



Breanna Ren '29 (left) and Jia-yi Zhi '29 (right) performed a traditional Chinese dance.

Financial Literary Presentation Compounds Students' Knowledge on Monetary Matters

TEDDY STEINERT &
NICCOLO LEE-SUK

Noureddine El Alam, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, delivered a presentation on financial literacy to Lowers and Uppers during Community Time last Friday. The presentation, titled "Start Small. Exploit Time. Gain Wealth," provided a brief overview of the content provided in his class, Mathematics-440, Financial Literacy Seminar.

In his talk, El Alam discussed the concept of compound interest. He emphasized the importance of investing during youth to safeguard future financial security.

"The one giant advantage you all have, and that people like myself don't have, is your greatest asset. Time, your age. You're young. You have a long runway to fall and get up, to trip, to make mistakes, to grow. If you are 50 or 60, you don't have much time [anymore]. So you want to use age to your advantage to let the

compounding do the work for you," said El Alam.

He continued, "You have time, and you have health, presumably. But you probably don't have a lot of money. When you're old, you don't have much time, and you probably don't have health. You may have money, you may not. But the worst-case scenario is to be old and not to have money. You have no time, you have no money, and you have no health. So [right now] you have time, and you have your health. So I want you to leverage those assets to accumulate wealth."

As a board member of the Philanthropy and Investment Club at Andover (PICA), Anna Lu '27 had some prior experience with the topics El Alam discussed. She thought that El Alam made the topic easily accessible for all attendees and that the question-and-answer session towards the end helped deepen audience comprehension of the topics.

"Mr. El Alam did a pretty good job of adapting to the skill level of everyone. He explained

it in a way where students with little to no finance background could understand, while students with more knowledge could also ask really good questions at the end... It's also cool to hear from students with more experience and background knowledge because they asked a lot of great questions, and students with less experience will gain that understanding from that. He did a great job of reaching students of all levels," said Lu.

Aly Blakeney, Instructor in History and Social Science, teaches three economics courses at Andover. She commented on the value of baseline financial education and shared that, while the school offers many educational opportunities, there remains room for improvement.

"[Financial literacy] is absolutely vital knowledge in the world we live in. Yes, you guys have access to all the world's knowledge at your fingertips

Continued on A5, Column 1

AI Software Khanmigo To Be Deployed in Spring Classes

ADELYNE LIU &
ELIZABETH SAKA

Andover plans to implement Khanmigo into classes beginning in the spring. Developed by nonprofit Khan Academy, Khanmigo is an AI (artificial intelligence)-powered teaching software designed to guide students through the learning process without simply providing solutions to problems, according to Caroline Odden, Dean of Studies. Its arrival comes as other AI models like ChatGPT are being used among students, prompting discussions on how Khanmigo may affect learning on campus.

Khanmigo has been widely considered for its potential to tutor students who may not have access to a tutor in person. Odden explained the advantages of Khanmigo over other academic tools.

"Khanmigo is an AI-powered tutoring tool that is designed to help students learn by asking questions and encouraging critical thinking. Unlike typical tools that tend to simply provide answers, Khanmigo acts a bit more like a personal tutor," wrote Odden in an email to *The Phillipian*.

At the start of spring term, all students will be able to test Khanmigo to evaluate its value. Erin McCloskey, Associate Director of Technology for

Educational Initiatives, elaborated on the rationale behind introducing Khanmigo to Andover.

"Part of the appeal was that [Khanmigo is] something that by design encourages students to focus on the learning process... we know there are all kinds of reasons why people use AI for all different reasons. The idea is to give students the opportunity to do something that's more educationally designed to promote engagement and thinking," said McCloskey.

McCloskey continued, "The other part that the Head of School was interested in was acknowledging that some students here can take advantage of private tutors and some can't. We don't know yet how effective this tool will be... but the hope is that it can offer some kind of tutoring that no one has to pay for and to see if there's perhaps an advantage in that way for students that can't get private tutors for themselves."

Philip Molina '28 noted that students may be less likely to use Khanmigo than AI models that generate immediate answers. He emphasized that Khanmigo's design differs from how students typically use AI on campus, impacting the extent of its

Continued on A5, Column 4



Khanmigo

What does Khanmigo do?



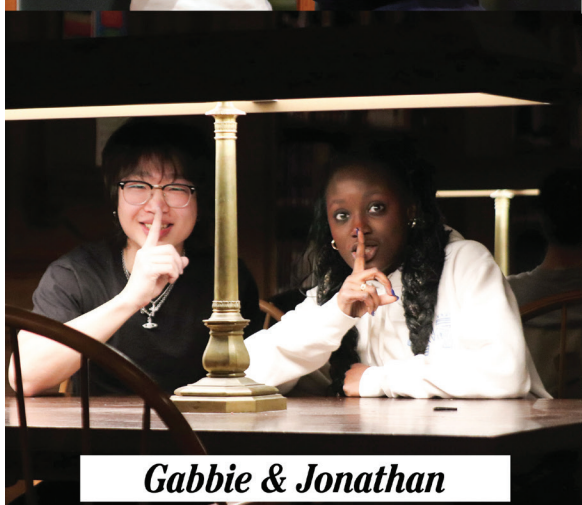
I guide and tutor students without giving the direct answer.

Let's get started!

Ask away...

AGLAIA HONG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Interviews with the Final Four 2026-2027 Co-Presidential Candidates



Read each pair's interview on A7.

AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Tradition of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Continues

SOPHIA TOLOKH &
KAI OBATA

Last Thursday, in participation with the United Nations (UN) World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), Andover held a panel for students to discuss how and why they practice their faith. The Interfaith Council kicked off the week with a cake in Paretsky Commons (Commons), spread "Love Your Neighbor" interfaith cookies around campus, and hosted a film festival over the weekend.

Mary Kantor, Roman Catholic Chaplain and Interfaith Advisor, explained how she started the tradition of celebrating WIHW at Andover in partnership with campus faith groups, aiming to pay tribute to an anniversary through dialogue across different religions.

"I'm in my 16th year as Catholic Chaplain at Andover and am the one that spearheaded the initial celebration of the week at Andover. The first celebration of this UN Interfaith Week was in 2015, the 10th anniversary of the UN week, and also the 50th Anniversary of a significant document in the Catholic Church calling for dialogue

with other religions and other truths... Catholic leaders were being called to mark this anniversary somehow with events building dialogue across faiths so I, [the Catholic Student Fellowship (CSF)] in partnership with the other faith clubs including an atheist club, launched the week [at Andover]," wrote Kantor in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Kantor continued, "This year [Jewish Chaplain] Rabbi [Joshua Greenberg] and I were the main planners but were informed by and helped by [the Jewish Student Union], CSF, conversations with the advisor of [the Muslim Student Association (MSA)], and students in our developing student interfaith council. We were also both informed by us regularly being a part of conversations with faith/interfaith leaders at Andover and on other campuses and in other places," wrote Kantor.

Greenberg elaborated on the structure of this year's programs over the week.

"This year, we started with the [Student Interfaith Panel], and we showed three documentaries over the course of

Continued on A5, Column 1

Commentary, A2

"Tiny Anchors: How Small Rituals Warmed My Winter"

Building small habits can uplift us during gloomy winters.

Eighth Page, A8

Super Bowl Sunday

The events of last Sunday reverberate around campus as the Eighth Page chronicles what's going on.

Sports, B1

Dominance on the Mat

Records fall as Wrestling took several individual championships at NEPSAC and the 13th Annual Female Tournament.

Arts, B7

From Tití to Touchdowns

Read a review on Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime show and its cultural impact.

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Editorial

On Patriotism

“Together, We Are America.” At Super Bowl LX on Sunday, halftime show performer Bad Bunny held up this statement on a football. His vocal criticism of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as well as his Puerto Rican heritage, led some to question whether his performance was representative of the U.S.

In fact, conservative organization Turning Point USA held an alternative halftime show to celebrate the American ideals that they believed were not present in Bad Bunny’s performance. U.S. President Donald Trump publicly criticized Bad Bunny for performing completely in Spanish. These reactions beg the question: How is American culture defined? What does it mean to belong in America? We have heard many times that Andover is an intentionally diverse community. Then, what does it mean to belong at Andover?

Bad Bunny’s performance demonstrated to many that being American is not confined to one’s language or culture. America is a rare place where a Spanish album can be performed at a national event, despite the majority of Americans having a different first language. Andover’s diverse campus encourages a similar expansion of the definition of ‘Andover culture.’ Students from over 53 countries find solidarity across differences, identifying similar passions and hoping to gain similar things from Andover. When a student says ‘Andover culture,’ they are more likely to picture passion and hard work than one race or one language. Finding solidarity across a nation, though, is much harder.

Many students have noticed that being

passionate about the American flag and championing ‘American culture’ is often associated with conservative values. But since presidents and government policy are never constant, American culture may not be grounded in the current political moment, but rather in the ideals on which the country was founded.

Patriotism can look like defending the right to protest, the right to vote, and freedom of speech. It can manifest in a shared hope for opportunity; a trust that hard work can yield results in America regardless of who you are. Just as Andover culture is defined by our community ideals rather than conformity to one image of an Andover student, American identity can be defined by shared ideals rather than uniform culture. That is how we come together.

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

Tiny Anchors: How Small Rituals Warmed My Winter

WOOJIN OH



Winter hit harder for me than expected. Coming from California and Texas, snow was extremely rare for me, and I arrived on campus excitedly anticipating my first snow sighting in a few years. However, my excitement was soon proven to be a fantasy. The cold days and longer nights took my energy away and made me feel more miserable than I should have. However, I have learned through this season that tiny, inconspicuous habits can quietly lift up my day — though I didn’t always believe this.

Prior to this winter, I had seen and heard about self-improvement habits and how little things can change your day. Initially, however, I was reluctant to build routines like cleaning

What could a cleaner room or music possibly do to help me throughout my day?

my room or listening to music in the morning. It felt almost like a waste of time — what could a cleaner room or music possibly do to help me throughout my day? It would be much better to spend that extra time preparing for the upcoming major or get more hours of sleep and rest.

It was only a particularly difficult week that I realized the impact of positive habits. I had three majors over the course of three days, and my room was a chaotic jumble of textbooks, papers, and empty water bottles. Something about this disorganization frustrated me, as if the



CAMILA CHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

chaos on the desk was mocking the chaos in my head. Although nothing about my workload had changed, the mess in front of me made the week feel more overwhelming than it needed to be. Looking for some sense of control, I threw away the water bottles, plastic bags from last night’s DoorDash, and put my textbooks and notebooks in a neat stack. Seeing how my room felt cleaner and more open, my mind mirrored that state, and my work afterward felt more satisfying and rewarding. Despite all of these mental benefits, the cleaning had only taken fifteen minutes.

This theme of taking time to focus on myself reappeared in my recent conversation with my point person, Mr. DoBa. I was discussing my Mid-year reflection with him. Toward the end of our meeting, I told him about my struggle to fall asleep. It usually wasn’t that there was too much workload, but simply

that my brain refused to rest. Mr. DoBa suggested a night-time routine to let my brain cool down after doing work all day.

I decided to take his advice seriously, even though the routines felt negligible. Each night, I began to dim my lights 10 minutes before sleep, put away my work, and spend the time doing quiet activities — listening to music, planning my tomorrow, or simply sitting in my room without my phone. At first, it was difficult; my brain would resist, insisting that there were still things to do or deadlines to worry about. But gradually, these few minutes of intentional calmness started to make a difference. The soothing piano music or the short reflection on my day eased me in and helped me fall asleep easily. Waking up no longer felt like lifting a heavy weight, but an exciting start to a new day.

This progress encouraged me to find other areas in my

life to incorporate positive habits. To make up for the lack of physical activities I could do during the cold and short days of winter, I promised myself to hold a plank for three minutes every day. It wasn’t a lot, but the small sense of accomplishment

I used to think that “self-care” required hours of free time and high commitment. Now I see it as a series of short fifteen-minute investments that pay back in hours of clarity.

I felt gave me motivation to do the next task and changed every day for the better.

These habits didn’t solve my problems or reduce my workload, but they did change my capacity to handle it and my energy throughout the day. I used to think that “self-care” required hours of free time and high commitment. Now, I see it as a series of short fifteen-minute investments that pay back in hours of clarity. Whether it’s a three-minute plank or a ten-minute digital fast before bed, these small “rituals” acted as an anchor in a season that otherwise could feel gloomy and demotivating. So for anyone else feeling under the winter melancholy, the solution might not be a grand change of lifestyle — it might just be cleaning up your desk.

Woojin Oh is a Junior from Frisco, Tex. Contact the author at woh29@andover.edu.

Not If, But When

WILLOW WRIGHT



L. RUSTUM / THE PHILLIPIAN

Every day when I walk into my economics classroom, I think that the state of the world cannot possibly get worse. And every day as I walk out, I realize that I was wrong. After 75 minutes of current event talk at 8:30 a.m. in the morning, I'm silent as I walk to my next class. In those two minutes, heading from one floor of SamPhil to another, I must will myself to put everything I've just learned out of mind. It feels like I'm supposed to take note of it and then move on, as if all of this isn't happening. It seems as though the 15 other people and I in this class are the only ones who carry the "burden" of knowledge throughout the day. Do others not know? Or are they choosing to ignore? Or simply compartmentalizing better?

As I write this, it's the morn-

In our safe space at school, it may be easy to let things go or feign ignorance, but it's time to think past ourselves.

ing of January 30. For the past week, I've seen countless Instagram stories calling for "no work, no school, and no shopping," as part of a nationwide ICE protest. It's taking place today, yet our campus is still bustling and booming with thoughts of upcoming math tests or Spanish presentations

— tasks that seem superficial in the grand scheme of things. I know that we're taught to put ourselves first to focus on success and what makes us happy, but it's hard to do when the country is in shambles around us.

Last night, I was gearing up for a test of my own, set to take place this morning. After finishing a scrolling break where I saw countless more protest announcements, I fired off an earnest email to my economics teacher. It wasn't an attempt to get out of the test, but a request to identify a designated day after, when we could do something meaningful to make an impact as a class.

I believed that after learning so much, many of my peers over the years would have been similarly inclined to act on the knowledge. However, I realized that I was mistaken when I woke up to an email reply in which my teacher shared that she had never had a student ask about applying something from the class conversations. To actually do something to create intentional change. I was shocked that no one had ever asked the question: "What can I do to make an impact?"

At Andover, we're taught to focus on our studies to perform at the highest level. We think that a low grade means the end of the world (or no college), and that we'll never move past it. I believe that, to an extent, being so focused on our own performance sometimes inhibits us from caring about what actually matters. That, and the threat of absences looming over us, causes too many personal relationships, connection possibilities, and current events to be overlooked, with our heads bent over a textbook from a century ago. But it's time to reflect on the present.

In this Andover bubble, it's easy to ignore the outside world by prioritizing studies and activities. Nothing is pressuring

us to think about current events because our classes seem like the first concern, and everyone around us is also concentrating on that primary focus. The issue is that sparse TikTok clips and Instagram reposts aren't reliable news sources, and the minimal campus discussions and awareness limit



the opportunities for people to learn more. It took me almost my entire Andover career to be in an academic setting where we were encouraged to discuss current events as a way to help shape our opinions and inform our actions when we depart the classroom.

As a school with so much educational and public power, we have the ability to inspire lasting change and create ripple effects. Instead, when I talked to people throughout this morning, I got a mix of "cool, but I can't skip my class" and "wow, you're the first person who's brought this up." By being so programmed to think of academics and only academics, we lose understanding and compassion for others.

So, how about we find a solution that serves all needs? One that doesn't require miss-

ing class or having your face plastered across news channels, yet creates actionable and impactful change. I'm not certain about the best approach; however, I am intently exploring and considering different paths.

As one example, I'm extremely passionate about literary accessibility and empowering education for people to build their knowledge to

form their own opinions and actions. This work leads me to think about the possibility of incorporating some form of current events discussion and next steps thinking into our daily life at Andover. At an institution that's renowned for its education, I believe that it's time to start putting our learnings to use. We need to apply and channel our education towards actionable steps and stand up for what we believe in. We need to turn the theory we've learned into practice that will attain tangible results.

