

Andover Places Second at Phillips Exeter Cube Day 2025

NICCOLO LEE-SUK
& ADELYNE LIU

In a race against the clock, three Andover students competed in a speedcubing competition hosted by Phillips Exeter Academy (PEA). Representing Andover's Twisty Puzzle Society (TPS), the students placed second at the event.

The event was mainly organized by PEA students, with the first half of the day start-

ing as a public tournament sanctioned by the World Cubing Association (WCA). In the afternoon, the competition shifted to an interscholastic New England Interscholastic Speedcubing League (NEIS-CL) event.

Daniel Chen PEA'27, the head organizer, described his motivations for the event and how he wanted to revive it from years past.

"I was part of my elementary school's math team. There was this event called the math field day, where one of the

events was an interscholastic Rubik's Cube competition," said Chen. "I always had this dream of hosting an interscholastic Rubik's Cube competition. Our predecessors, [Exeter students] Brian Liu and James Wong, hosted [Phillips Exeter Cube Day] in 2015 and 2016, and so we wanted to continue that legacy," said Chen.

He continued, "I had this idea in January of my ninth-grade year, but then we weren't a club yet... This is a first year event. So it can be much more formalized next year, although I do think we've done the best of our abilities for our first year competition."

Robert Kong '27, a co-head of the TPS, noted that the event was originally planned to happen last year but was delayed due to logistical difficulties. He mentioned that the purpose of the tournament was to foster community over a shared interest in speedcubing.

"We were initially planning on having this last year, but due to issues with securing a venue down at Exeter, we weren't able to... [The goal was] just to have fun. Bringing people together from various different schools who have a shared passion or hobby of

Continued on A5, Column 1

Questioning the Doomscroll: EBI Programming Welcomes Dr. Jill Walsh



C.ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Dr. Jill Walsh urges the Andover community to rethink their device usage.

DINA NAMJOO
& KRISTEN MA

The Equity, Balance, and Inclusion Program (EBI) for Uppers and Seniors convened for the first time this year, featuring the talk "Social Media & Algorithmic Manipulation: How Tech Companies Use Psychology Research Against Us" by Jill Walsh, a professor of Sociology at Boston University. Walsh offered students both information and advice regarding the consumption of

media. Throughout her talk, Walsh spoke about the types of data social media companies collect as well as how such data is sold. She then further elucidated how these companies interpret and use the data to further app interactions, which gives them more data to sell. "If I go to TikTok and I look

Continued on A5, Column 3

Learning in the World Offers Programs to Three New Countries in 2025-2026

SOPHIA FANG
& WINSTON WU

With vibrant posters scattered around campus, showcases held by student ambassadors and faculty, and announcements in Paresky Commons, Learning in the World (LITW) has been ramping up its visibility and activity over the past few weeks. LITW is offering ten destinations for students to travel to over spring and summer break, including three new programs in Bali, Nepal and Vietnam.

Established in 2016 by Carmen Muñoz-Fernández, Instructor in Spanish and Chair of the Spanish Department, LITW was created as an umbrella organization that supported off-campus and travel-based programming domestically and internationally. Mark Cutler, Director of LITW and Instructor in Spanish, highlighted Muñoz-Fernández's efforts in establishing the program.

"In the time that [Muñoz-Fernandez] was in this role, she set up the foundation of what we do. If we're a clearing house and a main office of off-campus learning or travel-based programming, she helped put in place the policies and practices to support this... She put all that into motion and set up a lot of really great partnerships with external partners as well as internal partners, and [she] created some committees that support the program," said Cutler.

Following a hiatus during the pandemic, Cutler founded the LITW Advisory Board in 2022 to craft a vision for the program. He described how they helped formalize the program's mission statement and guiding principles.

"[The LITW Advisory Board] is a group of student veterans of programs, faculty veterans of programs, and people who come from different parts of campus with very interesting perspectives on global education...The biggest change that I've instituted is helping to provide a more defined, clearer, and aspirational underpinning for the programming in what we do that is guided by some

values. It provides a container that people can use to create these really great ideas while still keeping everything integral and connected under this bigger umbrella of LITW," said Cutler.

Emma Hong '28, who plans to apply to a program in Bali or Spain, shared how her interest in LITW stemmed from hearing about other students' positive experiences.

"People were telling me that the three weeks they spent really immersed them in the culture they were trying to learn more about, and [that] their host families were all really sweet and welcoming. A lot of people say the best way to get better at a language is to live there for a short window of time. That's really true because you're forced to adapt and learn in a personal and intimate way," said Hong.

Similarly, many students who previously participated in LITW programs found their experiences memorable. Ellen Mueller '26 described how attending an affiliate program in France during her Lower summer exposed her to an entirely new environment and culture.

"What's cool about the program is that you really realize how different it is. I spent all of my life in the United States, and so many things are different in France. There's a different currency, different customs. It's so different to live it all, especially on my own without my parents. It's something special having to start from zero and learn a new culture," said Mueller.

Having gone on an LITW expedition to the Andes this past summer, Alex Havemeyer '28 intends to apply to more programs this year. She encouraged students to participate in multiple programs throughout their time at Andover.

"Experience as many opportunities as you can because every trip has its own unique qualities and adventures within the specific city or the specific country that make every program unique. So [try] as many different opportunities as you can to really experience the world through first-hand im-

Continued on A5, Column 4

Peabody Launches Phase II of Renovations

ADELYNE LIU
& HELEN XIONG

Beginning December 1, the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology will close its classrooms and limit access to its collection as Phase II of its renovation project commences. Designed to modernize the museum's learning spaces, the renovations are expected to continue through September 2026 and will bring updated classrooms, new offices, and improved climate control systems.

Phase I of the renovation, completed in early 2024, addressed concerns surrounding the care of collections. While the first phase focused largely on the basement and infrastructure supporting the collections, Phase II turns attention toward the museum's role as a teaching space. Ryan Wheeler, Director of the Peabody, specified the upgrades included in Phase II.

"Phase two is focused on the first floor and the second floor, and a lot of the things that we're going to do are safety focused, like fire suppression. Right now, we just have steam heat on the first and second floor ... At this point, we have two usable classroom spaces, whereas we'll have three or four that we'll be able to use [with the renovations], which is really exciting. [There will be] better

work office spaces for some of the staff," said Wheeler.

The renovations will also feature a tribal consultation space, allowing for convenience surrounding sensitive and private conversations about certain collections. Marla Taylor, Curator of Collections at the Peabody, highlighted how this intentional addition to the space will demonstrate the Peabody's prioritisation of tribal visitors.

"There will be the creation of a tribal consultation space, a dedicated space within the institution to host our tribal visitors, to have the sensitive conversations that we need to have around the collections that are here and what needs to be sent home and what is appropriate to stay. Right now, I steal a classroom from the education team and shut down the building, because we have such big open spaces, to ensure privacy for those conversations. I'm looking forward to having a dedicated space that's for that work so that people can understand how seriously we're taking the process," said Taylor.

Marcelle Doheny, Instructor in the History and Social Science Department, noted her frequent use of the Peabody. Doheny highlighted how the artifacts provide students with a new perspective to the story, allowing them to see the objects rather than purely reading about them.

"Sometimes [the Peabody] is an extra layer to a story so you're actually seeing an indigenous perspective. Sometimes it's to work on the skills of using material culture to understand stories so that you're not just reading documents, but you're looking at material culture and what that can tell us. It really depends on what topic I'm doing," said Doheny.

The Andover Anthropological Society (AAS) hosts regular club meetings at the Peabody, involving a year-long project related to artifacts in the museum. Isabel Djerejian '26, Co-Head of AAS, discussed how the faculty at the Peabody helped to map out their club project for the upcoming year of renovations.

"[The Peabody] helped us strategize before the renovations. They said that we could browse the collections virtually on the Peabody website, and then decide from there what we want to focus on for our project, and then they'll most likely be able to bring them to the new space. We have to choose a new location for meetings, so we can't meet at the Peabody anymore," said Djerejian.

Lainie Schultz, Curator of Education at the Peabody and club advisor for AAS, ex-

Continued on A5, Column 1



L.HEYD/THE PHILLIPIAN

Commentary, A2

Feedback First Is a Life-saver, Not an Obstacle

The "feedback first" grading system offers students a unique opportunity to show growth and understanding while reducing stress.

Eighth Page, A8

Happy Halloween

Find out what the couples on campus (both real and fake) are dressing up as this Halloween. Speaking of, has anybody seen these missing boys?

Sports, B1

Field Hockey Extends Win Streak by Four

Field Hockey continues their winning season with four victories against NMH, BB&N, Deerfield, and Noble and Greenough.

Arts, B6

Grasshopper Shines 'Through the Decades'

Take a closer look at this year's Grasshopper and explore its key themes, talented performers, and creative acts.

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Editorial

An All Hallows’ Eve Tale

‘Twas the 31st of October
The moon shone bright and a-shimmer
Something strange was afoot
Streetlamps grew dimmer.

The paths lay empty
Students huddled up in their dorms
Drowsing away in piles of work
No light, costumes, or spirit galore.

But in the basement of Morse
Home to the free press
Five students were still typing
When they faced sudden duress.

Out of thin air
Appeared a ghostly silhouette
A familiar, furred face
The students broke into cold sweat.

With a crackle of lightning
Came a magical being
Ghost-Gunga said, “Why are you here...
...And not at Spirit Halloween?”

See the students had no costumes
No candy, no capes
Shivers slid down their spines
At the message of the ape.

For why were they there
And not out on the streets?
Spreading the hallowed joy
With tricks or with treats.

And what magic they’d miss
That they’d someday regret
When they were fifty, employed (hopefully),
And handing out candy instead?

With great gusto and zeal
They put aside their machines
Seizing the remains of the night
And their childhood Halloweens.

So while you’re thinking of futures
And life beyond the 018-ten
Know our years of dress-up are dwindling
Years as Mario and Luigi, Barbie and Ken.

So, dear readers, heed our tale
May Gunga’s warning help you ponder
Is the scariest story a ghost or a ghou!,
or is it really fleeting joys squandered?

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This Is Why We Clash



Placing a Golem in the pocket is a contradictory strategy toward your admission to a college. It is not conventional for the average Andover student, amid all of our pressing commitments as scholars and athletes, to spend their valuable time in a digital arena instead of in more constructive pursuits. We are individuals taught how to use time efficiently, stay dedicated to growth, and remain disciplined. So what makes this game so appealing that we go out of our way to carve out time for it?

Clash Royale is a global phenomenon that should not be analyzed merely at its surface value as a mobile game. This battleground simulation has boomed in popularity since the fall of this year, its player count quadrupling in number from 10 million last November to 40 million

this September. Students from every corner of the world are investing their valuable time and effort chasing validation from the number of trophies on their screen. This worldwide sensation has also taken root in our own microcosm of the global community here at Andover. Throughout campus, our peers can be seen pursuing digital rewards during lunch, on the way to a sports match, or in between their commitments. Of course, the app has experienced virality in the past as well: in 2016, the game reached its first peak, achieving a seemingly immovable monopoly over the industry. But it fell from glory almost as quickly as it had climbed to the top. The game’s structure had several flaws, from its design philosophy of forcing players to wait real hours to unlock rewards to a lack of communication with its players. Ultimately, its developers failed to keep up with the demands of their users. The app’s resurgence as a giant in the mobile game industry is a byproduct of a redesign in the game’s guiding principles.

The prominence of this competitive medium amongst students at Andover can first be attributed to its reflection of our school’s culture. As determined scholars, students tend to adopt a goal-oriented mentality toward all of their endeavors. Clash Royale acts as an enjoyable, stress-free

medium through which we can focus our ambition to foster a sense of accomplishment within ourselves. The game mirrors our commitment to progress and climbing a perceived ladder of achievements. We are drawn toward the competition, each match being a condensed version of our larger pursuits. Counting elixir, innovating strategies, and assembling decks, we are comforted by an illusory sense of productivity. It reflects our school’s culture, one that more forgivingly tolerates shortcomings and instills validation. In a way, it serves as a forgiving alternative to our taxing routines, offering room for improvement while embodying the Andover spirit.

Additionally, Clash Royale is a source of stimulation. Players are supplied with immediate, tangible results to their efforts after each match in the form of trophies. They have an infinite number of opportunities to experiment with strategies, given the low-stakes nature of the game, allowing students to guarantee themselves quantifiable affirmation of their dedication. Andover students may often feel that they lack sources of external approval to ground their sense of self-worth. In the absence of consistent, frequent, and detailed feedback, we are left vulnerable to self-deprecation and self-doubt in our abilities as students. Each arena is not



simply an escape from this reality, but an alternative avenue for self-recognition that is both instantaneous and entails minimal risk.

