The Phillipian

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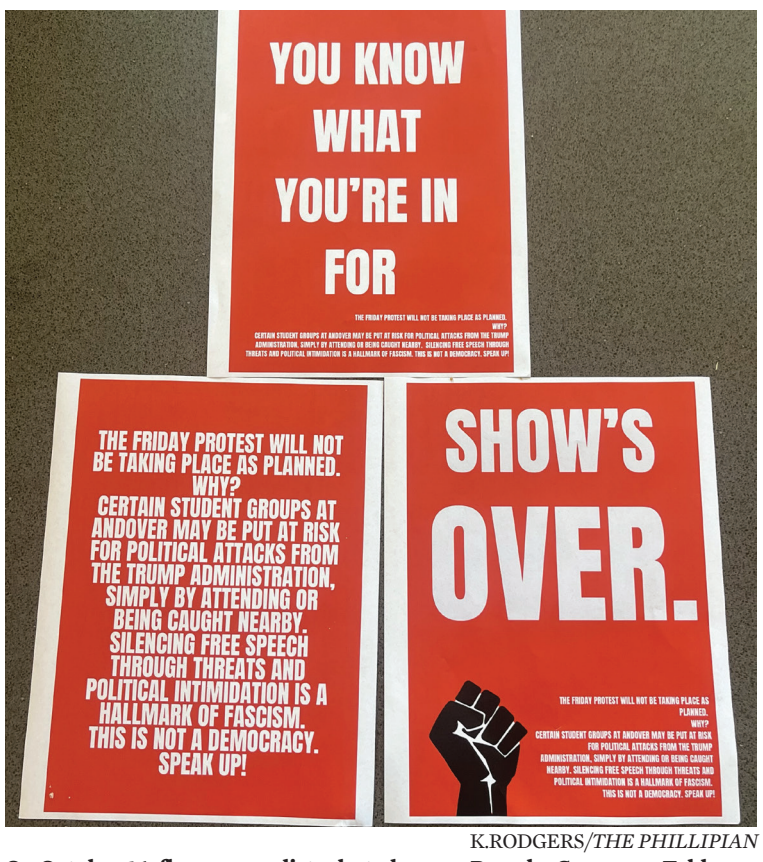
VOL. CXLVIII, No. 24 | Veritas Super Omnia | NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Student Protest at Andover Called Off Amid Safety Concerns

CADE RUTKOSKE & JEANNE KOSCIUS-KO-MORIZET



K.RODGERS/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

On October 16, flyers were distrubuted across Paresky Commons Tables regarding the cancelation of the student protest.

When asked, "Does Andover have enough spaces to have political discourse?" Christian Robinson '28 replied, "Not really."

Such frustration over the absence of political discussion at Andover inspired some students to organize a protest. According to Yara Handschin '27, the organizer of the rally, the peaceful event was to take place at the Abbot Flagpole after All-School Meeting (ASM) on Friday, October 17, when it would not disrupt the academic day. The protest was canceled due to concerns about student safety.

According to Handschin, the goal of the protest was to both promote political discourse at Andover and to encourage the Academy to release a public statement regarding the practices of the current U.S. Administration.

"There has been a sort of deliberate messaging around the political climate of the United States that seems to discourage students from engaging with it critically," said Handschin. "The protest was a response to the silence, [and how] students have been having problems with the lack of response from the [Andover] administration to the political climate of the United States."

She added, "It's important for Andover as an institution, which is a school that has uncountable wealth and immense privilege that extends to its student body, to use that responsibility towards classes that are not protected in the face of the threat that the Trump administration is posing to democracy."

In an email sent to the student body in February 2024, Head of School Raynard Kington wrote that, "Andover's mission is to educate high school students. We teach students how to think, not what to think. And we teach them to analyze societal issues through a wide range of perspectives. We are not policymakers or experts in global affairs. Therefore, it is rare that Andover will issue a statement on societal events that do not directly impact the school's mission."

Acknowledging Andover's pledge to political neutrality, Miriam Villanueva, Instructor in History and Social Science, suggested that Andover can foster political discourse without breaking its policy. She explained the importance of teaching students how to properly engage in political discourse.

"[Andover] can still maintain neutrality while offering programming for students to learn beyond the classroom,"

Continued on A5, Column 3

The Exonian

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The Exonian took over The 8th Page.

(let us know if they were any funny)

(probably not though)

See A9-A12

Continuing Michael Kuta's Legacy: Students in Medicine Host Fall Term Blood Drive

E.OKEKE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Instructor in Physics Dr. Clyfe Beckwith and many others donated blood.

IAN S. KIM & THEODORE STEINERT

Student, faculty, and staff volunteers gathered in Pan Athletic Center for Andover's biannual blood drive organized by Students in Medicine (SIM) on November 4. Hosted in partnership with the Red Cross, the drive was a way to encourage members of the Andover community to donate blood and help save lives by simplifying and making the process more accessible.

Previously managed by Michael Kuta, Former Head Athletic Trainer for forty years, the drive this year was spearheaded by Hovig Shamamian, Administrative Director of Wellness, and Martha Fenton, Instructor in Athletics. Shamamian emphasized their work with SIM and the Red Cross to organize the drive, highlighting the increased incentive for blood donors this year.

"We got a really nice training from the Red Cross. We've had the same account manager, Alyssa, who's helped walk us through all the steps of what needs to be done. The SIM Board has also been wonderful in helping set up. They have a table out at Paresky Commons where they've been promoting the drive, said Shamamian.

She continued, "One of the biggest things from the Red Cross is a $20 gift card incentive. Usually it's $10, but this year they increased it to $20, which is really nice. Also, if you donate, you're entered into a raffle for a $5,000 giveaway, which is pretty cool. Every pint is critical, so we're really grateful for everyone who's been willing to donate," said Shamamian.

SIM's involvement began two years ago when Kuta was

Continued on A5, Column 1

Don't Lose It! BlueCard Replacement Cost is Now 40 Dollars

WINSTON WU & NICCOLO LEE-SUK

At the beginning of the school year, each Andover student was provided with a BlueCard ID, which is required for opening buildings across campus. In the 2024-2025 school year, BlueCards were free to replace at the office of Physical Plant (OPP) if lost; in previous years, the same replacement would cost approximately 20 dollars. This year, however, students who lose their BlueCards incur a 40 dollar replacement fee.

The new fee was implemented in late September 2025, according to Mark Leonard, Director of Campus Safety. This was one year after Campus Safety took over the role of printing and issuing badges from the BlueCard office. Leonard discussed the various reasons that prompted the creation of the fee.

"When we took over the badging, we upgraded the badge. The badge itself, the blanks, are more secure. They can't be copied as easily because we were concerned about the safety and security of the buildings, the students, the staff, everything. We upgraded the card to a more secure card, and they cost more money," said Leonard.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY S.GONG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

He continued, "We order 2,000 cards at a time, and it's 8,000-9,000 dollars for the cards. There are 1,150 students during the year, and no charge for their first card. [We decided] that we need to start charging [replacements]. Hope-

Continued from A5, Column 3

Abbot Dance To Go On

ANDY GAO & SOPHIA TOLOKH

Due to a decline in dance attendance, "Abbot," a semi-formal dance traditionally held at the end of Fall Term, was nearly postponed. Plans were initially suggested combining the year's two semi-formals – Blue & Silver (held over the Winter Term) and Abbot – into one big dance held in January, according to Stephanie Cormier, Student Program Coordinator.

Per Aya Murata, Assistant Dean of Students, student leaders and representatives (co-presidents, cluster reps, etc.) opposed the plans to cancel the Abbot Dance. In order to "confirm student interest" and "lock in the best date," Murata sent a survey to the student body.

"We had about 300 students [respond]... It was good to get that feedback. We hope that the survey already builds hype, and makes people feel that they have some commitment to [by thinking] 'I got to be involved in picking the date,'" said Murata.

She added, "The 15th was the overwhelming choice for dates. There was an open text box of feedback, so we're again listening to the feedback that [students] want a student DJ... There's a committee that's doing the promotions, there's a committee that's doing the decorating, and now we just need people to show up."

Clare Dunbar '28 expressed her longstanding excitement for fun events such as dances. She encouraged the tradition of Abbot, and expressed her wishes for the success of the dance.

Continued on A5, Column 1

Commentary, A2

"An Unintentionally Diverse Campus Trumps an Intentionally Diverse One"

Andover should strive to create an unintentional diversity, seeking student merit and intellectual qualities that naturally call for differences in identity.

Eighth Page, A8

A/E Weekend

Exeter, weakened by the month of November, has to fend off multiple Andover challengers on Saturday.

Sports, B1

Victory Run into the Sunset for Girls Cross Country

The Seniors enjoyed a victory in their last home race as the team defeated Exeter 25-30.

Arts, B6

Framing Identity with Tommy Kha

Read about artist Tommy Kha's interactive workshop hosted at the Addison Gallery of American Art, which invited campus students and faculty to engage with photography as an outlet for self-expression.

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Vol. CXLVIII
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Editorial

Sit Back and Relax

The Identity Show is typically a cornerstone of Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day programming for Juniors. This year, no Juniors will be allowed to attend. This decision allegedly follows the disruptive behavior Juniors demonstrated at last year's Identity Show. Changes to the Identity Show are not the only markers of our declining ability to be a respectful audience. Nowhere is it as noticeable as at All-School Meeting (ASM). It's not like students have always been paying perfect attention at speaker events. But over the last few years, the level of student disruption at ASM has grown so noticeable that adults are forced to tell the restless crowd to quiet down — often while the speaker is still on stage. Recently, there has been a noticeable "clapping game" where audience members compete with one another to clap last, often interrupting the speaker.

Long before the speaker begins, students are already disengaged with ASM. We walk into the Cochran Chapel tired, exasperated, and already bored. We default to putting in our AirPods, napping, or contemplating when we can take another (extended) bathroom break. We tend to regard ASM not as a potentially valuable or interesting educational opportunity, but an inconvenience. Why aren't we as curious, energetic, or at least, open-minded as we would be in a classroom setting or club meeting? It's true that students tend to regard events untethered to a grade or a broader goal as less deserving of their attention. It's also true that not every speaker will capture our interest. However, our collective attitudes toward ASM have deteriorated into a culture of complaints, where the speaker has lost their audience before they've even said a word.

Andover is acclaimed for its quality of education and exceptional resources. Andover's vast resources feed student interests and provide students with learning opportunities that many other educational institutions cannot offer. Whether Andover sponsors community events or brings in numerous highly-accomplished speakers at ASM, many students may take these recurring social and learning opportunities for granted. The school puts more effort into recruiting speakers behind the scenes than we can see. When students decide to be loud during ASM when the speaker is talking, it not only reflects poorly on the student and the school community but it is simply disrespectful. Being disruptive deprecates our privilege of attending Andover and the unique educational opportunity in front of us.

People often look toward the loudest voice in the room. Yet, being a good audience member simply requires one to remain still and open to appreciating the opportunities around us. Faced with countless responsibilities and packed schedules, it's understandable that we must prioritize and ration our attention. When a thousand other things are going on in your life, it's difficult to stay present, especially in situations that have no "measurable" reward or effect on your life. However, Andover is not only a school, but a community. When we show up for others, including our faculty and alumni, we can uphold an energetic and supportive campus environment. It is also the responsibility of all students — especially upperclassmen — and faculty members to lead by example. While being a good audience member may not be easy for all, it can be learned.

Showing up for others does not require a grand effort. It can involve small choices, such as choosing not to put an AirPod in or immediately slumping into a sleeping position at ASM. Simply sitting quietly is enough.

This Editorial represents the opinions of *The Phillipian*, vol. CXLVIII.

We Need DoorDash

JEANNIE KANG

K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

On October 3, the administration opened an application for the Food Delivery Task Force, explaining the issue as a "recent surge in deliveries, at all hours of the day and late into the night, has raised significant concerns about student safety and well-being, campus traffic, and community connection." In retrospect, administration has a point; the rise of unregulated food deliveries around campus did lead to an excessive number of strangers on campus, potential traffic accidents, and a lack of interaction between students over meals. Despite these issues, a complete ban on food delivery is not an effective solution. Rather, the Task Force must consider the positive and necessary aspects of food delivery to establish a policy that simultaneously respects student needs and addresses the concerns.

Food delivery provides a convenient method for students to eat without scheduling complications. The limited time window of Paresky Commons (Paresky) does not accommodate the hectic lives of many students, especially athletes. Club meetings, sports practices, peer tutoring, and other extracurricular activities often pack students' schedules. After attending a sports practice and two club meetings, students lack the time to grab a meal from Paresky. Even in cases where students do have time, Paresky might be closed, or they might be too exhausted to walk there and back, especially if their dorms are far away. Food delivery enables students to fit meals into their schedules without worrying that they are compromising academic and extracurricular success. Especially for athletes who leave campus early for practices and return late into the evening, it is exhausting to spend another hour going to Paresky, having their meals, and walking back. Though some may argue that extending the hours of the Paresky resolves such time constraints, it remains unclear whether the school can financially afford such a change.

Even without considering such time constraints, food delivery encourages students to consistently have healthy meals. For many students exhausted after a day of work, the alternative to food delivery is not walking to Paresky, but rather resorting to junk food in their cabinets or skipping the meal entirely. At times of high academic workload, the pressure of socializing overwhelms many students to the extent that they would rather stay in their dorms without taking care of their physical well-being by eating. Food delivery provides the only way for such students to enjoy their meals in their personal space without the stress that comes from being in a crowded environment or the exhaustion of trekking through the snow after a long day during the winter. Though Paresky attempts to provide a diversity of options for students, sometimes it becomes unpalatable to students with dietary restrictions and preferences, which makes food delivery more necessary. My gluten-free friend finds it tiring to look for a new meal to enjoy when the main menu consists of hot dogs with gluten. Even for students without such preferences, access to food delivery means relishing cuisines that serve as reminders of home, which comforts them amidst both academic and social challenges.

It is true that these positive effects of food delivery access coexist with the valid concerns presented by the administration. However, many of these concerns are either minuscule or can be largely mitigated through instilling regulations. For instance, access to food delivery does not remove student interactions, as social interactions over meals in Paresky often occur within predisposed social circles that carry on from other parts of students' days.

TIFFANIE AN / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

In fact, students prefer to go to Paresky for a meal on most days, as it is the most convenient option for students (between classes, after athletics, etc). Thus, food deliveries do not reduce the students from having meaningful social interactions in Paresky; instead, they supplement the limited time slots for meals. Further, the concerns of traffic accidents and strangers on campus can be prevented either by establishing designated pick-up spots, like many other boarding schools such as Deerfield, or by opening up designated parking slots for food deliveries.

Access to food deliveries may seem insignificant to some adults. However, for students who live through hectic schedules and are far away from home-cooked meals, access to a variety of food options with flexible time slots allows us to take care of our well-being while also focusing on academic success and providing time to socially recharge. Likewise, the Task Force ought not instill a complete ban, but rather consider regulations that address the concerns while still providing food deliveries to the students.

Jeannie Kang is a Lower from Seoul, SK. Contact the author at nkang28@andover.edu.

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CORRECTIONS:
Riaana Bajaj '29 wrote "Students Share Thoughts on Late Fall on Campus."

The Phillipian *regrets these errors.*

Shadows in Legacy

LARA KIM

COURTESY OF LARA KIM

My biggest idols have always been my older sisters. Whatever they did was cool, and they were the epitome of who I wanted to be growing up. But I also began to experience a growing pressure to prove myself. Where had it stemmed from? Was it when I watched them achieve all sorts of incredible feats and began to wonder if I would ever be able to do the same? Was it the pressure of not being able to live up to the high standards they set? I watched in awe as they both went away to Andover. It was a distant, seemingly unachievable place of prestige and talent. I desperately wanted to go, to join them and follow in their steps. However, upon arriving at Andover, where they'd already set their presences in stone, the weight of their shadows began to grow heavier. Having a sibling at school — while it is such a blessing — comes with its challenges, the biggest of which is the struggle to differentiate yourself from their legacy.

My eldest sister graduated last year, so our years at Andover never overlapped. However, in the four years of her tuition here, she had certainly made quite the name for herself, becoming Abbot Cluster Co-President, captain of captains, etc. My other sister is currently here, serving as both Co-Captain of Girls' Varsity Squash and a Class Representative. I undoubtedly have the highest amount of respect and adoration for both of them. And yet, it feels as though there are too many expectations set for me after having such accomplished predecessors, some I fear I may not be able to meet. Am I really capable of becoming Class Representative or captain? A bigger question is whether those are truly my goals or if they're just titles I feel pressured to hold.

Having a sibling at school — while it is such a blessing — comes with its challenges, the biggest of which is the struggle to differentiate yourself from their legacy.

Another perspective on the experience of having a sibling at Andover comes from my friend, whose older brother is currently a Senior here. She lamented that, from her encounters, many underestimate her abilities because they assume she received help from her brother. Some people believed that the reason for her acceptance to Andover was due to her brother, rather than her own capabilities and talent. I myself have also experienced such prejudice. As a result, many students tend to feel overshadowed by their older siblings at school.

One of my pettier complaints is the fact that I'm sometimes known as "the sister" and not as my actual self. Oftentimes, people will only approach me because they know I'm related to one of my sisters. They'll ask, "Are you so-and-so's sister?" to which my answer is obviously yes. In most cases, they leave after gaining the information they wanted, leaving me with the feeling that they didn't approach me out of actual intent to get to know me. Such instances also apply to teachers. When I first found out who I had for each class, my sisters were eager to see if they had had the same instructors. When they did, they'd urge me to tell my teachers that I was their sibling, because they were well-liked by them. While I was proud to tell teachers they had taught my sisters in past classes, I didn't want them to see me any differently simply because of that fact. I wanted to earn their approval myself, without any biased opinions. When people look at me, I want them to see me and appreciate who I am, not who I'm connected to.