As emerging adult citizens of the world, we need to think and act like it. In our safe space at school, it may be easy to let things go or feign ignorance, but it's time to think past ourselves. In the personal process for each of us, deciding how, when, and

where we want to draw our own lines, I think that it's important to consider forms of resistance that may be public, as well as ways to focus behind the scenes to generate institutional change.

I fully acknowledge that not all manners of protest may be accessible or safe for everyone, which is why I think that the first step should be implementing more education opportunities. There are definitely risks in directing attention to ourselves, so I believe that by learning more about current affairs from all angles, we would be set up with the tools that we need to determine our own actions to initiate change.

I know that doing nothing is not an option, but doing something doesn't have to mean drawing direct attention to oneself, and there is not a single "right way." I'm wondering about approaches that can be meaningful, while perhaps acting anonymously and building knowledge that will make a difference in the long run. Simply attending a relevant talk or panel, like the one held by History teachers last night, and engaging in related conversation about applying that knowledge, can be one accessible step forward.

Throughout these next few months, I strongly encourage all of us to think about where we're comfortable drawing our own lines and how far we'll go to stand up for ourselves and others. At what point do the costs of inaction become so drastic, so horrible, that the risks feel minimized? Are we at that point? As my teacher puts it, it's not a matter of "if," it's a matter of "when." When these atrocities impact each of us, both directly and indirectly, we must take initiative.

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

We Should Spend More Time Alone

EMMA HONG



K. TOMALA / THE PHILLIPIAN

Boarding environments, especially at a younger age, can amplify friendships. Living together on campus allows students to spend extended amounts of time together, which has many upsides. For one, it's fun to see your friends constantly throughout the day, hang out together after school and into the night, and then meet up again by the time morning rolls around. I have personally found that the immersive nature of boarding high school has improved my friendships. I love my friends at Andover, and I love how often I get to see them. However, I also think it's of critical importance to intentionally carve out time for yourself.

I've found that after some time, as the fall and winter terms begin to slip through your fingers, noise can become a constant, so much so that you rarely find yourself in silence. You're always in some mode of interaction, which, while enjoyable, can make it easy to lose touch with your own thoughts and feelings. Spending time alone, even if it's just an hour a day in

your dorm at night, provides a blank space that allows room for reflection. Sitting in silence with yourself shouldn't become uncomfortable at any point, because at the end of the day, you're stuck with yourself for a very long time to come. Not in



an ominous way, but those moments of solitude are what will allow you to check in with your own mind and process the day.

Considering other people's opinions when trying to establish your own path is not

As adolescents, we are growing into a body of perspective and introspection.

inherently wrong; it can be beneficial at times. However, you should be able to sort your thoughts without external input. It's valuable to spend time

alone and perhaps actively form stances and judgments of your own—whether

that's by reading articles, books, poems, journaling, just doing nothing, or something else. Ultimately, as adolescents, we are growing into a body of perspective and introspection that hopefully will become more nuanced and perhaps more solid over time. At some point, you should be able to see a post on social media and find your own thoughts on its content before checking the comments.

Similarly, time alone can foster independence. Moments of intentional solitude can remind you that you are a young adult capable of entertaining, challenging, and understanding yourself without this constant stream of external input. This can build confidence,

self-awareness, and a sense of personal agency that will not only benefit your internal life but also the way you engage with others. By spending more time alone, you could also become a better friend by approaching your relationships with greater patience, empathy, and presence.

When you take the time to reflect on your own thoughts and feelings, you develop a clearer understanding of your values, boundaries, and emotional needs. This can also apply to romantic relationships. I've discerned this same form of constant interaction at an extreme level. When two people are always together, with little space for individual reflection, small frustrations or differences can quickly become magnified. Without solitude, it's easy to lose perspective, to rely on the other person to define your mood or validate your feelings, and to miss the opportunity to understand yourself independently. By juxtaposition, carving out personal time allows

each person to approach the relationship more thoughtfully, with a clearer sense of who they are and what they need,

Spending time alone, even if it's just an hour a day in your dorm at night, provides a blank space that allows room for reflection.

especially because, as a high schooler, you are so young and still figuring so much out.

In a boarding school, where friendships and activities can become so all-consuming, intentionally seeking silence can become a tool for emotional balance. It doesn't have to weaken your relationships; you can just intentionally add some time to the end of your day to sit with your own thoughts. Ultimately, spending time alone in a boarding school doesn't have to be a withdrawal of community and certainly isn't — it is an investment in yourself and, by extension, in the quality of your relationships. While the intensity of communal life can make the days feel nonstop, carving out moments of silence allows you to process, recharge, and return to your people with greater presence and authenticity.

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Living Under a Spotlight that Doesn’t Exist



Your chest tightens, and your heart begins to race as you frantically look for a familiar face to sit with at Commons. Unfortunately for you, your friends have already finished their meals and are on their way out. Your thoughts fade as you feel yourself awkwardly shift in place with a plate in hand. You wonder if the rest of the Commons is already tracking how long you hesitate, reading your loneliness from the way your eyes scan seats in panic. The longer you stand, the hotter your face grows, and you are now certain that your discomfort is visible. Even tucked away in a far corner, you feel the overwhelming weight of judgment crush you. As far as you can tell, this one moment has branded you as an outcast, and everyone around you knows.

When we experience strong emotions or have a flood of intense internal reactions, we assume that our opinions and preferences are obvious to those around us, revealed in our actions and our words. This feeling of vulnerability is called the illusion of transparency, a cognitive bias that influences us to overestimate how much others can discern our internal states. Mandelbaum in 2014 found that this illusion of transparency is often amplified among



TIFFANIE AN / THE PHILLIPIAN

teens aged 9 to 17, a stage in development marked with self-consciousness and vulnerabil-

In theory, we are constantly observed by our faculty and peers alike, which serves to reinforce the idea that assessment is equally ceaseless.

ity to social evaluation. At the same time, research conducted by Savitsky, Gilovich, and Medvec in 1998 demonstrates how inaccurate these assumptions can be. They found that it was

much more difficult to identify subjects’ lies than how the subjects themselves had perceived. Not having a friend to sit with at Commons is not a rare occurrence with our complex schedules and several commitments as students. As research proves, an intense emotion of anxiety in fear of judgment from our peers is also a universally shared experience. But at Andover, this phenomenon is amplified due to the socially dense, high-achieving community we live in. In theory, we are constantly observed by our faculty and peers alike, which serves to reinforce the idea that assessment is equally ceaseless. In addition to being in a high-proximity social network, our focus on our reputations plays a major role in the extent to which we care

about how we are perceived by others. Surrounded by apparent evaluators, such heightened investment in our social image can be suffocating. We begin to avoid meals when we cannot find a friend to sit with, and we refrain from drawing attention to ourselves. We are pressured to conform to the conventions of our community, and we lose our identities; believing we are too visible makes us disappear. However, the reality is that people pay much less attention to us than we think. In the same way we are invested in our own subjective experiences and perceived reputation, everyone else is equally absorbed in their problems to make intentional evaluations of us. While it is inevitable that our actions will have consequences and influ-

ence the way we are perceived, the subtle cues we think we give off are often too insignificant for people to pick up on. Just the slightest effort to hide our emotions can easily conceal them altogether. It is important

The fear of contempt that feels so visible exists only in our imagination, and we must remind ourselves that it is okay to be imperfect.

to recognize that the anxiety we feel about being seen, judged, or exposed is far more apparent in our minds than it is in reality. Understanding this illusion gives us the freedom necessary to be ourselves without having to live under the constant fear that everyone is watching.

The heat in our faces, the weight of imagined judgment, the panic of having to sit alone; these experiences are far smaller than they seem. Most of the time, no one is deliberately tracking our hesitation and reading our body language. The fear of contempt that feels so visible exists only in our imagination, and we must remind ourselves that it is okay to be imperfect. The pressure to perform or to conform will diminish the moment we accept that while being “seen” is unavoidable, it is not nearly as judgmental as it feels. When we stop mistaking an illusion of surveillance for reality, we gain the freedom to explore our identities without the burden of evaluation.

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Reconciling the “American Dream” with Stolen Land



Last week during the Grammy Awards ceremony, Billie Eilish spoke out against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in support of ongoing protests in major cities like Minneapolis, stating, “As grateful as I feel, I honestly don’t feel like I need to say anything, but, that no one is illegal on stolen land.” This criticism, akin to many activist voices, forced me to confront the tension between “illegal” people and land which was “stolen.”

Initially, Eilish’s statement rubbed me the wrong way. I grew up watching my immigrant parents treat legal status as one of their most precious possessions, a testament to two decades of clearing meticulous hurdles. Their image of the “American Dream” was treated as a sacred, literal contract: if you feverishly follow the law, you earn your place. My parents described how immigrants on student or work visas are pressured to certain positions due to limited sponsorships or to remain silent in workspaces. All of these restrictions are things they had to deal with as immigrants. When the thin line of legality determines not only presence, but the ability to speak and work freely, maintaining that legality also feels like a



ELLE PARK / THE PHILLIPIAN

moral achievement. My parents’ sacrifices were structured around earning lawful belonging, so questioning the meaning of legality can feel like questioning the value of what they endured to obtain it. If that legality was arbitrary, I worried that the years they spent limit-

If the government repeatedly breaks its own laws without consequence, can legality alone determine moral worth?

ing their choices and voices to remain here would suddenly seem meaningless. However, this concern began to crack as I looked closer at the historical United States government and Native Americans, and further asserted that legal legitimacy

is not a fixed moral truth, but a shifting political one. Within this view, I also think we can still be fiercely proud of our parents’ accomplishments while accepting the complex, often lawless history of the land where they built their lives.

In 1785, the federal government established an official treaty with the Cherokee, establishing the sovereignty of their territory in the Southeastern United States and “perpetual peace and friendship”. However, with the growth of the colony and the establishment of the United States, many indigenous populations were forced out of their lands. For the Cherokee, the government completely broke their treaty with the controversial “Trail of Tears” campaign, forcing them out of ancestral lands and out west. The Cherokee Nation now exists in Oklahoma, far from the hills of Georgia they were promised in perpetuity. This history challenges the idea that American land was acquired through purely righteous war or fair exchange. On the contrary, the expansion of America relied on coercion, broken agreements,

and violence against Indigenous peoples. Following that, if the government repeatedly breaks its own laws without consequence, can legality alone determine moral worth? That is the hypocrisy which the phrase “no one is illegal on stolen land” tries to illuminate. Once this hypocrisy was clear, it forced me to look at my own family’s history.

My parents are both Korean immigrants who came here during the 2000s in their mid 20s to seek a better life in the U.S., commonly referred to as the American Dream. Now, as permanent residents, they enjoy the privileges of being American and were able to pass that on to my sister and me. However, less than six decades prior, the Immigration Act of 1924 (Oriental Exclusion Act) cut off nearly everyone from Asia. Only through decades of activism did Congress finally end America’s Asian exclusion laws. If my parents had lived in the 1950s and attempted to immigrate, they would have been denied for being “aliens.” In 2026, they have all the rights of a permanent resident. Therefore, the legality of one’s presence in the United States is more about when you choose to enter and the political will of that era, more than moral qualms. If the law was once wrong about me and many of my friends, we must question if the law is currently wrong about the legality of people, as Eilish mentioned, especially when that law is being enforced on land that was acquired through the very breaking of legislation it claims to despise.

For many children of immigrants, pride in the legal achievements of our parents and the criticism of the lawfulness of America as a system can feel at odds. Their stability depended on a sense of obedience to the law, so questioning that

system’s moral authority undermines the structure that gave them that “American Dream.” To a larger vision, gratitude to America is then expressed through enthusiastic belief in legal righteousness, and making any critique feel wrong. However, I also think that we can acknowledge that this system, which led to many sacrifices by my parents, is rooted in deep, unlawful characteristics. This system, due to its history of breaking dozens of treaties with Indigenous populations, should also be critiqued.

The bold words of Eilish don’t seem as inelegant, but rather clarifying. They remind me that my existence as a second-generation immigrant is a chapter in a much older, ongoing story of this land. As extensions of immigrants, we are implicitly told to choose between celebrating our families’ success within America’s system and acknowledging the history of the land we are on. However, this is a false choice. Recognizing the contradictions in American history doesn’t diminish their achievements, but places them in a larger narrative of American immigration. By accepting this complexity, we can honor the resilience of our families while also acknowledging the rights and histories of Indigenous peoples whose land made those journeys possible.

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Students Discuss Implementing Further Financial Literacy Education

Continued from A1, Column 3

with the internet, but if you don't even know what you don't know, you don't even know where to start. So it's important for us to at least introduce these topics," said Blakeney.

She continued, "Ideally, I would love to see a weekly seminar that's required, at least for a year. But I think financial literacy education is something that should be woven into every grade of high school level because there's so much to cover. [Andover has] made great strides, both in economics and financial literacy. The fact that those are even courses offered is amazing. However, we could expand more on either clubs or integrated curriculum for the student experience at [Andover]."

Kalista Kuemmerle '28, a board member of Women in Finance, believes financial literacy is less accessible to women in particular, a disparity her club works to mitigate. She suggested that Andover expand financial education more broadly.

"There is a lack of financial literacy, at least among women, because finance sometimes makes [itself] inaccessible for women to enter. So there is a

lack amongst younger people that could be fulfilled through integrating education about financial literacy... [Women in Finance has] helped me a lot with knowing about these kinds of things, but maybe it would be interesting to see [Andover] doing more mandatory classes or integrating financial literacy education into the curriculum for everyone," said Kuemmerle.

Cyrus Emami '28, another board member of PICA, emphasized the importance of a stronger focus on literacy in individual stock analysis and on investment opportunities beyond stocks. He added that exploring these subjects further in classes and clubs could help students gain a more comprehensive understanding of the



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THEPHILLIPIAN
Nouredine El Alam delivered his talk titled “Start Small. Exploit Time. Gain Wealth” to Lowers and Uppers.

market.

"[The talk has] given me perspective, in terms of [club] curriculum for the rest of this year through next year, in that we should talk about [Exchange-Traded Funds] and different indexes, which Mr. El Alam talked a lot about. We should go more into depth on those and other ways to build wealth, not just individual stocks," said Emami.

He continued, "We could grow off of Mr. El Alam's financial literacy class and add a class that teaches more into the specifics of investing... If there was a course centered around investing and looking at the markets and understanding how to make better investments, that would be a cool course to add."

Khanmigo Implementation Sparks Hopes and Concerns

Continued from A1, Column 5

benefit to Andover students.

"I hope teachers can consider that students with access to Khanmigo, most definitely have access to other AI models that could give them the answer without having to show them the work. That alone may defeat the purpose of Khanmigo. Khanmigo itself is rendered useless with the presence of other AI models that can perform the same task and even more. By releasing it to students, it may encourage them to let AI not give them the answer themselves and not have to filter out [direct answers], but I don't think it will do too much good," said Molina.

Kate Bourgeois '27 suggested that students should be given more time to adjust to Khanmigo during its implementation. She mentioned that the shift from prohibiting AI in classes to allowing it for certain tasks may feel sudden for students, stressing the necessity to avoid depending on AI for academic guidance.

"It's important not to become dependent on [Khanmigo] and it will take getting used to. Most students know how to use AI at this point, but it should be gradual because having this new resource is a really drastic change and people will have to get used to having that as an option. Students weren't really allowed to use it last year, but now some of my teachers allow me to use AI to look for sources, but the change should be more gradual because I'm used to get-

ting told that we shouldn't use AI as of last year," said Bourgeois.

Bourgeois suggested that the usage of Khanmigo could change how often students seek human-based resources on campus.

"Another negative connotation with [Khanmigo] would be that people might not go to get a peer tutor anymore or go to Science Study Center or other important resources where we actually get to interact with a person, which for me is more beneficial. We have these opportunities for help, where there's actual people that you can talk to and pretty regularly. I hope that this won't replace those really useful resources that the school provides," said Bourgeois.

Brian Faulk, Head of the Division of Natural Sciences, explained how Khanmigo could help alter habits of AI usage for academic support. He encouraged the introduction of such tools to more students at Andover.