Perhaps the most obvious reason that Clash Royale once again reigns over the teenage demographic is that it functions as a common ground amongst us. It is a rare occurrence to see the vast majority of our generation unified through a single point of convergence: our shared interest in Clash Royale. As a Junior, one of my main strategies to connect with my peers was to utilize the popularity of the game as a point of conversation. Even in Korea, this strategy proved valid as I bonded with new friends over our shared pursuit of trophies. Andover’s transnational community contributes to the app’s success as a platform for

socialization that transcends cultural differences.

More than a leisurely medium through which teenagers can burn time, Clash Royale has evolved into a cultural sensation among high school students throughout the world. To Andover students, the app fulfills their innate desires for validation while detaching them from strenuous realities. So why do we clash? We clash because sharing battles in the arena brings us closer together. We clash because the game of life has rules too vague and victories too slow. We clash because we need proof that pure effort is still enough.

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CORRECTIONS:
The pumpkin carving activity was run by the Chaplaincy.
Ava Cai is in the Class of 2027.
Taylor Shu is in the Class of 2028.

The Phillipian regrets these errors.

Reflecting on Indigenous Peoples’ Day at Andover



All across America, students have a day off in observance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Yet, in one of the most prestigious boarding schools in America, Indigenous Peoples’ Day is treated as secondary to the stress of midterms. Andover has always highlighted its commitment to allowing diverse perspectives to come together to cultivate great minds. However, contrary to their statements, on Monday, October 13, 2025, students were expected to attend classes as usual, instead of honoring the history and significance of Indigenous peoples and the significance of the date.

As a private institution, it is by the administration’s choice that students aren’t informed about the history of the Indigenous Peoples of America outside of class. Yet, many misconceptions about Columbus are still widely accepted, and some even still taught in schools. In order to teach students how to better understand the past, we must offer genuine insights into Indigenous groups as we move

into the future instead of just a lesson plan varying from class to class. By choosing not to observe Indigenous Peoples’ Day, the school unintentionally suggests certain topics are not as important as others.

As a school that boasts about its intentional diversity, Andover is tasked with the responsibility of representing the history of diverse groups. Not only is Indigenous Peoples’ Day intertwined with the very foundation of America, but the ground on which Andover is built originally belonged to the Indigenous Peoples of Massachusetts. Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebrates the culture and reflects on the history of the various tribes across the Americas, honoring the groups that have faced oppression and near erasure from records. These messages should be enough reason for the Academy to officially acknowledge the holiday. Yet, on October 13, there was no official acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples’ Day outside of some history classes, ultimately downplaying the history of the many groups that built.

When asked about why we do not have any programming for Indigenous Peoples’ Day outside of class, Dr. Ryan Wheeler, Director and Chair of Archaeology and faculty advisor for Native Americans at Phillips Academy, and Dr. Natalya Baldyga, an instructor in the Department of History and Social Sciences, asserted that if it were up to them, they would have a “day-on”. They also acknowledged that they weren’t completely aware of why the administration does



not choose to implement new initiatives despite past student proposals for a more extensive land acknowledgment or a “day-on” that collaborates with the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology.

While the history of Indigenous Peoples’ Day is taught briefly in many classes, a “day-on” would be much more impactful than the All-School Meeting and land acknowledgment that we got this year. Although these topics are taught in many classes, a school-wide initiative would further emphasize the significance of the date. A “day-on” could help students understand the full weight of “paper genocide” — the process of erasing a culture or history from records—on Indigenous history, and the importance of honoring the Indigenous Peoples outside of the classroom. A day-long plan to educate students on the untold stories of many Indigenous peoples

could highlight the experiences of Indigenous peoples. This plan does not have to follow the same structure as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Instead, by collaborating with Indigenous communities, we can develop a more personalized approach to develop more empathetic perspectives among students.

The way Indigenous groups are represented can be drawn from the lived experiences and ideas of Indigenous peoples themselves. Joanne Nani Lewis, a descendant of the Taino Peoples of America, explains it perfectly on the Native Hope blog, stating that Indigenous Peoples’ Day is “about deciding as a nation whom we choose to honor... To honor a people empowers them. To honor restores identity. To honor means to tell the story of authentic America.”

It is time for the school to reflect on how it picks who to honor. If intentional diver-

sity is truly important to the school, then it shouldn’t pick and choose what heritages to honor. Students should not have to fight repeatedly just to bring their history into our community’s discussion. If we bring these discussions to the attention of the entire community, we can ensure that the stories of Indigenous People do not disappear, just as they did in the past.

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Feedback First Is a Lifesaver, Not an Obstacle



The last thing I expected from Andover was to be evaluated based on my growth, not homework marks or exam scores. Only a month ago, I sat in my very first math class here, a heavy boulder of anxiety settling on my shoulders. The impending perturbation of getting good scores in this class hung in the back of my mind; I had always been a stickler for grades, and I knew Andover’s classes were much tougher than the average school. Consequently, I was bewildered when my teacher announced that he would be using “Feedback First”, an approach defined by the Tang Institute as placing more emphasis on the learning process than grades. While I had initially struggled to come to terms with this method, I now believe that this system is beneficial for students, as it not only ensures abilities are authentically showcased but also gives plenty of opportunities to exhibit growth.

When I first heard of Feedback First, I was frightened by the unfamiliarity. If there were no concrete grades, how would I know how I was faring in class? Isn’t getting problems right showing understanding enough? At the time, I had assumed concrete, straightforward percentages would be the easier route. My reservations against Feedback First grading grew when I received my first exam, which

had gone incredibly well. I couldn’t help but imagine the juicy one hundred that would have been written at the top of my exam if this had been graded numerically. Soon enough, though, my view on the system was about to get much more complimentary after my second summative assessment. To be frank, I bombed it. Normally, the horrid results of the test would have nestled in my gradebook, dropping my total average for the class. However, with the way the system works, no real grade would be assigned until the end of the term, giving me more time and opportunities to redeem myself. My grade was not yet set in stone; I could grow.

Still, the system is not entirely flawless. When talking with friends whose classes also incorporate Feedback

First, I discovered not everyone is as pleased as I am with the way things are. The most common frustration I’ve encountered among my peers is that old concepts are not just covered and done with. They will reappear in later summative assessments, providing a chance to show more understanding. Yes, it is a lifesaver for those who weren’t happy with their previous performances, but for the people who did well, it’s a liability. For example, imagine you receive a “demonstrates understanding” — the second-highest evaluation you can get — on the topic of compound fractions. You are pleased with that result, and the class moves on to the next unit. Things seem to be going smoothly until the next summative assessment rolls around. There, right on the

second page, is a compound fraction problem - a topic not even in the current unit! You sit there, its familiarity mocking you while you fail to remember how to solve it. And just like that, when the results come back, your understanding of it went from “demonstrating” to “approaching” or even worse: “emerging”, a sugarcoated way of saying you have most certainly done the opposite of growing. While it may seem unfair, and I very much sympathize with their laments, I do not resent the idea that while you can improve, you can also deteriorate. Feedback First is all about fairly gauging students’ ability to grow and learn. Retaining information is a crucial sign that shows your full understanding and comprehension of something, and that is exactly the goal Tang

fellows wanted to achieve by creating this system.

While you can improve, you can also deteriorate.

Feedback First is all about fairly gauging students’ ability to grow and learn.

I am resolute with my enthusiasm toward Feedback First. While I agree it is a system that is imperfect, I find its impact authentic to its original goal of ensuring students are evaluated accurately. Feedback First also has additional positive effects, such as reducing my stress levels. There are always rampant thoughts in my head on grades - what did I get on the music test? Or the biology lab report? I am just one of many students who fall prey to the belief that grades are supreme, and a C in one test will lead to my demise. However, I haven’t found myself at odds with any of these thoughts after Feedback First started. Even as anxiety creeps up behind me before a math assessment, I have faith that it’s not the end of the world if I don’t get ideal results. It has awakened a more positive way of thinking in me, and I hope in others. The Feedback First system, although it has its bumpy moments, is a great way to help students feel like school is not all just about stressing over results and numbers, but actually about understanding what is taught.

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Don’t Wait for Ships



All around me, there were people who embodied the ideal student archetype — multi-talented but also distinguished in a specific area of interest. As someone who does not have such a clear-cut path, I felt lost. Everyone else around seemed to be confidently crossing the seas towards some clear goal while I blankly marveled at the vastness of the waves and waited for a vehicle of my own to appear. However, after completing my Junior year, I’ve realized that waiting for a ship on the horizon is not nearly a good enough plan, and that I have to actively pursue my interests in order to find assurance in my path.

Going into high school, I knew I wanted to improve myself, especially by finding a passion that I could, in some way, stand on for the rest of my life. This notion was a large part of why I came to Andover; I was optimistically drawn to the shiny blue brochures advertising an expansive, nuanced, yet navigable course of study and countless, passionately run student organizations. I believed the school would present countless bright and varied paths that would invite me forward onto great journeys of self-discovery and improvement. I envisioned that a destined opportunity would catch my eye and give me perennial confidence and dedication. However, life is rarely so simple, and the opportunities I found were not so clearly defined or easy to seize.

For the first months, I waited, afraid to commit to any given niche without the assurance that it would forever appeal to me. Obscure visions of various potential futures filled me with a fear that by investing in one area, I would



DASHA GOMEZ / THE PHILLIPIAN

be forced to estrange myself from others. My aunts and uncles all worked happily as doctors or lawyers, and while I could see a career in either field, neither fully seized my focus. Further, by investing in something like STEM, I would have less time to learn about history or literature. So, unwilling to swim, I dreamed of a moment of catharsis where everything would fall into place, resolving all my doubts and leaving only the question, “Why didn’t I find this sooner?”

But those moments of catharsis never appeared. I looked into a vast spread of clubs ranging from Linguistics to PAPERS to Quizbowl to *The Phillipian*, most of which were enjoyable, but never monopolized my interest. I would attend the first few meetings, listen to their presentations, and meet many new groups of motivated peers. But I would find myself at night asking, “Could I really be happy pouring my everything into this?” A week spent preparing for a debate tournament would build my confi-

dence and investment, just to give a dishearteningly mediocre performance that left me wondering what I was doing and whether I should pivot extracurriculars; the initial cold of the surf dissuaded me from wading deeper.

During this period, I also

The fear that I would want to back out halfway bound me from ever fully investing myself.

pondered deeper doubts: why am I even trying to get off this beach? Am I missing something more profound by focusing my efforts on making myself seem passionate and accomplished? Is there more to being a student? To being in high school?

But I have now become cognizant of the fact that while I framed myself as waiting and questioning, I was also para-

lyzed. I had convinced myself that investing in something I would regret and having to reinvent myself was so terrible that it would be better to wait for assurance. What I failed to acknowledge is that it is an equally terrible, if not worse, fate to never invent myself in the first place.

No greater signs have shown themselves to me, but time has passed, the tides have risen, and I have reached two conclusions. Firstly, at this rate, I will drown if, when high school is over, I remain sitting, unmoved, on that same spot on the sand. Secondly, I will never know if I enjoy swimming across the sea if I never make it past the initial chill of its waters. In other words, some direction is better than no direction, and to know if you could devote yourself to something, you must make it past the surface level. Even something as daily as writing, I try to do so with the desire to push myself. To be cognizant of the piece I am sculpting, the nuance of the semantics I use, and who my words make me, no matter

where they are written.

I have come to realize that there are a myriad of actions better than waiting. Even if I lack confidence or skill or assurance, I should throw myself fully into the things I do. Those signs I longed for — signs that confirm that I am going the right way, that this could be my passion — are probably lying plainly beneath the sea’s surface, and I only need to swim a bit farther to find them.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Love Letter to My Asian and Asian American Students, Continued

Dear Editor,

In the latest issue of *The Phillipian* (October 17, 2025), Matthew Wei, in his article “Burning Melting Pot,” quoted from my essay “Minor Feelings at Andover: A Love Letter to My Asian and Asian American Students” (2025 Commencement Issue) to argue that affirmative action harms Asian Americans. I am concerned that some students may not realize that quoting an author out of context, or in a way that contradicts the author’s intent, constitutes a form of academic dishonesty known as misrepresentation.

There are many points in

Wei’s article that I disagree with, but most importantly, our differences lie in our value systems. My piece was written from a place of love and community care; his article, in contrast, echoes fear-based arguments often used by opponents of affirmative action.