I also believe that having a sibling in Andover is a gift not many people have. There is always someone you can trust nearby, whether you need help or just someone to talk to. It's easy to get homesick away from family, but with my sister here, I can always walk down the street and see her. Additionally, from watching both of my siblings' experiences, I was able to grow immensely. They taught me what they'd learned from boarding life — how to be independent, how important time management is, even how to form bonds with others. Although other students without siblings can learn all of these lessons, I was able to absorb them much earlier. Additionally, before coming to Andover, I already knew what to expect as they'd gone through the same thing. I didn't have to deal with the stress of having no knowledge of the school like other incoming freshmen.

SOPHIA KIM / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

My sisters are still my idols. However, in the past, I tried to mimic them because I felt that if I followed their steps, I too would become successful. But my aspirations grew into pressure as I got older. Expectations, comparisons, and constant what-ifs haunted me. Coming to Andover helped me realize that I was following in their shadows. I felt uncomfortable doing anything without their confirmation, and was originally only looking to join the same clubs they were in, or go to the same events they did. I viewed their accomplishments as things that I needed to obtain too. But the multitude of opportunities at Andover and the passionate students with a whole spectrum of interests gave me a revelation: I could create my own path. Now, while I still respect their accomplishments and strive to be like them, I don't feel confined to the choices they make. While being known as "the sister" sometimes feels like my own self is being overlooked, I can now let it bring happiness and pride. I am learning to see the line between admiring their feats and feeling confined to their actions.

For those of you at Andover with siblings — or even just successful parents, role models, or peers — you can always strive to be like them, but never feel obliged or pressured to follow in their footsteps. Andover is such an amazing place to be, with so many different corners of interest. What might be the right fit for others could be the wrong fit for you, so never feel restricted to a certain path. Although having siblings can sometimes pose a challenge, it's good to embrace their influences while still creating something unique to ourselves.

Lara Kim is a Junior from Berwyn, Pa. Contact the author at lkim29@andover.edu.

An Unintentionally Diverse Campus Trumps an Intentionally Diverse One

KONNOR FORTINI

A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

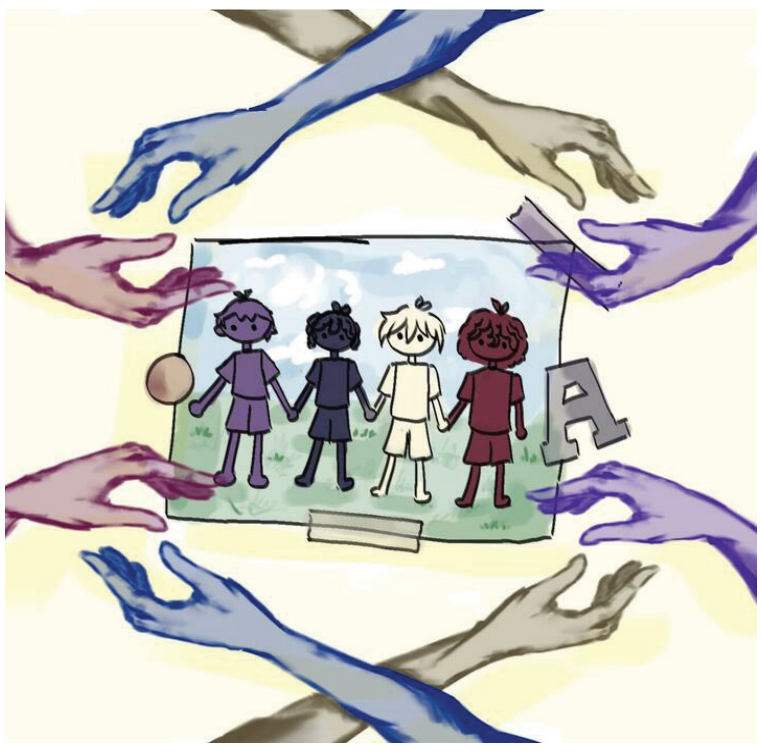
As per Andover's website, our community is "an intentionally diverse community." We've all heard this phrase before; it's on our website, highlighted during school tours, and praised in All-School Meeting (ASM). Yet, if Andover is a place that values curiosity and excellence, diversity should happen inadvertently and naturally. Our school shouldn't strive to be intentionally diverse but rather to be unintentionally diverse. We should be a community where inclusion emerges as a byproduct of genuine excellence and shared humanity, not as a requirement to be met. If there are truly talented people from all over the world who apply to Andover, their origin should matter only insofar as it shapes their perspective, not their chances of admission. Diversity should follow quality, not precede it.

The flaw in intentional diversity is the possibility that identity may be perceived as a quota, rather than a quality. When institutions try to intentionally "look" diverse, they often go beyond merely seeking different perspectives to a point where they begin designing diversity. This can mean curating demographics to achieve a desired image of inclusion or structuring programs to signal progressiveness rather than to cultivate genuine intellectual variety. In doing so, diversity becomes something to be quantified, measured, and maintained rather than "lived". The focus shifts away from a student's ideas or achievements and toward what they represent demographically. Admission starts to prioritize optics over cultivating genuine excellence.

This approach to diversity not only diminishes merit but can also unintentionally burden students with expectations tied to their identity. Studies by social scientists and education scholars have found that when institutions intentionally recruit for demographic representation, students from those groups often feel pressure to act as spokespeople for their background, constantly proving that they "deserve" their place. The journal article "Tokenism and Its Long-Term Consequences: Evidence from the Literary Field," found that when institutions intentionally recruit minorities, members of those groups face disproportionate visibility and are often expected to speak on behalf of their race, culture, or gender in discussions, rather than being seen as individuals with independent ideas. This constant spotlighting can make them feel isolated or reduced to their demographic traits, rather than recognized for their intellect or character. This problem is evident on our campus; the SOTA 2025 survey reveals that 21.6 percent of students believe their race significantly and consistently affects their level of comfort in a classroom setting. Therefore, only when institutions move beyond the optics of intentional diversity can they begin to embody the deeper moral and intellectual richness that comes from true diversity. To understand what that looks like in practice, we must envision a community where diversity isn't engineered but emerges naturally from genuine connections and a shared pursuit of excellence.

Unintentional diversity isn't the absence of identity, but the outcome of a culture where identity naturally coexists with merit, curiosity, and shared purpose without needing to be highlighted. In a truly inclusive environment, diversity emerges as a natural consequence rather than a planned outcome; people from different backgrounds are drawn together organically, united by shared purpose rather than separated by identity categories. One might argue that without intentional effort to connect people across backgrounds, we risk losing valuable perspectives. After all, throughout history, inclusion has rarely occurred spontaneously; progress often requires a deliberate effort to break down barriers and expand opportunities. This is true, and intentional diversity was necessary previously to cultivate a place of diversity; yet the goal of such intentionality should be transitional, not permanent. At this point, promoting diversity can be approached in different ways, such as raising awareness of what Andover has to offer to gain a broader range of applicants, while still maintaining the values of merit.

Diversity would occur naturally because excellence attracts excellence, and connections extend beyond background. An unintentionally diverse Andover would be where a classroom conversation features varied ideas simply because those who attend think differently, and not because they are selected based on their demographics. An unintentionally diverse Andover would be a place where a sense of belonging doesn't have to be publicized; where nobody feels the need to speak for an entire group; and where identity brings richness to who an individual is, rather than defining who they are. Such diversity occurs naturally and stems from being authentic. A classroom at Andover might include students from urban, rural, and international backgrounds; individuals who converge not because of demographic design, but because of shared excellence and curiosity. Research from Indiana University reinforces this point, noting that "bringing students from historically underrepresented groups to campus does not automatically improve the campus climate for diversity or enhance learning opportunities." When diversity arises organically from mutual commitment to learning rather than institutional engineering, it creates authenticity, intellectual freedom, and genuine inclusion.



CARINA PAIK/ *THE PHILLIPIAN*

This principle is evident at Princeton Univeristy, where President Christopher Eisgruber noted that students receiving the highest academic rating (Academic 1) increased from less than 20 percent of the matriculated class in 1990 to approximately 50 percent in recent years, while the student body has simultaneously become more diverse. As Eisgruber observed, "college admissions at Princeton and its peers have become more competitive not because we have forsaken merit but, on the contrary, because we are finding it in more places. Diversity and excellence go hand-in-hand."

In the end, intentional diversity is a mirror, reflecting what we wish to be seen as, while unintentional diversity is a window, reflecting who we are. Andover might find that, if it could be authentic before being diverse, the authenticity would bring the world to its doorstep and keep it there.

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Suffering from "The Liking Gap?"

MEDHA KONDA

A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

Somewhere along the moments of budding conversations and sitting on dorm room floors just before lights out, the lingering feeling of social awareness makes its presence. I mellow out my words when a friend has been leaving something unsaid, or quell my wish to chime in when someone is particularly fond of a topic. I pride myself on having such an ability, being able to recognize when exactly to exercise restraint and avoid oversharing. However, my mother believed my self-awareness was a detriment: a fear of inconveniencing others. This overt self-awareness, as she predicted, started to harm my relationships, haunting me even at Andover. Late night talks in my friend's room replay in my mind after the lights are out, wondering if too many of my words are being dissected and scrutinized by them. Maybe things that my friends said were hidden signals and I never understood the signs that we were incompatible as friends. These thoughts protrude late into the night, as I restlessly turn in bed, often causing me to wonder if they ever liked me all that much. Through many hours of lost sleep, I've found a term for that self-consciousness in relationships. In fact, you may be suffering from it right now. That vexing sensation is the result of "The Liking Gap."

"The Liking Gap" is a term that was born out of a study at Yale, where participants held short-term conversations with strangers and ranked them. Put simply, the "gap" is the disparity between one's perception of how much people like them and that person's actual opinion. Evaluated on a seven-point meter, the participants had a chance to denote how they thought of themselves and the other person, as well as if they could imagine starting a friendship with that person. The study mentions how, when observing data, they found that there is a fallacy in the idea that people liked their conversation partners more than their partners liked them, thus proving "The Liking Gap." Studies have shown a staggering gap of nearly fourteen points between those two data points, reflecting on just how much anxiety and self-awareness permeate our relationships. The study surrounding conversations between strangers is something that happens in the daily life of any Andover student.

In my experience, the liking gap is most apparent during passing conversations, drawing us away from getting to know new people or even taking the initiative to say "hi." The uncertainty of polite conversation leaves ample opportunity to make assumptions. If, perhaps, an awkward silence begins to settle in, worrying about how I'm perceived is a wonderful distraction. It seems that the few shallow dialogues will forever repeat with a dormmate, never turning into Saturday nights in Susie's or common room meetups. Though the psychological existence of this liking gap is scientifically based on exchange in newfound friendship, it appears in close relationships as well. Assumptions about how a friend views me have led me to unnecessarily withdraw from people who truly care. The times I've refrained from opening up were more painful than taking a risk to bring us closer. When it comes to hard conversations in particular, we feel insecure and vulnerable — because validation gives comfort, and therefore the lack of it from a friend can cause us to despair. In an already stressful environment where friendship should be a respite, this constant weighing is an extra burden. In moments like these, the liking gap feels like a perpetual cycle of worries, restraint, and reclusion that makes even close friends seem distant. So, with this concept on our minds, why do we as a society encourage social awareness?

DASHA GOMEZ / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

The liking gap feels like a perpetual cycle of worries, restraint, and reclusion that makes even close friends seem distant.

My view on self-awareness was that it is the driving force that allows us to acknowledge others and their boundaries. Undoubtedly, respecting others in relationships is important, but growth is also hindered when feelings aren't freely expressed. Self-awareness often causes us to double-check what we say, even when it's simply about shallow topics such as finals week. The ability to speak without restraint is one we should be supporting in our social norms, not encouraging people to give fodder for their insecurities. Furthermore, it is painfully obvious when self-awareness gets in the way of productive conversation, even if you might not think so. Right before leaving for Andover, a childhood friend I reconnected with detected my anxiety about making new relationships immediately, much to my surprise, and offered me advice for my new journey. He claimed that I was "doctoring" my sentences, or rather rehearsing what to say instead of expressing what immediately came to mind, likely for approval. However, the next phrases he offered me have stuck with me — that I was going to a place that wanted my brilliance, that part of the mental acuity they needed was that of my words.

Even though school and friendships will be stressful at times, staying attuned to your relationships is nevertheless important. Living with classmates forces you to depend on each other at some point, and my dorm community made it apparent to me that it's okay to lean on others. That fear of being overdependent or overbearing by asking for help is a scientifically backed misconception that should only spur you to overcome your inhibitions. Furthermore, when fully enveloped in your conversations and engaged in the concept at hand, the opportunity to self-assess fades away. It is only human to be concerned with self-image, but in the same way, it is normal to lean on, share, and ask for help from friends without fear of rejection. Those feelings of yours? The science shows it happens to everyone, but that doesn't eliminate the possibility of overcoming them.

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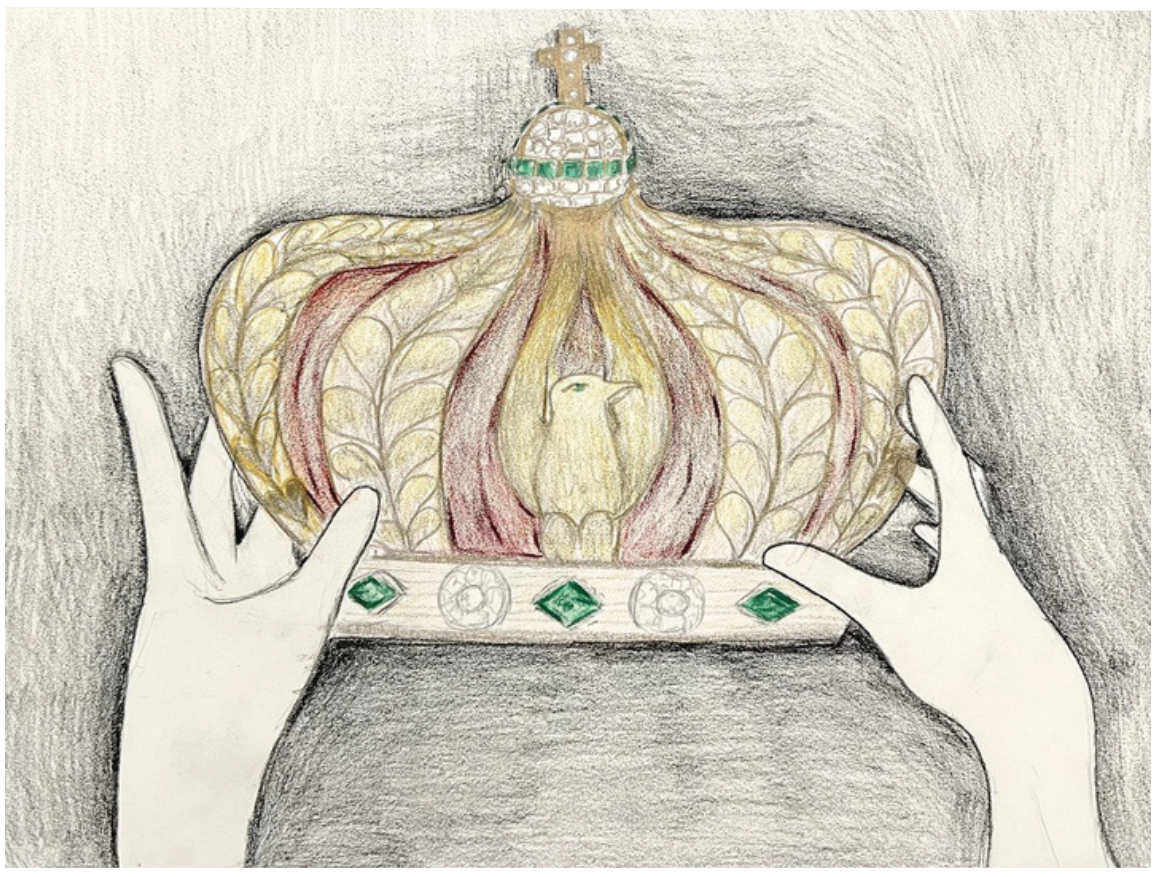
Are Royal Families Still Necessary?

EMMA HONG

K. TOMALA / THE PHILLIPIAN



DASHA GOMEZ / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Why are people in the U.S. so fascinated with royal families? The concept of a royal family may sound like a mere attachment to a children's book's imagination. Yet, there are still many royal families across Earth today, including the U.K., Japan, Spain, Monaco, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Thailand. The presence of royal families in the modern day comes with both its advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, they can provide comfort to their people, but on the other, they often maintain exorbitant lifestyles and lack real authority.

In American culture, royal families are often romanticized as symbols of elegance, tradition, and drama. Shows like "The Crown" and coverage on popular social media platforms such as TikTok reveal a fascination with their fairy-tale glamor, and a deeper interest in the contrast between democratic ideals and inherited privilege.

Their support within their countries can be attributed to their omnipresent cultural and national significance even if they no longer hold political power. For countries like Japan and the U.K., monarchy permeates their national fabric: royal families there are emblematic of centuries' worth of history, with Japan's being the world's oldest hereditary monarchy, its lineage tracing back over 1,500 years. Royal families thereby symbolize the continuity and survival of tradition. This continuity can provide a critical sense of generational memory, within which each generation finds meaning, identity, and stability in the legacy of traditions passed down via monarchy. Royals become a symbol of unity, neutral and consistent figures, unlike politicians, who are more often polarizing. In times of crisis, such as political upheaval, royal families can provide a sense of stability. For example, the royal family of the U.K. became a symbol of resilience during World War 2 and managed to boost morale and bring more of their people together. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth remained in London during the Blitz, visiting bombed neighborhoods and hospitals to show solidarity with ordinary citizens. Monarchs don't generally have much political power anymore, with their roles being largely ceremonial. This causes the positive effect of allowing them to be perceived as non-partisan figureheads who can appeal to a broad spectrum of the population. Through diplomatic visits, charitable work, and cultural ambassadorship, they can project a positive image of their country on the global stage.

