

After 29 Issues, CXLVIII Bids Farewell to the Newsroom

WINSTON WU &
NICCOLO LEE-SUK

This paper marks the first issue of *The Phillipian*, vol. CXLIX. Following board turnover on January 23, all Senior Editors, Managers, and members of Upper Management (UM) in vol. CXLVIII have officially left the Newsroom.

CXLVIII's UM navigated a tenure marked by major changes both on campus and globally. Former Managing Editor Bailey Xu '26 reflected on how these developments often intersected, and elaborated on the board's reporting priorities and values.

"The changes in global politics, in some way, reflect upon Andover, whether it's [administrative] policy or the student protest that was cancelled. These kinds of topics and events, which you can't predict when or if they'll happen, were relatively new for us to deal with and definitely challenging to report on... One of the things that really mattered to our board, and really matters to Andover students, is communication in a broader sense between the administration and the student body. That was something we really advocated for," said Xu.

Given the weight of the year's events, Former Editor in Chief Micheal Kawooya '26 emphasized the responsibility of publicly standing behind *The Phillipian's* editorial decisions. He reflected on how leading the paper required balancing firmness with em-



KWANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Senior Editors and Upper Management of CXLVIII stand in front of Samuel Phillips Hall.

pathy, and helped him personally grow as a leader.

"There were many times when I had to stand up for myself, and for the paper, and for what I thought was right in the paper. And there were many times where I had to be more graceful than I'd ever had been, or kinder than I ever had been. When you're leading so many of your peers, and when you're interacting with so many adults on campus, and so many people beyond campus, it teaches you all kinds of people skills, and really pushes you in that way," said Kawooya.

Former Executive Digital Editor Abigail Zhu '26 described how the board incor-

porated insight from alumni and faculty advisors across the Andover community.

"Micheal did a really wonderful job [with] talking to the right people and using all the resources that we have as a club with such a great alumni network. He reached out to so many past Editors-in-Chief and past boards for advice. And we really leaned on our club faculty advisors for that... Because we have such a great community, it made those issues feel manageable," said Zhu.

Both incoming and former members of UM reflected on how leadership required organization alongside decisiveness. Former Commentary

Editor and current Managing Editor Camille Davis '27 emphasized that coordinating across sections would be essential to the fruition of the board's long-term goals.

"One of the biggest challenges in Commentary that will probably transfer over into Upper Management is the editing and making sure everyone's on top of everything. As an editor, you become experienced with that because, of course, you have to make sure your writers are doing edits on time. On Upper Management, that expands across a larger scale because you have to do that for all of the different sections," said Davis.

Former Chief Financial Officer Angela Zhao '26 encouraged the new board to be confident and embrace the weight of decision-making.

"[My advice to the next Upper Management would be] to be passionate and also to trust what they think is best. My own experience on the board was that a lot of times I asked for a lot of advice and external help, but at the end of the day, I've realized that I have to make the decision," said Zhao.

Beyond leadership, UM emphasized the collaborative culture in Newsroom. Former Arts Editor and current Executive Editor Stella Seong '27 described the collective effort behind each weekly issue.

"When you just see the Masthead on the website, you see these columns of names. But I don't think you can actually grasp how that works and culminates into a Friday paper until you step into the Newsroom... You see all the collaboration that happens, and it's everything from the humor, [and] all the light-hearted jokes made to sections, sitting down, throwing ideas around, and just trying to make things work. Seeing the amount of moving parts that go into the production of this paper is always inspiring," said Seong.

Former Managing Editor Theo Wei '26 reflected on the

Continued on A5, Column 1

Snowstorm Forces Closure of Campus Buildings During Head of School Day

HELEN XIONG &
ADELYNE LIU

The thirty-sixth Head of School Day (HOSD) on Monday, January 26, coincided with a severe snowstorm, prompting safety concerns. Following the announcement of HOSD on Friday, Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, sent additional emails to the Andover community detailing restricted hours for certain buildings and facilities, including the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL), the Addison Gallery of American Art, Pan Athletic Center, and Falls Music Center.

Mark Leonard, Director of Campus Safety and a member of the school's designated "storm team," explained how administrators evaluate weather-related safety concerns and make campus-wide decisions accordingly.

"The planning for a storm like this starts a few days in advance. We look at the timing of the storm, and one of the big considerations is, 'Will our Office of Physical Plant have time to open campus before classes start, or before people have to report for work?' Making sure that entrances and egresses are clear [and] making sure that in the

event of something happening, like a fire alarm, people can get out of the building and then get into a building safely, are some of the main concerns that we have," said Leonard.

HOSD provided students with a three-day weekend, with many teachers pushing assignments back by one class day. Philip Molina '28 noted that HOSD gave students greater flexibility to catch up on work.

"The rest of the week will actually feel lighter, because Monday classes are cancelled. When assignments are pushed back, a lot of people have time to catch up if there was any work they wanted to do, any extra credit or assignments to be handed in... My week will feel easier because I will have time to come more prepared than ever," said Molina.

While some students welcomed the extended break, others questioned whether HOSD was an appropriate response to the storm. Darian Reyes '28 argued that, given HOSD's purpose as a morale booster, the conditions instead warranted a traditional snow day.

"[The day off] should have happened regardless of

Continued on A5, Column 4



A.BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Nathan Ramani '27 (left) and Karena Kapoor '29 (right) in the snow.

Students Reflect on Tenure of 2025-2026 Student Body Co-Presidents Philip Meng '26 and Gracie Aziabor '26

EDWARD KIM &
DINA NAMJOO

January marks the tenth month in the term of Student Body Co-Presidents Philip Meng '26 and Gracie Aziabor '26. Over the past year and this fall, the Co-Presidents have been working on increasing student participation, facilitating better communication between the administration and students, and following through on initiatives they ran on initially in their campaign.

Aziabor noted one of the pair's core responsibilities, which lie in communicating feedback from the student body on school-wide changes with faculty and administration. She explained how the onset of certain policies has affected points of discussion in their meetings.

"We have our weekly Deans' Table meetings with all the Cluster Deans and the Dean of Students team. Then we also have meetings with Dr. Kington. While those were definitely daunting at first, we've been able to do a really great job of conveying the

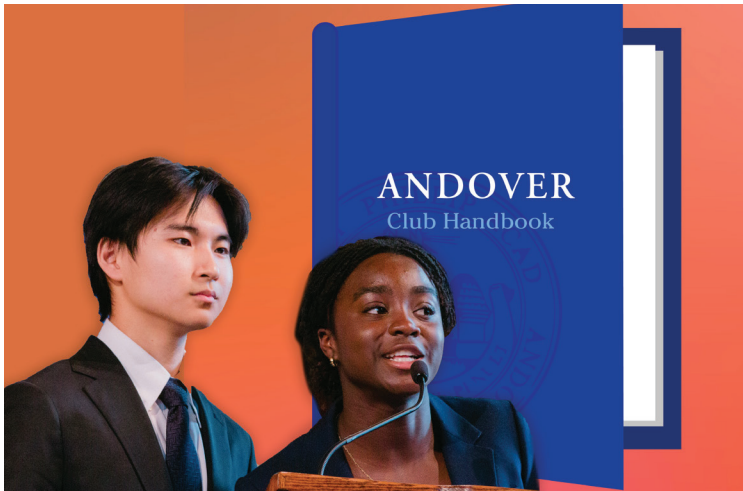


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY A.HONG & K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

student opinion on all of the recent policy changes, such as the cell phone policy or the oncoming DoorDash policy. We've been able to say, 'Here's what the students have been saying, here's what we think,' and actually see how that alters the plans and the ways that the adults and the administration choose to release these different [administrative] changes," said Aziabor.

Recently, Meng and Aziabor implemented a club handbook. Developed in collaboration with Christopher Capano, Director of Student

Activities, the handbook serves as a definitive guide that outlines specific policies and expectations for clubs on campus. Aziabor explained the problems they sought to address with this initiative.

"When I first came into the school, clubs were such a daunting region of students' social life. I felt like there were so many rules, so we were thinking about how we

Continued on A5, Column 4

Students and Faculty Navigate Ambiguity in Sykes Excuse Policy

ADELYNE LIU &
NICCOLO LEE-SUK

"Sykes will help you communicate absences and such with your teachers, so you can prioritize your health and wellness," reads a poster stationed in the women's restroom of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL). One of many, posters such as these advertise the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center's (Sykes) capacity to excuse students who are feeling unwell from their regular classes. Despite the prevalence

of such flyers across various campus buildings, the Sykes policy for absences and general care has remained ambiguous, and is not enumerated in The Blue Book.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Amy Patel, Dean of Health and Wellness and Chief Medical Officer, explained that Sykes' medical decision-making requires caregivers to analyze various symptoms, and make an individualized decision based on the student. Patel elaborated on how Sykes would respond to serious medical issues with prominent symptoms and immediate side effects.

"Certain medical condi-

tions, such as fevers, ongoing vomiting and diarrhea, and new head injuries (to name just a few examples) require closer monitoring and care for a period of time. Students with those conditions will either go home or stay in Sykes until they are meeting at least minimum thresholds for feeling better. There are general guidelines (based on clinical assessment) but not strict criteria for when a student might stay longer when they are not feeling well. Each student is assessed as an individual, with

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Commentary, A2

When You Still Don't Know What You Want To Do

How and why we need to find what we want to do in life.

Eighth Page, A8

When Was the Going Away Party Again?

We run the Eighth Page now.

Sports, B1

Breaking Records

Indoor Track broke several school records as team members cheered each other on.

Arts, B9

Finale in the Spotlight

Read about the Senior Soloist Concert, which highlighted the musical growth and individuality of three graduating musicians.

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Editorial

The Phillipian Charter

The Phillipian operates on the following principles:

1. The Phillipian strives to maintain professional standards of accuracy, objectivity and fairness at all times.
2. Staff members have the right to report on and editorialize about all topics, events or issues, including those unpopular or controversial.
3. The Phillipian will not publish anything obscene, libelous, or detrimental to the immediate material and physical stability of the school.
4. The paper shall not be subjected to prior restraint, review or censorship.
5. Staff members have the obligation to learn and observe the legal and ethical responsibilities expected of them as practicing journalists.
6. The Editor in Chief assumes total responsibility for their publication.

When You Still Don’t Know What You Want to Do

JUNWOO SHIN



“What brings you the most joy—and why?” When presented with this question by Andover’s admissions team, I was prepared to give them my default answer: I love to debate. At the time, it seemed reasonable, almost comforting, to believe that I needed a single, well-defined answer to this now impossible question. Sure, I enjoyed wrestling with arguments, but did it really bring me the most joy? Did debating constitute a hobby sufficient to help me get accepted to such a prestigious school? In the end, I chose to answer a different essay prompt, avoiding the question entirely. But now, as an Andover student surrounded by students who seem to speak fluently about their passions, I regret that I never paused to consider what my true answer may have been. The question appears everywhere, on advising forms, dorm conversations, and in the quiet pressure to justify being here. Passion is almost treated like a credential; it is a label everyone readily carries around to prove their contribution to the diversity of our community. Attending this school, I’ve met students who have mapped out their entire lives as athletes, musicians, or lawyers. Each time I learned about my classmates’ aspirations, I couldn’t help but feel anxious about my own uncertainty regarding my future. In a place



CAMILLA CHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

where ambition saturates every classroom and dorm, not knowing what one wants to pursue means drowning. This uncertainty raises a larger question: whether direction is found in conviction and commitment, or rather in the courage to wander as we grow.

At Andover, the expectation

Passion, then, may not be something we find in a neatly organized answer but instead something we build, piece by piece, through experience, reflection, and exploration.

of ambition is subtle, never explicitly stated but always implicitly hinted at. Constantly being questioned about their determination, everyone is prepared to prove their worth. But how did they ever come to that conclusion? How does one realize that their calling in life is to become a cello player or a

corporate lawyer? While some may claim that these passions are simply what they inherently want to do, I disagree that our instincts are reliable indicators of our true aspirations. The instinctive “want” often urges us to indulge in our immediate desires, temptations, and the innate indolence that exists in most of us. But the “passions” that we pursue are often career-centric and more future-oriented. We make intentional choices to resist our urge to find comfort, and instead deliberately put ourselves in challenging positions that test our discipline. There is more to our callings than mere “wanting”; otherwise, no one would willingly embrace stress, deadlines, and responsibilities. Even when shaped by a balance of desire and obligation, our passions can still remain authentic. Our choices are never made in isolation; they are always influenced by our surrounding environments and circumstances. Acknowledging this does not make our decisions inauthentic; it makes them human. While in the moment we may “want” to chase comfort, our true aspira-

tions are a balance between our immediate impulses and the necessary steps towards our ideal selves.

The tension between obligation and desire turns even our dreams into decisions weighed down by consequence. Each time I scroll through LinkedIn, I am always struck by a sense of anxiety in the face of my upperclassmen’s impressive feats. I cannot help comparing my own, seemingly fruitless life to the narratives that they built, and marvel at their dedication to chasing their dreams. Teachers claim that high school is an experimental ground for exploration and self-discovery, while everything structurally rewards specialization and long-term commitment. Every decision feels permanent, and the fact that everyone shares the same limited time makes committing to anything daunting. Each step I take towards developing one of my interests feels like a risky investment towards my future, a choice that will irrevocably shape the rest of my life. At Andover, “purpose” is tied directly to productivity. Only by devoting yourself to a fixed

direction will your efforts be meaningful and yield fruit. But this definition of conviction forbids change. It restricts us from changing our courses and commitments and doesn’t allow us to reconsider who we want to become. Passion, then, may not be something we find in a neatly organized answer but instead something we build, piece by piece, through experience, reflection, and exploration. The pressure to know what we want in life may feel overwhelming, but ultimately it is an opportunity to discover ourselves in the process.

Each night, as I walk back to my dorm alone from a rehearsal, practice, or club meeting, I think about how my definition of success has already changed since arriving here. I watch the lights flicker out from dorm windows and realize that each of my peers is also somewhere in the same process of figuring things out: experimenting, hesitating, and trying again. Uncertainty will always be a given in life. But instead of viewing it as a failure to commit, it can be a space to explore potential and pursue curiosity. Our goals will constantly shift, our interests will evolve, and we may have to retrace our steps to take a different path at the crossroads. But adjusting our plans doesn’t make them any less meaningful or authentic; rather, every path we dare to venture adds to the complex individuals we are. The future belongs not to those who claim certainty, but to those who wander and imagine.

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CORRECTIONS:
The Arts article “LOTW: Olivia Isacson ‘26 Blends Heritage and Androgyny with Intention” was credited incorrectly. The authors were Ramsey Sarkisian and Jia-yi Zhi.
The Phillipian regrets these errors.

I’ll Make a Man Out of You, Then I’ll Let You Cry

MUAZ REZA



To this day, Mulan’s “I’ll Make a Man Out of You” is my favorite Disney song. The bright vocals, poetic verse, and the tension in the scenes where it’s played continue to elevate it as a cult classic. I remember thinking to myself as a young child, “How do I become as swift as a coursing river?” I spent that summer climbing trees under the California heat, channeling my inner Shang, from Mulan, trying to measure up in my own way. Only in my Junior year, when I rewatched the movie with a group of friends, did I understand the song’s true meaning. It was one of the first lessons I received out of childhood: that masculine strength, as it was presented in the media, meant stoicism melded with an unflinching endurance. Masculinity was supposed to be loud and unwavering— “with all the strength of a raging fire.” With time, however, I realized this notion of masculinity was, at best, silly, and at worst, damaging. For men who don’t conform to certain masculine traits, it can be difficult to feel confident in themselves. Even for those who fit the standard, the pressure of maintaining an unshakeable image can be

mentally and emotionally exhausting. Being taught that vulnerability and emotion are “feminine” can lead to isolation, a reluctance to seek help, and internalized stress that erodes men’s mental health. It’s no secret that men are nearly four times more likely to die of suicide than women. Many argue that this result is a direct consequence of suppressing key emotions every human expresses, regardless of sex. Thankfully, awareness about men’s mental health is growing. Expanding the conversation about mental health and creating safe spaces for discussion is key to addressing the growing crises within male populations. As EBI speaker James Wilkerson outlined in his talk last Friday, it’s essential to include men in discussions of vulnerability, accountability, and stress management. His personal anecdotes were endearing, giving real-life context to abstract concepts. In particular,

his framing of stress as a universal, deeply human emotion reminded students that vulnerability was not a weakness. However, as I walked out the Cochran Chapel doors, a part of me remained unsettled. Though Wilkerson’s anecdotes were engaging and personal, I found some parts of his advice limited in scope. Focusing primarily on individual choices, such as checking in periodically or asking men to open up, doesn’t acknowledge the institutionalized factors that

impact men’s mental health. Fragile masculinity, caused by unspoken rules about strength that are often internalized since childhood, makes even well-intentioned advice difficult to execute in practice. Therefore, it’s crucial to address these underlying concerns. For many, talking about masculinity can feel threatening—it directly pinpoints a deeply rooted insecurity in many men. Fragile masculinity, or the need to continuously prove one’s “manhood”, manifests itself in shame when expressing vulnerability. It’s why young boys and grown men alike use humor to cover up their emotions—it’s a coping mechanism to avoid looking “weak”. Even in progressive settings like Andover, where gender constructs are more loosely defined, the stigma of masculinity persists. It appears in friend groups, in the classroom, and in sports. Silence becomes reinforced as a show of strength. To solve this issue, it’s criti-

cal to expand our definition of what it means to exhibit masculinity. It’s possible to bear the “force of a great typhoon,” or be as “mysterious as the dark side of the moon,” while speaking honestly about the fears, anxieties, and stress everyone experiences. By reframing masculinity as not the absence of emotion, but the ability to confront it openly and honestly, we change the unsaid rules many men abide by. That’s why speakers like Wilkerson are so crucial to introduce the notion of vulnerability in traditionally unconventional spaces. However, if conversations regarding men’s

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mental health are to be truly transformative, they must challenge both individual behavior and the rooted ideals of fragile masculinity. Perhaps it is time we petition Shang to change his song, not to erase strength, but to expand it. Strength and vulnerability are not mutually exclusive: to be a man should mean masculinity with the courage to be honest.