As someone who studied the history of affirmative action for my doctoral work and who has spoken nationally on this topic, I have always emphasized the importance of dismantling the model minority myth and building solidarity across communities of color. Conversations about affirmative action are only

meaningful when all participants are informed about the broader histories of American racism and education. Citing a few landmark cases or policies is not sufficient.

Wei’s article also perpetuates a common misconception — that Black and Latinx students benefit most from affirmative action. In fact, data consistently show that white women as a group have benefited the most. Moreover, legacy admissions — a longstanding practice at many elite universities — disproportionately advantage white applicants.

The issue has never been affirmative action. The issue

is racism. Race remains central to every form of systemic inequity in American society, and all of us — Asian, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, multiracial, and white — are harmed by it. The myth of American meritocracy further distorts our understanding by implying that success depends solely on individual effort, divorced from structural realities.

This connects back to my message in “A Love Letter to My Asian and Asian American Students”: the myth of meritocracy conflates work ethic and talent with human worth. One’s value is not determined by test scores, musical instru-

ments played, or college admissions results. Our worth lies in our humanity — in the ongoing journey to become who we truly want to be, not who others expect us to be.

So, my dear Asian and Asian American students — who do you want to become?

Signed,
Dr. Lilia Cai

Students Hope Speedcubing Becomes Another Facet of the Andover/Exeter Rivalry

Continued from A1, Column 3

speedcubing...Overall, [it was] really successful. We did have a lot of fun. A lot of schools participated,” said Kong.

Another co-head of the club, Oliver Zhang ’28, mentioned the preparation process for the tournament. He noted how the team played on each other’s strengths and focused on events where teamwork mattered the most.

“We knew that our skill levels weren’t good enough to get us into the podium just by pure speed solving and all, and because the events were not only individual events, it was mostly team-based, so we spent a lot of time preparing for team solve, where it’s two people holding the same 3x3, and then one person only uses their right hand, one person only uses their left hand,” said Zhang.

He added, “We spent a lot of time practicing for that, and also 2x2 team blind, which is

where the solver is blindfolded, and the teammate instructs them what to do. So we came up with our own names for different algorithm sets, and that really helped us in the competition.”

Zihan Zhao ’28, another competitor, shared his hopes for growing the tournament. He explained how the TPS aims to make the competition a consistent part of Andover-Exeter (AE) Day and include more widely recognized events.

“This would be a recurring event annually, and maybe on AE Day in the spring, [we can] make [it] an official AE event. I would like it to have some more standard WCA events in there instead of these odd events like Team Solver. For example, Oliver and Robert did 2x2 Team Blind, where Robert was blindfolded and Oliver had to describe [the cube] to him, but I feel like we should do more conventional events,” said Zhao.

Continued from A1, Column 5

at it for two minutes, [companies] have a little bit of data on me, but they don’t have very much. If I go to TikTok and I’m there for 45 minutes, imagine what they have. In order to make the money they make by selling their data, they need a lot of your data. In order to keep our attention, they literally bring in cognitive neuroscientists, behavior scientists, psychiatrists, psychologists. These people help them put brain science into these platforms to make them as appealing as possible,” said Walsh.

Walsh was selected as an ASM speaker by the EBI Course Head Taylor Ware. Ware elaborated on her choice and her insights concerning Walsh’s talk, highlighting its applicability to the current technological climate on campus.

“Dr. Walsh came highly recommended to me from colleagues and a couple other schools who had seen her

speaking elsewhere. Given the fact that we rolled out the new cell phone policy this year, her expertise in social media, and the impact that it has on adolescent development, I thought that her specialty could be really important context for our students,” said Ware.

Ware continued, “I love her perspective that she’s not blaming anyone for their addictions to their phones or their addictions to different social media apps and gaming. Particularly, she talks a lot about our developing brains at [students’] ages and how these apps are impacting students’ abilities to focus and provide consistent attention to whatever’s in front of them.”

Beyond her explanation of how social media can manipulate its users to overuse social media, Walsh also emphasized the positive and connecting aspects of the platforms. Tina Phan ’26 discussed how Walsh both gave advice on media consumption and underscored its capacity to foster community.

“I remember her saying at the beginning of the talk, about the power of social media. She

said [she] believes in its ability to connect people. I believe that digital spaces can be just as empowering as face to face connection, but I also believe that if you’re going to be using these platforms, you should know how they operate and what the people behind them are thinking when they make the algorithms,” said Phan.

Towards the end of the talk, Walsh highlighted small steps students can take to moderate social media consumption while still taking advantage of social media’s benefits. Ethan Brown ’27 explained his appreciation for what he viewed as Walsh’s balanced perspective.

“I agree with when she said sometimes we need to be in silence to reflect on our thoughts. That was a very valid point and something that’s lacking in today’s generation. I also agree with how she said there can be many ways that [social media] connects us. That’s something that I think a lot of people who are trying to go against social media don’t recognize. The fact that she did recognize it is very well done by her,” said Brown.

Peabody Renovations Look to Increase Convenience and Overall Usage

Continued from A1, Column 5

panded on the specific conversations she had with members of the club last year. She mentioned that the Peabody would be relocating to a swing space in the Dean of Students Office in George Washington Hall, which will provide AAS with a meeting space.

“We have a really easy solution because now we know we’ll be in the Dean of Students space... We brainstormed ideas and prepared

thoughts on what directions the club members might want to take in their collections-based research. You need to keep building and allow the possibility for new members to come in who weren’t there last year. We brainstormed on what we might do, what directions the club might choose to take, and how the Peabody could also support,” said Schultz.

Taylor also noted that the increased conveniences and facilities created by the renovations will bring many more opportunities for members of the Andover community to

engage with the museum.

“The easier we can make it to use the spaces, the more users we will have, and the more consistent we can be. It’ll make it easier for you to come and use this space. It’ll make it easier for faculty to know how to come in and use the space, [since] ease and familiarity make things more welcoming... Adding those possibilities and flexibility hopefully will expand the ways that people are thinking about using this space and [make them] want to use this space,” said Taylor.

LITW Enhances the Andover Experience

Continued from A1, Column 2

the world through first-hand immersive experiences because no two trips will be the same,” said Havemeyer.

Cutler reiterated his goals for LITW, including providing students with opportunities to enhance their Andover education by exploring the world around them. He expressed his hopes to broaden the program’s reach in the future.

“We always hope that these experiences provide them

an opportunity to see themselves as a part of this global community and the global ecosystem... We are really excited about these different opportunities to be exploring such diverse cultures and geographical locations. I am still very excited about this idea that we are on five continents, and I’d like to get to six and seven... Oceania is a real possibility someday, and maybe someday soon, I don’t know if Antarctica ever will be, but we can always dream,” said Cutler.

Students Retreat and Replenish during Family Weekend

SARAH SUN & NICCOLO LEE-SUK

The Andover campus buzzed with visiting families during this year’s Family Weekend, which spanned five days instead of the usual three or four due to the PSAT exam on Wednesday, October 22. Parents attended classes, met teachers, and watched student performances such as Grasshopper, while students used the extended break to rest and reset.

Many students chose to remain on campus, taking advantage of the quiet atmosphere and time to unwind. Daniel Matloff ’28, who stayed at Andover this year after spending last Family Weekend in Maine, expressed appreciation for the slower pace.

“It was a lot quieter than I expected it to be. Last Family Weekend, even though it was shorter, felt longer because I was off campus and wasn’t seeing the same things that I saw every day for the past three months, but this one definitely

felt like it went by faster... My motivation is through the roof right now. I had five long days just to hang out with friends, do nothing, chill, not worry about homework or anything, and I now feel better rested, rejuvenated, and more prepared for what lies ahead,” said Matloff.

For others, the longer break brought unexpected scheduling challenges. Quentin Cynn ’28 returned home to New York but faced confusion over sports commitments due to the extended calendar. Still, he enjoyed the mental break that came with the midweek pause.

“I was told to be back by Tuesday because I had a [soccer] game on Wednesday, and there was a lot of confusion about whether or not we had practice on Tuesday. I don’t think [the additional day] really made a difference to me, but having Wednesday off was still really nice. Going into the week knowing there were only two days of classes was also really nice. This weekend felt like a break, two days, and then [another] break, so that was really nice mentally,” said Cynn.

While many used the weekend to relax, some upperclass-



COURTESY OF EMERSON DAVIS '29

Taking weekend trips or going home, students utilize their family weekends in a multitude of ways.

men spent it catching up on responsibilities. David Porto ’26 used the extended break to work on college applications and assignments, finding comfort in the uninterrupted time to focus.

“I basically worked for most of [Family Weekend]. My parents didn’t come, so that’s

mostly what I had to do. The first few days I just took to doing all my college apps and getting that work out of the way. It’s pretty nice having all that time and knowing that I still had some time to work on my school work. Knowing that I only had basically a Monday’s workload of work ahead of me was pretty reassuring... I’m happy that I managed to get all my work done during that weekend,” said Porto.

Dolly Nguyen ’27 shared how took the opportunity she explored beyond campus. She described how the long weekend coincided with her first visit to Boston during the school year with friends.

“I went frolicking around Boston. We walked on Newbury Street, trying to find a coffee shop to sit down and talk, and cat shops, because I haven’t seen most of [my friends] ever since summer started, so it was really fun to talk to them again... This is the first time I went to Boston during the school year, and it was fun taking the train for the first time,” said Nguyen.

Despite having to take the PSAT midweek, Nguyen noted that the break was still energizing. She reflected on how

the break offered students a much-needed pause before entering the end of the term.

“Every Family Weekend is the same for me because it was a four-day weekend with nothing to do. The PSAT felt like a school day, so it didn’t make much of a difference. But in terms of whether or not I feel well-rested, yes, I would say so. This holiday was a really well-deserved holiday for all of us because we did so much for half the term. Now we have the final stretch, the home stretch of the Fall Term,” said Nguyen.



COURTESY OF DOLLY NGUYEN '27

Some students, like Dolly Nguyen ’27, spent the extra time with friends exploring Boston.

10 Questions with Tedd Parker

REPORTING BY NICCOLO LEE-SUK & IAN S. KIM

Tedd Parker is an Instructor in History and Social Sciences, Assistant Coach in Boys Varsity Hockey, and former Abbot Cluster Dean. Among other courses, Parker teaches a variety of economics electives such as Environmental Economics and the History of Financial Crises. Parker has previously collaborated with the Harvard Business School and taught at the Community School of Naples in Florida. In his free time, Parker enjoys running, biking, playing golf, and spending time with family.

Do you have a favorite elective that you teach?

The class that I’ve most recently created was “The History of Financial Crises,” and that class allows a lot of intersection of both history, economics, finance, politics, so there’s a little bit of psychology in terms of trying to understand investor behavior. It also provides a lot of creativity in terms of different types of writing assignments I can use.

If you could invite any historical or economic figure to speak at your class, who would it be and what would you ask them?

The stock answer is someone like Adam Smith. And the question I would ask him is, “Did you get it right?” He wrote “The Wealth of Nations,” which is oftentimes considered to be the father of classical economic thought. And there’s been criticism, right? As the basis of capitalism, Adam Smith is the founder. He changed people’s thinking from mercantilism to the birth of capitalism. If he came back to the world right now, I’d be curious to ask him what his interpretation or his thoughts on the current state of the world are. If, in fact, we [are] living by many of the principles he wrote [about] in 1776, when “The Wealth of Nations” was written.

What’s a favorite project of yours you’ve created for students in your classes?

One of the final projects in [“The History of Financial Crises”] is the students have to come up with a scenario to predict the next financial crisis. They have to determine what the events are that lead up to it, its potential consequences, and then what they might do if they were in the position of a policy decision maker to curb the effects of the financial crisis.

If you could become a world-class athlete at one sport, what would it be?

I’d love to be a world-class cyclist. I’ve been riding bikes for a long time, maybe 30 years or so. I’m so impressed by some of the elite cyclists in the world and what they’re able to do with their bodies, especially over long distances.



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

You did some collaborations with Harvard Business School. Has that influenced the way you approach your teaching?

My most recent collaboration was with the Opportunity Insights Group and the professor there. His name is Raj Chetty, and he was really interested in trying to think about how the subject of economics is taught, in particular, using big data to try and solve social problems. It’s [about] taking the problem first and then trying to figure out if there’s any sort of data that can be used, and then applying and using economic principles to actually solve the problem. What we worked with him on was addressing the consequences for and potential remedies for [restricted] social mobility and economic mobility. Our relationship [and] working with him helped me realize that what’s interesting about economics

is the problems that it can be used to solve, not necessarily the theories that underlie economics. It’s more in the application, in using it to try and solve some of the larger social problems that we’re facing.

