He holds us accountable off the ice and really sets up our team to have a great culture before the season begins," said DeAngelis.

Though there is growing buzz around Robertson-Palmer's potential as a prospect in the NHL draft, he remains focused on his current role as Captain and the goals of his team.

"I'm not really trying to focus too much on next year or the outcomes right now. I'm just working hard and focusing on this season with the team. I think we have something special, and I really want to win this year. That's my priority. But if something happens and I play well enough to get drafted, it would be really cool. I'm doing everything I can to work toward that," said Robertson-Palmer.

Currently, Robertson-Palmer is committed to Dartmouth College to play Division 1 Hockey, but is listed as a prospect for the 2025 NHL Draft.

A Focus on Discipline: Assistant Boys Hockey Captain Charles Sabre '25

Serving as one of the assistant Captains of Boys Hockey, Charles Sabre '25 joined the team as a new Upper. Sabre plays as a right defenseman (RD) and has quickly established himself as a key leader. As assistant Captain, Sabre manages team dynamics, ensuring his teammates remain punctual, attentive, and respectful both on and off the ice. Sabre emphasizes the importance of maintaining focus on every game as an opportunity for growth, even as the team works toward its ultimate goal of winning the championship. Striving to lead by example, he provides constructive feedback and prioritizes discipline, avoiding penalties to set a strong standard for his teammates.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Building on Success: Assistant Boys Hockey Captain Peyton Millitello '25

Originally arriving at Andover as a new Lower, Assistant Captain Peyton Millitello '25 co-leads Boys Hockey with Robertson-Palmer and Sabre.

On the ice, Millitello plays as left winger (LW). With a team comprised of more lowerclassmen and new players to Boys Hockey, Millitello noted their improvement — in team chemistry and on the ice — and impact. This season, he stated the team's main goal is winning the championship.

Last year, Boys Hockey won a playoff game and maintained a strong regular season record. Millitello hopes the team can build off of their past success, ultimately securing a win.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

BOYSHOCKEY

7
C GRAYDEN ROBERTSON-PALMER '25
 SAINT ANDREWS, NB, CA

9
 ASST. **C** CHARLES SABRE '25
 EDINA, MN

17
 ASST. **C** PEYTON MILITELLO '25
 DALLAS, TX

41
 CHASE ANDERSON '25
 MARBLEHEAD, MA

12
 MICHAEL BARRETT '28
 LYNNFIELD, MA

8
 LOUIS-FELIX BEAULIEU '26
 SAINT-LAMBERT, QC, CA

24
 PATRICK BENSON '28
 DOVER, MA

2
 DANIEL COLLINS '25
 WINCHESTER, MA

21
 JOSEPH DOYLE '26
 NEW YORK, NY

6
 ZACHARY FEDELE '26
 SAINT-LAZARE, QC, CA

88
 RUI HAN '25
 SAN DIEGO, CA

28
 MAXIM KRASOVSKY '27
 TARZANA, CA

19
 NATHAN KREPPNER '27
 TORONTO, ON, CA

31
 EDOUARD LORD '26
 QUEBEC CITY, QC, CA

11
 RUSSELL LOUIE '27
 DUBLIN, CA

14
 KIERAN MCINTOSH '27
 VAL-DES-MONTS, QC, CA

20
 TYLER MIOCEVICH '26
 TORONTO, ON

27
 DAVID O'NEILL '26
 WAYNE, PA

55
 MATTHEW PIOTROWSKI '27
 RIDGEWOOD, NJ

44
 ZACHARY SKOWRONEK '25
 ARLINGTON, VA

26
 ALEXANDER SMALL '26
 PHOENIXVILLE, PA

3
 ALEXANDRE THEODORE '27
 PETALUMA, CA

10
 ETHAN XU '28
 CHAPPAQUA, NY

MANAGERS:

JACK FRISCHMANN '25
 ACWORTH, GA
 NICHOLAS NORRIS '26
 BOULDER, CO

PAUL HARRISON '25
 CHICAGO, IL
 JOHN SCARBROUGH '25
 BOULDER, CO

ShoYu

Chinese & Japanese Cuisine



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KARAOKE



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11:30-12:30AM THURS-SAT
12PM-9:30PM SUN

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Head Girls Basketball Coach Weissbach: Dean by Day, Coach by Starting Whistle

AARON HUANG

As a student, Girls Basketball Head Coach Jennifer Weissbach was a multi-talented athlete, scoring a thousand points in her high school basketball career and going on to play field hockey at Dartmouth College. Her successful basketball career inspired her to give back to students through coaching.

