

Officer Wendy: A Legacy of Warmth and Dedication



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

After 28 years, Officer Wendy has retired from her duties in the Office of Campus Safety at Phillips Academy.

CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & IAN KIM

Wendy Cogswell (Officer Wendy), the heartbeat of the Andover community for 28 years, was known for helping recover lost items, directing traffic during events, ensuring late-night campus security, and even corralling runaway dogs. Last month marked the end of Officer Wendy's career at Andover. Appreciated by both students and faculty for her enthusiasm and friendliness, Officer Wendy will still occasionally be on campus as a part-time per diem officer.

Fondly recalling her time at Andover, Officer Wendy expressed her gratitude for the supportive community and countless students and faculty who made her time memorable. In particular, she remembered recovering from encephalitis and being welcomed back with a standing ovation. Officer Wendy further reflected on some of her other favorite memories of her job.

"I loved my job and the commitment I made. Becoming 'Of-

ficer Wendy' was special. No one calls me by my last name, even now... One of my favorite moments was greeting students at the start of school with Blue Keys, cheering, and waving them in. It showed them we were excited to welcome them as part of the community. I also enjoyed family weekends, where I could talk with parents and show them that there are people at the school who genuinely care about the students," said Cogswell.

Cogswell continued, "About 15 years ago, I had encephalitis and nearly didn't make it. When I returned, there was a school meeting where [I was brought] to the podium to announce I was back. The standing ovation I received from the students was overwhelming. That moment solidified my love for my job and motivated me to keep giving it my all after my recovery."

Lisa Joel, Director of Athletics, recalled Officer Wendy's friend-

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The History of the Writing Center

CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & NIKI TAVAKOLI

Since its founding in the late 1980s, the Writing Center has journeyed from a tucked-away corner in the basement of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library to the basement of Bulfinch Hall to its current home in the Tang Institute. What started as a handful of students peer-editing papers, the Writing Center has expanded to host over 25 tutors, accumulating 147 hours of active sessions last fall.

Andover's Writing Center was founded riding off a wave of creating similar spaces dedicated to providing feedback on student writing created at colleges and preparatory schools across the country. The Writing Center, though managed by the English department, supports students in writing assignments across all classes with writing including History and Philosophy & Religion classes.

Kevin O'Connor, Emeritus Instructor in English, who ran the Writing Center in the early 2000s, elaborat-

ed on the motivations behind the Writing Center. He highlighted how it can serve as an important place for academic support.

"Especially at a boarding school, it's important to provide all the benefits that can be provided by an on-campus situation. [Given] the tight schedule of all students and teachers during the day, it only made sense to offer writing help in the evening during study hours. At the time in the '80s, there was a lot of enthusiasm on a national level for institutions, both colleges and prep schools like Andover, to [have] a writing center... It also coincided with another kind of movement in English department pedagogy: teaching [the] practice of writing across the curriculum," said O'Connor.

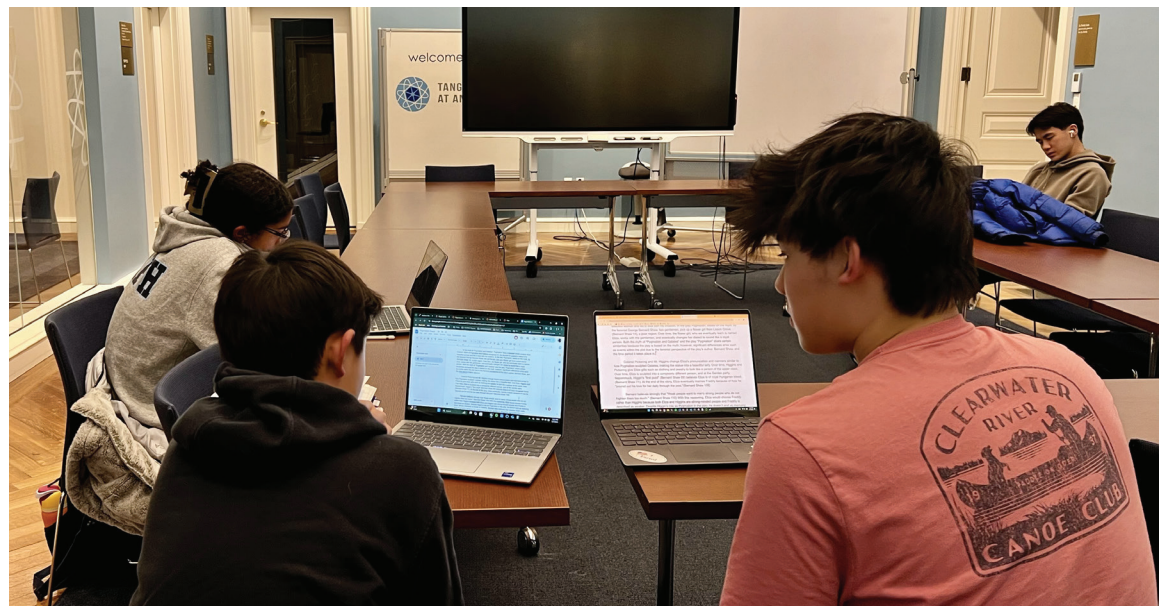
The Writing Center has undergone many iterations, evolving from two to four nights a week, paper-based to digital, including scheduled appointments in addition to walk-ins, and changing locations three times before eventually moving to the Tang Institute following a post-

Covid-19 boom in demand. Marissa Schwalm, Instructor in English and Director of the Writing Center, described the expansion of the Writing Center after the pandemic.

"Historically, the number of students and the hours of operation have varied, but it was always relatively small... During the Covid-19 year, we did online sessions... We started in a small glass room overlooking [Garver]. It became clear very quickly that we needed more space because we often had lines out the door. During Covid-19, when everyone returned, we were all packed into that small room. Thankfully, colleagues supported our vision, and we now use the Tang Institute at night, including smaller rooms for those with sensory needs," said Schwalm.

O'Connor emphasized the Writing Center's commitment to preserving authentic work. When he ran the Writing Center, an important consider-

Continued on A5, Column 1



A. BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

From Monday to Tuesday, students and tutors come to the Writing Center in the Tang Institute of the OWHL to either aid or seek help in writing, in any subject.

Wellness Amid White Winters: Seasonal Affective Disorder at Andover

KRISTEN MA & NIKI TAVAKOLI

With frigid chills and dimmer days, the winter weather is conversationally known to induce what some call "seasonal depression" among the Andover community. As the temperature continues to drop, students' mood, mental health, and academic performance shift in tandem.

Over the course of Winter term, several factors can alter student morale. Amy Patel, Dean of Health and Wellness and Chief Medical Officer, ascribed weather patterns and the correlation between travel and illness as primary causes. To combat such symptoms, Patel shared that light therapy, along with activities such as "Snooze the Blues" and therapy dog sessions were put in place by the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center (Sykes).

"Students are coming from all over the world after going on Winter Break and then coming back has made the January to February time period especially

challenging when it comes to infectious illnesses... The number of transitions that our students have to make between the end of Fall Term and November can be a little bit destabilizing. Also, we spend a lot more time indoors, so when one person is sick, it's easy for the whole dorm to get sick. Winter Term also sees an increase in mental health concerns and symptoms because of it," said Patel.

Patel continued, "In terms of not getting enough sunlight, the last couple of years we have put sunlamps across campus. We're trying to put them across campus in some of the places that are a little bit more central to student life. It only takes a few minutes to get enough of the right [light] wavelength to increase your Vitamin D levels. 'Snooze the Blues' [is] just a number of different pop-ups, simple things that different departments are running. Out of Sykes, we typically have a weekly session where we have a therapy dog come to campus."

The winter weather, with its wind and variable amounts of sunlight, prompts students and faculty to take more initiative toward

mitigating Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Devin O'Reilly, Athletic Trainer, Instructor in Athletics, and member of the Sports Medicine Department, shared his means of combating SAD.

"What I do for myself is called L.I.V.E. There's SAD, seasonal [affective] disorder, but I have my own acronym. L stands for 'Love what you do and love the people around you.' I stands for being 'Intentional about positive habits and the words that I use.' V is 'valuing time,' time spent working but also valuing time to relax, chill, and play, and E is 'energize.' I energize myself with sleep, nutrition, [and] exercise with movements that [are] fun, like going on a ten minute walk in the morning," said O'Reilly.

Although Patel reported that Sykes frequently reaches its capacity during the Winter Term, she explained how Sykes manages such high numbers of students in need of medical assistance.

"We have had times where we have been beyond capacity. This is my thirteenth year here, and almost every winter we get to a point where we see an increase in the need for the number of beds. We have 12 beds, for 1150 students, that is not a large capacity. Usually we keep students for 24 hours or so after their last fever or after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhea. If we are beyond capacity, we might have more students at the dorm a little sooner and we ask for some of their adults to check up on them a little more regularly. If someone is a local boarder, we might see if their parents can bring them home," said Patel.

Elisa Lee '26 emphasized the importance of finding joy in mundane moments during the winter. Her ideas included doing fun class activities such as icebreak-

Continued on A5, Column 4

Students and Faculty to Lead MLK Day Workshops



A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Last year, the MLK ASM Keynote Speaker was award-winning author Angie Thomas.

ANDY GAO & SAKETH LINGISETTY

To the casual onlooker, dissonance about jazz or internet slang may not seem to relate to the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. or his legacy. However, this MLK Day, these will be just two of thirty topics that students will have the opportunity to explore in connection to MLK through student and faculty-led workshops.

Char Esty, Coordinator of the Office of Community and Multicultural Development, expressed her enthusiasm for this year's diversity of student-led workshops, emphasizing their contemporary relevance. She connected MLK Day to the current political

and social climate, highlighting the significance of this year's themes in addressing contemporary issues and concerns.

"Thinking about the current political and social context, especially with Inauguration Day and MLK Day being on the same day, we have a couple [workshops] that link those two major historical and political kinds of landmarks. So talking about access to education and political polarization, talking about Trump's tariffs, ones that are really contemporary and pertinent in that way. I think [they] are exciting for this year," said Esty.

Cate Cummings '26 was

Continued on A5, Column 1



C. WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Commentary, A2

Losing Christmas Magic

Vedant Bajaj '28 reflects on how Christmas has lost its luster, weighed down by newfound responsibilities and growing cynicism.

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Kington Resigns.

Will Kington's resignation as Prime Minister of Andover affect Vestrogen prices?

Sports, B1

Tam Gavenas '25 Wins Big

Over Winter Break, Tam Gavenas '25 secured first place at Footlocker Cross Country Nationals to cap off his Highschool Cross Country Career.

Arts, B6

Falls Hall Opens!

Look at photos of the newly-opened Falls Music Center and read about its various new facilities for students.

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Editorial

The Andover Effect

Rain drenched the campus of Phillipus Academijs Andover as students scrambled inside Pareskius Commonus to escape the downpour. Among the crowd were Froggleburris and Snizzlethorpe, two sprites eager to engage in ruthless gossip over their meal of dragon pot pie.

“Froggleburris, did you hear that Mufflebumps got selected to study under Archmagister Warren?”

“Please—this has to be a joke. What can she even do that could impress him? Levitate a twig? That’s about as advanced as her abilities get.”

“I know right! I swear she’s a nepo-baby—”

Suddenly, there is a tremble in the air, a disturbance in the force. Both Froggleburris and Snizzlethorpe feel their hearts drop as they whirl around to see Mufflebumps walk by, conjured out of thin air.

“Oh my golly celestial powers! Snizzlethorpe, you saw that right? Mufflebumps appeared as soon as we mentioned her name.”

“Indeed my eyes gazed upon her unfortunate visage. The Head Wizard must have enchanted this room with ‘The Andover Effect’ spell...”

Though the Andover Effect is neither a spell nor actual magic, its seemingly fantastical influence on Andover students is undeniable. Defined as that moment when someone you were just talking about suddenly appears in-person, the Andover Effect is a phenomenon unique to our school and its culture. It’s a mystic stroke of chance that all students are familiar with, the capability of summoning the subject of a conversation as soon as their name is uttered, and always when you least expect it.

While the Andover Effect is wondrous when it occurs, it also opens up considerations about our conversation topics. Oftentimes, people may worry whether they have ever been the subject of someone else’s Andover Effect. The idea is intimidating: What snarky remarks could others make about us? We are wired to be on alert to protect ourselves and our image, but the truth is, compliments and praises about our peers’ diligence, thoughtfulness, and even fashion sense are just as abundant. It’s easy to immediately jump to negative conclusions when it comes to conversations about us that we can’t control, but we promise: that panic truly isn’t necessary. And if we haven’t heard others talking about us, we shouldn’t assume that we’re just lucky to not have borne witness to negative comments. Many people are too occupied with the day-to-day rigor of Andover life to dwell on that one thing

that we’re self-conscious about, so don’t worry! It’s likely true that no one is as focused on our flaws as we are, making us our own worst critics. The next time you find yourself overthinking every little interaction, remember that others might be doing the same, too hung up over their own words to scrutinize yours.

At the same time, the Andover Effect is a good reminder that our actions can leave a greater impact than we think. Just as our steps into Lower Left may be a manifestation of the effect itself for others, how we treat others and conduct ourselves matter, even when we think that we may be on our own. We do not exist in our own solitary bubbles — our actions ripple outwards to shape the people and spaces around us. The same is true for when the Andover Effect befalls our own conversations: when we “happen” to bump into the person we were just discussing with a friend, we are presented with the opportunity to reflect upon our intentions. What was our immediate reaction? Was it a spark of panic followed by the breathless hope that they hadn’t caught what we said? Or perhaps a jump of excitement before we wave at them? Were we speaking kindly of them? Expressing jealousy? Something else entirely? When the Andover Effect takes place, we are reminded of how our words and thoughts are reflections of our own character that have direct influence on others too. In moments of stress or boredom, projecting our irritations onto others can be low-hanging fruit. But always remember that the subject could just be around the corner, and that we would much rather our surprise be rooted in genuine joy than the guilt of saying something malicious.

In the end, the Andover Effect is a mysteriously vitalizing phenomena that brings all of Andover together. It’s a distinct experience for every student and a cornerstone of the campus culture, a touch of magic we’ve claimed as uniquely Andover. We have the power to make it a warm blessing and to use it to bring exclamations of excitement and wonder to faces across our community. For any one can agree that the tingle of shock when someone appears — as if on command, causing our warm smiles and silent shouts of “Andover Effect!” to our friends — is truly unmatched.

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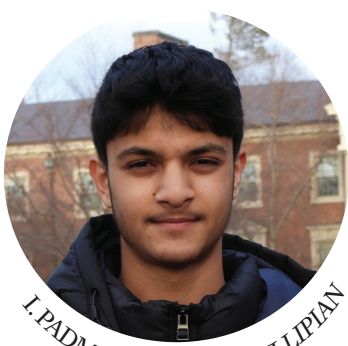
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Where Are You, Christmas?