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MARY LI / THE PHILLIPIAN

Reflection on Readership: Reading Orwell, Seeing Blair

WOJIN OH



I believed that George Orwell was a genius. The parallels that he drew between Trotsky and Snowball in Animal Farm and the similarities between familiar totalitarian regimes and Ingsoc in 1984 awed me with every read. Every one of his works seemed so uniquely his and no one else’s. But the recently published Wifedom challenged my admiration for Orwell. Specifically, looking into the overshadowed roles of Orwell’s wife, I learned that sincere and accurate readership comes from examining the external factors that shaped the author and the text. Wifedom by Anna Funder attempts to uncover the overlooked life of Eileen Blair, Orwell’s wife. Blair was a capable woman who graduated from Oxford University. She was a writer, just like Orwell, and had published a poem titled End of Century, 1984 a full 15 years before his famous novel was released. She had also worked in the Ministry of Information, where she managed government records and propaganda during WWII. Af-

terwards, she supported her husband by raising livestock, typing and editing drafts, and helping refine Orwell’s ideas for his works. Beyond domestic support, Blair was a partner and collaborator for Orwell. However, Blair never received the proper acknowledgement aside from the title of a dutiful wife who maintained the household. While none of these details can outright prove that she wrote Animal Farm or 1984, the fact that her intellectual influence on Orwell went unquestioned despite the relevant context of her work, education, and collaboration with Orwell seemed to demand an explanation. In response to this ambiguity, Wifedom argues that Blair was deliberately erased—not only by Orwell himself, but also in how his works have

I realized that because of this lack of information, it was our responsibility to be cognizant about dismissing significant contexts.

been remembered by scholars who have extensively studied Orwell’s life and work as a prominent literary figure. In Funder’s perspective, the consistent portrayal of Blair as a mere housewife across Orwell’s biographies is too

deliberate to be dismissed as a coincidence, suggesting a socially conditioned tendency to overlook or suppress women’s contributions. I felt a sense of complicity. I thought that my ignorance had played a part in the manipulation of Blair’s history. I began to question what I could do within my ability to prevent these cases. The difficulty was in the fact that readers like myself rarely had sufficient background knowledge to find obscured figures such as Blair. Therefore, ignorance could not be blamed. However, I realized that because of this lack of information, it was our responsibility to be cognizant about dismissing significant contexts. The responsibility of the reader lies in approaching texts with awareness that important external factors may have gone unnoticed. As a cellist, I always begin

by learning about the composer—who they were, their recent experiences before writing the piece, and why they composed it. For example, while I was studying the Shostakovich Cello Concerto, I initially struggled with trying to form my interpretation from its dissonant melodies. To compensate for my lack of understanding of the sheet music, I studied Shostakovich’s life of constant government surveillance under the Soviet Union. Understanding the context behind the notes and mark-

ings allowed me to develop a deeper, fitting interpretation. In contrast, I had never approached literature that way. I had considered Orwell as a genius instead of thinking to understand his works the same way I did with music. It was an easy, convenient, and lazy conclusion. The excuse of an assumed genius eliminated the need for any further inquiry and helped keep Eileen invisible. As readers, we need to rethink what it means to “read” a book. Just as learning a math or physics formula doesn’t mean simply memorizing the equations, reading also shouldn’t end with seeing the words in the text. Cultural, historical, and situational contexts often heavily influence arts and literature. Taking time to fully understand their family dynamics and political biases, the author might have had — instead of idolizing an author as a distant genius — brings depth to reading and makes invisible contributors visible. The intent of reading isn’t mere consumption, but an active pursuit of meaning behind the pages.

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FELISHA LI / THE PHILLIPIAN

Head of School Day Is Not A Substitute Snow Day



“We are not wasting Head of School Day like Andover!” read my Exeter friend’s Instagram story as he posed in front of a giant snowman. In the face of a record-breaking snowstorm with a 20 inches of snow, Phillips Exeter Academy designated January 26 a “snow day,” taking a day off to ensure students’ safety amidst the freezing weather. Many other private boarding schools cancelled classes on Monday, including the Taft School, the Lawrenceville School, and The Portsmouth Abbey School. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu declared a snow emergency and announced that all Boston public schools will be closed on the 26 and the 27. Many schools that celebrate a tradition akin to The Head of School Day (HOSD) declared a snow day on Monday, instead of using up a once-in-a-year holiday meant for fun trips and hangouts that often cannot be enjoyed during shorter weekends. Announcing this year’s HOSD during the snowstorm removed many of the benefits that students look forward to for this holiday.

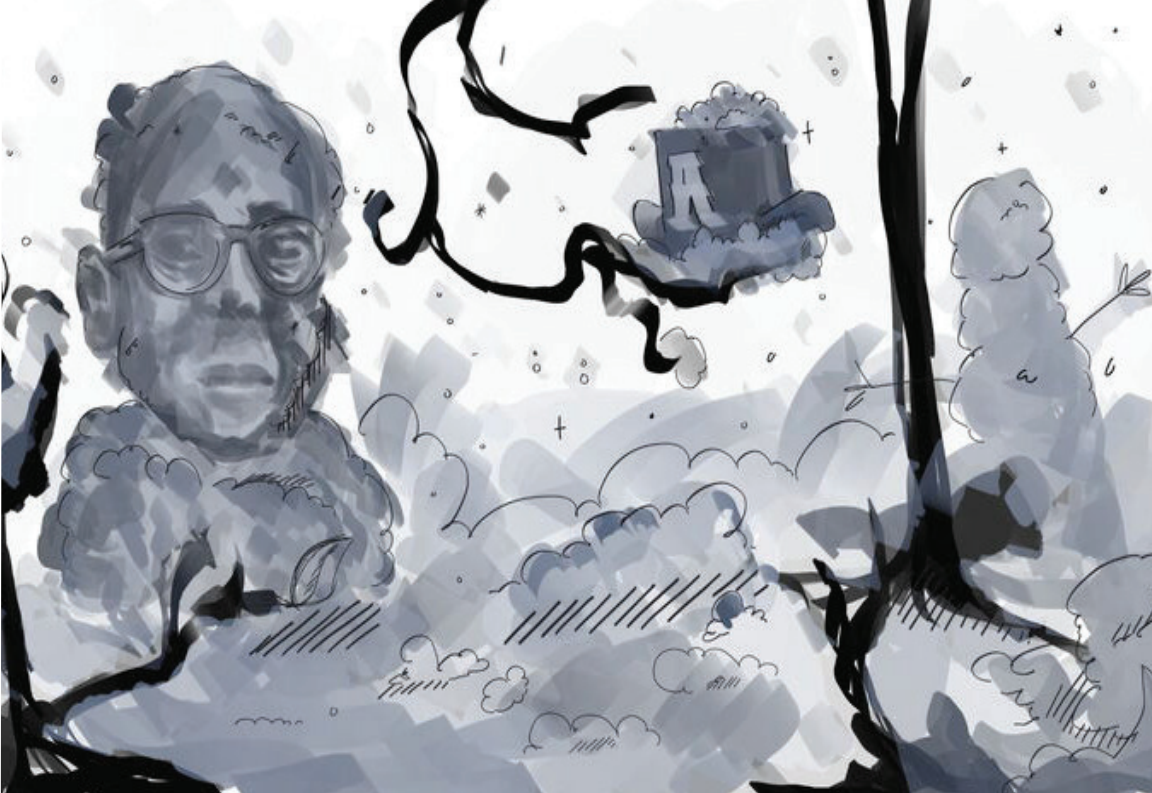
HOSD is meant for Andover students to take a day off from academics to take care of their well-being. Many students spend HOSD visiting Boston, travelling back home, or enjoy-

ing outdoor activities like skiing with their friends. Joisan Decker DeHaan ’99 commented on the Phillips Academy official Instagram announcing the Head of School day. He wrote, “Head of School Day is a morale booster, not a substitute snow day. Love you, Big Blue, but this misses the mark a bit. They can’t even go into Boston.” Likewise, HOSD’s purpose has always been to boost the low mood of the campus in winter by encouraging recreational activities and socialization. However, for this year’s HOSD, day excuses, car permissions, and

Having HOSD during a snowstorm has a counterproductive effect, upsetting many students by removing a holiday they look forward to, rather than bringing back the positive vibes on campus.

food deliveries were banned due to safety concerns, leaving students no choice but to stay on campus for the entire day. Having HOSD during a snowstorm has a counterproductive effect, upsetting many students by removing a holiday they look forward to, rather than bringing back the positive vibes on campus.

Further, HOSD appears unnecessary right after the midterms, since most majors are over and students are in a much calmer part of the term. HOSD last year, announced in February, provided students with a much-needed break during the most stressful part of the term. Amelia Ding ’28 said, “February is the hardest month since



CARINA PAIK / THE PHILLIPPIAN

that is when homesickness and academic stress hit hard. Having a 24-25 Head of School Day during February gave us time to put everything aside, go out with our friends, and take a break at the right time.” This year’s HOSD, on the other hand, came right after midterms, when most majors are already finished, and students deal with much less stress than in average weeks. This is precisely why students feel like HOSD was wasted, since we could have had a day off during the much harder weeks of the term in February, with more time to study and relax with our friends. Kayla Lyons ’28 expressed her disappointment, claiming that “This Head of School Day feels more like a way to maintain the reputation of never having snow days, rather than an earned day off.”

Finally, one of the largest merits of HOSD is having a day off when other schools still have a day on. Besides the

“bragging rights” of having a holiday while our friends from other schools still go to classes, this exclusivity allowed Andover students to visit spots such as ski slopes that are usually packed with other students and families. This year, however, most other schools had classes

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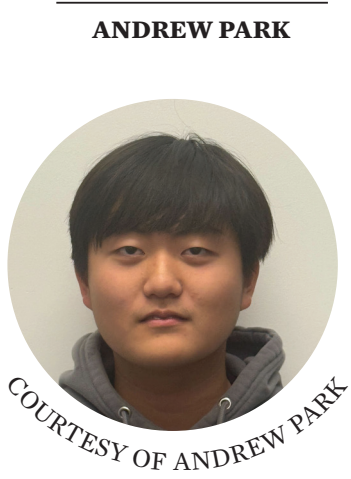
off due to the storm, removing the uniqueness of HOSD, which is a special tradition of Andover.

Other schools having snow days rather than a HOSD adds to the disappointment, since we could have saved the HOSD as a special earned day just for Andover students.

All in all, this HOSD struck many students as a major disappointment. Though we still tried to enjoy the day by spending time with our friends in the dorms, we are incessantly bothered by the missed opportunity of visiting Boston, skiing, and other activities that can only be enjoyed during a long weekend. Perhaps all we can do now is hope for a better HOSD in the years to come or cling to the slight hope that the administration might announce another HOSD to make up for the diminished fun and rest.

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The Radical We Forgot: Reclaiming the Real MLK Jr.



Last week, I attended my first Martin Luther King (MLK) Day On. As a new student to Andover, this was the first time where my day was used to actively honor the legacy of the late civil rights activist. I enjoyed this day, especially the inspirational opening ASM featuring astronaut José Hernández. MLK’s change helped many of us to be able to live and thrive in this country. On a broader vision, MLK’s activism continues to motivate millions of people through the image of unity and non-violence. Today, however, King’s lasting effects on the U.S. government and society is credited to his peaceful and wise character. However, this is a cleaned version of the reverend, one designed to promote comfort. The actual MLK, outspoken on his views against American capitalism, promotion of institutional governmental reform, and warning of moderate voices, would still be called an uncomfortable radical today. Therefore, to fully honor his legacy, especially on MLK Day On, we must criticize the sanitized narrative that excludes these radical views.

MLK, through changes like integration, wanted society to be pluralist. This society would become a “Beloved Community,” his vision for a commu-



ERIC YANG / THE PHILLIPPIAN

nity based on love, justice and solidarity. This view was reiterated during his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, hoping for an America where the descendants of slaves and white people could respectfully coexist and even eat at the table together. Beyond this foundational social justice, King urged for all kinds of justice, including economic justice

King’s interpretation of a better society lacked the American capitalism that oppressed non-white populations during the 20th century.

through redistribution.

Other than his civil rights work, MLK looked towards economic reform, including distribution of wealth through services like guaranteed income

South Vietnam and later, the U.S. in 1965. Two years after the invasion, MLK spoke about his many qualms about the situation. MLK despised that the U.S. wanted to disproportionately

This is someone who didn’t dislike justice, but preferred comfort within order, even if order promoted inequality.

send young Black men to Vietnam for liberation while also not having similar liberties back home. Additionally, MLK linked historical reasons for war, economic and imperialistic, mainly pertaining to how “capitalists of the West [invested] huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, ... with no concern for the social betterment of the countries.” MLK believed that this war symbolized America’s moral failure, especially when it spent resources and lives, while the problems of Black America persisted. And he was right about the true nature of the war, as even the U.S. itself thought it was unable to win the war, but stayed for the sake of global “superiority.” Almost as an insult to King, the modern U.S. has gotten in hundreds of military interventions since 1991, leading to destabilization for economic and political control. And not even a week to the new year, the U.S. unilaterally invaded Venezuela and captured its disputed leader, with White House officials already wanting investment in the captured Venezuelan oil industry. If MLK saw these interventions, he would reply radically, calling for military reform, or even the dissolution of it.

Finally, MLK claimed that the path for equality was not blocked by the Ku Klux Klan member, nor the Segregationist, but the white moderate. This idea of a white moderate was a white person who was not extremely racist, but did not help the cause of Black liberation and equality. This is someone who didn’t dislike justice, but preferred comfort within order, even if order promoted inequality. King asks: is it enough to support justice in theory, while not doing anything about it? Given modern widespread inequality, from constant law enforcement violence to modern forms of economic exploitation, it is impossible King would tolerate inactivity akin to the “white moderate.”

With all of these radical views, King would deeply condemn much of the post-1970s actions taken by the U.S. He would recognize the undeniable progress made through integration and expanded civil rights, but he would also be deeply frustrated by the persistence, if not acceleration, of economic inequality, endless war, and widespread political complacency. To truly honor King’s legacy, it is not enough to celebrate him once a year or quote his most comforting words. Instead, we must be willing to confront the discomfort of his full message and ask whether we are advancing justice, or merely honoring it in name. As Andover students participating in MLK Day On, this responsibility is ours: not just to reflect on King’s ideals, but to engage with the radical demands they place on our community and ourselves.

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CXLIX Shares Goals and Objectives for Tenure

Continued from A1, Column 5

relationships formed through that collaboration.

“I’ve made a lot of great friends over this past year in the Newsroom. Even though I didn’t know any of the Upper Management members before becoming a Managing Editor, I feel like we’ve had great memories together. I’ve also gotten to meet a bunch of different people that I normally wouldn’t have met or gotten to meet, and *The Phillipian* is such a special place for me just because of how many challenges we’ve had to go through as well and being able to navigate that as a group,” said Wei.

This year, Head of School Day was announced on the same day as board turnover due to a severe snowstorm. Seong described the excitement of writing an article immediately upon stepping into the position.