Why did you decide to teach history and economics at Andover?

The opportunity to work with motivated, interested students was probably the most appealing lure to Andover. There was an opening [for a job], and they were looking for an economics and history teacher, which doesn’t come up very often. I studied economics and history in college, and I have a passion for both subjects, so it was a perfect fit.

You are an Assistant Coach for Boys Varsity Hockey. What do you enjoy about coaching?

There’s a lot of parallels

between teaching in the classroom and coaching. I see athletics as an extension of the classroom in a lot of different ways. The thing that I really enjoy about it is the players that I get to interact with, and the competitive, fast-paced nature of ice hockey. I played growing up, and it’s nice to be around the game as a coach, and to still be involved in competitive athletics and to do it in the construct of the Andover community — trying to strike the right balance between academics and athletics and keeping things in their proper perspective.

Is there a lesson from playing or coaching hockey that you’ve applied to your teaching?

Not everything’s in your control. When things don’t go your way, you need to be able to react and stay within yourself and focus on the things that you can control and do them well. You need to

really just focus and prepare yourself for the task that you’re being asked to do, whether it’s in the classroom or on the ice rink, and perform those things as best you possibly can, knowing that things won’t always work out exactly the way you want them to.

Is there any particular moment in a class that changed the way you thought about teaching?

I have moments often where a particular discussion might be going very well, and you see kids thinking about ideas in a different way. That level of engagement is what keeps me so interested and motivated to keep teaching. To see students have that level of interest and questioning. [To see them] starting to make connections either between their own lives and what we’re studying, or making connections between what we’re studying in one class with some of the things they’re learning in other classes; That’s what’s so rewarding.

If you could design a new course for Andover’s curriculum, what do you think it would be about?

I have been thinking about the significance of the role the Supreme Court has been playing. I’ve thought it would be interesting to go back and study some of the previous Supreme Court cases and understand the changing role that the Supreme Court has had in the decisions that it’s made. There’s a [“New Yorker”] article just recently written by [journalist, historian, and professor] Jill Lepore that talks about how the amendment process to the Constitution is broken. As a result, the Supreme Court plays a more significant role, so that’s how we’re amending, [without actually] amending, the Constitution through Supreme Court decisions. Understanding the evolution and getting up to more contemporary decisions would be an interesting class.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY JOHN KIM
& AISHWARYA ANANTHAKRISHNAN

Politics: The Pentagon Accepted \$130M Donation from Anonymous Trump ‘Friend’ to Pay Military Amidst Government Shutdown

Last Friday, the US Department of Defense confirmed that a donation of 130 million dollars would be utilized to pay military service members during the government shutdown. According to CNN, the Pentagon stated it was accepted under “general gift acceptance authority.” President Donald Trump’s description of the donor was a friend and supporter who did not seek public recognition. The donor is believed to be billionaire Timothy Mellon, according to the New York Times. However, the \$130 million donation would hardly compensate for the \$6.5 billion the government spends on basic pay and alliance for troops per cycle, says NBC News. Other critics have expressed disapproval over the Pentagon’s use of private donations. In BBC’s interview with Delaware Senator Chris Coons revealed his concerns: “Using anonymous donations...raises troubling questions of whether our own troops are at risk of literally being bought and paid for by foreign powers.”

Health: One in Six Bacterial Infections are now Resistant to Treatment

In 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that between 2018 and 2023, resistance to antibiotics had increased in over 40 percent of monitored bacteria-antibiotic pairs. Now, the number of pairs is growing from 5 percent to 15 percent annually. According to The Guardian, experts are predicting a 70 percent increase in antibiotic-resistance-related deaths by 2050. On October 13, WHO released the Global antibiotic resistance surveillance report 2025 tracking 22 key antibiotics mitigating infections across the urinary tract, gastrointestinal tract, and bloodstream. The report tracked eight common bacteria: Acinetobacter spp., Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, non-typhoidal Salmonella spp., Shigella spp., Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus pneumoniae. Globally, over 40 percent of E. coli and 55 percent of K pneumoniae are now resistant to the third generation cephalosporins, the standard treatment, with resistance in Africa exceeding 70 percent. To attenuate this, WHO is calling for stronger global action, urging countries to strengthen labor capacity, report quality antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data, and coordinate interventions across human and environmental health in order

to protect global health.

Crime: Louvre Museum Heist in Broad Daylight Results in Loss of Priceless Jewels

On October 19, four thieves executed a daylight robbery in the Louvre Museum located in Paris, stealing eight priceless jewels from the Galerie d’Apollon as reported by CNN. Dressed as construction workers, the robbers utilized a vehicle-mounted mechanical lift to gain access to the gallery and cut through the display glasses using power tools, fleeing the museum in a matter of four minutes. All of the stolen jewels belonged to 19th century French royalty or imperial rulers. Among the stolen jewelry, Empress Eugénie’s diamond-encrusted crown was left behind and found outside of the museum’s ground, damaged, according to the BBC. The robbers fled with about 102 million dollars worth of historic jewelry.

Technology: Amazon Web Services Bug Precipitates Mass Internet Outages

On October 20, a technical bug occurred when two automated systems of Amazon’s Web Services (AWS) attempted an update simultaneously. According to WIRED, the error was a defect in the system’s domain name system (DNS), which allows the internet to connect certain information

under a certain name. The bug caused an outage for the cloud service, disrupting food delivery, communication, internet banking, devices, and security services across the internet. According to CNN, large firms such as Netflix, Starbucks, and United Airlines were impacted, causing customers to be unable to access their online services. The outage lasted for about 15 hours, highlighting concerns about over-dependence on large web services.

Climate: Hurricane Melissa Leaves Trail of Destruction in Jamaica

According to AccuWeather, Hurricane Melissa, the most devastating Atlantic Hurricane of 2025, made landfall in New Hope, Jamaica on Tuesday, October 28. The Category 5 Hurricane is also the strongest hurricane recorded in the island’s history, as stated by NBC News. Prime Minister Andrew Holness declared the country a disaster region, with St. Elizabeth Parish documented to be “underwater.” The storm has caused major damage to public infrastructure, leaving the majority of the island without power. According to CNN, Melissa ravaged through Cuba as a Category 2 hurricane before receding to a Category 1 as it passed through the Bahamas. The death toll has reached at least 30 people.

Culture: Korea W Breast Cancer Awareness Event Receives Social Media Backlash

On October 15, Korea W, a prominent fashion magazine and management, hosted its “Love Your W” charity event intended to raise money for victims of breast cancer. However, the event sparked controversy after it appeared to prioritize influencers and the appearance of K-pop idols rather than its philanthropic mission. According to Korea JoongAng Daily, the company’s intention for hosting the event came under scrutiny after the magazine allegedly invited celebrities to the event free of charge. Instead, they leveraged their fame to secure sponsorships from a fashion and jewelry brand to donate a modest combined 80 million won, roughly \$55,000 USD. Performers, including rapper Jay Park, were criticised for lyrics referencing “twins hanging on your chest,” deemed insensitive given the cause, says Korea Herald. The organizers later apologized, admitting “they failed to consider the perspective of the breast cancer patients and families.”

Students Share Thoughts on Late Fall on Campus

REPORTING BY RIANNA BAJAJ & KONNOR FORTINI

As Andover shifts from fall to winter, students across campus weigh the thrill of color against the cold ahead. Campus routines shift with changes in mood, study habits, and time outdoors. For many, it’s a time to slow down, reflect, and appreciate the last of the warm weather before winter arrives.

Julie Chan ’27

“Autumn is my favorite season because the leaves are changing. During the winter they’re all bare, so it’s pretty nice just looking out the window every morning and seeing the trees and leaves changing from yellow to red... I’ve been appreciating nature more than I usually do. I’m not that creative as a person but I try to take more photos.”

Dewi Manoppo ’29

“We should have more cozy fall [activities]. You look at The Weekend-er and it’s like a Halloween event downtown or things like that. That’s cool to a specific point, but fall doesn’t just represent Halloween. We should do more fall and cozy stuff. Carving pumpkins was good, but we need to do more.”

Takunda Basvi ’28

“Fall is fast-paced. The way that the leaves change, the weather, and how it starts to rain. You never know what’s going to happen or what’s going on. I just prioritize the people around me [to deal with the colder, darker days]. I hang out a lot with my friends, and I’ve started to prioritize nights in relaxing, watching Netflix, ordering in, and just being comfortable within my own room instead of just being out all the time.”

Mayen Etuk ’26

“There’s a newness to fall. You see it because the leaves are falling, and that by itself feels like a renewal for the trees. For the students, fall offers the possibility of a new year and starting fresh, and has an energy about it throughout the entire term... It’s sad that this is the last time that I’m going to see Andover in its best state [because I’m a Senior].”

Frank Hu ’26

“I’ve lived in New England all my life, and I’ve always been able to appreciate the beauty of the trees, especially right now, as a lot of trees start turning red, but the leaves have not yet fallen. It really feels as if the world is coming alive, and the red, with the yellows, with the greens. They all come together to create this beautiful hue... Obviously, it’s not easy dealing with the shorter days. [Still,] the fall makes me tempted to write some poems after college applications are done.”

Daniyal Fatehali ’29

“The fall has really motivated me to make more [art]... For me, my go-to place on this campus is the Elson Art [Center]. From eighth grade, I discovered that art was one way for me to distance myself, especially making concept art for things I might actually never do in the future... At the Elson art store, I buy a lot of supplies. I spent \$50 getting this whole new pencil case set up with pens, fountain pens, and a bunch of mechanical pencils I use to make art nowadays.



E. OKEKE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Along with many other dorms and building around campus, Fuess house is glittered with orange and red leaves.

Low Taper Phade

On an ART225 class visit to the Addison Gallery, Sixtun Septimus '29 was amazed at the artifacts. To be fair, the ones on display that day were extravagant: Dr. Kington's crown, a jar containing Samuel Phillips' children, and an invaluable portrait of the first head given by a Blue Key. Sixtun admired these works of art so much so that he decided they were meant to be his, in his dorm, edging at his desk. "This," he whispered reverently, "must be my material."

That night, he hatched a plan to break in and steal the art. Accompanied by a circle of jerks like him, they entered by night, quickly and quietly, with the intention to pull out as promptly as possible. The gang used a rope, gripped it tightly, and stroked it down as they descended the roof. Once inside, Sixtun says to the group, "Gentlemen...tonight we make history. Though it may be hard, unnatural, and cardiovascularly intensive, we must press on, no safe word needed."

Along with the main three artifacts, they also stole many of the valuable ones as well; the value was so high, in fact, that Sixtun had to use a calc to find out the total cost (for those of you who are new to the Eighth Page, "calc" is slang for calculator.) They escaped through Elson and through George Washington Hall, but on their way out, they spilled the jar of Samuel Phillips' "little ones" on the GW floor. Knowing that it would blend in with the already existing contents seeped into the GW carpet, they carried on, as it would be impossible to tell the difference.

The next day, after the items were found stolen, Campus Safety investigated to locate them. When interviewed, they stated, "The thieves have an impeccable pull-out game. They came fast, yet left no trace inside. This was definitely a job that was blown at a higher level by professionals." They continued, "Do not worry, campus. We will find these penetrating perpetrators at once! Be on the lookout for the lost items. We have to be all in to find them."

Sixtun's favorite artwork out of the ones he stole was the stunning portrait. However, after looking at it for a while, he finished and entered a state of post-rob clarity. He realized that his actions were wrong, and everyone should enjoy the art he stole, not just him. With this in mind, he put the works in his sack and returned them to Campus Safety. Rather than getting in trouble, they just took the items and sent Sixtun on his way.

The following day was another art trip to the Addison; however, Sixtun realized the art pieces were still not put back, nor was there any mention of them being retrieved. Sources who spoke on condition of anonymity, because their BlueCards still work, confirmed that Campus Safety had quietly relocated the recovered artifacts to a secure, climate-controlled locker in the basement of their building. Late-night patrols report faint sounds emanating from the evidence room, along with the rhythmic squeak of a duty chair and the unmistakable sound of a crown being used in ways Sixtun never intended.