VEDANT BAJAJ



I. PADMAWAR / THE PHILLIPIAN

Every year, December rolls around, bringing with it the greatest time of all. The season includes Winter Break, which offers a much-needed rest from an otherwise demanding term, as well as Christmas. This holiday takes shape through sensory items such as the aroma of pine trees and fresh cookies wafting through the air, streets illuminated by houses adorned with glistening lights, and even gifts — sometimes coal — nestled under the tree. Yet Christmas is also so much more — it’s a wave of festiveness that pervades us all and generates an abundance of joy and wonder.

Despite its intrinsic nature, Christmas magic has begun to disappear, eroded by newfound responsibilities and cynicism. What was once a season of enchantment and limitless joy has dwindled, reduced to an insipid imitation of its former self, celebrated more as a formality than with genuine enthusiasm. Nevertheless, if we realign ourselves with the true spirit of Christmas during the holidays by embracing moments of genuine joy, we can rediscover its wonder and delight.



SACI VEGSO / THE PHILLIPIAN

As a child, it would seem as if the entire year was merely a prelude to Christmas, existing solely to reinvigorate the holiday spirit. In the days leading up to the occasion, seemingly everyone would suspend all their obligations and immerse themselves in festive activities; my class would engage in traditions like gingerbread house decorating competitions, watching Christmas movies, and doing holiday arts

and crafts. In the final stretches leading up to Christmas Day, namely Christmas Eve, all I wanted was for time to skip so I could finally experience what I had anticipated all year. On the 24th, I would go to bed early, and after what appeared like a lifetime of coaxing my brain to fall asleep until it could not resist anymore, I slipped away into the deep bounds of night. Sometime during the night, Santa would

leave my gift beneath the tree, and in the morning, I would wake up groggy and sluggish, before being struck by the realization: “Today is Christmas!” I would race over to the tree and tear the wrapping off my gift, which I had so specially requested. Younger Vedant believed that Christmas Day — as a matter of fact, all the days preceding it — could never be tainted by the clutches of time, that it would always preserve the same magic and elation; to say the least, he was wrong.

This year, Christmas seemed as if it was merely appended to the beginning of break for the namesake. In the days leading up to the holiday, everyone continued their work. In one of my classes, we had our first test, and in another we had a portfolio of homework assignments. As a child, responsibilities were often more lenient and less critical, making it acceptable to prioritize celebrating the holidays over them. With age and high school, such leniency dissipates, and fulfilling responsibilities becomes paramount. On the 24th, I almost forgot that the following day was Christmas! That night, I slept late and fell asleep instantly. Sometime during the night, Santa had left my sister’s gift under the tree. But not mine; due to the cynicism that comes with age, Santa had turned into a fictitious tale, and everything tied to him lost its allure.

I woke up the next morning and proceeded with my daily routine until I realized, “Wait, today is Christmas!” I walked over to the tree and saw my sister’s face light up as she ripped open her gift. Her excitement served as a bitter-sweet reminder of the same magic I once felt, now out of

reach. I continued celebrating Christmas throughout the day, but more in a perfunctory manner than with excitement. After the day ended, my sights turned to the New Year, and the supposedly unforgettable Christmas magic quietly faded into the deep recesses of memory.

Irrespective of how I felt before, Christmas is not something that can disappear. While the sensory elements — such as the fragrance of pine trees and fresh cookies, street blocks brightened by houses ornamented with sparkling lights, or the gifts awaiting eager hands beneath the tree — can fade with time, Christmas is also a spirit and something that remains with us eternally. As “The Polar Express” reminds us: “Just remember, the true spirit of Christmas lies in your heart.” Though responsibility and cynicism can sometimes shroud the essence of Christmas, we merely have to lift our hand to remove its veil and welcome the joy and magic that will come rushing back, as robust as ever. While I couldn’t fully embrace Christmas this year, I promise next year will be different; I envision enjoying the little moments that shape this holiday. Perhaps Christmas can never be the same as it was when I believed in Santa, because things rarely stay the same, but its essence will eternally remain just as magical.

Vedant Bajaj is a Junior from Reading, Mass. Contact the author at vbajaj28@andover.edu.

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CORRECTIONS:

On the New Year

J. XIAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Building New Year Resolutions That Last A Lifetime

JEANNIE KANG



K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

Around this time two years ago, my passionate younger self jotted down a long, exhaustive list of New Year's Resolutions. Thrilled and overcharged by the rush of confidence that any goals are achievable, I listed some incredibly optimistic goals. According to my plan, each day, I was allowed strictly thirty minutes of free time in between two six-hour working sessions. On top of that, I was supposed to read at least three books weekly, completely get rid of sugar from my diet, and wake up at 5 a.m. every morning. All of these goals were supposed to contribute to a brand-new, diligent, healthy lifestyle.

Despite the excitement of a new year and the pride that coursed through my veins from staring at the packed list of resolutions, once the first day of the year arrived, I felt helpless. My supposedly impeccable plan lasted merely three days before I settled back into old habits while nibbling my lips in guilt. That shameful experience of huge ambitions with little sense of reality left me with a lesson — New Year's resolutions are not about a sudden change but

rather gradually building sustainable habits that can last for a lifetime.

Let's face it: a good night's sleep from the night of December 31st to the morning of January 1st cannot drastically transform people. Though 2025 has risen, chances are we are still our good, old 2024 selves. This means that before we can set any

the app just a few hours later. Taking a moment to be brutally honest with ourselves and what we can realistically achieve can aid in setting sustainable goals. Based on your previous experience with yourself and others' suggestions, set goals that seem achievable, or a little challenging. It is better to stick with a "less impressive" goal for a year

Once you understand what you are capable of, set your intentions rather than your end goals that are end-all, be-all. In most cases, you would want something from achieving a goal, such as getting healthier by working out every day, taking care of your mental health by journaling your emotions, and improving your grades

creating a goal that can help you fulfill that intent. Let's say you intend to take care of your mental well-being. If you skip writing down the intentions, you may end up with a generic goal such as "being mindful" or "taking care of yourself." If you truly understand your purpose, you will establish steps that will help you achieve the goal such as "taking a walk every morning" or "talking to friends often." For me, after learning that my mental well-being and physical health are equally important, I aimed to wake up at 6:30 a.m., read a book every week by reducing screentime, and eat more vegetables. Understanding my capabilities and intentions enabled me to create practical and attainable goals.

What kind of person do you want to be for 2025? For me, I want to make 2025 a year of digging deep into my passion for writing. I aim to expand my weekly short story newsletter and finish my short story anthology. Though the idea of starting a new journey might be tough, setting mindful resolutions can serve as building blocks to your track.

Jeannie Kang is a Junior from Seoul, South Korea. Contact the author at nkang28@andover.edu.



DASHA GOMEZ / THE PHILLIPIAN

goals for the new year, we must understand what we are realistically capable of. If you are an absolute chocolate-lover who lives off of brownies, eliminating sugar from your diet might be unattainable. If you scrolled through Instagram reels for the entirety of 2024, deleting Instagram from your phone would not do much, but its absence may prompt you to reinstall

than to set an extremely high bar and never end up clearing it. For instance, aim to read a book every week if you can spare 30 minutes of free time each day. Cut your sugar intake by passing on dessert for lunch, if you know you will need some as a snack later at night. Learning yourself is the first and most important step to setting goals that suit you well.

by getting an academic planner. Even though you may implicitly understand your intentions, writing them down or reading them out loud can provide you with a clearer vision of what you desire to achieve. While setting the goals may directly lead to you getting overwhelmed with a hefty to-do list, learning your intentions first can help in

New Year's Resolutions: How to Stay On Track

RYAN BAEK



K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

The new year has just begun, and as people across the globe celebrate the beginning of 2025, lists of New Year's resolutions are already being made. These resolutions consist of personal goals that a person would like to achieve within the new year and often vary among individuals. People make these resolutions with the good intention of accomplishing all of their goals; however, most people stay committed for only a brief period of time — thus, the importance of setting specific and feasible goals is crucial.

Even though around half of Americans make New Year's resolutions, a considerable 75 percent of people drop their resolutions after thirty days, and only ten percent of people actually make it through the year with their goals. These statistics stem from a variety of reasons, but there are useful tactics to address them. People typically make their resolutions too vague, and it's always hard to achieve goals when they lack specificity. For example, one of my own resolutions a few years back was to "practice my instrument every day" because I'm an avid musician. However, I

found that even after just a month, practicing every day was starting to become a struggle, so I ended up giving up that resolution rather quickly. A better way to state that goal would have been to say, "I will practice at least 30 minutes right after school ends." This revised goal provides more details about my goal, and this would've helped me align my desire to practice consistently to my everyday routine. Another important aspect to consider is the fact that as humans, around 40 percent of what we do every day is out of habit. This means that we often

don't spend a lot of time thinking about our daily actions because they are ingrained into familiar routines. By turning

our new year's resolutions into habits of everyday life, they will become much more manageable for the average person.

A common misconception behind resolutions is that with progress happens rapidly and in major

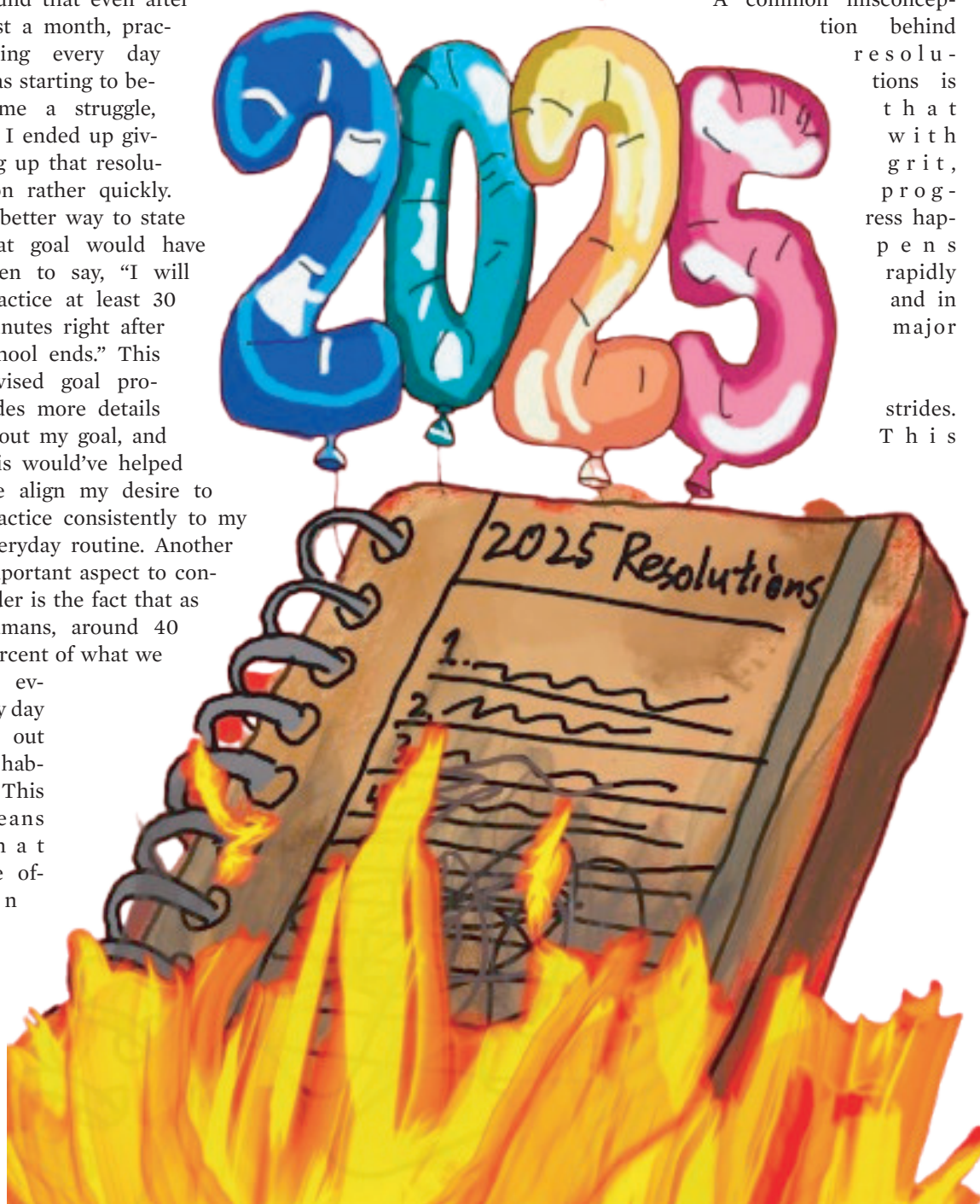
strides. This

to people giving up their resolutions. It's important to understand that rejuvenating motivation can't last forever, so instead of viewing an everyday effort as something that can be completed quickly in large loads, people need to start putting in effort consistently, which can come from making small changes like tracking progress in a journal for example, for the best results by the end of the year.

A resolution that I made for myself this year is "I will read a book for at least ten minutes after I wake up in the mornings." I've been doing well with keeping up my reading goal every morning, and I set a stopwatch, so I can see exactly how much I read in one morning. The specificity of the goal has helped me stick with the resolution every single day, and I'm confident in maintaining the daily reading routine for the rest of the year.

These resolutions help immensely with self growth while taking in important skills such as self-awareness and discipline. That is why before leaving behind important goals or aspirations, consider changes in your resolutions to make them clearer and more manageable while developing the correct mindset. 2025 can be looked back on as the year of great success for everyone's goals as long as we stay dedicated to the manageable resolutions while working with the right outlook on accomplishing them.

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



DANIEL ZHANG / THE PHILLIPIAN

idea makes people discouraged when they suddenly notice a lowered amount of motivation on a given day, which often leads

Should We “Fire” Fireworks?

AARON BAI



A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

Fireworks have long been a staple of numerous holiday festivities. As a kid, I was mesmerized by these bright balls of flame and light, and I would stay up late on holidays to watch them erupt over the harbor. Since their invention more than two thousand years ago in China, they have been ubiquitous in celebrations, from National Days to the recent New Year, and for good reason — they’re loud, colorful, and flashy, perfect for crowds and to end off festivities, literally, with a bang.

However, while fireworks offer a dazzling way to celebrate important dates and occasions, it’s also important to consider the detrimental impacts of huge aerial explosions and to find alternatives. Of particular concern are consumer fireworks bought and set off recreationally by non-professional individuals and groups, where stricter regulations are required. To understand their effects, we must first understand what fireworks are made of. Their main ingredient is black powder, also known as gunpowder — made from a mixture of 75 percent potassium nitrate, 15 percent charcoal, and ten percent sulfur — which is put in a shell and ignited to



ANGELA GUO / THE PHILLIPIAN

create a chemical reaction. Further chemicals are mixed into this gunpowder to give the firework color, such as strontium for red and barium for green, while chemicals such as carbon and manganese may be added to the fireworks as stabilizers, oxidizers, and extra colors.