“Angela, Kelvin, and I were all scrambling on Saturday and Sunday, basically day one on the job, and we were already having to get out a breaking news article on Head of School Day. It was exciting to start this process with that. We just dove head-first into it because we had to write a breaking news article right away. Collaborating with them and having that as our first endeavor so far has been really fun,” said Seong.

Former Photo Editor and current Executive Digital Editor Kelvin Ma ’27 described the mix of anticipation and responsibility he felt entering Upper Management.

“We are responsible for the things that we publish and we have to take responsibility for anything that may or may not happen with *The Phillipian*. I think it’s really easy for us to say now that we’re all really

excited. But I think being admitted to Upper Management is one thing and having to actually do the job is another thing. Overall, it’s a general feeling of excitement but also just keeping calm and being ready for whatever will happen,” said Ma.

Looking ahead, members of the incoming UM outlined their initiatives and goals. Former Sports Editor and current Managing Editor Ethan Ly ’27 expressed his desire to expand coverage beyond campus to better situate Andover within its surrounding community.

“I want to position the paper as more of a local publication, not just a school paper. A good example of this is what *The Exonian* [Phillips Exeter Academy’s newspaper] did recently. It’s been covering local events,” said Ly.

Former Illustration Editor and current Editor in Chief Angela Guo ’27 emphasized maintaining the paper’s rigorous reporting while expanding its digital presence and contributors’ engagement.

“Success to me will be, first of all, having a paper that I am proud of every week, and that meaningfully informs the community and contributes to discourse on important campus changes or important issues, whether that’s the community level or the global level. But also, I would like to see a step forward in the digital and multimedia expansion aspect. And I would also want to see more different writers and artists and voices in general, these talents being comfortable and wanting to stay and contribute to our paper,” said Guo.

In the Business section, former Business Associate and current Chief Financial Officer Kai Wang ’27 outlined plans to integrate the section more fully into the paper’s operations while strength-

ening its financial independence.

“The Business section has often been sequestered into a side room for many of *The Phillipian*’s board meetings, and they don’t necessarily have a place during Newsroom hours. So, I definitely will try and introduce the Business section more to the broader Phillipian community. Another thing that is on my list will be to expand our revenue streams. We currently rely on selling advertisements, selling subscriptions to parents, and special events in *The Phillipian* as our main sources of revenue, but I have plans to expand upon those and to create new revenue streams,” said Wang.

Former Executive Editor Kate Rodgers ’26 reflected on *The Phillipian*’s role in amplifying student voices on campus, and encouraged the incoming board to continue pushing the paper forward.

“I’ve been able to see the impact that an article can have and how *The Phillipian* is able to voice student opinion during times when many might feel that their ideas aren’t being heard. We act as a conduit of student opinion, and are able to bridge the gaps between the student body and the administration or faculty,” said Rodgers.

She continued, “I want the next board to take a lot of risks, whether it’s visually or with their reporting, and make sure every week they’re producing something that’s very nuanced and engaging, and making sure *The Phillipian* evolves rather than merely just continues to exist.”

Students Recall Their Head of School Day Activities

Continued from A1, Column 2

whether or not it was HOSD. HOSD is more a casual day off where you just rest, nothing formal. There’s no particular reason for you to do it. However, a snow day is more safety-focused. That’s something you implement in cases of emergencies, which is what I feel like the snowstorm was,” said Reyes.

Eliza Francis ’26, however, pointed to the absence of snow days in Andover’s culture, suggesting that HOSD may have been the most practical option.

“It feels like a reasonable decision, given the downpour of snow we’re seeing. I certainly would not be wanting to go to school on Monday, so if it was Head of School Day or nothing, I would select Head of School Day, although I think a snow day would be fun. Snow days aren’t a huge part of Andover’s culture because a good majority of our students board, but an equally good majority of our students are day students, and I would hate for them to risk their safety,” said Francis.

For day students, the storm also disrupted plans to spend time on campus during the extended weekend. Nishi Amin ’28 shared that the weather prevented her from seeing friends who are boarding students, something she would typically be able to do

on HOSD.

“I’m going to be stuck at home for another day this weekend, which is going to make me feel pretty isolated because I won’t be able to see my friends for another day. Usually if it was a Head of School Day or a long weekend, I’d be able to go to campus to see my friends or hang out with people, but because of the weather conditions I won’t be able to do that,” said Amin.

Although boarding students were unable to leave campus, some dorms used the snowfall as an opportunity to build community. Katie Clark, Instructor in Dance and House Counselor in Paul Revere House, described the activities her dorm organized and the morale she observed.

“In Paul Revere, in particular, there’s been a lot of camaraderie. A lot of our New Englanders and people who are used to weather like this have been really helpful in making our non-New Englanders feel more comfortable. [The house counselors] also try to make it fun. We did a snowman competition that’s still ongoing. I’ve observed mostly positivity around this storm, around the snow this time around. For the most part aside from some mumbles and grumbles about shoveling, I’ve observed mostly that people were excited, and it is exciting. We’ve got so much snow outside, [and] you can do all kinds of things with it,” said Clark.



C.ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN
Students in Adams House stepped out into the snow due to a fire alarm.

Ambiguity in Sykes Excuse Protocols Creates Uncertainty for Students Seeking Care

Continued from A1, Column 5

their specific health history and symptoms in mind, and an individualized care plan is developed. When a student is sick with an infectious illness, they need to prioritize the basics like sleep and good nutrition, and keep stress levels low to promote recovery,” wrote Patel.

For milder concerns, Patel described a process of continual evaluation. Students will often first be permitted to rest for a shorter amount of time. Then, their condition is reevaluated at the end of that period to determine how to proceed.

Patel continued, “Students might need to rest for a period of time with any number of symptoms, including menstrual pain. This is often a discussion between the student and the medical clinician, and a plan is developed that might need to be shifted based on the response to treatment. For example, the plan might be to hydrate, take a medication to relieve symptoms, and rest for one class period. But if that ends up being too little time and symptoms persist, the plan will be updated based on the response to the treatment.”

However, some students reported feeling as if Sykes’ care has fallen short. Madelyn Esposito ’27 has heard about how students with menstrual pain have felt as if the care was not sufficient, despite posters around campus promising adequate care.

“I haven’t had experience with it myself, but I’ve heard that other people, if they’re having really bad cramps or headaches or something like that, and they’d like to be excused from a class or from their sport, Sykes has told them no. They’ve given them an Advil and told them to go along with your day. It doesn’t feel necessarily hypocritical, but it’s in all the girls bathrooms [on campus]. There’s posters about how if you need help managing period symptoms, you can go to Sykes, and Sykes will be there to support you. So for students that are seeking help in managing their period symptoms, in terms of maybe getting an ex-

cuse from a sport at the very least, and then they’re told no, it feels like that support isn’t there,” said Esposito.

For many students, deciding whether or not to go to Sykes becomes a question of choosing between their different commitments. Colin Lee ’28 described a moment when a friend of his believed Sykes would not be able to get him an extension on a project, and instead opted to not go.

“I think there are times when people don’t want to go to Sykes, because going to Sykes can take away your agency in ways. For example, I had a friend who was feeling pretty sick, and he didn’t want to go to Sykes because he had work due. He didn’t have medication, because you can’t have medication in the dorm. He was feeling sick at night while he’s trying to finish a project, and he knew he’s not sick enough for Sykes to give him the day off or an extension on the project. So he just sat in his room in pain for around an hour until he could finish the project. That’s pretty terrible, that [he didn’t] have the option to go to Sykes, because he didn’t believe that Sykes would let him go back to the dorm if he went. Being scared of asking for help is never a place you want the students to be in,” said Lee.

Lee noted that increasing Sykes’ authority so they can give excuses from academics and assignments may alleviate the balancing act that Sykes often carries out in order to support students.

“If [Sykes was] able to be more flexible and had more flexible authority, they could give situational help. For example, my friend who was sick in the middle of night, maybe they could have given him the meds and let him go, or in some way had the authority to give him more time. Something like that, where they have the power to give him the help he needs both medically and in terms of his academics, or how his health would impact his academics,” said Lee.

Matthew Truong ’27 highlighted the differences between the boarding and day sickness excuse policies. As a day student himself, Truong mentioned the role of both household and school judge-

ments in deciding whether or not to approve absences.

“If you’re a day student, you just call in and describe why, what are your symptoms, why you’re not going to school, and they always ask for your parents’ confirmation. Every household is different, so some students go to school even when they’re mildly sick, and some students take a day off. [When I was sick], I called in, I said that I was feeling a little tired. [Sykes] asked for my symptoms, so I just told them I was feeling a bit of fatigue, and not going to school. They always try to get you to go to school if you’re not feeling too bad because skipping school at Andover is kind of tough, but you receive an excuse for absences,” said Truong.

Esposito expressed her desire for clearer communication between Sykes and the student body surrounding medical decision-making. Esposito noted that clinical diagnoses and treatment plans are hard to standardize, though emphasized that regardless, the effort to do is important in increasing students’ comfort and security on campus.

“One thing that Andover does struggle with is consistency in their standards and making those standards or changes clear. When it comes to Sykes and promoting wellness, making it clear what would constitute an excuse, versus ‘just take some Advil or some ibuprofen and go but suck it up,’ would be helpful, especially in terms of periods,” said Esposito. “It’s always going to be difficult to make it clear what constitutes an excuse and what doesn’t, because there’s a lot of subjectivity to it. I’m no doctor, but I understand where the difficulty comes from. But it can make it a bit hard for students to feel like they can prioritize their well-being.”

Aziabor and Meng Elaborate on Initiatives

Continued from A1, Column 5

could put all this information into one place to make it seem like it’s not this large, scary thing that only older or more experienced students can partake in but something that actually has space for everybody,” said Aziabor.

Drawing from his own experiences with clubs at Andover, Meng elaborated on the purpose of the handbook to streamline the process of creating and maintaining clubs.

“For both Gracie and I, when we started our own clubs, there was just so much confusion as to who you were supposed to talk to, and what you were supposed to do. A lot of it had actually never been written down, so you would have to set up a meeting with Mr. Capano or some other person in Student Activities to find out what it is you were supposed to do. Getting all of that down on paper, so that it’s easily readable by anyone, is something we’re proud of,” said Meng.

Mia Isacson ’26 commented on how the handbook made club registration easier to navigate for newer students. She appreciated its volume of information and utility for both club members and leaders.

“For lots of underclassmen and my protees in the hall, they really benefited from using the club handbook, as it answered most of their questions. They didn’t have to email anyone specific or ask a thousand people to answer a specific club question. Everything is in there from learning how to start a club to how to use ClubHub to board applications. It’s very informational and it really has positively impacted the student body,” said Isacson.

In addition to the club handbook, many pointed to the Abbot Dance (Abbot) as one of the most successful events this year. Aziabor explained that the event was not originally scheduled due to last year’s low turnout, prompting her and Meng to step up and take control of the event.

“As soon as [the cancellation of Abbot] got out, it sparked an outcry. So, Philip and I, along with [Aya Murata, Assistant Dean of Students and Residential Life,]

and the Student Council decided that we were going to take it up as our own responsibility ... It was a very student-run thing, but honestly, that’s part of the reason why it was so successful. Something that we’ve learned is that, a lot of the time, students know best what other students want. So, I’m glad we were able to put it all together,” said Aziabor.

Noting the increased turnout for Abbot, Lucien-Sinclair Herndon ’28 emphasized how the Co-Presidents led with a focus on fostering student input. As a Lower Class Representative, Herndon highlighted their ability to listen to others during Student Council meetings.

“[In] [Student Council meetings], Gracie and Philip ... ask for a lot of students’ opinions. We get a wide range of students’ opinions, like dances and munches and everything, so students have a lot more impact than last year in terms of student activities on campus,” said Herndon. “There were around 400 people at Abbot this year, which was significantly higher than last year. A lot is being planned, and they’re working really hard every single day, which I appreciate.”

So far, Meng and Aziabor have implemented most of their initiatives, including reform to the Empathy, Balance, and Inclusion (EBI) program and Notes from the Academy, a collection of Senior remarks that are handed to new students during matriculation. Aziabor expressed their intention to leave an impact that future Co-Presidents can build upon.

“Something that we talked about when we first started running was to think [about] how we can leave a legacy or mark on the school even after we graduate, as something that’s bigger than ourselves. Even if digital Add-Drop ends up being something that doesn’t come by the end of this academic year, it would still be nice to get some meetings on the table and see ways that we can input student opinion,” said Aziabor.

Editor’s Note: Philip Meng was a Business Manager for The Phillipian vol. CXLVIII, and Gracie Aziabor was a Layout Editor for The Phillipian vol. CXLVIII.

10 Questions with Andrew Cheng

REPORTING BY TEDDY STEINERT & JUNIPER KLOCK

Andrew Cheng is a teaching fellow in the Biology Department and house counselor in Stuart House. In his spare time, Cheng enjoys meditating, cycling, and running.

How did you become interested in Biology, or specifically, neuroscience?

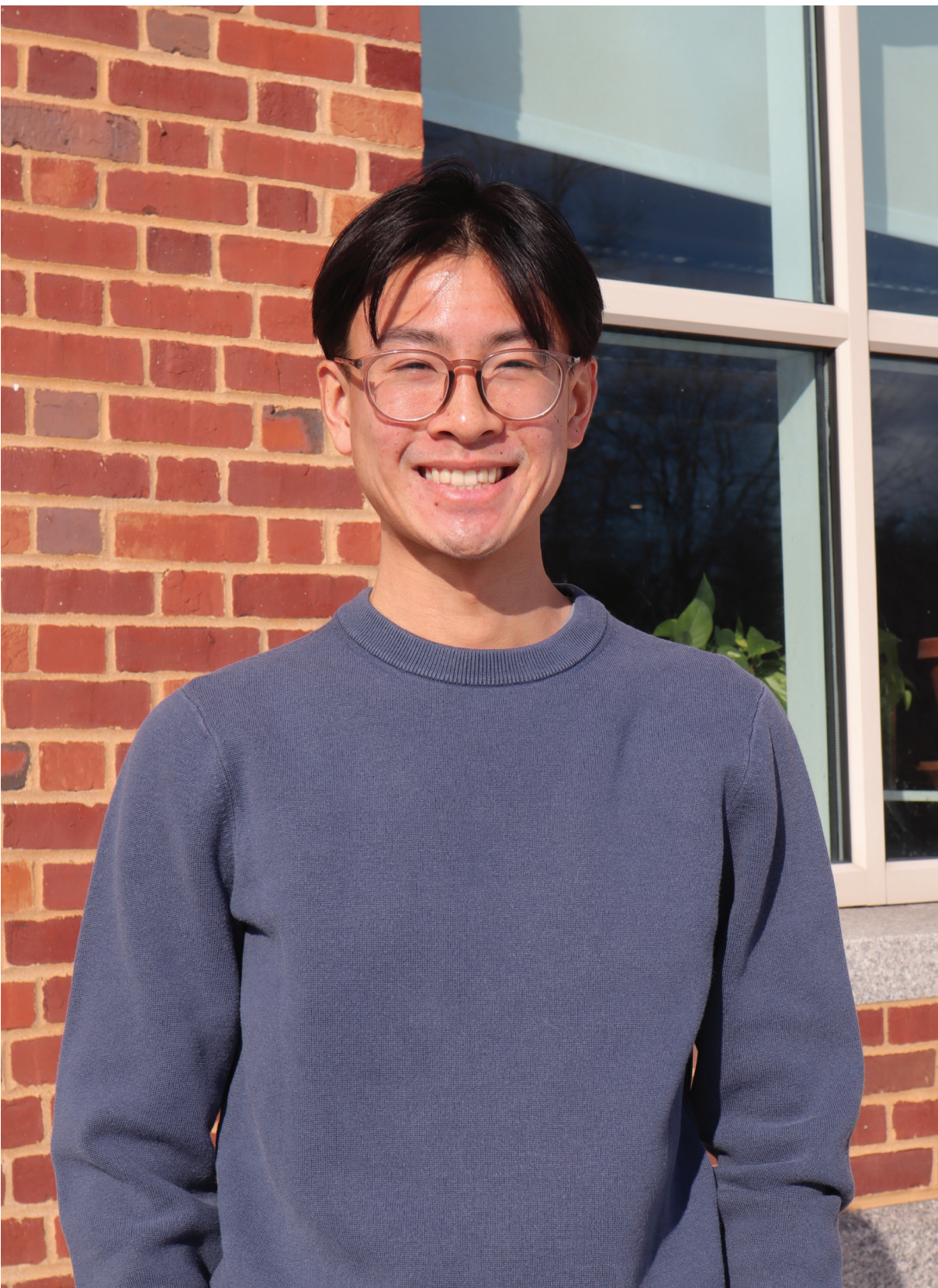
I grew up in San Francisco, West Coaster, born and raised, and my parents worked in the education and medicine sectors. Every weekend, my parents would set up an at-home science experiment for my sisters and me for us to explore the world around us, and we would also travel locally to explore the San Francisco Bay Area. I credit those early experiences with helping me become drawn to the sciences really early on. My family [also] has a history of neurological diseases, and being around family members who were suffering from neurological conditions exposed me early on to the humanistic impacts of these really serious issues of neurological health.