"My hope is that students can use Khanmigo to more honestly wrestle with their homework and seek help when other resources (such as their teacher or peer tutors) are unavailable... This platform asks students to accept that this system works more like conventional peer tutoring and that they will not be directly given the answer. I hope that students will see this as a supportive resource and one that functions differently than other tools they may use. It is about increasing access to tools that help students learn," wrote Faulk in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Students Comment on Forms of Support for Various Faiths

Continued from A1, Column 5

the weekend on Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday afternoon, a Christian Catholic documentary, a Jewish documentary, and a Muslim documentary. Each documentary talked about and dealt with questions around religion and gender and/or sexuality," said Greenberg.

Despite Andover's commitment to supporting diverse groups of faith, students still encounter challenges while practicing them on campus. One of the panelists, Ryan Levine '27, noted the difficulty of keeping kosher since most of Commons's food options contain seafood, pork, or mix meat with dairy.

"I find myself having to order a lot of food, because today, there was shrimp pasta, and then there was Hawaiian pizza with pork in it, and then there was a series of meat also with cheese and meat. So, there's nothing really that I can have alone. There's really no protein options, and I find that disheartening a little bit. I feel like [Andover is] doing all this work to have a Jewish student union, and then there's other students that can't eat this food, and yet there's no other option of plain chicken, something like that, and it feels a little bit disheartening," said Levine.

Azzaam Abdur-Rahman '27, another panelist, noted the ways in which Andover supports Muslim students. He described the close community of the MSA, which he is a part of.

"Our club advisor is [Noured-

dine El Alam, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science]. He's very supportive to us. I've come to be really close with him, and I think most of us in the MSA can relate to that. We're a very small community on the campus, which comes with its challenges, but it also comes with some benefits that we're very tight-knit with each other," said Abdur-Rahman.

Dikko Garba '28 reflected on how his understanding of diversity has expanded, shaped by both his experience on campus and his upbringing in Brooklyn, New York. Garba emphasized differences in perspective, belief, and lived experience as forms of diversity.

"Diversity, since I've gotten here, [has] come to mean a lot more than just race for me, because even though there's a lot at home, I think depending on where you are, there are different views on life... [when] there is a large body of people from different places, they're going to have different views on the same religion for the same text," said Garba.

Garba continued, "I also know that near my house, just 10 minutes one way, my mom lives closer there, there's a bunch of Jewish people. Brooklyn has the second most dense population of Jewish people; and also 10 minutes the other way, we have a lot of Muslim people, and also we have a lot LGBTQ+ people where I live. So I think it's a common view, there's a lot of similarities, but sometimes the things that we tie our identity to are the things that divide us the most."

JUNIPER KLOCK & SARAH SUN

New clubs made themselves visible last Friday at this year's second club rally, held in Paresky Commons. Clubs filled the space with posters and ideas, but mostly new clubs were spotlighted this time, each bringing new niches and missions to connect students on campus.

A new club, Flip It, aims to give members hands-on experiences with DIY projects while promoting sustainability. Sloane Anderson '28 plans for Flip It to teach students how to make their own eco-friendly crafts while limiting material consumption.

"My club is called Flip It. It's a DIY club and we plan to teach people basic skills like sewing, crocheting, and just making things in general. We plan to use a lot of upcycling, try to buy as limited materials as possible, and use what we have around us instead of buying new things," said Anderson.

Andover Computer Building Club seeks to make computer building accessible and an exciting hobby for students, showing that it can be both fun and practical. Alfonso Gonzalez-Cano '27, the leader of the club, wants to spread his own love for com-

puter building to the Andover community.

"[The goal is] teaching people a very important hobby or at least a really fun hobby. It's making it more accessible because I think of computer building as a hobby and I don't think many people see it as that. They might see it as something boring when really it's fun. It's fun in the same way as building Legos, but you [can] also make money off it. It's a foster in people's lives and I just don't think enough people are aware that this is a thing, so I want to bring this to campus," said Gonzalez-Cano.

Some student clubs also promoted spaces to challenge traditional gender stereotypes and create spaces where everyone can freely express themselves. Mac Strong '27 strives to amplify womens' voices in a culture that can often prioritize male voices, which is why she started the club Funny Girls Publication.

"My club, which I'm starting with some very funny, very amazing, very beautiful women, is called Funny Girls Publication. We're trying to make it monthly, but like a semi-monthly physical comedy zine made for girls by girls," said Strong.

Strong continued, "Something I hope to learn is how I can go forth and prosper in an

environment that's basically only girls, because I feel like a lot of the other environments that I've been in have been either male-dominated or just have a lot of male-centeredness in them."

The club Men In Motion is also pushing back on gender stereotypes, specifically those surrounding men's dancing groups. Azzaam Abdur-Rahman '27 explains their mission to create a space where men can express themselves freely through dance.

"If this club really ends up being popular on campus, it can change the campus culture and develop a more healthy environment where certain gender stereotypes are not reinforced and people feel comfortable doing more things," said Abdur-Rahman.

"My friend over here, he's the founder of it, his name is Yasin [Andino '27]. He was watching Grasshopper and he realized that there were no male dancing groups in Grasshopper and wanted to change that. I'm not a dancer at all. I think I've learned that I'm willing to step out of my comfort zone and when I do so, I learn, I gain new skills and I learn about new passions of myself," Abdur-Rahman continued.

Prehistoric Age Roars into the Library: OWHL Hosts Jurassic Park Movie Night

DINA NAMJOO & HELEN XIONG

The Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) transformed the Freeman Room into a movie theater, complete with pizza, soda, popcorn, and chicken nuggets for a Friday night screening of the original "Jurassic Park." Organized by the OWHL Student Advisory Board, the night aimed to provide a fun, relaxing evening for Andover students to unwind at the end of the week.

Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL and an overseer of the Student Advisory Board, discussed the intention of the movie night and the committee's hopes for the attending students.

"The main objective is simple: to give students a low-pressure, joyful way to be in community. No grades, no expectations, just

a chance to have fun and feel at home in the OWHL. Movie night works especially well because it's easy to join, even if you only come for part of it, and it creates a shared experience that students can talk about afterward. We chose 'Jurassic Park' because it's a classic! It's fun, a little suspenseful, and genuinely entertaining. It's a movie night, but it still connects back to the idea that books and ideas are everywhere in the library," said Torres Hoven.

Athreya Yegneswaran '29 explained why he attended the event. He noted that the food options, the location, and the movies were all incentives.

"I was excited about the food," said Yegneswaran. "It was cool to have the entire Freeman Room to ourselves, and 'Jurassic Park' is one of my favorite movies. [I've seen it] two or three times, but this time it felt a bit scarier, partially

because the screen was much bigger compared to my own TV."

Yegneswaran, who enjoyed the event, observed a lack of students. He expressed a preference for more event advertising, noting that increased promotion could have helped draw a larger audience.

"Not that many people read the Weekender, and [the event] was on the Weekender. It was on a Friday night, so people had things that they wanted to do. Personally, I had thought this was a pretty good Friday night experience. You get pizza, you have good food. So, if there were more advertisements and people knew what was actually going on, I feel like they would have watched it, and it would have been a better experience," said Yegneswaran.

Derek Curtis, the Programming Librarian for the OWHL, emphasized the importance of the

Student Advisory Board in making the library a more accessible place for students. He commented on how the committee members often relay student feedback to the library faculty and noted that events such as movie night reflect OWHL's evolving role on campus as an academic and social space.

"As the default community center for the school, we know that a lot of students come through here to use the space for a number of different purposes... [The students] are a little closer to what's going on in some ways. They know what their friends and peers are doing, what they're hoping for, and their criticisms of the library that they might not tell someone else," said Curtis. "It's really crucial to hear from students, because we want the library to be as responsive as possible to student and campus needs. I feel as though we're able to get a better

handle on those through the student advisory board."

Curtis highlighted the importance of these school-run events, emphasizing the need for more spaces on campus for students to be comfortable in.

"It's very important for the school to provide students with a variety of extracurricular activities to engage in, because I think students seem to be in need of more spaces to come together. [Whether that is] in friendship, to have fun, or to build a kind of community spirit together. I think that's important work for the school, and I'm happy to help the student advisory board do some of that. It's all really in the service of trying to provide for the community. Students share good times, talk about their academic work, and just have a space to enjoy being together," said Curtis.

10 Questions with Patrick Murphy

REPORTING BY SIMRAN SHAH & JEREMIAH NUÑEZ

Patrick Murphy is a Day Athletic Custodian working in the Office of Physical Plant (OPP) who has worked at Andover since 2012. Murphy worked initially as a Campus Safety employee, but now primarily works in the Falls Music Center. Murphy is a racing fan of Nascar, F1, and Indy, owning several race cars that his brother and son race during the summer at local tracks in New Hampshire.

How did you begin your work with the OPP, and what does your role look like today?

I worked overnights doing Campus Safety since 2012. Around 2023, I left campus safety. It wasn't bad at all at first, [but] it started to eat away at me. So, I was going to a day shift... I worked at the hockey rink for about a year. Then, [Falls Music Center] came about. That's where I am now. This was going to help me go for a promotion as a senior custodian, which is like a co-lead. It's hard to come into a department and not be there as long as the [others] have, trying to lead. I have to ask them questions like, hey, how do I do this? What do I do here? But I've embraced it and I've proven myself. I've got a lot of respect from these guys. At any given time, there's work orders that come in. It could be, they need trash bags or kids are even sick. You constantly run around campus, that's what's led me to here right now today.

What has been your most meaningful experience on the job?

When I started here, there were still chat rooms. There was a student struggling. I got a phone call at dispatch [about] someone struggling. I didn't give up on it. All I had was an IP address, but the person I was talking to started giving me information about the student not saying names, but I was able to pass that information on to [Dean of Students Susan Tsao Esty]. She took care of it after that, but because I didn't give up on it, the kid ended up all right. In my mind, [it] was very satisfying to know I could have helped a kid that could have potentially gone down a different path, and it's good to know that I could help. It's important that we support each other. I think that's very impactful. Anyone making a little decision pursuing that further could have definitely made a huge impact.

How would people who know you well describe you?

Very personable. I can lead a group. I'm compassionate. Sometimes I wear my emotions on my sleeve and I can come at a fault, but at the end of the day, as long as I can look myself in the eye and say, I did a good job, I'm good with that. I take pride in anything I do. I'm approachable, sociable and I like people. I like engaging.

When did you first get into the world of motorsport?

I grew up and watched my father build race cars my whole life. So when I was eight years old, he got my brother and me into go-karts. My brother was six at the time, and it just took off from there. The go-karts started off, and then it just morphed into other things. Since I was about eight years old, I'd been racing and involved.



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN



COURTESY OF PATRICK MURPHY

How did racing become something you share as a family, and what has that experience meant to you personally?

We used to go to church on Sundays. Being kids, my father wasn't a very big fan of going to church on Sundays. I'm not saying that's right or wrong. My father happened to go out and get into the go-kart scene because he happened to know that the races for the go-karts and the kids were happening on Sunday. I got to spend a lot more time with my dad. My brother did too, going to the races on Sundays, and then

that slowly brought family in to come. But it's always been a part of the family, and it's all I've ever known, really. It's all I've ever been a part of.

What are you doing to bring awareness to the sports car racing industry, especially within the Andover community?

I have an open trailer. It's very rare that you see someone with an open trailer, and that's because I want you to see the sponsors on the car. I don't want to hide it. Everyone will go to the track, and then they hide in their trailers. No one wants to see that. They want

to see people engage in being around the car and stuff, and not hiding in their trailer. So I bought an open trailer for [those] two reasons. I want people to see that I care, and I want people to see the car when it's going to and from the racetrack. Maybe they might follow me to the racetrack.

What has been one of the struggles in building race cars?

Building them within the rules. This is a saying in racing: if you're not cheating, you're only cheating yourself. That's like looking at the gray area, the rule book, and being able

to build something around it. So when you do that, if I cheat the right front up, I'm going to have to follow that all the way back to the right area. So if something happens and they catch on to the right front and it's something illegal, it's gonna affect everything from behind the guy. So a struggle would be keeping the car within the rule book, but keeping it also right on the edge of the rule book, whether it's the width of the tie or whether it's the length [or] the weight. You go right to the edge. So if they say the cocktail would be three inches, will you make that two inches, and eight sixteenths?

Can you describe your favorite memory of watching motorsport and your favorite memory of racing?

My brother [and I] were racing in the novice division in GoKart. My brother was able to move up to the rookies, and he was racing against guys who were older than him, and I felt like, as a big brother, I wanted to protect him. We had a feature, and he started first, and we all did it by lineup. So I was behind my brother, and there was someone out here. That whole feature, I never came off my brother's rear bumper. I just stayed glued to him, and he won, and there's a picture of us both going over the finish line and my dad's in the background. It was just such a cool picture because we weren't going that fast, but you could see my dad [cheering]. My brother and I had [our fists in the air]. I remember every little part of it.

Do you have a favorite memory watching motorsport, whether it be your family or an actual NASCAR Indy race?

I'd say Dale Earnhardt went in the 1998 Daytona 500. That's one thing you'll find with a lot of people that are old school NASCAR fans like myself, that Dale Earnhardt character, he was big. He was bigger than life, and there were people from F1 that even, like Louis Hamilton, [who] loved him. When that man died in 2001, then NASCAR went after that because he kept that sport together. He was such a powerful influence and that was the one race he never won. So up until he raced in the 60s, 70s, he never won that one race in Dayton 255ers. So when he won that one race in 1998, I felt like, oh, man, this is great. Watching him was probably the biggest memory from growing up.

What would you tell someone who's never experienced or seen F1 or race car driving?

It's not as easy as it looks, but it looks easy. It really isn't, especially F1, because you're going left and right. But I mean, the G force is a concentration, the constant on the edge of out of control. You're constantly on the edge. TV makes it look very easy, and it's just the complete opposite.



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HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY RIAANA BAJAJ & WINSTON WU

Politics: Trump Calls to Nationalize U.S. Elections

President Donald Trump has called for the federal government to play a larger role in administering U.S. elections, a move he has described as “nationalizing” voting ahead of the midterm elections. The New York Times notes that Trump has concerns about election integrity and has proposed ideas to establish national standards, such as passing the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, that will require proof of U.S. citizenship to participate in elections. According to The Guardian, Democrats such as Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, have argued that the president does not possess authority over how elections are conducted per the Constitution. Election experts cited by The New York Times warn that Trump’s actions could increase legal disputes between federal and state governments and potentially affect the midterm elections that will determine control of Congress.

Health: U.S. Officials Urge Measles Vaccination Amid Rising Cases

Senior public health officials, including Dr. Mehmet Oz, urge Americans, especially children, to get vaccinated against measles as outbreaks spread across multiple states. As reported by The Guardian, Oz emphasized the danger of contracting measles, citing that “not all illnesses are equally dangerous and not all people are equally susceptible to those illnesses... but measles is one you should get your vaccine.” Public health specialists attribute the resurgence of measles to the long-standing skepticism towards vaccines. According to AP News, this urgency comes with drops in vaccination rates and the percentage of children with exemptions reaching an all-time high. Similarly, the rate of occurrence of diseases that have vaccinations available, such as measles and whooping cough, is rising across the country. AP News reports that an outbreak of measles in South Carolina this past week had surpassed the count of cases recorded in Texas’s 2025 measles outbreak. Another measles outbreak has been reported on the Utah-Arizona border, and multiple other states have reported confirmed cases this year.

Pop Culture: Artists Speak Out Against ICE at the Grammys

The Grammy Awards, traditionally viewed as a celebration of outstanding achievements in music, has recently become a means of political expression. Many of the celebrities present used the ceremony as an opportunity to call out the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Trump administration’s immigration policies. According to Time, artists such as Bad Bunny, Billie Eilish, and Kehlani used their acceptance speeches to criticize Trump’s immigration policies. Many artists wore white pins spelling “ICE Out,” which were also worn at the Golden Globe Awards. According to The Independent, Bad Bunny received a standing ovation after opening his acceptance speech with “ICE Out” and calling for Americans to spread love over hate. Billie Eilish stated that “no one is illegal on stolen land,” further condemning the actions of ICE later in her speech. Kehlani emphasized that artists must use their platform to speak out, maintaining that “we’re too powerful of a group to all be in a

room at the same time and not make some kind of statement in our country.”