As a coach, Weissbach creates an environment that builds chemistry through a philosophy of “team first.” She hosts team dinners every week and tries her best to support the team in any fun activities athletes want to participate in.

“I would say our team culture centers around prioritizing the team over yourself, working harder than you’ve ever worked before, and having fun while working hard. The specific things that we do, our captains do a great job of fostering relationships within the team. I have the team over for team dinners every week. We try to do some fun events outside of the court, such as a big holiday-themed dinner with the team. We’ll do some different activities throughout the season. But I really let the kids drive whatever fun events that they want to do.



E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

We try to support them in any way we can,” said Weissbach.

According to Akari Imai '25, Weissbach goes beyond individual basketball skills and also teaches her student-athletes how to be great teammates.

Imai said, “She always encourages us to, for example, if someone on our team falls, then we always have to run and pick them up. If some-

one makes a mistake, we’re always positive. She builds a team culture where we are all lifting each other up. We never blame anyone. If someone makes a mistake, we’re immediately there telling them, ‘You got the next one.’ She always pushes us to be really good teammates.”

Weissbach highlighted her assistant coaches Molly Creamer and Christopher

Jones, as important members of her team, bringing vital positivity and knowledge to the team. She also loves the determination and commitment that her players have shown and believes that they are well-prepared for the season ahead.

Weissbach said, “I’m incredibly grateful for the two assistant coaches we have as well, Coach [Creamer] and Coach Jones, and acknowledging that they are a huge part of our team culture, and they bring invaluable, positive energy to our team. I also want to make sure that it’s clear that I am so proud of how hard the players are working this year. They are committed, they are determined, and they are ready for whatever’s going to come our way throughout the season.”

Kai Mafunga '26 highlighted her favorite memories with Weissbach. She spoke of her interactions with Weissbach on the paths, showing the friendly nature and community built on the team.

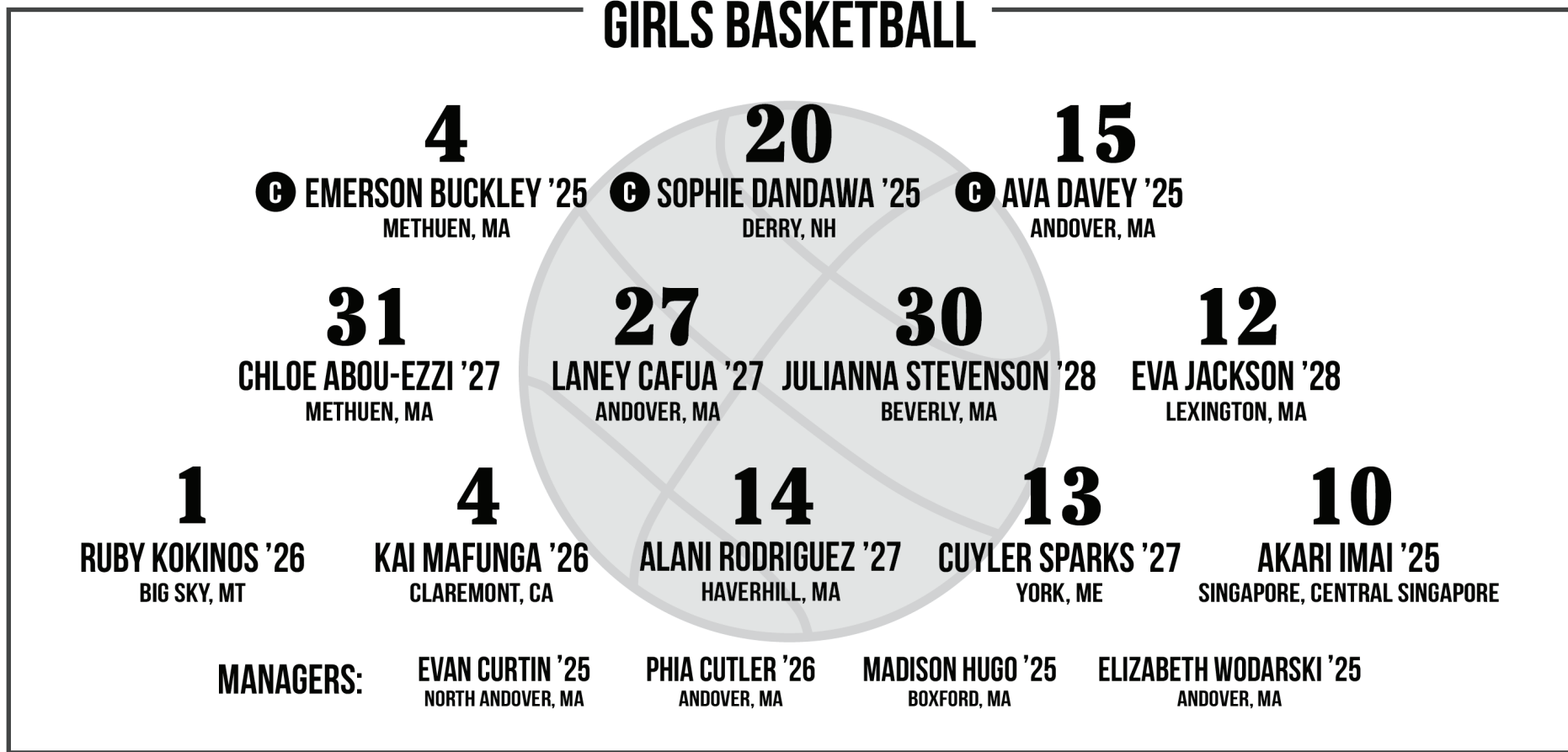
“Coach Weissbach waving ‘Hi’ on the paths is really nice because it shows that she cares about you more than just a coach or you being a player on her team. She really is invested in all of our successes, both on and off the court. Seeing her and seeing her smile when she’s walking