Such compounds, when burned, release pollutants that linger in the air we breathe. Each of these compounds damages the environment and human health in numerous ways. Particulate matter (PM) consists of tiny solid and liquid particles that combine to form a toxic haze that damages the environment as well as respiratory and cardiovascular health. These tiny particles, capable of penetrating our lungs, in-

crease the risk of illnesses such as asthma and heart disease. In India, fireworks cause particulate matter in the air to increase more than 35 times on celebration days compared to days without fireworks. In Delhi, 900 micrograms of particulate matter were recorded per cubic meter of air during a firework-filled festival, well above the five micrograms recommended by the World Health Organization guidelines. Similar results were recorded in other parts of the world, such as London.

The emission of PMs is just the tip of the iceberg regarding pollutants caused by fireworks. More than 60,340 tons of carbon dioxide are produced by these colorful explosions in the United

States alone each year, speeding up global warming and climate change. Numerous heavy metals, such as cadmium, a known carcinogen, are released into the air despite being toxic to humans and wildlife. Toxic chemicals such as perchlorate, which damages the thyroid gland and affects wildlife growth, were also recorded in substantially elevated quantities following fireworks shows. Many such toxins can never fully decompose, contaminating air, land, and bodies of water for years afterward.

Then, there is the noise pollution. Reaching up to 150 decibels, the explosive sounds of fireworks affect wildlife, pets, and humans alike. Many animals get frightened and traumatized by the noise and bright flashes that fireworks generate, causing them to abandon their habitats, which disrupts their survival instincts and can lead to devastating or even fatal health effects from stress. Birds, for example, see the harsh sounds and lights of fireworks as threats, forcing many to abandon their nests and flee en masse towards far-off locations such as the sea, where they might not have enough energy to make the return flight. This contributed to hundreds of starlings being found dead on the streets of Rome in 2021 following a particularly loud display of firecrackers and fireworks. Wild animals may run into roadways due to fright-induced panic reactions, resulting in increased road accidents. Even invertebrates show altered behaviors in response to the disturbances caused by fireworks and the chemical toxins left behind. Debris left behind from fireworks is also of-

ten mistakenly consumed by wildlife or can even start fires in dry or forested areas.

Given its impacts on the environment, wildlife, and human health, the use of fireworks must be curtailed or at least more carefully examined by governing bodies. According to the American Pyrotechnics Association, 428.8 million pounds of fireworks were consumed in 2021 in the United States alone, of which 416.3 million pounds were consumer fireworks, set off without professional supervision. However, numerous more environmentally friendly alternatives to fireworks exist, including pyrotechnic displays, silent “green” fireworks, light shows, and, of course, drones. Many cities and countries have already begun replacing fireworks with such displays to great effect. A ban on fireworks in Beijing, for instance, helped the city record its best air quality for Lunar New Year Eve in 2022. Even attending public professional fireworks displays is preferable to setting off your own, as it reduces pollution and ensures more professional standards. While it may be difficult to let go of something that has become such a part of celebratory culture, the protection of our health and environment should take priority over entertainment. Perhaps it is finally time to “fire” fireworks and embrace a new form of celebration.

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

2024: The Year Childhood Stood Still

KALISTA KUEMMERLE



K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

As I open Instagram and scroll through internet strangers posts, the same captions reappear. “Will miss this”, and “thx 24” flash against my eyes again and again. As I swipe through pictures, the ridiculousness of it all almost makes me laugh. How can we celebrate such a tragic year? In 2024, the cost of political conflict was measured in children’s lives. As reported by UNICEF, 1 in 6 children have been affected by conflict in 2024. The percentage of the world’s children living in conflict zones has doubled from 10 to 20 percent since the 1990s. Bombed-out classrooms and hospitals turned to rubble became grim reminders that war spares no one, least of all our youth.

However, the community of people that connected through hardship offered a glimmer of hope. I saw my mom start stepping up to lead her own global health team at her hospital. I saw my brother investing dozens of hours into organizing protests, and my dad becoming more vocal about injustices that affected my own family in the West Bank. Beyond that, seeing demonstrations in my own neighborhood and the use of

social media to spread awareness was inspiring. Seeing humans coming together for others was incredibly reassuring, but while there was significant progress, it was diminished in the overwhelming tragedies that occurred.

From Gaza to Haiti, Sudan to Ukraine, war zones have become the place where children suffer the most. Haiti experienced a 1,000 percent surge in child violence, specifically targeting disabled children. A famine was declared in Sudan, claiming the lives of thousands of newborns, alongside a country-wide learning crisis. In Gaza, polio was detected for the first time in 25 years due to the lack of medical supplies and the awful living conditions they had to endure. Millions of Ukrainian children are continuing to experience severe displacement. Beyond the physical toll, the immense mental burden these children have to bear is unimaginable. Unfortunately, children are left in the crossfire of political disputes that unfairly dictate their future, and we must acknowledge the truth: the world is failing them.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international treaty established by the United Nations, outlines the fundamental rights every child deserves; rights to education, safety, and freedom from violence. This international treaty affirms that every child has the inherent right to life and that governments must ensure the survival and development of children to the maximum extent possible. It recognizes the rights of children to express their views, to be protected from abuse, and to access proper healthcare and education. Yet, for millions,



GEMMA PARK / THE PHILLIPIAN

these rights remain far out of reach. The haunting fact is that many children caught in conflict zones are denied even the most basic of these protections, living lives overshadowed by fear.

My memories of 2024 will not be remembered by the grades I received or the silly 9th grade drama that occurred but instead by the historical bloodshed that affected children around the world. Somehow though, in the face of such loss, humans found each other, demonstrating that even in the darkest of times, we are able to rise to the occasion. Vigils, marches, and fundraising campaigns rose dramatically, specifically in the spring of 2024. 2.1 billion dollars were donated by the United States in Humanitarian Assistance, alongside the millions that were raised by newly established charities this year.

Yet, the question remains:

How do we prevent another year like this? How do we ensure that death does not become the caption for years to come? I think about this often, especially when I am “supposed” to be having fun. While I study, watch shows, and joke with friends — I feel a heavy weight knowing that kids my age, kids who could have been my classmates if not for mere geographical distance — are experiencing a far different reality. This contrast is stark, and it lingers. I struggle to fully embrace the comfort I am privileged enough to experience when I see suffering through news articles and live streams that feel worlds away but are only ever a strike of luck apart. But why should we care if what we see on our feeds does not reflect this reality? It’s easy to think that these conflicts have nothing to do with me, that I can’t change the course of war or do any-

thing significant to stop it. But that thinking perpetuates the problem. Caring doesn’t mean we can fix everything. It means acknowledging that suffering anywhere in the world chips away at our collective future. Change truly does start small, with awareness, empathy, and the courage to stay properly informed even when the headlines are painful.

Let’s make our New Year’s resolution be to open our eyes beyond our own corner of the world. To recognize that above all political and cultural beliefs, we can find common ground in protecting the gift that is childhood.

Kalista Kummerle is a Junior from Newton, MA. Contact the author at kkummerle28@andover.edu.

Students and Tutors Reflect on Experience With the Writing Center

Continued from A1, Column 5

ation was how students could help each other while maintaining academic integrity. Today, the Writing Center's philosophy remains similar, according to Writing Center tutor Bianca Mohamed '26.

"Writing isn't like a science where there's a right or wrong. It's about, 'how can I help this person develop their own voice [and] style? What am I seeing here that this person should also see?' I think we hyperfocus on things we don't need to hyperfocus on.

[It's about] acknowledging the parts of the writing that you don't necessarily see at first. I'm not trying to give a student advice that they already know that they've heard a million times. I'm trying to give a student advice that will work for them that I think based on what I see will help them become better at what they can do," said Mohamed.

The Writing Center is currently working to expand its future operations, based on data used to track student needs. Tutor Melinda Wu '25 mentioned the Writing Center's new Instagram account and special tutor training ses-

sions.

"Having the Instagram [account] as a guide on how to make appointments, cancel them, Writing Center appointment etiquette, and whatnot will probably help. We're also thinking [of] adding a calendar [on Instagram so] that students may want to bring more of their personal projects and personal writing... and I know we have history training sessions coming up for the tutors, so equipping tutors better to help out with high-level work in History 300 and whatnot is going to be a really big thing moving forward," said Wu.

As MLK Day Approaches, Students and Faculty Share Workshop Plans and Lessons Learnt From MLK

Continued from A1, Column 5

one student who highlighted the inclusive range of topics for this year's MLK Day workshops. She emphasized the importance of addressing disparities recognizing the workshops as an opportunity to foster understanding and inclusivity within the Andover community.

"What I'm most excited about is to see how my peers, and especially those in my grade, are trying to create workshops that are all-inclusive. That will be something that's interesting for all of us, even if some of us might not fit into the certain demographic that the workshop is about. I think that it is really important to educate everyone about the racial, sexist, ageist, ableist, and other disparities that we've been facing forever, and even though we're much more improved than before, there's still so much we can learn about coming from a diverse community," said Cummings.

Having run a workshop on Chinese geopolitics for MLK Day last year, John Fernandez-Suarez '25 appreciated the freedom of the workshop program as it allowed him to delve deeper into specific, nuanced topics in his presentation. He shared his thoughts on the MLK Day program and the main idea of his workshop titled "Many Masks of Zorro."

"The core message of my program is to show how different stories can be used by different people and how [Zorro the vigilante was] originally taken out of context, se-

rialized and commercialized and eventually reclaimed by Latino Americans... It's important to tell stories, and it's important to track how stories change and mold depending on how people need them to," said Fernandez-Suarez.

He continued, "I hope to tell through my two years of doing [these workshops for] the Andover community that if you have a really interesting idea that can relate to Martin Luther King Jr. and his ideas in fighting for a better world and social justice, you can really put it into a presentation and you can have a lot of fun presenting it to the wider school community."

Karen Douyon, Teaching Fellow in Theatre and Dance, will be covering a workshop on the histories of Black theater. Connecting her experiences with MLK Day to the workshop program, she appreciated how it offers an opportunity to engage with the Andover community on a higher level.

"MLK Day has always been really important for me. I've done a lot of different things in the past, whether it's community service, working with my school, or running an MLK Leadership Summit at my old school. It's always been a passion of mine to get involved and do things in whatever community I find myself in, and it was just a no-brainer for me to try and find my way into the MLK Day workshops. Whether [I'm] engaging in workshops that students are putting on or outside members coming to speak [and] be a part of one," said Douyon.

She continued, "Natalya Baldyga, [Instructor in His-

tory] and I are going to do as much of a deep dive as we can into the histories of black theater that often go unnoticed or underappreciated... We plan on talking about how it's really important to discuss how we got here and how these creative individuals transcended the constraints of white culture, especially in theater, TV, film, writing plays, and creating spaces [while] not having the ability to have access to resources in the same way."

In reflecting on the purpose of MLK Day and its connection to Andover's campus, Esty explained how in addition to recognizing the fight for civil rights, it provides an important opportunity for Andover students to grow and learn something new.

"The mission of [MLK Day] is just to acknowledge the ongoing fight for civil rights and for social justice on campus and beyond, and so we really love to highlight those. This is the only day that people are required to participate in programming connected to identity, social justice, civil rights, and multiculturalism. That's something that's really, really exciting. So that's the big framing. We hope that by having different offerings and speakers, there's something for everyone to enjoy, take away, and learn, because there is always something to learn," said Esty.

Sykes, School, and SAD

Continued from A1, Column 3

ers, calling family frequently, and small breaks within class time for a change of scenery. She encouraged Andover to create more simple, fun social gatherings, which have already been proven to boost student morale.

"[My friends and I] feel like, [during] Fall Term, the school tries a lot for all the Juniors to feel at home, and they create all these fun events for them to go to. Then it dies entirely during the Winter... Just holding different events that will make students excited or at least have something to look forward to, which [are] hard to come up with... There was a painting thing in [Paresky] Commons one time, and me and all of my friends had dinner and thought it was really fun. That was one of the most memorable nights that we've

had," said Lee.

Although multiple resources are offered to combat SAD on campus, Enrique Mercado '27 reported a stigma surrounding students who frequently go to Sykes. He encouraged students to disregard possible comments and reach out to adults if they need to.

"The problem with students going to Sykes or trying to get help for their mental health is that they feel like they'll be judged by their friends or others. That's one of the things about Andover, if you say you went to Sykes to talk about this, they feel like they will start treating you a different way. Not much in terms of depression and anxiety stigma, just mainly going to Sykes. It is important for students to ask for help and go to Sykes if they want to," said Mercado.

Members of Campus Community Share Farewells to Officer Wendy

Continued from A1, Column 2

liness, positive energy, and how much love she showed for the Andover community. She noted how Officer Wendy would show up frequently during school, ready to show up to any scenario and work it out.

"It is impossible to work here for any period of time and not get to know Officer Wendy... If there is something going on campus, Officer Wendy is there... The legacy she leaves is that she was just kind and energetic to everyone. It didn't matter who they were or whether they were an adult, student, or a young faculty child. She had a big greeting and a warmth about her. That kind of person in our community makes a big impact. She cared deeply about this community, and now it is thriving," said Joel.

Other campus adults share similar sentiments towards Officer Wendy. Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, remembered Officer Wendy's constant positivity, mentioning her sense of humor and dedication to the job. Esty emphasized Officer Wendy's love for the community and her lively spirit.

"She approaches everything with positivity. I love that she would read to children in the library, and do storytime. She would wear a Santa cap in December. Anything that would happen, she would have some very reassuring positive statements [like] 'That's the way it goes sometimes, next time it will be better.' That's the kind of attitude that she brought to her

work," said Esty.

Esty continued, "[She has a] great sense of humor, she loves to joke around. She is just really loyal and dedicated, so it was evident every time you saw her how much she loves Andover. It's a real feeling though, she bleeds blue."

Officer Wendy also helped as an instructor in some cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) courses. Ainsley Muldoon '26 commented on how she experienced Officer Wendy's warm and positive presence during her time in the short class.

"During the CPR course, I remember her being funny with the videos we watched. When we were close to certification, we had to push on the CPR dummy one by one with music in the background. She was encouraging... She cared about us doing well and made the experience lighthearted and fun," said Muldoon.

During retirement, Officer Wendy intends to pursue her hobby of traveling, especially to one of her favorite locations — Key West, Florida. She enjoys the many attractions offered by the city, including snorkeling and reading Ernest Hemingway.

"I love to travel. I've lived all over the world as a Navy brat, but there are still many places in the U.S. I haven't explored. I live in New Hampshire now but have traveled with friends to Maine, California, and soon to my favorite spot, Key West... I love snorkeling, and the day and night activities. I'm also a big fan of Ernest Hemingway, and visiting his house is always a highlight."



Out With the Old, In With the New Year's Resolutions

REPORTING BY FELIX BRET & KRISSY ZHU

Following their return from Winter Break, students brought renewed vigor into the New Year and shared their hopes and aspirations for 2025.