In contrast, the U.S. has an absence of a unifying, neutral figure such as a monarch. Our leaders are bound by partisanship and election cycles and rarely manage to provide that same collective sense of comfort or stability during large upheavals nationwide. Presidents can push the nation forward in times of crisis, but their messages are often shaped by ideological boundaries that may only serve to further deepen existing divisions. In contrast to these consequences that result from political polarization, monarchs provide safety and stability during times of crisis.

As much as we may aspire toward the solidarity offered by royal families, they can also cause division in other ways. For instance, a critical disadvantage of royal families is the financial burden of maintaining them. The upkeep of palaces, security, staff salaries, and costs associated with the numerous royal events — these all amount to millions of dollars or pounds each year. Specifically, the annual cost of the British royal family was estimated to be around 510 million pounds or about 670 million dollars in 2024. In countries with constitutional monarchs, taxpayers fund these expenses, inspiring criticisms for how royal expenses are a waste of public money, especially when compared with citizens who are facing economic challenges.

If royal families are necessary is a complex question, and the answer depends on your perspective, values, and the specific context of each country. For some, monarchs are so deeply essential to the cultural identity of their nation that they cannot imagine a nation without them. The connection that their royalty might provide to the past is sufficient for some citizens to rally for their continued existence. For others, it may be something else that draws them to the monarchy: the tourism revenue that royals rake in, their diplomatic relations, or traditional, legacy, heritage, etc. I personally think that the amount of money spent on royal families is a little ridiculous, but it's important to acknowledge that I have not experienced what seems to be the most important factor for the continuation of monarchy — national pride.

But for America, our fascination and support for royal families can be seen as a combination of admiration, curiosity, and escapism. Royal families around the world today endure as figures who inspire admiration, provide a sense of stability during times of crisis, and represent centuries of history and heritage. In the US, where no such institution exists, royalty offers a glimpse into a world of ceremonial power, elegance, and national symbolism that contrasts sharply with the partisan, often divisive nature of democratic governance. Thus, American fascination with royalty reflects a human desire for continuity and tradition, qualities embodied by royal families around the globe.

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SIM Hopes to Host Additional Blood Drive During Spring

Continued from A1, Column 2

looking for interested students to assist with the drive. Dr. Amy Patel, faculty advisor for SIM, mentioned the club's intention to continue Kuta's work by supporting the blood drive in the years ahead.

"Because [SIM] is interested in health and anything medically related, they've been really instrumental in helping to generate sign-ups. They're there during the actual blood drive so that if someone's not feeling well, they can help them feel better... Mr. Kuta set a really strong foundation for having a blood drive on campus, and there always seems to be a shortage of donated blood. We want to continue this excellent blood drive and the foundation that Mr. Kuta has already set as a way to carry on the non-sibi spirit that we have," said Patel.

Ava Cai '27, Co-Head of SIM, explained the logistical hurdles involved in the process of organizing this year's drive. Cai described the preparation and collaboration that went into the event.

"We started planning about a month ahead. Things we had to work on were working out how to properly outreach to the community to make sure that everyone knows this is going on and to get people involved. Other logistics included getting Pan [Athletic Center] and also making sure the Red Cross knows everything that's going on so everything can run smoothly... A big challenge [was] making sure everyone knows about the blood drive and trying to make sure that everyone that wants to participate is able to," said Cai.

A returning donor, Kaliah Fortune '26 explained what drew her to donate to this year's blood drive. She appreciated how the drive made the blood donation process more convenient and approachable for her.

"I've always wanted to donate blood. My sisters were talking about how it was on their bucket list so that encouraged me to do it the first time... I was really shocked when I first saw that they had blood drives at Andover. It's a direct way to make an impact and see immediate results [and] not necessarily know who it's going to but know that it's going to help someone. I was super excited that I would be able to participate in it, and I love that they gave us the opportunity to do that at school," said Fortune.

The club plans to host another blood drive in the spring. Elisa Lee '26, Co-Head of SIM, encouraged first-time donors to continue participating in blood drives, noting the importance of supplying blood to patients.

"It's really essential to realize that even in a first-world country like the U.S., there's still a critical lack of blood supply in hospitals, even major ones. If there's a shortage in big hospitals, there's an even bigger lack in smaller ones. Blood carries oxygen throughout the body. If you don't have enough blood or the right type, your body can go into rejection and won't get enough oxygen. It's essential for any surgical procedure and for general medicine as well. Having enough blood in hospitals can save so many lives," said Lee.

Canceled Protest Sparks Discussion on Andover's Political Discourse

Continued from A1, Column 3

wrote Villanueva in an email to *The Phillipian*.

She added, "Andover is a school with a history of preparing future presidents, ambassadors, politicians, and world leaders. It should be its prerogative to give students spaces and dedicated programming to engage in research and dialogue on local, national, and international crises, issues, and events. Otherwise, students will be ill-equipped to lead as informed global citizens. A more immediate consequence of disengagement is that students will turn to the internet — a cesspool of unverified misinformation — rather than peers and faculty to process challenging political discourse and world affairs."

The Civil Discourse and Political Activity policies, added to the Blue Book on September 23, 2024, outlines the procedure for dealing with campus demonstrations. The section states that students who express political beliefs through "demonstrations" are "required to comply with any requests or restrictions from the Academy or public officials, including but not limited to the instruction to disassemble, remove positives, or relocate off campus."

Within several hours of posting the protest notices, Handschin was asked to speak with several campus administrators on the impending demonstration. Handschin recalled that "alternative avenues" for political discourse — such as clubs, forums, and talking to campus adults — were suggested.

"That conversation, that invitation to talk to me, was very much with constructive intent. Neither party was attempting to completely shut down the protest without a conversation, [which] was mostly just about why I hadn't pursued alternative avenues of change-making at Andover," said Handschin.

"There was certainly a disagreement there in how effective the medium of nonviolent protest is. I definitely had some questions about who really benefited from me choosing or opting for those alternate pathways of change-making first," said Handschin. "I felt that part of the thought behind the protest was holding an administration accountable for a year of very imperceptible action towards an issue that is incredibly important and, frankly, unignorable, right?"

As someone who thought that Andover needed to promote more spaces for political discourse, Robinson thought that the protest was sending a "really good message." However, he recalled a range of opinions on the protest.

"From what I heard, [and] how it was going to be carried out, it sounded like it would be really peaceful and organized. A few people would be speaking and giving their views on a certain thing. But I also can understand the other side where it gets out of control," said Robinson. "Others were scared that it would bring more harm."

Aquita Winslow, Dean of the Office of Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD), is one faculty member who talked with Handschin about the proposed demonstration. Winslow emphasized the importance of exploring other paths of political discourse before holding a demonstration. She added that another reason to cancel the protest was to protect students who could be at risk, such as "visa-carrying students." When asked about specific safety or institutional concerns, she declined to provide any specifics on the record.

"If you want to do any kind of a protest or a rally, let's think about who is going to bear the brunt of that conversation or that decision. If it's just me as an individual, I'm making a choice for myself. That's one thing. But if I'm making a choice that will have a ripple effect and hit other students, I have to think about that," said Winslow.

She added, "[It's important] to think about the impact that whatever we do is going to have on not just ourselves, but other individuals. If I get up and say something, are you, as a visa-carrying student, going to be impacted by that? If [Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)] comes here, is that going to impact students? I have to think about that."

After various discussions with Winslow and International Student Coordinator Reverend Gina Finnochiaro, Handschin agreed to cancel the protest. Despite thinking it unlikely that a peaceful protest with "no disruptive intention" could have called such attention to Andover, she mentioned the importance of acknowledging the possibility.

"It is of utmost importance that the vulnerable population, or the vulnerable demographics of Andover, are protected and feel safe in coming here. I would hate to do something that would jeopardize that or put anyone in danger. At the same time, recognizing that fact is a terrifying thing to do, because it means that US democracy has deteriorated to a point where free speech is no longer protected. If there can be no protest, there has to be a recognition of why there can be no protest," said Handschin.

To raise awareness about the protest's cancellation, Handschin distributed a poster on Thursday, October 16 with the following statement: "the Friday protest will not be taking place, [because] certain student groups at Andover may be put at risk for political attacks from the Trump Administration. Simply by attending or being caught nearby. Silencing free speech through threats and political intimidation is a hallmark of fascism. This is not a democracy. Speak up."

Faculty Share That Dance Attendance Has Decreased Following COVID

Continued from A1, Column 5

"I want to see [Abbot] come back. It's fun to dress up, and it's something I look forward to on my weekends. I always like to have something that will get me through the week that I can look forward to. A dance is a good, fun thing to have. I'd encourage my friends to go. Let's make sure that [Abbot] stays," said Dunbar.

Christopher Capano, Director of Student Activities, explained that student activities, and dances in particular, have experienced declining attendance over the years. He also noted, however, that non-dance events this year have been seeing high attendance numbers.

"Before Covid[-19], the Halloween dance used to be so big, we used to have kids wait outside to get in because we were too full. The Abbot ball used to be packed the entire night. Last year [at Abbot], I think we got less than 50 kids the whole night," said Capano. "The anecdotal reason that we've heard is that kids are just super busy. It's the end of the term, they're worrying about final exams and final papers and getting all their work together."

He added, "[Cluster Olympics] got kids really pumped up gathering as a group and doing fun things. So our Fall Carnival and Quad Day and some of those events have had really, really big crowds. Once kids start coming to them, they keep coming."

Cormier further detailed how this year's sparsely attended Borden Halloween Dance differed from the past. She considered that the Covid-19 pandemic might have been the impetus for such declines in student turnout.

"Student events have seen a pretty steady decline since Covid[-19]. Especially for dances. Even last night's Halloween dance was sparse. Where Borden was once packed with 300, 400, even 500 kids, it was moderately attended with a max of 75 at any given point in time. A lot of kids poked their heads in and left," said Cormier. "Some weren't even in costume."

She added, "There were more kids in Susie's when I went in at 10:30 p.m. and reports were there were 'a lot' of people at free skating."

Madelyn Esposito '27 attributed low event attendance may be due to the inconsistencies in the grouping of Weekender events. She noted that some weekends have an abundance of events, while others were relatively sparse, leaving students to sacrifice attendance at events.

"A lot of the Weekender events tend to be packed together, so one weekend you'll have four different events and the next you'll have nothing or maybe just one. That causes people to think about which event they really want to go to. [For example], this weekend, there was a free skate and the Halloween dance... and there were movies, and so you have to decide, 'Do I want to go ice skating, or do I want to go to a dance, or a movie?'" said Esposito.

Many Students Remain Unaware About the Change in BlueCard Price

Continued from A1, Column 5

fully, students would then keep a closer eye on them."

The policy was not communicated through an email or other announcement, which resulted in some students being unaware of the change in policy. Wylie Roossien '26, who had in previous years lost her BlueCard twice, did not know that there was now a replacement cost. She mentioned that, while the fee would likely motivate students to be more careful with their BlueCards, the lack of clear communication to the student body could prevent awareness of the rule at all.

"[The change in policy] needs to be communicated to people before they get a BlueCard that it's costing them... If [the change] is coming through Campus Safety, there should definitely be conversations facilitated between the administration and us. I think there's probably a disconnect there, and most of the student body just isn't aware. If they were to be informed by some faculty or adult presence on campus, that would really help us all out and make sure that fewer BlueCards are being lost, like mine," said Roossien.

Some students believed that although a replacement fee encouraged responsibility, it could have a disparate impact on students experiencing financial difficulties. Teddy Blum '29 hasn't lost his BlueCard yet, but felt that the replacement fee should be lower, not immediate, and that the school should waive the charge for the first few times in certain scenarios.

"First of all, it's a very high [replacement] fee. 40 dollars is a lot for most people. Also, I think that how they handle it by making the students pay for it is not good. The parents of the student should be the ones who replace the blue card. If they want to make their kids pay for it, that's another story, but I don't think kids should have to pay at the time of replacement," said Blum.

Leonard emphasized the importance of alerting Campus Safety when a BlueCard is lost due to potential security risks, and shared that students may not be immediately charged if they do not have personal means to pay on the spot.

"One thing I do want to highlight is that if a student does lose a card, they really do need to let us know. It's important because if you lose a card and don't let us know, it's still an active card. Another thing, if a student comes in and says, 'I don't have a credit card,' or 'I don't have Apple Pay,' we'll take your information, and, in the past, the way dorm keys were billed is we'd send it to the comptroller's office and they would bill," said Leonard.

K.MA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

This week, students dressed up for Spirit Week which occurs every year before A/E. On Thursday, students participated in the classic "Exeter Geek-Day" theme.

10 Questions with Joshua Donovan

REPORTING BY SOPHIA FANG & EDWARD KIM

Joshua Donovan is an Instructor in History and Social Sciences, a coach for Outdoor Pursuits, and a House Counselor in Foxcroft Hall. Prior to coming to Andover, Donovan attained a PhD in Middle Eastern History at Columbia University, where he was a Dissertation Fellow at Columbia's Sakıp Sabancı Center. In his free time, Donovan enjoys collecting scarves, hiking, and cooking with his husband.

E. LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

For students who are also interested in writing publications, what is your advice for them?

Find topics or questions that really interest you... whether you're doing research at the high school level or even professionally. One of the things that motivates me to keep writing and researching and thinking and teaching are questions. I'm a naturally curious person and a lifelong learner, and that mentality will benefit you wherever you end up going.

You came to Andover from a teaching post at Boston College, Columbia University, and the United Arab Emirates. What drew you to a secondary school classroom at this point in your career?

I still do some research myself, but I've been surprised at how close the caliber of Andover students are to university students. I've certainly made some adjustments, of course, but for the most part, Andover students are really curious. We read, wrestle with difficult texts, and talk about important moments in history. The History Department here in particular cares a lot about student research, so I also have opportunities for mentorship, which are really exciting.

We noticed you sing for the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. How has that been?

I'm a big music guy. [I] grew up playing piano and singing all throughout middle and high school and into college as well. And so when I moved to Boston a couple of years ago, I auditioned for the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. It [had] a wonderful sense of community. I sing as a lower bass, and it's just great to gather with them and rehearse each week and put on shows in Boston.

How was your experience teaching History 300?

It's been really great. One of the major assignments that I did for this term to get students ready for that big 300 paper in the spring was to have people look for a primary source themselves and just tell me a little bit about it, analyze it, contextualize it, and think through how [they] might use it for historical research. I was instantly blown away by the creativity, the originality, and again, the caliber of student research. I told parents at family weekend that I've done similar assignments like this at the college level, and there really is not much of a difference in the output. It's really impressive.

What is your favorite book and movie?

I'm a big fan of the original "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. If I had to pick a single standalone movie, maybe "Birdcage," [starring] Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. Books, I couldn't possibly pick a favorite. [The] one I'm reading right now and really enjoying is a memoir by a historian named Avi Shlaim, called "Three Worlds: Memoirs of an Arab-Jew." He's a historian who's trained at Oxford and born in Baghdad in the early, mid 1940s prior to the creation of the state of Israel. [He] talks about his family being forced or pressured to leave Iraq, about discrimination as an Arabic speaking person in Israel, and then about his career as a historian. It's a book that really complicates simplistic narratives about the Middle East and is a really rich and well written account. I've been enjoying that lately.

What is it like serving as a host on the New Books in Middle Eastern Studies podcast?

It was a great opportunity to talk to other historians about their work. In academia, there's a common practice of reviewing other people's scholarship, and that can be sort of impersonal. You read a book and then you type something without necessarily having met them. But these were conversations where I could ask questions about their research process or what they were thinking, and they could offer a deeper understanding that went beyond what was typed on the page, which I thought was a really cool opportunity.

What do you enjoy the most about being an outdoor pursuits Instructor?

Being outdoors. There are some cultures [in Scandinavia] and Japan that have this notion of forest bathing, where you immerse yourself in the wilderness and open your mind to reflection and contemplation and the serenity of the outdoors. I really like doing that, and I like bringing students outdoors to also experience some fresh air. It's really restorative.

Do you have a favorite hiking trail?

The favorite trail would have to be the [Cochran Bird Sanctuary] at least on campus. I still haven't seen very many birds in this bird sanctuary, but it's a great place... It's just an amazing place to have on campus. I often go there, with my husband and my dog, we just sort of walk around, and I know the students really get a lot of enjoyment out of that, too.

Do you have a favorite recipe to make?

In terms of cooking, I'm pretty open-minded, but I'm a big fan of world cuisine. We cook a lot of Middle Eastern food [and] South Asian food. My husband came from the American Southwest, so he's a big fan of Mexican food. Paresky [Commons] does a pretty good job, too. I've been cooking far less than I normally have, which has been surprising to me.

How did your childhood shape you as a person?

I came from a public school background. I would describe it [as] sort of a blue collar background, not overly academic, but one where I was allowed to explore my passions and creativities. One really formative moment in my childhood was when I was 11 years old. I traveled to Australia and New Zealand with a student ambassador program without family. And that gave me the travel bug, this passion for exploring the world and learning about different peoples and places, and that I've continued into my adulthood.

How did you get into collecting scarves? Which is your favorite?

I started wearing scarves in college. Somebody knit me two scarves, actually. Then, some part of it is motivated by my travel. If I go to places and I see lovely scarves, I get them. The one that I have on right now is from Tunisia. It keeps my neck warm and gives a little pop to my outfit. I couldn't possibly pick a favorite, there are too many to choose from.

Brace Fellow Cindy Yang '26 Examines Queer Resistance through the Lens of Danmei Literature

KAI OBATA & AZUL CABRERA

The Brace Fellows Program kicked off its first presentation of this academic year, with Cindy Yang '26 delivering their presentation titled "Gray Space, Gay Space: Danmei Literature and Queer Resistance in China." Danmei is a form of queer resistance writing that contrasts conspicuous forms of Chinese activism. Yang's presentation delved into the various ways in which the Danmei literature navigates legislative gray spaces to represent the queer community.