by, making time to make sure we’re doing well, just goes to show her love for the team”

While the team aims to reach the Class A New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) postseason tournament again, Weissbach believes success will come in many different forms. Weissbach’s main goal for the season is to help the team create long-lasting bonds, instilling traits such as teamwork and discipline.

“My overall goal for the team is to help them build lifelong, meaningful relationships with each other. If we can do that, it will be a successful season. Also, we have goals that we want to complete on the court. We compete in Class A of NEPSAC, which is one of the most intense levels of competition for girls’ basketball. So certainly we have a goal. We made the tournament last year. We would love to make the tournament again this year. But ultimately, if we prioritize working hard every day, growing, [and] learning together, this is going to be a successful season no matter what,” said Weissbach.

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Girls Basketball Opens Season with Win Against Pomfret, Falls to Worcester Academy

EMILY NEY

SATURDAY 12/7

Andover 59

Pomfret 29

WEDNESDAY 12/11

Andover 32

Worcester 61

Girls Basketball (1-1) started off its season strong with a decisive win in its home opener, beating Pomfret 59 to 29. Despite the opening victory, the team fell to Worcester Academy in its second game of the season.

Co-Captain Sophie Dandawa '25 noted the advantage of having an additional week of Fall Term, giving the

team more chances to focus on team-building, goal-setting, defensive positioning, and transitions before its first game.

“We had a little bit more time than usual to prepare for our first game because of the extra week in Fall Term, so we spent a lot of time working on defensive positioning and working hard to run fast and transition from defense to offense. Those were some main points that our coaches put a big emphasis on, team camaraderie. And we also had a really big emphasis on making sure we practiced the little things such as hyping each other up, giving each other high fives, and lifting each other up. Those were some of the main goals we set going into that first game,” said Dandawa.

Dandawa appreciated the opportunity to play with a new team, as well as the multitude of support from the bench, the crowd, and SLAM.

“It was definitely very exciting obviously as a home

opener with a new team. So we just wanted to focus on getting the energy up, and we got a lot of that just from ourselves and the crowd and slam and so there was a really great energetic atmosphere I’d say,” said Dandawa.

A new addition to the team this year, Chloe Abou-Ezzi '27 recalls the lively energy going into her first game, echoing Dandawa’s comments about the team’s excitement to play together for the first time.

Abou-Ezzi said, “Going in we were all super hyped, we were all really excited for both of the games. Especially for our home opener, it was super, super exciting because this was our first team together for the season with all of the new players, including myself. I’m new to the team so it was just super exciting getting to play together for the first time.”

Jules Stevenson '28 recounted the team’s hard work in both games, emphasizing that each individual player contributed in their own

ways.

“Everyone stepped up and played their own roles, whether it was getting a rebound or bringing energy on the bench. Everyone contributed to our first win, and everyone contributed to the hard fight we fought against Worcester today. And although we lost, I believe that everyone fought hard,” said Stevenson.

The team hosted Worcester Academy at home on Wednesday, which Dandawa explained brought challenges due to it being a school day.

“Going into today, we just wanted to really pick up where we left off from Saturday, keeping the energy up and focusing on the things that we’ve practiced. It was a little more difficult given it was a Wednesday and it’s the first game we played on the same day as having school, so we had a lot more to juggle, just as individual people. I wish we had a little bit more time beforehand to better prepare ourselves both mentally and physically, but we

did the best with what we could, we made the best out of it,” said Dandawa.

