

Super Bowl LIX Sparks Campus Excitement, Traditions, and Friendly Rivalries



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY K.M.A./THE PHILLIPIAN

Benedict Dwyer '28 and Billy Brown PG '25 champion their preferred teams in the NFL Super Bowl.

KAI OBATA & CHRISTIAN ESTRADA

It's Super Bowl Sunday: Andover campus is buzzing with excitement about the upcoming game, students and faculty are ardently debating their game predictions, and as game time approaches, dorm common rooms begin to crowd.

As a dedicated supporter of the Philadelphia Eagles, Dylan Anzel '26 opted to watch the Super Bowl in his dorm room. He reflected on his support for the team and how it felt to support the Eagles away from home.

"I'm an Eagles fan, and I've been an Eagles fan my

whole life... When I was really young, like six or seven, I finally understood what football was. I remember my dad watching Eagles games past my bedtime, and if they made a huge play, he'd yell from the other room, wake me up, and I'd go watch the rest of the game with him. That's a core memory for me," said Anzel.

He continued, "There was a lot of anticipation, especially in my dorm. Even people who weren't at school were texting me about it. I even got messages from people I hadn't talked to in a while... It gave people a reason to reconnect and talk about something."

While most students were in support of the Eagles, for the rare Chiefs fan, the game's outcome was a disappoint-

ment. An avid Chiefs supporter, Andrew Pizzi '27 explained that because he was rooting for a different team on a campus of predominantly Eagles fans, it sparked debates among his friends.

Pizzi said, "I am the one Chiefs fan on this campus, and therefore, everybody is my opponent in this debate... It's quite funny, [my friends] call me 'the bandwagon.' I'm quite well known as 'the bandwagon.' Not many of my friends believe that I'm a true Chiefs fan, but I am. I'm a true Chiefs fan. They call me the truest of Chiefs fans."

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Trustees Extend Campus Visit for Annual Winter Meeting to Get a Glimpse of Andover Life

STAFF REPORT

Members of the Board of Trustees visited campus last week for their annual Winter Trustee Meeting, stopping by numerous dorms, classes, and athletic practices. According to Dianne Domenech-Burgos, Chief of Staff and Assistant Head of School for Strategic Planning, many Trustees arrived on campus as early as Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. This was a noticeable shift from the Board's typical Thursday evening arrival in previous years.

Trustee Keith Flaherty '89 P '23 said the Board opted for an extended stay this year to have more time to engage with the current campus community and create a better future for Andover. Flaherty also recognized that as not all Trustees have the firsthand experience of being an Andover parent, this visit provided the entire board the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of current student life.

"The trustees want to keep their fingers on the pulse of what is going on on campus at the individual level. With the exception of Dr. [Raynard] Kington and Tamara Rogers [AA '70], the trustees are all alumni and attended Andover when it looked similar but felt very different. Therefore, we felt it was important to better understand a typical day in the life of an Andover community member, which is why we prioritized arriving earlier than past trustee weekends. The trustees are always looking to gain insight into what the ide-

al Andover looks like for future students, as well as what aspects to preserve and protect," wrote Flaherty in an email to *The Phillipian*.

He continued, "Additionally, as a local parent, I [have] had a unique vantage point into 'modern' Andover life. Some of our trustees don't have that perspective; so this past weekend was an opportunity for everyone on the board to peer into Andover life."

Amy Falls '89, P '19, '21, President of the Board of Trustees, highlighted the importance of demystifying the role of a Trustee by sharing information with students and engaging in campus life. Additionally, Falls shared how this weekend, the Trustees sought to experience the nuanced parts of student life, from dorm life to passing periods.

"There's a lot of mystery around [being a Trustee] that doesn't have to be that way. My job is to make sure we disseminate information amongst students about all these different important things that contribute to Andover. That's one thing I've appreciated about sitting down with students to take away that mystery and pull back that curtain," said Falls.

Falls continued, "We [as trustees] think we understand [the campus experience], but we probably don't. We felt like it was good to at least go to a couple of classes, an athletics practice, and [final] sign-in. It's not going to replicate the

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A History of Head of School Days, from the First to the Thirty-Fourth

NIKI TAVAKOLI & AZUL CABRERA

Head of School Raynard Kington lifted his blue felt hat at last week's All School Meeting (ASM) after sneaking onto the Cochran Chapel balcony, signaling Head of School Day (HoSD) on the following Monday. HoSD has its origins dating back to the seventies, though it officially started up in the nineties, making this Andover's thirty-fourth.

There is not a clear beginning to the tradition of HoSD. One origin story is from 1978, when the February Blizzard dumped 27 inches of snow on campus in a 24 hour time span. Andover canceled classes on the day of, though students expressed fury in that week's issue of *The Phillipian* about not having classes canceled for longer. Additionally, Former Head of School Theodore Sizer would give students a spontaneous day off in Fall Term if the football team won Andover/Exeter from 1978 to 1981. Finally, in Winter of the 1990-1991 school year, Former Head of School Donald McNemar canceled classes for a day in response to surges of influenza.

The way HoSD has been announced has also changed over the years, with each Head of School eventually using their own interests to announce it. Paul Murphy, Instructor in Mathematics, described how different Head of Schools would announce the event.

"[McNemar] would walk into the dining hall the day before, and announce it in all four dining halls. Once he got up to one dining hall everyone understood what was happening, so sometimes he would sneak in, so nobody knew he was coming into the dining hall. Then Barbara Chase [Head of School from 1994-2012] changed it a little bit, because I think she didn't like how every time she walked into the dining hall in the winter, everyone thought that there was going to be a Head of School Day. She made it so that if she came into the dining hall with her field hockey stick and waved the field hockey stick, that signaled that no classes would happen the next day. Then John Palfrey changed it to the squash racket, and then Dr. Kington has his hat that he wears," said Murphy.

This year's HoSD was an-

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Students enjoy the snow on Head of School Day. COURTESY OF MIGYU KIM

ASM Speaker Pooja Lakshmin Discusses the Importance of Real Self-Care

ADELYNE LIU & CHRISTIAN ESTRADA

Pooja Lakshmin, an author and a board certified psychiatrist, spoke about the importance of redefining self-care at All-School Meeting (ASM) on February 7. Drawing from her own expertise and experiences, she urged the Andover community to cultivate a mindset in self-care to build skills for long-term wellness, rather than taking part in commercialized wellness trends.

Lakshmin shared her experience returning to academia two years after dropping out of her psychiatry residency. She emphasized the importance of setting boundaries to reclaim personal agency, noting that self-care is about making intentional choices to prioritize commitments.

"To admit that I was wrong and having to re-transfer residencies and come back to medicine and say that I'm going to do this changed me, because when I came back to academia, I came back understanding boundaries... I also understood that it was up to me to figure out what I was passionate about... I got to be a writer as well as an author and all of that came about because I was willing to take a risk and say no to some things that other people in my life thought I should really want. That is real self-care," said Lakshmin.

Christian Robinson '28 connected Lakshmin's advice to his own experiences at Andover, where students often overload themselves with commitments. Robinson agreed with her message about the importance of cutting out activities that cause unnecessary stress.

"We're always in a rush to say yes to things, picking up as many extracurriculars or as many extra credit assignments. Sometimes, it's too much on



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ASM speaker Pooja Lakshmin speaks on experiences with mental health.

our plates and adds unnecessary stress on top of our already bad sleep schedules... The most important takeaway to me was to pause before agreeing to something, think about it, and make an informed decision rather than rushing into commitments," said Robinson.

Denys Tereshchenko '26 found Lakshmin's message of redefining self-care particularly relevant to the Andover student body. Tereshchenko expressed that many students struggle with viewing themselves beyond their academic and extracurricular activities.

"It was nice that she summarized together the idea that self-care is not just bubble baths, but that self-care is a way to exist, that self-care is a mindset that you can have for yourself. [She] brings the point home that we as an entire student population are often not good with self-care, not good

with redefining ourselves not as Andover students but as people first," said Tereshchenko.

During the presentation, Lakshmin also reflected on her conversations with Andover's student leaders the day before ASM, noting their dedication to creating change within the community. Reiterating the importance of balance, Lakshmin encouraged the student body to prioritize mental health.

"The rate limiting factor isn't what college you get into or who your advisor is or what your internship is gonna be. The rate limiting factor is actually your mental health... I want you to put as much attention on your mental health as you put on all of your different activities. If you learn to start cultivating that now, you will

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Commentary, A2

Misinformation.

In "The Threat of Misinformation on Politics and Democracy," Aaron Bai '27 expresses what online propaganda could mean for the political process.

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Happy Valentine's Day.

Love at first sight.

Sports, B1

Nordic Hosts Home Meet.

All-Gender Nordic Skiing shined Friday, with Girls winning and Boys taking second. Wednesday marked its first home meet in 20 years on Siberia Field.

Arts, B6

Kendrick's Super Bowl Statement.

Read about Kendrick Lamar's powerful Super Bowl halftime debut, featuring surprise guests, a bold Drake diss, and a statement on hip-hop's mainstream impact.

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The Phillipian

The oldest preparatory newspaper in the United States. Founded 1857.

Vol. CXLVIII
Phillips Academy

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Editorial

It's Cuffing Season

Showers of roses, boxes of chocolate, and heart-shaped notes announce the arrival of Valentine's Day. The unique environment of boarding schools, where students live, learn, and grow together, fosters all kinds of connections, from deep friendships to fleeting crushes. When it comes to dating at Andover, however, our experiences are marked by both challenges and opportunities.

Dating at a boarding school invites additional challenges on top of the usual frustrations of relationships. While social media has made the process of meeting and connecting with others beyond our social circle vastly more accessible — through texting, DMing, adding on Snapchat, or swiping right on a dating app — those same factors have contributed to the normalization of non-committal relationships. New terms have even been invented to describe these ambiguities, such as “situationship” and “talking stage,” leading some to view relationships as an unnecessary emotional investment. Indeed, dating at a boarding school comes with its own difficulties. Whether through late-night dorm gossip or casual chatter on the paths, private matters often quickly become public knowledge in an insular campus environment. Rumors gather, texts fly, and for those at the center of public scrutiny, the resulting hyper-visibility can heighten anxiety, especially in first relationships. Furthermore, with students surrounded by couples on campus or scrolling past anniversary posts on social media, dating can seem like an essential part of the high school experience. Feelings of boredom and loneliness may compound the pressure to date. However, balancing a romantic relationship on top of our academic, social, and personal commitments can leave students feeling even more overwhelmed.

On the other hand, constant interaction in close proximity can accelerate the cultivation of meaningful relationships. As Andover offers the privileges of in-

dependence many students long for, students are eager to explore relationships and seemingly novel experiences. Andover students don't just spend traditional “school hours” with friends and peers in the classroom. Everyone shares breakfast, lunch, and dinner in Paresky Commons; students form study groups in the library at night to prepare for an upcoming test; students mosh together at school-wide dances. The intersecting spheres of our academic, social, and personal lives help students socialize. As a result, dating at Andover can feel more accessible and immediate, as the structure of campus life eliminates common barriers that exist in any other high school setting.

Whether you're cuffed by love or other responsibilities, everyone can celebrate Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is ultimately a time to express love and gratitude to all the people who make Andover a second-home to all of us. Whether you're hanging out with friends in your dorm or making the spontaneous decision to eat downtown, Andover is a space for students to bond over shared joys and shared struggles; navigating the challenges of boarding school together is what ties us together as a community, no matter our priorities, interests, or goals. Although romance is most closely associated with Valentine's Day, embracing the different relationships and degrees of emotional commitment with the students around you may be as enthralling. So this Valentine's Day, say “I love you” to your best friends who have been there since the beginning of your journey. Say “I love you” to your trusted adults who have supported you at Andover. Most importantly, say “I love you” to yourself for all the growth, resilience, and joys you've experienced at boarding school.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

While Thiago Jollon '27's refutation of my article, “The Perils of Political Neutrality,” has some salient points, there are also certain inadequacies in his argument. Largely, I believe Jollon misinterpreted my article, which indeed highlighted the implications of Sweden's neutrality. Specifically, I exposed Sweden's “double standards,” of neutrality, evident within their unofficial liaisons with the U.S. during the Cold War that contradicted their abstention. Thus, Jollon's argument for Sweden's supposed lack of neutrality would appear tangential to mine, as we both evaluate the harms and contradictions of Sweden's claims of neutrality. Contrastingly, I argue that

the harms of Sweden's political stance originate primarily from their lack of interference, rather than their non-neutral actions as claimed by Jollon.

Additionally, Jollon introduces a fascinating point regarding Sweden's supposed support of Nazi ideologies. While I agree that there was frequent injustice towards Norwegian and Danish Jews, I deny the correlation of Sweden's neutrality to Jewish oppression. While shameful and perhaps cowardly, their oppression of Jews did not fuel their neutrality, removing any relation of neutrality to ideological tensions. Simply, the concept of neutrality exists separately from theories of atrocity and violence

and is instead concerned with resource management and international alliances on the global stage. Furthermore, it is a common myth that Sweden upheld certain Nazi ideologies, and Jollon's mention of select groups displaying said beliefs cannot account for the broader political scope of the nation. There are always certain groups with beliefs that deviate from standard perception, often which do not reflect the vast majority. Here, does Jollon characterize Sweden as a perpetrator of Nazi ideology, and does he suggest that there is tangible evidence for their alleged support? From my interpretations, it appears there is limited reasoning to validate this point, as immor-

al actions are separate from neutrality.

Moreover, Sweden's neutrality did not arise as a conspiracy. Rather, neutrality, whether deemed unsuccessful or not, was a pragmatic method to stabilize the nation and avoid invasions, demonstrated by its alteration of the national mentality across the following centuries. In tandem, the shipments of raw materials were justified as concessions to avoid invasion, rather than gifts to Nazi powers. Alongside, groups across many other nations upheld ties to Hitler's governance during the war, rejecting the impression that Sweden's oppressions were unique. Thus, Sweden cannot be fully discredited for

its affiliation with German interests at the time, which also existed independently of neutrality. Overall, the motives behind Sweden's neutrality were pragmatic above ideological.

Signed by:
Rania Ali-Svedsäter '26

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CORRECTIONS:

The Threat of Misinformation on Politics and Democracy

AARON BAI



A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

Free and fair elections — one of the fundamental processes upholding America’s democracy — are dependent on voters’ access to accurate and truthful information about candidates and their policies. As such, the validity of elections is undermined when voters are misled or manipulated by people who seek to influence and misinform them through targeted ads and misinformation. Social media in particular provides the tools for the mass dissemination of information, allowing motivated groups to reach widespread audiences quickly and with barely any regulation, greatly exacerbating the situation. Section 230 protections of the Communications Decency Act instituted in 1996, for example, prevent online platforms and their users from taking legal liability for third-party content, offering no incentive for social media companies to act on the threat of misinformation. Other government regulations on social media and misinformation are also lax at best. Such conditions allow groups to utilize social

media to sway voters through methods such as fake news and targeted advertisements much more easily than before. Therefore, stricter government regulations of such activities on social media are critically needed to curb the nefarious influence of these misinformation campaigns. Without urgent action, we risk the continued deterioration of democracy at home and abroad.