Caroline Weinmann '27:

I have several New Year's resolutions: my first one is to be able to do the splits by June, and my second goal is to continue to draw, even though I'm not in drawing class. I aim to do at least one a week, which I hope will improve my art skills. My third is to start writing a Japanese journal which was suggested by my Japanese teacher as a way to improve, and I'll try to write in it at least twice a week!

Chloe Nichols '27:

I will erg more in the mornings, as I am a rower. Because right now my shoulders are hurt, I'm going to substitute that and start jogging in the morning. The reason why I'm doing this is obviously to get in better shape. It also shows that you shouldn't stop your goals, even if something prohibits you, so just keep pushing on with what you decide to do and you go on with your resolutions.

Blake Herndon '25:

My New Year's resolution is to get my permit and driver's license because I am turning 18 years old, and I still don't know how to drive. I want to be able to drive myself around in adulthood. I would also like to be able to touch my toes by the end of the year because I am very inflexible.

Eddie Kristensen '25

My New Year's resolution is to read more. I like to read but I don't read as much as I like to, and I'd really like to change that. I don't have a specific reading quota in mind, but I want to read more, especially novels.

Tiger Jing '28:

My goal is to make a speech in front of a large audience in an auditorium so that I can demonstrate leadership and communication, as well as my writing skills and confidence. I've always been a shy kid but I believe doing public speeches could help conquer my stage fright. I've been starting to manage social media for Andover and perhaps I can use that to evolve into speeches and overcome my fears.

Amadeus Meinecke '27:

I want to get in touch more regularly with my family and friends back home. It's really important to contact them several times a week to stay better connected with them even when I'm far away as an expat. I feel that it is especially important to keep in touch with my German roots and keeping touch with my friends and family is one way of making sure I don't lose that heritage.



Nicholas Smith '28:

I want to always assume the positive, never to look at the negative, and always try to make the best out of a bad situation. It would help my mindset, and I would be able to see the world in a much brighter way and enjoy the things I do way more. I'm looking forward to it!



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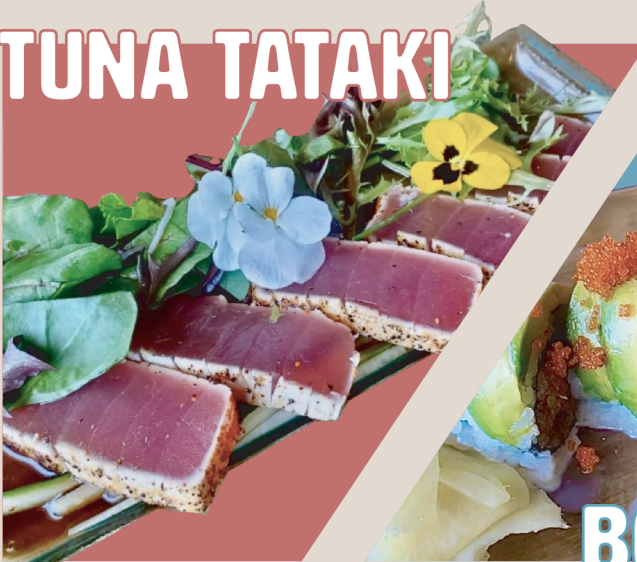
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10 Questions With Natalya Baldyga

REPORTING BY ADELYNE LIU & SOPHIA TOLOKH

Natalya Baldyga is an Instructor in Theatre and Dance and History and Social Science and an Instructor for Empathy, Balance, and Inclusion: Foundations (EBI). Before coming to Andover in 2018, she received a PhD in Theatre Historiography and taught in various states including Florida, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. As a historian, playwright, director, and translator, Baldyga is currently working on an adaptation of the play "Rossum's Universal Robots (R.U.R.)" which will come this February. In her free time, she enjoys reading, knitting, and watching Marvel movies.

How does your love of storytelling apply to both history and theatre?

What draws me to history and why I love teaching history probably has to do with my love of telling stories. As a director and as a playwright, your job is to tell a story and tell it compellingly, draw people into that world and help people visualize a whole other world. That's something that as a history teacher, I really try to do, where it's not just learning some dates, learning some facts, but imagining this world... I do think that my love of storytelling, my love of imagining a whole new world is something that carries over.

Why did you decide to come to Andover?

"Youth from Every Quarter," it's one of our sayings. I love [that] if I look in my classroom... someone's from one place and they're like, 'Yes, but what really feels like home to me is this other place.' I absolutely love being in a room full of different people, you're bringing your experience as someone from the Midwest or Florida or far away overseas and we all bring these different viewpoints. We all bring these different knowledge bases and understandings. That is so much richer of an environment than what we all grew up [in].

Why do you love to travel?

Travel is definitely something that feeds me. My parents were diplomats, so I've lived here, there, and everywhere. I was born in Austria. I lived in Poland, Mexico, Italy, and then in the United States. I've lived in Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Florida, Georgia, and now Massachusetts. I love the newness of travel. I love that experience of getting to know a new place and getting to know what people do there, what they're like, and different cultures.

What initially drew you to theatre and directing?

I am one of those people who has always been interested in theatre... So, for me, the career path was really figuring out what role theatre was going to play in my life. I've done theatre since I was a small child and I went on to get a PhD in theatre history. [However,] I was always continuing to direct and act the whole time... I've directed so many different kinds of theatre, because it really is one of my deepest loves... I started as an actor back in the day. When I was five, I was Annie in my plays, and I was, I think, Bagheera in "The Lion King." I had this very vivid memory of getting hit in the eye with one of my



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

cat whiskers. Well, I always say that those of us who do theatre, we love to swap war stories. We're never like, 'I was in a play, and it was wonderful.' I was in a show, and the set fell down, and caught on fire, and we kept going. Part of the joy is overcoming these crazy things that happened to us on stage.

How exactly are you adapting the upcoming Rossum's Universal Robots play?

Our play "R.U.R." is trying to put a play from 1920 that invented the word "robot" in conversation. Especially now where we have a whole virtual world, where we have the whole existence of different kinds of artificial intelligence. What's really interesting is how there are themes that playwrights talk about in 1920

that resonate with the [present], but we've had to think of how to put it in a more direct conversation with the now. How we manipulate the world of the theatre is part of the fun. It's super exciting because it is going to do something different based on where you put your bodies in space, either the actors or the audience. And so you have to think really carefully what [you] want the experience to be and why.

What languages do you know?

Languages are something that I love. I speak a number of languages, and then I read a number of languages that I don't speak, but I work in translation with. For my dissertation, I had to work in German, French, English, Spanish, and I feel like

there [were others] as well. But in terms of Slavic languages, I can understand a little Russian because of the Polish and the Czech, but Cyrillic is not something I've had to wrestle with yet... I've worked on an Ibsen play, which is Norwegian, and so I had help with that because I don't speak Norwegian. But I did a lot of work on a play called "The King's Stag," it's published now, and for that I had to work with not only Italian, but also Venetian... This play, "R.U.R.," is Czech, so I was working from Czech.

You won an award as the editor of the "Hamburg Dramaturgy" from German into English. Could you expand on that experience?

The "Hamburg Dramaturgy" was written by this guy named

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, and he was a really important figure in the eighteenth-century theatre... I got involved with it [because] the only English translation was from the 1890s and only a third of it was translated. My job was to explain to the reader what he was talking about... I ended up writing 50,000 words worth of footnotes. I spent probably 20 years of my life reading everything that he read and just writing about him. This is the pinnacle of this work. It took three of us seven years to get that project done. It's my baby, I'm still very proud of it.

What are your favorite movies?

The first Captain America movie is just some really good storytelling. It gives you someone that you know what's motivating them... I like the movies where the bad guys have a real motivation and you understand why they're doing what they're doing. I do love the Avengers because I love a good ensemble, where you have all the people working together. I also do cry when I watch Endgame... [When] people come back and they pull together. I get very weepy. I am also very fond of the better Thor movies because I like the quirkiness. Some action, some just demented humor, and people pulling things together. This is absolutely my formula.

What do you wish people knew about you?

It could be the colossal nerd factor. I played D&D when I was young [and] what got me through the pandemic was Marvel movies. I just have this really spectacularly, colossally nerdy thread that...walking through campus, most people would not realize. I'm terrified of STEM, that's the hilarious thing. I love science, but the doing of it just terrifies me.

Any departing words you would like to share?

There's not a lot of people who are teaching in two departments at once. To be able to teach in two departments at once so that I don't have to give up one of my loves, I feel so lucky because I would be happy in either department. To be in both is such a treat and such a dream. I get to do both things that I love, which is to try to get people to understand the joy of research, try to get them to see how history can be such an exciting world to enter and also to create a brand new world on the stage with students. Who wouldn't want to do that? I'm the luckiest person ever.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY KAI OBATA & TOMAS TEJAPAIIBUL

Culture: 82nd Annual Golden Globes Awards Various Films and Television

The 82nd Annual Golden Globes, the largest awards show in the world to celebrate film and television, took place on January 5. Drawing in 9.3 million viewers, the show was hosted by comedian and actor Nikki Glaser, whose opening monologue gave the show a cheerful start. According to "The New York Times," of the numerous film submissions, "The Brutalist" and "Emilia Pérez" had particularly successful nights. The former, an A24 film starring Adrien Brody and directed by Brady Corbet, received three Golden Globes, and the latter, a Spanish-language musical exploring trans identity starring Zoe Saldaña, won four categories. As for television, the FX Drama "Shogun" experienced great success, winning in four categories. Some other memorable nominations included "Anora," "The Wild Robot," and "A Complete Unknown."

Politics: Canada's Prime Minister Trudeau to Step Down

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada officially announced his resignation as prime minister and Liberal Party Leader on Monday, January 6, ending his nearly ten-year period in office. According to "ABC News," the reasons for Trudeau's resignation include frustration within the Liberal Party, marking an all-time low in support for Trudeau in 2024. Despite his fierce determination as prime minister, members of his party criticized

him for an inability to recognize threats, such as the forthcoming United States of America administration's high tariffs on Canadian goods. Trudeau will continue to serve as prime minister and Liberal Party Leader until March 24, as a nationwide party election takes place, reports "The New York Times."

Health: Increase in Human Metapneumovirus Cases Raise Concerns

With the rise in human metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases, a common respiratory infection first discovered in 2001, worries about whether the virus will break local parameters have inevitably arisen. At a news conference held by China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention on December 27, Kan Biao, Director of the Institute for Infectious Diseases, said that cases of HMPV in China are increasing among children ages 14 years and younger, "The New York Times" reported. According to "The Cleveland Clinic," HMPV often targets the upper respiratory tract, but can also cause severe lower respiratory infections such as pneumonia, bronchitis, and bronchiolitis, especially among children, elders, and those with weakened immune systems. There is currently no vaccine that targets HMPV, but rather treatments have been focused on easing symptoms through medications that control pain and fever. While the reports from China parallel those from the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization has not yet expressed concern.

Climate: 7.1-Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Tibet

On January 7, a powerful earthquake struck the remote region of Shigatse in Tibet resulting in at least 126 fatalities and 188 injuries as of Tuesday evening, "Reuters" reported. According to "CNN," the quake, with a magnitude of 7.1, had its epicenter around 50 miles north of Mount Everest. Striking at 9:05 a.m. local time, the massive tremors shook Nepal, Bhutan, and northern India. In Tibet, more than 3,600 homes were destroyed, leaving some residents trapped under rubble and with the risk of hypothermia. Over 1,500 rescue workers have been deployed in response to the earthquake, successfully pulling hundreds of citizens from the wreckage.

Politics: Turmoil Continues in South Korea

On December 3, 2024, South Korean President Yoon Seok Yul imposed martial law to the shock of the nation, claiming that he was protecting the country from forces with ties to North Korea. This attempt was quickly met with resistance from the Korean people. The South Korean Parliament impeached Yoon, replacing him with acting president Han Duck-soo, who was then impeached two weeks later, "BBC News" reported. According to "AP News," Yoon is now staying inside his guarded residential compound as government officials attempt to find ways to detain the former president and search the premises.

Welcome Back

Kington Resigns as Andover's Prime Minister: "It's Time For a Rest"

Gentry Thatcher

Andover, MA - Andover Prime Minister Raynard Kington announced his resignation from the of Head of School at this morning's trustee meeting. As such, he will be delegating all his power to his deputy, Merrilee Mardon.

"Every bone in my body has been 'Big Blue' ever since I arrived. I mean, you saw how hard I tailgated A/E this year. Every morning when my 'By the Seaside' alarm goes off, I am delightfully reminded of the stubbornness and waspiness that defines us Andoverians as the cr me de la cr me of society. Last night, over dinner, however, I broke the news to my family. Not at Commons, of course. I couldn't have people thinking it was Head of School Day." said Kington trying to stimulate tears.

Students report that they have seen Kington roaming and have compared his behavior to that of "a ghost that haunts the halls, occasionally grasping your shoulder before vanishing." Some suspect Kington has been planning to step back for a while after rumors of bird-watching students intercepting a carrier pigeon holding a letter where he formally addressed Mardon:

"Let's run this town together; you can be my Queenton!"

Despite his apologetic front, Kington's behavior is likely not out of the good of his heart but rather due to him being caught in a tricky situation. Ever wonder why the trustee table is circular? They are believed to be running an underground Casino with school money.

Latest reports mention a tweet on X(™) from @AHSgoldenwarriors, "We would be happy to welcome Phillips Academy into our community and become the reigning sixth cluster."

Week's Top Headlines

- *Students Required to Unfollow Vexbolts or Receive GAP*
- *Motion Filed to Rename Poms Pond as Phillips Pond*
- *New Covid-19 Strain is Named the Coronaccordian After Scientists Trace it Back to a Certain School Dance During Last Winter*
- *Liangelo Ball Set to Win Grammy in February*
- *Sonic the Hedgehog 3 Is a Movie About a Hedgehog that Runs Fast (But He's Blue)*
- *Senate Proposes Mandatory EBI Classes for All Americans*
- *Freshman Claims Wind Blew Him Away as He Walked to BIO100 Test*

VESTROGEN

BEFORE

"BIG MOUTH" CALLED. THEY WANT THEIR MAIN CHARACTER BACK. THE ACNE ISN'T WORRIED ABOUT SHARING ON THE REAL ESTATE ON THAT BIG OF A FOREHEAD. I MEAN, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WASHED THAT RETAINER, GIRAFFE BOY? HONESTLY, IT'S A MIRACLE THAT HE MANAGES TO HAVE THE HAIRCUT OF A RECENTLY DIVORCED, BALDING, MIDDLE-AGED MAN AND STILL LOOK LIKE A PRE-PUBESCENT CRAZY FROG.

AFTER

NOW LOOK AT THIS STUNNING SPECIMEN OF A HUMAN. HIS JAWLINE COULD BREAK GLASS AND HIS EYES COULD BURN THROUGH METAL. HIS ADAM'S APPLE GRAZES HIS CHOPPED CHIN WITH EACH WISE WORD HE SAYS IN HIS RICH BARITONE VOICE. "HOW?" YOU ASK. INTRODUCING: VESTROGEN.