What was your experience like balancing academics with cross-country and track as a student-athlete in college?

I was able to have the opportunity to compete for all four years for Swarthmore, and it was a really, really valuable experience for me. It taught me how to manage my time. First of all, we practiced five or six days a week, and every single day would be a two- or three-hour practice. It elevated my sense of responsibility in the hours outside of practice. Because I was inside this structured team and structured practices every single day, I was able to channel every other hour that I had into more intentional uses. Secondly, I really love running. Running has sort of been a release and a source of consistency in my life. I have transformed the way I play the sport, but at the end of the day it really is just taking steps forward and left and right occasionally.

What led you to decide to go into teaching after college?

I’ve had a couple interviews at medical schools, and they always ask me that. Being a teacher has been an intentional choice for me. I have four years of research experience. I’m really intensely acquainted with the scientific process and how the brain is growing at early ages, but I haven’t yet had a chance to apply that experience into a more humanistic context and apply it to actual patients. My initial motivation for applying to Andover was to gain some really valuable experience supporting adolescence in the many things that you all do. And what better way to do that than living



E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

in the same community that I am working in. I’ve really enjoyed my time here, but I don’t forget the big picture, which is developing those skills of connecting with young people with the hopes of applying those skills in the clinic.

What do you enjoy most about being a dorm counselor?

I had had no dorm experience before so I was a little apprehensive at first about what really goes on as serving as a house counselor. But something that I’ve felt the most fulfilled by is being able to connect with students within periods of vulnerabilities. I’m on duty once a week and on weekends, and sometimes there’s a rare instance where a student will come up to me after duty, knock on my door, and talk to me about interpersonal conflicts that they’re experiencing, mental health things that they are struggling with, or academic anxiety things that they’re voicing. I find the most fulfillment and enjoyment by transforming my dorm space into a space where students are able to freely

share how they are feeling and feel supported because an adult is there listening to them.

If anything, what is something that surprised you about teaching at Andover?

This is my first time working as a teacher. Something that surprised me was how much really goes on behind the scenes in a teacher’s role. I was a student as recently as two years ago, and I was a high schooler as soon as six years ago, and when you’re in class you show up, you do the work, and you get all your homework done, and that is that. I realize that there are lots and lots of support systems that faculty and teachers are working to construct for students. All the meetings that you hear about [are] all designed to support the experiences of you all, and that has been something that I didn’t expect the magnitude of. It’s been a welcome surprise knowing that schools are designed with this intentionality to catch students as they need to and guide them into these nets of support.

What are some hobbies you have?

I’m really big on meditation through movement. There are a lot of stressors in the day, be it work [or] school. I view running as a way to clear my mind and take a break while I am still contributing to my physical and mental health. I’ve continued running after college. It’s built some really great habits for me. Alongside coaching the teams year round, I also am training for a marathon. I have a race coming up in April. I run a lot of miles on campus, so you’ll probably see me with some hat of some sort on. In the past, I have done a bunch of cycling. I cycled the east coast of Taiwan in five days. I also danced Argentine Tango in college for two or three years, which was a really fun experience.

What is one thing you wish people knew about you?

Last year, I applied to medical school and I did not get it. That’s something I would like to be transparent about, espe-

cially because I know a lot of students on campus are within an application process themselves. I have failed, and I am still here on the other side, reapplying. There are a lot of lessons to be learned about an application cycle, specifically, how much of a mental stress it can have on you, and seniors are all too familiar with this. My message to seniors on campus is that I feel you. I’m standing right there with you as someone who is also within an application process. If anyone ever wants to chat, you know where to find me. I’m really happy to listen and hear out some of the feelings that you might be experiencing.

What is your favorite Commons meal?

One of my absolute favorites is the Thai red curry chicken. Specifically the one for lunch. When they have it as a lunch option, it just hits differently. The other one is the paella. I really like it.

How would you describe the Andover community?

Interconnected. This aligns with how I view adolescence as a whole, this interconnected time. You are going throughout your day, and everything that you do, you’re doing with your peers. Sometimes you have faculty that overlap with academics, the dorm, [and] in sports, and so what this means for this whole space here is it just makes for an extremely interconnected and supportive environment. I encourage students to take advantage of that and be involved with things that you may not normally have been involved with. Try out for that sport, take advantage of the support and the interconnectedness. It is a privilege, and it can really create some deep, lasting connections with people that will last well into your adulthood and beyond.

What is one thing you hope students take away from your class?

Each week, I do mid-week mindfulness, which is five minutes of electronics away, lights off, deep breathing, and centering ourselves before we go throughout our day. One primary lesson that I want my students to take away with my classes is the value of mindfulness in promoting your mental and physical health. Here at Andover, students do a lot of things. But little breaks slow [you] down and [make you] realize how much of a joy it is to live in the moment and connect with people.



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HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY AISHWARYA ANANTHAKRISHNAN & SIMRAN SHAH

Technology: TikTok Side-steps U.S. Ban With Joint Venture Deal

In a resolution to a years-long geopolitical tech battle, TikTok officially finalized a deal last Thursday to transition its American operations into a new, majority-U.S.-owned entity. According to The New York Times, the agreement effectively ended the threat of a nationwide ban that had loomed over the platform's 200 million American users since 2024. The deal's closing was met with political praise. As reported by Fox Business, U.S. President Donald J. Trump lauded the move on social media, stating he was "happy to have helped in saving TikTok" and thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for ultimately approving the arrangement. The ownership is now split among a consortium led by Oracle, Silver Lake, and MGX. Led by CEO Adam Presser, the entity will also oversee sister apps like CapCut and Lemon8, ensuring compliance with strict new U.S. data privacy standards.

Environment: United Nations Announces Further Development of Global Carbon Registry

On January 23, 2026, the United Nations officially triggered a new era for climate finance by launching the development of the Global Carbon Registry infrastructure. This landmark project, initiated by

the UN Climate Change (UNFCCC), served as the "digital backbone" for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. According to Argus Media, the implementation contract was awarded to tech provider Trovio to build a centralized system that tracks, authorizes, and transfers carbon credits between nations. The registry aims to address the "double counting" problem by ensuring that when one country sells a carbon reduction credit to another, the environmental benefit is only claimed once. As reported by UN Climate Change, this recent move is seen as the final technical hurdle to operationalizing a high-integrity global carbon market, providing the transparency needed to turn climate promises into tradable assets.

Entertainment: The 2026 Oscar Nominations

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences officially announced the nominees for the 98th Academy Awards on January 22, 2026, setting the stage for the Oscars this March. Ryan Googler's Southern gothic vampire movie, "Sinners," emerged as the record-breaking, most-nominated film in the Oscars' history. According to The Guardian, "Sinners" secured 16 nominations, surpassing the previous high of 14 held by "All About Eve," "Titanic," and "La La Land." The film's dominant showing includes nods for Best Picture, Best Director,

and Best Actor for Michael B. Jordan. Although "Sinners" accumulated success through the public's eye, competition still remains with Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Batter After Another" earning 13 nominations, including a Best Actor nod for Leonardo DiCaprio. As reported by PBS News, the nominations include a record number of non-English language performances, notably from the Norwegian drama "Sentimental Value" and the Brazilian thriller "The Secret Agent."

Conflict and Global Politics: Iran's Internet Access

For over two weeks now, the Iranian government has completely blocked Internet access for Iranians in the most comprehensive Internet blackout in the history of the Islamic Republic, along with violently cracking down on civilian protests. Communication access remains available for some Iranians, yet a full shutdown is still said to be in place, according to the New York Times. In the blackout, residents were allowed to make domestic calls until the evening, but international calls were completely blocked. According to The Guardian, the blackout was likely implemented to stop information about the violence from reaching beyond the country's borders. The National Council of Resistance of Iran reports that families are being forced to sign documents that dictate anti-government pro-

testors as the murderers of their relatives, who were killed by the government. According to Mezha, Iran's Supreme National Security Council confirmed 3,117 deaths in the riots. HRANA places the confirmed death toll at 5,459, with 17,031 deaths under investigation.

Pop Culture and Fashion: Fashion and Couture Mogul Valentino Dies at 93

On January 19, 2026, Valentino Garavani, simply known as Valentino, died at his home in Rome at the age of 93. Garavani was known for his haute couture empire, Valentino. According to The New York Times, Garavani loved dressing "powerful" women like Jackie Kennedy Onassis and Julia Roberts. After taking an interest in fashion at a young age, he began studying and working in fashion in both Milan and Paris. He launched Valentino in 1959 and put himself on the global map in 1961 when actress Elizabeth Taylor chose a white Valentino dress to wear to the Spartacus premiere. Mr. Garavani retired in 2008 but remained a symbol and supporter of the house he created. Mourners gathered for Valentino's funeral last Friday, with Donatella Versace, the creative director of Versace, opting for a striking Valentino-red dress to commemorate Mr. Garavani. In a 2005 profile, Valentino told the New Yorker he wanted to be remembered "as a man who pursued beauty wherever he could."

Public Health: Malawi Administers Vaccines to Prevent Severe Cholera Outbreak

According to ABC News, Malawi launched a large-scale cholera vaccine rollout earlier this week, aiming to contain an outbreak before heavy rains worsen the situation. The Mayo Clinic defined cholera as a bacterial disease spread through contaminated water and food. It causes severe dehydration and can be fatal within hours if untreated. According to African News, the crisis is acute in Southern Africa; last year, the Africa CDC recorded a 25-year high of 300,000 cases. In Malawi's Chilomoni township, the human cost is devastating. Residents unable to afford the \$0.05 fee for five gallons of clean water must use the contaminated Muluda stream for drinking and washing, leading to several infections and one death. To combat this, 24,000 vaccines were administered around the country. In a major step towards self-sufficiency, a South African firm is now conducting clinical trials on the first cholera vaccine manufactured in Africa.

OWHL Hosts Head of School Raynard Kington for Pajama Party

IAN S. KIM & SOPHIA FANG

Students settled into the comfy chairs of the Freeman Room in the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) to listen to Head of School Raynard Kington read a bedtime story about an evil dentist. Hosted by the OWHL Advisory Board, the pajama (PJ) party last Wednesday allowed students to connect with Kington over book recommendations and a conversation with him afterwards.

Jeremiah Nunez '29 elaborated on why he attended the event. He noted that Andover could benefit from more occasions that similarly allow students to have conversations with Kington.

"A lot of Andover students don't get the chance to see [Dr. Kington] much despite him being the principal. [He] and students don't necessarily see each other on a day-to-day basis, so I thought it was very special and important [for me]

to come to this so I could see him and learn a little bit more about him," said Nunez.

Nunez continued, "I haven't had many opportunities to talk to Dr. Kington, but I would like to see more opportunities where you can get conversations like Q&As because a lot of students like me have questions for Dr. Kington that they want to know [answers to]. It would be a great Q&A and really fun."

Autumn Xia '28, a member of the OWHL Advisory Board, helped plan the event. Xia explained its objectives as a yearly tradition, including strengthening bonds between Kington and the Andover community and creating an informal space for students to connect with each other.

"We have forms that ask us how well you think the Head of School bonds with the rest of the community, and the pajama party is one way for students to get closer to Dr. Kington rather than just see him as a real-life figure and [to see him as] a person we can communicate with," said Xia. "It's a way to bring the

community together and feel more interconnected in the library itself."

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL, noted Kington's enthusiasm as a factor behind the event's success. She emphasized that the engagement of students who attended also contributed to the atmosphere.

"Dr. Kington is an avid reader who clearly enjoys talking about books. His enthusiasm for reading helps set the tone for the evening and makes the event feel relaxed, curious, and fun. Students quickly pick up on that energy, which leads to thoughtful questions, lively conversations, and an event that never quite goes where you expect in the best way," wrote Torres Hoven.

Torres Hoven elaborated on how ideas for the pajama party and other programs by the OWHL are driven by both faculty and students. She explained the Advisory Board's role in planning events that are directly informed by student interests.

"Over the past three-and-a-half years we've focused on creating programming that is dynamic, clearly connected to the library's mission, and driven by student interests. Many of our ideas originate directly from students. For example, the idea to bring a banned book author to the Abbot Book Festival came from the Student Advisory Board and another student club, the Abbot Book Club. The PJ Party with Dr. Kington also grew directly out of the Board, and our TEDx programming is another example of something that is largely student-driven, with students selecting the theme, speakers, and overall direction," wrote Torres Hoven.

Jason Cai '28 appreciated how Kington incorporated personal anecdotes and stories into his narration. He expressed excitement for attending more of these events in the future.

"The relation back to the anecdote from his own personal life stood out to me quite a lot because I previously knew little about Dr. King-

ton's life, and I thought that it was really fascinating. It definitely made him more relatable... [and] helped people realize that he's more than his titles and academic works," said Cai. "I previously attended a MLK workshop that he was at, and I thought that was really awesome too, so I will keep coming to these events."

David Porto '26 explained how the event exceeded his expectations in terms of learning more about Kington. He mentioned the possibility of expanding this tradition to other teachers for students to get to know them better.

"I went to try it since there wasn't much else to do, and it turned out to be really entertaining. I learned a lot and definitely walked away thinking, 'Wow, I didn't know all that.' Considering it was a pajama party, the vibe was definitely right," said Porto. "I'd like to see other faculty do something like this, too, especially faculty whom people admire but don't get many chances to talk to. That would be an interesting direction to take this [in]."

Applications and Visitations Commence for 2026-2027 Stack Dormitories

JOHN KIM & ALFONSO GONZALEZ-CANO

Various housing pathways became available to students during winter midterms in preparation for the 2026-2027 school year. Rising Uppers and Seniors were given the opportunity to apply for a "stack" dormitory, which enables students to live amongst a group of self-selected peers rather than moving to or proctoring in an upperclassmen dorm.

In an email to the Class of 2027 and Class of 2028, Assistant Dean of Students and Residential Life Aya Murata outlined the process of applying for a stack dormitory, which includes correspondence with each dorm's respective house counselor and designating an individual Stack Captain.

"Each house counselor will offer Open House hours for their dorm - it is up to you and your group to visit during one of those days/times...One person in your group must be designated 'Stack Captain,'" wrote Murata. "The captain should be organized, responsible, and a good communicator. The Stack Captain must meet with their current cluster dean to discuss their plans and obtain a QR code for the group's stack application... Once you and your group have visited dorm(s), then the

Stack Captain, on behalf of the group, must complete and submit the stack application by Friday, February 13."

A potential candidate for Bertha Bailey House and current prefect in Bartlet House, Will Unetich '27, described his plans for the housing process, explaining his interest in a stack.

"The idea of living with a group of friends that you get to choose is really exciting. I've lived in a pretty big dorm in all my time here at Andover. Getting to experience living in a big dorm and then also one that's kind of smaller, it'd be amazing to get both those experiences. I've heard that rules are a little less strict in stacks, so maybe [going] in there and having a good time with friends [would be fun]," said Unetich.

Multiple groups of students from both grades often apply for the same stack dorm, which can cultivate a sense of competition.

Unetich continued, "I'd say one downside of the process of applying for a stack is the competition that there is. There are other groups with friends that [are applying] as well. It is tough to compete with them for a stack and then see them get stuck in a different dorm again. It sucks. You feel a little bad about it. I'd say the downside about living in a stack itself is there [aren't] too many people in stacks, so you

have to make sure that you are certain that the people you're going with are people you want to live with, that you're willing to see first thing in the morning, or put up with late at night. It could get chaotic at times or overwhelming. Overall, it seems like it would be a great experience."

Meghan Clarke, an Instructor in Computer Science and Math, serves as the house counselor of Bertha Bailey House. In an email to *The Phillipian*, Clarke highlighted the benefit of intimacy fostered within a stack dorm. She emphasized that in a smaller dorm, both students and the house counselor build stronger bonds more quickly.