Dandawa commended Ruby Kokinos '26 for her impressive play, which helped revive the energy of the team when the exhaustion was beginning to settle in.

“In the fourth quarter, Ruby Kokinos subbed in and hit a really big three, and it was at a time when the team morale was a little bit down and a little bit low, so it was great. After she hit that three, we’re all right back up and cheering and more engaged in the game, so props to Ruby because she really got us riled up again,” said Dandawa.

Girls Basketball will play at Loomis Chaffee this Saturday.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Holiday Gift Guide

MAGGIE SHU & ALEXANDRA LIN

Christmas is known as the season of giving, and the tradition has always brought friends and family together, showing gratitude for one another. As Winter break rolls around, Andover students have begun to ponder what gifts they should get. Are you struggling to find what the perfect Christmas gift would be? Well, this is the perfect place for you, as students and The Phillipian staff share advice and plans they have on gift-giving!

EMMANUEL OKEKE '27

“The first object that comes to mind is a pair of Jordans because, personally, I’m a sneakerhead, so I really enjoy shoes and that type of stuff. And it doesn’t necessarily have to be Jordans. With the weather now, like snow, maybe you could give someone a pair of UGGs, like winter boots, something around that. Really, it could be anything because shoes fall under different types of categories depending on the needs... I’m from Atlanta and there’s a big sneaker culture there, so growing up I’ve always had a lot of Air Maxes, Jordans, [and] different types of shoes. That’s where it started, but I know right now I have a rotation of Jordans too.

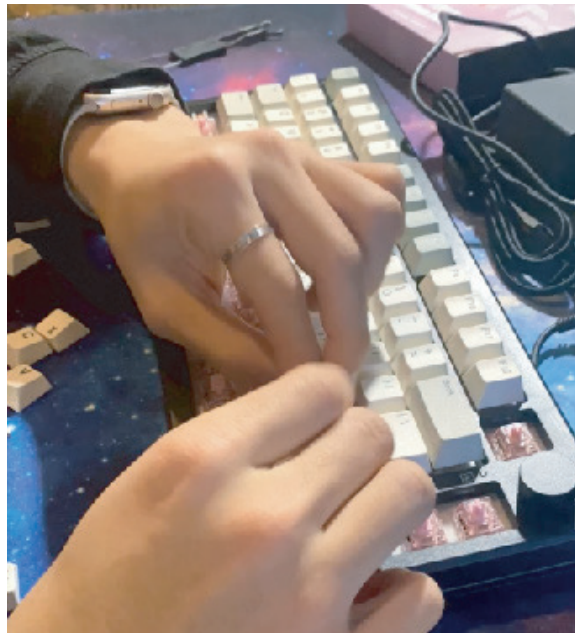


EVELYN KUNG '26

“Something I think would be really good would be a digi[tal] cam, but more specifically the Sony camera because it’s the one my friend has. Since hers broke, I want to get her another one, so we can keep taking really good Instagram pictures... On the holidays, you take a lot of cute winter pictures, a lot of cute holiday pictures, like by the tree, family pictures, Christmas with your friends, so having a really nice digital camera would be really good for the holidays. It’s just practical because it’s nice to have a good camera. And then I think the gift would work best for either kids my age or maybe middle-aged or younger adults because older adults may have a harder time working with the camera. And also digi[tal] cams are really, really popular with teenagers and high schoolers.”

BARRETT KIM '27

“A really good gift is a custom keyboard. Because I personally like doing a lot of things with my hands and crafts and engineering stuff, building computers and building a keyboard. It’s a gift that my friend from my old school gave me and then my parents also got me one during some holiday. It was just a really fun thing to do: clicking on all the switches, keycaps, and baseboards... A good aspect of the gift is that it can just be used. I know a lot of gifts people use for a week, and then just stop using. I feel like that’s a big waste. While the gift itself is nice, it’s not a good gift if you don’t use it. So if you actually use the gift, it’s a good one, which is why I would recommend this.”



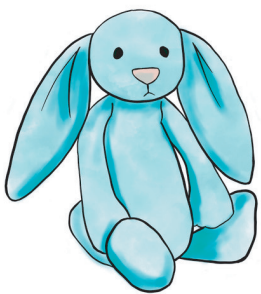
EMILY WU '25

“I got a bunch [of Christmas gifts]. I get funny, useless gifts because everyone in my family or my friends knows what they want. I’m getting one of my friends a duck lamp, I’m getting one of my friends fuzzy socks... some table-top things, things that they don’t need. Some of the stuff that I give is really specific. For example, if there’s an inside joke such as [calling my friend] a duck, then I’m going to give them a duck. [I would recommend giving some] fuzzy animals, or useless tiny things [as a Christmas gift]. It’s like a one-size fits all equation to give to friends and family.”