Weeks Top Headlines

- *Pentagon Ordered 23,500 Troops in the States to Train Riot-Control Units because No Kings Day Protests Weren't "Dramatic Enough."*
- *City Council Proposes "Halloween Curbside Borrowing" Program" — Theft Encouraged Between 7–9 p.m*
- *Candy Futures Crash After Bulkers Realize They Overpaid for Gummy Brains*
- *"Heavenly Goo" Makes its Mysterious Return to Commons: Is it Real or is it Cake?*
- *New Spotify ASMR album trending on campus.*
- *Student in Library Caught Reading Feminist Literature for Over 2 Hours. He's Still on Page 9.*

Halloween Costumes

- Thing 6 and Thing 7
- Manti Te'o and his "Girlfriend"
- Harvey Milk and a Twinkie
- Commons Brownies and Desperate White Boys
- Terry Rozier and Boston Sports Fan
- Charlie Kirk and MLK
- PA Comedy Club and Strong Right Hands
- Jong and a Stain
- Whet II Ham and Something on Your Shirt
- Jeffrey Epstein and the Pentagon
- Billy and three Dereks
- House Counselors and the Fire Escape

Family Weekend Haircut



NATHAN WU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Overheard On The Paths

- "Hey, did you see those hairy pumpkins by the pool?"
- "Those weren't pumpkins."
- "Yo, scan the QR code on that pumpkin."
- "Why is it asking if I'm 18 years old or older?"
- "My blood type must be wrong they told me that I'm typo."
- "If I ever fight in a war I'm wearing airpods."
- "Speed, my neck's kind of homeless."
- "Call me Steph Curry the way I be banging threes unprotected at the key at a 40% completion rate."
- "Mama Coco from Coco (2017) is so fine!"
- "Turns out that was not the password for the GSA password party."
- "I won't let you go any farther you goddamn clanker."
- "I thought the Eighth Page was kid friendly!"

Last Wednesday, in the NYC mayoral debate, a clash broke out between Andrew Cuomo and Zohran Mamdani. Also, Curtis Sliwa made an appearance before returning to the tunnels underneath New York. The debate was contentious, to say the least. In a rant, Cuomo said to Mamdani "You have never had a job. You've never accomplished anything," clearly referring to the PA Comedy Club. Zohran immediately refuted the comparison, noting that his cringe Instagram reels have more than three likes.

Mamdani shouted back with "You said the city is being screwed by the state. Who was leading the state? It was you!" Cuomo wanted to say something, but was worried "the city" was another one of the women he sexually assaulted, and decided to just let sleeping dogs lie (Bill Cosby style). Meanwhile, Curtis Sliwa disappeared, as he was taking turtles from the Bronx Zoo and throwing them in the East River in the hopes of recreating the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

When asked to name a NYC hero, Cuomo responded with Vito Corleone. Mamdani said Iron Man. No one mentioned Juan Soto.

It is very likely that Mamdani will win the NYC mayor election this year. When that happens, about half of Andover students from New York will move to Florida.

Voting will occur on November 4, just six days away. Just know that if Mamdani wins there won't be any workshops or emails the day after.



The Phillipian SPORTS

Volume CXLVIII | Number 23

best costume today
gets a special prize...!

October 31, 2025

Girls Crew Rows to Success at the Head of the Charles Regatta

EVA JACKSON

On October 19, nine members of Girls Crew traveled to the Charles River to race at the Head of the Charles Regatta (HOCR), the world’s largest multi-day rowing competition. The event, which spans three days, draws over 11,000 youth, collegiate, adult-level, and even Paralympic and Olympic competitors, with many more fans packing the banks of the river. In order from the stroke seat to the bow, Andover’s lineup comprised Kate Birdsall ’26, who rowed in the stroke seat, Ainsley Muldoon ’26, Co-Captain Caroline Romano ’26, Carsen Leach ’27, Madeleine Lehman ’27, Antonia Elliott ’27, Co-Captain Willow Wright ’26, and Cora Rogers ’27, with Yumi Lai ’27 serving as the coxswain. Initially seeded 56, the team finished 35 among 86 competitors in its division, the Women’s Youth Eight, marking an improvement from its result last season at the regatta, in which it placed 64 out of 90 boats.

Both Boys and Girls Crew do not have competitive fall seasons, and consequently, the team was forced to do the majority of its preparation off the water, putting it at a small disadvantage to other teams. The boat, still, was able to get on the water for five rows before race day. Birdsall described the team’s preparation on and off



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Girls Crew finished 35 among 86 competitors in the Women’s Youth Eight division.

the water.

“We were just excited to push hard, go fast, and have fun with it. We knew that we were training on the erg, but we weren’t on the water as much as these other teams, so we were at a slight disadvantage. But even with that, we were just like, going into it, we’re just gonna have fun with it and we’re going to have the strength on the erg,” said Birdsall.

The race spans 4702-Meters — much longer than the 1500-Meter races the team typically competes in during the spring season — opening many opportunities for error along the course. As a result, the team shifted its training to focus on endurance rather than raw speed. Lai reflected on

the different challenges of the race and how the team made the most of its on-water time.

“We made sure to use our two-hour practice time efficiently by building a workout plan that would benefit a long and demanding three-mile course by doing mock races. I would also visualize the race and prepare for anything that could happen on the day of the [Head of the] Charles [Regatta].

As a crew, we also worked a lot on communication and trust so that we could handle any pressure during the race,” said Lai.

Spectator Will Ware ’26, who watched the regatta from the Anderson Memorial Bridge that connects Allston and Cambridge,

cheered on the Girls Crew race in the morning and saw collegiate rowers compete in the afternoon. With friends by his side and crowds lining the bridge, Ware described an atmosphere of excitement and shared support as Andover powered through the course.

“I was with a few friends, and we all were obviously cheering as loud as we could, and there was a sense of camaraderie between the viewers because I was standing behind this man who was watching his daughter row, and his daughter was a few boats in front of the Andover boat. As soon as his daughter came and was out of kind of sight he let me stand in front of them. All the

viewers were there to make sure every boat felt the support that they needed to crush their race,” said Ware.

Initially seeded 56, the team was unsure whether it would be among the top 45 teams that would automatically re-qualify for next year’s HOCR. Wright described the team’s excitement after learning that they had not only re-qualified, but also finished 29 places ahead of Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) and beat all of the competing New England Interscholastic Rowing Association (NEIRA) teams.

“We got off the water and our coaches were like, ‘You beat Exeter by a full minute.’ And we were like, ‘Oh, my God, that’s amazing.’

And then they were like, ‘You beat all the other NEIRA crews.’ And then they were like, ‘You got 35.’ I just remember I could not stop jumping up and down,” said Wright.

Wright continued, “The race was far from perfect, but just knowing that we had gone out there and gave it our all, gave it everything we had, and requalified for next year, leaving the Up-pers with a boat to race in next year and not have to go through the bidding process unsure about getting it, it was just a great feeling.”

Field Hockey Defeats NMH, BB&N, Deerfield, and Nobles in Dominant Fashion

AVIAD AWA &
LUCY VINNAKOTA

FRIDAY 10/17	
Andover	10
NMH	0
WEDNESDAY 10/22	
Andover	11
BB&N	0
SATURDAY 10/25	
Andover	3
Deerfield	1
WEDNESDAY 10/29	
Andover	4
Nobles	0

Field Hockey (14-0) extended its season-long winning streak with wins against Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), Buckingham Browne & Nichols (BB&N), Deerfield Academy, and Nobles and Greenough (Nobles). The team’s defense led shutouts against NMH, BB&N, and Nobles, only letting one goal in against Deerfield.

Meredith Southard Pantano ’27, who plays as a midfielder and forward, described the offensive and defensive prowess displayed against NMH and BB&N, which served as indicators of Andover’s own improved play.

“[In] our NMH game, we were still working on a lot of our aspects of passing, and we were really working on our defense. And then we saw it come together a lot more in our BB&N game, where we ran



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Co-Captain Lucy Parker ’26 dribbles down the field in commanding 4-0 victory against Nobles.

up the score. Our play is [of a] higher quality. It’s steadily increasing, and those games were markers,” said Southard Pantano.

Deerfield, being a strong and previously undefeated team, had been on the team’s radar since the beginning of the season. Additionally, according to Vanessa Hall ’28, Deerfield is one of the team’s best rivals. Pumped up to battle its opponent, Andover scored the first goal three minutes in, shifting the game’s momentum in its favor.

“We knew it was going to be a big game. They came out super obnoxious, and that fired everyone up to want to beat them. We [started] really strong and had the ball almost the whole first quarter and got up one to nothing. It was 3-0 by the end of the half,” said Hall.

Co-Captain Lucy Parker ’26 highlighted the team’s momentum from the start of the game to its pride after defeating its opponent.

“Finally getting [to Deerfield] after the bus ride, playing, and winning was definitely huge. As a whole, everyone was super proud of the work that we were able to put in and then get the results that we wanted,” said Parker.

Before facing Nobles, another noteworthy competitor, Pantano mentioned that the team demonstrated focus. They prepared with both excitement and discipline, a quality that set the tone for their match.

“There was definitely a lot of energy and excitement around it, but also lots of determination. There was almost like a buzz in [the air]. Everybody knew what they had to do and did what they needed to get it done,” said Pantano.

The team’s focus translated into its first two goals at the beginning of the game, and the third goal that came later in the first quarter, which Pantano determined as the turning point. She believed that this goal demonstrated the team’s season-long preparation, a culmination of their hard work.

“Because [our goal] came off such an interconnected passing sequence, it just really put into play everything we’d been working on this whole season. It was really a huge team goal,” said Pantano.

Field Hockey looks to continue its undefeated streak at home against Groton on Saturday.

Boys Cross Country Places Third at Deerfield

ATHREYA
YEGNESWARAN

Boys Cross Country placed third in its meet at Deerfield Academy (Deerfield)’s course on Saturday, competing against four other schools: Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), Deerfield, and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter). Andover scored 59 points, led by Robert Budzinski ’26, who placed seventh overall with a time of 16:27.36, and Henry Zimmerman ’27, who followed closely in eighth with 16:30.15. As a team, Andover has continued its season-long pattern of progress, with 15 of the 16 runners achieving personal records (PRs).

Budzinski emphasized the team’s effort and motivation heading into the final meets. He noted that he is looking forward to the rest of the season, especially the energy the last meets will bring.

“Everyone’s been working so hard since the start of the season. It’s awesome to see the whole team hitting personal bests. The energy going into these last meets is really strong,” said Budzinski.

Despite the long trip to Deerfield, the team stayed focused and physically ready. Zimmerman mentioned that, since the athletes did not have the usual time to warm up, the coaching staff made sure the athletes remained active on the bus and arrived prepared to compete.

“Coach [Garrett] Richie made sure we got up and walked around on the bus to keep our legs loose. We also had plenty of time for a course walk and a warm-up before the race, so the drive didn’t really affect our performance,” said Zimmerman.

Zimmerman explained Deerfield’s course, known for being flat and fast, offered a refreshing change from Andover’s challenging home terrain. With mild temperatures and clear skies, the day provided ideal racing conditions.

“There’s really nothing to be scared of in terms of the terrain, just a few muddy and sandy patches. That meant fast running was guaranteed. We passed some great landmarks, like a pumpkin patch, and everyone kept pushing through the rough spots,” said Zimmerman.

For Budzinski and Zimmerman, the meet also marked key personal milestones. Zimmerman achieved his preseason goal of breaking 16:45, while Budzinski continued to anchor Andover’s top group with a sub-16:30 time.

“Coming into the season, my goal was to run 16:45, and I’ve already achieved that. At this point, the team’s goal is to be in the best shape possible for Exeter and the [NEPSTA (New England Prep School Track Association) Division I Cross Country Championships]. Beating Exeter is always the goal,” said Zimmerman.

Budzinski, in his third year on the team, reflected on how Andover’s mix of experienced and younger runners has strengthened the program’s foundation.

“We’ve got a really young team this year, but the camaraderie is amazing. Everyone supports each other, whether you’re in the top seven or not. Everyone’s pushing one another to improve,” said Budzinski.

Though Andover fell short of the top two spots, the team’s spirit and sportsmanship stood out throughout the meet. Zimmerman noted how supportive the environment was, even among rival schools.

“It was a really friendly atmosphere. We wished the Exeter guys good luck before the race, and afterward, a few of us joined them for their cooldown. It was a great experience overall, even if we didn’t get to jump in the pond with them afterward,” said Zimmerman.

Boys Cross Country will host Exeter at home this Saturday.

Boys Soccer Battles Injuries, Inconsistency, and Cold Weather

ISAAC LEEPER

SATURDAY 10/18	
Andover	0
NMH	1
WEDNESDAY 10/21	
Andover	3
Austin Prep	0
SATURDAY 10/25	
Andover	0
Deerfield	3
WEDNESDAY 10/29	
Andover	1
Worcester	2

Boys Soccer (2-9-1) has gone 1-2 in its last three games, defeating Austin Prep and losing to Deerfield Academy (Deerfield) and Worcester.