Economy: Big Tech Companies set to spend \$650 billion in 2026 as AI Investments Soar

Four major Big Tech firms, Microsoft (MSFT), Alphabet (GOOGL, GOOG), Amazon (AMZN), and Meta (META), are projected to invest more than \$650 billion in artificial intelligence (AI) over the course of 2026. According to Yahoo Finance, the four companies would spend about \$635 billion, up 67% from \$381 billion in 2025. Most of this goes towards AI chips, servers, and data center infrastructure. Investor reactions have been mixed, and Amazon, Alphabet, and Microsoft stocks have fallen. DA Davidson analyst Gil Luria described the caution around investments as “probably healthier than any previous cycle I’ve seen,” noting that investors are watching closely for returns on these investments. Chipmakers such as Nvidia, Broadcom, and AMD are benefiting from this increase in investments. According to Reuters, the broader software sector has been under

pressure, with companies such as RELX suffering significant losses amidst concerns that new AI models will replace the equities of data analytics firms.

Olympics: Italy Kicks Off Winter Olympics Amidst Global Conflict

Italy has officially opened the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics amongst international political strains and heightened security measures. The opening ceremony celebrated athletes from all around the world, embodying the Olympic Games’ message of unity. Italian officials blocked Russian cyberattacks targeted at Olympics-related websites leading up to the ceremony, as reported by The Moscow Times. According to a pro-Russian hacker group, the attacks were allegedly launched in retaliation for Italy’s support for Ukraine. The New York Times reports that the opening ceremony included the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Protesters gathered in Milan holding up “ICE Out” and “Defend Minneapolis” signs to protest against the attendance of ICE personnel and the cost and environmental

2026-2027 Co-Presidential Candidates Elaborate on Platforms and Objectives

REPORTING BY OLIVIA TEMPLE & IAN S. KIM

Alfonso Gonzalez-Cano '27, running with Chloe Park '27

“We want a campus that feels very friendly, almost like one big family. All of our initiatives are themed around that. I am most passionate about PA Connect. It’s something really special and unique. I’ve already made this, it’s an app/website. It essentially allows you to select all the courses you’re taking, the sport you’re doing, and the clubs you’re in. Then it matches you with other students who also have those same shared interests or are enrolled in those same things. It asks if you are looking to meet new friends, expand your social circle, or if you just want feedback or advice with your classes... Every aspect of our campaign is so that we’re able to connect one-on-one with our student body,” said Gonzalez-Cano.

Minnie Kim '27, running with David Siahaan '27

“Our theme for our platform and initiatives is sustainability and perseverance. We want to build our community through the small acts that we promote and that we commit to. I want to be a person who campaigns and pushes for student-adult relationships, for student connections throughout the entire community. I have a genuine love for Andover. I know it sounds cringy, but I really do love this place, and I want to be able to spread my love for Andover through the projects I do. It takes a lot of work and effort to even make just one thing happen, but with my previous experience on the student council and my genuine passion and perseverance in doing these projects, they will happen,” said Kim.

Jonathan Oh '27, running with Gabbie Kawooya '27

“Our slogan is ‘Bringing Andover Together.’ Our theme for our platform and our campaign is to bring Andover together through a deep sense of community building and culture. We want to provide the spaces and give students the opportunity to connect with each other and [build] connections in between grades, connection within grades, connections with teachers, and connections with faculty. We really want to cultivate a sense of Andover community where everyone is interconnected and that brings everyone in and includes everyone. We want to be transparent about what our goals are, what our plans and our values and visions are. We want to be accessible as well. We don’t want anyone to feel any pressure or be intimidated to come up to us. We’re friendly people, we don’t bite,” said Oh.

Scott Carmichael '27, running with Mayari Burt '27

“The biggest goal is to make student life more convenient and build a stronger sense of community. With initiatives like the digital blue card and SAT and ACT study centers, we believe student life can become much more convenient. We also think the community would benefit from having more time together. For [All-School Meeting] (ASM), we want to create a student committee that works with the faculty ASM committee to gather student opinions and make sure students are enjoying ASM. For Susie’s revitalization, we want the menu to change every season based on student input. Once per trimester, we would hold a tasting that helps determine the menu for the next trimester so it stays responsive to student preferences. We hope these changes will have a lasting impact on student life for years to come,” said Carmichael.

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Phalling in Love

Southern Man Perspective on the Super Bowl and Phony Halftime.

Elizandro Pereira

Reckoned I'd tune into the Super Bowl this weekend to check in on my Southern boy Will Campbell. Seems like forever since the past bowls I watched as a little boy, must be around the 60th one by now. Regardless, that logo still got less X's than the label on my shine jar. Back to my boy Will, he put up a defense worse than the old Confederacy in the Civil War. Not sure how them Northerners reckon themselves patriots given all that blue-haired baloney. And don't even get me started on Seattle. Speaking of such, imagine my surprise when they rolled out that Bad Rabbit fellow to spew some gibberish during the halftime break. Since when was America a country that had Americans perform at the Super Bowl? To my relief my granddaughter (Grok) informed me of the alternative, true American halftime show — bless her little patriotic heart — to serenade my truly patriotic ears. After all, all I want is to catch my beer, drink my truck, and drive my fish.

Valentine's Day “On”

Konnor Fortini

Andover announced that Valentine's Day will be a day “on,” with programming intended to “support community engagement, foster belonging, and reduce unsupervised romance-related incidents.” After ASM, the day continued with a list of workshops:

1. **Diversifying Dating**
A deep dive into why the Kumon Study is more beneficial than the Oxford Study.
2. **Why 90 Degrees?**
MTH275 students list reasons to denounce the “disgusting and treacherous nature” of having your door even 89.9 degrees open during room visits.
3. **Exploring Your Kinks in Safe and Healthy Ways**
The downtown CVS has plastic handcuffs.
4. **What is a Date?**
“At least bring them to Elson. That's first base. Now, if you wanna go to second, Borden is the play.”
5. **What To Do When You Meet Your Spit Sister**
Stay calm and don't ask for details.
6. **Valentine's Day is for Losers!**
Enlightening the masses about how this worldwide celebration is clearly a long-time ploy by corporate America.
7. **The Best Way to Kindly Catcall**
Wait by the Sam Phil steps and have the Weather app open. Once you see your type, go ALL IN!

That Friday Grind



ELLE PARK / THE PHILLIPIAN

Unpublished Valentine's Notes

TO: Shelley
Don't speak to me ever again, you selfish woman. When you realize your online friends won't save you and you forfeited all your irls in their stead and you're alone and isolated I hope I haunt you. Good luck.
FROM: Horatio

TO: Anonymous '05
I'm getting married but I still think of you a lot!
FROM: Anonymous '02

TO: beabadoobee lover
I still stalk you on Spotify...
FROM: EsDeeKid listener

TO: Hater
worms criticizing a bird for turning its wings as they munch on sh;t
FROM: The Biggest Bird

Overheard From the Heart

- “When does it become macro-cheating?”
- “Do we really have to go to Borden again?
I prefer the Commons bathroom.”
- “Two lines means like, not pregnant right?”
- “But his Snapscore only went up by two!”
- “Because I wanted you to know... because I wanted you to know.”
- “Babe, why is it weird to FaceTime? The SOTA says 20% of students have digital sex...”

Superbowl Sadness

Sebastián Vermut

Students from and around Boston, a sports city because everything else about it kinda sucks, came into the Big Game exuding confidence for their team. Not even Jordan Belfort could have calculated the level of humiliation Patriots fans would face after Bad Bunny drove for more yards in his half-time show than their whole team did in two quarters. How do ya like dem apples? Perhaps quarterback Maye, sacked what seemed to be a total of ten thousand times, DeBÍ TiRAR MÁS Footballs.

The line at Sykes Wellness Center last Monday stretched from the front door of the Wellness Center all the way to Dunkin'. Following the New England Patriots' humiliating loss to Sam Darnold and the Seahawks, Sykes announced that it would be offering free counseling to any and all grieving Patriots fans. Many fans showed up with their Drake “Drake Maye” Maye shirts in hand, ready to denounce their golden quarterback: “How come he didn't deflate the footballs like Tom did?”

Unfortunately, Sykes could not handle the influx of patients, partly because the majority of its counselors on staff also found themselves waiting in line. The Eighth Page interviewed one such counselor to get a better idea of how Patriots fans are feeling right now:

“I sweah to gahd, I coulda swahn da Pats had dis in da bag. I even made some handmade Mozzarella for my pahty. No, it's mutzarula, not Matsarella. Trust me. I been to Olive Gahden a few times back in cahllege, so yeah, I know a bit about Italian cultcha.”

Team Eighth Page soon left the Bostonians alone. They couldn't get out of the parking lot, however, because every single car looked like it was parked by Stevie Wonder.



The Phillipian SPORTS

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February 13, 2026

Wrestling Breaks Records and Titles in NEPSAC Class A Championships and Annual Female Tournament

NICHOLAS JUNG

Wrestling placed second overall at NEPSAC Class A Championships this past weekend, claiming six individual championships. Team Abbot hosted the 13th annual Phillips Academy Female Tournament, winning the team title and capturing an additional four individual wins. U.S. Olympic gold medalist Helen Maroulis served as a guest clinician for the team, providing techniques and tips to female wrestlers.

Competing in a tournament against seven NEPSAC teams, the team trained endurance as the postseason began. Narek Hambardzumyan '26 commented on its training schedule.

“When you’re doing dual meets, there are matches that go a lot quicker that don’t enter the second or third round. In the tournament, that happens much more often and in those types of situations, it’s really important to have good conditioning to make sure that you don’t get gassed. Even after every practice, we’re always working on conditioning too,” said Hambardzumyan.

Serra Akyali '28 became the first Andover female to win a Class A title in the co-ed division. Co-Captain Julian Rios '26 won four total Class A titles, the first to do so in team history. The team also saw major success in the girls division, coming second as a team and claiming four individual championship titles: Cindy Zhou '27, Lisa de Boer '26, Bella Shmuylovich '26, and Toni Elliott '27. Hambard-



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

zumyan attributed the team’s success to its support for each other.

“It’s a lot different than your normal meet since everyone’s having matches at different times and sometimes it’s hard to get to watch everyone’s matches because people are having matches at the same time. But everyone on the team actively tries to always watch other people’s matches and whenever we are watching the matches, everyone’s cheering them on,” said Hambardzumyan.

On Sunday, Wrestling won the

13th annual Phillips Academy Female Tournament. Captain Tasha Bohorad '26, Akyali, Shmuylovich, and Elliot all won individual titles. Along with these stellar performances, Bohorad highlighted Kierra Ong '29 for her great work ethic.

“[Kierra] is a new wrestler and she’s been working super hard every day after practice. I’ve talked to so many people, they can see that the stuff we’re working on in practice and the stuff that we go over after practice, she’s using it every

single match. I can see her getting better and better, so that’s the type of mindset people strive to embody [and] is a really good persistence and consistency that I respect,” said Bohorad.

Helen Maroulis, the first U.S. female Olympian to win gold for wrestling, was a guest clinician for the team. Bohorad detailed Maroulis’s words of advice to the team.

“The fact that she did everything with us and she really guided us through everything, [is obvious-

ly] a sign of a good coach, but you can see how someone’s character really affects the sport, and how they communicate with other people. When she was drilling on me, she’d walk around and help us and see things that we’re doing and then correct us, which is very common in coaching, but it was super constructive. That was really great, especially because she got to demonstrate some moves on me. It was really cool to see how she does those moves as someone who’s practiced this a bunch of times and who can hit really high level moves in. It was great to have [this], especially through the Abbot grant fund,” said Bohorad.

As the team approaches the end of the season, Gauri Bhakta '28 reflected on what the team should work on to find continued success in the postseason.

“Wrestling is an individual sport, so it differs for every single person. We can work on just being more aggressive from the first whistle [and] taking good shots. If someone takes a good shot on us, sprawling and getting our hips down, and then working good breakdowns. [Also] making sure we don’t take bad shots [and] we don’t make teeny, tiny mistakes, which can cost us the match. Just paying attention to details could really make a difference for sure,” said Bhakta.

Wrestling will continue its postseason advance at New England Championships on Saturday.

Boys Squash Sweeps St. George’s Ahead of Postseason Competition

LUCY VINNAKOTA

| WEDNESDAY 2/11 | |
|-------------------|---|
| Andover | 7 |
| St. George’s | 0 |

Boys Squash (11–2) took home a fourth consecutive sweep on Wednesday, defeating St. George’s and winning all matches across the board. This set of matches was the team’s last before the U.S. Squash High School Team Championships and New England Interscholastic Squash Association (NEISA) Championships.

Franklin Kozol '27 pointed out the atmosphere and the confidence the team had before going into its matches. He emphasized that the team made sure to ensure its confidence was not a distraction and instead a driver for its success.

“We went into that match with a lot of confidence, knowing that we were the better team there, and it’s good to see 3–0 [victories] on the board all around and exe-



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Aaron Bai '27 completes a stroke.

cuting even when we had those expectations for us to win and that confidence. We didn’t let that get to our head and still got the win,” said Kozol.

Regardless of how good a team is, challenges are always present in any competitive setting. Especially

in earlier matches, Boys Squash saw closer scores when playing against St. George’s. Co-Captain Alexander Yang '26 detailed the difficulties faced early on, also mentioning the team’s calm and collected state of mind throughout and before matchplay.

“The first games usually are close for some players, because they obviously were coming out fresh, and trying to win. But we were all able to handle that pretty well,” said Yang.

Yang continued, “The general mood was pretty relaxed. Everyone was pretty chill. But obviously, during the match, we were all focused.”

The Snyder Center holds 12 international-size squash courts, as well as the Mead Exhibition Court, which is enclosed by glass on three sides. Corey Shen '26 [Co-Captain] praised Yang for his first ever performance on the court.

“Alexander Yang stepped up today. It was his first time playing on the [Mead Exhibition Court], and he really wanted to play [there throughout] his four years at Andover. He has never really played on the [court], and that is a trademark feature of the squash courts at Andover. So, against St. George’s,] he got to play his first official match there. The glass court bounces differently from the usual white courts, and he was stepping up, he was adjusting to the court, and he was adjusting to the conditions. There were just a lot of things that he had to adjust

to. I thought he adjusted very well,” said Shen.

Kozol mentioned that a team’s strength stems from its utilization of both wins and losses as motivation for future matches. He shared that the team hopes to use its win against St. George’s as a way to grow and build confidence.

“[Our win] tells us what we need to work on because it is like painting on a blank canvas. It is more about what you can control and less about the struggle that is being presented by the opponent because they are not as good. For example, the Westminster match last week and the Choate match last week as well for most people were not as challenging. That shows us where we stand and what we need to work on next week in the little time between [the U.S. Squash High School Team Championships] and [NEISA Championships],” said Kozol.

Boys Squash will travel to the University of Pennsylvania to compete in the U.S. Squash High School Team Championships, which will take place from Friday, February 20 to Sunday, February 22.

Girls Squash Celebrates Seniors in Last Home Game of the Season

ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN
& WES PHAM

| WEDNESDAY 2/11 | |
|-------------------|---|
| Andover | 7 |
| St. George’s | 0 |

With Senior Day banners hanging and posters lining the walls, Girls Squash closed out its regular season with a 7–0 victory at home against Middlesex. The win extends Andover’s record to ten victories as the team prepares for the U.S. Squash Team Squash Championships in Philadelphia, Pa. next week, ranked third in the nation.

Senior Day added an emotion-

al dimension to the match, as the team honored its graduating players —Co-Captains Evelyn Kung '26 and Prisha Shivani '26— with posters, speeches, and a team celebration after the match. Judy Liu '29 described the atmosphere as both festive and meaningful.

Liu said, “Senior Day is a fun tradition where we celebrate our Seniors. We make posters, order pizza, and after the matches, both the boys and girls teams gather to give speeches and recognize them. It was a really positive atmosphere, and the Seniors got emotional toward the end.”

Olivia Wang '29 highlighted the importance of maintaining focus during the game. Conditioning has been a strong and vital part of the team. Wang noted that the physical demands built into practice

have strengthened both speed and endurance.

“We still have to maintain our own level and play up to our skill. We challenged ourselves on court by experimenting with shot selection. [Head] Coach [Shaun] Duffy works a lot of fitness into our practices. We do... sprints and a lot of agility work. It’s helped with our movement and made us a lot faster,” Wang said.

Rachel Levitzky '28 reflected on a week of training and preparation, especially the strategies employed by Coach Duffy to diversify the team’s skills ahead of its matchup against Middlesex.