DANIEL ZHANG '28

“I’m giving this gift to Elliot Chang '28, and the gift itself is the new Beats Pill speaker. It’s a medium-sized/smaller-sized speaker that looks really good. It looks like a pill (hence the name), and you can use it to listen to music. I want to get this gift for Elliot because he’s a really big music fan, and he always likes to blast music. A speaker is really on theme for his personality. I don’t particularly [plan on giving other people gifts]. [Usually], on Christmas day, during Winter break, me and my family eat a meal together.”

The Phillipian Gift Guide



Stocking Stuffers:
Lip balm
Socks
Hand sanitizer
French hair pin
NeeDoh stress toy
Bag charms

Subscriptions and Electronics:
NYT Games Subscription
ChatGPT Pro
Quizlet Plus
10 ft charging cord
Airtag
Magsafe wallet
The Phillipian Subscription

Comfort and Lifestyle:
Jellycat
Lap desk
Owala water bottle
Comfy
Matching sweatsuit
UGG slippers

Extra Special:
Concert tickets
Photobook
Custom T-shirt or pillow
Life-size cardboard cutout



Coming Together: Holiday Spirit on Campus

SIENNA RODRIGUEZ

During the two chaotic weeks that mark the time between fall and winter break, it is no surprise that the main thing keeping the average student going is the promise of the quickly approaching holidays. Although the school days are jam-packed with exams and homework is rampant, the usual academic intensity that comes with being an Andover student is balanced out with community events and celebrations. Even if you don’t celebrate a specific holiday during the winter season, everyone is able to contribute and engage with the holiday spirit. In such a hectic time, this spirit serves as a way to foster community through unity,

connection, and reflection. Campus completely transforms in the time leading up to winter break, coming alive with joy. Simply walking down the paths can lead you to an array of fun and festive decorations meant to bring more cheer into our lives. Dorms across campus put up a variety of colorful lights, wreaths, and inflatable decorations. One of the more prominent examples of this is Eaton Cottage. While beautiful with its distinctive garden all year, the addition of colorful lights and other various decorations brings a new shimmer, especially during the holiday season. These decorations, despite seeming deceptively simple, highlight the ease of cultivating a greater sense of togetherness and holiday cheer even amidst the biting New En-

gland weather. Along with the festive decorations, the atmosphere on campus has been boosted up through the sheer amount of holiday-adjacent events happening recently. This past weekend, for example, students were given the opportunity to engage in a number of fun and seasonal activities. These included holiday karaoke, a showing of ELF! and Die Hard, and a free skate for upperclassmen. Whether you were stumbling around on the ice during the free skate or cozying up to a nostalgic movie, these events have given students and faculty time to relax between an incessant schedule. In turn, the broader Andover community becomes even more tight-knit because of the many lighthearted events taking place. As a new term starts, these

two weeks also give Andover students an opportunity to reflect. Because of all of the holiday spirit currently spreading through campus, students are encouraged to step back and appreciate the time they are spending with their friends and peers. Along with this comes a sense of gratitude for the diversity and inclusion of other cultures and traditions into Andover’s festivities. The community makes an effort for everyone to be seen and included and for everyone to be able to have fun regardless of their personal background. The holiday season at Andover has proven itself to be a time of unity, reflection, and celebration. Whether it is the various festive decorations or the exciting events happening on campus it is clear that every-

one has seemingly bonded over this magical time of the year in one way or the other. Although many boarding Andover students are not able to spend face-to-face time with family during the weeks leading up to the holidays, these spirited activities still allow them to feel a connection with holiday cheer. Even if students are not able to engage with all of their usual holiday routines due to living on campus, with newly-created memories of these two weeks before winter break, fresh holiday traditions can be made. Hopefully, through these events, everyone on campus will be able to come back from a joyful winter break with the same sense of hope that these two weeks at the start of winter term have nurtured.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Andover Holiday Market: A Celebration of Community and Craftsmanship

HLUMA MANGCU & ANYA CASEY

This past Saturday, Central Street came alive with the festive spirit of the Andover Holiday Market. Local artisans, crafters, and food vendors lined the streets as attendees enjoyed family-friendly activities like sock skating and live music performances. With Santa and Mrs. Claus making an appearance and a food drive benefiting Bread and Roses, the market offered something for everyone.

Carter Aime '25 emphasized the positive energy that filled the air, noting how the live music, festive decorations, and friendly faces created a warm and inviting atmosphere.