While the win against Austin Preparatory (Austin Prep) last Tuesday gave the team momentum leading into its match against Deerfield, the team suffered a 0-3 loss due to injuries and a smaller playing ground. Jeff Shen '26 expressed how the team was used to playing at a slower pace on a bigger home field to conserve energy and stamina.

“Smoyer pitch, which is our home field, is very big in comparison to most other [New England Preparatory School Athletic Council] teams’ fields, in turn making us accustomed to playing a slower game. Because there’s more space between each player, passes can be a bit slower. We’ve seen that as we travel to away teams and play on their pitches, there’s a smaller space to work with,” said Shen.

With remaining players,

the team attempted to rebuild their play style. Looking ahead to Worcester, the team tried out new set-piece tactics and strategies. Despite the 2-1 loss in frigid weather, the team put up a valiant effort and played competitively. Shen reflected on the highlight of the game, a free kick taken by Matthew Shampine '26.

“[Shampine] crossed it into the box, aiming for someone’s head, but a Worcester defender got a touch and deflected it outside the box. One of our players picked it up on the wing and sent in a beautiful cross. Mateo Damian '28 intercepted and placed it cleverly into the back of the open net. It was a brilliant set-piece we’ve been working on for weeks, and it paid off,” said Shen.

Boys Soccer will travel to Kimball Union Academy to open up the month of November.



I. BORJAS/THE PHILLIPIAN
Kai Myles '27 controls the ball between two Worcester opponents.

Girls Soccer Builds Momentum Before End of the Season

ALEX GODSEY

SATURDAY 10/18	
Andover	2
NMH	2
WEDNESDAY 10/22	
Andover	1
Thayer	3
SATURDAY 10/25	
Andover	1
Deerfield	0
WEDNESDAY 10/29	
Andover	3
Nobles	1

Girls Soccer (9-4-3) faced North Mount Hermon (NMH)

on home turf during Family Weekend, as it looked to claim a three-game win streak after a pair of away victories against St. Paul’s and Governor’s Academy last week. After the final whistle, the two teams were equal on the scoreboard, netting two goals each. Girls Soccer followed that up with a loss to Thayer, but came right back with victories against Deerfield Academy (Deerfield) and Nobles and Greenough (Nobles).

NMH boasted a prestigious soccer program, which meant the game was one of the most competitive of the season. Manager Papa Painsil '26 discussed the team’s performance and his reaction to the draw.

“It was a hard-fought game. There were definitely parts of the game that were in our control, and we came up short. It ended up being a tie [when] we needed to win, but the way that they carried themselves regardless of the results shows the fortitude and the mental strength of this team. We’re gonna have a really strong end to the season,” said Painsil.

Against Thayer, the team, despite falling behind three goals in the first half, entered the second half determined to fight back. Although the game ended in a loss, the team managed to put up one goal. Emma Sharon '29 discussed the team’s key working points



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY
Emily Decker '26 (middle-right) congratulates Sarah Powers '26 (middle-left) for scoring the third and final goal in win against Nobles.

and strengths, as well as the overall energy of the game.

“One thing we need to work on in all of our games, not just this game, is to focus on scoring our corners. One of our strengths was coming out stronger in the second half because we communicated better and moved the ball faster. We played with a lot more confidence, which really boosted our energy. The energy was high the whole game, and even when we were down, everyone on the field and on the sidelines stayed really positive and encouraged

us,” said Sharon.

At Deerfield, the team arrived looking to capitalize on an opportunity to win against a strong opponent and rebound from its loss to Thayer. According to Lola Aguirre '26, its defense kept a clean sheet, and Co-Captain Wylie Roossien '26 scored a goal to secure Girls Soccer’s eighth win of the season.

Following their victory against Deerfield, the Girls Soccer team faced Nobles at home on Wednesday. The team delivered a commanding win, scoring three

goals and allowing just one. Painsil detailed a specific play that sealed the victory for Andover.

“Every goal today was a big team effort where the girls showed up for each other and for themselves. Sarah Powers’ [’26] last goal was really a big spectacle for me. She beat [her opponent] off the ball and had a really great shot against the goalie that put the game away as a 3-1 victory. I’m usually not the loudest one cheering on the sidelines, but I was really, really hype after seeing that goal,” said Painsil.

Painsil also described the team’s overall performance and the contributions of the players. Each player’s strengths complement one another, and it was the chemistry between the players that allowed the team to succeed.

“Our back line is one of the strongest in the entire league, the midfield does a great job of distributing the ball spread out and making sure that the ball switches from the left side to the right side, and our wingers and strikers are some of the fastest girls I’ve ever seen play soccer at the high school level,” said Painsil.

Girls Soccer will play Lawrence Academy on Friday.

Triple Triumph: Girls Cross Country Claims Top Three Finish at Deerfield Academy Invitational

SARAH WANG & JULIEN REQUA

This past weekend, Girls Cross Country triumphed over Deerfield Academy (Deerfield), Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), Choate, and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) in the Deerfield Academy Invitational. Essential to the team’s victory, Anya Budzinski '26 earned first place with a 35 second personal record (PR) of 18:35.57, followed by newcomers Sophie Stetson '29 and Maddie Marshall '29, who placed second and third in 19:25.41 and 19:32.01, respectively. Overall, the team watched 14 members post PRs.

Cross country scoring rewards teams that pack their top finishers together, and Andover did exactly that: six of its runners placed in the top ten. In fact, because of this, the team placed 21 points ahead

of the second place team, Exeter. Budzinski emphasized the value of running as a unit, highlighting shared energy that encouraged one another and helped to uplift the group.

“Something that was very essential was how the top five runners were the ones who scored. The top five were really able to work together. It’s key for the top five to be as close together as they can to get the lowest amount of points possible to win, so the way that our top five was able to work together and feel off each other’s energy was really good,” said Budzinski.

Additionally, Budzinski explained that since the team typically trains to overcome difficult courses that include many hills, it was able to dominate Deerfield’s flatter course.

“The course was really fast. It was a very flat course and that definitely played to our strengths. We really emphasize hills in our training, and just to

get a flat course, we could go so much faster than we usually can with hills. The consistent training from both the summer and leading into the season really benefited us,” said Budzinski.

Hannah Jung '28 highlighted the race strategy that propelled the group forward, a plan underscored by shared cohesion and team pacing as each member of the team surrounded themselves with their teammates.

“Our team did a really good job of sticking together as a pack throughout the race. I was able to get a PR because of my teammates up in front of me and the motivation to stick with them throughout the race. There might’ve been moments when other people were starting to feel fatigued, but knowing that their friends and the people they trained alongside with were either right behind them, beside them, or in front of them helped keep the motivation going,” said Jung.

Cross country is both an athletic and mental sport, and all encouragement contributes to the team’s success. When the team’s athletes pass one another, Andover runners help each other maintain a positive mentality with the phrase “spark it.” Anya Casey '28, who placed tenth with a PR of 20:11.76, received this support specifically from teammates Hannah Jung '28 and Co-Captains Chloe Song '26 and Zoe Von Eckersberg '26.

“Hannah Jung encouraged me while I was running personally, she’s always great, she always says spark it whenever she passes someone. Our captains, Chloe and Zoe, were also both really supportive, hyping everyone up and giving us words of encouragement. Chloe, specifically, gave me words of encouragement during our first mile, she was telling me to stick with it, which was really great. A lot of people were running together. Sophie Stetson and Mad-

die Marshall were a good pair together. Corinne Spade [’27] and Hannah Jung both had really good kicks in the final mile, they were running close together,” said Casey.

From the gunshot signaling the start of the race, Budzinski led the way for the runners, earning herself a personal record and setting the tone for the rest of the team. Jung praised her standout performance that energized the rest of the team to run faster.

“Our Senior, Anya Budzinski, she PR’d by over 30 seconds. She led our entire race from the start to finish and she finished a minute in front of the next runner which was also Andover and she just looked really strong throughout the entire race,” said Jung.

Girls Cross Country looks to carry its momentum against rival Exeter on Saturday.

PHILLIPS ACADEMY FOOTBALL

VS CHESHIRE ACADEMY

SENIOR DAY

Seniors '26

0 Peter Silvernail DL

1 Matthew Saleh LB

2 Elan Shetty WR

3 Nate Parker QB

4 MJ Gaines WR/DB

9 Brock Feinberg ILB

10 Ollie Velez WR/S

14 Bennett Rodgers DB/S

22 Ben Iglesias RB

33 Tommy Ginty DB

45 Richie Indresano ILB

60 Jake Quinlan IOL

90 Shock Ingraham Mgr

99 Geza Labancz DL

Marisol Tang Rasmussen Mgr

Game featuring
Drumline

Jim Dand '88 announcing play by play

Gabby Kawooya '27 & Nana Dampthey '27 singing the
National Anthem

Phelps Field
Andover, MA

Saturday
11.1.2025 at 1PM

Sweeps and Defeats for Girls Volleyball

EVA JACKSON		
SATURDAY 10/18		
Andover		3
NMH		0
SATURDAY 10/25		
Andover		0
Deerfield		3
WEDNESDAY 10/29		
Andover		2
St. Paul's		3

Girls Volleyball (4-10) swept Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) in three consecutive sets, winning by at least eight points in each set. The team then fell to Deerfield in three sets and St. Paul's in five.

Leading up to NMH, all three of the team's wins had been in long, hard-fought four to five-set games. Emma Webber '28 described the team's dominant performance against

NMH on Family Weekend.

"Our game against NMH went really well. It was our first three-set sweep of the season, so that was really exciting. Our energy was really high that game," said Webber.

Not only did the win boost team energy, but, according to Hailey Piasecki '26, it also boosted its confidence for the remainder of the season.

"I would say NMH was a bit of a confidence booster, just because we haven't swept a team yet. It was a good reminder that we don't have to go to four or five [sets] every single game," said Piasecki.

Before playing one of the best New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC), Deerfield, the team anticipated a challenge. Piasecki described the preparation the team did before their game and how they adjusted to Deerfield's roster.

"We knew that they were going to be really tall and have good blocks. We were working on how to tool the blocks. [It's basically] hitting the ball into their hands, making it go out," said Piasecki.

Though the team lost in three sets to Deerfield, they played at a high level and kept the scores close.

"We came into [the game] knowing it was going to be a



W. PHAM/THE PHILLIPIAN
Nneka Ezeike '26 tips the volleyball in Senior Night match against St. Paul's.

tough match, but we played really well in the first and third sets. Our energy went down [a bit] in the second set. But even though we lost, it was a great learning experience. We had a lot of fun on the court, and that helped shift our mentality. Even if we're not winning, it's all about having fun, learning, and growing as a team," said Webber.

Despite the loss, the team's

preparation paid off, as it was able to combat Deerfield's height with well-placed hits. After the match, Webber shouted out her teammate, Kaliah Fortune '26, who performed well.

"Kaliah really stood out to me. Her defense was really, really good, and her serves have been really good as well. She has also been distributing her sets well in the front row," said

Webber.

The team's defeat against St. Paul's was unexpected, especially considering its victory over the team last year and earlier in the season. Danielle Han '28 explained that the game on Wednesday was Senior Night, so the mood was especially high.

"We lost 3-2 to St. Paul's, which was pretty unexpected, because last year, they weren't a really strong team, and earlier this season, we beat them 3-1. I feel like we were going into the game pretty lightheartedly. Also, as Senior Night, everyone was in a good mood, and we were really expecting to win [against] St. Paul's," said Han.

Apart from being Senior Night, it was also the last home game of the season. Han commented on the importance of the game to the Seniors and how they will improve for the next game.

"It was the last home game for the Seniors in their careers. It was sad that we lost to St. Paul's... We made a lot of mistakes, [but] we still have two more games, Milton and Exeter. We're hoping to recover from St. Paul's and work hard moving forward," said Han.

Girls Volleyball will play Milton on Saturday.

Andover Water Polo Finishes Regular Season Strong, Eyes Playoff Redemption

ALEX GODSEY & BEN KAZLOUSKI		
FRIDAY 10/17		
Andover		16
St. John's Prep		4
SATURDAY 10/25		
Andover		12
Deerfield		13
WEDNESDAY 10/29		
Andover		6
Exeter		12

After a dominant 16-4 win versus St. John's Prep, Boys Water Polo (9-6) fell in competitive matches against Deerfield Academy and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter). Over Family Weekend, Andover beat St. John's Prep by 12 points — its largest margin of victory this season. However, last Saturday, Andover lost to Deerfield in a tight match. For their final game of the regular season, Wa-



A. BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN
Oliver Stabach '26 looks to pass the ball in huge 16-4 victory against St. Johns Prep.

ter Polo traveled to Exeter, but fell in a gritty game.