The impact of social media platforms on election results has been apparent for years worldwide. Its influence has been apparent since the early 2000s when approximately 55 percent of the U.S. adult population was found to seek election news online. This statistic has only increased since then, with 36 percent of U.S. voters using Facebook as their main source of news. With such a substantial portion of the population influenced by social media, manipulation via online platforms poses a larger threat compared to traditional media. Through microtargeting and data collection, social media created new methods such as targeted ad customization that allow manipulation at a more effective and wider scale than any conventional tabloid or newspaper. Its broad reach and attention-capturing style also allow misinformation and manipulative messaging to be disseminated much more widely and at a faster rate. Fake news on X spreads six times faster than factual news and is also 70 percent more likely to be reposted.

The sheer number of accounts dedicated to this purpose coupled with the dispersed nature of social media makes it difficult to detect and root out. Without pressure from government regulation, social media companies are unlikely to spend the necessary time and money to combat and prevent such campaigns, and such manipulation will only increase in scope and impact.

There have been innumerable examples worldwide of manipulation via social media in recent years. During the 2016 U.S. presidential election, political consulting firm “Cambridge Analytica” collected personal data from millions of Facebook users without their consent, then employed mass-scale modeling to target specific demographic groups with political messaging. The company claims to have played a decisive role in Donald Trump’s 2016 election campaign by targeting voters in key battleground states. In India, Narendra Modi’s BJP party spent over 30 million rupees on targeted Facebook ads in the state of Uttar Pradesh alone in February 2022. Turkey’s ruling party enlisted over 6000 people to counter government opponents on social media while Russia has been accused of influencing foreign elections through online platforms countless times. Organized Facebook propaganda campaigns were found in 56 nations, with 75 percent of the 70 countries assessed found to be using disinformation and media manipulation



SACI VEGSO/THE PHILLIPIAN

to mislead users. Meanwhile, over 60 percent of Facebook users are completely ignorant of any curation on the site, while 74 percent were not aware that Facebook sells their traits and interests to advertisers. Such efforts by social media users to influence election results severely undermine the ability of the people to express their true will in elections based on accurate news and authentic debate.

This crisis warrants immediate action. Outdated laws must be modified to adapt to changing times and more regulations must be ratified and enforced. Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of democracy, but the influence of such nefarious manipulation poses significant challenges to the integrity of modern elec-

tions. Democracy isn’t just the ability to vote for a certain candidate; it is about being accurately informed and being able to evaluate political decisions with clarity and discernment. The safeguarding of our electoral processes must be prioritized, and social media platforms must be held accountable for the content they disseminate. The time to act is now. Otherwise, we risk sacrificing the very foundation of democracy in this country.

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

Why Students Should Vote on Head of School Day

RYAN BAEK



K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

A roar of cheers erupted at All-School Meeting (ASM) last week as Dr. Kington waved the famous blue hat that announced the fated date of Head of School Day (HoSD). My friends and I excitedly cheered along with everyone else, and I started looking forward to enjoying an extra day to relax.

For the past several weeks, people have been speculating when HoSD would be, constantly making predictions. As speculations built up, people continued to anticipate the day with eagerness, and when HoSD was finally announced, the emotional build-up was released. People were ecstatic about the day off, but as the atmosphere of contentment started to wear off, I realized how ineffective it was to have an unpredictable day off. Although it was apparent that the element of spontaneity had added more to the excitement, there would be far more benefits to allowing the student body to vote for when the day should be.

At a rigorous school like Andover, having a day off to relax during Winter Term, especially during a week filled with majors, can benefit many people. Although it’s impossible to accommodate every

If students had an opportunity to vote, we could have a day off during a week when the extra time can be of most use to the majority of the school.

single person’s schedule, it’s still important that our busy lives are taken into account. Students had hoped that HoSD would be on the day when they needed it the most, but sometimes, the days that had been filled with hope went by like a normal day because no one could guarantee the exact date until Dr. Kington officially announced HoSD. If students had an opportunity to vote, we could have a day off during a week when the extra time can be of most use to the majority of the school. Also, knowing when HoSD is would reduce stress for students because it will give everyone more time to plan out schedules before majors better, since we tend to worry about and prepare for them multiple

days in advance.

Another benefit to integrating a voting system into HoSD is that it allows students to plan their travel plans with their families more comfortably without the last-minute rush. On longer weekends, many return home to be with family and friends, and knowing about the day off in advance will

be beneficial to all families. Even those who may not be able to return home or have their family visit on slightly extended weekends can benefit from having extra time to plan ahead for their weekend, whether it’s a group study session in the library, or going downtown with friends.

One possible method for an effective voting system

One possible method for an effective voting system would be allowing students to vote for HoSD every Friday for the Winter Term via an online poll.

would be allowing students to vote for HoSD every Friday for the Winter Term via an online poll. If over 50 percent of the school votes for the following Monday, then it can officially be announced as the day off. It’s also important to consider that the student body may not be able to decide on a specific Monday off by majority vote, so in that case, HoSD can happen on a predetermined Monday that’s closer towards the end of the term.

This method can provide an effective and efficient way to allow students to have control over having a day off during their busy weeks.

As we consider how HoSD should be decided on next year, we should think about the fact that despite there being positives to receiving the spontaneity of the event during ASM, if we get to vote for what date we have off, it will bring many more benefits to the most students.

Ryan Baek is a Junior from Woodstock, MD. Contact the author at ibaek28@andover.edu.



NURUL KHAIRUNNISA/THE PHILLIPIAN

The Importance of Community at Andover

FELIX BRET



K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

Community is one of those buzzwords that appear constantly here at Andover. We hear it in emails reminding us of the importance of it, we see it on Andover's website, and it regularly pops up in conversations about how people are doing.

However, why does community matter here at Andover? Most of the student and faculty body live on campus. Over 800 students call this place home for the academic year along with teachers who live here year round and a daily influx of Day students. Andover is not just a school, it acts as a home away from home. By having students actively feel this in their day to day, we would be fostering a place where someone is fully engaged, causing people to become happier, more productive and more selfless.

While applying to Andover, I talked to plenty of alumni. When speaking to almost each and every one of them, they said that Andover was a place where they knew people had your back and

would stick up for you. I heard stories ranging from meeting lifelong friends through a previously lonely lunch or making others through sports games. All in all, the Andover I heard about was one of close bonds between students and teachers, with house counselors serving as reference points and trusted folk.

Needless to say, community is definitely important. Lack of it leads people to feel isolated and rejected, resulting in them being ostracized from society and making them more vulnerable to depression and loneliness. Historically, when a place lacks community it loses productivity and has a higher crime rate. Having a community is a massive boon to one's spirits and development. It definitely feels great to know that people you may not know personally still care for you simply for being in the same place at the same time.

Andover is not just a school, it acts as a home away from home.

Community is a society's foundation, it lays down the framework for peace and prosperity.

When I was accepted to Andover, I was overjoyed at the prospect of being in a place where I could interact with all kinds of people. As someone who is a self-described introvert, I've had difficulties interacting with people in the past. I was really excited for the opportunity to

be moved out of my comfort zone at all times.

For the most part, I would say this has been the case. During my time here, I've had the incredible fortune of meeting heaps of greatly talented people. I've met people ranging from incredible STEM kids who will probably win a Nobel Prize, humanities kids with rare knowledge, to athletes who could go pro. Andover students are some of the kindest, humblest people I've ever met, which creates great potential for a lively, interesting community.

At the same time, I've also experienced a lack of community. After All-School Meeting and on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m., our dining hall is filled to the brim with students. But what happens on the weekends? Day students usually go home and stay there as they aren't enticed to return to campus on weekends. A sizable number of boarders also leave on the weekend if they live in the Greater Boston area. As a result of this, the school feels empty during the weekends; I hardly see people on the paths. One time, I was walking with a family friend who had come to visit me at school. Their children had also gone here ten years ago, and they said that they hadn't seen such emptiness since before Covid-19. According to them, you'd always see the students outside hanging out with a sense of community evident. Where did that go?

Although there are usually activities on the weekend and other days, turnout has been disappointing; I remember attending a dance back in Oc-



CARINA PAIK/THE PHILLIPIAN

tober, and no one was in lower left of Paresky Commons engaging in it. I distinctly remember there just being a mass of people downstairs on their phone or with a group of close friends.

I suggest that we students take the initiative and try arranging as many social interactions as possible. We don't need to do much, even just a small hangout with someone in your dorm hall who you don't see much would be a great start. When it's the weekend and nothing is happening, sit with someone new at Paresky Commons. Aim to leave your comfort zone, even if rarely. We can also encourage our dorm advisors to arrange more group events and write to the Dean of Students with suggestions and ideas for better or more desirable

events that bring the student body together. Recently, this has prompted our Head of School, Dr. Kington, to host his own munches — who's to say what could happen if we pressed further? Instead of sitting in our dorms and remaining in the comforts of our own circles, embrace the spirit of "Youth from Every Quarter" and labor towards making this place a more united, lively community where everyone feels like they belong. You will find yourself emotionally enriched and a more developed individual. Nobody can fault you for trying.

Felix Bret is Lower from London, UK. Contact the author at fbret27@andover.edu.

The Politics of Music: Separating Art and Artist?

WILLOW WRIGHT



L. RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

A few years ago I attended the concert of one of my favorite childhood music artists. Yesterday, I unfollowed him. He posted something political that I strongly disagreed with, and I decided that I didn't want that content on my feed ever again.

This decision felt extremely significant because music has always been embedded in my life. This love and appreciation for songs and their sounds has been greatly influenced by my father, who worked in radio throughout most of my childhood and has always been passionate about music. It's still exciting when he happens to be friends with an artist we're listening to on the radio.

This artist whom I unfollowed yesterday has long been a part of my childhood. A few years ago, we had the opportunity to attend one of his concerts and even meet him in person. I loved every minute and was awestruck when I had the opportunity to interact with him after the concert. He was extremely energetic and seemed caring as he asked about my opinions on his show and caught up with my dad like an old friend.

Reflecting on that moment, my perspective has shifted based on what I now know about him. After the recent inauguration of the United States' 47th president, strong

emotions and opinions have been running high. While they might be intense, overwhelming, and even cause us to lose focus on our work, we all have our ways of processing new information and events. For me, that means listening to music with the high volume of my AirPods drowning everything else out. Originally, I believed this method to be a private form of escape from the world around me, but I didn't realize that that same world would ultimately alter and censor some of my prior music taste.

Shortly after unfollowing, I began reflecting on my reaction upon learning that someone I had idolized for years wasn't who I once thought he was. This was incredibly disappointing because I had put my trust and support in him and his music for so long. It prompted me to think about what supporting the work of specific celebrities says about ourselves and the standards that we hold ourselves to. At what point do we, or should we, let politics get in the way of our music taste?

I believe that these scenarios are highly personal; therefore, people are going to have varied reactions. I've narrowed it down to two factors that I believe influence these decisions, and background is necessary to understand where someone's perspectives are coming from before they are harshly judged. By breaking down these factors, we gain tools to better assess and manage similar situations in the future. For one, I think that our formative relationships and initial opinions about the musician are important to note. The amount of time that we've followed or known about a specific person likely determines the impact that their actions might have on us. Additionally, the severity of the "transgression" is also crucial to take into account.



ANYA CASEY/THE PHILLIPIAN

Did the artist do something that's easy to let slide as long as it doesn't happen again, or is it so intense and unforgivable that it causes an immediate and irrevocable reaction? Maybe it's because the action sharply contrasts with our moral values and identity, and at that point, I believe it's best to unfollow and forget.

When talking with some of my peers, I found that there were a variety of different reactions. The consensus was that most people would be deeply disappointed, but not do anything radical, like immediately unfollowing and discontinuing their support. Some specific responses were: "That musician must really need money," and "I just would leave it and not do them the justice of clicking on their profile to unfollow." However, others did acknowledge that unexpected political content would taint their entire view of the person. Some said that they would try their best to

not interact with the artist in any way, such as removing their songs from playlists or switching the radio station.

In my scenario, the sudden loss of respect happened quickly. I hadn't had any real opportunity to reflect on the effect that this artist had on me for much of my life. Even though I'd loved this musician for years, after this single act, I have completely given up on him. When I looked through the comments in that post, I found many people who shared my thoughts, along with others who thought that the same action I found so disrespectful was the best thing that he had ever done. Therefore, while I believe that, in many cases, personal actions are up for interpretation, I would develop a bias against those who continued to support the artist, leading me to compare our respective values and morals.

However, when my dad texted this person to wish him

a "happy birthday" later that same day, I wasn't quite sure how to react. While it might have seemed daunting at the time, it is of course so much easier to cut off a musician than our own friends and family members. Even though I love and trust my dad, and I know that our political values align, our responses to this situation were not the same. I would never have the same reaction towards him as I did to his friend, yet it adds an additional factor in attempting to understand political standpoints and our own opinions on them. In this situation, even though my dad and I have similar political views, his prior appreciation and support for this artist outweighed the musician's recent action, while mine did not. Understanding our different opinions was important for me to learn where he was coming from. This explains the power that these two factors can have over our actions and the varied reactions that they can create.

Political divisions are deeply spread throughout the United States, which is why it's so important that we treat people with grace and give them the benefit of the doubt before learning about their perspective, even when it proves difficult. Prior to this, I didn't fully understand how quickly politics could change our opinions of people whom we thought we really knew, liked, and looked up to. Yet here I am, writing an article about how quickly I was compelled to unfollow one of my favorite artists. This experience has taught me that as much as I'd prefer to separate art and artist, the presence of political values and morals have made it hard to untangle the two.

Willow Wright is an Upper from Andover, MA. Contact the author at wwright26@andover.edu.

The Super Bowl Brings Unity to Campus

Continued from A1, Column 3

Pizzi continued, “I’m quite happy [for Head of School Day] because we got to stay out a little later with other people. And then also not having the stress of a school day the next day was nice. Not having to worry about doing homework during the big game.”

For Andover students who aren’t football fans, the halftime performance, which featured popular artists Kendrick Lamar and SZA [Solána Imani Rowe], was still an attractive aspect of the event. Clare Dunbar ’28 recalled how the halftime performance was a highlight during the watch party in Chase dorm.

“During that halftime show, I know that people were just having a lot of fun.

They would switch the song, and people would scream if it was their favorite song or one that they weren’t expecting or stuff like that... Everyone is excited to either watch the halftime show or just watch the game, and it’s a big event for everyone,” said Dunbar.

Zachary Yuan ’27, an international student who supports the Eagles, expanded on how the Super Bowl allows students to show team pride.

“I’ve seen a lot of people with Philly hoodies around campus. Because I’m in band, there are people who just start playing the “Fly Eagles Fly” song randomly during band, which was pretty fun. I’ve seen kids arguing in the corridors or in the den about the Super Bowl,” said Yuan.

Similarly, Paxton Auguste ’28 watched the Super Bowl in the common room of Taylor House alongside his dorm mates. He shared his opinions

on how the halftime show itself has shifted the campus atmosphere and invited discussions among peers.

“There’s been a lot more talk about Kendrick Lamar, his halftime show, and breaking down his main message behind the show and who his target audience was. It connected back to the Kendrick Lamar and Drake conflict when he performed his diss track in front of a ton of people,” said Auguste.

He continued, “Even if you’re not really into football, people get excited for the game, they have watch parties, and just talk about it everywhere... The whole campus is more social and a bit more unified. Even if you’re not actively watching the game, it’s this experience that brings people together, and there’s a sense of community, whether you care about football or not.”



I. PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Benedict Dwyer '28 shows off his Chiefs themed jewelry.

Lakshmin Encourages Students to Prioritize Their Mental Health

Continued from A1, Column 5

be leaps and bounds ahead of your peers,” said Lakshmin.

Lakshmin concluded with a call-to-action. She shared that starting to remove “dreadful”

activities can help students prioritize commitments while maintaining mental health.

“Write down all of your activities and then circle the activities that you’re really excited about, that you feel a lot of pride in, that you’re really connected to. Keep all those, then put a checkmark on any

activities that you’re dreading... Pick one thing from those, and I want you to change your mind and reach out to that teacher, to that advisor and pull back, because you’re allowed to change your mind. You need to learn how to do this for the rest of your career and the rest of your life,” said Lakshmin.

HoSD Provides Opportunity for Students

Continued from A1, Column 2

nounced during the ASM as many students were already packing up to leave. Kington appeared on the balcony above the stage and lifted his hat, to cheers from the audience. Ozochi Onunaku ’25 described the scene and noted that an announcement at ASM allows everyone to celebrate together, as opposed to other announcement methods.

“Dr. Kington tipped off his top hat, and I remember people just standing up, giving a standing ovation, and applauding him for announcing Head of School Day would take place on that Monday. I was jumping because that would be my birthday... I think there’s a very tangible difference in between the levels of hype generated at each event, because in [Paresky]

Commons, people are very happy, but there’s probably just a tenth of the school eating at Commons at any given moment. Whereas at ASM, everyone is there, and everyone is just universally celebrating with cheer and joy,” said Onunaku.

Many students expressed their desire to use the long weekend to find their footing with academic work and relax with friends and family. Colette Ruiz ’27 spoke about her plans for the long weekend, noting her hope to take it easy.

“Personally, I have been battling two bouts of sickness these past couple of weeks. [Head of School Day] is a really great opportunity and also considerate of the school to give me another chance to catch up on stuff, spend some time with family, and [take] care of myself too... I took Friday semi-off just because I wanted to

spend time with friends and family, and I thought [because] I have an extra day so I could kind of treat myself,” said Ruiz.

Overall, students enjoyed HoSD very much. Onunaku elaborated on the value of HoSD, noting that it is both a meaningful tradition and gives students something to look forward to throughout the long winter term.

“The most important thing of it all [is that] it’s tradition. You can’t take away tradition, even if it might be a slight minor inconvenience for the amount of class time that a teacher has. Tradition is what really builds up the school’s community and the school’s culture, and without tradition, if you begin chipping away at the foundations of these traditions, I feel like students won’t have the glimmers of hope that they would want in terms, such as the dreary winter term,” said Onunaku.

Blue Runs Deep Event on Government, Policy, and Diplomacy Hosts Andover Alums

CADE RUTKOSKE

For this term’s Blue Runs Deep Event, the Andover community welcomed back alums Daniel Arrigg Koh ’03, Sharyn W. Lie ’94, and Marc. L Shaw ’92 for a discussion on the topics of Government, Policy and Diplomacy.

Ginny Marshall ’25 was one student who asked panelists questions. As someone who has attended multiple panels throughout her time at Andover, she commented on the importance of these events for current PA students.

“I think it’s super interesting to see how Andover shapes people’s careers once they leave. I think [that] every single panel that I’ve been on, and also through the other events that I’ve done, I’ve really seen how Andover values of non-sibi, community, and curiosity really drive people long after they leave the school. It’s super inspiring for me to hear from them and also to talk to them. I think it fuels some of my own drive, and I think it keeps me inspired for life after Andover,” said Marshall.

She continued, “I think that people can gain a lot of perspective about what life is like after Andover, and just the strength of the community that you step into once you become part of the alumni body. So I think they’re super informative, super insightful for all students, current or past, to attend.”

Most recently working for the Environmental Protection Agency, panelist Lie explained how Andover prepared her well for her career, highlighting how it gave her the tools to adapt to a range of topics and required skills.

“I definitely think that having a broad background, education-

ally, is incredibly helpful when you’re trying to put yourself in other people’s shoes to understand how different programs and policies impact them. I’ve always been of two minds, which is why I pursued both an economics and geology degree... [While] I sort of fell into the policy side of things, just being able to look at different problems from different perspectives has been incredibly helpful. Having that broad background educationally really helps trying to communicate different challenges with different audiences,” said Lie.

Originally set on becoming a surgeon, Shaw has instead worked in the foreign service for over twenty years, completing several tours and more recently serving in the Department of State. Shaw advised students to instead become well rounded and take advantage of all of PA’s educational opportunities.

“You want to be prepared to walk through the door when an opportunity presents itself...I thought I would, of course, never write a paper after I left Andover, but for the past 25 years, I’ve been writing policy papers every day... Because I was at Andover and because they challenged me and because they sort of made us become well-rounded, I learned enough about a lot of things so that when the opportunity presented itself to come to the foreign service, I could sort of pretend that I knew what I was doing,” said Shaw.

As Deputy Assistant to Former President Joseph Biden during the Biden Administration, panelist Koh was able to comment on the current political landscape. He emphasized the importance of continuing to seek out a range of news sources and to continue to actively participate in politics.

“We’re in a very concerning time in the way information spreads [and] who controls that

information... I think the reality is that it’s incumbent upon all of us to be able to fight misinformation wherever we see it. The reality is we still trust our neighbors more than we trust the people that we talk to online, or the media that we see on TV. And I think it’s just incredibly important now more than ever that all of us stay engaged in the fight,” said Koh.

He continued, “I know everyone is very exhausted. Regardless of your political affiliation, people [have been] through a brutal election season and people are incredibly fatigued by politics, but now is not the time to remove yourself in politics. Now is the time to really move in and fight for the things that you truly care about and things that you want to see... At the end of the day, it’s communities like Andover, it’s communities where all of us are from and the people who live in our streets, who will listen to you. I think there needs to be more voices in the mix that care about facts and that people want to listen to.”

Reflecting on each of the panelists, Margot Furman ’25 reflected on part of the discussion which focused on the difference between working for the government for a career and working until a set date, such as working under a certain president.

“The career employees do it because they respect their country and want to make it better, no matter who’s in office. They do their best to influence policy in a way that they know is going to effect real-life change for the rest of our lifetimes... Especially [in] today’s political climate, for those who are working in these federal positions, it’s important that they do what they know is right,” said Furman.

Trustees Visit Dorms and Interact With Students

Continued from A1, Column 5

whole experience, but it’s trying to get as close as we can to what it feels like to walk across campus in a snowstorm or go from classes right to practice.”

Allegra Lee ’27 recounted the trustees’ visit to her dorm, Johnson Hall, on Thursday night, describing it as an opportunity to put faces to a group she usually only hears about in a formal context.

“The trustees were all hanging out in the common room with the house counselors. They actually set up a whole table of treats for me and all my dormmates, and they were little bags of cookies, and there was a hot chocolate bar. It was really sweet. [The Trustees] introduced themselves and told us a little bit about their lives. From what I understand, they were coming to see what life was like in a typical dorm, and just get to know us. [The Board of Trustees is] kind of this faraway entity that no one knows about, but we know they do a lot of work for the school. To see them in person and to have a better sense of who they are, not just what they do, is significant,” said Lee.

Takunda Basvi ’28, another student in Johnson Hall, detailed some aspects of her conversation with the trustees who visited the dorm. She spoke with Amy Falls in particular about the experiences that shaped her career.

“We talked about the career that they were in, and what they were doing, and the path that they took to get there, and it was

really interesting. I was talking to Amy Falls and she manages the money for Northwestern University, which is a 15 billion dollar endowment. It was really interesting to hear her talk about the logistics of that and the [journey] to getting there,” said Basvi.

Domenech-Burgos spearheaded preparations for the weekend. She shared how the extended weekend came to fruition and her hopes for the new format in future Winter Trustee weekends.

“We decided that we wanted to try this back in November when the [Trustees] came. I talked to Amy Falls, then she presented it to the board and said ‘This is what we’re thinking’.

We had attempted [an extended weekend] in the past but this time the response was wonderful on behalf of the Trustees. Almost all of them raised their hands [and said] that they’d be available to come. The planning started right away. It was Christmas break in between. but we managed to get it all together,” said Domenech-Burgos.

Domenech-Burgos continued, “I would love for them, at least for the winter terms, to come early, so that they could do more things.”

Editor’s Note: Four members of The Phillipian contributed to this article, including Editor in Chief Micheal Kawooya, News Editor Prisha Shivani, and News Editor Jeanne Kosciusko-Morizet.

“Breaking Down Today’s America”: History Instructors and Students Discuss Current Events at Q&A Session

IAN S. KIM & NICCOLO LEE-SUK

With panelists including Instructors Eric Denby, Kit Leckerling, Ei Phyu Smith, M.C. Post, and Anna Green, the History and Social Science Department hosted a Q&A exploring current events and their connections to the past on February 6. The talk focused on United States President Donald Trump’s recent policies and touched on the importance of self-care during turbulent times.

Many questions of the discussion focused on previous events in order to explain recent developments in U.S. history. Smith emphasized how the Q&A was an open discussion centered around the students.

“Rather than having a panel where we each presented on our themes of interest, be that immigration, the role of executive orders, the power of the wealthy and many others, this was a student-led discussion. We sat in an open circle to practice, in place, the type of open discussion we wanted to cultivate. As a result, many of the questions [were about] strategies to make sense of

contemporary developments and how to contextualize [them] within US history,” said Smith.

This panel follows the school-wide email sent by Head of School Dr. Raynard Kington, where he reminded students of the school’s core values of respect, empathy, and community, and offered support to students. Denby expressed his belief in Andover’s commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

“What I do know was that when I was on the job market and I was being interviewed, one of the reasons I chose Phillips Academy was because of its commitment to diversity and inclusion, and its commitment to students of color, to queer students, and trans students all of which I value highly. We have heard, and it’s been stated a couple of times that this commitment will continue and it is our job as an academy to continue with our values. I feel overall that this institution has entirely got our backs,” said Denby.

The discussion aimed to help student attendees expand on the knowledge they had learned in the classroom. Attendee Shloak Shah ’26 explained that the talk provid-

10 Questions with Scott Hoenig

REPORTING BY JENNA LIANG & ANDY GAO

Scott Hoenig is an Instructor in Mathematics, a House Counselor in Fuess, and the Assistant Dean of Studies for Advising. He coaches Ultimate Frisbee in the Spring Term and Disc Games in the Fall Term. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, cross-country, skiing, camping, and board games..

How did you discover your passion for teaching?

While I was in graduate school at [Boston University], once I realized that I didn't want to do the PhD, I needed to do one more year to complete the coursework and take the exam for the master's degree. During that time, I was a teaching assistant, and I found that I really enjoyed that role. I had some professors that I looked up to that were what I thought of as good teachers. I started to see myself more in that role. During the summer between my graduate school years, I worked for Merrill Lynch and that helped me realize that I did not want to go into finance. I found it pretty boring, and I didn't want to dress up in a suit and tie and go into the office all day. I decided to see if I could come back to Andover and teach. I enjoyed the work, and I've been here ever since.

Why is calculus your favorite math subject to teach?

I really like the subject of mathematics. I find it fun, challenging, and helpful in understanding the world around us. I enjoy helping students see that same thing in math: the fun of it, the fun challenges it can give you, and how it can help you understand how things work in the world. I enjoy teaching calculus. I've taught it for many years, and one of the reasons I like it is because calculus is a branch of mathematics that is then used in many other areas of mathematics that come next. It's really important if you go on in your studies in mathematics to have a good foundation in calculus. I also like the utility of it in various different applications that you can do once you learn mathematics.

What do you love most about coaching Ultimate Frisbee?

I love Ultimate, [and] I've been playing since college. It's a sport that is a ton of fun to play, and it's got a lot of really cool strategy and skill. The thing that sets it apart from other sports is that it's self-officiated, meaning that the players are the ones who make the calls. There are no referees, even at the top levels of the sport. This means that there needs to be something called the "spirit of the game" built into the rules of the game, which assumes that nobody is going to violate the rules on purpose. There's a real necessity for sportsmanship and trust between opponents. I enjoy coaching a sport that puts such a



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

high emphasis on sportsmanship, respect for your opponents, intense competition, and trying to play the best that you can and beat your opponent, but to do so in a way that afterward you can get together with the other team and talk about what good sportsmanship, camaraderie, and respect there was. I see students, who have never played before, play and it just changes who they are and how they see competitions in sports. I love being a part of that.

What do you like to do outside of campus?

I enjoy being outdoors. I enjoy hiking, cross-country, skiing, and camping, these are all things that I do with my family. We take camping trips every summer. We have a pop-up camper, [and] we tow that around [to] go camping and hiking together. I also really enjoy cooking, grilling in particular. When I can, I like getting out, being fit, and exercising. One thing we do as a family is that we play a lot of board games.

How have your teaching methods evolved?

Earlier in my career, there was more lecture-based. I would write things on the board and solve them and then say, "Now you try one." What I found throughout the years, through experience, is that that's not the most effective way to learn. I was pleased to see that it was something agreed upon by various different authors of books and articles that I've read over the years, especially in the past few years since I've been teaching with a feedback-first approach in Math 320 through Math 340. I try to employ practices that are going to encourage students to really think and not just memorize and mimic.

What's one thing that others don't know about you?

Many people don't know that I wrote my senior honors thesis on the dynamics of a Frisbee, meaning I spent an entire semester researching

a disc of a Frisbee and modeling its flight using a system of second-order differential equations and computer models, which were very rudimentary back in the late 1990s, to describe how a disc flies through the air.

How did you get to achieving the level of coaching certificate? What motivated you to do it?

Our ultimate team competes in a couple of different leagues. We compete in the New England Prep School Ultimate League which is all-private schools, and we also compete in the Massachusetts High School Ultimate, which is high schools both private and public all over Massachusetts. In order to be a part of the Massachusetts High School Ultimate league we have to be a part of the USA Ultimate National Governing Body, and in order to do that, I have to be certified as a coach. I have gone through certification processes in order to continue to be a certified coach so that

our team can continue to compete in the league that has all the public schools in it because that's where really good competition is. I try to schedule us against the best teams in the area to do that we have to be a part of the USA Ultimate.e.

What's your favorite Commons meal?

I have to say the salmon poke bowl, where I combine the salmon and the tofu together with a big helping of avocado and some sriracha on top.

How has Ultimate at Andover changed since you first got here in 1999?

When I first got here in 1999 we only had 13 players, which meant that I had to be the 14th player when we played seven on seven. At that point, we had a competitive team and a recreational team so the competitive team had 13 players, and a recreational team that's something like 40 people who came out and they just played around. I supervised them, but it was not organized at all... Between the time when I arrived and the subsequent few years, we built a full interscholastic schedule. I left for a couple of years, and by the time I came back, we had established field space up on the athletic fields and we had transportation, which we hadn't had before when we started out. We were having parents drive us, and we had actual school-provided transportation uniforms. In 2006, we applied for Varsity status and we were granted it. Since then, we've also established a [Junior Varsity] program for many years. Most recently, we've established a girls and non-binary Varsity team. Both of these teams now have full interscholastic schedules and Varsity letters' full support of the athletic department.

If you had a superpower, what would that be?