"I've really enjoyed house counseling in a stack. With a smaller number of students and the setup of the dorm, it feels more like a home than a dorm. I'm also able to get to know everyone more quickly than is typical in larger dorms, and since the students all have chosen to live together, groups generally come in having already built a strong community. Further, with a smaller group that's already pretty close with one another, deciding on fun activities to do together as a dorm tends to happen more often and more organically. For example, this year, the stack in Bailey organized a dorm breakfast in town on the first Saturday of the term," wrote Clarke.



COURTESY OF CAMDEN SCHOPLER

Students in Morton House enjoyed a cards night.

Colin Lee '28, who also noted his interest in applying to larger stack dormitories, elaborated on the increased autonomy and sense of community students can create when living in a stack. Lee also mentioned that increased distance from main campus for students residing in stacks could potentially decrease more varied social interaction.

"It sounds nice to hang out with people I'm really close with. There is a level of agency and freedom that comes with [stacking] that I like a lot. I believe [that] usually the room sizes are better. Altogether, it's an increasing quality of life. The downside

of that is [you're usually] a bit further away from main campus. You're not going to have as [many] chances to meet new people. You miss out on some of the aspects of being in a big dorm, and it ultimately comes down to who you are and how you like to interact with the people in your dorm," said Lee.

Meet the Elite 8P Prospects.

NEPSAC Girls Hockey Recruiting Profile: Grace Chen



Grace Chen comes in at a whopping 4 foot 7 and 78 pounds, all the way from Hingham, Massachusetts (not China!). Her malnutrition possibly contributes to her stature. As a goalie, Grace has been spotted shooting more shots (on BVH) than stopping shots. Her field goal and save percentage both sit at a clean .100, making her the best goalie in the history of GJVH. While it is hard to see her underneath the pads, we can assure that her game face is comparable to OJ Simpson's.



A report from *The Phillipian's* Human Resources Department: Thiago Jollon

He fosters many strong relationships with older, larger, men (he really is the coach's secret weapon). On the rink, Thiago skates like a red inflatable gas station tube man, both in shape, complexion, and flailing gestures. Thiago was once hit so unimaginably hard that the goal came off the 6U Pegs (mass moves mass). He is the third-best BJVH player in his own dorm of nine.



Thiago also loves his weekly debates with a certain Emirati counterpart (also known as her 'little Swedish meatball'). When he isn't glued to Instagram for his allotted 1 minute per day, Thiago can be found perusing through various literature in Commons with nobody sitting next to him. It's a little sad.

Gentry Thatcher.



Where to begin. While Gentry does signify nobility, he certainly did not live up to his noble name. After a rather spartan education (the Pike School), Gentry arrived at Andover multiple math levels too high. Unfortunately, we must concede this: Gentry is a math whiz. Consider him like Will Hunting, just without the Boston accent, good looks, pluck, and girls' phone numbers. In fact, Gentry is so good at math he probably frequently misses out on female companionship to prepare for math competitions. Gentry's STEM prowess is all a distraction from his true talent: baseball. On the diamond, Gentry embodies a Muhammad Ali quote: "Float like a butterfly, it stings when I pee." This is probably why he was known as "Genitals" on the team. While running out his groundouts, Gentry gives the appearance of a giraffe suffering from polio. Someone needs to put this animal down.



Overheard On The Paths

"Every time I go to an American mall I realize I'm not stupid."

"What if I use the ChatGPT in my brain?"

"The Deans have such funny meme images!"
(Nobody)

"WHO is carrying the Olympic flame?"

"I always watch Heated Rivalry with my homies in bed."

"I really haven't seen a mosquito all week!"

Week's Top Headlines

- New The Phillipian Masthead accompanied by a EIC rendition of Soulja Boy's "Crank That"
- Snow found in Stimson
- Head of School Day discovered to be part of the Deal with Satan to bring the Patriots back to the Super Bowl
- The Phillipian Photo Editor whacked by Michael Corleone
- Boys Basketball leaves "the economy in ruin"
- Andover Alumni ('71) Inducted into the Hall of Fame in his girlfriend's ('21) heart



The Phillipian SPORTS

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check out new artz
banner (B9)

January 30, 2026

Boys Hockey Rebounds at Home Before Falling to Winchendon

ALEX GODSEY &
JOHN LEW

SATURDAY 1/24		
Andover		6
Noble and Gree-nough		2
WEDNESDAY 1/28		
Andover		2
Winchendon		4

On Saturday, Boys Hockey (10-8) defeated Noble and Greenough (Nobles) 6-2. Then, on Wednesday, the team played Winchendon, falling short 4-1. Beyond strong performances from David O'Neill '26, Alex Small '26, and Liam TenHarmsel '26, Boys Hockey showed flashes of excellence amid inconsistencies as the team looked to rally ahead of playoffs and an intensifying schedule.

Following a three-game losing streak, it entered the week with the goal of regaining momentum. Nolan Roberts '28 commented on the importance of these two games towards the team's effort to rebound while heading into an away stretch.

"Coming into this week, we need to get our momentum back. Especially looking ahead at this tough stretch of games coming up, which are majority away games, winning these games where we're home and where we have the advantage is going to be crucial. We need to use these home games, with our home fans and home ice, to give us a boost of confidence and momentum coming in this weekend and the next couple of weeks," said Nolan.

Against Nobles, Boys Hockey had a commanding 6-2 win as the team moved the puck well and worked together cohesively. Senji Kimura '29 praised TenHarmsel for his all-around performance, especially on the defensive end.

"Liam TenHarmsel weighed the body a couple of times. One big play was in the third period, he made a huge hit and it got everyone on the bench hyped up. He played his gaps really well. He didn't give them too much space, and I don't think he got beat-



A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Nathan Kreppner '27 (left), Liam TenHarmsel '26 (middle), and Matthew Piotrowski '27 (right) pivot toward the game's action.

en at all. He had a really good game on the defensive end. He made a couple of big plays on the breakout, too, just getting pucks out of the zone," said Kimura.

One of the six goals on the night came from Co-Captain O'Neill. The goal demonstrated team brilliance, with the puck moving smoothly from person-to-person and ultimately ending up in the net. Roberts described the great passing that led to the opening.

"David O'Neill's goal was a good effort from the entire line, with the puck touching Alex Theodore [27] and Alex Small [26], and then scored by David O'Neill. It was a rush into their zone and a good tic-tac-toe passing play that led to a great opportunity at the front of the net, which was put away. Alex Theodore passed it really quickly to Alex Small, and Alex Small slid it to David. It's just bang, bang, bang," said Roberts.

Boys Hockey to Winchendon fell short 4-2 in a tight match that got out of hand towards the end. O'Neill described the events of the game and commented on the



A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Nathan Kreppner '27 battles a Winchendon athlete for control of the puck.

team's play.

"We played pretty close for the first two periods, really up until the last ten minutes of the game. Penalties ended up hurting us in the end. They scored two power play goals, and the other two goals were

empty netters. We scored one even strength, but that wasn't enough to come out on top. It was just an undisciplined game for us. We didn't have a lot of offense going in the first couple of periods, and it finished with a disappointing

result," said O'Neill.

Looking to build back momentum, Boys Hockey will play away at Loomis Chaffee on Saturday.

Girls Hockey Extends Winning Streak to Eight Games Through Demanding Week

SARAH WANG

SATURDAY 1/24		
Andover		4
Thayer		3
WEDNESDAY 1/28		
Andover		4
Cushing		1

Girls Hockey faced off against Thayer on Saturday in a tightly contested match-up, with both sides trading leads throughout the game.

Co-Captains Caroline Averill '26 and Kimberly Duplessis '27 each found the back of the net twice as the team delivered a clutch performance to secure a 4-3 victory and set the tone for the week ahead.

The team carried this momentum into Wednesday, continuing their dominant run with a victory at an away game against Cushing, pushing its winning streak to eight games.

At their away match against Cushing, the team focused on executing the habits they have built throughout the season. The especially busy three-game week, with the third game scheduled against BB&N on Friday, placed extra demands on players to stay sharp and unified through-

out. Marie Lee '28 shared her thoughts on the team's mindset heading into Wednesday's game and how they approached the week as a whole.

"Having this many games in a short period of time, it's important we stick to our habits and play simple. We have the ability to play with so much speed that other teams can't keep up with us, so I think the most important thing is just to play our game. BB&N is our next game, and they are a really gritty team. I am really excited for that game, as it is my old team," said Lee.

Lee also reflected on the team's effort during practice and how it translated into game-day success, highlighting two Juniors for the win over Cushing.

"Two freshmen, Jackie [Louie '29] and Liz [Averill '29], scored today, so that was really memorable for me. Liz scored an absolute snipe today against Cushing. We've been working our hardest in practice, and bringing that much competition every day makes us so much better. It really prepares us for the big moments and big games," said Lee.

Looking ahead, the team is preparing for a challenging stretch of games and is focused on maintaining the discipline and momentum built up so far. With a strong record of thirteen wins, one tie, and one loss, the team hopes to continue improvement, especially as its chemistry and cohesion grow.

"We will be flying out, and our job is to take care of business in Cambridge on Friday and home against Deerfield on Saturday. This game is definitely building momentum for not only the [remaining] games this week, but also for the rest of the season. I can feel our play becoming more connected and our chemistry building since the beginning of the season. I'm super excited for the rest of the season and what we can accomplish," said Lee.

The team will travel to BB&N today.

Addison Deng ’26 Contributes High Spirits to Girls Swimming & Diving

TIGER WANG

Co-Captain Addison Deng ’26, growing up in Shanghai, China, has been swimming since age eight. Coming to Andover, she joined Girls Swimming & Diving to continue her passion for the sport. As a Co-Captain, she balances vocal support with an approachable demeanor.

Deng’s support for the team is illustrated on deck especially during meets and exhausting practices, where she channels the same energy she brings as a Blue Key Head. She elaborated on how she leads alongside Co-Captain Sophia You ’26.

“As a [Co-]Captain and a Blue Key Head, I’m someone who’s pretty loud. I really believe in vocal support and being present for your teammates, whether that’s in practice or in a meet. So, my Co-Captain and I balance each other out really well. I would be kind of in charge of vocal support, like yelling out the set, encouragement, and needs in practice.

Deng continued, “My Co-Cap-



A. ZHANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

tain, Sophia You, is more in charge of taking care of someone individually and seeing where everyone’s at emotionally. During meets, I’m really, really loud. I’m always on deck, screaming for whoever’s swimming in the pool for whatever event they’re competing in. I’m also very vocal when divers are

competing as well, since we are a 7-person dive team.”

Emerson Davis ’29 emphasized the importance of Deng’s vocal presence both in practices and during competitions. Davis also described the ways that Deng creates a sense of belonging for her teammates.

“During every practice, Addison’s always really supportive to everyone on deck and outside, making sure that everybody knows what comes next. She’ll shout out when the next interval is. On top of that, she also sets up fun team bonding activities. We’ll do two weekly dinners and also psyches before meets, which makes sure that, regardless of your ability, you feel both supported and valued,” said Davis.

Furthermore, Tina Jin ’29 described Deng’s approachability, which bridges a gap between grade levels.

“Her leadership style feels more like she’s one of us, and that’s something that I like about Addison. She doesn’t feel as authoritative as some of the other hierarchies in other clubs or sports. Her leadership feels more like she’s with you, and that she simply has more experience than you. She’s approachable and nice, so if you have any questions, you can go talk to her,” said Jin.

Deng commented on the team’s particularly strong program and her love of her teammates’ encouragement of each other. She

also described her enjoyment of relays, which, she mentioned, reinforces the team-oriented nature of the sport.

“I love how [everyone on the team is] always very supportive of each other. This is always a vibe. Especially since Andover is a really strong team, we’re not really concerned of beating the other school... [We are] competitive in terms of our mentality [and are] more in a competition with our own times and our own selves.

“Because of that, we’re really supportive of every single swimmer on our team, whether someone [records] a super fast time or is having just a really good day. It’s super fun to cheer for them. Relays are also really, really fun, especially since it’s the only part of swimming that’s more like a team sport. That, just even further, enhances the team element. Swimming is quite an individual sport. You just swim your own [race]. But relays are really fun to be on deck and have one event be the culmination of four people on your team’s efforts,” said Deng.

Sophia You ’26 Brings Balance to Girls Swimming & Diving with Approachability & Spirit

BENJAMIN KAZLOUSKI

After quitting soccer, Sophia You ’26 began swimming lessons at eight years old when her mother saw an advertisement at her local high school. She initially swam for fun, and then joined a club team in middle school. You then joined Girls Swimming & Diving as a Junior, where she now serves as one of four Co-Captains.

You’s leadership philosophy involves maintaining a positive environment while keeping discipline. Fellow Co-Captain Willow Wright ’26 commented on how You stayed spirited while being a dedicated leader.

“I see her as a very headstrong leader. She’s also very funny. She knows that there has to be spirit in the sport. She does a great job of maintaining her level of enthusiasm. When we leave Pan [Athletic Center (Pan)] at the end of the day, our hair’s freezing as we walk to Paresky Commons (Commons), and at some level, there’s, ‘oh, I can’t believe we’re doing this,’ but then she does a great job of creating that team culture and camaraderie that does keep bringing people back,” said Wright.

You strives not necessarily to be the loudest, but rather to be approachable to the team. She aims to connect with each teammate

and support each of them in a unique way.

“Captains, a lot of the time, are very loud people, but I make sure I’m connecting with each person and supporting them in their own way. [I do] the little things, like catching up on our days, talking to the underclassmen, and hearing about how they’re doing in their classes and managing their workloads. I try to give them tips or advice about anything I remember from those years. A lot of it is having conversations with everyone on the team, listening, [and] letting them know that I’m there for them. I might not be the loudest captain we’ve ever had, but I definitely try to support everybody on a more individual level,” said You.

You highlighted her dynamic with Co-Captain Addison Deng ’26, pointing to their different yet compatible personalities as a way to balance out the team.

“My Co-Captain Addison and I, we’re a really good pair because we balance each other out. Definitely because Addison’s a Blue Key Head, she’s very outgoing and loud, so people see us as a good captain duo, also especially because we’re really good friends. We’re best friends outside of the team too. When people see us together, they know that we’ll be there for them in both ways. We balance each other out,” said You.

Regardless of age or skill lev-



A. ZHANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

el, You is a welcoming presence to all swimmers. Nishi Amin ’28 recalled how, even before she became captain, You made her feel welcome.

“I remember last year, it was my first year, and I was in a lane with her during one of the first practices. She kicked with me at the end of practice, and she was just super kind, and asked me a lot of questions, and I felt super welcomed to the team because of her. This year, I’ve seen her help some of the new swimmers with their racing dives as well,” said Amin.

Despite spending the majority of her life swimming, You did not always enjoy the sport. She explained how she grew to have more fun with swimming since coming to Andover, pointing to her teammates as her favorite part of her journey.

“Back when I was on my club team, it was [very] competitive and difficult to find motivation to go to practice. But ever since coming to the Andover Girls Swim Team, that’s really changed for me, and I’ve just found swimming to be a lot more enjoyable. It’s

important to always try our best, but I try not to put too much pressure on people. It’s important to remember that swimming is fun too,” said You.

She continued, “My favorite thing about swimming is definitely the people. When I was a [Junior] I always really looked up to the Seniors and now that I’m a Senior, I have just been on the same team with these people for so many years, so I really respect everyone. Everybody’s so sweet and we have so much fun together in the water.”

Though swimming relies mainly on solo events, Wright spoke to You’s ability to foster a strong team dynamic, built on support and enjoyment.

“At the end of the day, when it’s time to compete, you’re in your own lane, swimming for yourself, but then the points are for the team. In that type of sport, it’s really important to come up for people and cheer them on and, especially as a captain, for everybody else to know that you’re there supporting them. She does a great job of making sure that everybody’s having fun and enjoying it, especially when it might get difficult. She does a good job of making the team sport out of something that at the end of the day is a solo event on your own,” said Wright.

Making a Splash: Sarah Samoluk ’26 on Leadership, Laughter, and Legacy

NICHOLAS JUNG

For Co-Captain Sarah Samoluk ’26, Girls Swimming & Diving is defined not only by competition, but by the community built on the pool deck each day. Though she began swimming recreationally before arriving at Andover, the team’s culture motivated her to continue the sport at a competitive level.

Samoluk said she initially joined the team in her Junior year to stay connected to swimming, but found herself staying because of its community.

“I didn’t love the swim team because of the swim meets, but [because] the people that I met at my first practice for [Andover] swim team were some of the greatest people I’d ever met, ...I stuck with it. After you do swim team for one year, you stick with it just for the community,” said Samoluk.