Each year, Andover's Brace Center for Gender Studies selects four students to research a topic pertaining to intersectional gender equity and inclusion, culminating in an extensive paper and presentation to the community. Yang discussed how their major research findings lent them a new perspective on different forms of activism.

"My family is Chinese-American. I grew up with this notion of activism as very overtly confrontational, very visible, very local. This is what I talked about in my presentation. I started to realize that activism doesn't always have to look like that. It was really fascinating to me to see how these smaller, almost less visible actions that Chinese queer activists and also Danmei authors were doing were contributing. They're also a form of queer activism, helping normalize queer relationships," said Yang.

Yang's research also led to a deeper understanding of the complexities of how the Chinese government considers and manages its queer communities. Noticing the levels of censorship on social media platforms and on the internet, Yang discusses the effects of censorship.

"When you think about authoritarian governments [like] the Chinese government, it's easy to think that they all look one way, [with policing] and that you're not allowed to voice dissent at all. [But] there's actually different levels of censorship on the Internet, online platforms where you can find [queer resistance] in literature and some social media platforms. It was interesting to think about how the government shapes this. In my presentation, [I talk about] the government's policy on how [they] treat queer people is no approval, no disapproval, no promotion," said Yang. "When you're just talking about an individual and their expression and their space to be queer, legal invisibility can be empowering too."

Yang's presentation was overseen by their faculty advisor Dr. Lilia Cai, Instructor in the Chinese Department. In an email to *The Phillipian*, Cai noted what stood out to her about Yang's presentation and prompted students to continue pursuing research into the intersections of identity.

"I loved how they talked about how activism looks different in different cultures and within different cultural and historical contexts. It's not always 'out and proud,' but can be subtle and grassroots-based. I would love for students to continue to do research around intersections of different aspects of identities, race, gender, etc, in different social and cultural contexts and push research beyond what's familiar, which is the western qualitative research norms," wrote Cai.

Patrick Xu '27, a close friend of Yang's, attended the presentation. Xu elaborated on his takeaways from their talk as well as the audience's support of Yang.

"It was incredible. One of the best I had ever attended. It was well-thought-out, well-researched, and the presentation was engaging, and there was a great turnout... [Yang] showed three examples of queer activism in Danmei literature, and if you don't [look] for the queer activism in those examples, it's really hard to spot. So that close reading and analysis was really important and relevant for the topic," said Xu.

Allison Lee '28, who also attended the presentation, mentioned Yang's elucidation of queerness in the context of ancient China. Lee explained how this highlighted the presence and treatment toward queerness before colonialism struck America.

"[Yang shared] a legend about this man who cuts his sleeve, because his lover is sleeping on his sleeve. He chooses to cut it instead of disturbing his lover. I thought that that was very sweet, and also a good reminder that a lot of queerness existed in many societies before colonialism, and it's [only] very recently that there's been more homophobia," said Lee. "It was really funny because there was a lot of people in the audience who were very familiar with Danmei, so there were a few moments where [Yang] was referencing a certain book or web series, and you could tell that a portion of the audience was familiar by their reactions, and that they were enjoying it. I appreciated that."

I. PADMAWAR/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

As a Brace Fellow, Cindy Yang '26 presented on Queer Resistance.

Non Sibi Beyond Andover: Three Alumni Receive 2025 Award of Distinction

SARAH SUN & ADELYNE LIU

Pablo Durana '02, Ruth E. Harlow '79, and John Marks '61 received the 2025 Alumni Award of Distinction at All-School Meeting (ASM) last Friday. The annual award aims to recognize three Andover alumni who have achieved distinction in various fields with their contributions. Nominees delivered speeches sharing their experiences at Andover, career paths, and advice for Andover students.

An award-winning cinematographer and director, Durana built a career capturing human stories and resilience across seven continents. His journey in filmmaking began after a 2,700-mile bike expedition through Western China, where he documented minority cultures, winning an Emmy and an Oscar for his work. He spoke on how he found his passion for visual media in an interview with *The Phillipian*.

"I always loved photography, taking photos. Vinyl was this distant thing that I had in mind but never took as something I [could] dedicate my life to, because I didn't think it was really possible. I just thought it was not something that a lot of people do, but Andover helped plant the seed of this passion. I took a photography black and white class and a photo development class here. It was really great because I was working with film, and it initiated my interest in framing and photography," said Durana.

From the 1980s through the 2000s, Harlow worked as a pioneering LGBTQIA+ rights lawyer and later worked in reproductive rights. She served as the lead counsel for Lawrence v. Texas, a landmark court case in 2003 that secured constitutional liberty for all consenting adults and dismantled state laws criminalizing same sex intimacy. Harlow discussed how Andover inspired her to contribute to history long before she chose her career.

"When my parents said goodbye to me on Chapel Avenue, I thought, 'What have I gotten myself into?' I still remember being sick to my stomach and seeing all the kids around me, who seemed so much more sophisticated, and I had lots of fears about fitting in. On the other hand, walking around Andover and soaking up this place made it very real to me that individual ordinary human beings made history. If Paul Revere sat down to design the Andover seal and George Washington walked through the mail room or on the same land as the mail room since now, maybe I could play a role in history too," said Harlow during her ASM speech.

After serving as a foreign diplomat for the U.S. Department of State, Marks founded Search for Common Ground (Search), the world's largest non-governmental organization (NGO) involved in peacebuilding, with 600 offices in 36 countries. In 2018, Search was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in conflict resolution. Marks spoke about how Andover's Non Sibi values inspired him to pursue a career of social impact.

"People who stood up here [at ASM] used to talk about this idea of Non Sibi. It was the thing that when I left Andover, I came away with it. In other words, I got a notion that I wanted to do something with my life that was different than what my father wanted. My father wanted me to go to his insurance business, and he offered me a huge bribe to do it, and I just wasn't at all interested. I wanted to try to do things that made a difference in the world," said Marks in an interview with *The Phillipian*.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY K.MA & C.ZHOU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Athreya Yegneswaran '29 shared his main takeaway from the ASM, noting how Andover provided a launching point for each speaker's career. He expressed how hearing from alumni who discovered their passions inspired him.

"The alumni speakers did inspire me, in a way. Each person was unique in their own journey and in their own way of approaching their goal... and everyone started off at Andover. I'm really grateful for coming to a place that allows me to explore all these [areas]. I get a lot of new experiences, and it's a real honor for me to see all of these huge people come to the same school, and we are all connected in this way," said Yegneswaran.

The three nominees also joined several classes for the day. Students taking the "Proof and Persuasion" course (Philosophy and Religious Studies-360) had the opportunity to have a conversation with Marks. Jane Hlavaty '28, who asked Marks a question about how society has changed since the start of his career, explained how his response broadened her worldview.

"He elaborated on how people in this generation are almost growing up quicker or are just more knowledgeable [about] things. Now, we have more factors to consider. When he was younger, he said that when they were driving, it was okay to just chuck a cup out of the window, but now, we have to think about environmental concerns. That stuck with me because I realized that the information we have on the world is always changing.

There are always new factors and a few years from now we're probably going to look at the same thing in a totally different angle," said Hlavaty.

Write for News!!!

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APPLY SOON! Deadline is Monday, November 3

Questions? Please email Ms. Landolt or AAF coordinator Belinda Traub (btraub@andover.edu). Start dreaming today!

LEARN MORE!

DREAMS & DONUTS
Monday, September 15
7–8 p.m. in the OWHL

Meet Ms. Landolt and recent student grant recipients, learn more about how to get funding, and enjoy cider and donuts.

DROP-IN INFO SESSIONS
Stop by Paresky, lower left, during these Wednesday Conference Periods:

September 17
October 1
October 15
October 29

Scan for AAF grant application and examples of past projects.

Phillips Academy
ANDOVER

PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY
EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Exonian

REAL JOURNALISM

The oldest continously unread running biweekly preparatory school newspaper in America

Exeter Spirit Week!

By Konnor Fortini

Hello Exonians! It's Exeter Spirit Week, a way for you to show your school pride until the big E/A day on Saturday. These themes were curated to represent our bustling everyday campus life, and everyone is encouraged to participate. The best costumes will be graded on a scale of 0-11, so make sure to dress well!

Monochrome Mondays

Students are encouraged to wear black, dark gray (and even light gray!) to represent the thread that unifies the Exeter community: the internal state of dread and depression. "Nothing says school spirit like dressing like a funeral," said one junior, who has not smiled since middle school.

Tough Luck Tuesday

Students dress in the colors of the high school they actually wanted to get into. Last year, around 98% of the campus wore blue, while the other 2% wore nothing. Even the janitor wore blue, saying, "I applied to Andover for maintenance once. They said my mopping skills didn't show enough 'Knowledge and Goodness.'"

Crimson Wednesday

It's the midpoint of Spirit week, and students are invited to wear red: the color of Exeter pride, bloodshot eyes, and desperation. The red screams, "Harvard, please notice me!". One senior arrived in a full Harvard sweatshirt, clutching a mock acceptance letter, whispering "manifestation is real".

Throwback Thursday

Take a look back at your days before attending Exeter, back when you slept, smiled, and weren't taught math through "Harkness discussions". Today is the day when you get to be that old self. Students are encouraged to bring props from their childhoods, such as optimism or a personality; please, really go all out!

Feral Friday

By Friday, Exeter stops pretending. Students are encouraged to wear whatever's left of their sanity. The official color is "unhinged" and the theme is simple: let go of sleep, responsibility, and the faint belief that this week was about fun. "This is our natural state," said a senior, eyes twitching. "Unsupervised ambition and mild psychosis." The administration calls it "community building." Everyone else calls it "crying, but louder."

Exeter Overheard On The Paths

"My DoorDash driver just turned me into a Republican"

"Dude, you know "stop" isn't a part of my vocabulary."

"Oh yeah, I failed on November 1st"

"Mamdani elected and Cheney dying on the same day? What a coincidence!"

"Wow, this is queer art!"

"I am at the top of the social hierarchy"

"Heard the Bishop common room is the best place to run two-mans."

"Heard Exeter Football is starting their JV team against Andover."

"Are bushes a good hiding place?"

Exeter Top Headlines

- *Exeter Fails to Kidnap Gunga Before A/E Day*
- *Andover Student Catches Exie Spying on Signs of Cracks In The Andover Football Team*
- *Classics Department Runs Rampant at Exeter as Teacher Proclaims Battle of Phillipi on Instagram Reels*
- *Exeter Declares November 4 a Day of Mourning*
- *Exeter's "Little Red Book" Updated to Ban Criticism of Meta*
- *"Lolita" Once Again Named Exeter Faculty's Favorite Book*
- *Peregrine Citing on Campus: Murmuration!*
- *What is With the Egg Surcharge Downtown?*

Exeter Daylight Savings

By Sebastian Vermut

The second of November marked the beginning of daylight savings, an Exonian's favorite time of year. There's really nothing as exhilarating as changing every clock and watch one hour earlier after a day full of Saturday classes. The extra hour gives the Exonian ample time to catch up on their chores. Many students will use the time to organize their collection of pocket protectors and Dungeon & Dragon dice. Others might spend the time coming up with insults for Andover students to "compensate for something."

In an interview, one Exeter student expressed his joy at the extra hour of the day:

"This is almost as good a day as A/e. I mean E/a. Last year, I used the extra hour to visit the shrine to Big Daddy Zuck. This year, my friends and I are planning a trip to Exeter's paper clip museum, though the trip has to be under half an hour, or we get too excited. The only way this day could get any better is if I had TWO hours extra, because then I could spend one hour at the museum and another staring at the girls field hockey practice"

It should be noted that the student had initially requested the Eighth Page remove that quote. We did not.

Another student described her routine:

"The first thing I do during the hour is ask my teacher for extra work. That way I can better use the time. The second thing I do is leave negative comments under Andover's niche page. We have to be above them. The third thing I do is hail Spock. The fourth thing...."
The student trailed off, distracted by a leaf.

On the other hand, the entire Exeter football team will be engaged in a voodoo ritual to beat Andover. Insiders believe it has something to do with sacrificing a goat in the name of George H.W. Bush's name, may Dick Cheney rest in peace.

Battle of the Academies

Andover Football: Fueled by Propane

By Konnor Fortini

The morning of Andover/Exeter (A/E) began with the smell of propane and testosterone filling the air. As the football players got ready for the big game, the parents of the Andover team had a tailgate party at the back of their trucks. The talk was vibrant:

"My great aunt spoke to me from the grave, and she said we have a chance at winning today's match," said one father, flipping burgers with the intensity of a man who peaked during his own high school football career.

Around him, parents discussed their pre-game strategies to ensure that today was the day Andover Football would win. One mother claimed she had sprinkled holy water on her son's cleats; another revealed she had personally bribed the referee. To these middle-aged adults, this match is everything.

Dr. Kington arrived just as the scent of overcooked burgers reached its spiritual peak. Dressed in all blue, he walked to the middle of the tailgate party and exclaimed, "Today, we feast, we fight, we forget the tuition!" The parents yelled with excitement and threw the burger patties in the air.

Kington continued, "Exeter may have better players than us, they may have better spirit, they may even have better hearts. However, there is one thing that they don't have: Andover Intelligence (AI)!"

At that, the crowd erupted into a frenzy. Fathers began chest-bumping with the cautious agility of men who hadn't stretched since the Bush administration. At the same time, mothers screamed "Go Big Blue!" as if calling the gods for divine intervention.

As the ruckus died down, the grillmasters went back to cooking at full speed. They arranged the patties into the shape of the Andover "A." Smoke rose in thick blue clouds, forming what several parents claimed was the face of Samuel Phillips himself. "It's a sign!" yelled one father, tears streaking through his face paint. "He believes in us!"

Dr. Kington, basking in the admiration of his people, raised a paper plate as if it were a holy relic. "We are not just a school," he declared. "We are a movement. A brotherhood. An institution with an enormous endowment and an even larger amount of delusion that we have an outstanding football team."

The parents shouted, "We believe that we will win! We believe that we will win!" The chants slowly turned into a cry that began as school spirit and ended as something closer to collective therapy. One father fell to his knees, whispering, "Please, just one touchdown," as if invoking a deity that only answers to Division I recruits.

And as the first whistle blew, the parents stood tall, drunk on spirit, nostalgia, and slightly overcooked hamburgers, ready to face the one truth that unites all Andover generations: we may not win, but by God, we'll look like we paid enough to.

Exeter Halloween Party

By Nate Kreppner

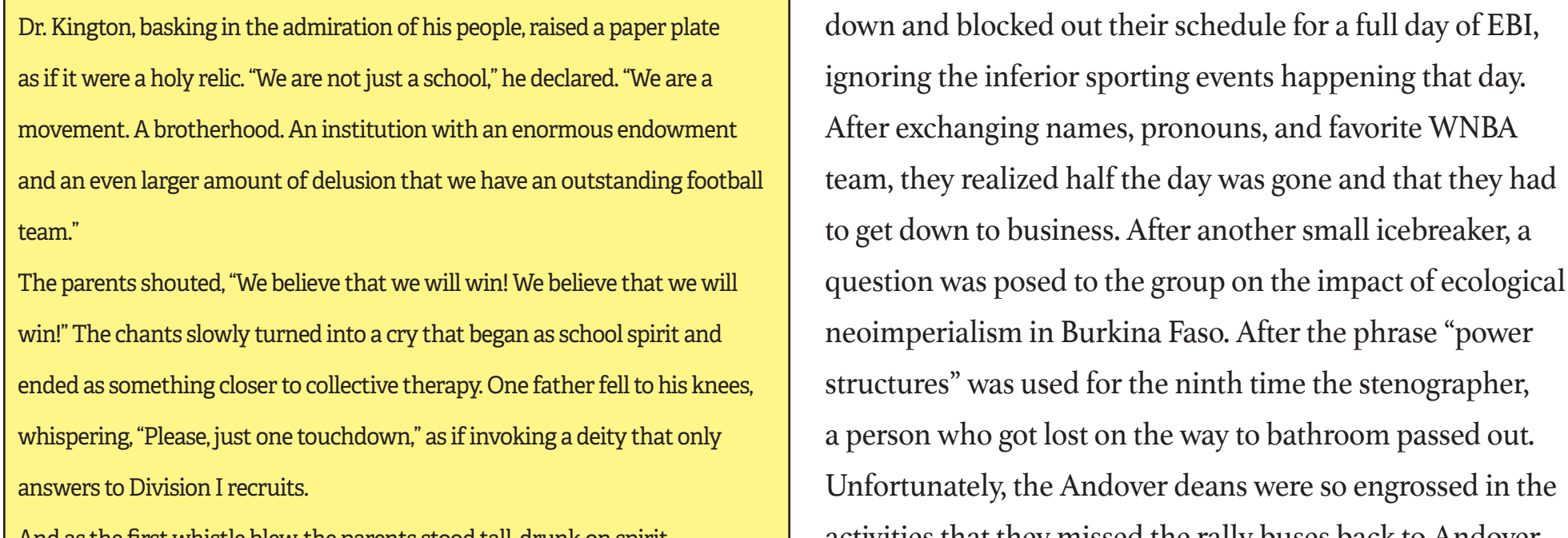
This past Halloween weekend, Exeter had a small "rage-a-thon fest 5000 party". In their super unc status building they call a basketball gym, they held an invite only (Google form sign-up) function (there was a DJ who was 14). Reports called it the "party of the century" but the party was reportedly so lame that Exeter in a rage made an anonymous phone call down to Andover. With Weekend Sign-in being at 6:15 p.m., the Exeter students all packed their way into that gym. Fein was played on repeat for the entirety before the balloons were popped and students were sent home in a "fruit punch daze". The students then returned promptly back to their dorm in orderly fashion to complete their post-party reflection. A leak surfaced on the internet and revealed that these students were ecstatic about the party that lasted a whole 13 minutes. "I wish we had that every weekend," said a student, "That was the best party eva," said another. Exeter stays little bro in every category.