HIS SKIN GLOWS AS HE POSES FOR PHOTOSHOOTS FROM PERTH TO TORONTO. HOW? VESTROGEN'S ACTIVE INGREDIENT IS THE GROUNDBREAKING CHEMICAL "PLACEBOMIEN."

VESTROGEN:
PHARMACY USE ONLY
ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:
PLACEBOMIEN.

NOTE: ONLY THOSE AT THE ABSOLUTE BOTTOM OF THE SOCIAL PYRAMID CAN QUALIFY TO BE INSURED FOR VESTROGEN.

K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

"You think she messed with me unfollowing VexBolts?"

"I bought a property in Pine Knoll, and, what they do is, they giggidapoppity and..."

"Yeah I just pushed my Frank to max tier... No big deal or anything..."

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"I saw PAPS Officer drift round that corner (Whooaaaaa)."

"What's Arsenal? No, I'm not a fan."

"I can't wait to feel the tingly Andover shower floors every morning."

2025 Transformations

Maty Bah

- To stop procrastinating. I'm staying on top of things this year.
- Talk to my senior crush. It can't be that hard, right?
- Do something other than rotting in the Den on Saturday nights.
- Laying off the Celsius to (hopefully) fix my sleep schedule once and for all.
- To stop taking "bathroom breaks" when I get bored in class.
- Start eating Commons meals and stop ordering every night, even if it's cod...
- Trying to stop judging my teachers on what I think their vibes are and actually listen to the lesson plans.
- Start listening to the ASM speakers. Maybe they'll actually have something valuable to say and aren't just there because the school wants to bore us.



The Phillipian SPORTS

new year new me

Volume CXLVII | Number 28

January 10, 2024

The Best of the Best: Tam Gavenas '25's Journey to Conclusive Victory on National Stage

KATE RODGERS & THEO WEI

Tam Gavenas '25 capped off his high school cross country career with a first-place finish at Foot Locker Cross Country Nationals on December 14. Gavenas ran with determination and strategy through Balboa Park in San Diego, California to secure his victory, becoming the first Massachusetts-based athlete to win the event since 1997.

Gavenas highlighted that after competing in the race for the past couple of years and placing third in 2023, he was set on winning this year.

"It's been four years that I've been trying to get the win, and I qualified for the Foot Locker Nationals when I was a Sophomore and then qualified again when I was a Junior. I came in third when I was a Junior, and I just looked at a year plan and I wanted to win," said Gavenas.

The shift from the frigid Massachusetts winter to the warmer climate of California provided Gavenas with an advantage, alleviating the cold-induced tension in his legs. He noted that, although the course was easier than the one he raced on earlier in the season, the San Diego hills still posed a challenge that required training.

"It's a lot warmer. My legs felt a lot less tense. The course was not as hard as my first race of the season, [the] Man-

chester Invitational, where I broke the course record there, but we did need to have a strategic plan because the hills in San Diego were very tough. We practiced the week on [the] Ward reservation and I practiced this 300-meter hill five times and just wanted to get that feeling once I was in San Diego. It was crazy. It was like 27 degrees [Celsius] that day; I was wearing shorts and a short-sleeved shirt. So it was a great change when I was in the warmer weather," said Gavenas.

For Gavenas and Boys Cross Country Head Coach Patrick Rielly, winning Foot Locker Nationals has been a goal since before the season even began. Rielly commended Gavenas' strong training regime and his ability to persist through setbacks. Furthermore, Rielly praised how Gavenas navigated through the winding, hilly terrain of the course.

"We had circled Foot Locker Nationals on the calendar before the season started as the target race for the fall. Tam trained exceptionally well throughout the summer, and despite an injury setback mid-season, he had a very strong final month of training leading into [the] Foot Locker nationals. Tam always brings his best to big meets: he's always 'in it to win it.' And the goal for nationals was to stay in the mix near the front of the pack and make a move late in the race. The steep, winding hill that runners face at the 1-mile and 2.5-mile point at

Balboa Park is the key to the course, and in Tam's training before nationals, he focused on building the strength and speed necessary to be at his strongest at these points in the race. He planned to make a move on the turns after the steepest part of the second hill, and when he arrived at that spot, neck and neck with another runner, he put on the jets and nobody could catch him. It was a killer move," said Rielly.

Motivated by the phrase "run the lines," Gavenas' strategy was impressive, running as efficiently as possible through the course. Rielly acknowledged the courage and confidence that Gavenas embodied throughout.

"Tam ran brilliantly to win the national championship. A key phrase for him was 'run the lines': by running the tangents of a course, the shortest distance between two points, a runner can optimize their race by running the fewest meters possible. He practiced his strategy on the course before the race, and he studied the videos of past races to see how other successful runners approached the course. On the big day, Tam ran perfect tangents. It takes courage and trust in yourself to run separately from the pack, and in his race, Tam showed that he has both," said Rielly.

In addition to winning the National Foot Locker Championship, Gavenas also made history, becoming the first national champion to be dis-

played on the iconic billboards in Times Square.

"They decided, 'Hey, we really like this kid, he's easy to film. Why not?' And this was the first time a billboard had ever happened. They want to continue it [in] future years, but this was the first time they had ever put the national champion in Times Square. So that's really cool that I was the first person," said Gavenas.

Gavenas' journey to victory extends beyond the constant training and tenacity he has exhibited throughout his career. A mentor and friend of Gavenas, Rielly reflects on the joyous and unforgettable memories of accompanying Gavenas over the past few years.

"Besides the moment of seeing him at the finish line, one moment from the trip stands out to me: for each of the last three years Tam has qualified for cross country nationals, we've always found an hour in the days leading up to the race to play table tennis by the pool of the hotel overlooking Torrey Pines. It has nothing to do with running or the race; it's just about enjoying the experience and being in California in December. In addition to the great fun of running, I'll always remember these moments surrounding the race as times when I felt proudest and luckiest to be able to support Tam in his successes in the sport," said Rielly.

Gavenas' discipline and diligence throughout his time as a cross-country runner

have earned him a promising career in both his athletic and academic careers. Gavenas' choice to attend Harvard, ranked 11th nationally for its cross-country program, this upcoming fall will provide the resources for Gavenas to excel in his academic career while also allowing him to elevate his athletic ability to the next level.

"I'm just really excited to be around people who can really push me. Having a whole community that is really engaged in their sport is a really important factor in having a good college career. I wanted to be in an extremely elite academic space and then have that balance with an extremely elite athletic space, and they're gonna provide it really well. I want to be able to get into my freshman season and just have a really good feel [for] the program. I'm in an amazing community that's really welcoming and [Andover has] already done that really well. But I want to be able to ease into it; [Harvard's] a really challenging school, just like Andover. The focus is to challenge me. For example, Graham Blanks, who's a two-time NCAA champion cross country Olympian, I want to be able to reach his level. I don't know when it will be, but I know if I continue on a path Coach Gibby has created, then I will be successful," said Gavenas.

A Dexterous Duo: Isabella Tang '28 and JJ Luo '28 Win U15 2024 U.S. Junior Open Squash Championships

ETHAN LY

With over 1,000 players representing fifty-one nations competing at the 2024 U.S. Junior Open Squash Championships, two Andover squash players, John-Jayden Luo '28 and Isabella Tang '28, were able to win titles in the Boys-U15 and Girl-U15 divisions respectively. The 2024 U.S. Junior Open Squash Championships is the world's largest individual junior squash tournament and took place from December 14 to 17 at the Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center in Philadelphia.

For Tang, the victory was her first U.S. Junior Championship title. Despite feeling immense pressure due to the large audience and initially being seeded second, Tang maintained composure and stuck to her game plan, defeating fourth seed and 2023 Girls-U13 Champion Vivienne Sze 12-10, 11-5, 9-11, and 11-3.

"It was really exciting because I've been working really hard for

it, and this is my first U.S. Open title. I was just really glad that I won... I was the second seed going into the tournament, so I faced a bit of pressure being a higher-seeded player. One of my tougher matches was probably the finals because there were a lot of people watching. I just kept calm and stuck to my game plan," said Tang.

For Luo, who had played numerous other National tournaments in the U.S. before, the U.S. Junior was amongst the most prestigious. With 128 of the most talented international athletes competing in the Boys-U15 division, he was conscious of keeping his expectations of winning low. However, after seven matches, Luo, who was initially seeded fourth in Boys-U15, achieved victory.

"I never thought I was going to win a tournament this big. My biggest tournaments I won before were like national championships, but I never thought I would win in an international tournament like that. It was pretty cool to see myself come this far," said Luo.

Luo described his final match against third seed Vivaan Mehta, who he ultimately defeated 11-6, 7-11, 11-7, and 11-7 despite his nervousness during the match.

"In the finals, I played a kid from California named Vivaan Mehta, and it was a pretty close match, and I feel like we both weren't playing our best because of the stress of just being in the finals of such a major tournament. It was tough to stay calm and stay composed, but I guess both of us had the same stress," said Luo.

The high stakes of such a tournament usually prompt emotionally charged matches. However, Girls Squash Head Coach Shaun Duffy emphasized the importance of maintaining dignity. He commended Tang and Luo for embodying these values and carrying themselves well throughout the tournament.

"We're very proud of the way they carried themselves on the court when they were winning or if they were down. Squash is a sport of etiquette and good behavior, and they represented Andover and the United States extremely

well. They did that in the British Junior Open as well... Both Isabella and JJ have great control over their emotions throughout their matches. That's a very important aspect of being a winning player and representing our country," said Duffy.

Duffy also noted the pair's synergy and ability to train rigorously. Both players pushed one another and challenged each other to new heights.

Duffy said, "They both have tremendous work ethics, and their ability to practice for long periods of time throughout the day is almost like a superpower for them. And the two of them, interestingly, trained together with each other. So they helped push each other, we think, to excel. I know in Isabella's case that it certainly helped her a lot. She did particularly well in some of the tournaments leading up to the U.S. Junior Open."

In preparation for the tournament, Tang practiced under Duffy's guidance to improve and polish her technique.

"I tried to focus on shot qual-

ity and technique. Coach Duffy is great; I'm so grateful to him because he's giving me all these opportunities to develop and improve my game. I think a big part of me coming here was thanks to him, so I'm just really grateful for him," said Tang.

Luo also thanked Andover Squash's coaches and his fellow teammates, who fostered a productive training environment leading up to the tournament and throughout the season.

"The coaches and players here at Andover helped me a lot to get this win because they are the only people I can train with. Back at home, I would go to a lot of different clubs and places to train. But [now], Andover is the only place I have. It's good that I have a good environment to train in with its coaches and players," said Luo.

This past weekend, the pair also competed in the British Squash Open, another highly renowned tournament. Luo placed fifth and Tang finished eighth at the conclusion of the games on Tuesday.

Girls Hockey Bounces Back from Loss Against Loomis With a Dominant Victory Over Governors Academy

CHLOE PARK

THURSDAY 12/19

Andover 3

Loomis 3

WEDNESDAY 1/8

Andover 8

Governor's 1

ing the style and seeding for the games. She also brought up the atmosphere at the rink and spoke about what it was like to be on the ice.

Rodheffer said, "Our game against Loomis was a round-robin game, which is when your team is seeded based off of last year's tournament. We had three guaranteed games and only four teams advanced out of that. Teams that win all three games go to the final. We play four games in two days so it's pretty tiring. We were at Taft, which has a huge rink, so it's a lot of space to fill so sometimes it can feel kind of empty in there.

Additionally, Kimberly Duplessis '27 brought up the change in play style from the team's game against Taft to their game against Governor's. She highlighted the team's competitive take and ability to find its flow to take them down.

"We tried to be as competitive as we could throughout the game. At the beginning, Emily Mara [25] scored her first goal of the game and then Governor's came back and tied it one-to-one so that immediately flipped a switch for us,

so we needed to come back and be strong. We fought hard throughout the game, but we definitely found our rhythm and just kept scoring," said Duplessis.

Vanessa Hall '28 reflected on the game, noting how it evolved into a high-scoring shootout. She praised Duplessis for her stand-out performance, particularly her early goal that set the tone for the match.

Hall said, "The game was really back and forth, and I forget who scored first but we got on the board first. Then they would score right after, and it kept going like that. Eventually, at the beginning of the third period, we had a four-on-one and Kimmy scored, which was definitely a momentum shift for us which let us play a really great game even though we could not come out on top."

Reflecting on the game, Rodheffer observed the challenges the team encountered, particularly their struggle to control the pace of play. She emphasized that this inability to dictate the tempo left the team constantly playing catch-up.

"Our main weakness was how



A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Molly Boyle '25 looks across the rink for an open teammate.

we started the game and how we let them dictate the first period, which left us in a goal or two deficit. We were able to rally and get our energy back after that period, but it's tough to start down... We're working on a lot of special teams and breakouts, just making sure the team has chemistry. And

mainly going against any opponent, we're just focusing on our own game," said Rodheffer.

Girls Hockey will go on the road to face off against Choate on Saturday.

Girls Hockey played against Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) and Governor's Academy, coming out with one win and one loss respectively. Their loss against Loomis was on December 19 and was a part of the Taft Tournament, but they were able to bounce back this past Wednesday against Governor's.

Avery Rodheffer '25 spoke on the tournament game, explain-

BOYSBASKETBALL

Truly Intelligent: Head Basketball Coach Terrell Ivory '00 Draws Connection Between Coaching and Teaching

AARON HUANG

Boys Basketball Head Coach Terrell Ivory '00 first joined the Andover community as a postgraduate student, playing Varsity basketball. He went on to have a successful career at Davidson College and had his first basketball coaching experience with a local Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team. After college, Ivory took his first official coaching position at Blair Academy.

Ivory's connection to the Andover community remained strong throughout his period away, as he constantly connected with his former Andover coach, Leon Modeste (Mo). Coach Mo played a pivotal role in Ivory's return to the Andover campus.

"I had a good experience here as a student, and I played football and basketball. I enjoyed, appreciated a lot of the relationships, the connections I made with other kids, but also with the adults here. I always stayed in touch with Coach Mo. We always sort of talked it up, me coming back to be a coach. At some point, I think he decided that he was moving away from coaching basketball, and he reached out to me while I was coaching at Colgate," said Ivory.

After being drawn back to Andover, he immediately made his mark on the boys basketball program. Beyond basketball instruction, Ivory strives to teach his players skills applicable to the outside world, such as resilience and sportsmanship.

"I think of coaching as being a teacher, but not neces-



L. RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

sarily in the classroom. There are a lot of things that I can do to help athletes that play for me that have nothing to do with basketball. Like, how to deal with adversity, how to be a good sport, how to be a good teammate, how to learn, how to deal with failure, how to make mistakes and learn from those mistakes. So there's just a lot of resiliency, the ability to persevere through challenges. There's so many things that as a coach, I feel I can help my kids with. Those things have a lot to do with basketball, but again, it's about how those kids handle obstacles that really matter, which is life stuff," said Ivory.