Now in her fourth year on the team, Samoluk was elected Co-Captain alongside Willow Wright ’26 at the end of last season. She said the role has allowed her to connect with swimmers across all levels and help establish



A. BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

values she believes are important to the team.

“I would describe my leadership style as very personable. I like to make sure that everyone’s having a good time, but also allow there to be space for serious moments,” said Samoluk.

She continued, “The first swim meet of the year was very stressful for a lot of new swimmers who had never competed in a swim meet before. I wanted to clear the air and make sure that everyone knew that there was no pressure...

that we were going to be supportive of everyone no matter the outcome,” said Samoluk.

Several teammates said Samoluk’s attitude has helped maintain team morale throughout the season. Alexis Lee ’28 mentioned how Samoluk consistently brings energy and encouragement to both practices and meets.

“She’s very welcoming and she’s super funny to be around. I remember last year, at the beginning of this season I swam with her, and it was the best time be-

cause she was really nice. Even now, I always know that I can swim with her. [Her welcomingness] and also her sense of humor [are] what make her such a good captain,” said Lee.

Sarah Sun ’29 detailed how Samoluk sets an example by prioritizing encouragement over performance.

“She shows people, and tells people, that being fast isn’t the most important part. I feel that she shows leadership, and instead of only saying that certain people are good because they’re faster, she also encourages the newer people on the team who don’t know as much about swimming or haven’t done competitive swimming before. I think that’s a good role model for future leaders or captains,” said Sun.

Annabelle Zhang ’29 further noted Samoluk’s efforts to check in with teammates at meets and help organize team activities.

“[She’s] always on time at the pool deck. [She will] organize events, organize brunches for us, like on the day of swim meets. And then on the day of swim meets, [she’ll] give you high fives,” said Zhang.

While swimming is an individ-

ual sport during races, Samoluk emphasized the importance of team-wide support.

“At the end of the day, we’re going to be supporting each other and learning from each other... Even during practices, making sure that, although we’re taking what we’re doing seriously, we’re laughing, we’re able to take our mind off maybe school work and anything that’s outside of the pool... There’s a lot of ups and downs, but keeping that focus on joy is really important to me,” said Samoluk.

As the season continues, Samoluk said she hopes the team will leave with positive memories and lasting connections.

“My biggest goal is just for everyone to walk away from the season, having felt that they learned a lot. They had a lot of fun. They made great friends [who] are not just going to be for swim season alone, but outside of that. And people are proud of the community that we have developed over these three months,” said Samoluk.

Editor’s Note: Alexis Lee ’28 is a Copy Editor for The Phillipian.

Willow Wright Brings Organized Leadership and Bubbly Energy to Girls Swimming & Diving

WES PHAM

Girls Swimming and Diving Co-Captain Willow Wright '26 brings an infectious enthusiasm to the pool deck. Wright leads with positivity, inclusion, and care, striving to ensure every teammate feels supported, whether during practices or meets.

Wright acknowledged that swimmers arrive at the team with different backgrounds and motivations. She articulated her appreciation for the team's commitment and effort, regardless of experience level.

"I try to be a really inclusive and enthusiastic leader. I know that, especially for people on the JV team who haven't necessarily been swimming since they were five years old and just needed a winter sport, swimming might not be their main passion. I recognize that everyone is coming from a different starting place, and that's awesome. It takes a lot to show up every single day and give what you can. Celebrating and acknowledging everyone's growth and strengths is a really important part of my leadership and how I see the team in general," said Wright.

Previously, swimming felt like a transitional part of her athletic year rather than a central focus. Wright reflected on how, over her time on the team, her relationship with swimming has evolved.

"When it comes to swimming, it hasn't always been my main passion. I look forward to the Crew season [in Spring Term], and while I love the people and the athletic side of swimming, I sometimes see it more as a step in my athletic journey rather than something I'm fully invested in. This season has helped me shift that mindset, especially knowing it's my last season with the team," said Wright.

Teammates consistently described Wright as a steady and uplifting presence on the team. Kelley MacKinnon '27 pointed to Wright's energy and optimism as qualities that set the tone during practices.

"Willow is a very bubbly person. She's always enthusiastic and looks at the brighter side of things, especially during practice. She's always ready to get in the water," said MacKinnon.

Nishi Amin '28 echoed this sentiment and further highlighted Wright's attentiveness to teammates' needs during both practices and competitions.



A. WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

"During practices, she always reads the set out loud, and if anyone asks about intervals or timing, she's the first one to answer. During meets, she has the warm-up memorized and knows exactly what we're doing and when. She's also always high-fiving people and congratulating them after their swims...whenever someone on the team feels stressed or nervous before a meet or a

tough practice, Willow always gives good advice and hypes everyone up. It feels really reassuring to have someone you can talk to when you're nervous," said Amin.

For Wright, the sense of community in the Pan Athletic Center is what ultimately makes the cold winter practices worthwhile.

"It's very difficult to get out of a freezing-cold pool and

go into the even colder New England winter weather outside. It's truly the people. It's just so much fun laughing and goofing around with them between our events and during practice, between sets. We make conversation and talk about each other's days. I feel really lucky that I've gotten to know these people, because I don't know if we would have met otherwise, if we hadn't been doing the same sport and bonding over it. Just being part of a sport and knowing we have people who are all doing the same thing together makes it really special," said Wright.

Although Wright does not plan to swim competitively in college, she hopes to continue swimming recreationally, both as a form of exercise and personal enjoyment. As she closes her final season with the team, she reflected on the environment she hopes to leave behind.

"I really strive to create a culture of belonging where people feel happy to be part of the team and motivated to come to practice every day, even when jumping into the pool is hard after a long day. Knowing you have people you can talk to and rely on makes a big difference," said Wright.

Indoor Track & Field Breaks Three School Records against Austin Prep and North Reading

EVA JACKSON & ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN

Indoor Track & Field continued its strong start in its third meet of the season, competing against North Reading and Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep) in an energetic and record-setting afternoon. With athletes across sprint, distance, and field events delivering strong performances, the team emulated a tight-knit and supportive atmosphere.

Though the team is one of the largest teams on campus, the community and support are evident. Lucien Sinclair '28 described the community that makes everyone better by pushing each other to be their best selves and perform at the highest level.

"It's such a supportive community where being around people who want to get better will make you better. It's an environment where you can thrive because I want to support them, and everyone wants to see you at your best. It's really a team sport," said Sinclair.

Xavier Gross '28 commented on the strength of the team, especially pointing out their energy and community. He mentioned that the team always



A. BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Amelia Alvazzi '26 finishes the Mile in 5:01.28, breaking the school record.

pushes each other whilst cheering for each other every step of the way.

"The community, 100%. Everybody's always cheering for one another, bringing each other up. There's never negative energy. Everyone's always just happy to be there, happy to share with everybody. It's just a great thing to see," said Gross.

Although everyone had split into different groups to focus and work on specifics for their event, Andrew Ramirez '28 described the main focus for the sprinters of the team, who worked on form and mobility in preparation for the meet.

"Leading up, we worked on a lot of forms. Hip mobility, raising your knees when you run, and block starts. Everyone split up into separate groups, so it's hard to say what specifically, but for general sprinters, form has been a big thing," said Ramirez.

Sinclair gave insight into how tech athletes, as a high jumper himself, focused during practice and how the preparation had paid off during meets and practice, especially through helping the team to victory.

"I'm in tech for high jump, and we do like a bunch of intense pylo[metrics] workouts. There's a lot that goes into our

meets, and the outcome shows how hard we've worked, because I don't think we've lost a meet this whole season," said Sinclair.

This meet was memorable, with multiple school records broken. Eden Dunleavy '29 broke the 300-Meter record, running 41.64 and the Girls 4x400-Meter team, composed of Lauren Signorello '27, Murathime Daisley '26, Ela Budzinski '28, and Amelia Alvazzi '26, ran 4:03.07 to break the school record. Alvazzi (committed to the admissions process at Columbia University) also broke the Mile school record with 5:01.28. Sinclair described Alvazzi's winning moment and the environment during her race.

"It was honestly crazy. Everyone was cheering for [Alvazzi], and she was on her last lap, and on the curve, there's a whole tunnel of people. I was just cheering as loud as possible, and it's honestly one of my favorite things ever about the track team," said Sinclair.

The team will host the NEP-STA All-Comers Meet on Saturday, February 7.

Wrestling Topples Exeter and Brooks at Seabrooke Duals, Falls Short against Belmont Hill

AVIAD AWA

Wrestling completed its final quad-meet of the season at the Seabrooke Duals this past weekend at Exeter, with strong performances in each weight class. Bolstered by a tough string of practices, the team walked into the duals with confidence, securing two victories over Exeter and Brooks but falling to Belmont Hill. The team is now looking forward to tournament season, as it enters the late stages of the season.

Matthew Lam '28 described the team's strength during practice, with the team's hard work ethic on full display.

"I would say that the team

was well prepared. Everybody practiced hard throughout the weekend, the prior days, and trained hard outside of practice as well in the weight room," said Lam.

Christian Robinson '28 praised the team's captains for rallying the team through the particularly challenging meet. In addition, he credited Oliver Rogers '28 with winning two matches by pin to fill in for an injured teammate.

"The fact that everyone was supportive, that everyone wasn't quitting, especially all the captains, James [Bae '26], Julian [Rios '26], Ophelia [Lee '26], Tasha [Bohorad '26], the captains were rallying us together. I really want to shout out Oliver Rog-

ers. He wrestled two really big varsity matches. He won both by pin. His energy and his enthusiasm, not giving up, being patient, fighting to the third period, and then looking for that last-second pin. He racked up a lot of points with that and helped us win decisive matches," said Robinson.

After a teammate was injured, Rogers stepped up and showed out. Nervous at the start, he walked away from his 2 varsity matches with 2 wins in his first varsity starts of the season.

"So we started the match, and I was losing. He was just way stronger, and I couldn't break the grip. At that point, I thought he was so much stronger than me that I

wouldn't be able to beat him. But then he made a really big mistake towards the end, and I got the pin. I was really happy and felt like I got lucky on the first one," said Rogers.

Oliver Rogers summarized the team's overall performance at the duals, emphasizing the team's stamina in long matches due to intensive conditioning.

"We performed really well. A bunch of the guys went into overtime, which is after three periods, and you need really great conditioning for that. Everyone's conditioning was really good, and everyone did their part. No one half-baked it, and it was really good because everyone tried their best, and it really showed," said Rogers.

Heading into tournament season, Robinson outlined the team's goals for preparing for the challenges ahead.

"We don't have any other quad meets other than the end of Exeter, but we're taking the losses against tough competition and using them to see what we need to build on, different skills we didn't hit, places where we had gaps in our cardio, or different areas we want to really hone in on," said Robinson.

Wrestling will continue its season at Northern New England Invitational Tournament (Northerns) on Saturday, January 31.

Boys Basketball Falls in Two Losses, Turns Setback into Motivation

GAURI BHAKTA

SATURDAY 1/24	
Andover	52
Deerfield	65
WEDNESDAY 1/28	
Andover	61
Milton	62

Last Friday, Boys Basketball suffered its first loss of the season against Deerfield with a score of 52-65 before a narrow 61-62 loss to Milton on Wednesday. While the results marked a setback, players emphasized that the games revealed important lessons and opportunities for growth as the season continues.

Reflecting on the matchup, Matthew Shampine '26

pointed to the team's second-half performance as a crucial turning point. After keeping the game competitive early on, the team struggled to maintain its offensive efficiency as the game progressed, an issue the team plans to work on during practice.

"Despite the fact that we took our first loss this Saturday, we know exactly how to fix the issues that arose mostly in the second half of the game," said Shampine.

Shampine emphasized the need for smarter offensive decision-making, which played into their inability to shoot effectively.

"We settled for too many shots that are hard to make at a high percentage," said Shampine.

Shampine also emphasized that while talent has carried the team in past games, the loss underscored their need for a more disciplined approach.

"We really need to dig deep and become a gritty squad that will find the extra pass to get great shots instead of good ones," said Shampine.

Despite the disappointment, Shampine expressed assurance in the team's spirits and outlook moving forward. He explained that the loss could serve as motivation rather than discouragement.

"Our team chemistry is great, and this loss will give us the fuel we need to push us to the next level for the rest of the season," said Shampine.

Looking ahead, Boys Basketball remains focused on tightening its execution and applying these lessons as they face off against Loomis Chaffee at home this Friday.



A. BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Jaylen Edmonds '27 dribbles, approaching a Milton athlete.

Girls Basketball Outperforms Deerfield and St. Paul's

LUCY VINNAKOTA

SATURDAY 1/24	
Andover	58
Deerfield	18
WEDNESDAY 1/28	
Andover	63
St. Paul's	29

Adding two more wins to its record, Girls Basketball (11-5) continued to dominate the court, overwhelming Deerfield with a decisive 58-18 victory that carried momentum into Wednesday's St. Paul's matchup, where the team secured another win with a score of 63-29. These decisive outcomes showcase Andover's intense play style, as the team controlled the pace of the game from the first whistle to the last.

Making necessary preparations before any game is essential. Chloe Abou-Ezzi '27 emphasized that their practices didn't include any special formations or new footwork as they trained with their regular routines to ensure consistent play against their opponents.

"We prepared how we always do. We just worked on playing hard during practice, making sure we know all of our plays and remember them like the back of our hand. We also worked on our defense and just getting it down and knowing where to go if something happens," said Abou-Ezzi.

A strong drive for victory separates a great team from a good team. With their coach's help, players bring team spirit to a new level by hyping each other up before a game. Vera Pape '29 detailed how this positive attitude defined the team's mindset through its performance against Deerfield.

"Before every game, the coach gives us a speech about what to be ready for. So everyone was pretty excited and pretty hyped before the game, because we really wanted to win," said Pape.



A. PIZZI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Sophie Stetson '29 traverses the three-point line, searching for a teammate to assist.

It's common to enter a game with expectations and goals, and Girls Basketball knew how it hoped to perform against Deerfield. According to Abou-Ezzi, the team achieved their objectives with perfection, showcasing their talent and hard work.

"Our goal was to play as hard as we could, as we always do. We know we are a great team, so it was just a matter of making sure that we went into the game expecting a better team. We did not want to expect something worse so that we don't play down to a lower level," said Abou-Ezzi.

No game is perfect, and there are always challenges present, even with a victory as the result. Pape highlighted the difficulties faced against Deerfield and how, through these challenges, the team gained the strength to push through and win.

"They were very physical, so a few of us got injured, but we ended up winning. There were a lot of fouls, and some of them were not being called, so that was difficult. The refereeing was good, but because they were fouling so much, it was hard to catch all the fouls," said Pape.

Framing practices around real game settings can help a team put their game strategy into perspective, as well as focus on technical aspects. Abou-Ezzi described the typical practice schedule that features both actual-game scenarios and form work.

"We start with warm-ups and stretching, we go through a couple of drills on basics, and sometimes we will do layup drills. We do this thing called 11 women or 11 men, which is a mini scrimmaging drill. It's three on two, and then we go through a couple of breakdown drills. For example, one of our defenses is a zone defense, so it is called 3 on 1, and we do a couple of breakdown drills with that, and then we spend the last 30 minutes scrimmaging and playing against each other and pushing each other," said Abou-Ezzi.

Standout players in each game contribute greatly to winning results. According to Sophie Stetson '29, this held true against St. Paul's, where offensive players were able to showcase impressive performances.

"It was the whole team that brought a bunch of energy, which always helps us win. Laney [Cafua '27] did a really good job of just setting the tone. She got a couple of first good baskets, and she was cheering and playing hard defense. Jules [Stevenson '28] also had some good points to get our lead started. We came out slow in the first quarter, so in the second quarter, she did well getting

the lead through and helping us to feel more comfortable moving throughout the game," said Stetson.

Girls Basketball makes an effort to find takeaways from games despite their outcomes. Stetson elaborated on how the team plans to use their performances at Deerfield and St. Paul's to set the tone for the rest of the season.

"It gives us more confidence moving forward. St. Paul's was a similar game to Deerfield, and it gave us a break from a lot of our really close, one-point, two-point, three-point games. It gave us a little time to take a break and step back for a second, but we are coming in this Saturday with the number one team, so we are gonna have to channel that energy from our win today and bring it into Saturday," said Stetson.

Girls Basketball looks forward to playing against Kimball Union Academy (KUA) on the home court this Saturday.