“One thing we worked on was not just our kill shots, but also our kill serves. Coach Duffy was showing us different ways to serve that could throw off our opponents and

help us win crucial points,” said Levitzky.

Looking ahead to the U.S. Squash Team Squash Championships, the team remains confident despite tough competition from higher-ranked programs such as Greenwich Academy and Hotchkiss. Liu reflected on Andover’s 2–5 loss to Hotchkiss earlier in the year and how to improve going into Nationals.

“The number one and number two teams are Greenwich Academy and Hotchkiss. We played Hotchkiss in a close match earlier in the season, but we lost 5–2. There were a couple of key points that could have really made a difference. We feel pretty confident going into [the U.S. Squash Team Squash Championships]. We definitely want to improve our num-

ber three ranking spot. We have a good shot at Hotchkiss, but at the same time, we’re playing some pretty strong teams,” said Liu.

Girls Squash will travel to the University of Pennsylvania for the U.S. Squash Team Squash Championships, taking place from Friday, February 20 to Sunday, February 22.



Andrew Pizzi/THE PHILLIPIAN

Olivia Wang '29 approaches the ball.

Ollie Velez '26: Leading Boys Basketball On and Off the Court

XAVIER HOWELL

In a season full of high-pressure moments, close games, and tough losses, Co-Captain Oliver Velez '26 has become a steady and dependable presence for Boys Basketball. His teammates have not only praised his skill and composure, but also his commitment to fostering a positive team culture.

Regarding his philosophy on leadership, Velez reflected on the upperclassmen who shaped his experience as a younger player. He explained that much of his approach is rooted in the examples they set for him.

“[Leadership is] about being a role model, especially for the younger players. I’ve seen how past Seniors led by example, and I want to do the same, to bring the team together, motivate everyone, and set a positive tone. I want to make every player feel val-



JEREMIAH NUÑEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN

ued, no matter their role or playing time,” Velez said.

Khimani Ndille '28 described Velez as the steady force behind the team’s tempo, balancing collectedness with the ability to energize the group if needed.

“He’s always composed in high-pressure moments, but he always brings the energy when we need it at our lowest. That’s a good example for the rest of the team. He makes sure that we’re not playing too sped-up or making mis-

takes,” said Ndille.

According to Jabari Edmonds '27, Velez’s work ethic and consistency have not gone unnoticed, as he continues to set the standard through his effort. Edmonds also reflected on how Velez draws from his experiences going through both highs and lows on the team, using those lessons to guide the team forward.

“He is the best leader we could ask for, along with [Co-Captain] Jaylen [Edmonds] '27. He will never ask you to do something he won’t do. He’s one of the hardest workers on the team. He’s a [veteran] here, so he’s seen his team, two years ago, start a season off really badly and still make it to the championship. That experience helps when he tells us to stay level-headed, [to] worry about the next game [and] take it day by day,” said Edmonds.

Fittingly, following the team’s first loss of the season, Velez helped the group re-

main focused and motivated, organizing opportunities for the team to improve.

“After our first loss against Deerfield, we had a Captains’ practice the following weekend. I didn’t end up going because I was at home, but everybody else went, and it was a pretty nice thing that he and Jaylen coordinated. It helped everybody on the team get ready to get better and ready to win again,” said Ndille.

As his time leading the program continues, Velez hopes his impact extends beyond wins and losses. He wants to be remembered for the way he treated others and the standards he set for the team’s culture.

“[Leaving Andover,] I hope [my teammates] saw me as a good role model and a kind [person] who is very inviting, always trying to build people up and not focus on the negatives,” said Velez.

A ‘Next Play Mentality’: How Co-Captain Jaylen Edmonds '27 Turns Mistakes Into Momentum

WYATT ORRACA-CECIL

Wearing number one on the court, Co-Captain Jaylen Edmonds '27 drives Boys Basketball with energy. Edmonds reflected on what first drew him to basketball, attributing it to his father, a 2nd Team All-State pick, as well as his twin brother. Playing point guard, he quickly learned that leadership is central to the position, now striving to bring that same on-court leadership into his role off the court as well.

“I got into basketball because of my dad and my brother. My dad played basketball, and growing up, my brother and I always watched him play. My brother and I have always competed with each other, from elementary school to travel basketball. I was the starting point guard at my own previous high school, the Wheeler School in Providence, and as a point guard, you act as a leader on the team,” said Edmonds.

Last season, Edmonds faced limited game time due to recovering from an inju-

ry. Kosi Udeh '27 noted that these setbacks only fueled his growth, allowing him to return this year with renewed confidence.

“At the beginning of this year, he really bounced back. During open runs, he solidified himself as a leader, super vocal, which helped. Coming as a new Lower didn’t hold him back in any way. His time on the team last year gave him some time to understand the program and what Coach TI [Terrell Ivory] is looking for,” said Udeh.

On the court, Edmonds’s leadership is most visible through his attention to detail and effort. He sets the tone defensively and emphasizes accountability in every possession. Udeh highlighted how these habits define Edmonds’ impact as Co-Captain.

“He leads by example, making sure he’s defending his yard, staying in the gaps, and tracing the ball on inbound. He does the little things, and that’s what makes a good captain. He is someone who holds himself and other people accountable. He’s not afraid to jump in, explain something,



JEREMIAH NUÑEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN

and ask clarifying questions on certain plays,” said Udeh.

Beyond his impact on the court, Edmonds also shapes the team’s mindset. Kingston Johnson '28 gave insight into how Edmonds emphasizes resilience, encouraging players to move forward rather than

to dwell on mistakes.

“I know one quote he likes to say a lot when people are into their own heads. He likes to say “next play,” and make you focus on what you can do to improve instead of dwelling on what you did to make you upset,” said Johnson.

Leadership for Edmonds does not end when the game does; rather, it means prioritizing offering support and building trust in everyday moments.

“I like being able to talk to people because I know sometimes people just need someone to talk to. I feel like I’m pretty easy to talk to about anything, whether it’s school, basketball, or relationships,” Jaylen said.

Before each game, the team gathers in a pregame huddle where Edmonds takes the lead in energizing his teammates and setting the tone. Johnson described how this tradition has become a key part of the team’s pre-game routine.

“Around the 10-minute mark before the game, no matter what our energy is like, he tries to hype us up and keep it high so we can go into the game ready for whatever comes. He really controls the energy and makes a big difference in our team’s morale. Without him, our chemistry wouldn’t be the same,” Johnson said.

Late-Game Heroics Lift Boys Basketball to Three-Game Win Streak

ALEX GODSEY

Down 41–43 in the final minutes of the game versus Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep), Andover Boys Basketball Co-Captain Jaylen Edmonds '27, off a cross-court pass from Zion Williams PG'26, drained a deep three to swing the lead towards Andover. Jaylen Edmonds would then proceed to bury two more consecutive deep threes to extend the lead to 50–45, effectively sealing the victory for Andover with a final score of 53–47. With this clutch performance where Jaylen Edmonds scored 11 of the team’s last 12 points, Boys Basketball (15–4), following wins versus Thayer and Dexter, moved to a three-game win streak, regaining momentum after going 1–4 last in its last five games.

On Friday night, Boys Basketball defeated Thayer 57–47 in a convincing victory that marked the beginning of a shift in momentum. Kosi Udeh '27 commented on the importance of Miles Clanton PG'26 in this game, who returned from injury with 19 points, eight rebounds, two assists, and two steals.

“I want to shout out Miles for that game. This was Miles’



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Zion Williams PG'26, contested by an Austin Prep athlete, attempts a shot.

first game back, and he got us off to a really strong start, which really helps with momentum and sharing the ball. It’s really important to get a few quick, easy points on the board during the first few minutes of the game, because it really kicks off our momentum,” said Udeh.

At Dexter on Saturday, Boys Basketball again came motivated, only to be stifled by a slow first half. After half-time, though, it flipped the switch, extending the lead and finishing the game 54–48. Jaylen Edmonds commented on the team’s preparation against the zone defense and how it affected the team’s

confidence throughout the game.

“At the end of the first half, we were up two points. Then in the second half, we opened that gap to six to eight points. They tried going into a zone because that’s what they’ve done in the past, but we’ve worked on it so much, to the point where it didn’t really work against us any more. Eventually they had to switch out and started going man to man for the last few minutes of the game. We had a little bit of a tough stretch at the end of the first half, but going into the second half, we completely woke up, and I felt as though we were in control of the whole game. I can honestly say I never thought that we were going to lose that game. We were always in control and just poised enough to handle any of the adversity that came,” said Jaylen Edmonds.

The catalyst of this close victory was Jaylen Edmonds’s brother, Jabari Edmonds '27, whose attacking pressure combined with his court vision created opportunities across the court. Jaylen Edmonds described his brother’s effectiveness in the game.

“[Jabari Edmonds] did a really good job of attacking the paint and getting every-

one involved. Even from his position as a bigger guard, he still found ways to dissect the zone, and he and Miles, especially in the game against Dexter, helped us out a lot. It was obviously a team effort, but I definitely think that those two were producing,” said Jaylen Edmonds.

Returning to Wednesday’s game versus Austin Prep, despite early struggles, Boys Basketball ultimately rallied to secure the victory. Kingston Johnson '28 described Jaylen Edmonds’s clutch moments and the importance of his performance.

“[Jaylen Edmonds] made some big shots. He’s got a lot of courage to take those and everybody on the team believes that he can make them, so he was definitely the difference maker in the game. We only won by five, so those threes pretty much won us the game, especially the last one just because of the situation we were in and the time left on the clock,” said Johnson.

Following this three game win-streak, Boys Basketball will look to maintain its momentum at Williston on Saturday.

Girls Basketball Rebounds with Back-to-Back Victories

ALEX GODSEY

| SATURDAY 2/7 | |
|----------------|----|
| Andover | 58 |
| Middlesex | 39 |
| WEDNESDAY 2/11 | |
| Andover | 63 |
| Austin Prep | 36 |

Girls Basketball (13-7) defeated Middlesex on Saturday, continuing this momentum into its Wednesday matchup to emerge victorious against Austin Prep. The team rebounded from two losses last week with two victories.

The team’s game against Middlesex on Saturday was a highly anticipated rematch. Last year, Andover played Middlesex in an intense overtime clash, in which Andover managed a victory. Despite last year’s victory, the team had been preparing for this game all week. Maddie Marshall ’29 praised Jules Stevenson ’28 and Co-Captain Alani Rodriguez ’27 for their performances.

“Jules and Alani really helped get our team moving. They facilitated the ball really well, moved it really well, and, overall, led us on the court that game. They also hit some really important shots, but did a great job of moving the ball to get everyone open,” said Marshall.

Marshall continued to stress Rodriguez’s importance to the team in both her play and leadership. She also shouted out Emma Moore ’28

for her tenacity in the post.

“[Rodriguez] was a great leader on the court. She hit some key shots, but she also distributed the ball really well on offense, and it ended up getting her open in the long run. I’d like to shout out Emma Moore. She was getting really great looks in the post and, at first, they weren’t all falling, but she just kept going right at it, and she ended up putting us into the game in the second half,” said Marshall.

On Wednesday at Austin Prep, Andover again showed up with intensity. Despite a slow start, the team quickly rallied and ended the game in dominant fashion. Stevenson described the catalyst of this momentum shift and the team’s success on both offense and defense.

“In the first quarter, we were down by six [points]. Then, in the second quarter, we definitely improved,

but we were still finding our groove. After a motivational speech in the locker room, we came out to the second half with a new edge and ended up winning 63-36. Our offense was great, we all shared the ball, and everyone contributed. Then, defensively, we really played aggressively and got in their heads. We kept them to 12 points in the second half, and you could feel their frustration,” said Stevenson.

Vera Pape ’29 shared two plays from the game that showcased the team’s execution of its offensive scheme and also the defense-to-offense transition that was so productive.

“We ran through one of our plays really well, and we got Eva Jackson [’27] a really nice layup. Then, Sophie Stetson [’29] got a really nice steal in one of our zone plays, and she ended up getting a wide-open layup,” said Pape.

Andover has found great success in the last two games, and at the core of this team is Co-Captain Ruby Kokinos ’26. Marshall shared two ways in which Kokinos has fostered a positive and energetic team culture.

“Before our games, Ruby always gives us a little speech, and then she always does a new dance for us, and it just gets us all going,” said Marshall.

Stevenson added onto Marshall’s comments, describing how Kokinos brings energy to the team before games.

“Ruby really hypes us up before games by forcing us all to scream really loudly and dance. The vibes really just get [the team] going,” said Stevenson.

Girls Basketball will play Pingree on Saturday.

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Ruby Kokinos '26 Sets a Steady Tone for Girls Basketball

SARAH WANG

Girls Basketball Co-Captain Ruby Kokinos '26 began playing basketball at age nine and played on multiple teams throughout middle school before joining Andover's team as a Junior. With this season being her last, she continues to lead with energy and positivity, driven by her love for her teammates.

Kokinos described her leadership style as rooted in connection. With just 12 players, the close-knit nature of Girls Basketball results in strong relationships across the team.

"I love all the people on the team. I try to make it a positive experience for everyone and try to make practices fun and do things outside of actual basketball so that everyone feels more connected," said Kokinos.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

The team currently holds a 12-7 record and hopes to build on its momentum heading into the Northeast 8 (NE8) tournament against Deerfield and Lawrenceville next week. Kokinos shared her goal for the team.

"We're doing really well, so it would be great to go further in the playoffs than we have in the past," said Kokinos.

Teammate Sara Damon '29

described Kokinos' energy as one that supports and elevates those around her.

"Ruby's a lead-by-example type of player. She's one of the players who brings the most energy to our team, no matter what the score is. When I see Ruby being super loud and supporting everybody, it helps me as well. There are times [when] I miss a shot in the game and Ruby's right

there being like, 'keep your head up, just get it right back.' When a lot of us have our heads down, reminding us to keep our heads up and saying we're still in the game, makes everybody else into a leader as well," said Damon.

Chloe Abou-Ezzi '27 similarly highlighted how Kokinos's presence sets the tone for the team, especially before high-pressure practices or games.

"Ruby is somebody that when you walk into the room, she brightens up your day. She's always funny, and she has this one dance that she does before every game that always makes us laugh and cheer up," said Abou-Ezzi.

Damon noted how on the court, Kokinos' play style also inspires younger teammates, as she remains consistent no matter the circumstances.

"Every time that she steps on the court, she's always just

fully engaged, and she understands the importance of the time that we spend together, and her energy never wavers. It doesn't matter whether her shots are falling. She's always consistent from an energy standpoint," says Damon.

In an intense and fast-paced sport like basketball, overthinking can quickly derail a team's momentum. Abou-Ezzi explained how Kokinos consistently advises the team not to dwell on small mistakes.

"She's always there to tell you that even though you noticed a mistake, a lot of people wouldn't. That's very important to me, because we all tend to get in our own heads a lot," said Abou-Ezzi.

Although Kokinos does not plan to play basketball collegiately, she hopes to continue the sport through club or recreational play.

The Facillitator: How Alani Rodriguez '27 Runs the Point

HAOYU ZHANG

As the point guard of the team, Girls Basketball Co-Captain Alani Rodriguez '27 embodies teamwork as she links the team together both on and off the court. Her goal this year was to make sure everyone felt integrated into the school and the team.

Rodriguez described her enjoyment of seeing her teammates succeed and shared the qualities she strives to possess as a point guard. She also mentioned the importance of teamwork, which was recently displayed on Wednesday against Austin Prep.

"I'm a very unselfish player. I love seeing my teammates win, if that means passing the ball a lot more. That's the best part of basketball, especially as a point guard. To be the best point guard, you [need to] be able to facilitate and handle [the] offense. Today, we played Austin Prep. This was probably one of our best games just [because] we played as a team. We played for each other, and that defi-

nitely showed. We ended up winning that game," said Rodriguez.

According to Maddie Marshall '29, Rodriguez is both an offensive and defensive asset to the team. She described the versatility Rodriguez brings as a two-way player.

"[Rodriguez] can knock down [three-pointers]. She's very good at driving [to the hoop]. She plays really good defense for us. When we play our 1-3-1 [defense], she's on the top of the trap and she helps us get a lot of steals, which lead to points and just overall helps the momentum of the team," said Marshall.

Sara Damon '29 gave insight into the extent of Rodriguez's relentless work ethic.