I used to say flight, it was always my go-to but as I've gotten older and had kids of my own, it would be to control time. [I would want to] slow time down and even stop it, without getting older myself while it was stopped. I would do all my classwork and all my prep, then I [would] be able to spend more time with my family, get a little more sleep, get outside, and do more of what I like to do outside of teaching and coaching and such. Time's the most valuable resource, and I'm not getting more of it.

A Bridge Between History and Current Day

Continued from A5, Column 5

ed a valuable opportunity for students to connect historical lessons to real-world applications.

“[The talk was] a really great way of setting things up for teachers to discuss with students [by] promoting follow-up questions that are applied to the real world that you don’t really get the opportunity to in every history class. Depending on a teaching style... you may never be provoked to apply your learnings to like the contemporary theoretical reality. It was really helpful in getting us to draw parallels, but also recognize which parallels are valuable between the history of learning in class and the history that’s [currently] being made,” said Shah.

Although he initially had a negative outlook towards current events, Nathan Ramani ’27 shared how the discussion allowed him to feel more hopeful about the future.

“A new emotion I felt was a sense of hope, almost. The history teachers were really optimistic about the situation

we’re in and acknowledged the fact that some students were here listening to this talk and it showed that we wanted to get involved. They said that the fact that we wanted to learn more is a great starting point and being here in the first place means that we can take the next step into combating some of these executive orders,” said Ramani.

Denby expressed his satisfaction with the panel, highlighting the value of its informal and interactive format. Looking ahead, he plans to host another Q&A during the Spring Term to continue these conversations.

“It was free-flowing. [The attendees] would ask a question to us, and one or two of us would attempt to answer it. It was very informal, and discussive, and for the most part, everybody stayed for the entire hour and a half. All in all, we felt that it was a resounding success... We are planning on doing another one in April, and it is going to be probably on a Friday during Protected Time so that everybody at least has the opportunity to attend,” said Denby.

Campus Snapshot



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Rania Ali-Svedsater performs ballet to Tchaikovsky at Andover Dance Festival.

2025-2026 Co-Presidential Candidates Speak on Platforms and Goals

REPORTING BY NIKI TAVAKOLI & VEDANT BAJAJ

Anny Wang '26, running with Frank Hu '26

“Our two big themes are transparency and also equity. One of the biggest things that carries through these two goals is our grading fairness initiative. We believe that the goal of this school is to motivate students to learn genuinely and without transparency, consistency, and equity in the grading process students can get frustrated... We are also trying to build a club bank where even really small clubs can have the same chance of getting funding as other clubs that have been around for multiple years. There are so many different ways to get funding on campus and usually, there’s only a portion of these funding sources like department funding or CaMD funding that goes to clubs. We want to collect that portion all together into one big fund dedicated to clubs... We’re really passionate about the school, and we are really passionate and observant people about the issues surrounding the school... Since we’ve been working as student council class reps, we know how to talk to adults and people on campus, and we know the resources and how to throw really big events,” said Wang.



Tina Phan '26, running with Papa Paintsil '26

“It’s important that we talk about beyond Andover, what sort of things we’ll remember, what sort of careers you might be interested in, the kind of high school memories you want to have, or the kind of input that you want to be able to say that you had on your experience in high school... One of our initiatives is career day, so one day in the winter term we’re going to have opt-in student workshops led by alumni and various clubs on campus for students to be able to explore some of their passions that they might have outside of high school... We’re people who are extremely invested in Andover as a culture and as a community. We both are prefects and in our respective dorms, we learned a lot about what it means to foster culture and community. In a way, being prefects in such large dorms serves as a microcosm for what it’ll take as co-president to foster culture and community and as positive a way as possible,” said Phan.



Isabella Mazzi '26, running with Maurice Ntoro '26

“Our campaign touches on different aspects of campus. We have activities like World Food Day that really bring together different cultures and communities on campus. We’re also trying to work on more student involvement, especially with [All-School Meeting], community involvement in the ASM committee, and involvement with your school and influence on the school for everybody in the school, not just necessarily student council... We also have parts of our campaign that focus on convenience, like convenience and ease of daily life in the school like the to-go meal options and having fun as well, with the Winter Term revamp,” said Mazzi.



Philip Meng '26, running with Gracie Aziabor '26

“We are focusing on the smaller nuances or the inconveniences that surround student life because we think that those are things we could reasonably get done within our one year... Our entire platform centers around this theme of making your daily life at Andover more convenient and streamlined so that you have more time to connect with those around you and do the things that you want to do... The add/drop process is a little bit outdated. It’s something we wanted to streamline through a digital platform... We recognize that EBI is important, but currently, a lot of students are displeased with how it’s run. Only 15.3 percent of students have found the EBI curriculums to be effective, so we want to basically make it so there’s increased interactivity and engagement through a [Junior] and [Lower] advisory board... We want there to be the utmost transparency and communication throughout this process,” said Meng.



PHUSTARDDDDDD

Drizzy-Drake (Drakey-Poo) (Anita Maxx Wynn)

Subject: KENDRICK LAMAR MUST DIE

If you just opened this like I told you to, tie yourself down to whatever chair you're sitting on, because this is going to be a rough, rough ride.

As some of you idiot sellouts may have seen, Kendrick Lamar has lied his 5'5 self to the top, from getting five grammys for a song that was SUPER DUPER UNFAIR and TOTALLY MEAN, to being invited to the Super Bowl wearing BBL jeans that were five sizes too small, which HE TOTALLY STOLE FROM MY CLOSET. If you're reading this to yourself and saying, "Oh my gosh Drizzy, I really think he's a good artist," then please, SUE YOURSELF SO I DON'T HAVE TO TRACK YOU DOWN AND DO IT PERSONALLY.

Tuning into my OVO television, which, for the record, stands for other vegetable option (love me some eggplant sometimes) to hate watch the show, I was fuming at the sight that, first of all, there was a DISTINCT LACK OF YOUNG CANADIANS IN THE AUDIENCE, who we all know I appreciate the most, and that, second of all, I bet a load of money on Patrick Mahomes who will be getting a call requesting his half of our shared BFF necklace back.

I was also appalled to find that one of you disgusting excuses for true toronto men has lost the password to my Stake account, in which I was storing the funds for my Anita Max Wynn tour.

I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN MY BBL JEANS BACK. "But Drakey-Poo" you say in a whiny voice, "you should just give up and stop caring so much!" NO, YOU STUPID IDIOT, THAT'S THE STUPIDEST STUPID IDEA THAT HAS EVER BEEN AN IDEA.

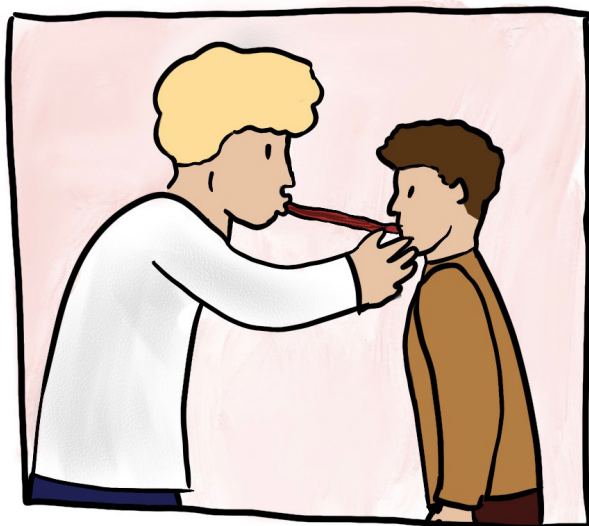
Finally, if you find yourself offended in any way by this email, just know that I don't care, because it's no more mister nice guy from now on.

Ttyl See ya wouldn't wanna be ya :)

Drake

Week's Top Headlines

- *Flagpole Snapped in Half, as Eagles Fans Wait in Anticipation for the Super Bowl to Start*
- *Green Cup Challenge Cancelled As Students Stop Showering to Save Water*
- *The Phillipian Business Makes a Fortune as Thousands of Two-Dollar Valentine's Notes Are Sent to Dr. Kington*
- *Taylor Swift Announces Reputation TV After Devastating Super Bowl Loss, Fans Expect to See A Kamala Feature*
- *Kendrick Lamar Announced As New ASM Speaker — Attracts Longest Line of Flare-Jean-Wearing Students to the Mural Room*
- *A Study Finds That Students Who Ask Questions At ASM Are 42 percent More Likely to Be Hit On in the Following 24 Hours*
- *Harrison Butker Requests Trade Upon Seeing Travis Kelce's Super Bowl Outfit*
- *Over Federally Sanctioned Phone Call, Trump Promised Putin That "Ukraine is Actually a Super Chill Little Country"*



OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"I usually go for all 6s, but you're the typa 5 that I'd settle for."

"Wanna get a BKH lap dance in adjacent chairs?"

"Bro, I swear my house counselor put that there I have never seen it before."

"How romantic is this rock?"

"I heard Salisbury Steak is an aphrodisiac."

Once upon a time, 33 years ago on this date, the first Head of School Day was announced. Students and teachers alike did not know what to make of the now-famed day, most likely because it was not something they were warned about. Here is the story:

Long ago in the White House on Main Street, the Headmaster of Andover sat in his fox hollow chair. He was upset, for he had missed his last three parlays by just one leg. Having enough of this misfortune, the Head of School decided to do something to brighten his mood, he decided to start a tradition to distract him from his sadness: Casino Night!!! (obviously)

Students were not allowed at this event, for obvious reasons. In fact, there was no event — the Head of School simply took an unannounced vacation to Las Vegas, along with 76 percent of the school's endowment. That night was NOT detailed in Andover records, which is why you have never heard of it — but legend has it the 'Beer Mile' used to be a record displayed in Borden, dated to that very night.

The only reason we know about this day is that 18 Lovers were also (illegally) in Las Vegas, and although they did not wake up with a Tiger, a Baby, and a Dead body, they did witness the head of their high school stumble into a Vegas Motel at 2:00 a. m. on a Monday Morning with an Exeter Tattoo on his chest. They hatched a plan, seeing an opportunity to save themselves. They hacked into his computer, ignoring the strange calendar, and sent out a school-wide announcement. Head of School Day was born.

And so the students returned to Campus the following day — 200 Million Dollars richer (the headmaster actually won Roulette), and they went down in history as the first 18 Andover Graduates to be arrested for Gambling Fraud.



The Phillipian SPORTS

happy v-day <3

Volume CXLVIII | Number 3

February 14, 2025

All-Gender Nordic Hosts Its First Home Meet in Over Thirty Years

ALEX GODSEY

| FRIDAY 2/7 - BOYS | |
|--------------------|----|
| Andover | 57 |
| Rivers | 78 |
| Belmont Hill | 12 |
| Middlesex | 89 |
| FRIDAY 2/7 - GIRLS | |
| Andover | 23 |
| Middlesex | 25 |
| Rivers | 27 |



M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Luke Williamson '25 races towards the finish line.

Last Friday, All-Gender Nordic Skiing delivered a dominant performance against Rivers, Middlesex, and Belmont Hill, with the Girls team claiming first and the Boys team securing second place behind Belmont Hill. Later in the week, the team hosted its first home meet in twenty years, racing on Siberia Field behind Snyder Center against the same three opponents from Friday.

This season, Co-Captain Sage Preston '25 has served as one of Nordic Skiing's top competitors, consistently placing in meets. Sebastián Vermut '27 praised her strong performances and perseverance, which culminated in a victory on Friday.

"The biggest star from Friday was Sage Preston. She got the individual win for Andover. That's really cool to watch specifically as a teammate, to see your team-

mate succeed. It's also really cool for her because she's one of the fastest skiers in the league and it's great to finally get that win," said Vermut.

The team also delivered an impressive performance on the boys side, with its skiers placing among the top twenty. Co-Captain Luke Williamson '25 recalled his teammates' notable finishes that supported the team to second-place, mentioning Vermut for his personal performance and placement.

"I got tenth and I think we also got sixteenth and nineteenth. We didn't win for sure, but I think we might be second... Sebastian really stood out. He got second on the team which is his first time. He did great, putting up about a

twenty-minute five [kilometer]," said Williamson.

Preston highlighted the community-building aspect of Friday's race, noting that after the event, Andover gathered with Rivers, Middlesex, and Belmont Hill for pizza.

"We had a little pizza mixer afterwards so it was one of the more fun races. We had a chance to bond with the other teams. Bonding with other teams is sometimes hard, so it was just good vibes," said Preston.

Due to insufficient snow, Nordic Skiing is usually unable to host meets at Andover. On Wednesday, however, it hosted its first meet in twenty years. Vermut commented on the significance of the event, which was especially provoked by

coaches' discussions.

"I've been on the team for a short amount of time, but even still I could feel the significance of it. How cool it was that we had enough snow and we had the turn out to be able to host a race with three teams that we race all the time. The coaches were all talking about it, these coaches have been coaching for ten, twenty, even thirty years and the races haven't been to Andover since the '90s so coming back definitely brought a lot of memories back for them," said Vermut.

According to Vermut, the team performed especially well; notable performances included finishes from Preston, Lauren Montgomery '25, and newcomer Andrés Clarimond '27.

Vermut said, "This was our second relay [race] of the season. I think we were more prepared and I think as a team we did a lot better than last time obviously the competition was very strong. I think overall we did pretty well... In a two-person relay, it doesn't really matter how good one person is if the other one doesn't keep up. I think obviously Sage Preston did really well but she partnered with Lauren and the fact that Lauren was able to go fast as well and give it her all made for a better race."

Vermut continued, "Andrés Clarimond has never raced before, so it was a tough race for him. He did really well and when he was finished, he didn't give up. He went to the very last stride and finished out the race for him and his partner. He did it graciously and he did it with a smile on his face which is an achievement in itself."

Vermut also emphasized the thrill of having the ability to represent Andover at home and commented on the uniqueness of the course.

"It is really cool to see a true home meet and I feel like that gives the team a little more spirit. Always racing away you never really feel like you're racing for Andover you feel like you're just racing at these random places. Now that we've been home and we've raced on our school campus. It gives us a big sense of purpose, it feels, maybe this is a little cliché to say, but racing at home just stands out from racing anywhere else," said Vermut.

Nordic Skiing now turns towards higher-level competitions, including the Lakes Region (LR) Championship on Wednesday and then New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Championship on March 1.

Girls Basketball Adds a Win and a Loss to Their Collection Against Middlesex and Austin Prep Respectively

DAVID SIAHAAN

| SATURDAY 2/8 | |
|----------------|----|
| Andover | 39 |
| Middlesex | 37 |
| WEDNESDAY 2/12 | |
| Andover | x |
| Austin Prep | x |

Girls Basketball (9-10) faced off against Middlesex on Saturday and Austin Preparatory school (Austin Prep) on Wednesday. The team bounced back from a two-game losing streak with a hard-earned win against Middlesex in overtime. However, Wednesday's matchup against Austin Prep proved to be a tough challenge, with Andover battling fiercely before falling short in a tight high scoring affair.

According to Eva Jackson '28, the team entered the game understanding its significance, knowing that a win would set the tone for the rest of the season. Securing the victory against Middlesex ended

up giving the team a much-needed confidence boost.

"We really had a strong second half and overtime. We really came back to fight for the win and proved to ourselves that we are a second half team and that we can win any game," said Jackson.

Head Coach Jennifer Weissbach pointed out that the team had to slowly whittle away at a ten-point deficit because of a tough start to the game. She also highlighted Alani Rodriguez '27 who came clutch during the final seconds of regulation and later made the game-winning layup.