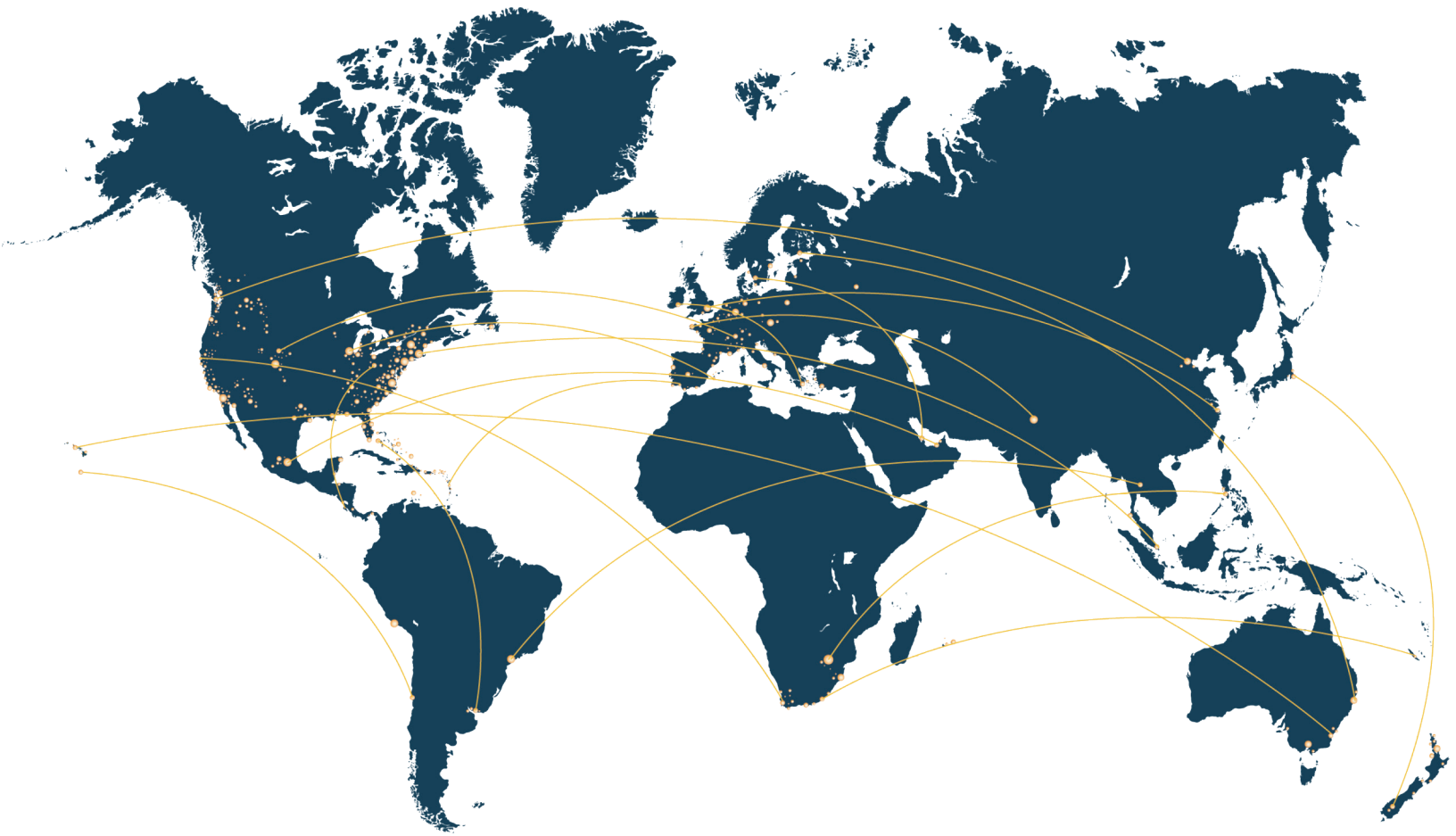
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Jules Stevenson '28 attempts a shot beyond the three-point line, contested by a Deerfield athlete.

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Girls Squash Falls to Hotchkiss, Comes Back in Shutout against St. Paul’s

BEN KAZLOUSKI

SATURDAY 1/24		
Andover	2	
Hotchkiss	5	
WEDNESDAY 1/28		
Andover	7	
St. Paul’s	0	

Girls Squash (7-1) faced one of its toughest challenges of the season in a match away against Hotchkiss. Hotchkiss and Andover delivered competitive performances, with Andover falling 5-2 in a match defined by long rallies and a charged atmosphere. Despite its loss, Girls Squash dominated in a 7-0 victory against St. Paul’s.

Several matches came down to the wire, highlighting the lineup’s resilience. At the top of the ladder, Isabella Tang ’28 battled through a five-game match against Hotchkiss’ first-seeded player. After taking the first two games, Tang dropped the next two before regaining control in the fifth to secure the win.

“The beginning of the fifth game was important. It was even, so whoever took the fifth game would win the match. We were both kind of nervous, but I had a pretty strong lead in the beginning, and I used that momentum to win the match. There was a big Hotchkiss crowd, and everyone was rooting for the home team, and that added to the atmosphere of it,” said Tang.

Ava Kung ’29 described Tang’s game as the most intense moment of the match. Both Andover Boys Squash and Girls Squash athletes crowded around the glass court, cheering and offering words of encouragement between games.

Kung said, “Isabella’s game was the last match, so everyone was crowding around at once to watch the game. Whoever won the next game would win the match. It was really intense, but everyone from [Boys Squash and Girls Squash] was there watching and recording. In between games, we all went out and coached her. I thought that was really special.”

Judy Liu ’29 had a spectacular performance, winning a tight match that featured an extended game. Her composure in high-pressure moments reflected the team’s mental agility and strength.

Liu said, “I was down 10-7

in one game, but I fought back and won five straight points to take it 12-10. That was a very important match for me to show that I can compete with some of the best players in the nation.”

The environment at Hotchkiss, which featured a very energetic crowd, added another layer of difficulty among the team.

Tang said, “There were a lot of people in my match because I was the only one playing at that time, so the whole crowd was 50 or 60 people from

Hotchkiss, and they were really energetic. For every point [my opponent] won, they were rooting really loudly, and I just tried to not let it get to me.”

While Andover came up short, the team’s effort was bolstered by strong leadership and sideline support. Kung emphasized the close-knit nature of the team.

“We’re all very tightly knit and get along really well. We have team dinners and bonding activities, which make us very cohesive and have a great team atmosphere. We’re

friends outside of squash, too. We often have team dinners and team bonding exercises, which make us very cohesive as a team,” said Kung.

Despite its defeat against Hotchkiss, the team faced St. Paul’s, securing a comfortable 7-0 victory.

Girls Squash will host Groton today at 4:30 p.m.



Olivia Wang ’29 hits a backhand.

A. BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Despite One Loss, Boys Squash Dominates the Week Driven by Leadership and Energy

WYATT ORRACA-CECIL

Boys Squash (8-2) secured sweeps against Noble and Greenough (Nobles) and St. Paul’s on last Friday and Wednesday, respectively. On Saturday, despite losing in a sweep to Hotchkiss, the team won 6-1 against Hopkins.

Jonathan Xu ’28 provided insight about the team’s

mindset heading into its matches against Nobles last Friday. Although deemed a secured win for the team, Boys Squash did not let down its guard, generating momentum for the dense week ahead.

“There’s been a lot of ups and downs recently as of our matches, so for Nobles, we went into the match knowing that we were gonna win this

one, and this is really just a confidence booster,” said Xu.

Despite its loss to Hotchkiss, Xu described how Co-Captain Cory Shen ’26 boosted the team’s morale.

“A star player was definitely Cory [Shen ’26], our [Co-] Captain. He was always really optimistic, going into our matches even against Hotchkiss, and he pushed us to just give it our all.

His match against the number one [athlete of Hotchkiss] was actually really close, and it just goes to show that we are not that far off, but we just need to put in some more work to get there,” said Xu.

JJ Luo ’28 pointed out Shen, describing how he has been a constant role model for the team to follow after. Although the results of the game differed throughout the week, he mentioned that Shen’s continuous support played a key role in their overall success.

“[Shen] actually played all four matches, which is pretty rough. He went two for four and the only two matches he lost were on Saturday, but he played two really strong opponents. Even though he didn’t win on court, he was still making sure to support everybody else while he wasn’t playing. That contributed to the success of the team,” said Luo.

For the final match of the week, the team took on St. Paul’s. The team recorded another shutout and Co-Captain Corey Shen ’26 praised fellow Co-Captain Ali Gamal ’26 for his impact during his game, while highlighting his impressive mental game that

allowed for his win.

“Ali Gamal played the best. He’s our number four [seed], and he’s one of the Co-Captains. Whenever he plays a match against someone who might be a little bit weaker than him, he can sometimes underestimate them but he stayed very disciplined today and he brought a lot of energy to the team,” said Shen.

After an arduous week for the team, the team hopes to keep their winning streak in order to prepare for the tough stretch ahead in February. Luo talked about how the team looks to improve as it proceeds to Nationals and NEPSACs.

“We want to make sure we don’t make any mistakes and drop any unforced matches. That would lead us well into Nationals. It’s really unpredictable. We hope to carry the momentum that we had through the season into nationals and NEPSACs,” said Luo.

Boys Squash will look to face Westminster, Choate, and Belmont Hill this Saturday at home.



JJ Luo ’28 prepares for the next point of his match.

A. BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Nordic Skiing Battles Snow and Fatigue in Gritty Sprint Race

NATHAN BYUN

Nordic Skiing faced a demanding test on Wednesday at St. Paul’s, competing in a rare sprint-format, bracket-style tournament. Skiers raced multiple short loops, roughly one kilometer each, advancing through heats based on placement, with brief breaks of around 20 minutes between rounds.

The team was challenged by the snowy conditions and the learning curve of the format. Matthew Robinson ’27 emphasized their ability to adapt.

“It was a special format that we don’t really do. It’s a one-time-a-year event. There was a lot of adjustment at first, but once people learned the course, they started improving and doing a lot better,” said Robinson.

Snowfall during the weekend left the course soft and unpacked, slowing times and demanding good technique. These conditions also impeded teammates’ support from the sides.

“[St. Paul’s] snow hadn’t had a lot of time to be packed down, so it’s definitely slower and harder for most people’s technique. It was a challeng-

ing race because the simultaneous nature of it made it a lot harder to watch and cheer on your teammates,” said Robinson.

Despite the peculiarity of the tournament and the challenging conditions, several performances stood out. Robinson highlighted team captains Dylan Siegel ’26 and Noah Binkowski ’26.

“Noah and Dylan were both returning from injury within the last week. And they both had really strong races for such a return to the discipline,” said Robinson.

Alfonso Gonzalez-Cano ’27 similarly expressed his dis-

content for the conditions of the course. He pointed out a section of the course that was especially important and difficult to overcome.

“It was a course that demanded a lot of technique. There was just lots and lots of snow. You couldn’t glide. You had to keep up with the fast skaters because of how much snow there was. There’s this one long stretch of downhill that’s pretty steep. A couple kids fell there. If you were able to not fall, it essentially guaranteed you a spot in the semifinals,” said Gonzalez-Cano.

Binkowski also comment-

ed on the conditions of the game. He praised many teammates for their efforts.

“There’s a lot of loose snow, so it was fast and it was hard to turn and get traction and stuff. Sebastian did a pretty good job. I think he ended up leading us for the guys. And Dylan, she had her first race back from injuries. That was cool to see. Julia [Xu ’28] and Hannah [Jung ’28] both did well,” said Binkowski.

The team will travel to Middlesex on Friday.

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Styling With Conscience: Andover Students Take On Sustainable Fashion

HAYLEY FAN & MADELYN SOONG

As fashion rapidly cycles through new styles and trends, conversations centering sustainability have surfaced. Students provided insight into their own takes on sustainable fashion, from opinions on the benefits of second-hand shopping to the hurdles that come with only buying from sustainable brands.

A popular way to incorporate sustainability into fashion is through the practice of thrifting. With the Andover Thrift Shop located downtown, thrifting has become both a pastime and sustainable option for students. Anastasie Sycheva '29 explained that she turns to second-hand clothing as the most eco-friendly choice, even over sustainable brands.

"I [would not] buy [clothes] at all if it's unnecessary. Even if you're buying from sustainable brands, something is still being created. So thrifting is honestly the best option, especially trying to use what you have in your closet already and hand me downs from families is what's best. I think it's important to always be considerate of how much you buy. Always consider what you need rather than just what you want," said Sycheva.

Zorah Williams PG'26

shared Sycheva's outlook, finding thrifting a more accessible and easy way of spending. Williams highlighted that buying second-hand is not only sustainable, but also meets her standards of comfort and quality.

"I love shopping second-hand. It's more sustainable [and] you can extend the life span of a piece of clothing. There's [also] so many things that you can never find online because companies are always pushing new trends down your throat. I've been lucky that my grandmother saved and took care of her clothes really well, and my mother's clothes really well. I wear a ton of clothes from my grandmother's house because they were made when the U.S. had labor unions for textile manufacturers and before textile manufacturing left the U.S. They [have] amazing quality clothing that's lasted 50, 60 years. [It's also] the kind of quality you [can't] get from fast fashion either," said Williams.

For students such as Linda Yue '29, sustainable clothing is often less appealing due to its high price point. She noted that, while sustainable fashion aligns with ethical values, its higher cost can deter potential buyers.

"Sustainable clothing, because it requires more sustainable practices, things like [not] relying on child labor or foreign labor to [manu-

facture] clothing, [is] more expensive [and] unattractive to many buyers. Additionally, sustainable practices create more limited clothing options. Sometimes you're looking for a specific style or very trendy style, it's hard to find that within sustainable or secondhand stores," said Yue.

Building on Yue's sentiments, Jason Cai '28 explained the difficulties in making fully ethical choices in today's fashion industry.

His view highlighted a challenge many students face: trying to make thoughtful choices while working with limited time, information, and options.

"With our modern model of fashion and the mass commercialization of products, it is almost entirely impossible to completely avoid fast fashion. [A lot of brands] don't publicly expose where their materials are being produced. Even though they might not

be explicitly marked as fast fashion, they might still be fast fashion. I avoid brands that are very prominently known to use fast fashion strategies to produce clothing, but I also cannot perform an in-depth research project on every single brand that I purchased from both from a logistics and timed perspective," said Cai.



SOPHIA ZHANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

A Final Bow: Senior Soloist Recital Celebrates Intense Preparation and Passion

BOSON BAI & DANIEL LIU

Friends, faculty, and family members filled John Barry Hall on Saturday evening to support the work of three senior musicians in Andover's annual Senior Soloist Concert. Musicians Claire Wang '26, Ian Gu '26, and Claire Tong '26 auditioned for the performance opportunity back in the Fall Term. The concert marked both a celebration of their hard work and a meaningful milestone in their time at Andover as they took the stage for one of their last times before graduation.

Among the performers was cellist Gu, who opened his performance with the first two movements of Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor.

"I chose this piece because the first movement is very emotional and allows the cello to really sing. I wanted to explore my emotional range through this movement. The second movement is full of fast melodies and very virtuosic playing, and it sounded like a lot of fun to play," said Gu.

For Gu, auditioning as a senior soloist carried particular significance. Having accompanied a senior soloist in the past, he now found himself on the other side of the experience.

"I chose to audition because in my Lower year, I played in the Academy Or-

chestra for a senior soloist, and I was inspired by their playing. I wanted to experience sharing my love for classical music with younger students at Andover. As a Senior, I hope my playing inspired other musicians to continue playing and to audition for senior soloists when they become Seniors," said Gu.

Violinist Wang performed Tzigane by Maurice Ravel, a virtuosic work she has returned to for years and now considers one of her most meaningful repertoire pieces.

"When I was younger, my sister and I listened to this piece repeatedly because it was the only CD my dad had in the car. At first, I did not like it because it felt very experimental, but it gradually grew on me. When I was around thirteen, I heard another student perform it at one of my teacher's studio recitals, and he played it so well that I immediately wanted to learn it. I asked my teacher for the piece every month until she finally agreed. It has become one of my favorite pieces to play, and I was honored to perform it at this recital," said Wang.

Wang's preparation was concentrated in the weeks leading up to the concert, with long practice sessions that started after school and stretched into the evening.

"Most of my preparation happened in the two weeks leading up to the performance. I practiced for long



H. ZHONG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ian Gu '26 performed Elgar's Cello Concerto in E Minor.

stretches after school, often starting in the afternoon and staying until final sign-in. Because I have played this piece for so long, I know it extremely well. That familiarity can be a challenge. There were moments when the piece did not feel as fresh as it once did, but I kept returning to it. I still love it, even if there are times when it feels like we argue," said Wang.