"Every time I go to the gym, [Rodriguez] is over there putting in work. For her, it's not necessarily just luck that she's so talented, [but] it's a lot of the work that she puts in, and I see it sometimes. I'm sure there's more work than she does behind the scenes. You have to put the work in to get what you want, and she's always in the gym getting



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

shots up and getting better. That's really impressive," said Damon.

Off the court, according to Marshall, Rodriguez is a strong communicator and outlet for the team. Marshall explained how the team builds around her energy and determination to improve.

"If the team is ever thinking [about] anything, [Rodriguez] will speak up for us and she will go up to the coaches and talk to them. And also, she really takes responsibility for our team and she brings us

to wins on and off the court. She's always motivating us and just feeding off her energy, knowing she really wants to win. It helps our whole team to be in the game because she is," said Marshall.

Having known Rodriguez prior to coming to Andover, Damon spoke to Rodriguez's growth in the past few years. Specifically, Damon emphasized Rodriguez's progression as a vocal leader.

"From the beginning, she was just a super hard worker. She takes every single drill

seriously all the time. She's obviously become more vocal as she's gotten older and matured more with how to lead. She's a leader by example, but also now, [because] we play the same position, I'm able to learn from her, and she's able to talk to me and walk me through certain things I am a little bit confused about. That's one way she's grown, [just] vocally, sharing and teaching some of the younger kids," said Damon.

Being an Upper, Rodriguez still has another full season as the team's Co-Captain ahead. Nevertheless, reflecting on her experience so far, she offered advice to future Co-Captains.

"Sometimes, your situation might not be the most ideal moment. Some things might not go your way at certain times, but regardless, you [need] to be able to put that aside and be there for the team because as a Captain. You play a big role. Just be there [and] stay present," said Rodriguez.

Laney Cafua '27 Leads with Motivation and Enthusiasm

JULIEN REQUA

Girls Basketball Co-Captain Laney Cafua '27 first picked up basketball in third grade, inspired by her mother's collegiate career and drawn to the sport's sense of community. Years later, that same value of connection shapes her leadership style, as she works to push her teammates to play at their best while boosting morale with constant encouragement.

While many are attracted to basketball's pace and intensity, Cafua was motivated early on by something more personal.

"I started playing basketball in third grade, and I had always dreamed of playing basketball because my mom played in college, and I wanted to be just like her. I would describe myself as a very hardworking person. I think no matter what it is that I am doing, I am always going to

give one hundred percent of effort and try my best," said Cafua.

Teammate Maddie Marshall '29 highlighted Cafua's constant enthusiasm and dedication to the team's success, both on and off the court.

"Her energy is very contagious. On the court, she's always diving for loose balls, she's super energetic, happy for everyone, and she cheers for everyone. She helps us know how to prepare, the stats, and how we need to come out. Before games, or the morning of, she'll always text our group chat and get us all hyped for the game. It definitely gets our team going," said Marshall.

Teammate Sara Damon '29 added that Cafua's leadership becomes especially visible in moments of pressure, steadying the team with calmness and encouragement.

"One of the biggest responsibilities is to lead the team in big moments and keep every-

body calm, especially when the game is super close. Laney does a great job of speaking up when we're in a tough situation, making sure everybody keeps their head up and keeps playing hard no matter what the score is. She leads by example, and her energy makes everybody else play hard the same way. Before every game, we get in a huddle, and Laney... tells us that we can stand with anybody on the court," said Damon.

Cafua also expressed how she values building close relationships with her team, aiming to balance leadership with approachability.

"I strive to be someone that my teammates and more specifically younger teammates can look up to. I still want to be a leader and guide others, while being their best friend at the same time," said Cafua.

Damon recalled a difficult practice where Cafua offered her reassurance.

"There was one practice



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

that was really tough for all of us, and I was frustrated with myself and my performance. Laney talked to me and told me stories about when she was a [Junior] and how you can't do everything perfectly. You're going to make mistakes sometimes, but you have to forget about it, move on, and be who you know you are. That was really helpful for me," said Damon.

As an Upper, Cafua still has time to continue developing

as a player and pursue her long-term goals. No matter where her career takes her, she remains rooted in the relationships the sport has given her.

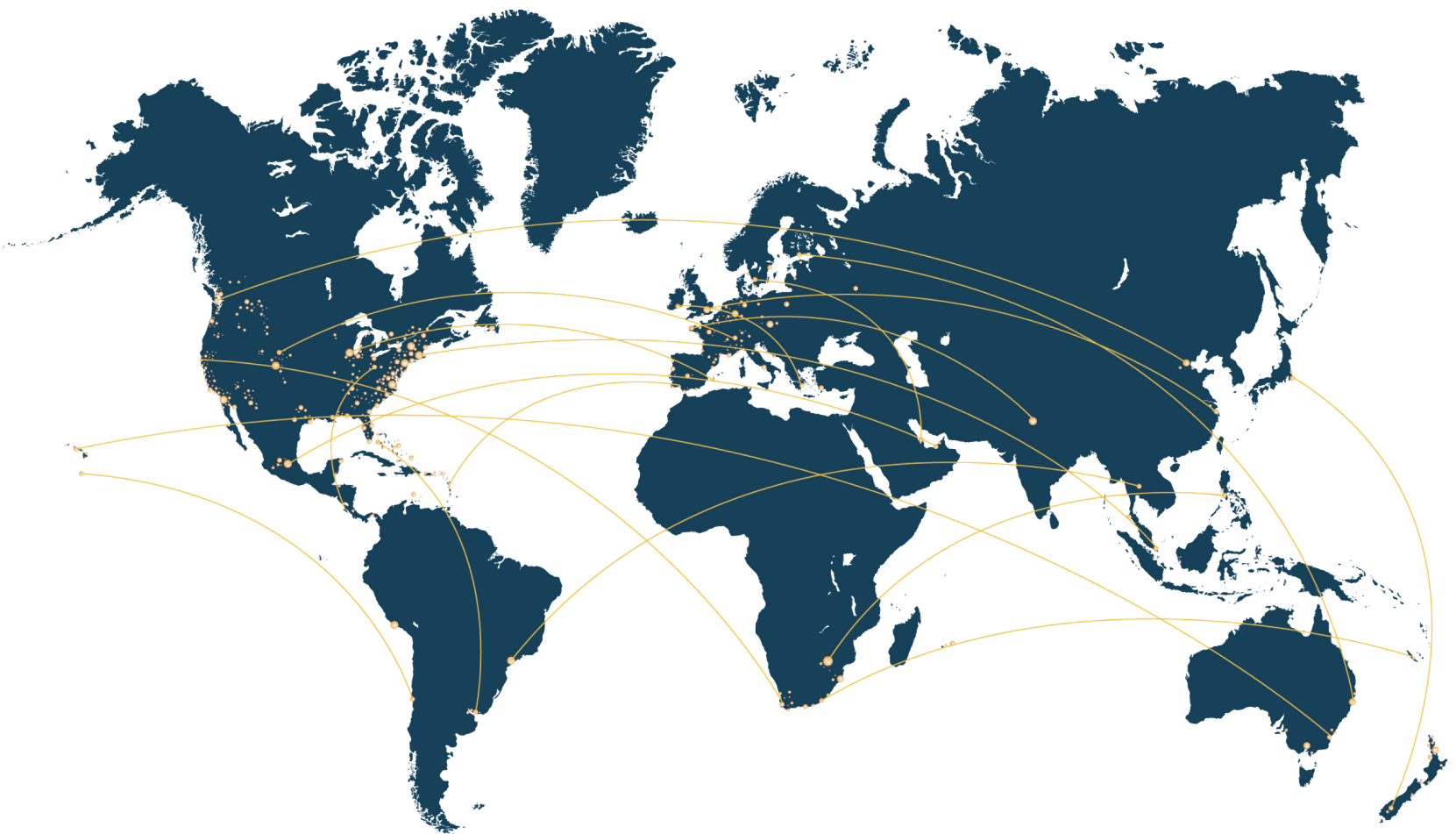
"All of my basketball teams over the years have been like a second family to me. The community and friendships that I am able to form through basketball have been some of the most meaningful," said Cafua.

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Nordic Skiing Trudges Through Slush for Boys Third-Place and Girls Fifth-Place Finish

AVIAD AWA

Nordic Skiing persevered through adverse conditions on Wednesday in its race at Dublin School (Dublin) to place 3rd in the Boys 5-Kilometer Race and 5th in the Girls 5-Kilometer Race. Andover competed against a range of schools, including larger schools like Belmont Hill and St. Paul's, as well as smaller teams from Proctor Academy, Dublin, Putney School, Holderness, Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), and Kimball Union (KUA). Sebastian Vermut '27 explained the intricacies of Nor-

dic skiing, emphasizing the differences between classic and skate skiing styles. Knowing the Wednesday race would be a skate race, the team tailored practices to this style, distinct from their typical training sessions, which focus on classic skiing. "When you think of Nordic skiing, there are two different kinds. Classic skiing involves your skis parallel to each other, and you have what's called kick wax. If you picture running on skis, that's what classic is. Skate skiing is your skis splayed out from each other at an angle. You're shifting your weight from left to right, creating for-

ward motion. It's a bit like ice skating or, if you've ever downhill skied before, like duck walking almost. And it is faster than classic," said Vermut. Matthew Wei '28 elaborated on the team's preparation for this race, as it had not raced skate since the second meet of the season. "This past week and last week, we had some pretty intense workouts. For skiing, you don't want too much fresh snow, you want it packed down. Because we had a lot of fresh snow recently, it was a bit hard, but we did what we could. We did some sprints, intervals, and hill workouts to prepare for this

race because it was a really hilly course. One of the most important things was doing a step turn. When you go down a hill and there's a turn, which there were a lot of in this race, one way to gain or maintain speed is to do a step turn. Instead of gliding, you actually take steps to keep your momentum. That's pretty hard to do, but I feel like it was really helpful," said Wei. Hannah Jung '28 praised the team for pushing through numerous weather-related obstacles, including slushy snow that proved treacherous. "In the girls race, L Young [27] told me how she got stuck in a pile at the very beginning.

She said she was pushed farther back than she would have been if she hadn't fallen, but did a great job throughout the rest of the race trying to catch up to the leaders. In the boys race, Henry Wall [27] was right in the middle of where several skiers began to fall. His ski binding came off, and he had trouble getting it back on. Overall, though, he got back in and continued racing, which was really strong of him," said Jung.

Nordic Skiing will compete at the Weston Ski Track this Friday for a tri-race against Rivers, Middlesex, and Belmont Hill.

Boys Hockey Ties Against Top-Ranked Teams Belmont Hill and Dexter, Falls to KUA

EVA JACKSON

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Boys Hockey (10–8–3) tied Belmont Hill and Dexter Southfield (Dexter) last Friday and Saturday, respectively. On Wednesday, the team lost to

Kimball Union Academy (KUA), which won the 2024 NEPSAC Elite Division Championship. Going into Friday's matchup against Belmont Hill, Matthew Piotrowski '27 shared that the team expected to play a hard-fought battle, and commented on the team's performance. "Off the gate, we came out a little slow, but throughout the whole game, we ended up improving. [Belmont Hill was] a good team, so we ended up matching [its] level pretty well. It was definitely one of the harder games we've played all season, but [Andover's players] worked well together," said Piotrowski. Last year, Andover lost to Dexter in both of the teams' two matchups. On February 8, 2025, the team fell to Dexter in a 7–1 defeat, and this season, Dexter bested Andover 4–2. According to Max Krasovsky '27, the team entered the game aiming to prove itself. "[Our previous loss against Dexter was] looming over our heads, [given] the fact we lost them that season. So this [match-

up] was pretty big. We're trying to prove that we can compete with the Elite 8 teams," said Krasovsky. Although the team did not overcome Belmont Hill or Dexter, Piotrowski mentioned that it is proud of its performance. He reflected on the game's outcome and its impact on the team. "Unfortunately, we didn't win, but we also didn't lose either. [Our opponents were] two good teams, [which] shows that we can match with anyone. Obviously, you would love to have a win in that type of situation, but [our performance] does show that we can easily stay in it with the best of the best teams and not have an issue with it," said Piotrowski. The game against Dexter was intense all throughout. Andover scored early in the third period, putting it in the lead and changing the momentum of the game. The game then went into overtime. Krasovsky highlighted the student section and environment at Dexter that furthered the intensity.

"Dexter actually brought a pretty big student section. And there were a lot of people there. It was really an exciting, tense environment. It ended up being a really good game," said Krasovsky. Krasovsky commented on what the two tying scores meant to the team and the rest of the season. "[Our performances] show to us late in the season that we can hang with even the best teams in prep school hockey. Earlier in the season, we beat [KUA] and Salisbury, who are also top teams in the league. But that was a while ago, so competing with those levels of teams again gave us some more confidence," said Krasovsky. Although Andover defeated KUA in the Flood Marr Tournament in December 2025, the team lost 11-3 against KUA on Wednesday. This highlighted some of the team's weaknesses, which Russell Louie '27 described. "Preparation was a weakness for us. We weren't prepared, and

after the first period, [the score] was 6-1. And it was obvious [that] we weren't prepared, and we really weren't ready to compete on the same level [KUA was performing]," said Louie. Boys Hockey only has six regular season games left in its season. Louie looked ahead to how the team is working to build momentum and improve as it heads into playoffs. "As the season comes to a close and we're fighting for our spot [in the Martin/Earl Large School Tournament], we're still pushing to improve our ranking. We definitely just want to see everyone competing at their fullest and highest potential and [with] the ability that we know we can perform. So a lot of [improving] is teamwork and really just overall tenaciousness and grit to really show our core values of the team," said Louie. Boys Hockey will face Cushing at home this Friday.

Girls Hockey Secures Twelfth Straight Win at Cancer Awareness Game, Remains Undefeated in 2026

DAVID SIAHAAN

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Girls Hockey (16–1–1) continued its undefeated streak in 2026 with a victory over New Hampton on Saturday. This win marks the team's twelfth straight victory after a loss to Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) in the final of the Patsy K. Odden Tournament in December 2025. This game also holds special significance to the team, as it was its annual Cancer Awareness Game. In the week building up to the game, the team led a raffle to raise money for cancer awareness and research. Jackie Louie '29 noted that the team held initiatives both pre-game

and during the game, such as donning purple warm-up jerseys. "The week leading up to [our matchup against New Hampton], all of our parents donated items such as hoodies and gift cards... We would take turns running the table in front of Paresky Commons. At the table, you could buy raffle tickets to win whichever basket you wanted. We played music, and many students and faculty bought raffle tickets," said Louie. Louie continued, "All proceeds go to cancer awareness charities. We raised a lot of money, around 7,400 dollars, for charity. Our game was on Friday, so our psyche was to wear all purple for cancer awareness. We wore special jerseys during warm-ups for the game... During the intermission, we drew names to see who won the raffles." The team started off by conceding the first goal, promptly

managing to recover quickly and score twice before the end of the first period. It ultimately scored five goals by the end of the game. Lily Loughlean '27 noted that the team has been working on starting games with intent. "We felt good. ...We sometimes come out flat in the first period, [similar to] what happened in this game, so we have been working on better first periods, starting with focus and energy, but we responded well and scored five goals in the end," said Loughlean. Louie echoed Loughlean's remarks, also noting that the team's two goals in the first period were turning points in the game. She also added that the team has been working on its play in the neutral zone. "The goal we scored right after [New Hampton] scored... was a statement goal. We scored another to make it 2-1 going into the second period. Overall, we

did really well as a team. We have been working a lot on angling in the neutral zone. We implemented what we practiced into the game, and we really showed it," said Louie. As Girls Hockey faces tough challenges ahead, notably against Williston Northampton (Williston) and Loomis, Louie noted its focus on maintaining its consistency and tenacity. "We have held strong through this point in the season, and we have said it is the final stretch. We have difficult matches against Williston and [Noble and Greenough (Nobles)], so working hard at practice, competing, and savagery and being tenacious [will be important]. We are also putting work in outside of practice [and] checking up on each other as well. Mental health is as important as physical health, and with illness spreading, we need to make sure we are as mentally prepared as we are physically,"

said Louie. The team's ultimate goal is to secure the NEPSAC Championship title. However, as Loughlean mentioned, the team must face three of its toughest challenges this week. "As a team, we want to win the NEPSAC [Championship]. We lost to Loomis in the final last year, and we lost to them earlier in the season. We play the top three teams this week, so we are holding each other accountable and working to be a better team overall. Going into the postseason, we have the mentality to do whatever we can to help those around us and to do the little things right," said Loughlean. Girls Hockey will play Milton, Williston, and Nobles on Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday, respectively.