"The game was pretty intense. Right from the get-go we didn't start the way we wanted to, we were fighting back out of a little bit of a hole. We were down ten at one point, and we were able to take it one possession at a time, score one possession at a time, get stops one possession at a time, and ultimately Alani Rodriguez, hit two free throws with less than ten seconds left in regulation to send the game to overtime. She also had the game winning layup," said Coach Weissbach.

Rodriguez had another standout performance against Austin Prep. Co-Captain Emerson Buckley '25 highlighted her ability to control the momentum of the game and score points.

"[Alani] ran the game from the point really well — making good passes, driving and kicking, not to



A.PIZZA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ava Davey '25 surveying the floor for open teammates.

mention her 20 something points. She also had a half-court shot to end the first quarter which really got our momentum going. She is always working really hard, so it's awesome to see it paying off for her," said Buckley.

Reflecting on what she hopes to see in the next game, Weiss-

bach emphasized the importance of a strong start, aiming for the team to gain control and limit mistakes early.

"We'll be focusing on how to start the way we want to start. Competing from the tip-off and not having to get down a few possessions and then needing to try

to fight our way back," said Weissbach.

To prepare for upcoming games, the team has been adjusting their practice routine by incorporating game situations into their drills. Jackson credited these focused exercises as a key factor in some of the team's recent success, noting that they help the players prepare both physically and mentally for high-pressure moments.

"We've been practicing in game situations. We'll have a situation, say an end of game situation, when we're up by two and there's like 30 seconds left. How are we going to defend it? What type of shot do we want? That proved helpful because one of those exact situations is what we had on Saturday," said Jackson.

With three games in the coming four days, Weissbach acknowledged the challenge, but expressed confidence in their preparation and eagerness for the tough competition to come.

"We have three games in four days. That will be a lot both mentally and physically, but we are ready for the challenge. [There's] also a bunch of Class-A games coming up that we are really excited for," said Weissbach.

Girls Basketball will play against Dexter Southfield School at home on Friday.

Julian Rios '26 Crowned Class A Champion, Seven Andover Wrestlers Finish Top Four in Competition

BRUCE MCLAREN

On Saturday, the All-Gender Wrestling team competed in the Class A Championships, highlighted by Co-Captain Julian Rios '26 becoming a three-time Class A Champion. Andover had 15 wrestlers compete in the Prep division (co-ed) and eight in the Girls division. The team placed third overall in the Prep division and had a strong showing in the Girls division, finishing second overall.

Julian Rios '26 reflected on his tournament, expressing satisfaction with his performance on Saturday and the reward of seeing his hard work pay off.

"My matches went very well. I

wrestled at a high level, and I was able to get the job done quickly, which is always ideal. It was a fun tournament; it's nice to see the hard work pay off at the end of these big tournaments and culminate in a successful result for the team," said Rios.

Sean Flynn '27 shared that he was particularly impressed with Tash Bohorad '26 and Antonia Elliot '27 in the Girls division, as well as James Bae '26 in the Prep division.

"The girls, Tash and Toni, did great in the tournament. It was very impressive how well they competed in their matches. For the guys, James Bae did very well. He placed fourth in his weight division," said Flynn.

Similarly, Rios had high praise for his teammates, highlight-

ing the significant improvement the wrestling team has made throughout the winter season.

"Everyone wrestled well, and we all went out there and performed at our best. It's really good to see how much everyone has improved over the course of the season. The season overall has been great for the team. It's always nice to see the hard work everyone has put in so far. Overall, the season's been awesome, and I'm excited to see what's coming up next," said Rios.

Reflecting on the season, Flynn echoed Rios's sentiment, agreeing that it has been a success so far. He highlighted the incredible progress made by each wrestler and the ability of new wrestlers to improve quickly.

"Since the beginning of the sea-

son, there has been so much progress. The returning wrestlers have refined their techniques, while the new wrestlers have learned them quickly. I've seen so much improvement over the past year, and every week we are getting better. Eventually, we're going to reach the top," said Flynn.

Christian Robinson '28 competed in his second tournament for Andover this weekend. He emphasized the value of the experience and the lessons he's gaining from each match, even when facing tough opponents.

"I had a really strong bracket. Today, my match didn't go as well as I wanted it to. I had some tough losses, but overall, my fights were great. I'm sure I'll learn a lot from them and apply it to my next matches," said Robinson.

Looking ahead, the New England Championships are approaching for qualified wrestlers. To prepare for both this tournament and the upcoming matches at Nationals and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter), Flynn emphasized the need for consistency and daily improvement.

"We really need to drill and work hard each day at practice. We need to stay mentally focused at all times in preparation for our next matches and play our part for the team's success," said Flynn.

This Friday, the team will travel to Exeter to compete in the New England Championships, which will take place on Friday and Saturday, followed by Nationals the week after.

GIRLS SQUASH

Girls Squash Captain Ellie Israelov '25: An Emphasis on Mental Game and Team Energy

AARON HUANG

Ellie Israelov '25 has been dedicated to the sport since she first picked up a racket at age nine, transforming a casual suggestion from her dad into co-captaining the Girls Squash team. After attending a squash camp with her sister, Israelov quickly developed a passion for the game, drawn to both its physical demands and mental challenges. Now, she leads the team with dedication, focusing on building an encouraging environment and team camaraderie.

For Israelov, a comeback is always possible, but it takes mental toughness. The psychological aspect of squash is what drew her to the sport most, and has remained a key focus in her approach to the game.

"One of my favorite things about squash, or what got me interested in it, is that the mental game is a big part of it. Especially being here, it is an individual but team sport. You kind of have to show up for yourself every time and I'm sure they say this in a lot of sports but something that I've always had to tell myself or my parents have told me is that the game's never over until it's over. You can come back even if it's 10-love or 10-1 or 10-2, something like that. But you can't do that unless your mental game is good," said Israelov.

Inspired by her Junior year's



T. BASVI/THE PHILLIPIAN

captain, Israelov has striven to bring high energy and a supportive atmosphere to the team alongside Co-Captain Mígyu Kim '25. Together, they have organized team bonding activities, including team meals and a joint gathering with the Boys Squash team.

"A big thing for me, coming onto the team freshman year was my captain who was really high spirited. And so, being a captain, it's really important to me to build the team spirit and build camaraderie throughout the team. So, Mígyu and I have worked together to plan team dinners and team brunches. And we even did a boys

and girls team party where we got pizza and played White Elephant. The team aspect is one of my favorite parts about playing squash here," said Israelov.

According to Evelyn Kung '26, Israelov brings an encouraging and energetic presence to the team, always motivating her teammates during matches. As Israelov's pair partner, Kung noted her enthusiasm and coaching, both unique to her.

"Ellie is one of the most supportive people I've ever met. As soon as she finishes her match, she always runs over to watch all of our other teammates. She

cheers super loudly for all of us and I'm her pair partner so we ref each other's matches and coach each other and she's so supportive... As you go down the ladder, the person either in front of you or in back of you is your person for the match, so basically from the top eight the odds will play first, number one three five, and seven will play first and number two four six and eight will ref their match, so Ellie and I are a pair for that. So when I play she's sitting outside reffing and then in between games in squash you can get coached by your teammates so she usually coaches me and refs me throughout my match and I do the same for her... She always gives the best advice and she always keeps a really positive attitude throughout all the matches," said Kung.

Selene Xu '27 appreciates Israelov's easygoing and approachable nature, describing her as both a supportive leader and a great teammate. Beyond her friendly personality, Xu also admires Israelov's strong work ethic and dedication, both in practice and during matches.

"She's a chill captain. She's a great friend of the whole team. She makes jokes and she's really fun to talk with. She encourages players a lot and I enjoy being in practice with her every day... She's definitely very hardworking. She is always dedicated to the sport and always tries her best in games. She's mentally tough and she can come back even when she's down

a couple of points and I really admire her for that," said Xu.

With High School (Nationals) less than two weeks away, Israelov hopes the team can continue building on its successful season. While she is confident in their ability to compete at a high level, she emphasizes the importance of team chemistry and maintaining a supportive, enriching group dynamic.

"I'm really excited for Nationals and New England[s] Interscholastic Squash Association]. Our team has been working really hard all season with training and everything. We're all excited because we're going to do really well. So my goal would obviously be for us to place well in Nationals and New England's but also seeing us play well together and as a team and watching us coach each other is always really rewarding. In Nationals you can really see the team spirit shine through," said Israelov.

Beyond Andover, Israelov plans to keep squash throughout her life, whether by playing on a club team in college or simply as a way to stay active and connected with friends.

"I would like to continue to play squash wherever I end up, hopefully on a club team or something. But even if I go somewhere where that's not possible, I'd like to just continue playing by myself or with my friends for fun," said Israelov.

Two-Year Girls Squash Captain Mígyu Kim '25 Fosters a Tight-Knit Family Within Andover Squash Community

ASHLEY SUH

Mígyu Kim '25, captain of Girls Squash, has been in the role since her Lower year, with her Senior year being her third year of captaincy. She leads through determination and example while fostering a strong community within the team, making her a role model for all.

Introduced to the sport at a young age at her local athletic club, squash began as a hobby for Kim, and she frequently played in her free time. As Kim grew to commit herself to the sport, so did both of her sisters, who Kim looks forward to supporting in their careers.

"I have been playing squash since I was eight years old. It was just an after school activity at my local athletic club to fill time, so my parents didn't have to worry about me. That's how I started, and I've been playing since then. Both my younger sisters play squash, too, so I want to continue supporting them and maybe help them train and possibly coach them. I'll be close by for the next couple years, so I see [myself] coming to support the Andover squash team for a couple more years," said Kim.

New to the team as a Junior, Robin Lukens '28 highlighted

Kim's efforts to include her and other new members and strengthen the tight-knit bond between returning team members.

"There are three Juniors on the team this year, and [Mígyu] always includes us. It makes us feel like we're not just coming into an already-built team. She helps us to fit in more with the team because many of the girls have already known each other for a while. So, she makes it so that we don't feel like outsiders," said Lukens.

Evelyn Kung '26 testified to Kim's supportive nature, guiding younger players and showing up for them during their matches or team psychs. She noted that Kim's selflessness comes naturally, and helps foster an uplifting environment on the team.

"Mígyu is really supportive when coaching. She'll take all the time she can to come and watch the younger players' matches. She also keeps them on track, reminding them about team psychs or helping them if they don't have the clothes for a psych. She's always great with that, and she just makes the team a welcoming environment," said Kung.

Although a very individual sport, Kim described how squash has helped her develop as an athlete. Additionally, the sports' small community has allowed her to strengthen and form multiple bonds with others all across the



T. BASVI/THE PHILLIPIAN

country.

"My favorite aspect about squash is it's very individual, so you can see how far you can go and grow as an individual player. Even though it's an individual sport, the community is so strong because it's such a small sport that I've been able to make really close relationships with people from around the country. Even with the squash team, it is a little family that I've really cherished," said Kim.

else happens, even if there's a setback, [she] keeps us motivated and tells us how we should do better next time," said Lukens.

Kung underscored Kim's active leadership, highlighting the creative activities that Kim and her co-captain, Ellie Israelov '25, have organized for the team alongside the boys' team, such as team dinners and white elephants.

"Mígyu is a super active and hands-on leader. She is usually the one who leads the warm-ups. She is the one who communicates with us through our team group chat. She organizes a lot of the team dinners, and she's also really close with the boys' team captains, so we do a lot of team bonding events with them. For instance, she and Ellie organized a white elephant for the Boys and Girls Squash, so that was a lot of fun," said Kung.

Although Kim is not currently focused on a collegiate squash career, she will be involved in the sport in the future through her sisters and the Andover Girls Squash Team.

"I was considering [collegiate squash] for a while, and I ultimately decided that I want to just focus on my academics in college and if I want to, I might consider walking on, or playing club squash," said Kim.

Putting Understanding First, Pressure Second: Head Coach Shaun Duffy Transforms Andover Squash

VIVIEN VALCKX & AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO

In his second year spearheading Girls Squash, Head Coach Shaun Duffy improves team culture through his understanding and empathetic qualities. He was first introduced to squash at university and has since played for over 30 years as an active member of the Massachusetts squash community. Duffy spent ten years of his career in Japan, developing his love for the game and playing in tournaments. He has also been a member of the Andover Squash Club for over 20 years. His willingness to truly understand his players and their backgrounds has been integral to shaping the Girls Squash's culture.

Robin Lukens '28, new to Andover Squash, appreciates Duffy's focus on individual players. She spoke of how, since arriving at Andover, she appreciates the healthy culture that stems from Duffy's leadership style.

"He has made it so much more fun. He helps us not only work really hard in our practices, but he also is really understanding about injury or the fact that sometimes we'll be burnt out or we'll



COURTESY OF SHAUN DUFFY

be tired. Even if we are injured or having problems like that. A lot of coaches I know, especially from back home, force you to play or keep pushing yourself to the max, which isn't as healthy for athletes. But he manages to make practices really hard and pushing, but not too intense to the point of burn-out. He helps us work hard but

he doesn't push us over the edge, and he creates a positive environment for all the team members... He helps us work through those things and as a coach he always brings a fun yet also really pushing and encouraging environment," said Lukens.

Multi-dimensional relationships with his players, Duffy be-

lieves, are crucial to a well-functioning team. He also shares personal anecdotes to Girls Squash to reinforce his coaching and further develop such connections.

Duffy said, "I like to get to know what the players like to do outside of squash. So what their clubs are, how many siblings that they have, or where they're from. I think it's important to know who your players are so that when you have to give them some difficult advice, they understand what you're like. I like to share my life too and I talk about my family a lot and my upbringing and who I am."

According to Lukens, following setbacks and losses, Duffy seeks to maintain positivity among Girls Squash by focusing on long-term improvement.

Lukens said, "He encourages the team by always giving us our next goal and setting us up for success. For example, we're really looking forward to nationals and we're training for (High School Squash) Nationals so we can bring home a title, and he pushes us with the big long term goals by also helping us with our less valuable matches, by still putting some value on teamwork"

Girls Squash, in a couple weeks, will compete at Nationals

(Nationals) and the New England Interscholastic Squash Association (NEISA) competition. Duffy ensures he provides his players individualized support; Rachel Levitsky '28 explained that that guidance will be crucial in the team's upcoming tournaments.

"I feel like he comes to watch each one of his players' matches and helps them if they seem a little bit down or if they're not playing the best that they can... We have New England's and Nationals coming up, and they're pretty big for us. I think he's going to continue to support each player individually and provide very individualized feedback to them, which is always helpful," said Levitsky.

As Girls Squash nears the end of its season, Duffy encourages Andover students and faculty to attend the team's home matches, especially against Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) on February 26.

Duffy said, "We would really like people to come out and to watch more of our squash matches. We have a great team. Our last home event is versus Exeter. I think it's on February 26. So please wear your blue and cheer us on!"