Audience members also appreciated the variety of repertoire performed during the recital. Benjamin Ball '29 described how Wang's choice of repertoire brought welcome change from traditional classical styles.

"The violin solo stood out to me the most. The piece, Tzigane, was really unique in how it sounded. Claire is known for being involved in groups like Goose&Moose and for playing more pop-style music, so the piece had a less traditional classical feel, which I thought was really interesting," said Ball.

For attendee Breanna Ren '29, the most memorable mo-

ment of the recital came from pianist Tong, whose performance held the audience in suspense.

"All the performances were really fascinating. One that stood out to me was Claire Tong's piano performance. During her performance, the moments of silence and pauses kept the audience on edge, as we anticipated the next note without knowing exactly when it would come. All three musicians were very expressive when playing, putting feeling and emotion into the music," said Ren.

For Gu, the most memorable part of the recital came as he finished his performance, sharing a moment of pride and gratitude with loved ones.

"My favorite moment was right after I finished the last chord, when I got up to bow and my parents immediately handed me flowers. I took another bow and felt very proud of myself and I was very grateful for my parents and friends. It felt like the culmination of my musical

experience at Andover, and I really enjoyed performing in this concert. My parents have also been extremely supportive, driving from upstate New York to Boston for my musical commitments and allowing me to fully participate in the opportunities available at Andover," said Gu.

Ball highlighted the importance of music concerts at Andover, encouraging students to attend and experience the talent and hard work musicians on campus have to offer.

"These concerts help bring the music program out to the rest of the school and even the town community. Sports have a big presence on campus with games that get people excited, and concerts are the music program's equivalent. They allow students who don't play instruments, as well as faculty and community members, to engage with music and see why it matters at Andover. It's a way to showcase the talent and hard work of musicians, just like athletes do," said Ball.



H. ZHONG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Claire Wang '26 shreds Tzigane by Maurice Ravel on violin.

One Requirement, a Mosaic of Experiences: Inside Art-225

MARI UCHINO-GARCIA & CHARLIZE SOW

Art-225 has long functioned as a rite of passage for Andover’s Juniors and serves as one of the few creative experiences nearly every student shares. Designed as an introduction to creative thinking, the required visual arts course, in which students earn either a pass or fail as a final grade, asks students to experiment with various mediums and collaborate with peers. For many, Art-225 becomes a meaningful point of connection early in their time at Andover; for others, though, it raises questions about whether a single introductory requirement can serve students with already well established artistic backgrounds.

For Junko Pinkowski, Instructor in Arts, Art-225 is intentionally structured to blend conventional and unconventional approaches to art, exposing students to the breadth of what art can be. Through this course, Pinkowski hopes to spark an interest in art that students carry with them beyond the requirement.

“We have a wide range of offerings, so students can be exposed to many different things. We would love to trigger interest if somebody wants to do some photography in a class or stop motion or something [else], [there is a] wide range [of offerings] that they could continue to pursue if they want to. And so, my goal is to really expose a student to traditional skill and contemporary skill. And while doing so, I try to throw in some activities, like tape art, that really [allow students to] think outside a box,” said Pinkowski.

Claire Donovan ’29 shared how Art-225 allows students to use art as a tool of self-expression. She also mentioned how the course provided a space where she and her classmates could talk with each other and have meaningful discussions, even with everyone having varying backgrounds in art.

“We’re able to express ourselves with art... It was really nice to work with our classmates and to incorporate different ideas. We all have different strengths, and seeing those come to life in a final project is really exciting. [Throughout the course,] there was a lot of discussion that welcomed all levels of artists. Sometimes more experienced artists would say something more specific, and it would offer a more unique perspective than somebody else may have been able to give,” said Donovan.

For Fatimah Bah ’29, Art-225 served not just as an introduction to visual arts, but also as a point of connection to the broader Andover community. She described the course as one of the few academic experiences that allowed students to bond through various art projects, while simultaneously facilitating exploration across mediums.

“[Art-225] should be required because it helps build a community on campus since everyone has to take it. It gives everyone something in common to talk about. It can also spark interest in different things because we did building, drawing, and stop motion, which is a video form of art. [The course] gives you a wide range of different media and types so you can figure out what you want to take next,” said Bah.

Nandini Sharma ’29 reiterated Bah’s view of Art-225 as a



A.LE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Students in an Art-225 classroom.

communal experience, while framing the requirement as a necessary push to bring students into unfamiliar artistic spaces.

“Art-225 should be required for all [Juniors] because it really forces you out of your comfort zone and into the space of art at Andover, and that’s really important, because you don’t want to limit yourself and [you should] take full opportunity of the available things on campus. The only reason Art-225 shouldn’t be taken by a [Junior] is if they’re already very passionate about art and submitted a portfolio,” said Sharma.

Sharma’s caveat echoes concerns raised by students who enter Andover with more extensive art backgrounds. Shannon Chisholm ’29 felt

that the requirement of taking Art-225 is redundant, as its introductory lessons revisit familiar territory for experienced artists instead of encouraging further creativity.

“I understand that the goal is to introduce students to a lot of different mediums, but I feel like we do not get a lot of freedom in the projects. For students who have taken art classes before, it feels limiting. If you already have a background in art, you should be allowed to advance or focus more on what you already know, instead of repeating foundational material that you may have already learned at previous schools,” said Chisholm.

Chisholm added that, beyond the curriculum, students’ experiences with

engagement and community-building in Art-225 can vary widely depending on the section and classroom environment.

“While [the course’s final grade being either a pass or fail] can reduce stress, it also makes it easier to do the minimum rather than fully engage, especially when the projects are not in a medium I am interested in... Not everyone takes [Art-225] at the same time, and some students are allowed to skip it. I do not hear many people talking about it as a major bonding experience. In my class, there are assigned seats and limited talking during work time, so [for me, the class did] not feel especially social or collaborative,” said Chisholm.

From First-Time Wins to Lasting Influence: Inside the 2026 Golden Globes

AUTUMN XIA & BENJAMIN PARK

The Golden Globe Awards returned this year on January 11 as a defining launch point of the 2026 awards season. Feeling less like a niche Hollywood ritual and instead like a public demonstration of the entertainment industry, the 2026 Golden Globes reaffirmed their long-standing role as a cultural stage. As a televised event where well-known actors in film and television are publicly praised, this year’s Golden Globes were not driven by shocking wins or controversy, but by a series of measured milestones that reflect where film and television are headed. As a precursor to the Oscars in March, this year’s Golden Globes will surely shape what the industry talks about for the next few months.

At the center of the night was Nikki Glaser, who not only made history as the first woman to host the Golden Globes but also returned as a host for a consecutive year. Glaser’s confidence reflected her familiarity with the stage as one of her standout moments came when she performed a parody of “Golden” from “KPop Demon Hunters” with a “Marty Supreme”

twist. The segment set a playful tone early in the evening, signaling the ceremony would be light-hearted without losing focus.

Fashion offered its own talking points, particularly Odessa A’zion’s appearance as “Marty Supreme’s” Rachel Mizler. Wearing Dolce & Gabbana, A’zion’s look leaned into classic old Hollywood glamour, with the feathered detailing on her top that especially felt intentional and timeless. While the concept of pairing the feathered top with pats was strong, the asymmetrical cut distracted slightly from an otherwise cohesive look. Throughout the night, fashion also doubled as quiet commentary. With anti-ICE pins and other subtle political statements appearing across the carpet, the event’s celebratory tone was challenged.

Timothee Chalamet’s win was one of the night’s clearest “this matters for the rest of the season” moments. He won Best Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy for his role in Josh Safdie’s “Marty Supreme.” What made this win feel significant is the context around it. Chalamet has been nominated at the Globes four times but had never won, so this year was a first-time breakthrough for

him. Moreover, as the category was filled with well-known names such as Leonardo DiCaprio and Lee Byung-hun, the result proved competitive rather than automatic.

Another reason that makes this breakthrough stand out is Chalamet’s young age. While still in his 20s, he is in the top-tier of actors, leading to him being a contender for years. He has been prominent enough to earn repeated major nominations, but at the same time young enough that the “first win” still reads like the beginning rather than the conclusion. This combination was both unique and impressive in an industry where many actors spend decades building to the first “big” televised win.

Animation also had a major night. “KPop Demon Hunters” emerged as one of the ceremony’s most successful films, winning Best Motion Picture - Animated as well as its title track, “Golden,” winning Best Original Song. Its crossover appeal, from animation to music, highlighted the industry’s growing openness to genre-blending projects and global influence.

The ceremony concluded on a note of reverence rather than surprise. Julia Roberts, making her first Golden

Globes appearance in five years, received a standing ovation when she took the stage to present the award for Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy. Her nomination for Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama reinforced her lasting stature in the industry, despite being in her late 50s. The moment served as a reminder that recognition at the Golden Globes is not limited to trophies alone.

Taken as a whole, the 2026 Golden Globe Awards did not attempt to redefine the ceremony, but rather, to refine it. The night avoided extremes, opting for clarity over spectacle and intention over excess. Firsts were acknowledged without being overstated, political moments were present without dominating, and humor remained sharp without becoming divisive. As the awards season moves forward, this year’s Globes will likely be remembered not for a single headline, but for its coherence. They reflected an industry in transition: one that slowly expanded its definitions of prestige, success, and relevance. In that sense, the Golden Globes once again fulfilled its purpose as a snapshot of where film and television currently stand.



A. GONZALEZ-CANO/THE PHILLIPIAN

WRITE FOR ARTS!

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Student-Led Dramalabs Transform the Stage Into a Creative Laboratory

SOPHIA KIM &
ELIZABETH QIN

A woman sells her memories to a devil-like figure. Children of the Darling family sing songs about a boy named Peter Pan. On Friday evening, Dramalabs, a student-led theater production, showcased four plays to the Andover community: “No Refunds,” “Peter Pan,” “A Brief Argument of Time,” and “A Piece of Monologue.”

Dramalabs allows students to independently write, direct, and perform short plays. “No Refunds” by Jeannie Kang ’28 examined memory, sacrifice, and regret through a supernatural lens. Performer Annabelle Zhang ’29 played the grandmother of Nyla, a young woman forced to abandon her college plans to care for her ill grandmother.

“[Nyla] gave up her chances to go to Columbia [University] for her grandma, and she’s really frustrated... and in her dreams, she sees a devil, and the devil is like, ‘you can sell me all of your memories of your grandma, and I will pay off all your student debt,’” said Zhang.

Throughout the production process, performers met only four times over a

week and a half. Bruce Ru ’28, a producer in the Theater and Dance Department, noted that this short time-frame posed a meaningful challenge.

“[The tech rehearsal] was one day before the actual show. So to be able to pull everything off, pretty much on the second try, was definitely the biggest challenge, but I guess that’s the point as well, right? In a professional performance setting, whether you’re a musician, an actor, [or] director, there’s always going to be situations where you have to turn something in pretty quickly and make sure it’s a high quality,” said Ru.

Ru also emphasized the program’s role as an accessible yet rigorous entry point for experimenting with theatrical production.

“The great thing about Drama labs is [that it is] one of the most... unique, but also low-stakes, opportunities to practice theater at Andover. So, the director begins the process by finding a play. That could either be an original play, you could write one, or you could get one from Andover’s theater library,” said Ru.

This winter’s Dramalabs expanded the scope of



C.ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN
Krissy Zhu ’28 (left), Natalie Giancola ’28 (middle), Allison Lee ’28 (right) performed in Dramalabs.

what the program could accommodate, most notably through a student-produced musical adaptation of “Peter Pan,” directed by Allegra Lee ’27. Anastasie Sycheva ’29, who starred as Wendy Darling, highlighted the challenges of coordinating rehearsals among busy students and supporting cast members with varying levels of vocal experience.

“As [Andover] students, we’re all really busy, and so, we all had to kind of text to figure out different times to meet throughout the week. It was also difficult because some of the members of our cast hadn’t had too much experience with singing, and our [production] was a musical... A big thing we focused on was the songs, rather than the scenes with words,” said Sycheva.

Despite those challenges, Sycheva said the process was

rewarding. One of her favorite moments came during a scene in which Wendy and her brothers turn a stolen shirt into a treasure map, much to their father’s frustration.

“Wendy, Michael, and John, we were able to kind of laugh at Mr. Darling, and the audience found it really funny,” said Sycheva.

The program also featured “A Piece of Monologue,” a twenty-minute solo performance by Marty Wong ’28. Ru noted that the inclusion of both a musical and an extended monologue reflected the program’s growing flexibility.

“Marty’s monologue, pulling off 20 minutes of solo work like that, takes courage. So we definitely expanded [the] Dramalabs concept, and really showed that any kind of act could possibly be staged here, no

matter how ambitious it is,” said Ru.

For audience members, the appeal of Dramalabs extended beyond the performances themselves. Crispin Black ’28, who came to support his peers, said that watching them take creative risks onstage was both entertaining and inspiring.

“Just seeing my friends perform made me really happy because I get to support them doing something they’re really passionate about. I think the most inspiring part is that people are just willing to perform these plays and are able to have fun with them and that they don’t really care what anyone else thinks, and they just go out and have fun,” said Black.



C.ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN
Natalie Giancola ’28 in another scene.

Headline: Garden of Discontent: Hieronymus Bosch’s Timeless Assertion of Madness

RANIA ALI-SVEDSÄTER

Since its creation in the early 1500s, Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch’s “Garden of Earthly Delights” triptych has remained one of the most provocative works of art. Through his bold reinvention of biblical scenes, Bosch offers an eccentric portrayal of madness. Through Bosch’s eyes, madness flows through each stage of the human experience. Madness does not commit to a single phase—rather, it prevails as a timeless and uncanny force, equally present across his chronological depictions of creation, sin, and damnation. But how does his supposition of madness inform the modern world? In this article, I aim to identify the evolving interpretations of his madness and to prove its perennial status. Through its modern and historical manifestations, madness is shown to be integral to the human condition, prevailing as a ruinous force that contradicts salvation.

For the purpose of this article, madness shall be defined as the misalignment of our human senses. By embellishing humanity with an inherent disorder, Bosch’s work rejected the traditional moral order and courtesy posited by Christian scripture. However, despite his brusque deviation from traditional biblical art, Bosch’s artwork was lauded by Christian nobility. Accordingly, his madness may have awakened the innate primitive disorder of all humanity, with patrons and peasants alike, recognizing their ram-



ELLE PARK/THE PHILLIPIAN

pant internal tendencies for pleasure and moral creed.

In Art-445: Histories of Art, Instructor David Fox drew our attention to the comedic aspects of Bosch’s masterpiece, which convey the essence of the madness he depicts. Frequently, Bosch includes arbitrary objects and colors to convey double meaning within his scenes, ranging from inverted fruits to obscure fountains decked

in coral shades of pink. For instance, he symbolizes lust through the strawberry, a fruit that was largely uncommon and even absent in religious art until then. According to the Spanish writer Carlos de Sigüenza, the strawberry possesses a “pleasant odor that is hardly remembered once it has passed,” reinforcing the fleeting nature of its sinful pleasure. Almost scandalously, Bosch includes the straw-

berry in large proportions, centrally-located, as a harbinger of disarray. In the case of nobility, the lavish hues of the lustful strawberry may have fostered awareness of their decadent engagements, eager to be replicated by the lower classes. Interestingly, the strawberry, as well as the blueberry and the cherry, is used by the painting’s subjects as a stage for eroticism, exposing the natural

garden as a playground for human sin. Likely, the third panel’s depiction of human damnation occurs due to the anthropocentric creed of the subjects, as well as the abuse of colonial power over the darker figures acting as slaves amid the action. Here, Bosch exposes the madness of such injustice and creates a tumultuous intersection of humanity and the natural world.

Yet, many consider the ambiguous intentionality of his work, which serves either to reject or to embrace the question of human pleasure. Does excess pleasure, originating from madness, play a role in the damnation he depicts?

Ultimately, Bosch’s artwork portrays humanity as a vicious cycle, in which our morals and pleasures may enter into a cryptic exchange that leads to our eventual, more tragic end. Indeed, the inevitability of his vision may have been a relief to the powerful patrons he attracted, as its artistic chaos fueled their selfish desires for excess pleasure and decadence, which may be attributed to some degree to all humans. In juxtaposition, Rosenthal’s exhibit at the Gropius Bau interrogates the possibility of a future ungoverned by such sin and demonstrates that our pleasures can be dampened to achieve a balanced society free of tragedy. Using the framework of Bosch’s moral exposé, Rosenthal humanizes our viewpoint by cleverly recognizing the inevitability of our pleasures, yet draws the line on the action necessary and possible to avoid our own self-destruction.

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