The atmosphere for St. John's Prep's home game was electric, reflected Andrew Cai '27. Not only was it Family Weekend, but it also fell on Senior night. One special Senior night tradition is that all Seniors, regardless of level, get the chance to play on Varsity. As an example, Cai pointed to Woori Lee '26, who stepped up to the challenge.

"Woori Lee, who joined water polo recently, usually plays on the JV squad, but because of Senior night, he was able to play on the varsity side for this game. He played really well, working really cohesively with

the rest of the team and playing some very smart defense on the St. John's center player. I remember Woori went from his defender to help out in the center and was actually able to stop a potential goal. He realized that the opposing player was in a good scoring position and moved to help. That was a really smart, heads-up play," said Cai.

Andover's lockdown defense, conceding only four goals, was key to their victory against St. John's. Hugo Appen '27, the starting goalie, shouted out his defensive wall, praising Ryan Loh '28 and Lincoln Tomlinson '27 specifically. He expressed that he had a "boring" game, thanks to the team's superior

defense.

"The defensive performance was also really good. I didn't face many shots. I honestly don't remember any shots taken on me. I really didn't have to make many saves. I got to sit there in the goal, purely because the defense was just so good and their shots weren't even getting to me," said Appen.

Against Deerfield last Saturday, Andover lost 12-13 in a hard-fought and well-played game, but came away with a memorable finish. Hugo described a powerful play made by Co-Captain Ethan Zhu '26.

"We had the ball down low in the pool, and Ethan walked into space because the ball was attracting attention, so his defender dropped off him. He faked the shot one or two times and then shot it hard into the top-left corner. He was just able to find space and then absolutely ripped a banger of a shot," said Appen.

Towards the end of the game, Andover was up by two goals with two minutes remaining. In heartbreaking fashion, Deerfield came back late and stole the game. Cai attributed defensive struggles in this game to the absence of starters Jeffery Lim '27 and Tomlinson.

"[Deerfield] got a pretty lucky play. We messed up on defense. One thing that we struggled with was our players getting back to help on the op-

posing center, specifically because two of our center players were out for this game. They were our main center defenders, and Deerfield was able to take advantage of that and put a lot of pressure on that position," said Cai.

After a close 13-10 loss against Exeter in early September, the team came into this game with anticipation. Despite the game's outcome, Brandon Xu '26 praised standout performances from Nathan Egbuna '26, Appen, and Cai.

"The game, in some ways, was closer than what the scoreboard suggested. We had a lot of good shots on goal that unfortunately didn't fall the right way. We got unlucky there. We had some decent opportunities that we just couldn't finish on offense. Overall, I'd say it was a hard-fought game, but they pulled away from us early, and we were just trying to play catch-up in the second half," said Xu.

This Saturday, Boys Water Polo will play in the playoffs as the fifth seed. After a six-year playoff drought, Andover will look to return to the Interschols Tournament.

Editor's Note: Nathan Egbuna is a Video Editor for The Phillipian.

A Pair of Adversities

NICHOLAS JUNG & WYATT ORACCA CECIL		
SATURDAY 10/18		
Andover		7
Brunswick		42
SATURDAY 10/25		
Andover		17
Deerfield		20

Coming off two wins against Kent and Suffield, Boys Football battled against The Brunswick School on October 18. A week later, the team traveled to Deerfield to take on the Big Green. Fresh off a defeat to Brunswick, Andover looked to

bounce back and earn another win to end the season strong.

Against Brunswick, the team started with the ball. With Quarterback (QB) Cale Barker '28 and the team's recent success, the coach wanted to leave the ball in his hands. Nathaniel McCormick '27 explained how the first play went down.

"We ran a trick play that, after a series of pitches, got the ball back into the hands of QB Cale Barker, who threw a bomb to Will Mascena [27]. Using his good Yards After the Catch (YAC), Will ran it in for a touchdown," said McCormick.

This early touchdown helped the team start the game with momentum. Additionally, McCormick noted that the defensive side was engaged, ready to play.

"Notable defensive players were Bennett Rodgers [26],

who broke up some big pass plays, as well as Brock Feinberg [PG '26], who had some great plays stopping the run," said McCormick.

After falling to Brunswick, the team turned its sights to Deerfield. Barker recalled how he dove into the game with another good first drive, though the team's progress stalled from there.

"We struck first with Jun An [27], bulldozing into the end zone. And then we took the foot off the gas pedal a little bit. We didn't score until the start of the second half, and by then it was 14 to 7. We then struck with a 75-yard passing touchdown from Cale Barker to Ollie Velez [25]," said Barker.

The game became a back-and-forth battle, with players on both sides making plays. Barker expressed that he felt

especially proud of McCor-mick's interception.

"It was perfect. He read the QB's eyes. He read him perfectly, and he went up in the air and snagged the ball, and it set us [up well]. The offense [was] in perfect field position to score," said Barker.

As the clock ticked down, neither team had achieved a clear lead. Zac Taylor '28 reflected that, ultimately, one call by the referees changed the course of the game. Nevertheless, Taylor emphasized that though the call was important, it did not decide the game.

"We should have never put ourselves in that position, where we needed to score with 30 seconds on the board. Our offense should have put up more points, plain and simple," said Taylor.

With Senior night and An-

dover/Exeter Day approaching, the team hopes to recover quickly. Nathan Dubuc '28 expressed his optimism and commitment to training hard before the team's final two games.

"I hope we're really going to go out and win and prove a point to our fans and to ourselves, to show how great a football team we can truly be. So right now, we're going to study up on film. We're going to have some great practices and great energy throughout the week, through our morning lifts, our study hall nights, and our practices, just get to work and start this training back up again," said Dubuc.

Boys Football will play its last home opener against Cheshire Academy on Saturday.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Grasshopper Leaps Through the Decades As Student Performers Ignite Tang Theater

DANIEL LIU &
CHARLIZE SOW

The snap of a jump rope and the shuffle of dancers' steps reverberated through Tang Theatre during Grasshopper, Andover's annual talent show. Families and students leaned forward in their seats, calling out to friends on stage before quieting again as the music changed. Stage lights shifted from one color to the next, catching on sequins and instruments.

This year's theme, "Through the Decades," traced a line through time, blending nostalgia and innovation. During the four showtimes and an open dress rehearsal for seniors and faculty, Grasshopper dazzled the audience with diverse acts, offering a chance for performers to share their hard work and skill with the community. Producer Bruce Ru '28 explained the thought process behind the chosen theme.

"Choosing the theme is an art. It's about balancing inclusiveness and focus. If there's no theme at all, the show feels disconnected. But if the theme is too specific, it limits creativity. We chose 'Through the Decades' because it gave the show structure while still allowing flexibility. It had a clear chronological idea that helped the acts fit together naturally. The result was a cohesive performance that still felt diverse and creative, which was exactly what we wanted," said Ru.

Among the stand-out acts included Hannah Jung '28's jump-roping routine, which reflected what often defines Grasshopper each year: students bringing something practiced and personal into a supportive space.

"This year for Family Weekend, my grandfather came, and I really wanted to do my best and perform well in front of him and the rest of my family. When we were waiting in the theatre classroom for our



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Eliza Francis '26, Yumi Lai '27, and Anna Tsvetkov '26 perform with Andover's jazz dance group, Blue Strut.

turn to go up, there was so much support going around. Every time someone finished their act and came back to the basement once again, everyone cheered. I hoped to inspire people to learn more about the sport of jump rope and maybe join it, because it's a really new sport with a lot of potential to grow," said Jung.

A dress rehearsal open only to seniors and faculty took place on Thursday evening, giving the Class of 2026 a more personal chance to experience the show before opening night. Amina Gorman '26, the lead singer for Goose & Moose and cohead of Keynotes reflected on the bittersweet atmosphere marking her last show.

"The Senior show was definitely my favorite because all of your peers are there. Everyone screams your name when you get on stage. I looked out and saw all my friends recording, and even when we were downstairs in the the-

ater classroom, you could still hear people cheering. It was definitely a bittersweet moment. It felt like a passing-the-torch moment, looking at everyone who's going to do it next year and thinking, 'This [show] is yours now.' I think we did really well, and it was the best final performance I could have asked for," said Gorman.

Jonathan Oh '27, another member of Goose & Moose, highlighted his appreciation for the high energy levels from the audience, explaining how loud reactions helped liven his own spirits on stage.

"After the Friday night show, we came off stage, rolled our instruments away, and were all just buzzing with excitement. It felt great to see all of our hard work and coordination pay off in such a rewarding way. The audience's energy made a huge difference. The Friday 9 p.m. crowd was definitely the most energetic. They were loud,

excited, and super responsive. When the crowd is that engaged, it boosts your confidence and makes you want to give even more," said Oh.

Amidst a lineup of dance and musical routines, Tiffany Zhao '27's act stood out as a swords martial art performance, connected to her Chinese heritage. Zhao detailed her preparation process and her love of sparking community and inspiration with her performance.

"I had been working on this piece for the past year, choreographing on my own and practicing daily. I wanted to bring in something a little different, something from my culture, but also expressive and exciting. Even though life gets busy, I try to stay involved in school events because it helps bring people together. That's really what I hoped this performance could do, add a bit of variety, and maybe even spark some curiosity. If someone left the show feeling

a little more inspired or energized, that means a lot to me," said Zhao.

Between acts, emcee Tina Phan '26 kept the energy moving, balancing humor with quick improvisation. She matched the same focus and rhythm as the performers she introduced, helping the night's pace feel continuous and alive.

"It's my last year here, so I really just wanted to have a good time with a lot of my close friends. I remember watching past [shows] and always thinking the emcees had the coolest role because they had funny puns and really set the tone and mood for the show each year. I wanted to bring that same energy to my last [Grasshopper]. There was a closeness and determination that everyone shared to make this year's production as energetic and soulful as possible. My voice was literally gone for days because I was screaming so hard for Fusion, Hypno, Azure, and so many others," said Phan.

As the show wandered 'Through the Decades,' Grasshopper 2025 reflected the familiar energy and pulse that has defined the show for years, marking it as a celebration of student talent and campus spirit.

"Some things about Grasshopper never change, like the culture of the MCs and the diversity of acts. But this year felt different because of how it came together. There were some challenges early on, and we had less time to prepare since Family Weekend was a week earlier. Despite that, the team pulled it off. I think this year's Grasshopper felt like a continuation of a long creative tradition. It was a lot of communication and coordination, but when everything came together, it felt almost magical," said Ru.

Lighting Up the Town: Over 500 Andover Residents Gather for Annual Diwali Celebration

COLIN LEE &
ELIZABETH QIN

On October 17, the Cormier Youth Center came alive. With bright lights, rhythmic music, and the aroma of Indian food filling the Cormier Youth Center, more than five hundred residents gathered for Andover's annual Diwali celebration. Organized by Andover Elder Services, Chinmaya Mission Boston, and the town's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, the event turned the space into a colorful festival of food, dance, and togetherness. Known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, a theme that resonated throughout the evening.

According to Ann Ormond, Economic Development Director for the Town of Andover, the celebration reflected the town's continued commitment to honoring its diverse cultures.

"This is the third year that we, the town, have taken the lead in doing the Diwali festival with a number of community partners. The first year we did it, we got a grant

from the Mass Cultural Council, and then we continued it for the next two years. We partner with Andover Elder Services, the Youth Center, Chinmaya Mission, and the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission of the town. Partners for food are Indian Bistro and Monica's Mithai," said Ormond.

Guests enjoyed a setting full of color, music, and activity. Tables offered hand-painted henna, jewelry, and festive clothing. Children danced while families enjoyed samosas, sweets, and spiced tea. The night balanced traditional customs with local flair, creating a space where everyone could participate.

"The event started at 6 p.m. at the Andover Reuse Center. There was Indian street food and drinks like an iced tea type of drink and water, so no alcohol was served, which is great. It's family friendly. There were vendor tables for hand-painted henna, jewelry, decor, clothing, and similar things. We had an introductory program where one of the elders from Chinmaya Mission Boston did an overview of what Diwali is," said Ormond.

The large turnout surprised even the organizers.

Many expected fewer than two hundred people, but the crowd more than doubled that estimate. Kaya Mangani '27, an attendee, remembered the moment the Youth Center filled past capacity and how everyone still managed to celebrate together.

"The biggest surprise was just the number of people that showed up because two days before the event, only fifty people had RSVP'd, but then on the day of, around five hundred people showed up. Seeing how many came to celebrate this tradition was really cool. They did an amazing job setting it up and running everything. They even had to get more food during the event because they ran out," said Mangani.