Exeter vs. Andover Deans in "Chicken"

By Thiago Jollon

The deans from Andover and Exeter met on A/E, not to battle it out on the playing fields, but rather to discuss around the Harkness table. While neither side intended for this to happen, the conversation quickly devolved into an intellectual game of Chicken. Having declared American football a "uniquely American post-colonialist exemplification of masculine violence" the deans sat down and blocked out their schedule for a full day of EBI, ignoring the inferior sporting events happening that day. After exchanging names, pronouns, and favorite WNBA team, they realized half the day was gone and that they had to get down to business. After another small icebreaker, a question was posed to the group on the impact of ecological neoimperialism in Burkina Faso. After the phrase "power structures" was used for the ninth time the stenographer, a person who got lost on the way to bathroom passed out. Unfortunately, the Andover deans were so engrossed in the activities that they missed the rally buses back to Andover. They tried to call an Uber, before remembering that they were in Nowhere, New Hampshire, and just resigned themselves to another two years of misery.

The Ghost of Dick Cheney



NATHAN WU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

go big red 🤓

Exeter Pep Rally

By Connor Chung

In response to Abbot Cluster's "Who are we? A-B-B" chant, Exeter has created a new chant, realizing their old one wasn't good enough. Clearly not understanding that "ABB" stood for "Abbot", they started to shout, "Who are we? A-B-Gs!". I'm not sure what they were thinking, but they don't have a cluster with those initials.

At the sound of this chant, eager Exeter students perked up and began scanning the crowd. Much to their dismay, all of the ABGs were preoccupied with Big Ed, a welcome addition to Exeter's football roster. Students started screaming, "Where are you, ABGs!" Rosie the Riveter, furious with these students' behavior, yelled and requested that the hose be brought out. The school explained that they stopped hosing people in '68, however, so instead she threatened to make the basketball team pass a Swim Test if they wanted to play.

The students walked away more unfulfilled than then they ever had that A/E.

K.MA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

A/E Cheer

By Dylan Siegel

Andover, Exeter

Not tryin' to relive memories of losing in Football forever

Gotta stay representing the community

Or else you ain't gonna be getting sendy you see

Better bring your pep

Because Exonians might give you strep

Stay loud, stay proud

Because Exeter is about to get chowed

Rollllllll Gunga

Exeter Two Man

By Teddy Frangakis

With a surge of "two mans" increasing exponentially in high schools across America, researchers wanted to conduct a study on the influx of this dating style and why it is becoming so rampant. With the spirit of A/E, us researchers were able to find two Andover and Exeter students who wanted to initiate the two man with one another. After interviewing Andover's top "two-manners" on campus, we have gathered valuable insight on the topic.

"The last girls had an unforgettable experience with Trent and I, they couldn't keep their eyes off us. After a four-mile walk across campus with fine shii we decided to settle down at JP for some good cream, but these huzz didn't wanna pay so we walked another four-miles for some rink action," said Mason, self proclaimed "F— Student".

"As a prospect for Varsity hockey, I needed to make sure my dangles were up to standard. Hockey sticks before chicks, am I right? Anyway, these girls were def digging it. I could see them on the bench staring down at their phones, prob texting the huzz 'bout us or somethin'," Trent, 4th string JV hockey.

For the purpose of getting a neutral understanding of the two man, we were able to interview the girls about their own experience.

"Mason is a biatch. I wanted to slap him across the face during the free skate. I liked him at first cause he was really tall (Editor's note: Mason is 5'6 while Chloe is 4'1), but he kept on trying to do something called a "Michigan" during the entirety of free skate, and in turn, the puck went straight to my throat. The entire time he was saying "6-7," talking about how bad the seniors are, giving me and Cabbie back-handed compliments and not paying attention to me at all," Chloe, suspected middle schooler.

"Trent is cute, but he takes things too seriously. He wants to "take things slow". I was willing to wait a bit, but he said he doesn't want to do it until a week into our situationship, so I decided to go out with another man before him. This apparently was not a good idea, because he blocked me! I was telling Trent it wasn't technically cheating! I'm currently texting him right now about coming to his dorm for an apology, and what I mean by that is going [redacted by editor] for an hour straight," Cabbie, XC prospect.

Our research came to be completely inconclusive. There seemed to be no correlation to the rise in "two mans" and the enjoyment out of them, along with the lack of evidence for the reason people go on them in the first place. In conclusion, if you want to go on one with me and my boy Alf, hit my number up right here: 267-436-5025

EXONIAN SOTA 😭✌️✌️

EXETER

We as Exeter's 😭✌️✌️ biweekly paper conducted a survey on r campus culture 😭✌️✌️ n we had to ask the Phillipian's great Kelvin Ma 😭✌️✌️ to create a page for us 😭✌️✌️ and they ask me if my mind fresh and i 😭✌️✌️ lowk dont think of myself 😭✌️✌️ more than a fly! We ALL wish for a mature woman to knot us until we cannot form a SINGLE human thought 😭✌️✌️

RESPONDENTS:

Did you respond to our 😭✌️✌️ survey?

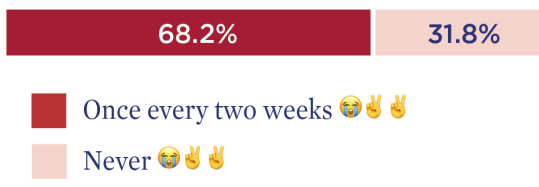
100%

of students said Yes!

*Editors Note: One Exeter Alum also filled out the survey, accounting for 4% of the respondents.

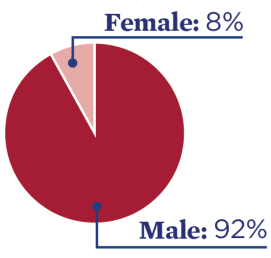
EXONIAN POPULARITY

How often do you read our 😭✌️✌️ paper?



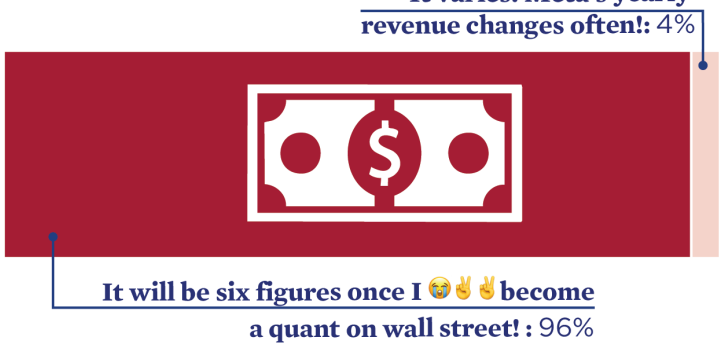
SEX:

What is your 😭✌️✌️ assigned sex at birth?



YEARLY INCOME

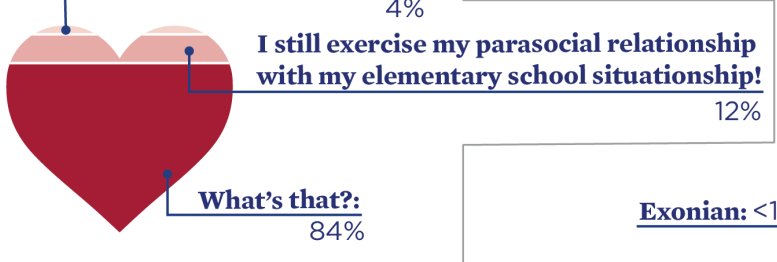
How much money do you 😭✌️✌️ make in a year?



ROMANTIC AFFILIATION:

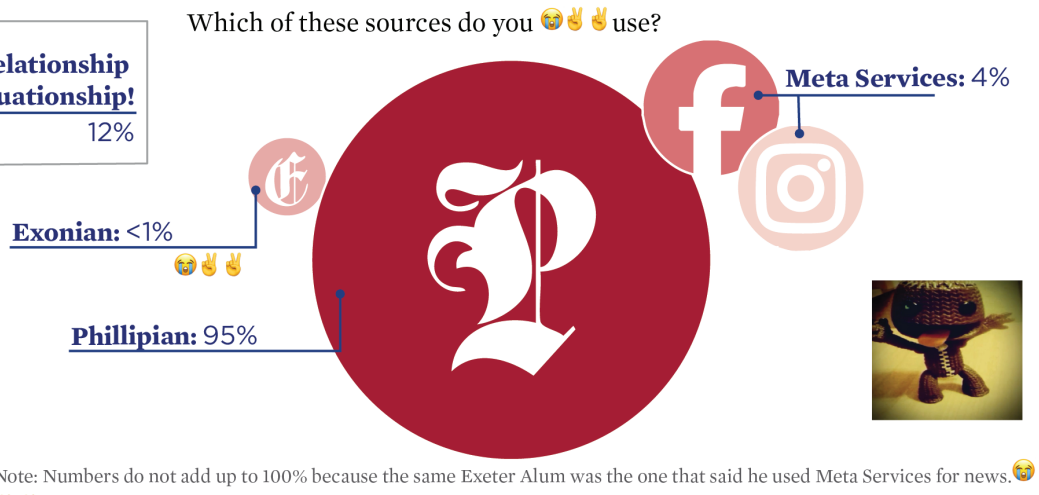
What is your 😭✌️✌️ romantic affiliation?

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



NEWS SOURCES:

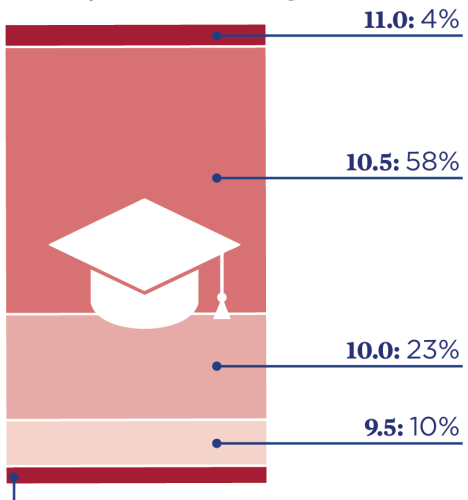
Which of these sources do you 😭✌️✌️ use?



*Editors Note: Numbers do not add up to 100% because the same Exeter Alum was the one that said he used Meta Services for news.😭✌️✌️😭✌️✌️

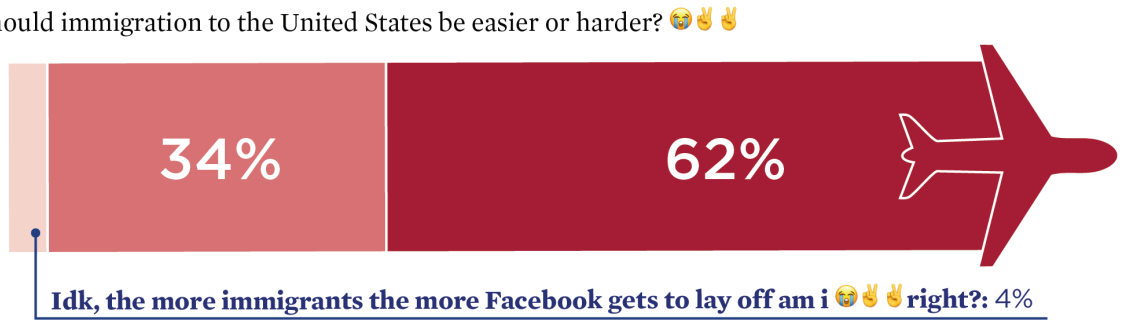
AVERAGE GPA

What is your 😭✌️✌️ average GPA?



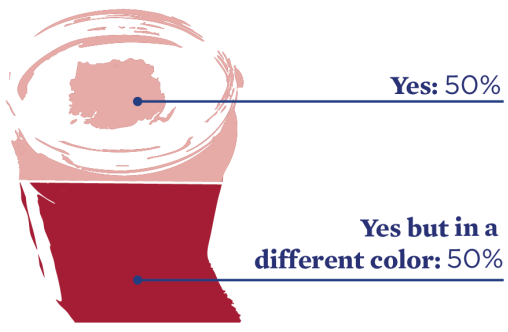
IMMIGRATION

Should immigration to the United States be easier or harder? 😭✌️✌️



PEANUT BUTTER

Have you ever put peanut butter down there and had your dog lick it?



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The Phillipian
SPORTS

2 weeks to go!

Volume CXLVIII | Number 24

November 7, 2025

Field Hockey Stays Undefeated With Senior Night Victory Versus Groton

GAURI BHAKTA

SATURDAY 11/1	
Andover	11
Groton	1

Field Hockey (15-0) extended its undefeated season with an 11-1 win over Groton on Saturday, marking a memorable Senior Night filled with energy, teamwork, and steady leadership as it heads into its final regular season matchup against Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter).

Reflecting on the game, Autumn Christian ’27 emphasized the team’s focus on maintaining its trademark energy throughout the entire 60 minutes.

“Every game we work on bringing our top energy for the full 60 minutes. Every time we step out on the field, there’s a lot of positive energy focused on making the right plays and the right passes,” said Christian.

Midfielder Kimberly Duplessis ’27 highlighted the team’s connected passing and solid defensive work during the game.

“In practice, we’ve been focusing a lot on flow drills and connecting passes. Our defense worked on one-on-ones, making sure teams can’t get deep into our zone, and that really showed in this game. Regan [Driscoll ’28] was really strong on the ball and made great decisions. Her presence on the field is always felt, and she helped us keep the game under control,” said Duplessis.

Cat Powers ’28 reflected on the atmosphere of Senior Night, noting the positive energy and celebration among teammates.

“The energy on the sideline was up the entire time, and all our Seniors got great playing time. It was so exciting to see them all celebrated, especially when Caroline scored her first goal right after subbing in,” said Powers.

Field Hockey will conclude its regular season this Saturday against Exeter.

A. ZHANG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Regan Driscoll ’28 fights for the ball against Groton opponent.

Girls Cross Country Defeats Exeter in Final Home Meet

EVA JACKSON & LUCY VINNAKOTA

This past Saturday, the Girls Cross Country team defeated Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) in the Varsity race, 25-30. This was the last home meet of the season and, for many departing Seniors, the last home meet of their Andover careers. Displayed throughout the course were the Senior posters, which teammates signed with words of gratitude and praise, a testament to the strong team camaraderie amid a bittersweet moment.

According to Claire Bancroft ’28, the race was full of spirit. Andover Drumline played throughout the sanctuary, keeping the energy high with loud drumbeats echoing across the course.

“It was super hyped up compared to the other races. People were cheering us on. When I was racing, it was like I was part of a community. It wasn’t just me on my own,” said Bancroft.

A. ZHANG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Amelia Alvazzi ’26 placed first in the final home meet of the season against Exeter with a time of 18:18.

Although many runners were injured, they still contributed to the team environment by cheering on their teammates as they passed by. Claire Donovan ’29 described the supporters who came decked out in Andover attire.

“A lot of people [with injuries] showed up. They brought speakers, [and] they had a bunch of blue clothes on. They were screaming at us while we were racing. Even though not everybody was able to compete, I feel like we were still able to come together and support each other as a team,” said Donovan.

The Andover/Exeter meet, with races for both Varsity and JV, marked the successful conclusion of some runners’ high school cross-country experiences. Although JV lost in a nail-biter, Bancroft emphasized that the positive atmosphere and energy were just as strong as in varsity.

“Because we were entering championship season, we decreased the intensity of our workouts, and we adjusted our practices leading up to Saturday by having three easy days before the race day, instead of the usual two easy days. We had a hard workout on Monday, instead of the usual Tuesday workout, because we wanted to start decreasing load, while focusing more on speed in short circuits,” said Jung.

Being there for your teammates is critical to any team’s success. This notion was particularly accentuated when the team gathered to discuss their race strategy against Exeter. Donovan emphasized the huge impact these uplifting words had on the team.

“When our coaches were talking to us about the plan for tomorrow and getting ready, one thing that they really stressed was relying on your teammates. It really helped a lot of girls, because we saw everybody cheering for their teammates. We had two different races, so we were able to cheer for the girls in the other race,” said Donovan.

Jung described key contributor Amelia Alvazzi ’26’s win, placing first with a time of 18:18. This invigorated the team’s varsity runners to pass Exeter runners in the last seconds, with four Andover runners placing within five seconds of an Exeter runner.

“[Alvazzi] was the first on our team, and she won. She did a really good job of securing first place for us and all of the runners, JV and Varsity. The varsity top five runners did a good job of keeping the Exeter girls at bay and getting the least amount of points possible for us to win,” said Jung.

Girls Cross Country will race at Taft for NEPSTA Cross Country Championships this Saturday.

Five Set Showdown: Girls Volleyball Takes Down Milton in a Thriller

EVA JACKSON

SATURDAY 11/1	
Andover	3
Milton	2

Girls Volleyball (5-10) defeated Milton in a five-set matchup this past Saturday, winning 3-2. This was its second-to-last game of the season, bringing momentum for the team before the Andover-Exeter (A/E) matchup this weekend. In the last two years facing Milton, the team had similarly lost the final fifth set with narrow margins and hard-fought points. However, Girls Volleyball reversed this pattern and finished strong to secure the win.

Two years ago, the team played at Milton, where the crowd was supportive with high volume levels and energy. Selene Xu ’27 described how Andover’s prior loss to Milton influenced the team’s expectations for the game.

“It wasn’t as loud as we expected because two years ago, when we were at Milton, the crowd was really, really loud. Yesterday, it was much quieter. It was not what we were expecting, but it was nice too. In terms of playing, those teams had pretty good sportsmanship, and it was a really fun game to play,” said Xu.

Because Girls Volleyball expected the crowd to have so much energy, the team prepared for the atmosphere during practice. Although its support was less than the team had hoped, it created its own energy. According to Xu, the team is planning to use its preparation in its final match of the season.