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GIRLS SQUASH

ELLIE ISRAELOV '25 
NEW CANAAN, CT

MIGYU KIM '25 
BERWYN, PA

EVELYN KUNG '26
ANDOVER, MA

ROBIN LUKENS '28
PHILADELPHIA, PA

PRISHA SHIVANI '26
HOUSTON, TX

ISABELLA TANG '28
NORTH ANDOVER, MA

RACHEL LEVITZKY '28
WELLESLEY, MA

NANXI XU '27
MINHANG, SHANGHAI

CAROLINE ZHAO '27
BASKING RIDGE, NJ

MINNIE KIM '27
BERWYN, PA

MANAGER: CHLOE KASULE-WALLACE '26
UPPER MARLBORO, MD

LUCILLE HEYD/THE PHILLIPIAN

Girls Squash Won Back-to-Back Sweeps Despite Being Disadvantaged and Builds Momentum for Nationals

ASHLEY SUH

| SATURDAY 2/7 | |
|----------------|---|
| Andover | 7 |
| Brooks | 0 |
| WEDNESDAY 2/12 | |
| Andover | 7 |
| Middlesex | 0 |

On top of its previous four game winning streak, Girls Squash (11-1) secured two more decisive victories, defeating both Brooks and Middlesex 7-0. In a show of the team's depth and adaptability, Junior Varsity players stepped up to compete alongside Varsity, while Varsity members played four seeds higher than usual against Brooks on Saturday.

After watching Co-Captain Migyu Kim '25 compete on Friday, Robin Lukens '28 commended Kim for her con-



Ella Kowal '25 celebrates a win.

K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

trolling performance, where she won most of her games without losing a single point.

"I watched a lot of Migyu's matches and she had a really decisive win against her girl. All the girls on the team won pretty easily since Brooks is a weaker school for their squash. Migyu's win was really good. She bageled her [opponent]. She won multiple of her games 11-0," said Lukens.

On the other hand, Evelyn Kung '26 highlighted the outstanding performances of all the Varsity and Junior Varsity players, particularly praising Rachel Levitsky '28 for her impressive win despite playing on a glass court for the first time and overcoming her nerves.

"It was just super impressive because we pulled four of our [top] players... Basically

we had our [sixth seed] playing [as the second seed] and that was a really memorable game. Rachel, she's a freshman this year and it was her first time playing on glass, which is different from the other courts, and she was nervous, but she did well in her match. Also everyone did really well because we were all playing four places up," said Kung.

When asked about the team's strengths, Lukens emphasized the strong sense of community among the players, highlighting the important role team rituals play when the team is warming up. "Our strength was, what's true for pretty much every game, but there's always a lot of community, when we're warming up and we have a lot of team rituals that happen, which definitely helps us to support each other and stuff like that," said Lukens.

As the season winds down, Kung praised Coach Shaun Duffy who has helped improve the team's movement and its endurance on the court by incorporating squash-specific drills and conditioning exercises into practice.

"A big thing that our coach

has tried to make us work on is movement and fitness for all of us. He's really tried to incorporate a lot of jump roping and cord sprints into our practices and ghosting, which is a squash thing," said Kung.

Building on Kung's mention of the team's practices, Levitsky noted that the team is ramping up its training for New England's Preparatory School Championship [New England's] and [High School Squash] Nationals by increasing the amount of cardio workouts during practice, while also practicing key drills to prepare for the intensity at Nationals.

"We only have one actual match, and then we also have New England's and Nationals coming up soon. My coach [Coach Duffy] said he wants to get more running in our practices. Also, we're just gonna continue to drill because Nationals is a super intense competition," said Levitsky.

Girls Squash looks to keep preparing for Nationals next weekend.

Boys Hockey Falls Short to Belmont Hill and Dexter Southfield, Rebounds Against KUA in Shutout

EMILY NEY

| FRIDAY 2/7 | |
|-------------------|---|
| Andover | 1 |
| Belmont Hill | 2 |
| SATURDAY 2/8 | |
| Andover | 1 |
| Dexter Southfield | 7 |
| WEDNESDAY 2/12 | |
| Andover | 4 |
| KUA | 0 |

Boys Hockey (11-8-3) lost its first two games against Belmont Hill and Dexter Southfield (Dexter) this past Friday and Saturday. Yet, on Wednesday, it dominated against Kimball Union Academy (KUA) in a four goal shutout.

Leading up to Boys Hockey's matchup against KUA, Head Coach Paul Tortorella described the team's recent hardships, with injuries plaguing its top scorers Rui Han '25, Alex Theodore '27, and Grayden Robertson-Palmer '25. Despite these injuries, Boys Hockey is eager to play its next few games and hopefully advance into the NEPSAC playoffs.

"The team is currently... holding the fifth spot out of eight in the NEPSAC Large School Tournament. We have had a series of injuries to our top three scorers, Han, Theodore, and Robertson-Palmer, everyone else is healthy. The team has been playing well overall and practicing hard and is looking forward to the next stretch of games to solidify our playoff spot," wrote Coach Tortorella in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Maxim Krasovsky '27 reflected on the team's losses on Friday and Saturday. As hockey is a team-based game, momentum is a large factor in a team's success. One major issue in the games against both Belmont Hill and Dexter was the team's inability to stay composed after scoring goals.

"Belmont Hill, we scored first and then we just couldn't get anything going after that. They ended up getting [goals] late in the second and late in the third, and we just never got any momentum after that first goal. Then Saturday night was just bad in every way: we started poorly and we never really got going," said Krasovsky.

In its two practices following a defeat against Deerfield, Boys Hockey, according to Krasovsky, worked on refining targeted details. However, the team's triumph over KUA mainly lay in improved communication, especially in the locker room.

"There wasn't really anything we worked on specifically in practice because we've continued to work on certain small things that are really specific and extra errors. Since last Wednesday, where we kind of went on that losing streak, we've had a practice on Thursday and a practice on Tuesday and that's



Rui Han '25 skating through traffic.

M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

all we've had. I wouldn't say it was enough time for us to completely change something. In terms of how we play, I genuinely think that the majority of the change was in the locker room and how we look just like what we were thinking going into this game," said Krasovsky.

When pertaining to the Boys Hockey's recent shortcomings, David O'Neill '26 noted how the team looked ahead and prioritized team chemistry as a means to overcome its opponents.

"We definitely talked as a team in practice leading up to the game today, just focusing on staying together and not dividing against each other and just trying to focus on our next opponent and taking it over the game," said O'Neill.

After Wednesday's game against KUA, Krasovsky commended both Han and Russell Louie '27 for their exemplary performance. However, Krasovsky defined Edouard Lord '26, the team's goalie, as the key player for the success in the game.

"Rui Han scored a really good goal to start off with and Russell Louie also scored a goal, but the real standout performance today was from Edouard Lord. He played in net today and it was his second start of the season. He played extremely, extremely well; he got a shut-out and he definitely bailed us out in a couple spots. A lot of the credit, I would say, for us walking away 4-0 would go to him," said Krasovsky.

Regarding Wednesday's

game, O'Neill similarly complimented Lord's goaltending abilities, and stressed the team's offensive and defensive efforts that resulted in its decisive victory.

"Goaltending was great, especially with [Lord's] shut-out, which was nice to have. We worked at practice about protecting our own blue line better, which was great; that was definitely effective. And then on offensive zone, [we worked on] cycling the puck and playing well down the ice," said O'Neill.

Boys Hockey will face Governor's Academy at home this Friday.

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SUPER BOWL AT ANDOVER



COURTESY OF MICHAEL WILLIAMSON
Pemberton enjoys a meal while watching the Super Bowl.



COURTESY OF ZACHARY YUAN
Stearns crowding around to watch the Super Bowl.



COURTESY OF MUREWA BIYI-OLAJOYE
Johnson Hall getting comfortable in the common room to watch the Super Bowl.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY
Bartlet dorm watches the Super Bowl.

2023

2023

Girls Hockey Takes Home Convincing Victories Against New Hampton and Austin Prep

ALISTAIR FRITZ-GRUBER & XAVIER HOWELL

| SATURDAY 2/7 | |
|----------------|---|
| Andover | 5 |
| New Hampton | 2 |
| WEDNESDAY 2/12 | |
| Andover | 7 |
| Austin Prep | 1 |

Last Friday, Girls Hockey (12-2-2) defeated New Hampton away at New Hampton with a score of 5-2. Although they ended the first period with a narrow 1-1 margin, Girls Hockey widened the gap with four unanswered goals

to earn a hard-fought victory. The team continued in great form on Wednesday, dominating Austin Prep Preparatory School (Austin Prep) in an impressive 7-1 performance.

Despite being away, the team stayed positive and supported each other throughout the game. Maya Kou '28 noted that the positive atmosphere surrounding the team was a key component of their success during the game.

"The atmosphere on Friday was good for us. Everybody was really positive going into that game. We knew that we would be facing an away crowd, but the whole team was supportive of each other," said Kou.

During the Wednesday game, Lauren Kennedy '28 noted the high energy from the Austin Prep crowd. She added that the energy in the rink contributed to the high intensity of the game.

"They had a lot [of] students who came and they brought a lot [of] energy. It was a fun game to play in because the energy was so high from both teams," said Kennedy.

Vanessa Hall '28 pointed to Molly Boyle '25 and Emily Mara '25 as standout players in the victory against New Hampton. Hall emphasized the importance of Boyle's leadership as the team moves towards the postseason, and shared how Mara's two goals contributed to the team's momentum during the game.

"Molly Boyle had a great game. [She] did a great job on the penalty kill and getting us man-down opportunities. Also, her leadership carried the team through the games, especially as we move closer to the postseason. Emily Mara also had a great game. She scored two big goals and brought a lot of energy on the

ice," said Hall.

Kou described how the team kept consistent pressure against New Hampton for all three periods. She expressed that the team hopes to maintain its energy, staying consistent and well-rested to finish the season.

"We had a really consistent three periods. We worked hard all three periods, and we got a lot of shots on net in all three periods... The rest of the week we will try to keep on going. Keeping the same energy on Monday, being consistent in everything we do and eating [well], resting well," said Kou.

In the game against Austin Prep, Kou added that some standout performers were Kennedy and Keira Bruen '26.

"Lauren, the freshman in net, made a few saves. And also Keira Bruen, she's an Upper, she played really well. She made a lot of nice passes.

She got a really nice goal. She had a few successful break-outs out of our zone," said Kou.

As the team moves towards the postseason, Kennedy noted that the team could improve their defense, especially when blocking shot opportunities.

"We can work on picking up sticks in front of the net and limiting opportunities from the slot, stopping shots before they reach the goalie is a point of emphasis for us... We can work on picking up sticks in front of the net and limiting opportunities from the slot," said Kennedy.

Girls Hockey will play away at Milton Academy this Friday.

Boys Basketball Continues With Dominance Over Thayer, Bradford Christian, and Austin Prep

THIAGO JOLLON

| SATURDAY 2/7 | |
|----------------|---|
| Andover | 5 |
| New Hampton | 2 |
| WEDNESDAY 2/12 | |
| Andover | 7 |
| Austin Prep | 1 |
| WEDNESDAY 2/12 | |
| Andover | 7 |
| Austin Prep | 1 |

Boys Basketball (10-9) played three games in six days and won all three to regain its winning record. On Fri-

day, Boys Basketball traveled to Thayer Academy (Thayer) and won 71-60. The next day, the team hosted Bradford Christian Academy (Bradford) and won big, beating them 94-50. Another big win occurred at Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep) on Wednesday, where the team won 74-53.

Compared to Thayer, Boys Basketball had almost double the rebounds, claiming 38 boards compared to Thayer's 20, and led in shooting, three-point, and free throw percentage en route to a close win. Xavier Abreu '25 had a big game with multiple 3-pointers early in the first quarter that helped establish Andover's lead.

During the Bradford game, Boys Basketball put on a clinic before a lively Borden gym. The team took the lead early and never looked back. Hunter Peabody '27 stood out with two influential three-pointers and a steal in the first half that helped put the game out of reach for the visitors. Luke

Seltzer '25 also scored an early dunk and three-pointer to set the tone.

The team continued winning with a victory away at Austin Prep on Wednesday. The comfortable 74-53 win put the team above 0.500 going into the final part of the season.

With three games remaining before Andover/Exeter, Boys Basketball hopes to take revenge after losing to Exeter in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) finals last year. The team looks to repeat their successful postseason last year, highlighted by its dark horse run when it beat first-seed Loomis Chaffee and fourth-seed Taft despite being the lowest seed in the tournament.

Boys Basketball will play at home against Williston on Saturday and St. Paul's on Wednesday.



David Fridia '25 dunks.

COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

The Luka Dončić Trade Raises Greater Concerns for the Future of the NBA

MATHEW LIU

Luka Dončić is widely regarded as one of the best guards in the league, having won Rookie of the Year and five All-Pro selections, among numerous other accolades. He was key in bringing the Dallas Mavericks back to championship contention, serving as the face of the franchise and their undisputed leader. These factors added to the shock when he and two bench players were traded to the Los Angeles Lakers in exchange for Anthony Davis, a 2029 first-round pick, and role-player Max Christie.

This trade was abnormal in many ways. In the hours leading up to it, only the general managers of the Lakers and Mavericks knew of the trade. Luka was on the verge of renewing his contract, making him eligible for a supermax deal after staying loyal to the Mavericks for his entire career. Yet, despite his commitment and desire to remain on the team, he was traded, supposedly due to health and conditioning concerns — even though Anthony Davis, the deal's centerpiece, has an extensive history of injuries. Davis is also in the twilight of his career, being 31 and in his 13th season. On the other hand, Dončić is only 25 and at the peak of his career. On paper, this is a terrible deal for the Mavericks. They lost a perennial MVP candidate who led them to a finals for an injury-prone, past-prime Davis. The trade is so skewed that it doesn't make sense from a basketball standpoint, raising a larger question: Was this trade really about basketball?

As mentioned earlier, Dončić lost out on a contract extension from the Mavericks, as he was eligible for a

record-setting five-year, 345 million dollar supermax deal. If the Mavericks had signed him to this contract, they would have faced steep luxury tax penalties, which are taken directly from the team's revenue. By trading Dončić and replacing him with a seasoned and well-known National Basketball Association (NBA) player like Anthony Davis, the team maintains marketability, TV value, and sponsorship appeal, ensuring that revenue streams remain intact. At the same time, the Mavericks avoid the financial burden of a massive supermax contract and the escalating luxury tax penalties that would ensue, giving the owners and investors more profit.

This might seem confusing — surely, the better an NBA team performs, the more profit it makes, right? But that's not necessarily true in 2025. The NBA has been implementing a revenue-sharing system since 2007, where part of the top-earning teams' revenue is distributed to lower-revenue teams. This gives poor-performing teams a chance to break out in the future and prevents complete domination from one team. Additionally, the majority of NBA team revenue comes from lucrative TV licensing deals, which guarantee income regardless of performance. On top of that, NBA franchises appreciate exponentially over time, meaning that even struggling teams increase in value simply by existing in the league. While this benefits the billionaires who own teams, it devalues player loyalty, lowers job security, and makes watching basketball in the NBA less entertaining, with teams less willing to pay high salaries for top-level players.

If teams such as the Mavericks are willing to trade away

their generational talents to save money, opting for money in their pockets instead of banners in the rafters, then NBA viewership may be in danger. NBA viewership has steadily declined since its peak in the early 2010s as load management and lucrative contracts made players less loyal to their teams. Since the 1980s, when the NBA was saved by the Celtics-Lakers rivalry led by Larry Bird and Magic Johnson respectively, franchises were defined by their best players, like Michael Jordan on the Chicago Bulls and Kobe Bryant on the Lakers. However, as players began focusing more on making money and winning trophies than staying loyal to their teams, star players like Kyrie Irving and James Harden bounced from team to team, no longer maintaining connections between players and a specific franchise.