As a new player on the team, David Fridia PG'25 noted that all players on the team have distinct skills and roles.

Ivory makes the best of these individual skills so that they combine to make for a great overall collection.

Fridia said, "He really goes off of our personnel. There's a lot of us, and we all have different talents. We can all do a lot. So, he makes sure to include everybody in the play. Everybody has a role, and we all come together. We make sure we go through plays and that everyone understands their skills and their role. So, in the game, it works."

Ivory focuses on small increments of improvement, whether that be in a practice or game. Along with good discipline and endeavor, he believes those small advancements can culminate into successful results.

"For me, I obviously want

to win games, but in order to do that, you have to take care of the little things and make sure that we focus on the details that put us in the position to be successful or win games. And that is, for us, every time we step on the court, every time we practice, every time we play a game, we get at least one percent better. We do a good job of making sure we play with good effort and a good attitude, so if we get one percent better, and if we win games that puts us in a position to make the playoffs, and if we make the playoffs, that puts us in a position to win the championship," said Ivory.

Jeremy Woodley '26 appreciates the supportive environment that Ivory creates during games. Specifically, Ivory understands that mistakes may happen, which offers players multiple chances, and always helps his players with marking and positions.

Woodley said, "He makes everybody feel very comfortable with making mistakes because he knows that we can never be perfect all the time. He's always calling people on the court, making sure they know what their assignment is and if that's not working then he'll call a timeout to slow us down and get us in the right mindset that we need to be in and get us doing what we need to do to win. He never pulls somebody off for making one mistake. He gives us more than one chance which helps our players just feel more comfortable playing."

Ultimately, Ivory loves the deep relationships that he fosters with his student-athletes, all of which go beyond

the basketball court. Whether or not his players continue at the next level of basketball, he's proud to see their successes and happy to keep in connection.

"One of the reasons why I love my job is because I've been able to develop really strong relationships with the kids that I work with, but at a place like Andover, it's not just about the relationship you have with them as a coach. You get to see the kids in the community, get to see them in the dining hall," said Ivory.

Ivory continued, "One of the things I really appreciate about being a coach is seeing how successful they are after they leave here and seeing all the amazing things they do. Even if they don't play basketball at the next level, watching some of the kids and seeing what they're doing and how they're playing is always a great way to build up other skills that are applicable outside of basketball. That is really important to me. So when those kids come back or when I talk to them, when they send me a text or when they stay I touch, it means the world to me."

Crossword Corner

BY MAX LANGHORST

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ACROSS

- 1 How a grandma drives
- 5 Time's partner
- 6 Group of discussers
- 7 ___ so stupid that he thought Tupac Shakur was a Jewish holiday
- 8 Lights found in colorful signs

DOWN

- 1 Almost, in bowling
- 2 Friend of Han
- 3 It's between Andover and Paris
- 4 Glues together, as metal
- 5 Whirled around, as cotton candy or yarn

ACROSS

- 1 Short-term relationship
- 6 Participant in famous 1A
- 7 Yearned (for)
- 8 Hotel workers
- 9 Common trees

DOWN

- 1 Falsely incriminate
- 2 In the neighborhood
- 3 "___! Literally himothy!"
- 4 Must haves, like water or shelter
- 5 Mount Olympus residents

ACROSS

- 1 New ___
- 5 Poppy narcotic
- 7 Crumpet alternative
- 8 A straw has one? or two?
- 9 "You know how ___."

DOWN

- 1 Horse for Mario
- 2 Disney World Park
- 3 It's not just garlic mayo!
- 4 Mysterious ancient letters
- 6 New ____, continuation of 1A

ACROSS

- 1 Roster
- 5 It's chewsday, ___?
- 7 Dry, as sourdough
- 8 Group of lions
- 9 Shoe bottoms

DOWN

- 1 Thpeakth like thith
- 2 Musical part before the verse
- 3 Sluggish garden dweller
- 4 "~"
- 6 Golf pegs

Boys Hockey: A Game Marked by Redemption and Heartbreak

ALEX DIMNAKU

WEDNESDAY 1/8

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| Andover | 4 |
| St. George's | 5 |

Down 4-0 in the third period, Boys Hockey seemed defeated. Yet, the recent Flood-Marr champions rallied to tie the game late, showcasing true resilience. Despite their efforts, a controversial goal with nine seconds left led to a heartbreaking 4-5 loss. The spirited comeback highlighted the team's determination and stand-out individual performances.

Kieran McIntosh '27 illustrated the factors that contributed to the team's initial 4-0 deficit: a five-minute penalty resulted in two goals. However, Andover was able to recover and tie the game before unfortunately allowing a goal at the end of the game.

"We started with a five-minute penalty, and they scored two goals during that time. Then they scored two more, so it was 4-0 to start. But we made a comeback and tied it up at 4-4. Unfortunately, they scored with a little time left, so it ended in a loss. Really, in the first half of the game, they had

control, but in the second half, we dominated. It's just unfortunate that they got that lucky goal at the end," said McIntosh.

McIntosh attributed the team's slow start to a lack of focus, noting that early penalties leading to extended power-play opportunities for the opposing team played a significant role in Andover's loss. He emphasized that these early mistakes set the tone for the game, making it difficult for the team to recover despite their strong performance later in the third period.

"It came down to discipline. We took a lot of penalties at the start. You can't give a team eight minutes of power play time right at the beginning of the game," said McIntosh.

Alexander Small '26 remarked on St. George's aggressive playstyle, which was evident throughout the game. However, he emphasized that the outcome was largely shaped by Andover's own mistakes, acknowledging that the team had the potential to perform much better.

"They played hard, they put the puck in deep, and they fore-checked well. But, we did have some mistakes on our end. In the end, it was pretty even, and we could've done better executing," said Small.

Tyler Miocevic '26 added to Small's point by noting how the team's overconfidence going into the game caused it to linger



M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Rui Han '25 maneuvers the puck down the ice.

from the game plan, allowing St. George's to exploit Andover's mistakes.

Miocevic said "We took them too lightly at the beginning. We weren't focused on our game plan and didn't stick to it. Right from the start, we were giving them chances, and they capitalized on our mistakes. We weren't clearing the net properly, and we weren't working hard enough or overpowering them physically. We definitely weren't on our game in the first part."

Miocevic highlighted specific challenges the team faced during

the first half of the game. While they had prepared for St. George's speed, Andover's underestimation of their opponent contributed to their early struggles.

"Their speed was one thing. We knew they were going to be a physical team and we were prepared for that, but what surprised us was their tenacity in the offensive zone. Their first few goals were shots from the point, followed by rebounds we couldn't clear. They were all over the puck, and we weren't getting to it, so that definitely caught us by surprise.

Despite this defeat, Miocevic was proud of his team's resilience, highlighting its ability to overcome such a challenging setback. Going into the third period, the team humbled themselves and maintained unwavering focus.

"I'm definitely proud of how we bounced back and showed resilience. It's never easy to come back from being down, especially in hockey when it's 4-0. But the team came together, put our heads down, and showed incredible work ethic. It paid off as we scored those four goals, so that was definitely exciting," said Miocevic.

McIntosh commended both Alexandre Theodore '27 and Peyton Militello '25's efforts, highlighting Theodore's strong offensive contribution in his first game back from injury as well as Militello's goal and his relentless effort throughout the game.

"Alex Theodore had a great bounce-back game. It was his first game back from injury, and he got a goal and two assists. He showed a lot of character. Peyton Militello also had a great game, scoring a goal and working really hard," said McIntosh.

Boys Hockey looks to bounce back and regain its momentum in the upcoming game against Choate this Saturday.

Miracle on Ice: Andover Wins its First Flood-Marr Tournament

THEO WEI

Tied 4-4 in the final period, with only two minutes remaining, David O'Neill '26 raced down the right wing with the puck. He approached a two-on-one and his first shot was unsuccessful; still determined, O'Neill grabbed the rebound in front of the opposing crease, knocking in the second shot and granting Andover its first Flood-Marr Championship.

In the 59th Annual Flood-Marr Tournament, O'Neill upset a competitive Nobles and Greenough (Nobles) team. Andover celebrated its momentous moment, so much so that Head Coach Paul Tortorella '80 fell over on the bench. Tyler Miocevic '26 noted Andover's goal before going into the tournament.

"We knew that this was a mountain we needed to overcome, everything like the coach kept telling us that. This is what we were leading up to for at least this first half of the season. And then that was just the task that we knew once the weekend came. We knew that that's what we had to do, and we were all ready to do it," said Miocevic.

Danny Collins '25 added to Miocevic's point by describing how the team focused on each game at-hand, helping keep Andover composed and focused.

"We didn't really look at the tournament as a battle to make the championship. We were looking at every game one at a time, which relieved some pressure off us. We wanted to beat Deerfield, and we went out there and did it. We weren't thinking, 'If we beat Deerfield, we'll make the champi-



M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

The Flood Marr Tournament was a huge victory and a fresh swing of momentum for Boys Hockey.

onship.' We were kind of just like, alright, here's our next opponent and let's go out there and win it. And that's kind of how we ended up finishing it out with the win," said Collins.

Miocevic shared a similar sentiment, noting that Andover's positive and determined attitude never wavered throughout. The team was able to carry the momentum after each win by celebrating it, but also staying focused for the upcoming game.

"Even taking it from both perspectives. So from the positive side of not letting the win get too much to us, like enjoying it, but at the same time, understanding

that we were on a mission. That mission was to win on Sunday. On the flip side, when we face adversity, like in that Salisbury game, to not let it get too much to us and to bounce back, which we did against Deerfield," said Miocevic.

Despite having won the whole tournament, Andover still faced some adversity at certain times. In its first game, Andover was losing 1-0 to Milton until the third period where the team dominated to win 3-1.

"We played Milton the first game of the tournament, and our first two periods, we had an extremely tough time. We were

down 1-0. But everyone rallied in that third period, something clicked, and we came out like a different team and were able to take the win in the end. So, it was definitely one of the games where we let everything get to our heads and kind of got too big for our shoes. And we were able to just glide down, be humble, and get the job done," said Miocevic.

Collins also noted another challenge the team faced even prior to the game. Alex Theodore '27, a left-wing player on the first line, was injured before the game. Although many players were wary about what his injury would mean for the team's success, the team

kept composure throughout the tournament as Theodore cheered passionately from the bench.

"But everybody who stepped up into their new role, they did a great job, and they did what they had to do to get us the wins, and that really was the most important factor. It sucks because I really wish [Alex] could have been there, but he was there and cheering us on, which is a really good teammate for sure," said Collins.

Eduoard Lord '26 talked about how the team rallied together throughout each game. The coaches and captains unified the team to stay focused on winning and prioritize the team's interests rather than any individual success.

"One thing I remember was like in between the second and third period of the final game, it was tied and I think [Coach Paul] Tortorella just came in and said, 'You win the period, you win the game.' Even though it kind of seems simple, it made us realize that we were a period away from making history and winning the first Flood-Marr in Andover's history," continued Lord.

Finally, Miocevic commended Chase Anderson '25, MVP of the Flood-Marr tournament, for being the foundation of the team's success. Having made crucial saves throughout the tournament, Anderson cemented the team's Flood-Marr win into history.

This Flood-Marr championship victory is dedicated to Michael Kuta, who is ending his 40-year tenure as Andover's athletic trainer.

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WRESTLING

Coach Kassie Bateman '06: Pioneering Excellence and Building Community in Andover Wrestling

THIAGO JOLLON

Coach Kassie Bateman '06 began wrestling as an Andover student, the first female to place in the Class A league tournament. Before becoming the head coach in 2019, Bateman served as the assistant coach for seven years, receiving the honor of New England Independent School Wrestling Association (NEIS-WA) Assistant Coach of the Year. Since becoming a coach, Bateman has made strides in the female wrestling world. In addition to that, she makes an effort to connect with each individual player, helping them achieve their fullest potential.

The culture that Bateman has fostered in the wrestling program is built on three core values: hard work, respect, and team aspect. Bateman shared how training works best in groups.

“Our core values are hard work, respect, and team aspect. A wrestler can only do so much to train alone; they need their teammates to drill with and to push them to improve. Which is why we all need to work hard during our practice time to help everyone in the room get better to meet their goals,” wrote Bateman in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Co-Captain Eva Murphy '25 highlighted Bateman's unique perspective as an Andover Wrestling alum. Bateman brings an understanding of the school environment along with a positive spirit.

“Coach Bateman wrestled at Andover, and it's really great to be mentored by somebody who knows the school

and knows the environment. You can tell she really sets the tone for how our meets and how our tournaments are going to go by bringing a lot of energy into every practice and every tournament that we have,” said Murphy.

Bateman continued, expanding on her leadership style in conjunction with the team goals. She also commended her fellow coaching staff.

“I try to help athletes balance their individual goals with the team goals. I let them know where the team could use them most, where I think they will perform best individually, and let them make the best decision for themselves. Wrestling is such a unique sport that you have individual successes that combine for a team score. Sometimes we make sacrifices for the team, and sometimes the team needs to sacrifice to help an individual meet their goal. That's just the nature of it. We are extremely lucky to have such an experienced coaching staff; I have been lucky to coach with Coaches [Jason] York, [Richard] Gorham, and [Walter] Dunn for the past 13 years. We all bring something different to the table, but we all have such a passion for the sport and care about our athletes on and off the mat,” wrote Bateman.

Narek Hambarzumyan '26 emphasized Bateman's knowledge of each wrestler individually, their experiences, and their abilities.

“She definitely connects with the wrestlers. She knows everyone individually and knows what level they're at and what their preferred skillset is [as well as] how they wrestle and how experienced they are,” said Hambarzumyan.



T. BASVI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Additionally, Kai Wang '27 noted that Bateman puts emphasis on team togetherness and works hard to create an encouraging environment.

“One quality she stresses on is definitely unity within the team and making sure everyone both feels supported and supports others,” Wang said.

Notably, Bateman's organized and hosted the first-ever all-girls preparatory school wrestling tournament in 2014. Bateman described how, upon her return to Andover, she noticed that there were no opportunities for female wrestlers unlike what she experienced at Andover, something she felt needed to be changed.

“When I was competing in high school, there were lots of girls' wrestling tournaments through an organization called USGWA (United States Girls Wrestling Association),

and so I was able to compete at 3-5 all-girls' tournaments during the season. When I came back to coach, and realized that those wrestling opportunities were no longer available, I knew I wanted to create those opportunities for female wrestlers. In 2014 we started the first tournament, and we had nine wrestlers from five schools compete, four of whom were Andover wrestlers. Watching it grow to the 100-plus wrestler event it has become has been such a gift.”

In her time working as a co-captain with Bateman on Team Abbot — the all-female team — Murphy noted her investment in expanding the female wrestling program. She highlighted Bateman's efforts to help the team grow in size and ability.