"I'm really glad I went because the energy was just really fun. Now that it's the

holiday season, I wanted to get into the festive spirit, and I think a lot of other people did too. It was cool seeing the Andover community come together to have a good time," said Aime.

Beyond the jovial environment and diverse offerings, the market served as a unique opportunity for Andover Academy students to connect with the broader community. Zadie Robinson '26 expressed her appreciation for the chance to step outside the campus bubble and engage with the town.

"I went because back in my hometown there weren't a lot of farmer's markets or things like this that I could go to and here in Andover and going to these types of events, it's honestly such a good way to build community throughout Andover... Everyone was very kind and just really bonding. People from campus, people

from downtown, people from Main St., they all kind of come together, and they all interacted, and they talked to each other," shared Robinson.

The market also provided a platform for youth to showcase their talents, including Andover students. Magnus Julin '25, founder of Magnus Woodsmith, participated as a vendor in the market, displaying his handcrafted cutting boards and other wooden utensils for guests to purchase.

"I forget exactly how I learned about the holiday market originally, but it was most likely through some other local craft fairs I participate in. Because I was already a vendor from last year, the market contacted me again this year, and from there, it was mostly a matter of some paperwork to become a vendor again this year. Besides that, I just had to make sure

to restock my products over Thanksgiving break so that I had enough for the market," said Julin.

Woodworking has played a significant role in Julin's life, inspiring him to start his own business. Since a young age, Julin has been passionate about creating visually aesthetic and functional pieces.

Julin said, "My dad has been a hobbyist woodworker for as long as I can remember, and I grew up being his shop helper. Around first grade, I wanted to start a business, and I tried an array of things, even starting a snow cone stand at the end of the driveway. However, none of that was particularly successful. Then, my dad suggested that I should try woodworking as a business, and Magnus Woodsmith was born."

As Julin prepares to go to college, he remains uncertain about his future role in

the Andover Holiday Market. However, he is hopeful that it will continue to thrive, and that Andover students will continue to support the Andover community in such ways.

"I am still deciding what the future of Magnus Woodsmith will be as I move on to college next year, so I don't know if I will be participating again next year. Either way, I hope it lasts for many years to come I think it is important to celebrate the hard work and talents of artisans," said Julin.

With a noticeably higher turnout than last year, the 2024 Andover Holiday Market seemed to be a resounding success. Not only did it give vendors a space to present their work, but it also inspired a warm sense of community and holiday cheer.

Holding Space for "Wicked": Musical Meets Movie Meets Meme Mania

DANIEL ZHANG & TAYLA STEMPSON

Since landing in theaters on November 22, "Wicked" has left a lasting impact and imparted a range of emotions on its audiences. With the movie being based on the long-running Broadway musical of the same name that premiered over two decades ago in 2003, director Jon Chu and composer Stephen Schwartz made a unique choice to split the two acts of the musical into two separate movies. The highly anticipated Part Two is set to release in a year on November 21, 2025. In the lead roles, Tony award-winning actress Cynthia Erivo stars as Elphaba while Grammy-winning Ariana Grande plays Glinda—two outstanding choices. Other notable features include Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard of Oz, Michelle Yeoh as Madame Morrible, and Jonathan Bailey as Fiyero. The synopsis of the movie from Internet Movie Database (IMDb) reads, "Elphaba, a misunderstood young woman because of her green skin, and Glinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads." "Wicked" tells this story and does so much more.

The plot of "Wicked" in its movie format is much more in-depth than the Broadway version. This, of course, is in part due to its length, with the movie's first part being equal to the length of the entire stage production. With this extra time, directors and writers added excit-

ing foreshadowing, deeper lore, clearer character development, and well-paced transitions. This extended version was clearly thought out and well-executed, and gives viewers a more fulfilling and exciting watching experience, even including subtle easter eggs that allude to the original Wizard of Oz story by Lyman Frank Baum.

Secondly, it is clear the set designers put their heart and soul into this production, recreating Oz with as little computer-generated imagery (CGI) as possible; a whopping nine million real tulips were planted for the iconic Field of Poppies, as reported on "ABC News." Even more, the Emerald City Express, the local bullet train, was made to be 106 feet long, according to Elle Decor. The intricacies, scale, and expansiveness of the props is mind-boggling to say the least. As for the rest of the set, the city appears futuristic and whimsical, and the color palettes are cohesive. These choices are excellent in the standard showing, as well as IMAX. My only critique of the IMAX screening is that the coloring was darkened by the provided 3D glasses.