“We worked on the normal skills like serves, defense, and hitting, but we were mostly preparing ourselves for the loud environment, which we didn’t end up having. But it’s also good preparation for A/E this Saturday,” said Xu.

When teammate Gracie Aziabor ’26 got injured in the third set, the team’s strong level of play began to waver. Hoping to showcase its resilience and dedication to its teammate, Emma Webber ’28 highlighted that the team came back in the fifth set to close the game with a win.

“We played really well. We went to five sets with Milton, and it was a really close game. During the fifth set, we started off losing, but we really brought it back, ended really strong, and we won,” said Webber.

For the team’s six Seniors, this was the second-to-last game of their Andover careers, an extremely special moment. Although she thinks they could have won the game in three sets, Hailey Piasecki ’26 added that she was thankful for the game lasting five sets, allowing the team to spend as many minutes on the court as possible.

“It was really good. It was such a fun game. We could have won it in three, but the fact that it went to five, I’m honestly glad because it was our second-to-last game, and it was such a fun one. I’m glad we got to spend more time in it,” said Piasecki.

With a well-fought win comes outstanding individual performances. Piasecki shouted out her two teammates, Ashley Schuman ’27 and Sophia Fang ’28, for their quick instincts and defensive consistency that fueled the team during crucial moments.

“Our liberos, Ashley and Sophia, were incredible. They were all over the place, getting the most insane ups. There would be tips to places that I thought were impossible to get, and they were right there, already expecting it. They were amazing,” said Piasecki.

The team faces off at Exeter for A/E this Saturday.

Editor’s Note: Gracie Aziabor is a Layout Editor for The Phillipian.

GIRLSFIELDHOCKEY

Quiet Leadership, Loud Results: Maren Boyle ’26 Builds a Legacy of Leadership and Unity

WYATT ORACCA-CECIL

Maren Boyle ’26 is the Co-Captain for one of the most successful teams at Andover: Field Hockey. As a four-year member of the team, she has consistently demonstrated hard work and dedication, serving as a true all-around teammate and leader. Coming off a championship season last year, Boyle uses this to her advantage, leading the team to a 15-0 record so far.

Although the standard was high, Boyle has not only met this bar but exceeded it. When asked about her goals in leading the team, Boyle emphasized how she works to lead the team through supportive comments and an uplifting spirit.

“On the field, I try to push everyone to be their best by working my hardest and encouraging everyone else to do the same. When someone makes a mistake, I try to lift them up and reassure them that it is okay,” said Boyle.

I. BORJAS ANDRADE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Boyle pointed out how her goals for the team’s success are not always within the games and practices. She focuses on building connections, trust, and unity that will feed into other aspects of the team’s performance.

“Outside the field, I try to be friends with all my teammates, so on the field, we all have trust in each other. I also try to check in on my teammates and ask them how they are doing, or if they need help with anything on or off the field,” said Boyle.

Although it is difficult to quantify the impact Boyle has had on the team, Vanessa Hall ’28 shouted out the strides Boyle has made through her optimism.

“Off the field, in the locker room, Maren sets the tone for the team and always stays positive. [She’s] welcoming and includes everyone,” said Hall.

Regan Driscoll ’28 echoed this sentiment, praising Boyle for her finesse on the field, while being a good teammate off the field.

“Maren shows what a good teammate should look like, always supporting each other on the field. [She’s] aggressive, [and that’s] contagious out in the field. It makes other [teammates] be more aggressive and have higher energy,” said Driscoll.

Being a leader does not always mean being loud and guiding others; it can also mean knowing when to be quiet and listen. Hall discusses the push-and-pull effect and how Maren tackles it in her own way.

“Maren leads the team quietly because she lets her skill talk and leads by example. She is very humble about what she is doing. When she scores, she will tell the person who passed to her or whoever started the play, ‘Nice job,’” said Hall.

For the past four years, Boyle has been a great addition to the program, hoping to lead the team to back-to-back titles.

Boyle is committed to the admissions process at Boston College to play Division I Field Hockey, where she will continue her success at the collegiate level.

Field Hockey Co-Captain Lucy Parker ’26 Leads With Intensity and Heart

ALEX GODSEY

Field Hockey Co-Captain Lucy Parker ’26 participated in a variety of sports growing up, but her main interests were soccer and ice hockey. She began playing field hockey competitively in seventh grade when her family friends introduced her, and instantly fell in love with the sport. At the beginning of high school, she decided to focus exclusively on developing her field hockey skills. Now, as one of Field Hockey’s Co-Captains, Parker prides herself on her competitive nature, which she believes has enabled her to improve her skills and show strong leadership.

Parker pushes her teammates to be committed yetwhile also showing high levels of enthusiasm in practices and during competition. Off the pitch, she credits the team’s success this season to prioritizing building close bonds among her teammates.

“On the field, [it’s important for me to] make sure that energy’s high and the competition level is high in practice, making sure the intensity is always there while also having fun. There definitely needs to be a good balance to have a good practice. Being sure everyone has good energy and decided to be there, but also working hard is something that I value a lot,” said Parker.

Parker continued, “Off the field, [it’s important for me to] make sure everyone is super close. When everyone’s really close and has good relationships with one another, that translates directly onto the field. Making sure that, regardless if you’re a [Lower], Junior, or Senior, everyone is treated the same is something that’s super important off the field. For this team, we’re all really close. That’s definitely helped us to our success.”

During drills, it can be easy to let minor mistakes pass, but in these moments, Parker motivates the team to perform at its best, focusing on even the most minute details. Meredith Southard Pantano ’27, a new Upper on the team, praised Parker for her impressive motivation in helping the team improve.

I. BORJAS ANDRADE/THE PHILLIPIAN

“As a leader, she’s very passionate. In practice, no matter how small the drill, even just a shuttle line or passing, she holds everyone to the highest possible standard, and then during scrimmages and games, she makes sure everyone knows what they’re doing. She is just constantly working to make our team better in every possible way,” said Southard Pantano.

According to Vanessa Hall ’28, on the field, Parker takes on a mentality of constant improvement, often showing her competitive side which in turn encourages her teammates to emulate her. Hall cited a moment during the team’s 4-0 victory on Wednesday, October 29 against Noble and Greenough (Nobles) as an example.

“Lucy really leads through her actions. If she loses the ball, she works extra hard to get it back and make up for her mistake. She never settles for anything but the best. Another example of her leadership is that in huddles, in between quarters, she gives little speeches and comments to motivate everyone,” said Hall.

Hall continued, “In the Nobles game, Lucy was taking the ball down on the baseline, and then she lost it. But Lucy immediately hustled back and doubled-teamed her with Maren. This caught her from behind, and we won the ball back. Then following this turnover, we ended up scoring.”

Parker will continue her Field Hockey career collegiately at Boston College, where she is committed to play at the Division I level.

Co-Captain Hannah Herlihy ’26 Keeps PAFH Focused Towards an Undefeated Season

BY AVIAD AWA

Field Hockey Co-Captain Hannah Herlihy ’26 commands both sides of the field as a center back and looks to finish the season undefeated. Having contributed to Field Hockey’s historic undefeated record last season, Herlihy leads by example and encouragement this year.

Herlihy described being voted as a Co-Captain by her teammates as an honor. She shared her excitement to embrace her new role as she knows how important the team’s captain is to the success of the team.

“Good leadership and team chemistry are really important. Fostering an inclusive and hard-working community is really important to me, so it’s very special for me to be able to have the pleasure of doing that this year with our success this season. It’s very rewarding,” said Herlihy.

Field Hockey has long been in Herlihy’s family, as her aunt played Division I field hockey at the University of Richmond. Ever since Herlihy picked up the stick in fourth grade, she has not looked back.

COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

“I really enjoyed [Field Hockey], and I started playing club field hockey competitively. I feel like my experience in playing on a bunch of teams allowed me to build the skills to become a leader...I love field hockey and I love the team, so being a captain is very important [to me],” said Herlihy.

Autumn Christian ’27 spoke to Herlihy’s ability as a captain. She commended how Herlihy holds things down in the backline as the team’s star center-back.

“[Hannah’s] always commanding us with her voice as she’s our center back, so nothing gets past her. She’s honestly one of the most dominant presences on the field, and I think that carries along with her leadership too. She’s always there for us when we need her. She’s honestly the best,” said Christian.

As Co-Captain, Herlihy prides herself on leading by example and making sure she does the best she can to be a good person and teammate on and off the field.

“Being able to lead the team is important, but also, if I have an off game, I’m still doing my best to uplift everyone else and hold my leadership roles as a captain. Just making sure you’re staying focused on the main goal,” said Herlihy.

Cat Powers ’28 spoke to Herlihy’s positive and joyful personality off the field. She mentioned how Herlihy always offered a smile and a kind word to anyone she crossed paths with.

“She’s just always ready to go, helping everybody else out and is able to get to work and also still be smiling. She definitely helps keep everybody calm and organized and not frantic,” said Powers.

Herlihy is committed to play college lacrosse at Williams College. She cites the team’s chemistry, something she values at PAFH, as a big reason in her decision. Herlihy reflected that the coaching staff and team made her feel very welcome, and she loved the interactions between team members.

“When I met the Williams players and I went to visit the school to see how the program was, I was intrigued by how the girls interacted with each other, and I think that that’s something that was really important to my field hockey career. I feel like that helped me choose Williams, but the high level of play was also important to me as well. I would say similar to this year, [I plan on] investing in the team, giving my 100 percent and trying to bring my values from PAFH to my next experience,” said Herlihy.

Competing With Purpose: Andover Athletes Rally for Penny's Flight

BY ASHLEY SUH

Over this past Family Weekend, a student-driven project took flight: that is, Alastriona O'Donnell '27 and Brinley Davis '27 launched the first chapter of Penny's Flight at Andover. The nonprofit was founded in commemoration of the late Penny Doerge, who lived with the genetic disorder Neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) and led her life with notable positivity and courage. Seeking to honor Doerge's legacy, Penny's Flight seeks to raise awareness and fund research for NF1. From butterfly-themed gear on the fields to a dedicated hand signal used to represent the foundation, Penny's Flight united Andover's athletes, students, and families around a shared purpose.

"The message is so much more than just spreading awareness for neurofibromatosis. I know that the loss of her life affected a lot of people very deeply. It's about faith over fear and positivity and learning how to have the butterfly effect and just create such a difference in the world. It doesn't matter how long you live, it just matters how much you can do during your own life. Every single time someone does an event it inspires somebody else to do an event. For example, we inspired a girl from a boarding school in Missouri and students at Deerfield. It's really just creating the butterfly effect, making change everywhere for everyone to do all of these events."

— Alastriona O'Donnell '27 (Organizer)

"Growing up like in Long Island, Penny's Flight was a big part of culture there because it was a very popular Instagram account that a lot of schools followed. Once I came to Andover, I met Alastriona and through her I got involved directly which was my first experience being with Penny's flight. I'm really glad I've gotten the opportunity to, because I've learned a lot about neurofibromatosis research and the community has been so nice and welcoming to me as a new person who's trying to spread awareness."

— Brinley Davis '27 (Organizer)

"Penny's Flight is an incredible organization doing great work and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to help bring awareness to the game during parents weekend and in the future. I felt super grateful for the opportunity for myself and my team to support Penny's Flight and the opportunity to collaborate with representatives of Penny's Flight and to learn more about Penny's story and the organizations work to bring awareness."

— Girls Soccer Co-Captain Wylie Roossien '26

"I've never done anything like Penny's Flight before, and I liked directly supporting a good cause. The most special part was the fact that everybody, the whole campus was involved. Not only players and students, but also families. Penny did a great job at just persevering despite her disabilities and just actually made it into a different ability. It's something we should all do. We should aspire to have some sort of perseverance or the will to go on, even though things just aren't going well."

— Boys Soccer Co-Captain Kai Myles '27

"It was very inspiring to hear Penny's story and how this organization had been built. We wore hair ties with butterflies in our hair, and then just the stickers on our uniform. In our team huddle, we talked about how we were playing for a greater cause. We were able to win our game and play well knowing that we were doing it for something bigger than just us and just having all of the banners up. It was really inspiring."

— Field Hockey Co-Captain Hannah Herlihy '26

"It was really cool to be representing Andover [at HOCR] and still be part of the whole mission with Penny's Flight on Family Weekend on campus. Crew doesn't necessarily always participate as much in awareness campaigns. It was really fun to feel like we were rowing for something bigger than yourself and rowing for something bigger than the boat."

— Girls Crew Co-Captain Caroline Romano '26

"Penny's Flight was really special for a lot of reasons. It was a great organization during a special month that really supported people in need and was a great opportunity to be able to support something bigger than yourself. Something else that made it really special was that it was completely run by the students, especially as it's something that Andover hasn't supported before."

— Football Co-Captain Scott Carmichael '27

A/E DAY 2025

Andover will travel to Exeter, New Hampshire, this upcoming Saturday for the 147th annual Andover/Exeter (A/E) rivalry. This tradition, which began in 1878, has exhibited fierce competition, demonstrated school pride, and encouraged sportsmanship. Coming off of a tie at last year's A/E, Andover looks to put its mark on Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter)'s soil. This year, six teams will travel to Exeter, with the Water Polo will also be competing in the New England Boys Water Polo Championships as the fifth seed. Additionally, Boys and Girls Cross Country will be travelling to Taft for the New England Preparatory School Track Association (NEPSTA) Division 1 Cross Country Championships.

FOOTBALL

4:45 PM

Andover: 2-6 **Exeter: 5-2**

In a season of setbacks and triumphs, Football hopes to upset Exeter to finish off A/E. Led by quarterback Cale Barker '28 and Co-Captains Elan Shetty '26, Ollie Velez '26, and Scott Carmichael '27 on offense and Co-Captain Bennett Rodgers '26 on defense, the team won back-to-back games against Kent and Suffield halfway through the season. The team hopes to regain its form and win its season finale.

FIELD HOCKEY

3:15 PM

Andover: 15-0 **Exeter: 4-12**

With 15 consecutive wins, Field Hockey looks to complete the perfect season with a sixteenth win against Exeter. Furthermore, as the defending New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Class A Champions from last year, Field Hockey has maintained its excellent form, outscoring opponents 97-4. Notable wins this year came in a 3-1 victory against Deerfield, a 4-0 victory against Milton, and an 8-0 victory against Loomis, all three of which made the NEPSAC Class A Playoffs last year. The team looks to secure the number one seed heading into the postseason and ultimately secure back-to-back Championships.

GIRLS SOCCER

2:15 PM

Andover: 9-4-3 **Exeter: 7-9-2**

Girls Soccer, led by Co-Captains Emily Decker '26 and Wylie Roossien '26, has displayed teamwork and determination this season. One of the most crucial wins this year was against perennial Independent School League power Noble & Greenough, finishing with a score of 3-1. Girls Soccer has proved its skills against 16 opponents so far, demonstrating both strong defense and offense that have helped them score nine wins. The Exeter match is crucial, determining if the team will compete in the NEPSAC playoffs this year.

BOYS SOCCER

2:15 PM

Andover: 2-12-2 **Exeter: 7-7-2**

After a season of ups and downs, Boys Soccer looks to finish strong with a victory against Exeter. Spearheaded by Co-Captains Kai Myles '27, Edrian Vargas '27, and Liam Vitti PG'26, the team delivered two shutout wins against Austin Prep and St. Paul's, in which it demonstrated both offensive and defensive prowess. Last season, in a thrilling progression of events, Andover tied Exeter 1-1, ultimately costing the team a spot in the post-season. On Saturday, it hopes to defeat its longtime rival.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

3:00 PM

Andover: 5-10 **Exeter: 7-6**

Despite a rough start to the season, Girls Volleyball has found its stride. Starting the season 0-5, Girls Volleyball turned its season around, going 5-5 in the next ten games and 4-2 in the last six games. During the season, the team defeated Exeter 3-1, its first win over Exeter since 2015. The team hopes to repeat its victory against Exeter at A/E and cap off its season with a win.

A/E
EATING RED MEAT SINCE 1878
Andover wins: 78 Exeter wins: 58 Ties: 10
DON'T MISS THE BUS!
GAME TIME
Saturday, November 8 2025
4PM at Phelps Stadium
Exeter, NH
#22 Ben Iglesias '26 / RB

Cross Country Masters the Hills, Eyes Redemption at Interschols

ALEX GODSEY

Boys Cross Country faced longtime rival Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) in a dual meet at Home on Saturday, ending in a competitive defeat. Unlike typical home meets, competition was split into two races instead of one. That is, Andover and Exeter each chose its top seven performers to race on Varsity, while the rest of the athletes competed in a Junior Varsity race, in which Exeter bested Andover in a score of 23-32, since cross country scoring awards victory to the team with the lower point total. Despite the team's loss, the team made significant progress, with personal bests across the board. Andover was led by Charlie Gillick '27, who finished second overall in 16:24, and Captain Robert Budzinski '26, who crossed the finish line in sixth place overall in 17:02.

As the runners progressed into the later stages of the race, each hill became harder and harder. The team, being at its Home course, was able to capitalize on its course knowledge and extensive training on hills. Sebastian Vermut '27 emphasized how Andover was able to use this edge to its advantage.

J. CHAN/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Jack Gonzalez '27 races in the last home meet of the season against Exeter.

"The most important part of this race was Heartbreak Hill. In terms of racing Exeter and teams that don't practice on hills as much, we probably have the advantage going to the last stretch. We train the course and we train the hills, and that really gives us the confidence to know that we have an advantage. That's actually something pretty special about the Andover course. It's a really hilly place. I ended up beating a guy after that section, which is really emblematic of [Andover's] training on the hills and being ready," said Vermut.

Charlie Gillick '27 ran his first PR of the season at the meet. Captain Robert Budzinski '26 shouted out his teammate's focused and calculated race strategy despite other Exeter athletes going out notably fast from the start.