The Dončić trade is different. Normally, superstars such as Dončić try to force their way out of a smaller franchise like the Mavericks by requesting trades, speaking to the media, or skipping practice. However, Dončić publicly stated his desire to continue to play for the Mavericks, especially after their historic finals run last season. Furthermore, the Mavericks came to the Lakers with the offer without asking other teams for their trade packages. If a bidding war took place, the Mavericks could have easily gotten multiple first-round picks and another young MVP candidate, like Shai Gilgeous-Alexander or Anthony Edwards, or a package deal with multiple stars to improve the Mavericks' depth. Instead, the team received an incredibly undervalued offer — Davis already out for the next month with an injury after his very first



MIA WALKER/THE PHILLIPIAN

game on the Mavericks. This trend of teams forcing trades of their best players is concerning as teams become more focused on making more money than winning while leaving their fans, coaches, and players completely in the dark.

The NBA has reached another crucial point as the world around the sport evolves. It raises an important question: does the NBA maintain this status quo, al-

lowing financial incentives to take precedence over individual player performance and loyalty, or work towards placing more incentives in place for team success? The Luka Dončić trade is not only a blockbuster trade but also a warning of shifting tides in the NBA between financial benefit and athletic competition.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Andover Dance Festival Celebrates Diversity, Creativity, and Community

EVELYN MARSHALL & TAYLA STEMPSON

Held last Friday and Saturday, the Andover Dance Festival (ADF) brought together dancers from various groups across campus. From traditional Chinese Dunhuang dance to hip-hop routines, the show offered a diverse mix of performances that captivated the audience. Student choreographers were the backbone of the show, making the event a personal and meaningful experience for many.

Julia Xu '28, one performer in the Asian Performing Arts Club (APAC), described the festival as a meaningful opportunity to share a traditional Chinese dance style with the rest of the Andover community. Having practiced since sixth grade, Xu was excited to showcase a style characterized by its precise and rhythmic movements.

"There are different types of Chinese dance from different regions across China. And this type of dance is very specific to a region of China. I believe it's in the western area, closer to Tibet. And it's characterized by very sharp movements and a very specific hand shape," said Xu.

Xu continued, "I think this performance was different because it was almost fully self-choreographed by members of the group... we were trying to convey sort of a sense of mysteriousness and also fear, I guess through our facial expressions and also the sharper movements."

Xu also highlighted the camaraderie and sense of



K. MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Asian Performing Arts Club (APAC) blended traditional Chinese styles with contemporary choreography.

community she experienced while preparing for the performance. She recalled rehearsals as being a fun and rewarding process, making many formidable bonds with others throughout the process.

"The best part was probably getting to work with the other people in the group and we just had a lot of fun during rehearsals. I think my favorite moment of the show was right before we went on stage for the second show. We sort of did a little huddle and some of the co-heads gave us a pep talk. And it was just a really

nice moment before we went on stage and did that performance for the last time," said Xu.

For many, ADF was just as much about the journey leading up to the performance as the show itself. Yumi Lai '27, who performed in multiple groups — including Blue Strut, Hypnotiq, and Slam, as well as a solo — found the preparation challenging but made easier by the strong sense of team spirit.

"One of my favorite moments was from Hypno because our style is just very fun and sometimes my teammates

and I would kind of exchange glances when we changed formations or moved around each other. We're always just smiling and we're happy to be there and we're just in the moment at that time," said Lai.

The excitement of ADF was built over weeks of rehearsals, music choices, and the thrill of seeing routines come together. Xu shared how watching the show take shape over time brought a sense of anticipation making the final performance even more rewarding.

"The rehearsal process was really great. The best part was probably getting to work with the other people in the group and we just had a lot of fun during rehearsals. Leading up to the performance, we had them around once a week and getting closer, we would just get together when everyone was free, like the week of," she explained.

The dedication and effort put into rehearsals paid off on stage. Rachel Levitsky '28, who attended the show to support her friends, was impressed by the diversity of performances. Levitsky admired how each group brought its own unique energy, making the event dynamic and engaging.

"I liked the varying styles because at my previous school I felt like the styles were usually just ballet or they tended to be the same kind of type of dance. And I think this is a lot more interesting, like the moods were very different," said Levitsky.

Unlike other shows, ADF offered an especially intimate atmosphere. Levitsky explained how the location, Pan Athletic Center, cultivated a more immersive performance for the audience.

"This one is definitely unique, because it's not necessarily on a stage. But it's in Pan and Pan has really cool lighting and it's a great stage and you can see the audience very clearly because they're not that far away from you so I think it definitely feels more intimate, or you have a connection with the audience because just the stage is really close," said Levitsky.

Flash Films: A 24-Hour Filmmaking Frenzy Where Creativity Knows No Limits

DANIEL ZHANG & ELIAS JEON

Participants of the Andover Flash Films Festival dedicated themselves to a fierce 24-hour filmmaking challenge where exhaustion took a backseat to the thrill of creativity. This annual event, hosted by the Andover Moviemakers' Club, pushed students to brainstorm ideas, write scripts, shoot scenes, and edit short films all while racing against the clock.

During the Flash Films Festival, students spent the night in the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) and worked from 9 p.m. on Saturday, until 6 a.m. or 7 a.m. the next morning. Art instructor and club advisor for Andover Moviemakers' Junko Pinkowski noted how these time constraints, though strenuous, helped generate teamwork among participants as many students relied on collaboration to brainstorm, problem-solve, and refine their ideas.

"The most rewarding part is the creative energy that emerges in such a short time. It's incredible to see students come up with an idea on the spot and turn it into a full short film overnight. It's also a bonding experience—when students start getting tired around 2 AM, they find ways to keep their energy up. This year, they played hide-and-seek in the library to wake

themselves up before getting back to work," said Pinkowski.

Participants were encouraged to spread their artistic wings. Pinkowski also shared how she enjoyed seeing students explore topics that excited them, no matter how unconventional.

"There was no set theme, so participants could create whatever they wanted. Some groups made sci-fi parodies, others created visually artistic music-driven films, and we had a couple of comedies. One short film was inspired by video games, and another had a documentary style with some intense themes," said Pinkowski.

Flash Films was a fun event, aimed at allowing students to experience filmmaking in an enjoyable way. This encouraging spirit was reflected in Suvir Virmani '25's experience.

"My favorite part is definitely the sense of community—just having fun with people. It's not really a stressful event, and the final film itself doesn't matter as much. It's more about enjoying the filmmaking process," said Virmani.

Motivated by each other, students pushed through the night, energized by snacks like pizza and donuts, playing games to stay awake, and finding creative solutions to challenges that arise in real time. Virmani explained how he felt motivated to stay up all night.



COURTESY OF J. PINKOWSKI /THE PHILLIPIAN

Student directors and actors in Kemper Auditorium following Andover Flash Films Festival.

"I didn't sleep at all last night. Some students did, one group even brought an air mattress, and others had sleeping bags. I just had a blanket, but my group decided to stay up all night and film everything. Some groups prefer to plan overnight and then film the next day. But I wouldn't say I'm too tired," said Virmani.

Unfortunately though, the hard work of the students did not reach as large an audience as hoped. Pinkowski expressed disappointment for the untimely hurdles that hindered student engagement.

"Unfortunately, the turn-

out was lower than usual. Due to snow and scheduling conflicts, we had to change the event date multiple times, which made it difficult to advertise properly. Normally, we run the event from Friday night to Saturday morning and screen the films on Saturday night. This year, we did it from Saturday to Sunday morning, which limited our ability to plan a later screening. That said, all the participants stayed to watch the films, which was great," said Pinkowski.

The Andover Moviemakers' Club plans to continue the Flash Films tradition next

year despite the challenges. Virmani encourages all students to participate in this fun event, whether or not they have experience in filmmaking.

"If you're interested in learning, that's all that counts. When I came to Andover, I had barely shot any video at all. I had only done a little bit of photography, and even that wasn't much. You can start from anywhere and explore whatever you want in the world of filmmaking. It's just really fun, so I'd definitely encourage people to check it out," said Virmani.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Nailed It: What Nail Art Do Andover Students Have?

WENDI WEI

CHARLOTTE TANG '27

"[My nails are] short almond nails with [a] hot pink aurora design, white stars, and silver gemstones. I got them done one or two weeks ago. I got this design because I was looking at Pinterest for nail inspo and I saw a couple of ideas like aurora nails, star nails, and gemstone nails, and I just combined them together because I thought it would be cute. I got them done by a senior here at [Andover], Nadia Vargas [25]."

WENDI YING '25

"[My nails are] all very different. There's stars and cherries on mine and then there's [also] an animal print. I got them done two weeks ago. These are one of my favorite nail sets that I've gotten thus far in my life. I've gotten a lot of compliments on it, and they're kind of funky [and] a little bit more complicated than I would usually get, but it's really fun. I like expressing myself through my nails. I'm actually really particular about what I like on my nails, but I have a huge Pinterest board of nails and this one was what I've wanted for so long, but a lot of places can't do it. So then this time around the lady was like 'Yeah, I can do it for you.' I got them done at Lily's Nails downtown, but you have to ask for the manager, her name is Nancy."

ZADIE ROBINSON '26

"My nails have a soft pink base with golden flame accents, tiny rhinestones, and there's a heart pearl on one of my nails on each hand. I got them done on my birthday, and in a way it felt like an act of self celebration. There's something about taking time for yourself even in the smaller ways. It felt like a way to treat myself without really going overboard, and it's something pretty but still subtle enough to wear everyday. If it wasn't for Ellen [Mueller '26], my friend on campus, I don't think I would've ever gotten my nails done. She's such an amazing presence on campus and I'm very grateful for her and she always talks about how safe people feel when their hands are being held and pampered, and it's true there's something about being present at the moment that feels really special."

From sets done by students on campus who provide nail services to trendy design inspirations taken from Pinterest, nail art is one of the many ways Andover students express their individual style. The Phillipian interviewed students on the different designs they have and what significance they play in their life.



JAC GORDON '25

"I did a base of purple gel and then [a] silver design with a star [on] one of my nails, and then a silver spiral. I always like to get different variations of the same shape and style, so I always do a purple color scheme of sorts with some sort of star design, so it'll either be a star in a different color or a star in a different shade. With this one, I really wanted to keep the same kind of purple color that I normally do, but do a star and a spiral. I just keep the same base and do different variations of the design. When I'm choosing my nail designs, I know that I'm gonna do purple, so I look up different nail art designs on Pinterest."

AMINA GORMON '26

"My nails right now have a tortoiseshell design and then one finger has a 3D flower on it and the other one has drawn on flowers. I got them done right before I came back to school from winter break. They kind of show my personality, and I like to choose my nails based on the things that I know were happening in the term. So [in] Fall Term, I chose blue and silver nails because, you know, go big blue, and also because I wanted my first day of school outfit to be silver and blue. Now I wanted a more wintry, laid-back [and] relaxed vibe that can go with any of my like warmer outfits which is why I chose brown and light pink instead of doing a bright side of colors."

MORGAN HSU '26

"[My nails] are a nude pink color with a cat eye design, so the salon uses a magnet tool to create a metallic effect. I take a lot of nail inspiration from my mom because she always has her nails done, and she was telling me to try cat eye designs for the longest time and I finally did it so it feels special. They use some sort of nail polish with tiny magnets in it and then they use a tool to make the magnets go in a certain shape or have a certain effect so it looks different depending on the light."

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Student Director Serafina Shin-von Nordenflycht Brings '25 "Ride the Cyclone" to the Stage

NATHANIEL DAROCHA & TAYLA STEMPSON

This winter, student director Serafina Shin-Von Nordenflycht '25 is bringing the dark and humorous musical *Ride the Cyclone* to life as a part of the Theatre & Dance 901 (THD901) course. The musical is haunting yet quirky, following six high school students who recount their stories, fighting for a second chance after dying in a roller coaster tragedy, landing in limbo. For Shin-Von Nordenflycht, this production is a passionate endeavor as she hopes to fill the role of her past mentors.

"In my Freshman year, I did a [THD]901. I was in a 901 called 'Girls Like That,' and it was with the lovely director Kate Horton. She's one of my mentors from the school. She was a senior when I was a Freshman here, and she was a great director... I was like, 'I want to be able to be that person for someone.' I want to be the director that can take something that's heavy—and not that heavy, I love fun things, and so I picked a more fun show. But I want to be able to bring that for people to see. And so it's like, Andover when I've had role models are so important, because once I pick my role model, it makes me feel that I can reach that standard and that level," said Shin-Von Nordenflycht.

Stepping into the role of director, Shin-Von Nordenflycht reflected on her experience as a student producer working on a musical focused on teenage lives and voices. This has taken shape in her directive choices, as she expressed a deeper meaning behind her decisions, and

their attachment to her personal identity.

"The important part about being a director is having a unified idea of the show. There's a lot of carnival themes in my show, as well as masquerade masks, and that comes from me being a student, right? It's this idea that we put fronts up for other people, and we wear masks all the time. And constantly, I am switching my personality or switching the parts of me that I wanna share with people and the parts of me that I don't, and I think that's a lot of what this show is about, is about what you hide from people in life will follow you into death, and can you just live your life as you want to live it?" said Shin-von Nordenflycht.

Shin-Von Nordenflycht's choice of show, *Ride the Cyclone*, is especially unique, being a six-person cast—a considerably small number in any production, but especially a musical. Cast member Penelope Jaramillo '28 discussed the effect the diminutive cast size has had on the production and character relationships of the show.

"Being in such a small cast, we all learn a lot more about each other... You can definitely tell the closeness and the dynamics between people. We have an understanding of each other, which can be really interesting because sometimes people are very close in real life, but they're supposed to have a more strained relationship on stage or not even know each other," said Jaramillo.

Friend and cast member Alex Giarnese '25 also spoke on Shin-von Nordenflycht's directing style, and her abundant experience in the theater department at Andover. Giarnese addressed her approach to leadership, as



I. PADMAWAR / THE PHILLIPIAN

Serafina Shin-Von Nordenflycht '25 in the George Washington Hall Theatre Classroom.

her talent as both a director and Thespian.

"Serafina commands a lot of respect. She's done so much in the theater department over the last four years that all the theater students know who she is and recognize how talented she is. That in itself commands a lot of respect. She gets things done quickly and in a very organized manner. She's serious about what she's putting on stage because she knows how important it is to put on a good production, which is an amazing quality in a director," said Giarnese.

As a director, Shin-Von Nordenflycht aims to balance the musical's humor with its serious themes, her ultimate goal being to make viewers embrace joy and introspection. So far, she has been working extensively with her cast, pushing them to challenge them while encouraging teamwork.

"I really like ensemble-based shows and I love musicals, and musical theater has a huge place in my heart. And *Ride the Cyclone* is just so much fun. Everyone is on stage the whole time, and you have these characters

who come across first as being very one-faceted and easy to read and each of them has this layer to them that you would have never seen, and it's a wild ride. It's like a rollercoaster, right? This show goes up and down and up and down through sadness and laughter to the point where one person is dancing in a catsuit and another person is in full carnival attire. It is a celebration of what it is to be human, and I think that's what art is—a celebration of what it's like to be human," said Shin-Von Nordenflycht.