The casting was very impressive. With such experienced actors, characters came alive in a raw and vulnerable depiction, allowing the audience to relate and sympathize. Some doubted Grande's ability to perform such a demanding role as Glinda, but in my opinion, she blew it out of the park. Her vocal range in the opening number, "No One Mourns the Wicked," left me jaw-dropped. In the song, Grande hits an E7 note, which is two and a half octaves above



SOPHIE STAI/THE PHILLIPIAN through the characters they played.

middle C. If you know nothing about music, just know that it is incredibly difficult and requires an immense amount of training and range.

Unfortunately, Boq, as a character, was mediocre. His character, played by Ethan Slater, felt similar to Slater's past role as SpongeBob. This took away from the individuality of Boq, and he did not feel as distinguished as the other roles featured. In contrast, Bailey's role of Fiyero was commendable. He embodied the fluidity of Fiyero's charm that captured the hearts of many audience members in a comedic and memorable way.

This was evident in his arrival to Shiz, and during the "Dancing Through Life" number. At least, he didn't present Fiyero as a mindless idiot, but simply someone who believes in existential nihilism — or so it seems.

Of course, we can't forget the gravity-defyer herself, Erivo. Her renditions of "I'm Not That Girl" and "The Wizard and I" were outstanding. Erivo added so much emotion into her voice, expertly conveying the desire to be accepted while masking it with overwhelming confidence. Overall, the selected cast broke expectations in more ways than one and left viewers feeling seen

It's safe to say that "Wicked" is added to the list of great musical-to-movie adaptations. The sets, costumes, talent, and complexity were awe-striking. After the disappointment of "Mean Girls," another musical turned movie released early this year, "Wicked" was refreshing. Part Two is highly anticipated, and it will be exciting to see what they do with the second act. If you enjoy creative media, then "Wicked": Part I is a must-see.



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LOTW: Hunter Peabody '27 and Kachi Ikekpeazu '27 Push Boundaries Through Fitty Fridays

ANNA TSVETKOV & NINA TORRENS

Combining street wear and athletic aesthetics, Hunter Peabody '27 and Kachi Ikekpeazu '27 bounce their styles off of each other to enhance their outfits and expand their fashion palette. The two don complimentary outfits that each still retain unique pieces.

Both Peabody and Ikekpeazu utilize fashion as an external reflection of their emotions and attitudes. For Hunter, fashion is a way to express his daily feelings without having to vocalize them. He also sees fashion as something unique to him, which he can indulge in without others' opinions or judgements. It allows him to explore something

"[Fashion] gives me a way of expression on the day-to-day basis when I can't necessarily talk to everyone. I think it just allows me to express whether it's my emotions during that day or my level of wanting to feel comfortable or kind of getting out of my comfort zone. I think [fashion] just shows how my brain is working that day based on what I'm wearing. You know, peo-

ple say 'oh when you're sad a lot of people wear all black and they don't even know it.' But it's just subconsciously how we feel. [Fashion] can be just a form of expression and also I feel good that I'm doing something that is unique to me and something that I enjoy to do no matter like what people think," says Peabody.

Ikekpeazu comments on how fashion is instrumental to his sense of self. By dressing in a way that feels representative of his true self, he is able to feel more confident throughout the day. Moreover, he enjoys seeing others' reactions to his outfits, which supply him with an extra spark of energy for the day ahead.

"[Fashion] helps me with my confidence and how I walk around. Say I like my outfit of the day or people compliment me on it, it boosts my confidence and I kind of like that boost in confidence because throughout the day, whether I have a test or something, it's good to have that," says Ikekpeazu '27.

Peabody and Ikekpeazu started an account called Fitty Fridays, posting a variety of different outfits from the Andover community each Friday. Peabody feels the account gives him an obligation to in-

vest in his outfits, and develop his creativity in style. His friendship with Kachi also challenges him to enhance his style, as the two challenge each other to don more interesting and versatile outfits.

"I think a big part of [keeping my style creative and interesting] is me and Kachi kind of challenging each other to wear interesting things, like with our Fitty Friday idea. I feel like as people who are trying to like make a space where people can dress up and be [posted] on an account, we almost feel a duty to wear [outfits] that are different and at least show that we're trying and appreciate style for what it is, as a subjective thing. So I think with [me and Kachi] pushing each other as well as me just wanting to look presentable and interesting, I think those are two factors," says Peabody.

Peabody and Ikekpeazu's friends highlighted how they both are heavily inspired by current street style trends. They also often combine different colors and textures to make their outfits more unique. An important element of their personal style is experimenting and adapting these images on social media to reflect their individuality.