"Charlie Gillick stood out to me. He really worked out well in the sanctuary and used the home course advantage well. He ended up coming second in the varsity race, which was pretty big, and he also ran his fastest time this season so far. He really just stayed disciplined. A couple of Exeter runners went out really fast, but he didn't necessarily get caught up in that. He really worked up throughout the race to catch them and him coming back in the last stretch was really impressive," said Budzinski.

This race provided Andover a preview of the Exeter team that it will face next week at the team's final meet: the New England Preparatory School Track Association (NEPSTA) Division 1 Cross Country Championships. Cameron Butler '28 provided a preview of the team's race strategy it plans to adopt in order to contest its rivals.

"The name of the game at the [NEPSTA Cross Country Championships] against Exeter is to realize that they're constantly fading from the start and that you have a whole five-[Kilometers] to make up that distance. We're going to work with the time we have and plan our race strategy accordingly. It's just important to remember that it's the end of the race that matters, not the start," said Butler.

Boys Cross Country will travel to Taft on Saturday for the season-culminating NEPSTA Cross Country Championships.

Down at Half, Dominant at the End: Girls Soccer Rallies to Victory

NICHOLAS JUNG & ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN

FRIDAY 10/31	
Andover	3
Lawrence Academy	1

Girls Soccer (10-4-3) extends its winning streak to 3 games with its victory against Lawrence Academy (Lawrence) in their last home game of the year. After being down 1-0 at halftime, the team scored three goals in the second half and pulled off a comeback win with a final score of 3-1.

Although Andover maintained strong possession of the ball throughout the first half, the game started slowly. Lawrence scored the first goal of the game with just nine minutes left in the first half.

Despite the initial setback, the team stayed motivated at the start of the second half. Cedar Halsey Leckerling '28 recalled how the team's endurance paid off at the 59th minute when Co-Captain Emily Decker '26 assisted Ashley Dimnaku '28 in scoring their first goal. As this goal allowed Andover to tie the game, Halsey Leckerling delineated this moment as a turning point in the game.

"One crucial moment was our first goal. Everyone was very excited and we carried this energy into the rest of the second half, leading us to a win," said Halsey Leckerling. "The atmosphere of the game was very fun and exciting, especially after we scored our first goal. Our goals were also very exciting because we scored twice off of corner kicks, which we haven't done very much in previous games."

Andover continued to pressure Lawrence with a total of nine corner kicks in the second half, resulting in another goal from Co-Captain Wylie Roosien '26 in the 68th minute.

Audrey Gotha '28 highlighted Dimnaku as a key player for their game. She praised Dimnaku's tactics on the field.

"Ashley Dimnaku really stood out during the game. She was awarded player of the game for her defensive skills, and her impact on our offense. She scored our first goal off of a corner kick, which led us to score two more later in the half," said Gotha.

As the team prepares for its final game of the season at Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter), it hopes to secure one more victory. Emma Sharon '29 noted that arriving to the field early helped the team focus in the game against Lawrence. Looking to Andover/Exeter (A/E) on Saturday, Sharon described how the team is training to face their opponents.

"The team got to the field 15 minutes earlier than usual to make sure we were fully prepared. This made us all feel better going into the second half because we knew our potential... One thing we will work on, and we have been working on, is finishing out corners. We scored twice on Friday from corners which shows that our work has paid off," said Sharon.

Girl's Soccer will head to Exeter on Saturday for the annual Fall A/E matchup.

"For the Seniors" Football Plays Last Home Game of the Season

XAVIER HOWELL

SATURDAY 11/1	
Andover	7
Cheshire Academy	31

On Senior Night, Football played Cheshire Academy in its final home game of the season under the Phelps Stadium lights. Despite a 31-7 loss, the team played with resilience and energy throughout the game in front of a passionate home crowd.

Ben Kazlouski '28 commented on the uncertainty surrounding Cheshire's starting quarterback in the week leading up to the game and how the team worked on defensive tactics for both passing and running plays.

"We didn't know if their quarterback was still injured or not, so we had to prepare for both their heavy running game and their elite passing game. We spent the majority of the time working on our run defense and figuring out how to stop their talented run offense. Mainly, we emphasized having energy in practice, setting the tone on defense, hitting hard, and being physical," said Kazlouski.

J. CHAN/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Benjamin Iglesias '26 carries the ball in Senior Night game against Cheshire Academy.

Vincenzo Pesce '27 elaborated on the team's defensive strategy, noting how the team's meticulous preparation translated effectively on the field.

"Cheshire runs a formation where they put all 11 players inside the hashes, so we focused all week on stopping the run. Besides a few plays that slipped through, they really couldn't run the ball. We also had a lot of third-down stops that forced them to punt. Those moments really kept us going," said Pesce.

Despite the scoreboard, the team was determined to leave everything on the field, playing not only for the seniors on the roster but also for those cheering from the stands, with several standout performances highlighting the effort.

"Playing for the Seniors in their last home game, we really wanted to show out for them—both defensively and offensively. One standout player is Nathaniel McCormick '27. He did a great job setting the edge at outside linebacker and dropped into pass protection effectively. There was one incredible play he had on a blitz and sacked their quarterback. He was an absolute dog on defense and really set the tone for the defenders," said Kazlouski.

On the offensive side, wide receiver and Co-Captain Ollie Velez '26 provided a crucial spark, recording five catches for 65 yards and delivering key plays that kept the team's morale high throughout the night.

"Ollie Velez '26 stood out. He was making plays throughout the whole game. He had a slant in the middle of the game where he caught it and went for another 10 to 15 yards, which was a big momentum shift," said Pesce.

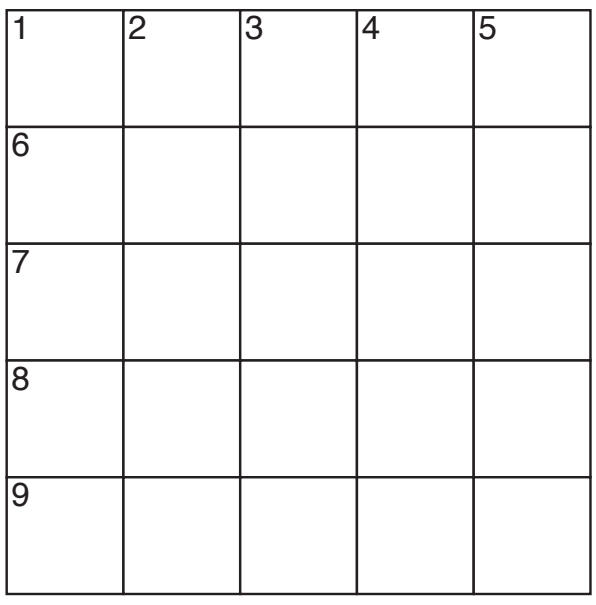
Jake Santos '28 reflects on areas for improvement as Football turns its attention to its final game of the season against Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter), looking to finish the season on a high note by minimizing small mistakes and tailoring its playstyle to counter Exeter's tendencies.

"We're trying to improve our passing game. We're planning to be more pass-heavy next week because Exeter has some weaker defensive backs, and we want to take advantage of that. We're also focusing on improving our team morale and physicality — trying to be more aggressive and come into the game with better energy and confidence," said Santos.

Football will play Exeter next Saturday at Andover/Exeter day.

Crossword Corner

BY ISHAAN PADMAWAR

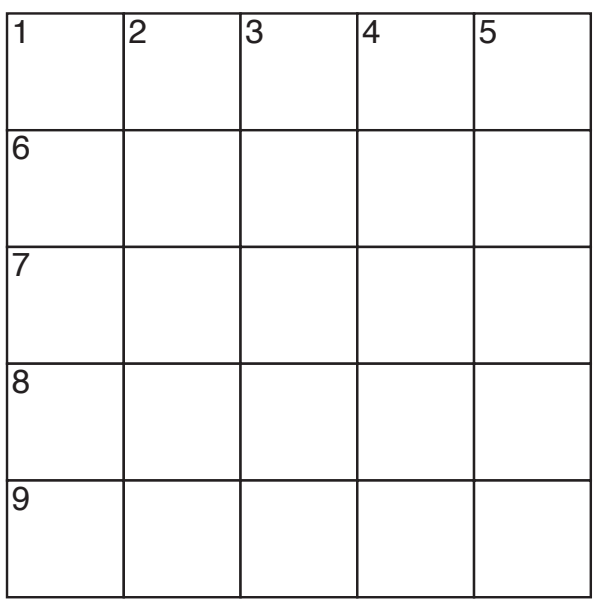


ACROSS

1 Pull some strings
6 Madison Square Garden, e.g.
7 Cornea-reshaping surgery
8 Seven, in Seville
9 Do some tailoring

DOWN

1 Lively dance; chips go-with
2 Hiker's path
3 Bowling alley button
4 Amalgamate, couple, fasten
5 Someone who spends a lot of time in the Makerspace is a _____

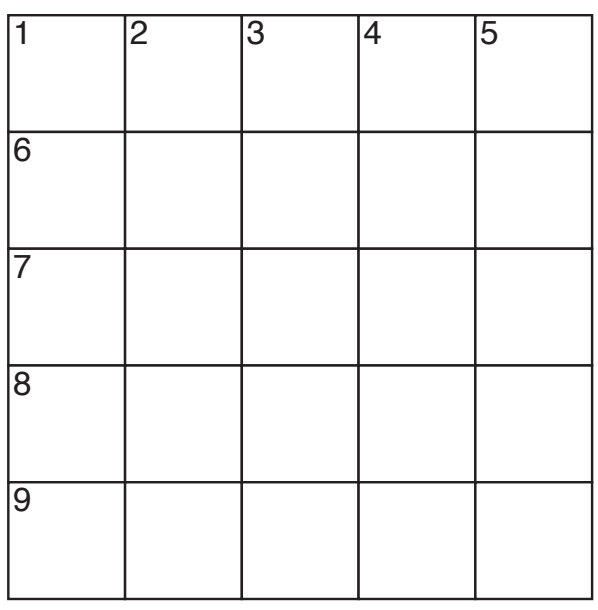


ACROSS

1 Former Home of Old Man of the Mountain
6 Cherish passionately
7 Ransacks the refrigerator
8 Long-legged wading bird
9 Prophets, clairvoyants, Nostradamus et. al.

DOWN

1 Gives a hoot
2 "What goes up must come down," e.g.
3 Bête _____
4 Placed at restaurants
5 Avian abodes

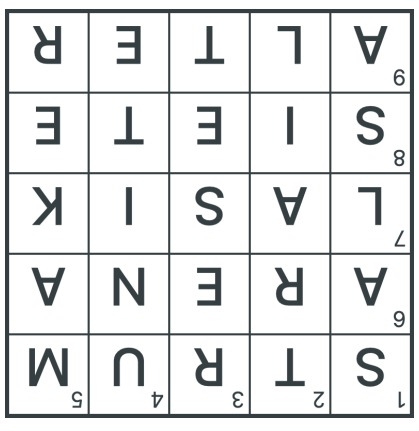


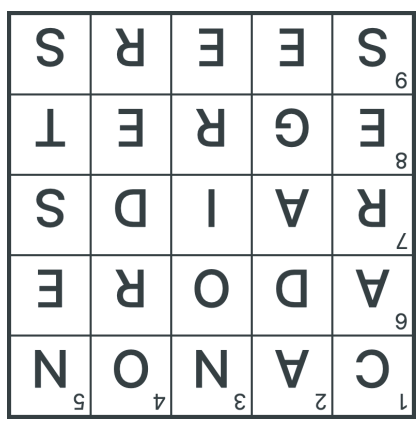
ACROSS

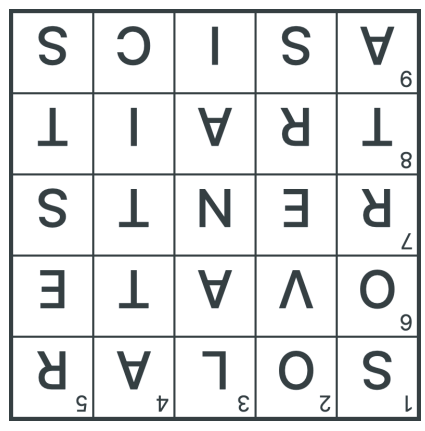
1 Type of battery and eclipse
6 Egg-shaped
7 Landlord's collections
8 It may be dominant or recessive
9 Application-Specific Integrated Circuits, Nike rival

DOWN

1 Kinda
2 Six-ball sets, in Cricket
3 Island near Maui
4 Greek, cobwebby place, loft
5 What you do after midterms +s







Boys Soccer's Matches Against Tabor and KUA Show More Than the Scoreboard

NICHOLAS JUNG & ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN

SATURDAY 11/01	
Andover	1
KUA	2
WEDNESDAY 11/05	
Andover	1
Tabor	2

Boys Soccer (2-2-12) has faced a challenging stretch of opponents in recent weeks, most recently falling to Kimball Union Academy (KUA), 2-1, and Tabor Academy (Tabor), 2-1, in close matches. Although the scores didn't go the team's way, it featured many flashes of strong play and momentum. The team remains energized and optimistic as it prepares for Andover/Exeter.

In the game against KUA, the team got off to a slow start, conceding two goals before gradually finding its rhythm. The team closed the match with an impressive shot by James Gordon '26, who curled the ball into the upper right corner, narrowing the score. Jeff Shen '26 commented on how the team handles its energy during away games and how that affects its gameplay.

"We had a rough start to the game, mostly because of the long bus ride over there, which has constantly been an issue for a lot of games this season. It's pretty hard to get up and ready to play a match after a two-hour bus ride. James Gordon '26 scored an amazing goal against KUA. That goal reflected the progress we've made and the determination that's helped us improve over the past few games," said Shen.

Keeping possession has also been an area for improvement for the team, with the shortage of attacking opportunities forcing the players to make rushed decisions. Shen reflected on how the team responds to this struggle and frustration.

"It's been difficult at times to move the ball smoothly from our defensive half to the attacking half. The issue comes when three or four opposing players close in on our formation, making it hard to connect passes and build momentum. However, Coach [Joe] Donnelly's ability to read the game allows us to make effective tactical changes, and we are also actively improving on it in practice," said Shen.

Against Tabor, Sunny Yu '28 highlighted Co-Captain Kai Myles '27 as a major contributor in keeping the match competitive and the morale high.

"In the second half of the game, our Co-Captain, Kai Myles, scored in the second half to tie the game 1-1. It was a really good morale boost," said Yu.

With the majority of the season over, the team has all sights set towards beating Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) this Saturday. Shen emphasized what this game means and what the squad is doing to prepare.

"We have to remember that this final game against Exeter is for all the marbles. So far, we've seen great success this week in practice, working hard and implementing positive reinforcement with each other to build confidence. This is a big priority as the mental aspects of the game are often more important than the technical ability of a player, " said Shen.

Yu elaborated on how the rivalry between the two schools influences the atmosphere of A/E and how the mental game can make or break a team.

"It's going to be loud and intense. Both their student body and ours are going to be there, and we know it is going to put a lot of pressure on us, but mentally, our main goal is to be out there to have fun," said Yu.

Boys Soccer will play against Exeter during A/E this Saturday in its last game of the season.

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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Haunted by Low Turnout, Student Effort Shines at Borden's Halloween Dance

CHARLIZE SOW & ALEXANDER TONG

On Saturday night, the annual Halloween dance was hosted in Borden Memorial Gym. Red strobe lights flashed through the windows as music pulsed across the steps, where students lingered over s'mores and drinks in the cool fall air. Inside, cobwebs stretched across the walls, skeletons hung from the bars, and a photo booth drew steady crowds. Despite the festive atmosphere, the dance floor remained surprisingly sparse.

A long-standing campus tradition, the Halloween dance is an anticipated Fall term event. From planning to setup, student leaders managed every detail, adding new touches to make the night feel lively while keeping the familiar Borden energy. Michael Huang '26 attended the dance to support a friend and appreciated the event's student-led approach.

"The Halloween dance has always been great throughout the years, and so I thought it would be fun to show up to see this great event that my friend, [Murathime Daisley '26], hosted... There's many different ways in which this dance compares to the other dances. First of all, it's interesting how this dance is hosted by student leaders. Students often have a lot of interesting insights that they add to the dance that faculty might not get. It's also interesting how it's hosted in the gym instead of [Paresky Commons] or [Susie's]. It's a different atmosphere that we rarely get," said Huang.

C.ZHOU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

The Borden Memorial Gym Halloween Dance saw low turnout.

Huang's remarks described what greeted those who entered Borden: colored lights, themed props, and a well-planned layout transformed an ordinary gym into a Halloween-themed space. Similarly, Aishwarya Ananthakrishnan '28 noted that the decorations and photo booth stood out as memorable parts of the night and showed effort and creativity from student organizers.

"Outside, there was a bonfire where people were roasting marshmallows and making s'mores, and there was cake as well," said Ananthakrishnan. "The photobooth was definitely a highlight of the event. It was nice because my friends and I could take a lot of pictures, make great memories, and cherish them... I could feel that they put a lot of effort into it, and I was very appreciative of all their work... The lights were orange, purple, and black. They were playing Halloween music, and there were skeletons and other themed decorations."

Even with vibrant lighting and upbeat music, the dance never reached full capacity. Many students recognized the strong effort behind the event but felt the low turnout affected the overall energy. Samantha Donovan '28 shared that while the setup impressed her, the attendance was disappointing.

"The effort put in by the students was there. Everything was good in terms of the decorations and the effort put in, but the fact that students didn't show up was what made [the Halloween dance] bad... It was too hyped up, and it doesn't have a great reputation already," said Donovan.

Many attendees echoed a desire for greater outreach next year to match the strong student effort. Juris Vitols Anzola '27 agreed that stronger publicity could have boosted attendance.

"It would have been nice if there was a bit more promotion other than just appearing in the Weekender because I believe many more people would have turned up," said Anzola.