Alumni Athlete Feature: Molly Boyle '25

EVA JACKSON

As a two-year Co-Captain of Girls Hockey, one-year Co-Captain of Field Hockey, and a member of Girls Lacrosse, Molly Boyle '25 left Andover with a standout athletic legacy. She now competes for Yale University (Yale)'s Division I Women's Hockey team, where she was named the East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) Women's Rookie of the Month this past November. In addition to her collegiate success, Boyle also represented Team USA at the 2024 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Un-

der-18 Women's World Championship, earning a gold medal. As a former three-sport varsity athlete at Andover, Boyle experienced a different athletic structure than she does now at Yale. She reflected on the differences in her routines, and how Andover prepared her for the demands of Division I hockey. "At the collegiate level, the competition is definitely more intense, but at the end of the day, it is the same sport, and everyone still has the same desire to win. One of the biggest differences is just the time spent with each sport. At Andover, I would focus on whichever sport was in season, while

in college, I am able to put all my focus and energy into one sport year-round, which allows me to hone in on certain skills and areas to develop. Sports at Andover definitely prepared me well for college athletics as I was able to use the direction from my amazing coaches and support from my teammates to become the athlete that I am today," wrote Boyle in an email to *The Phillipian*. Martha Fenton '83, Head Coach of Girls Hockey, reflected on Boyle's competitive drive and how the skills she developed at Andover have translated to high performance at the collegiate level. "Molly loves to compete, re-

gardless of the sport, and she has a natural athleticism and work ethic that set her apart. As a two-sport [Co-C]aptain here at Andover, she developed strong leadership skills, and the work she did in the classroom here certainly prepared her to be a student-athlete at Yale," wrote Fenton in an email to *The Phillipian*. Reflecting on her time at Yale so far, Boyle said her teammates have been the most meaningful part of the experience. She currently shares the ice with two Andover Girls Hockey alumnae, Deanna Buenzow '23 and Julia Simon '23. "I have really enjoyed every

aspect of my college athletics experience so far, but I would definitely say that being with my teammates every day is what I enjoy the most. Being surrounded by great people makes playing my sport even better because I know that they will always be there for me, no matter what, whether that is a laugh or a push of encouragement, they are all really great people on and off the ice," said Boyle.



The Phillipian, VOL. CXLIX

Andover Dance Festival Delivers Explosive Performances Amidst Snowy Weather

JIA-YI ZHI & MARI UCHINO-GARCIA

With full turnout in the Pan Athletic Center (Pan) on both Friday and Saturday evening, the Andover Dance Festival (ADF), brought electrifying energy to the stage. Supported by a dedicated team of student producers, the dance styles ranged from ballet to hip-hop to flow arts, giving Andover dancers the opportunity for diverse expression.

Speaking towards the diversity of dance styles on campus, many unique collaborations debuted during ADF. One included a partnership between Photon, Andover's flow arts group, and JVNE, the dance division of Andover's K-pop group. Gavin Shyroch '28, a performer in Photon, explained the process in more detail.

"It's been a project that's been going on for about the past two months now. I'm definitely excited for an audience to see Photon collaborating with an actual dance group

because we've never done this before. To be able to mesh with traditional dance and do something which is capable of [a] more dynamic, expressive effect, one you can achieve with real faces and people's body parts you can see tangibly moving around, is uniquely meaningful. It's different from Photon [where] you don't have to be worried about how your face looks or if everyone is wearing the right costume or if you're entirely in sync because [of the] dazzling lights," said Shyroch.

Another act pioneered by Breanna Ren '29 with Jia-yi Zhi '29, Sophia Zhang '29, and Sophia Zhan '28 featured a self-choreographed ballet quartet based on the famous Dance of the Little Cygnets in Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake.

"[It's] a Swan Lake parody of the Four Little Swans, but a funnier version that [contains] a lot of intentional mess-ups. To make a parody out of [Swan Lake] is how we decided to get more attention to ballet. At this school, people are very condi-



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

The tap dancing group "Footnotes" performs at the Andover Dance Festival.

tioned to watching jazz and fusion, pop with familiar music. Adding that little bit of humor makes it more relatable," said Ren.

Student producer Yumi Lai '27, who had blended the roles of performing and managing, emphasized her work as a producer as well as the hard work of everyone involved.

"[It was] a really great role because it teaches you how to be organized and also being able to manage all the stuff the dance clubs need. I just hope [the audience takes] away how much work everyone put into this. It's definitely not easy to do one performance full out and then only have two acts to change, but a lot of dancers had to do that. The reason why we do this is not just to entertain everyone, but also to show them how much we love dancing together," said Lai.

Fellow producer and dancer Morgan Hsu '26 commented on the pride she had for dancers, producers, and teachers alike in their combined dedication to ADF.

"Despite the sound malfunctions during rehearsal on Wednesday, Thursday, and the Saturday show, which I know were frustrating for the performers because they created a very bassy sound in the music, I am proud of how resilient the dancers have been and the energy we've created. I'm very proud of everything we've accomplished for ADF," said Hsu.

Nishi Amin '28 compared the energy of ADF to Grasshopper (G-Hop), the annual Family Weekend talent show.

"I loved watching every single act, and it was a little different than G-Hop, and I liked

how people came in and said [something] at the beginning of each act. I liked how they introduced each section of acts. I really liked Hypno[tiq], just the song that they chose and the way they were all so synchronized and together really stood out to me," said Amin.

Jourdyn Taylor '29, echoed similar sentiments on the night, shouting out Fusion as one of her favorite performances.

"Honestly, Fusion was an amazing starter for ADF. It was so hypnotizing [and] it really caught you. The audience was very supportive of all the dancers. I really liked that we were very loud. I would definitely come next year, it was so amazing being here. I hope they continue doing it for many, many years," said Taylor.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Adelyne Liu '28 performs as part of Asian Performing Arts Club.

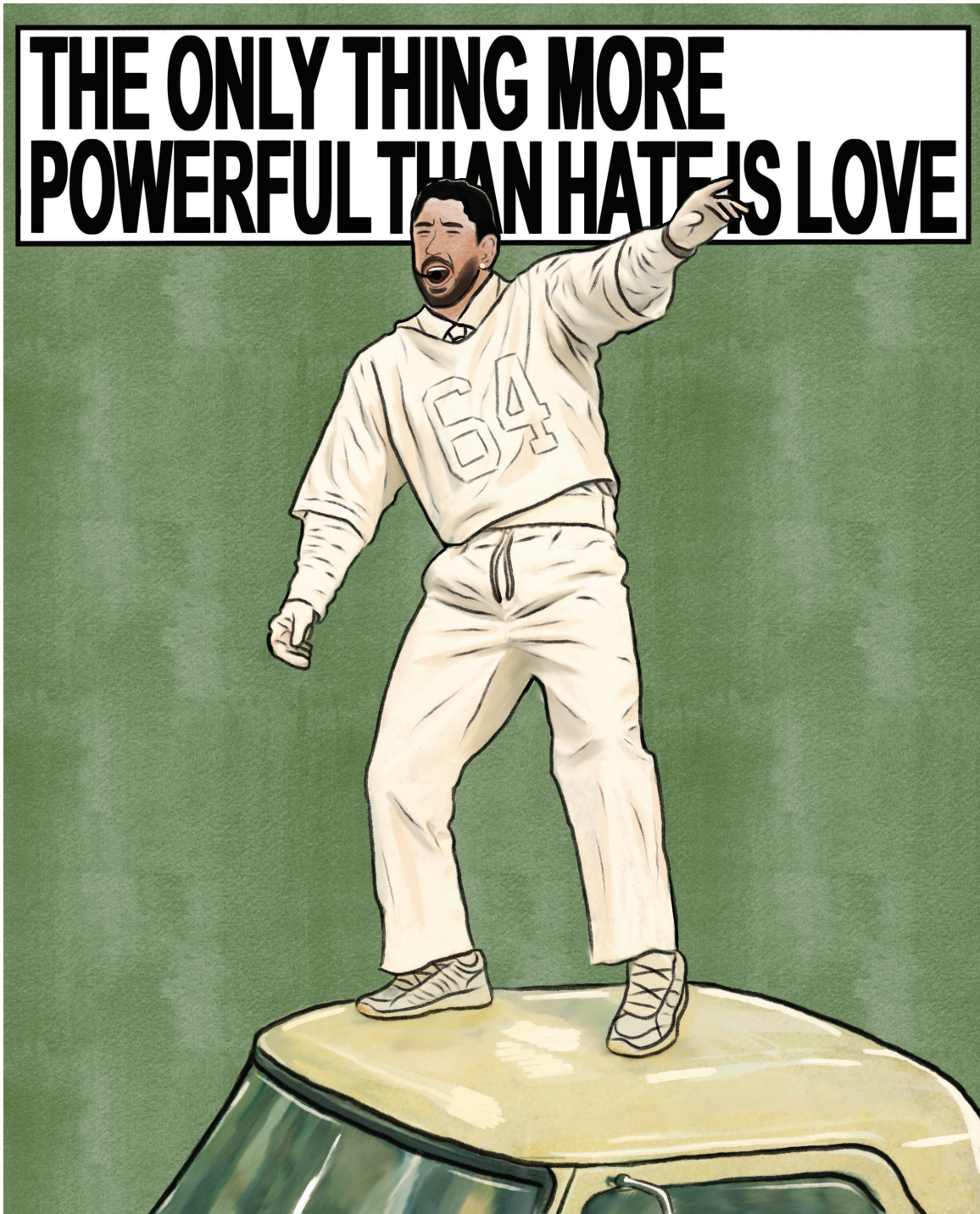
From Tití to Touchdowns: Bad Bunny's Iconic Halftime Performance

CHARLIZE SOW & DANIEL LIU

Dorm watch parties across campus erupted with excitement as students watched the Super-bowl halftime camera pan across lush sugarcane fields to reveal Bad Bunny. It was a moment that had been anticipated for weeks. As the first artist to win Album of the Year at the Grammys for a Spanish language album and a cultural icon for the Latinx diaspora in America, this was more than a performance. It was a cultural moment, and Bad Bunny had understood the assignment.

The performance opened with Bad Bunny singing "Tití Me Preguntó" amidst vegetation. Surrounded by people cutting down stalks of sugarcane, dancers moved through the fields in vibrant clothing that contrasted sharply against the green. The stage itself was lined with tropical plants and wooden structures reminiscent of the Puerto Rican countryside. But the plantation-like fields seemed to carry a heavier meaning beneath the celebration. For anyone who's studied the history of colonization in the Caribbean (something especially relevant for those of us in History 200), the imagery seemed impossible to ignore. The sugarcane fields weren't merely aesthetic choices, but deliberate references to Puerto Rico's colonial past, to centuries of forced labor and exploitation that still shape the island today.

After Kendrick Lamar's performance last year set the bar high, there was uncertainty about whether Bad Bunny could deliver something with the same cultural weight. He did more than deliver. As dancers moved across the stage in vibrant traditional dress and Bad Bunny moved between songs, the show felt remarkably cohesive. The choreography matched each track's energy, shifting as the music sped up or slowed down. Musically, Bad Bunny exhibited considerable



range when showcasing his vocal depth. Between the dancers, music, and staging, what emerged was a performance built on meticulous attention to detail. With

stunning visuals paired expertly with layered music, everything flowed together seamlessly.

In addition to the brilliant visual effects and music, one of

HARRY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

the most striking moments of the show was an actual wedding woven into the performance. The couple jokingly invited Bad Bunny to their wedding, and

he ultimately invited them to be married during his halftime performance instead. Rather than a single reveal, the couple's appearance unfolded gradually throughout the show, beginning with a subtle proposal near the beginning and progressing to a full ceremony framed by dancers, set pieces, and a real officiant.

Bad Bunny wasn't the only famous artist lighting up the halftime stage. Lady Gaga joined Bad Bunny for a salsa rendition of her acclaimed song "Die With a Smile." Moreover, Gaga sang in Spanish and danced alongside Bad Bunny during "BAILE INOLVIDABLE," connecting their distinct styles seamlessly in front of a national audience.

While the official halftime show was praised for its vibrant energy and cultural range, it also prompted a very different response elsewhere. Turning Point USA organized an alternative halftime show dubbed the "All-American Halftime Show," which was explicitly created in response to Bad Bunny's performance. Far from matching the diversity or viewership that the NFL show had, the alternate broadcast, with headliner Kid Rock, seemed more focused on political division and hate, rather than entertainment and community.

Lastly, Bad Bunny closed off with "Dákiti," one of his most highly regarded songs. As the track, a song written about memories of Puerto Rico, played, the screen behind him read: "The Only Thing More Powerful Than Hate is Love." This performance was so much more than just entertainment. It was a statement. It was a love letter to his home, his culture, and everyone who's ever felt caught between two cultures, two worlds. The way he commanded that stage and the emotion in his voice created a memorable performance that reminded us why Bad Bunny isn't just a musician, but a voice for millions who see themselves in his story.

Inside Black People Got Talent: Notes on Celebration, Community, and Collective Joy

CHARLIZE SOW &
HAYLEY FAN

As Susie’s lights dimmed this past Friday, the cheers of the audience crescendoed into a roar out of anticipation. From the soaring, virtuosic notes of the cello to electrifying choreography, Black People Got Talent transformed Susie’s into a celebration of authenticity, achievement, and creativity. Hosted by Phillips Academy Black Student Union (PABSU), each act brought out a new sound, a new story, together forming a powerful showcase of community, pride, and unapologetic talent.

For Bailey Jean-Pierre ’26, Black People Got Talent offered a rare opportunity to share a side of himself most peers had never seen. Rapping, which began as a seventh-grade hobby, has evolved into a vital outlet for decompressing and exploring his identity through lyrics he had been writing for years without limitation.

“[Black People Got Talent was] a way to express myself [in a way] that not a lot of people get to see on a day-to-day basis... A lot of people know that I rap, but some were really surprised because they hadn’t heard about it before. Some people just see me as a quiet guy in class or someone who plays lacrosse or basketball. Now they see that I’m versatile and that I do a lot of different things in my spare time,” said Jean-Pierre.

Adanna Obi ’29 brought a classical style of music to the stage. Performing the Elgar Cello Concerto blindfolded, she hoped to address what she saw as a lack of classical music representation among students of color.

“It’s really important that people know students of color are able to play classical music. It’s not as commonly seen. There’s not as much representation in



COURTESY OF DAISY LOPEZ

Bailey Jean-Pierre ’26 rapping during Black People Got Talent.

the music department as I want there to be. So it[’s] important [to me] that, especially in classical music, I show a little bit of what I can do. [I hope] that it can spark an idea for other people to want to go and play cello, or try a different instrument, like violin or viola, to inspire them to see they can enjoy something as much as I do,” said Obi.

The performances, from original rap to blindfolded classical cello, illustrated a broader point about the range of Black artistry. Kwadjo Adjepong ’27, who performed in three separate performances throughout the evening, saw diversity as central to the show’s purpose.

“Not only is [Black People Got Talent] an outlet to show the talents that I have, but it’s also a display of how proud I am to be Black. It’s about pride in my race and being able to show that to the

whole campus. I wanted people to walk away with an appreciation for Black music and Black culture. I wanted it to be a reminder that Black talent has influenced American culture in so many ways that people may not always realize,” said Adjepong.

Other performers brought their own interpretations of Black culture to the stage. Shelby Aime ’28 along with her teammates and coach Karen Douyon performed a Cheetah Girls dance routine, drawing from the iconic 2000s group.

“We were inspired by [the Cheetah Girls]’ fierce personas, and each person we picked kind of represented our own personalities. That dance was definitely made for us because we’re all pretty fierce and outgoing people, and we have a lot of personality. The Cheetah Girls are [exactly] that kind of group. [They were]



COURTESY OF DAISY LOPEZ

Adanna Obi ’29 playing the cello with a blindfold on.

the it girls of the 2000s, [and] doing that performance represented us,” said Aime.