Murphy said, “Particularly with my experience working with her through Team Abbot

she's really invested in female wrestling and the development of female wrestling. One instance of that is how she has taken the annual girls tournament that we have at Andover every year from around four or five girls in its first year to now over like 100 in the 11th year and so it's just really great to see how exponential the growth of girls wrestling is. Most people don't know girls wrestling is actually the highest-growing high school sport in the nation. It's great to know that we're being coached by someone who is a pioneer in the sport particularly for women and how she is helping our team grow both in numbers and in skill.”

In terms of goals for the season, Bateman has one focus: playoffs. Increasing the number of Big Blue wrestlers in prestigious tournaments such as the National Prep Championships counts as a win.

“Having a winning record is always nice, but it's really the post-season that's important to us — the Class A league tournament, the New England Championships, and the National Prep Championships. We always want to maximize the number of wrestlers that we have and qualify for New England and Nationals. If we can help individual wrestlers improve throughout the season to qualify for these events, we are happy. Tournaments are always more fun with more of our wrestlers in them,” wrote Bateman.

Co-Captain Julian Rios '26 Forms Strong Bonds and Brings a Drive for Improvement to All-Gender Wrestling

ALISTAIR FRITZ-GRUBER

All-Gender Wrestling Co-Captain Julian Rios '26 has spent more than a decade perfecting his craft in the sport, and his passion is evident both on and off the mat. From the first days on the Boys & Girls Club mat as a six-year-old to now a Co-Captain, Rios has come a long way both as an athlete and a person.

Rios credits much of his initial interest in wrestling to his father, a high school wrestler. He notes that his first experience wrestling was primarily because of him.

Rios said, “My dad wrestled in high school when he was younger... I wasn't really big into a lot of sports when I was younger, but my dad got me onto the mat for the first time when I was six or seven years old at the Boys & Girls Club, and then I just started wrestling from there.”

Wrestling, as a sport, pushed him to develop physically and mentally. He noted that wrestling is all about how much effort you put in.

“It's a tough sport, and I'm very competitive. It's a great showing of character. Being able to push through adversity, that's my favorite part of the sport. You get out what you put in. If you put in a lot



A.TSAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

of effort, you will be good. If you don't put in a lot of effort, you're not gonna be good. Going and trying to get better every single day in the room, I saw I got better, and I got better results. I kept driving myself more to keep pushing myself and wrestle my best,” said Rios.

Rios's leadership style echoes his belief in improving in wrestling itself. He adds that, although the team is supportive, discipline and dedication are the keys to improving at the sport, and he is willing to help any wrestler

with any questions.

Rios said, “I wanna push the kids and want them to get better and push the team overall so everyone wants to get better on the team. That starts with building a good community where we, as wrestlers, understand the hard way of discipline... I'm always willing to help anyone on the team if they have anything or need help with the move. I want to make the experience feel welcoming, but I want them to understand that we're still also trying to get better.”

Sean Flynn '27 shared how Rios fosters a sense of camaraderie and mutual support among the wrestlers, building strong relationships that extend beyond the mat. Flynn emphasized Rios's ability to connect with his teammates, creating a cohesive and supportive environment that strengthens the team as a whole.

“He has become very close with all the players even outside of school and wrestling, which makes a great leader. Like in meets, he would definitely lead the team in his performance. He is very skilled, and he knows a lot of techniques, but he also leads the team as well,” said Flynn.

Caleb Beroukhim '27 said he admired Rios's wrestling ability. He noted that Rios helped him with technique and moves many times and has helped him improve immensely.

Beroukhim said, “It's amazing to watch him. Honestly, I don't understand what move he does, but somehow, it works every time. He's incredible. He has helped me so much in learning new moves and techniques, and he has helped me improve immensely.”

For Rios, pressure doesn't serve as a roadblock; it fuels his determination. Rios's resilience is a key aspect of his identity, both as a wres-

tlar and a student-athlete. For Rios, success isn't always about the easiest path. It's about perseverance in the face of challenges.

“As a wrestler, my biggest strength is my ability to keep going when times get tough. With schoolwork, wrestling, and everything else, there can be a lot of pressure, but I've always been able to push through those adversities. That pressure can drive kids to do better and better themselves or make them shy away. I've just been able to keep pushing through these adversities and not quit, and I think that's a really good trait I have,” said Rios.

He's already considering his future plans. He'd like to continue his wrestling career at the collegiate level; although he's not quite sure what's in store down the road for him.

Rios said, “I'm taking it one step at a time... I don't know about after college or anything like that, but I do hope to go to college for wrestling.”

Rios continues to make waves in the New England Prep School scene and hopes to win the National Prep Championship for his weight class.

WRESTLING

Co-Captain Bodhi Beroukhim '25 Leads All-Gender Wrestling With Dedication and Vision

MATHEW LIU & ALEX GODSEY

All Gender Wrestling Co-Captain Bodhi Beroukhim '25 drives his teammates to improve by fostering a diverse and connected environment. Emphasizing discipline and collaboration, he encourages athletes to push their limits both on and off the mat. With a mix of new athletes as well as seasoned returners, Beroukhim seeks to create strong team chemistry while also maintaining focus on his own personal development.

By utilizing the wrestling team's co-ed structure, Beroukhim aims to nurture a diverse team environment. As Junior Varsity and Varsity boys and girls all practice together, the athletes have the opportunity to form a tight-knit community across a large group of people.

"One thing is saying 'hi' to everyone and introducing yourself to everyone. The unique thing about wrestling is that we have one big co-ed team, so the girls wrestle with the boys, and Junior Varsity practices with the varsity team. That team setting allows us to form a really strong community," said Beroukhim.

Brady Haskell '28 attests to the success of Beroukhim's efforts in building a close sense of family. Even as a Junior, he already feels a deep bond with Beroukhim and other teammates, attributing it to the Co-Captain's outgoing nature.

"My first interaction with Bodhi was at the first practice when we were rolling out the mats. He was really welcoming to all of us and super outgoing, trying to talk to everyone. Being a Junior on Varsity, Bodhi has really engaged me in the team and made sure to welcome me, really being sure not to leave anyone out. He is trying to bring people in, and it was really nice to be welcomed," says Haskell.

Julian Rios '26, three-year member of the team and fellow Co-Captain, emphasizes Beroukhim's efforts in consistently pushing his teammates to reach their full potential. From encouraging healthy habits to maintaining intensity during training, Beroukhim's dedication is evident.

"He helps team chemistry a lot, encourages people at our dual meets and really shows his team spirit. He gets everyone cheering for one another on the team. He's always pushing people to eat healthier, wrestle their best,



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and be better in everything they do. Helping you out with the little things, he is always there and always around to teach you if you need help," says Rios.

A big part of Beroukhim's goals for the season include training the less experienced wrestlers for the future of the wrestling team. This includes organizing Captain's

Practices, where newer wrestlers can learn the basics of wrestling in a more relaxed environment, as well as highlighting the importance of gaining live experience on the mat.

"We have a lot of new wrestlers so my goal is to develop them, have them get matches in, not focusing so much on win-

ning and losing, especially since they're new; we really want to set them up with good technique and habits for next year. One way we do that is with offseason practices, called Captain's Practices; we had them last spring and this fall twice a week. It was great for newer wrestlers to come and try the sport before the season gets started," said Beroukhim.

While completing co-captain duties is Beroukhim's primary focus, he is also determined to stretch himself this season with personal goals, such as qualifying for nationals. He views his individual performance as a reflection of the team's commitment and hopes it can serve as a source of inspiration for his teammates.

"This year, I came into the season with the goal to serve the team. That was my primary goal. But to serve the team, you also have to focus on yourself. The team is going to be inspired by you working hard in practice, taking care of your body, and performing well in competition. By focusing on myself, it is really to achieve the greater end, which is serving the team. Personally, I want to qualify for nationals," said Beroukhim.

The Last Nugent: A Story Embedded in Andover's History and Nugent's Legacy

VIVIEN VALCKX & AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO

When Dani Nugent '25 steps onto the mat, her focus is unwavering, her technique is "crazy good," and her passion is unmistakable. As Co-Captain of All-Gender Wrestling, Nugent embodies the grit, camaraderie, and leadership that defines the program. But her journey in wrestling began long before Andover, rooted in family and inspiration.

For Nugent, the youngest of five siblings and a father who are all in wrestling, the sport became a way of life. Although her father, a Boston College wrestling alum, initially prohibited Nugent and her two older sisters from wrestling due to the lack of female representation in the sport, the sisters' resilience finally prompted her father to train them.

"He originally got my brothers into the sport, but I have two sisters and we got jealous watching them go off to practice. Eventually, we asked him if he could sign us up too. He at first said 'No, there's not a lot of girls in the sport.' But we were persistent. We begged, we asked a few times, and eventually, he got us into the room. I am the youngest of five, so I'm lucky to start at the youngest age and have the most time in the sport," said Nugent.

Yet Nugent's father is not the only reason for her success. Her older brother, Colin Nugent '23, was a previous wrestling Captain



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and was on the team with Nugent for two years. Having watched him compete at all the meets, even before Andover, Nugent knew she wanted to come to Andover and follow her brother's steps.

"My brother has been my biggest role model as a Captain because I really liked the way he's been able to lead the team and influence the team with his technique. I know there's been a lot of great opportunities that, as captains, we've been able to show moves in practice and help out after practice if other kids

have questions. Just being able to implement stuff that we've been able to learn from our years of experience, I learned that from my brother and all the Captains, honestly," said Nugent.

Although wrestling may seem like an individual sport, Nugent sees it differently. Having teammates beside her during every meet, she always feels guided and supported on the mat.

"Wrestling is an individual sport... When we're on the mat, we're all out there alone, but your team is a big factor on the side of

the mat. How they're cheering you on. We have a really invested team — everyone cares about each other. For every match, we have 30 kids on the sidelines watching you, cheering you on, helping guide you through that match. So, you're really not alone in that, and that's one of the best parts of Andover Wrestling," said Nugent.

Nugent's dedication to the sport and investment in the development of other wrestlers in the program sets her apart as a truly great leader. Nugent's unwavering focus and dedication to others have influenced her teammates' success.

"Dani is probably the most hard-working person on the team. She's there before practice and after practice, working extra. And you can definitely see all of that in her matches. She is so focused during her matches, and she does moves which are just crazy good. But she's also never afraid to help people. If someone comes up to her and asks her to show a specific move, last year I definitely did a few times, she'll stay late after practice to help. That shows just how great of a leader she is," said Bella Shmuylovich '26.

All-Gender Wrestling Head Coach Kassie Bateman '06 illustrated another facet of Nugent's wrestling identity: tenacity. She recounts a tournament in Nugent's Junior year when she lost in a championship round by pin. However, Bateman details Nugent's perseverance in wrestling the same opponent for the third-place match in her Junior year,

learning from her previous mistakes and winning.

"Dani is one of the most mentally tough wrestlers I know, and her mental game has only gotten better. At a tournament, it's possible to compete against the same wrestler twice if you both end up in the consolation round. Her Junior year, Dani lost to a wrestler in the championship round by pin, and then she had to wrestle him again for third place. Many wrestlers would have mentally gone into that match thinking they would lose; Dani learned from her previous mistakes, and she won 2-0," said Coach Bateman.

Nugent will leave a legacy at Andover Wrestling in the spring. A legacy of excellence, an unfailing passion for the sport, and a fierce commitment to her teammates and the wrestling team as a whole. Other than leading and guiding her teammates throughout Nationals, she also has the best snacks to uplift her teammates after a cruel weight-cutting process.

"At Nationals last year, she was really supportive. It was the first time me and a lot of other kids were going to nationals, or really any bigger type of competition. She was extremely supportive and explained how everything worked, and just led us all through it which was great... After weigh-ins she always breaks out snack baggies; she has the best snacks," said Shmuylovich.

Co-Captain Eva Murphy '25: A Focus on Comfortability and Hard Work

ASHLEY SUH & EMILY NEY

Eva Murphy '25, Co-Captain of All-Gender Wrestling, is an interactive leader, and with energy and precision, she guides them through every step of the physically demanding sport. In her role, she has cultivated an encouraging environment where athletes work to improve their skills.

Wrestling has been in Murphy's blood since childhood thanks to her father, a coach who introduced her to the sport at a young age.

"I started wrestling around ten years ago when I was eight. What initially got me into [wrestling] was my dad being a coach. Even before I wrestled, I grew up going to meets, tournaments, and competitions all over the state and just sort of traveling with him to see the team. Wrestling was a big part of my upbringing, regardless of whether I was competing or not. When it was time for me to start wrestling, I just hit the ground running, and I really loved the sport from day one. I just stuck with it and it's been something that has helped me grow as a person. I love it," said Murphy.

Tasha Bohorad '26 highlighted Murphy's consistently positive attitude. She described Murphy as a Co-Captain who cares greatly for her teammates and is determined



A. TSAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

to help in every moment.

"She's always the first one to step in and give me advice or even just listen to me voicing my thoughts. It's a very unique thing about her that a lot of people do, but she does very well," said Bohorad.

Murphy's leadership philosophy includes an interactive approach, striving to directly help players improve upon moves and develop skills. She also provides demonstrations during drills, continuing to help her team learn visually.

"I'm a pretty hands-on

Co-Captain. I like to get in with everybody and feel out the moves. Because wrestling is such a physical sport; just trying to explain it, you can't really do it well. You have to really get in with the wrestlers and move around and do the technique. It's so much about reaction and feel that if you're not on the mat with them and wrestling, like actually performing the moves, it's really difficult to get a sense for how it's supposed to be done," said Murphy.

But Murphy's leadership does not end there. Off the mat, she constantly provides her team-

mates with extra resources to practice their wrestling by example. Additionally, Murphy checks in with teammates to make sure they are achieving their goals.

"I like to send my teammates videos of national tournaments and stuff like that. I like to talk to them about what they're feeling about wrestling, try to feel out how everybody's doing, and just [make] sure they're doing well and that they're progressing how they want to be in the sport and acknowledging their successes and working on their weak points together," said Murphy.

According to Ophelia Lee '26, Murphy's friendly demeanor shines in her interactions with everyone. Her openness helps to support the team to perform better, get along, and make every teammate feel valued.

"She'll go to see new people and veterans, people who she doesn't know very well. She'll go up to everyone and try to help them correct their technique or give them advice when we're going live or drilling. She's always a very friendly person, and she tries her best to help everyone. She's always paying a lot of attention and she's always engaged," said Lee.

Murphy emphasized that her defining trait in wrestling is her mindset. She's dedicated to never giving up, even during a high-stress moment; Murphy has the will to win.

"I'm really big on hard work. There [are] a lot of hard workers in our room, and there [are] a lot of hard workers in the sport in general, but I will never let myself get pinned if I don't want to. If I can help it, I'm not gonna give up. I'm gonna wrestle to the last second. I'm gonna do anything that I can to win no matter what. I feel like it's just a machine gun mindset where you just gotta be on all the time. I always have my will to win," said Murphy.