'Kha-mera' Ready: Tommy Kha Workshop Explores Self-Portraits and Identity

DANIEL LIU

Last Thursday evening, students and faculty gathered eagerly in the Addison Gallery of American Art (Addison) for the Tommy Kha Workshop. Kha, a Memphis-born photographer and the second recipient of the Bartlett H. Hayes Jr. Prize, is known for his playful yet introspective self-portraits that explore themes of belonging and identity. His exhibition, "Hayes Prize 2025: Tommy Kha, Other Things Uttered," aimed to challenge traditional ideas of photography, encouraging viewers to reconsider what defines a self-portrait.

Head of Education at the Addison Jamie Gibbons and one of the organizers of the event described the excitement surrounding Kha's visit, acknowledging the value of connecting students and faculty directly with the artist.

"Thirty-six students and campus adults gathered in the Addison on Thursday evening to tour the exhibition with Tommy and then have conversation over dinner in the Addison's Museum Learning Center. We love having Tommy here, and the conversations around his exhibition have been incredibly rich. I think folks from all backgrounds are finding reflections of their own story and experiences in it," wrote Gibbons in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Gibbons reflected on the planning process, explaining the scheduling complexities. Bringing together multiple schools, departments, and community groups required careful collaboration, as the team worked to ensure students and faculty could engage meaningfully with Kha.

"Tommy has been on campus this week to meet with classes, including Andover English, Theatre, and art classes, and classes from Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Andover High School, and Lowell High School. The Addison worked with CaMD to organize a dinner for students and campus adults, so that folks whose classes weren't able to fit into the tight schedule to meet with Tommy could also have the chance for in-depth conversation," wrote Gibbons.

Breanna Ren '29, an attendee, described Tommy Kha's unique approach to self-portraits and shared a humorous story from the dinner about how Kha first got into photography.

"Usually, when you hear about an artist who does self-portrait photography, you think of pictures of their face. But Tommy uses different styles of photography to express who he is as a person, without it being only about his face. I asked him over dinner how he got into photography. He said he first picked up a camera to impress his sister's boyfriend, and from then on, he developed a passion for it," said Ren.

For Ren, the workshop offered insight into the mind of the artist, with the most interesting moment being when Kha explained the stories and process behind his work, particularly the photo collages.

"One [piece] that stood out was the collages in the Addison's lobby. He mentioned that people can submit their own photos to be added, and that he wants more people from Andover and the community to contribute. The pieces are meant to represent our collective identity," said Ren.

She continued, "I learned that photography doesn't have to be of a person or a thing, it can be a cutout or a layered image, like a collage. That layering can bring a photo to life and add meaning."

C.ZHOU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Teaching Fellow in English Adrian Venzon co-organized the workshop.

Rania Ali-Svedsäter '26, another attendee and Addison Community Ambassador, observed that Kha doesn't often talk about identity directly. Instead, he shows it through the objects and stories in his work. Ali-Svedsäter described how Kha's approach to identity affected her afterwards.

"He discussed his perception of identity, and how he often refrains from using the term identity, and would rather display it within his artwork in ways that are perhaps more unconventional, such as within his usage of disparate objects related to his upbringing and his personal growth. Given the fact that his approach to identity is quite unconventional in his techniques and methods, I was inspired to think of my own unique aspects of identity, and how certain objects may correlate with very important parts of who I am," said Ali-Svedsäter.

CaMD correspondent and coorganizer Adrian Venzon, Teaching Fellow in English, described the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of the event, noting how Kha's humor and openness made the discussion memorable.

"That was something that really stuck out to me about Tommy's presentation, he was so open about moments where he didn't always get things right the first time. He even joked about not wanting anyone to ever ask for his paintings because he doesn't consider himself a good painter. But that was part of what made him so captivating to the students and faculty alike, he was so open and honest about his process and the moments where he fell short, and he really emphasized the importance of trying," said Venzon.

Venzon described the overall intention of the workshop, explaining how it not only aimed to spark conversations about the artwork itself but also to inspire students.

"Our goal primarily was to foster a conversation about the arts, particularly how people explore identity through the arts. I think it was interesting that Tommy himself doesn't necessarily talk specifically about identity a lot, but he recognizes that people do see themselves in his artwork. The hope was to get students thinking and talking about not only the artwork, but also how they might see themselves in it, as well as how they might imagine potential careers or futures that have art as a part of them," said Venzon.

WRITE FOR ARTS

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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

LOTW: Ariel Shepherdson '27's Journey From Paper Dolls to Pinterest

AUTUMN XIA & CHARLIZE SOW

Styling denim on denim, Ariel Shepherdson '27's outfit flaunts a fur-rimmed hood and a black graphic shirt. Grounded in adaptability, Shepherdson describes her style as versatile above all else. Her journey with fashion traces a line of curiosity and experimentation, with her initial interest stemming from paper dolls and fashion shows.

"When I was a kid, my parents got me paper dolls with paper clothes you could fold over them. I would spend hours making little outfits. Then I got addicted to watching Victoria's Secret Fashion Shows and old 2000s clips of fashion shows. That made me very self aware of how I was perceived and made me want to put effort into and take agency over that self image. I would love to get better at sewing and making clothes. I have made a few pieces for myself. Right now I keep them simple because I do not know how to do much else yet, but I would love to experiment with silhouette and material in the future," said Shepherdson.

Accessories play a central role in Shepherdson's adaptability, serving as subtle details that elevate her daily outfits without overwhelming them. Whether it's the silver bracelets on her wrists or the way she styles her hair, Shepherdson methodically treats each element of her look as a part of a cohesive whole.

"For bracelets or arm jewelry, I am always a silver girl. I have to have something on my wrists. I wear the same watch every day. Also, hairstyle technically counts as an accessory, and that is one of the most important things to being put together. I always decide hairstyle based on the neckline of my tops. To keep things proportional, if the neckline is high, I put my hair up. If it is not, I keep my hair down," said Shepherdson.

Shepherdson's relationships form the backbone of her style. Each accessory tells a story, one that reminds her of time spent with friends and family. For her, fashion isn't just about trends: it's about memories and meaningful relationships.

"Many of my choices are influenced by people and events in my life. I also have a lot of jewelry from family that is really significant to me. The watch I always wear is a square silver watch with tiles on the band. I thrifted it a few months ago with a friend, and I have not really taken it off since. My friend was there when I found it. Recently one of my favorite shirts has been a long black Ed Hardy shirt my best friend bought me, with rhinestones on it. It is not too showy since it is black, but it has some uniqueness. Many of my bags were gifts, so they carry personal significance. Many of my choices are influenced by people and events in my life," said Shepherdson.

Each morning, Shepherdson approaches her outfit choices in a methodical routine that guides her style as a whole. Material, color cohesion, and how pieces work with the weather that day are all core factors of her outfits that allow her to tie her entire composition together.

I.PADMAWAR/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Ariel Shepherdson '27 treats each element of her look as a part of a cohesive whole.

"On stressful days I cannot always be bothered, but getting put together helps me feel ready and confident for the day. Every morning I start with pants, because I have fewer of them than tops. I always check the weather because I hate being underdressed or overdressed. I like to layer, so I think about materials and colors for layering, what is comfortable, and what fits together well as a combo. Whatever feels authentic that day influences what I wear, while still focusing on looking presentable. Having a good outfit is essential to the day's attitude," said Shepherdson.

Shepherdson's self-assurance and confidence has become increasingly visible to others. As her friend Janice Wong '27 notes, the effort Shepherdson puts into her outfits reflects not just aesthetic growth, but a newfound certainty in who she is and how she wants to be perceived.

"In [Junior] year, we used to wear hoodies and pajama pants every day. The reason why her style changed is because it makes her feel more confident and makes her feel better about herself every day. I think her style was developing in Lower year. She's really confident in what she wears, and something I especially like is that she dyed her hair pure black. It really makes [her] style stand out a lot more," said Wong.

Andover Students' Wicked Halloween Costumes

HAYLEY FAN & ELIZABETH QIN

Students roamed the paths this past Halloweekend with costumes ranging from creepy to clever, letting their imagination run wild for a fun-filled celebration. Whether they went trick-or-treating locally or spent time taking photoshoots with friends, campus was animated with costumes that included spooky classics, pop-culture references, and hand-crafted endeavors.

VERA PAPE '29 (CENTER)

"I'm a beanie baby with 16 other girls, and we're all different animals. We all just wanted to be together, especially in [this] new community. We met a bunch of people, and trick or treating here at Andover by doing a big costume means that we're all coordinating and doing something as a group. Doing a costume together really helped me connect with other people. [Next year], I want to do something inflatable. Something that will have a shock factor and be very different."

BREANNA REN '29

"I chose to be the Mad Hatter this year. I made a hat and put everything I could find on it because the Mad Hatter is completely crazy. Last night I took some poster paper from the [The Nest] and then followed a tutorial, made a hat, and then tied a scarf around it. My costume worked out pretty nicely. I'm surprised that the hat actually stayed in place [because] it's really bulky. A lot of people have asked me if I'm a leprechaun, mainly because I chose the color green, but I'm a proud Hatter. Most people [were] excited and surprised at how well it looks. I actually have no idea [what costume to do for next year] because I'm more of a last minute 'I see something that I want to do and I do it' person."

NISREEN DOHADWALA '27

"I was a ghost on Friday and corpse bride on Saturday. The inspiration for the ghost was this cute ghost makeup I wanted to try and the corpse bride was based on Emily, the bride from the movie, 'The Corpse Bride.' The makeup was really hard and something I've never tried before, but it turned out pretty good and I liked my outfit as I was trying to recreate the Tim Burton vibe with a white wedding dress. There isn't really a meaning, more so just the creepy sad vibe of Emily and how Tim Burton portrayed her character as broken, in need of justice and unloved. I think people liked it and got the vibe."

ABIGAIL WANG '27 (RIGHT)

"I'm Eeyore, the donkey from Winnie the Pooh. Muaz [Reza '27] is Winnie the Pooh. Sofiia [Skalii '27] is the piglet from Winnie the Pooh. We wanted a group costume that was easily recognizable, and we settled on this. We also wanted to be warm, so we just had on PJ's. [I think our costume turned out] pretty good, I'm satisfied. I've seen another Winnie the Pooh before, so I'm assuming there were a lot of Winnie the Poohs this year."

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Campfire, Costumes, and Clues Enchant Abbot Cluster

COLIN LEE &
TAYLA STEMPSON

Despite the cold and piercing wind on Halloween night, the streets of Abbot were thawed by a sense of community and fun as students paraded through the cluster for this year's Abbotween celebration. The event was planned by the Abbot Cluster Council and included a campfire at Stowe, a Haunted House at Whitney, and trick-or-treating paired with unique activities at each dorm. After weeks of planning in cluster council meetings, Abbotween ranked high amongst PA's Halloweekend lineup.

Despite the spooky themes associated with Halloween, Kamryn Cabrera '28 found the night goofy, lighthearted, and social. The event encouraged new friendships amongst strangers through its collaborative and upbeat activities.

"It's a very funny experience. I know some groups came in singing different songs to not get scared, and then some of the scarers were just having fun. And I made a lot of new friends yesterday with people I have never talked to before, both from my grade, the grades above me, and juniors as well. So I feel like it was a very welcoming atmosphere," said Cabrera.

Samantha Gong '28 held a similar sentiment, while also noting the scale of the event and certain activities at Abbotween. The night's energy, she said, created a warmth that defied the biting cold.

"It was very lively, very loud. I think if you looked around the streets of Abbot, going down to all of the dorms, you could definitely see a bunch of people, and it felt warm, even though the night was very, very cold. And then there was a campfire, and it was really lively over there as well, and there were a bunch of kids who wanted to do the murder mystery. So I think it was very community-building," said Gong.

K.MA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Clues at each dorm directed students through the murder mystery.

Students going door to door had the opportunity to collect clues for the murder mystery that would enter contestants into a raffle for AirPod Pro 3 if they could solve it. For many, including Travis Guan '28, the game became one of the night's most exciting challenges.

"I think going through the murder mystery with my friends was quite fun. We had a lot of fun trying to solve the clues and also got a bit bamboozled a little on some of them. For instance, in the middle part where you're supposed to eliminate the clues; there were quite a few misleading terms. Also, [there are] double terms. You can eliminate one thing twice. And at the end, I think we had, like, three places that we didn't eliminate, even though we went to all the houses it was great," said Guan.

Besides the trick-or-treaters, many boarding students in Abbot were also reveling in the holiday spirit. Many dorms organized their own activities, including tarot readings and themed decorations. Maggie Mercado '26 helped lead Carter House's setup.

"What I did was I set up a shop for my dorm. Our dorm really wanted to do tarot readings for people, so that's what we did on top of also having one of the clues for the murder history and having candy to hand out for trick or treating," said Mercado.

Coming off of a week packed with majors, Halloween's lighthearted and social tone was especially refreshing. For Gong, the event offered a much-needed break.

"[My favorite part of the night] was watching people ring the doorbells at Double Brick and doing a jump scare or going around and getting some candy along the way. I think that was spending time with friends as well, 'cause it's been a stressful week, and this is a really nice debrief," said Gong.

The Haunted House at Whitney was the final major stop of the night. Cabrera reflected on its success as one of Abbotween's proudest moments.

"[It was great] seeing the outcome of it all and seeing how many people were excited to go into the Haunted House and how long the line was, to the point that we had to kind of speed run through some of the sessions and not have them be as long. It was a good thing, I would say, it was nice to know that we had a good outcome, and a lot of people showed up and had fun as well," said Cabrera.

Ronal Dominguez Hernandez '28, a member of the planning committee, outlined the process of the event, and what the future holds for next year's Abbotween.

"This year it was just the Cluster Council. We met every other week a total of three times [and] throughout that time, we brainstormed ideas, prizes. We thought about the prerequisites to getting something like this done, and then we tried to execute it," said Dominguez Hernandez.

He continued, "I'm just wondering how we can grow Abbotween? And I'm also wondering how we can get other people involved too? I know there are a lot of faculty kids that live at this campus that might want to do something in Abbotween, like the little scavenger hunts and the haunted house."

Catchy Songs and Scallion Pancakes Unite Students at Chinese Karaoke Night

BOSON BAI &
BENJAMIN PARK

Last Friday night, under the bright stage lights of Kemper Auditorium (Kemper), the Chinese department and the Chinese Students Association transformed the space into a lively celebration of language and culture. The annual Chinese Karaoke event drew students from across grades, offering music, food, and a shared sense of connection. Between plates of scallion pancakes and sing-alongs to pop and folk hits, students filled the night with laughter and applause. Serving as one of the evening's emcees, Merson Tang '29 explained the purpose behind the event.

"[Our] main goal was to connect the different Chinese classes together in one shared event and to highlight the uniqueness of each class. It also gave students an opportunity to show the progress they have made in their language studies. In a larger sense, it was a celebration of culture, language, and community all coming together in one evening," said Tang.

The event's structure allowed performances from various levels of Chinese classes. Students sang both solo and in groups, showcasing a mix of genres that reflected the wide range of interests within the department. Jason Cai '28, who attended the event, shared his impression of the night.

"The night was full of music, joy, and excitement. The performances covered many types of Chinese music. There was hip hop and rap, traditional folk songs, and pop. It was an amazing experience to enjoy so many different styles of music in one night, performed by students in the Chinese courses at Andover," said Cai.

COURTESTY OF CYRUS LAW

Angela Zhao '26, Alessandra Chung Yan Woo '27, Brian Wong '27, and Michael Huang '26 were among many to participate in karoake.

Beyond the performances, the karaoke offered students an opportunity to connect more deeply with peers who shared their background or language journey. The spontaneous collaborations and lighthearted atmosphere underscored how cultural events can build community at Andover. Alex Lin '28 reflected on how her group performance captured that spirit.

"I sang Huo Si Gagang Si Ya with a group of friends, and even though we signed up late, it was surprisingly well organized. Oliver [Zhang '28] wrote harmonies for it and stayed up until the morning to finish them. Before we went on stage, Cleo [Xu '26], ran up to us and said she knew the song and asked if she could join. It was spontaneous and so fun because we got to bond with others through music and culture... Coming to Andover as an Asian student, I was a little afraid I would not be surrounded by as much Asian culture. Events like Chinese Karaoke make me feel connected to my culture again," said Lin.

Behind the scenes, careful planning ensured the event's success despite last-minute challenges. Tang and the other emcees coordinated logistics, transitions, and technical elements throughout the night. Their teamwork helped maintain the flow of performances.

"About twenty minutes before it began, the emcee team met to review everything and go over the flow of the night. I think more could have been done during that time, but once the event started, things went well overall. The only issue was that we did not have time to test the microphones in Kemper, so the sound did not always amplify the singers clearly. Other than that, everything ran smoothly, one performance at a time, and the evening ended on a joyful note with scallion pancakes for everyone," said Tang.

For many students, the karaoke also provided a break from the academic intensity of fall term. Between tests and college applications, the night offered a space to unwind and reconnect. Elisa Lee '26, who performed while managing college deadlines, found the event restorative.

"Honestly, as a Senior working on college applications, it was a little stressful. The timing wasn't ideal, but I still preferred preparing for Chinese Karaoke over studying for a test. It ended up being a nice break from all the academic pressure. Even with everything going on, I still had a lot of fun. I ordered glow sticks for everyone in our group so we could add something exciting to the performance. I think we still made this year special in our own way," said Lee.

Despite its late timing on a Friday evening on Halloween, the turnout remained strong, filling every seat in Kemper. Students cheered for friends and classmates alike, creating an atmosphere that balanced relaxation with enthusiasm.

"I don't think [Halloween] hurt attendance at all. Every seat in Kemper was filled, and some people were even standing. Despite the timing, people still showed up because the event has such great energy. A lot of students love performing on stage, and it's a nice, low-stakes opportunity compared to bigger productions like Grasshopper," said Lee.

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