Beyond the music and food, the night carried a sense of recognition for South Asian culture within the broader Andover community. For Mangani, the festival created space for voices that are often overlooked in larger discussions of Asian identity.

"Oftentimes, South Asian representation gets glossed over when you think of just Asian representation as a general concept. So seeing an event just solely dedicated to South Asian culture

was something new and also exciting to have for the town and to see some of the people there. That was really special. It was extraordinary how impactful it was. So many people came and enjoyed the events, and all the hard work really paid off," said Mangani.

Ormond emphasized that inclusivity remained central to the event's purpose. The festival's wide range of participants showed that Diwali could unite residents of different backgrounds under a single celebration of joy and renewal.

"It wasn't just South Asian Indian folks. It was a good cross-section of the community. Everyone came together to celebrate light, joy, and togetherness. The Festival of Lights is something the town embraces from a diversity and inclusion standpoint, just like we do with Chinese New Year. We wanted to embrace this as a very important community event," said Ormond.

Students like Nishad Iyer '28 from Andover High School shared the sentiment of inclusivity. He described the mix of performances and the welcoming energy that filled the room once the dancing began.

"There were non-Indian dancers that danced, and

there were some non-Indian people that showed up and then took part in the celebration. That's cool. It shows the diversity of Andover, that there are enough people to hold a Diwali celebration and enough care to do it properly and well. The message was perfect, that Diwali is for everybody. Everyone could come, have fun, eat food, and take part," said Iyer.

Iyer believes that the event's success will inspire more recognition for holidays beyond the mainstream ones often celebrated in town. He hopes that Diwali's example will encourage future events that honor underrepresented cultures.

"It'll impact future events in general, especially cultural ones that aren't as mainstream as Christmas or Thanksgiving. There are many Hindu holidays that aren't acknowledged, and this event helps bring attention to them. It'll affect all cultures, but more so South Asian ones because other cultural events in comparison already get more publicity. This event helps set that precedent for more recognition and celebration," said Iyer.

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Arts & Leisure

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LOTW: Harry Wang '27's Architectural Approach to Fashion

DANIEL LIU & AUTUMN XIA

Styling a brown overcoat with dark-wash jeans, Harry Wang '27 tops off his outfit with sunglasses, a singular black glove, and olive-green split-toe tabi shoes. Wang crafts his outfits with precision and intent, guided by both aesthetics and an underlying philosophy. For Wang, fashion exists as a spatial and architectural art form, each outfit a composition of structure and balance.

Wang's thoughtful approach to dressing stems from a desire to look presentable and sharp on a daily basis. Believing that there is no one right way to wear an item of



C.ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN
Wang explores how structure, space, and form can transform his personal style.

clothing, Wang explores how structure, space, and form can transform his personal style.

"Fashion is a way to present myself, to make sure I look sharp and put-together. It's not about standing out with crazy, unique looks, but about being appropriate and clean. Since there's no right or wrong way to wear things, it's all about how you interpret them. To me, fashion is like wearable architecture, it's a bit abstract. Beyond color matching, which can be a 2D thing, clothing is more like a 3D material, and that gives it an edge. The concept of spacing is important in my style. I try to build around the space in an outfit, using different layers to create depth," said Wang.

Inspired by bold contem-

porary designers who challenge convention, Wang finds creative motivation in experimental approaches to form and structure.

"I'm definitely drawn to geometric shapes. There's a brand called Comme des Garçons that I admire. They have a lot of avant-garde ideas that push boundaries. Though their clothing isn't always practical for everyday wear, the concepts behind their pieces really inspire me," said Wang.

When it comes to putting outfits together, Wang approaches fashion like a musical process, fluid, intuitive, and guided primarily by feeling rather than rules.

"[Styling myself reminds me of] jazz improvisation. I'm not focused on strict color matching; instead, I pay more attention to textures and how I feel in the outfit. It's all about finding harmony and making sure everything feels right together," said Wang.

Wang's sense of style developed after visiting Japan for the first time, where he began to view fashion as a lifestyle rather than simple self-presentation. This moment marked a turning point in how he thought about clothing and its purpose in daily life.

"My style started evolving about three years ago when I decided to start wearing jeans. Before that, I was more of a sweatpants person. The shift happened after I visited Tokyo and saw how people there used fashion as a lifestyle, not just to look good. That experience inspired me to try new things, like jeans, and explore what clothing means to me," said Wang.

Wang expressed his interest in textures and fabrics, hoping that learning more about them would give him new insights when putting together outfits.

"I experiment with different textures and combinations to keep things fresh and explore new ideas. I really



I.PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN
Harry Wang '27 believes that there is no one right way to wear an item of clothing.

want to learn more about fabric. Texture is key for me, and understanding fabrics would give me a deeper understanding of fashion itself. By learning the foundations of fabric, I'd have more insight into the choices I can make when putting things together," said Wang.

Prioritizing balance, one of Wang's favorite outfits pairs a vintage patterned shirt with sleeker elements.

"One of my favorite outfits is a shirt I have that looks like a mid-century carpet pattern. It might seem a bit vintage or awkward on its own, but when I pair it with a brown or black coat and some raw denim or black dress pants, it feels balanced. It's simple,

but there's a pop of color that adds something interesting. I always aim to make my outfits sharp but still comfortable," said Wang.

Describing Wang's fashion sensibility, close friend Tomas Tejapaibul '27 praised his layered compositions and understated sophistication.

"Harry [Wang '27] uses layers really well in his style. He uses them very creatively. The way he dresses, it seems almost effortless sometimes and very tasteful. I can tell that he puts a lot of thought into what he wears everyday. When I see him, he's always very well put together. The colors in outfits mix well together," said Tejapaibul.

Trick or Treat: A Haunting Across Campus

As Halloween creeps closer, dorms across campus are transforming into haunted houses of creativity and school spirit. From blow-up ghosts to spooky skeletons, each dorm has embraced the season in its own eerie way. Whether it's cobwebs covering doorways or pumpkins lighting up the halls, students are bringing the Halloween spirit to life, one decoration at a time.



TUCKER HOUSE



CHASE HOUSE



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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Notes of Reunion: Andover Musicians Fill Cochran Chapel with Sound and Connection

ELIAS JEON & CHARLIZE SOW

On Friday evening, Cochran Chapel filled with music and the joy of reunion. As families filled the pews for Family Weekend, Andover’s orchestral and band ensembles took the stage for their first concert of the year, a culmination of weeks of preparation and collaboration. What followed was less a recital than a reminder of how collective effort can turn practice into something luminous and shared.

Annabelle Wu ’26, conducting the Chamber Orchestra and performing violin in Symphony orchestra, led the group through Four Novelletten for String Orchestra by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. The piece, full of sharp contrasts and rhythmic intricacy, demanded focus from every section. Wu remarked that her goal was to bring out those

emotional shifts, playful at first, then unexpectedly lyrical, and to keep the orchestra moving as one.

“I think this was a wonderful first performance. Even though we’ve only rehearsed together for less than two months, the piece has really come together in the past few weeks ... The first movement of the Coleridge-Taylor has many different dynamics. The beginning and ending are more lighthearted and playful, but the middle is a lot more legato and emotional. My goal was to bring out all the contrasting dynamics, and I tried to encourage everyone to do that by mirroring the emotion of each section of the piece while I conducted,” said Wu.

Across the program, each ensemble showcased different facets of Andover’s musicianship, from the larger Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble to the smaller chamber groups. The program did not follow a strict

theme, and some performers such as Ryan Baek ’28 enjoyed the contrast of percussive openings balanced by softer, reflective interludes.

“They were pretty dramatic and energetic. The beginning was very loud, then it got quiet, and it kept going back and forth like that. There were a lot of changes, which helped make the piece feel more dramatic ... The piece itself was dramatic, but the performance felt exciting and fun to play. It was a little nerve-racking since it was our first concert of the year, but also exciting to perform in front of a large crowd again after a while,” said Baek.

For some, the concert also marked a return to the collective atmosphere of performing with a full ensemble. Cellist Sarah-Alysse Williams ’28 described the moment the Symphony Orchestra reached its final chord, as a rush of sound that seemed to fill the entire space.

“I think our sound im-

proved, and we became more cohesive overall,” said Williams. “It was a little nerve-racking because it was a big crowd, but overall it felt really good.”

The same mix of exhilaration and focus ran throughout the night. Clarinetist Carolyn Cao ’28, who played in both the Symphony Orchestra and the Wind Ensemble, noted how performing live reminded her how different music feels when it reaches an audience.

“It was very upbeat. There were a lot of parents in the audience, so they were really excited to see their kids perform. Everyone was hyped up, so it definitely wasn’t boring ... I think this was a great way to show parents and students what we’ve been working on. It’s also a good introduction for new players to see what Andover’s music program is like. It’s a low-stakes concert, so it’s a good way for them to get used to performing,” said Cao.

By the end of the evening, nearly every seat in the Chapel was filled by students and families alike. The atmosphere felt personal in a way that was both celebratory and attentive. Nathan Ramani ’27 shared this sentiment of connection between the musicians and their audience, noting how the concert created moments of warmth and community.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the Band and Orchestra concert as an audience member the other night. I went with my friends after Grasshopper and was blown away by the quality of the music after only a month and a half of school. I think that the ensembles did a good job connecting with the audience. I remember during Annabelle’s conducting, a little girl in the audience was trying to match her hand movements, which was really cute to see,” said Ramani.

A Family Weekend in Perfect Harmony

HAYLEY FAN & BENJAMIN PARK

On the Saturday of Family Weekend, the warm and radiant voices of the Academy Chorus resonated cheerfully throughout the Cochran Chapel. Singers filled out rows on stage while friends, faculty, and parents took their seats in the pews. The blended harmonies drew the audience in, facilitating a night of shared artistry and community.

From choral concert works to American folk songs, Chorus performed a wide repertoire of music. Though each song provided a different taste and feelings, the entire program was tied together by one theme: hope. Amanda Siegfried, Director of Chorus and Fidelio, describes the inspiration behind the topic of hope.

“Hope means that I re-

ceive hope from the amazing students I get to work with. Hope means I am constantly seeking ways to offer transcendent musical experiences for our students and a place where they can simply be together in joy, in community, in hope,” said Siegfried.

This concert’s program especially featured senior soloists, among them Fidelio co-head Christopher Fu ’26. The opportunity to sing a solo was a meaningful culmination of all Fu’s hard work throughout the years. With his and many others’ journeys in mind, this program theme takes on a whole new meaning. It’s a symbolic acknowledgment of their journey here at Andover and looking towards the future with hope.

“For me, hope is a reminder. Especially at school where things can be really stressful and everybody has so many activities going on it can really feel like you just want to stop everything and take a breath.

When I’m singing with Chorus and Fidelio, I feel hopeful... On a larger scale, hope is about remembering that tomorrow is a gift, a gift that sometimes we forget about and something that we need to remember and appreciate more. Hope is something that we need more of, but Fidelio and Chorus is that for me,” said Fu.

For Seniors, the process of preparing and singing at a concert is very much familiar, but for many others it is completely new. A longstanding strength of Chorus is that all are welcome to join, regardless of background or skill level. As Dr. Siegfried says, “showing up is enough.” This year Chorus saw many new additions from the Class of ’29 as well as many others completely new to Chorus. Aura Lewis ’29, among them, recounts the emotions she experienced before performing.

“I felt a little bit nervous, especially with this being my

first concert here. I was also excited to get the opportunity to perform in front of so many people who were willing to come out and see their kids or their friends or their family perform and because singing is a lot of fun,” said Lewis.

The chorus is also a place where students connect with each other, supporting one another during rehearsals and performances. The Chorus, as one big yet tight-knit group, embrace emotions of enjoyment, pride, and happiness together. Kaya Hurteau ’27 elaborates on how the lively energy of the chorus, and the shared relief of stress makes singing a special activity.

“I joined the chorus as a freshman. So I would say that I definitely am really close to a lot of people in Chorus by now. [Although chorus is] a big time commitment, I think everybody who does it really enjoys being a part of the group, and we all have fun

when close together... Everybody has at least one moment when they look across and see someone, make eye contact, and smile at each other, genuinely enjoying the performance,” said Hurteau.

Andover Chorus is a gem amongst the many aspects of student life, offering an environment united by community and supported by care where students can forget their worries and let their voices ring. Lewis shares her message to all interested in joining Chorus.

“[Joining chorus] felt so reassuring to me, seeing so many of my friends and meeting people through Chorus who are so sweet. The choir community is very welcoming. They’re very willing to help so that you fit into the space and know what to do,” said Lewis.

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