Kwezi Besiimire explained, "I think it's very influenced by streetwear style and trends on TikTok. They have their own aura with it; they have the best fits in the school. When Kachi has the jeans on and the green sweater, I just think it's a really chill fit. Hunter's [best outfit] is the Andover sweater and the shirt showing under with the cargoes. I think they wear a lot of outfits based on what the vibe is



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ikekpeazu said fashion helps his confidence.

of that day now. I think [their style] has evolved in the sense that they're more experimental with what they wear."

Mads Hugo '25, another one of her favorite outfits of Peabody's. Her chosen outfit stood out for its uncommon use of dark denim against light stitching. Moreover, the overall coordination between the outfit's elements served to make it irrefutably harmonious.

"My personal favorite [outfit] was the all denim day where [Hunter] wore a denim jean jacket with white stitching and jeans. That was my favorite because I feel like not

many people think to do that typically, and I liked the contrast with the white stitching against the dark denim. He might as well have sewn denim onto the shoes while he was up planning his outfit the night before to tie everything together. Also, I really like his hats, like his brown hat. This is not too bad. I think Hunter does a really great job layering the parts of his outfits together. You never see him just wearing a shirt. It can never just be a shirt. It has to be a shirt, a vest, and an accessory. I feel like he uses the sandwich method a bit too," said Hugo '25.



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Peabody uses fashion to express himself on a daily basis.



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Peabody and Ikekpeazu post their outfits weekly on their instagram account @fittyfridays.

Mentalist Robert Channing Amazes Andover with Extrasensory Perception and Luck

DANIEL LIU & ADEN HWANG

Robert Channing, a mentalist who has appeared on America's Got Talent and the Steve Harvey Show, delivered a hypnotizing performance at Tang Theater last Saturday with tricks and sensory-defying feats. Students in the audience gasped as he read minds and described unseen objects without his sight. He boiled down his performance to two things: extrasensory perception and just a little bit of luck.

One of Channing's tricks involved knowing exactly what word out of a book students

were looking at. A student located a random page out of a book and with just the page number, Channing accurately guessed the exact word the student chose. Konnor Fortini '28, who was one of the student volunteers, shared his reaction to the trick.

"I had the opportunity to go on stage and help out with one of his tricks. He had this book, a regular book, and he asked us to read any word on the page. And somehow, just by telling him what page we had the word on, he was able to guess exactly what that word was. I don't know if he memorized the whole book or something, but I just thought that it was crazy," said Fortini.

In one segment of the show,

Channing had everyone write down several pieces of information on a notecard, which he later collected. Blindfolded with countless pieces of duct tape, he reached into a bowl from which he somehow read out our responses, and went even far beyond. Cyrus Law '27 found this trick to be his favorite, as he watched his friends' minds get read.

"I thought all the tricks were pretty cool. But my favorite part of the event was when the mentalist started guessing the things that we wrote on our note cards. He revealed some pretty personal things. I think one of my friends wrote down their nickname and the hypnotist knew exactly who he was. And of course, he was able to

read the nickname too, despite being blindfolded," said Law.

While some students were drawn to the event by a genuine interest in magic and illusion, others attended simply to fill the void of a weekend devoid of other activities. This was the case for Quentin Cynn '28, who, despite not being a particular fan of magic, decided to attend the show as a way to pass the time and experience something new.

"There wasn't [anything] to do on Saturday or Sunday and it seemed interesting. The crowd was hype and it was really fun to watch," Cynn recalls.

For Fortini, this event was everything he wanted out of a weekend event. One of his fa-

vorite parts of this event was Channing's involvement with the audience, which excited everyone for what came next. The unpredictability and interaction created an engaging evening.

"He did a really good job interacting with the audience and wouldn't keep to himself. The audience was really excited as a result. I think these events are sometimes a bit overhyped, but I think this one was really well put together. Everyone left having a really good time and without regretting the decision to come. I think it'll be great if the school puts together more events like this in the future," said Fortini.

Lillian Montalto

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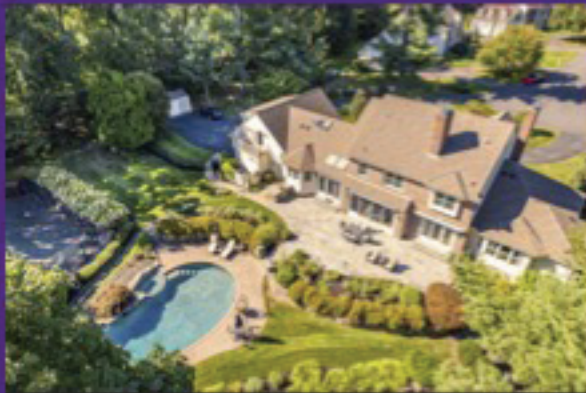
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