Murewa Biyi-Olaoye ’27, one of Aime’s teammates in the Cheetah Girls performance, emphasized the importance of seeing Black talent centered on stage. It was something she had rarely experienced growing up.

“Growing up, most of the performances I saw on TV or in the things I was reading were mostly white people, not even people of color. I knew people of color were talented, but I wasn’t really seeing that in the shows I was watching, the books I was reading, or the people I was around. With Andover being such a diverse community and having the opportunity to host events like this, it’s amazing to see people like me coming together and doing all these amazing things,” said Biyi-Olaoye.

That sense of community res-

onated especially with newer students. Eden Dunleavy ’29 sang alongside her twin brother Cass Dunleavy ’29, and she found in Black People Got Talent a type of affinity space she never had access to before.

“Before coming to Andover, there weren’t a lot of Black affinity groups and places of color at my old school. So being one of the performers in a large group of Black people was impactful and cool. It was a space of belonging and you felt like you could just be there and you could be yourself and nobody was going to judge you for it. The environment there was just infectious, and everybody was cheering each other on,” said Eden Dunleavy.

The Andover Edition organizes Fourth Annual “BASSMENT” Dance



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Aria Carrizosa ’28 dances under the lights.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Jeremiah Nuñez ’29 (left) and Helena Lai ’29 (right) take a photo.

POTW: Hype Songs for Super Bowl Sunday

ISABELA DOUST & WES-
LEY PHAM

VERONICA LEWIS ’27:
“VIVA LAGLORIA” - GREEN
DAY

“My mom’s a huge fan of Green Day, so I’ve been listening to them for my whole life. It’s my favorite song by them. [It’s] fun, upbeat, hype. I listen to it when I work out and when I run. It gets you pumped up [and] excited to watch football.”

ANOUSHKA PANDEY ’28:
“LOSE YOURSELF” - EMI-
NEM

“‘Lose Yourself’ by Eminem is a really hype song. It’s a classic. It’s the kind of song you’ll play for a game, match, anything. It fits the Super Bowl game pretty well. [It’s] the kind of energy that many people will be bringing to the game. That idea of taking everything you have to the game, losing yourself in the middle of it all. I’ve liked [the song] for a few years, probably three years, maybe even four years. In three words it’s motivational, pretty descriptive, and it tells a story.”



SOPHIA ZHANG / THE PHILLIPIAN

As students prepared for the Super Bowl on Sunday, they geared up with hype songs and playlists. Listening to songs energetic enough to liven a stadium, Andover students shared some songs they listened to to get in the mood for the big game.

PATRICK MENDOZA ’29:
“LA VIE C’EST DIABOL-
IQUE” - KOMPREX

“I feel like it represents how I’m feeling right now and overall it represents my general philosophy. It gives me a really energetic vibe. It’s also fast. I listen to this song whenever I can, whether I’m in my dorm rushing homework or on the run to my math class. The song really hypes me up. [It’s] fast, energetic, and experimental.”

DENZEL DICKINSON
’26:
“INTENCANE” - QUE DJ
FEAT. ZVRI

“There is this song called ‘Intencane’. It’s this amapiano song[, which is a] genre in South Africa. They have fast-paced beats with really high BPMs. It’d be really nice to play that when there’s a sport playing. The song in particular is very, very hype. It makes you feel as if you’re within the game, and it’s scary, but you’re really excited to see how things go. The repetition of beats makes it feel very entrancing and helps you. Sometimes I listen to that song when working. It gives me motivation.”

A Twist on Monochrome: Bassment ‘Blackout’ Looks

OLIVIA TEMPLE & SOOHAN CHO

DARYN BURNETTE ’26

“I’m wearing earrings that are like eyes, so they have moons underneath, a bandana as my top, and it’s black with orange and yellow designs, and I’m wearing a simple, long skirt with gold jewelry... The theme was all black, so I decided to go through my wardrobe and find all black... I feel like [the theme] means building an outfit around simplicity in a single outfit, like a single color... I knew I wanted to do black and gold as the main color scheme. I decided to match the fabric with my skirt as well as the bandana. [I like] the little bit of color on the bandana on the bottom. I really love how the orange just stands out with the gold.”

JASON CAI ’28

“I have these two inch platform boots with silver chains on them, faux fur leg warmers, fishnets on the bottom and fishnets on the top, and a lace mini skirt, a choker with silver rings on it, as well as three necklaces, large earrings, lace gloves, and a black bra underneath. If I were to pick one [favorite piece], I would say that it was this fishnet top, because... my friend Ava, who’s an Upper, actually gave this one to me... I’ve always tried to figure out what to pair this with, and I felt this would be the perfect opportunity... All black to me means this dark, mysterious tone. It means to build the outfit around the themes and the connotations of the color black as well as the color itself.”

This past Saturday’s Bassment Dance saw outfits ranging from silk skirts to lace tops, metal chains, and gold hoops. The Phillipian interviewed students on their interpretations of the dance’s ‘Blackout’ theme.





CLARA CHO ’29

“The theme was all black, so I decided to go with a body-suit that I borrowed from one of my friends because I didn’t have a black top. We got the jeans and then a nice little belt that I thrifted. Jeans are from Pacsun, the top is from Amazon, the belt is thrifted, and then there are the UGGs and jewelry. Black is a really interesting color to have as a monochrome style because you get to do so many things with it while also maintaining the theme because it’s very variable. I didn’t want to be too formal, but also comfy because it’s a dance suit. [I’m mostly excited about] my jewelry. [The bracelets] are from Tory Burch, Bubble Bar, Anthropologie, and Kendra Scott. It’s a calm fit. I don’t normally wear all black, but it’s chill.”

SAMIHA TASNIM ’29

“This outfit is kind of interesting actually, because it’s all from Installer. The shoes are from Macy’s. They’re just regular ballerina flats. Then tights, I actually have no idea [where they’re from], because my mom bought them. The skirt is from a Halloween costume of Yumiko, from an anime. The top is from Amazon because I needed it for a jazz band concert, [and] I feel like I don’t get the chance to wear it outside of concerts, so I’m happy I got to wear it. Since the attire was all black, I felt like [this skirt] looks good with a shirt that shapes it. That’s why I tied the button down in the back. I wanted to give a classy black... sleek vibe, but also interesting while giving some variation of the black.”

Red Envelopes and Red-Hot Performances at Lunar New Year Talent Show

DANIEL LIU & AUTUMN XIA

Last Friday night, students gathered in Kemper Auditorium (Kemper) to celebrate the Lunar New Year through the Lunar New Year Talent Show. Organized by the Chinese Language Club, the event featured solo singers, group vocal numbers, instrumental ensembles, comedy, and more. Some performances drew directly from classic Lunar New Year traditions, while others drew on more modern Chinese media.

Chinese-320 students performed an instrumental arrangement of Bai Xin Nian (“Wishing You a Happy New Year”), a song closely associated with Lunar New Year celebrations since 2011. Performer Matthew Wei ’28 reflected on the class’s innovative and collaborative preparation.

“Denys [Tereshchenko ’26] found an online version of one part [of the song], and then he was able to transpose that into every instrument, which is a pretty big job because they go through different keys and rearrange the dynamics and repeats. Denys really helped organize the transposition of the parts [too]...We had two in-class rehearsals at Falls [Music Center]. We all pulled out our instruments and sight-read the pieces. It was very fun to see the diverse

range of instruments, from string instruments to the saxophone, to percussion, to piano,” said Wei.

Other acts leaned into contemporary Chinese pop culture. A group from Chinese-420 performed Tiao Lou Ji (“Jumping Machine”), a song by Chinese Mandopop singer LBI that went viral on Chinese TikTok in 2025. Allison Lee ’28 noted that the performance prompted their to recognize their language-learning progress and elaborated on the group’s rehearsal process.

“I could not have sung this when I started out in Chinese last year. So it definitely is a way that I’ve been able to notice my progression, that I’m even able to keep up with the lyrics. I have also noticed some of the grammar and stuff that I’ve learned in class in the lyrics,” said Lee.

Lee continued, “[The group] basically just learned the lyrics independently or in pairs, since we sung parts of the song in pairs... It’s pretty low stakes, so you’re not putting on a polished performance or anything, but the energy is always really good in the room.”

Merson Tang ’29, a performer and Co-MC, presented a Tuo Kou Xiu stand-up comedy routine, a format often featured in traditional Lunar New Year performances. Having practiced Chinese comedy for three years and prepared for the event since the start of the Winter Term, Tang described the experience as both stressful and rewarding.

“I feel like it can be really stressful because everyone’s eyes are watching you. There’s stage anxiety [from] just being under the stagelight. But I feel like with enough preparation, that kind of stress fades... For the comedy draft, I actually worked with one of my friends from music theory class who actually came over here from Shanghai, and we worked together by coming up with the script,” said Tang.

Tang also reflected on his experience as an MC and noticed areas for improvement for future events.

“I hosted with someone else, and I feel like we coordinated together really well. We each had our own events, so we had to resolve some conflicts involved in that... [Also,] the mics weren’t really working. So we had to use more of our voices,” said Tang.

Tang continued, “One thing that I may have hoped for was perhaps a little bit more information. The program updated halfway through the show and we didn’t know about it. So, we accidentally made false calls to the audience.”

Audience member Isabel Takeuchi ’29 reflected on the event’s inclusivity.



COURTESY OF SAMIHA TASNIM

Charles Yu ’28 performs tricks with a diabolo.

“Personally, I don’t celebrate Lunar Year, so it was interesting... I think the event was decently diverse as a lot of people, including non-Chinese audience members, came to support their friends that were performing or just to learn more. I was also trying to learn more,” said Takeuchi.

Tang acknowledged the presence of language barriers during the show, but noted that many performances transcended them through music and movement.

“Although there were some language barriers, especially with some non-Chinese speakers during the event, I feel like getting to know the vibe and the rhythm of Chinese culture is also like a really valuable experience. Especially since a lot of the acts were songs and dances. I feel like those really reflect Chinese culture in a way that doesn’t need to be expressed with language,” said Tang.

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GOLDWELL CERTIFIED

20 POST OFFICE AVENUE

ANDOVER MA 01810

TO: BIG A

Marry me ❤️❤️❤️

FROM: BEE SWARM
SIMULATOR

TO: BARRETT KIM

barrettt i miss ur
cuddles...

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ZACHARY KWING
FAI YUAN

meet me in gelb back
stairwell 8:00 PM
saturday

FROM: GRACIAS
SUPERCCELL

TO: VERMUT

i feel like we're more
than just roommates..

FROM: JOLLON

TO: EGGSTRADA

we can multicultural
together

FROM: MULTICULTURAL
BAE

TO: ENZO YIN

ur funny, lowk cute
wanna know u better
but don't have the guts
to tell you :) yay

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: PAPA PORTO

hi

FROM: BIG A

TO: AGLAIA

I love you ❤️

FROM: TRIPLE T

TO: CYRUS LAW

hiiii cyrus i've liked
you for a really long
time~ wi-wi-will you be
my valentines 🍌🍌🍌🍌

FROM: BILL KE

TO: MOMMY

arf arf

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ANDREW CAI

hi

FROM: BILL KE

TO: PATRICK XU

ily patrick <3

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ARIEL SHEPERDSON

Roses are red violets are
blue I like poo and you.
Take me to cloud nine
soon!

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ANDREW CAI

hi

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ANDREW CAI

bye

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: ADELYNE LIU

thanks for being your
sweet self, love ya
babes!

FROM: ELIZA

TO: ETHAN ZHU

I bet 20 more bucks you
can't do another pirou-
ette to save ur life

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: MIRA AVA MAYARI
EMILY BRONWYN GRACE

lowkirkenuinely we are
totally tubular

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: BAILEY XU

ur my class crush

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: DR. SMITH

Happy Valentine's Day to
my best bud.

FROM: DR. DENBY

TO: MATTEO DAMIAN

Hey papi, i need that piece
ik ykwim. Love you big
papi

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: MICHAEL KEYES

Dear Mike we miss you.
Come back and leave
Natalie hurlbut and Lexi
khalkanis down at

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: CARSEN LEACH

Roses are red violets are
blue happy Valentine's
Day love you!

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: JEANNE

Happy Valentines Day
ILY

FROM: NATHAN

TO: ANDREW CAI

i was gonna say some-
thing but i forgot

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: AGLAIA H.

there's levels to this..

FROM: SYS

TO: PAIGE Z.

the euler's method (?)
to my constrained
lagrangian (?)

FROM: SYS

TO: YUMI L.

yeobosaeyyo? S5, ep.4,
1:16:33.

FROM: SYS

TO: STEOSEO

upper left warriors 4L
🙌🙌🙌

FROM: PAGE

TO: KRISTEN

rabbit vs kristen who
would win

FROM: PAGE

TO: YUMS

herro @aamarajune

FROM: YUMS

TO: ETHAN LY

Dear Ethan Restificar
Ly, I wish to be with
thee, babyy

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: EDWARD ZHANG

Dear Sir Edward: You
are the freshman to my
super senior. I love you
my scrumptious juicy

FROM: YOLLENGO
FENG

TO: JENNA RP

Hi lol- Jacob P.

FROM: ANONYMOUS /
JACOB PLETKA

TO: CAMILLE

I have been meaning to
ask you this for some
time now...w-will u be
my valentine...?

FROM: AN UNTOUCHABLE

TO: UM CXLIX

luh you beta

FROM: ANGELA

TO: BRANDON XU

brandon please be quiet
during physics class and
also please stop playing
clash

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: MADDIE ENOS

Happy Valentines Day!!!!

FROM: ALEX HAVEMEYER

TO: TABITHA WEI

Thanks for being the
bestest friend ever. Never
stop being you.

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: CRISPIN BLACK

I love you crispy bacon

FROM: TIGER

TO: BILL KE

hi

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: SHENGDAO KE

hi :3

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: YOU KNOW WHO

can't wait for tennis
season 🎾

FROM: BEN S

TO: KE SHENGDAO

poop

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: BILL SHENGDAO KE

+1 (978) 873-0692
@twelvedollarbill
ske27@andover.edu

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: SHENGDAO

i love you

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: SHENGDAO KE AKA
SUBZERO DEMON SLAYER
FIRE LORD

yo u should play bee
swarm simulator

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: BILL

iwtswgbinggoh

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: LANDON MALONEY

I've been looking at you
for a while, you're
pretty cool~~~ Your
secret admirer

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: BILL KE

Come back baby I miss u

FROM: LEAGUE OF
LEGENDS

TO: MADDIE MARSHALL

Love is like an open
door, your just an angel
from the sky~~~ Your
secret admirer...

FROM: ANONYMOUS

TO: HAoyU

Spin me like your roblox
baddies

FROM: ANONYMOUS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <div>TO: PAGE ZOO</div> <div>minecraft?</div> <div>FROM: BAE</div> | <div>TO: ADRIAN PEREZ</div> <div>You are so cute we should go out <33</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: AGAGALAIA</div> <div>u da real spotify mixer💖🔥</div> <div>FROM: PAGE</div> | <div>TO: JAY WEI</div> <div>Jay, you make me feel some kinda wei</div> <div>FROM: HAOYU</div> |
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| <div>TO: ADEN HWANG</div> <div>i miss u</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: TIGER WANG</div> <div>Can I go to A House?</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: SLWBDS</div> <div>These symptoms were followed by sneezing and hoarseness... Discharges of bile of every kind</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: CYRUS LAW</div> <div>last time i get to send this...go clutch at ae</div> <div>FROM: PORTO</div> |
| <div>TO: CYRUS LAW</div> <div>omg cyrus ur so hot and cool can you teach me how to throw a forehand</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: ELISE ZHANG</div> <div>Hi pls stop disappearing we miss u</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: VINNY GIANCOLA</div> <div>wcts</div> <div>FROM: ANDREW</div> | <div>TO: BILL SHENGDAO</div> <div>wdthsf lll yfywew wcts ycbstfd bsd h mlnw bss gohdia ifutbprn</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> |
| <div>TO: NOAH BINKOWSKI</div> <div>Helsinki (the big leagues) is calling</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: BRANDON XU</div> <div>brandon please be quiet during physics class and also please stop playing clash</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: VINCENT GIANCOLA</div> <div>yfywew</div> <div>FROM: ANONYMOUS</div> | <div>TO: VINNY GIANCOLA</div> <div>wcts</div> <div>FROM: ANDREW</div> |
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