Kendrick Lamar's Halftime Show: A Bold, Yet Controversial Move

MATTHEW WEI & CHARLIZE SOW

Last Sunday at the Caesars Super dome in New Orleans, Kendrick Lamar returned for his first Super Bowl halftime show as the headliner, marking a bold new chapter in his career. His choices of guests and music selections underscored his ongoing feud with fellow artist Drake, as he performed his famous diss track, "Not Like Us," among others.

To kick off Lamar's explosive halftime performance, surprise guest Samuel L. Jackson stepped onto the stage, fully embracing an American theme with his blue suit and patriotic top hat. Taking on the role of "Uncle Sam," he playfully criticized Lamar's performances as "too loud, too unruly, too ghetto," before asking, "Mr. Lamar, do you really know how to play the game?" — a direct reference to the PlayStation-style layout of the stage. Unfazed, Lamar responded perfectly by blasting "Humble" into the stadium, leaving the crowd with an unforgettable moment.

The performance was accompanied by a colorful landscape to set the tone: red, white, and blue flooded the space, with vibrant lights pulsing with every beat. The sense of symmetry and cohesiveness stood in stark contrast to last year's show. Lamar, dressed in blue, stood alongside SZA, who wore a striking red dress, embodying an all-Ameri-

can theme. Every movement, lighting cue, and backdrop felt intentional, as though the entire set was designed to tell a story just as much as the songs themselves.

Lamar orchestrated his set list meticulously, as each song seemed to build toward something larger, tempting the audience with possibility. From the moment he teased "Not Like Us" early in the performance, the anticipation was palpable. Known for its biting and controversial lyrics, the track loomed in the atmosphere. However, Lamar held back, dropping it only at the very end to maximize the audience's response.

And then came the infamous line: "Drake, I know you like them young." Lamar didn't just deliver it — he delivered it. Locking eyes with the camera, pointing directly as the words left his mouth, he made a piercing statement. Was it simply a perfectly executed moment for entertainment, or was there something deeper, more pointed? Maybe both. Whatever the intention, its impact was undeniable. This line turned an already electrifying performance into one that the world will dissect and debate long after the show.

Another major guest, DJ Mustard, showed up for the infamous line, "MUSTARDDDD," as Lamar closed with "Turn His TV Off." Meanwhile, many fans had speculated, and were disappointed, that other celebrities like Taylor Swift and Lil Wayne didn't appear. Re-

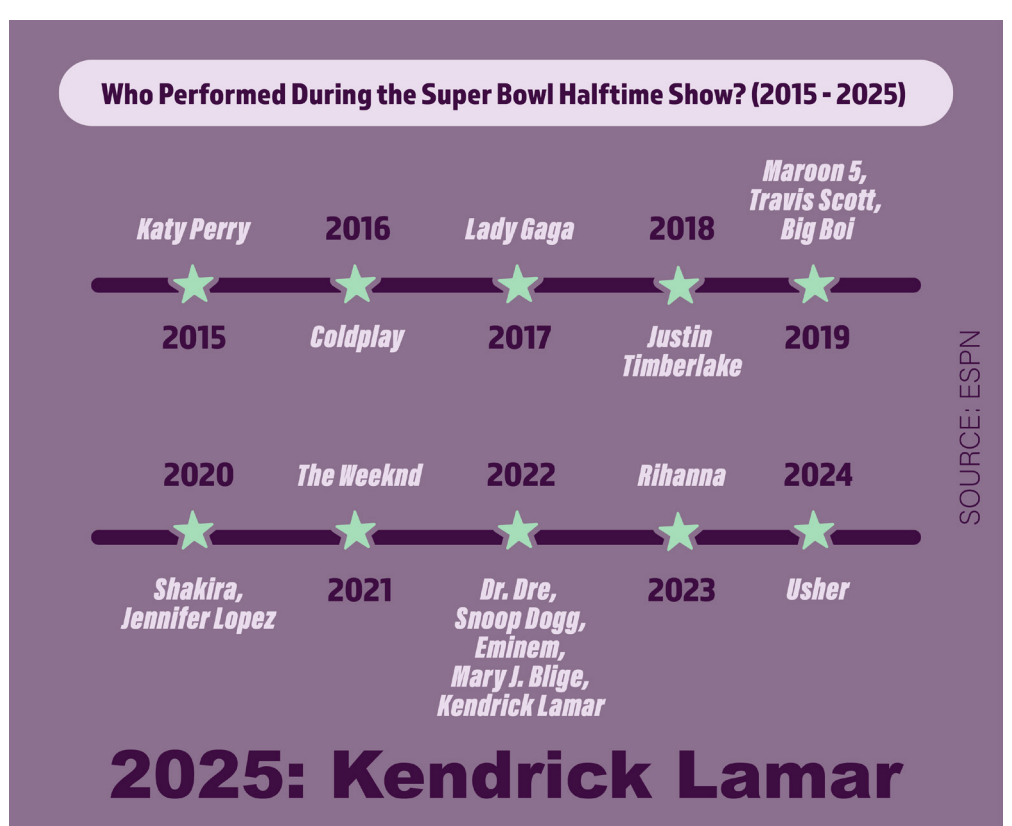
gardless, SZA's presence was undeniably spectacular. She joined Lamar for "Luther" and "All the Stars" from 2018, her on-point vocals and dynamic range elevating the show to a whole new level.

Beyond the spectacle, Lamar's performance was layered with meaning. His "a" chain and Mustard's block "M" chain seemed to reference lyrics from "Not Like Us." Meanwhile, his custom varsity jacket, featuring "Gloria" on the front and "pgLang" on the back, referenced his last GNX

song. His diamond eye ring, worn over black gloves, nodded to the track "Peekaboo," while the two diamond pins on his hat signaled a new era in his career. Whether these details were intentional or not only adds to the intrigue. Perhaps the brilliance of the show was its ability to leave room for interpretation and debate.

While the halftime show was far from a "flop," the expectations for Kendrick Lamar may have simply been too high. He played it clean, delivering hit after hit, but it lacked

C. WANG / THE PHILLIPIAN the shock factor that would have set it apart from previous performances. However, Lamar's presence on stage was more significant than the performance itself. It was a testament to hip-hop's place in mainstream entertainment and a reflection of the culture that has shaped Lamar throughout his life. Lamar didn't just perform; he made a bold statement about his artistry, his city, and his place in hip-hop history. And, perhaps, a not-so-subtle nod to Drake's downfall.



Valentine's Day Notes

TO: ERIC
 Please be mine Eric ur so cute and majestic and bueatiful (is that how you spell it??)
FROM: KAI

TO: AARAV DENGLA
 Aarav, you smell really nice and you're super smart :) I wanna be the queen to your pawn <3
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: JAC
 Happy Valentines Day pookie
FROM: LOUISA

TO: DAVID
 Happy Valentine's Day!!!!
FROM: SOPHIA

TO: SHELBY
 hi happy valentines day!!
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: CXLVIII
 you guys are slaying!! keep it up
FROM: UM CXLVII

TO: DAVID
 I love you most
FROM: SOPHIA

TO: KROD
 Assuming that you wouldn't get any other Valentine's, here <3
FROM: MICH

TO: ERIC CHOI
 Eric my smexy pookie I luv u <3
FROM: KAI WANG

TO: BUSINESS SECTION OF THE PHILLIPIAN
 supercalifragilisticexpialidocious
FROM: DAVID SIAHAAN

TO: MAGDALENA
 Thank you for being so supportive, love you to the moon and back pookabutt
FROM: FRANK HU

TO: WENDI WEI
 hi wendi im ur biggest fan
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: JEFF SHEN
 ive been admiring you from afar. you slay. -ur secret admirer <3333
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: BRANDON FU
 i cant put down da cuppp
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: 113 REASONS
 Love you all so much! Here's to more spontaneous meetings in 305!
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: JAY WEI
 i luv u jaywei
FROM: JEREMY LIN

TO: OLIVER STABACH
 Wanna come over to my dorm later tonight?
FROM: EZ

TO: YOAT
 you are amazing
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: AVERY RODEHEFFER
 Thanks for being a great buddy!
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: BLUE STRUT
 love you blue strut- best dance group on campus!
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: NATHAN WU
 You are a special snowflake in this falling winter. This note put me into bankruptcy.
FROM: SWEET POTATO

TO: UM CXLVII
 Love you all so much, enjoy retirement!
FROM: JG

TO: SARAYA, JAC, ADELE, WENDI, GINNY
 You are all so sigma, wow! #SIGMABOIIIIII
FROM: TARA WEI

TO: ELLIOT WEIR
 Happy Valentine's Day, Mate!!
FROM: SAMI TOKAT

TO: YUPI
 yay i love u queen <3
FROM: ABBY

TO: ABBYBABBY
 AbbyBabbyCabbyDabby I love youuu
FROM: YUI

TO: ERIC
 hey [redacted]
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ALIVE 2.2
 We love y'all, keep being amazing :)
FROM: ALLEGRA + NIKI

TO: WENDI WEI
 i love u with the strength that the moon moves the sea
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: SLEEPERS
 love u guys! becoming takes time <3
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: CONFUSED LITTLE GUY
 Hiiiiiii. I love you!
FROM: POTATO

TO: CXLVII
 MISS U GUYSSSS
FROM: HEYON

TO: SMITH HOUSE
 Happy v-day to the best dorm on campus :) so grateful for you (and our inevitable greencup win)
FROM: GIULIANA CARDINALE

TO: SYDNEY JAN
 ilysm!! You're so kind and sweet, when I see you bbg, I think you're the best <3
FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: SOPHIE
 happy valentines day
FROM: PHILIP

TO: DANIELLE HAN
 DonDonDonDonDon
FROM: DANIEL ZHANG

TO: ANDOVER COTTAGE
 happy valentines to my 11 favourite guys and ollie
FROM: PHILIP

TO: PLIP BIZ
 lets make some 🍷🍷🍷
FROM: PHILIP

TO: SOPHIA, ALICE, EMILY, JESS, ETC. ETC. <3
 Happy Galentines!! We love you guys so much :) Hope you have the best day!
FROM: UM CXLVI

TO: KARLA
 HI KARLA!!! We miss you so much at Easterns. You are such an amazing friend and diver. WE LOVE YOU!!!!
FROM: ANNIE AND KELLEY

TO: KELLEY
 you're such a great friend and we love spending time with you!! Also thank you for buying this valentine
FROM: ANNIE AND KARLA

TO: FRUZZ
 I love ALL OF YOU. WHERE MY HUG AT????!!!!
FROM: JEFF SHEN

TO: VERNON HA
 I've been waiting to talk to you forever... hit me up sexy
FROM: SECRET ADMIRER

TO: ANAYA
 what's cookin' good lookin'
FROM: UR SECRET ADMIRER ;)

TO: SOPHIA FANG
 happy valentine's day to the 4th person I met here :) (4s my lucky number)
FROM: CAROLYN CAO

TO: PHILIP MENG
 Hi Philip I'll see u 2nite!
FROM: OLLIE KIM

TO: BODHI BEROUKHIM
 Looking forward to our next double grape sesh
FROM: JULIAN RIOS

TO: WENDI YING
 You da goat
FROM: ANONYMOUS

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TO: CAMILLE
 Hey youre really really cute! dinner tn? ;)
 FROM: NATHAN

TO: AVA CAI
 Since I saw you from across the room at the start of winter I fell in love. Just one chance...
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: LOUIS-THOMAS VINCENT
 MIAOU GYAT SIGMA!!!! i love you so much
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: HALE DORM
 Thanks for being the best dorm!
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: SARAH SAMOLUK
 i luv u pookie butt 🥰🥰🥰
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: BKH 25
 Love is an open door! Go forth and love.....
 FROM: MARGOT + HERB

TO: LISA DE BOER
 I dream about you in my sleep (I even hear your snores:)
 FROM: YOUR SECRET ADMIRER

TO: COREY SHEN
 hihi...toodless :)
 FROM: CHERRIES

TO: BAILEY XU
 thinking pensive comtemplating abt u
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: SOPHIE LIANG
 i enjoy sleeping with u :P
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: EVELYN KUNG
 ill wear a stussy hoodie for u
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: LILY LIU
 ill be ur byeon woo seek
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: DEAN YANG
 Will you be my valentine and the loml 🌈🌈🌈
 FROM: BK

TO: PORTO
 I love you, happy valentine's day!
 FROM: ELIZA

TO: NATE GOLDBERG
 Nate you still owe me a hug <3
 FROM: ARIEL

TO: ARIEL SHEPHERDSON
 Can i still get a hug :(
 FROM: NATE G.

TO: AJ PIZZI
 Lock in on Philliopian Photo this is driving me mad.
 FROM: KELVIN

TO: VALENCIA
 hi thank u for being my lifeline senior fall ily and heres to more sleepovers in spring !!!
 FROM: ALICE

TO: JENNA LIANG
 hey boo, feel better hope ur leg heals. xoxoxo - :))
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: TIANYI GU, WILLIAM GE, HELIOS HONG
 Looking forward to Senior Spring with 113
 FROM: NATE LIANG

TO: CHASE BURKE
 i love you
 FROM: ELLE MENDEZ

TO: LILLIANA KEIM
 love youuuu
 FROM: ELLE MENDEZ

TO: CORINNE FRIESEN
 Happy Valentine's Day! Love you 💖
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: DANIEL PENG
 "Roses are red Violets are blue I appreciate Daniel And so should you"
 FROM: ARIEL SHEPHERDSON

TO: ARIEL SHEPERDSON
 Nice fits
 FROM: DANIEL

TO: EBI 10TH
 imma miss yall frfr
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: JONATHAN OH
 i shouldve been invited to the sleepover 🥰
 FROM: T1 FAKER

TO: CYRUS LAW
 layout [redacted] how about you layout for [redacted] instead
 FROM: USACO PLAT

TO: JEFF SHEN
 Jeff, Your double varsity aura is illuminating. She dont want a puppy she want a big dog!!!
 FROM: ELISA LEE

TO: COREY SHEN
 I really enjoy our talks in class.. you're really charming, I'll see you at your next game :)
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: MAYARI BURT
 love yaaaa, grateful for you always
 FROM: MICHELLE

TO: COREY SHEN <33 🥰
 I love watching you at your squash games...[redacted] xoxo :)
 FROM: FRESHMAN GIRL

TO: JONATHAN OH
 Hiiii just wanted to know that you're so cute and I'm always an option for you!!!
 uwu
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ADEN HWANG
 hi
 FROM: ANDREW CAI

TO: CYRUS LAW
 catching frisbees how about you catch my heart instead
 FROM: USACO PLAT

TO: ADEN HWANG
 hi
 FROM: ANDREW CAI

TO: ADEN HWANG
 hi
 FROM: ANDREW CAI

TO: ADEN HWANG
 hi
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 FROM: ANDREW CAI

TO: ADEN HWANG
 hi
 FROM: ANDREW CAI

TO: ADEN HWANG
 hi
 FROM: ANDREW CAI

TO: CHLOE KASULE-WALLACE
 I think you're really pretty, but I'm just too nervous to talk to you. But happy valentines!!
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: MAGGIE AGOSTO
 You should talk to me more in class, you're rilly cute 🥰 happy Valentine's Day
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: LILY LIU '26
 hi ur so dazzling every time i see u my heart stops ur si amazing i hope u never die !!
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ZADIE ROBINSON
 ik we fight sometimes but ily zadie and im so glad we've gotten to spend more time together
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: MUFFIN
 happy valentine's day to my muffin :)
 FROM: ANONYMOUS

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM CXLVIII