As Murphy's Andover tenure is coming to an end, she hopes that this will not be the end of her wrestling career. She mentioned that she always pictures herself involved in the sport as time goes on and will work to make that an opportunity.

"I'm definitely considering wrestling in college. It's always been a dream of mine to stay involved with the sport in a long-term way. Whether that's coaching or wrestling in college or teaching my kids to wrestle, whatever it may be, I always picture myself being involved in the sport in that way. So, I do want to wrestle in college, and if the opportunity presents itself, that would be great. And if it doesn't, I'll just make an opportunity," said Murphy.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Inside Falls Music Center

ADELE CIOCIOLA, STELLA SEONG & PENELOPE TONG

This week marked the official opening of the Falls Music Center for Andover students and the conclusion of moving out of Graves Hall. Featuring brand-new classrooms, practice rooms, ensemble rooms, lockers, a recording studio and concert hall, the building marks the beginning of a new era for Andover's Music Department.



E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ins and Outs of 2025

REPORTING BY ANNA TSVETKOV

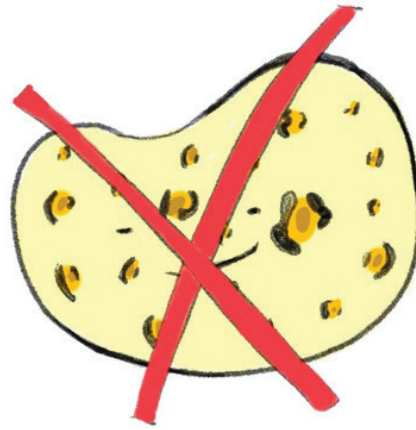
MERCAN DRAMAN '26

INs

Writing in my diary more. Manifesting. Sleeping in on Saturdays (and more in general). Posting on social media. Taking more pictures. Doing hair masks. Having more fun, stressing less, and appreciating the little things in life.

OUTs

Picking at my face. Stressing in general and overthinking what other people do. Dressing really bummy regularly. Being stressed all the time.



KATELIN B LEWELLEN, INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

INs

More relaxing and laughing with friends and family. More time spent outside just for the fun of it, even though it's cold. Connections.

OUTs

Worrying about the little things.

PHIA CUTLER '26

INs

Saying "yes" to more things that my friends ask me or events on campus. Having a more positive mindset about relationships. Thinking optimistically.

OUTs

Procrastination (I'm trying to get my work done earlier!). Wearing sweats every day (I'm trying to spice up my wardrobe). A lot of jewelry.



S.STAII/THE PHILLIPIAN

FRANCESCA DIZON '26

INs

Eight hours of sleep, or going to sleep before midnight (I want to set clear deadlines for myself throughout my day. I spend so much time doing certain tasks and such little time sleeping. If I tell myself I need to go to bed by midnight, I think everything would get done a lot more efficiently and I would have more time to rest).

OUTs

Energy drinks and being lazy. Achieving a balance between work and free time. Cheetah print.

CHLOE PARK '27

INs

Good fits (usually during the winter in 2024, or whenever it was cold, I would wear sweatpants and a hoodie every single day, and that's not the best fit. So in 2025, I'm going to start wearing jeans more often). Working out. Being motivated to do work (especially since we've had two weeks off).

OUTs

Procrastination. In 2024, I waited until the last minute to do everything. In 2025, I'm going to try to manage my time better.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Golden Globes 2025: Fresh Faces, Big Wins

HLUMA MANGCU

This past Sunday, the 82nd Golden Globe Awards kicked off the 2025 awards season. For decades, this ceremony has been a crucial precursor for the upcoming Academy Awards, serving as a platform for stars to solidify their status as major contenders. This year, the Globes were especially captivating, with several unexpected wins reshaping the landscape for the Oscars in March.

For many of these actors and actresses, the road to recognition has been a long, enduring one. One of the most touching moments of the evening came courtesy of 62-year-old actress Demi Moore. With a career spanning over 45 years, Moore was visibly moved as she accepted her award for “Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy.” Moore shared a powerful anecdote from 30 years ago, when a producer told her she was nothing more than a “popcorn actress.” Moore reflected on the how these words shaped how she viewed her career, “At that time, I made that mean that this [award] wasn’t something I was allowed to have, I could do movies that were successful and made a lot of money, but that I couldn’t be acknowledged, and I bought in, and I believed that.” Her speech resonated deeply, not just as a personal victory, but as a commentary on the harsh beauty standards that define Hollywood. “In those moments when we don’t think we’re smart enough, pretty enough, or successful enough, or basically just not enough... just know you will never be enough. But you can know the value of your worth if you just put down the measuring stick.” Her words reminded us of the importance of owning our journey, marking a turning point in Moore’s own career.

Moore wasn’t the only one to make waves at the Globes. The night was full of groundbreaking moments, including a historic win for Karla Sofia Gascón, whose movie, “Emilia Perez,” took home the award for “Musical or Comedy Motion Picture.”

In a powerful address to the audience, Gascon addressed the prejudice she has faced as a transgender woman, “You can maybe put us in jail. You can beat us up, but you never can take away our soul, our existence, our identity.” Gascon’s victory, along with her co-star’s “Best Supporting Actress” win, makes “Emilia Perez” a major contender for multiple categories in the upcoming awards. As director Jacques Audiard accepted the movie’s award for “Best Non-English Language Film,” he spoke of the film’s current significance, “I hope ‘Emilia Perez’ will be a beacon of light,” he said, capturing the essence of the evening: a celebration of stories that break boundaries, reflect diversity, and foster inclusion.

This year’s Globes also highlighted the representation of disability on screen. Sebastian Stan, known for his role as Bucky Barnes in the “Avengers” films, won his first Golden Globe for “Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy” for his performance in “A Different Man.” In the film, Stan portrays an aspiring actor with neurofibromatosis, a condition that causes disfigurement. During his acceptance speech, he urged the industry to confront the prejudices surrounding disability: “Our ignorance and discomfort around disability has to end now,” Stan shared. “We have to normalize it and continue to expose ourselves to it. We have to encourage acceptance.”

In the television categories, “Shogun,” a series set in 17th-century Japan, emerged as the big winner, taking home four awards, including “Best Drama Series.” The show repeated its success from the previous year’s Emmy Awards, securing its place as a critic’s favorite. Other television honorees included Jeremy Allen White of “The Bear,” Jodie Foster for “True Detective,” and Jean Smart for “Hacks.” “Baby Reindeer,” Richard Gadd’s dark comedy, claimed the award for “Best Limited Series,” with Gadd’s co-star winning “Best TV Supporting Actress” for her portrayal of a stalker in the Netflix series.



While the winners were undoubtedly the stars of the evening, the host, Nikki Glaser, also made a lasting impression. As the first female solo host of the Golden Globes, Glaser had a tall order to fill, following last year’s controversial performance by Jo Koy. However, she rose to the challenge with her sharp wit and fearless humor. Her nine-minute opening monologue had the audience roaring with laughter as she took playful jabs at stars like Timothée Chalamet, Ariana

Grande, and Ben Affleck. She even ventured into topics such as the toxicity of Hollywood and the state of politics. Her bold, snarky approach was a hit — delivering humor without crossing the line into outright offense, at least for the most part.

The 82nd Golden Globe Awards served as a powerful reminder that change is happening in Hollywood — it’s here to stay. As the industry continues to evolve, this year’s ceremony highlighted the importance of

MIA WALKER/THE PHILLIPIAN giving space to diverse voices, authentic stories, and a broader range of talent. The evening was a celebration of progress, where true artistry and representation were recognized, breaking old molds and creating new possibilities for the future. With each award, the Golden Globes reinforced that the next era of film and television will be defined by inclusivity, courage, and the boldness to tell stories that reflect the world we live in.

Squid Game Season 2: Does it Live Up the Hype?

ADEN HWANG & DANIEL LIU

Storming the world with iconic reimaginings of Korean childhood games, Squid Game’s first season was nothing short of groundbreaking. Holding the title for the most-watched TV show for Netflix, since its release in 2021, the world has waited three years for its highly anticipated second season, which was finally released on December 26, 2024. Season Two features an almost completely refreshed cast, new games, a growingly complicated plot, and the same iconic momentum the first season generated. As with most sequels, the show has received mixed reviews but has maintained its high viewership, already breaking records.

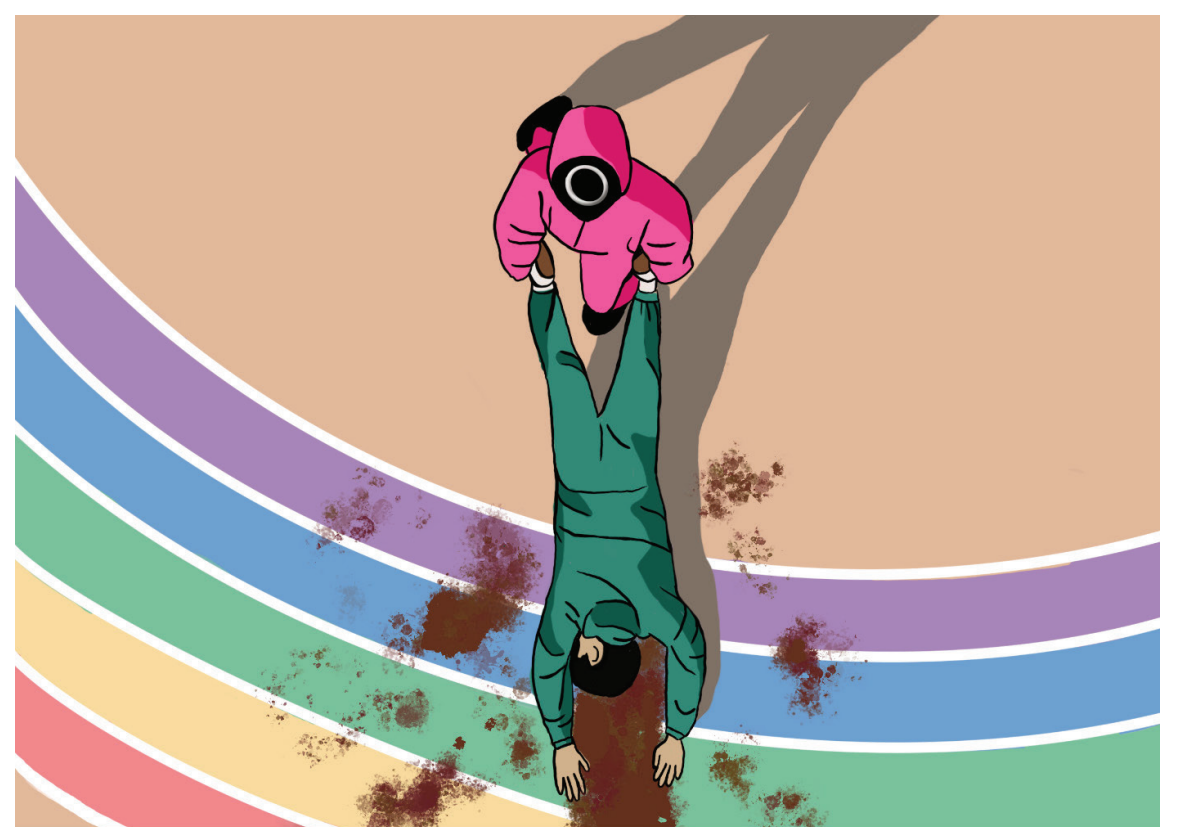
Squid Game, at its core, is a horror and suspense series, delivering a reflection of capitalist society and the extent to which people get driven when in the face of money. The first season largely operated on its element of surprise — first-time viewers never expected that the seemingly innocent children would turn out to be a front for a life-or-death game. Leading up to the second season, many viewers and critics were worried that the second season would lose this suspenseful appeal, turning repetitive and predictable. However, even despite knowing that the games will turn out to be the deathbed of hundreds, the season delivers even more twists and turns. The main character, Seong Gi-Hun, has a new motive of fighting to not just survive but shut down the games after winning the first season. The show stays fresh with new destabilizing plotlines, including a backstory and feature on the enigmatic recruiter in the first

episode, an exciting new cast, and a couple of new games.

These unforeseeable plot twists are what have carried the second season in terms of entertainment. A breeding ground for viral moments and trends, Squid Game successfully utilizes sound and music to its advantage. From inserting classical music in the most tense moments to introducing international audiences to traditional Korean childhood songs, the auditory choices in the series have shaped its momentum. The music often plays into irony, being the most light-hearted in the most severe scenes. Jung Jae-II, the composer of Squid Game’s soundtrack, put an emphasis on designing serious songs using child-like instrumentation. This is seen in the second season’s “Mingle” game, which uses a popular Korean childhood song in a high-pitched, hyper-youthful sense.

The assortment of new characters and character developments also keeps the series fresh despite repeating the same concept of the games. The familiar main character Seong Gi-Hun (portrayed by Lee Jung-Jae) returns, however this time in a completely different atmosphere and light. Lee delivers a much more nuanced portrayal of Seong, emphasizing his past traumas and newfound mission of stopping the games. Although the character was relatively light-hearted and optimistic at the beginning of season one, season two shows a starkly different character.

Lee is joined by a fresh ensemble of characters, each offering powerful performances that deepen the season’s emotional impact. As the game progresses, the backstories and motivations of each character are thoughtfully revealed, allowing viewers



ANNABELLE LANGHORST/THE PHILLIPIAN

to form strong connections with them. The cast is also star-studded, featuring famous Korean singers and star actors.

However, the new characters also bring some of the negative critiques of the season. Many viewers thought that the characters introduced in the second season were much more unlikable than the first. This is most evident in the character Choi Su-bong, also known as Thanos. He is revealed to have fallen into extreme debt due to a poor cryptocurrency investment decision. The character quickly received negative reactions from the audience due to his cruel and arrogant nature. Other characters, like Player 100, Im Jeong-Dae, also drew intense hatred from viewers, who eagerly

awaited his downfall. The audience’s frustration with these characters grew as their actions continued to fuel disdain. The disappointment with the new characters is mainly in reaction to season one which featured multifaceted, fleshed-out characters that showcased both the good and bad in humans, making them more likable and easy to sympathize with.

Another complaint with the sequel was the abrupt cliffhanger ending. Fans had mixed emotions after realizing the second season ended after just seven episodes, two less than the original. Many felt that the season was cut short and that the ending wasn’t very fitting. Further, after three years of waiting, many were disappointed that season

two left even more questions unanswered and offered little to no closure for long-time fans. However, the show has officially announced a season three coming in 2025.

Overall, Squid Game’s season two successfully built on its predecessor’s strengths, delivering a refreshing set of exciting scenes and characters. The positives undoubtedly outweigh the negatives, making it a standout in its genre. While some viewers felt that this season could’ve offered more, this only raises even more anticipation for the show’s last installment, which will put a close to the iconic run of Squid Game. The second season gets four out of five stars, putting the show in a class of its own.

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