

## Novel Changes to Revamp Campus Safety Announced

KRISTEN MA & SAKETH LINGISETTY

In an email to the student body last Friday, Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, announced significant enhancements to campus safety that are underway. The changes include the continued installation of audio devices in classrooms, the implementation of exterior cameras on buildings, and the establishment of gates along pedestrian-heavy roads. These measures are intended to mitigate both recent safety concerns and cumulative ones that have arisen over the years.

Campus safety measures have been continuously added, altered, and retracted over the years to accommodate the needs of the Academy. Mark Leonard, Director of Campus Safety, elaborated on previously implemented security measures and explained the planning for additional regulations.

“The good thing that came out of [COVID-19] was we were able to make sure the buildings remained locked during the day. No one could just walk into an academic building and not have a badge... If we put the card access system to lock down, nobody’s card will work, so we can lock the

exterior of the buildings down immediately. A step further building on that was [putting] locks on every classroom... If you study active shooter incidents in schools across the country, an active shooter has never really breached a locked classroom,” said Leonard.

Leonard continued, “As new buildings come along, we’re enhancing the video camera coverage outside and inside those buildings from a safety and security standpoint. We’ve enhanced the number of cameras on the exterior and in certain interior spaces as well, balancing privacy and things like that. Some of the camera coverage in buildings might be a little lacking. Recognizing that, we’re currently in the process of adding more cameras to mostly exterior spaces, like along Chapel Ave, [or] other areas on campus where we feel camera coverage would be important.”

The institution of the cell phone policy this academic year has underscored the need to improve communication in emergency situations. Esty elaborated on the reasoning behind establishing landline phones in house

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KELVIN MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

## “History in the Headlines”: History Instructors Explore Current Events at Panel

ADELYNE LIU & NICCOLO LEE-SUK

Over a hundred students gathered in Kemper last Thursday for a current events Q&A panel hosted by the History and Social Science Department, according to Dr. Eric Denby, Instructor in History. The talk, titled “History in the Headlines: Immigration, Power, and Resistance,” featured instructors from across the history department who explored current events.

With history courses at Andover often focusing on the past, Dr. Denby highlighted the role of the talk in helping students understand current events. Denby also mentioned the importance of exploring diverse sources and the eagerness students and teachers have shown in engaging with this information.

“A teacher can’t always integrate what’s happening in the moment with what they planned on teaching. Since we only have roughly 26 class periods per term, it’s hard to stop and deal with the present immediately. But all of us want to, [and] all of us see the need. The history department feels that it’s somewhat of a duty to do the most we can in contextualizing the current events,” said Denby. “If we don’t make a conscious, intentional effort to get out of the [Andover] bubble, to read a variety of new sources laterally and to try to understand what’s go-

ing on outside, then students risk entering the world in college ignorant of some of the larger issues at play. What I like is that students are hungry for that [information] and that my colleagues and I are hungry to help provide information.”

Joshua Donovan, Instructor in History and one of the panelists, discussed how he touched on how U.S. immigration restrictions have changed over time. He highlighted the connections between its history and current enforcement, relating it to his own experiences and recent events.

“When my ancestors came, there were really virtually no immigration restrictions, at least not at a federal level. People basically just showed up. If they were residents for a few years and didn’t commit any crime, then they would automatically get citizenship. This started to change over the course of the 20th century. When we look at what’s happening today with ICE raids in Minnesota and elsewhere, there’s a long history to this. It’s a process that happened gradually over time,” said Donovan.

Sebastián Vermut ’27 attended the event with hopes of hearing informed perspectives from knowledgeable faculty. Vermut emphasized his personal concerns about

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## Students Participate in Anti-ICE Sit-In Demonstration



KELVIN MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Juniper Klock ’28 (left) and Evelyn Marshall ’28 (right) held a poster at the sit-in demonstration.

### STAFF REPORT

Over 100 students gathered on the steps of Samuel Phillips Hall (Sam Phil) last Friday during 7th period for a sit-in demonstration. Organized by Kristen Ma ’27 and Vivian Plouffe ’27, the demonstration was held in response to recent actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Attendees held up hand-drawn posters, listened to music, and gave speeches to express their beliefs on current events.

As the demonstration took place during a scheduled class

period, Dean of Studies Caroline Odden explained the guidance to faculty regarding attendance and graded work.

“The administration advised faculty to hold class, take attendance, and refrain from moving assessments scheduled for 7th period on Friday. Because this event was planned during 7th period rather than the unscheduled time, students who had 7th period and wanted to attend the protest had to consider some tradeoffs,” wrote Odden in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Plouffe said that she and Ma envisioned the demonstration not only as a response to ICE, but also as a way to consolidate student support and demonstrate the feasibility of coordinated action on campus.

“We wanted to draw together student support for the cause of ICE brutality over the past year. We wanted to gather a community of students that care very deeply about this issue. We also wanted to illustrate that it actually is very possible, to hold a protest and to organize students, because there are a lot of like-minded people in this community who just don’t have the opportunities together. And we were aware of Andover’s prominence within the NEPSAC schools, and we were hoping that it could have a spillover

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## Students Reflect on Kington’s Leadership as Head of School Search Begins

SOPHIA FANG & WINSTON WU

Following Head of School (HOS) Raynard Kington’s announcement that he will conclude his tenure in June 2027, students have begun reflecting on his tenure thus far and considering what qualities should define the next era of leadership at Andover.

As reported in the 2025 State of the Academy (SOTA), 55.57% of students expressed approval of work done by Kington. Reflecting on this, Henry Zimmerman ’27 noted that the HOS role can be difficult for students to evaluate, as much of it happens outside of direct student view.

“A lot of students don’t really know what the Head of School actually does because it’s not a very student-facing position at the moment. It’s more of a ceremonial member running the institution, which is very different from being in charge of the student body, and that’s

a unique position at Phillips Academy where institutional planning and alumni engagement are a big part of the role. As students, we don’t really have the knowledge to evaluate how the Head of School Office is doing on the alumni engagement and future planning aspects,” said Zimmerman.

Echoing views expressed by some since the beginning of Kington’s tenure, Zadie Robinson ’26 described what she sees as a lack of connection between the HOS and the broader community.

“As I’ve spoken to a lot of faculty and a lot of students, the biggest thing is that he does not connect with the student body or the faculty very well, and he, in the past, hasn’t fully tried to have that overall connection between them,” said Robinson.

Nonetheless, Robinson pointed to moments when Kington’s presence resonated with her.

She continued, “I remember during the MLK workshop, he was able to speak a lot about his experience as a gay doctor in STEM... he definitely has a

lot of experiences that when he shares, I definitely take note of and I learn more about him through. I would also say the few times that he has reached out to the student body and connected, it has been very notable.”

In an interview earlier this month with *The Phillipian*, Kington reflected on his own learning curve in building those connections.

“I had this idea that there was a particular way to be the Head of School. That you had to go to all the games, you had to go to all the plays, you had to be an energizer bunny... it took me a while to realize that that was not going to be the way that I connected with students,” said Kington.

While students have voiced critiques of Kington’s visibility, some have observed increased efforts in recent years. The 2024 SOTA reported that 17.8% of students felt the HOS connected with the student body; in the 2025 SOTA, that number rose to 33.2%, marking a 15.4% increase. Jasjit Hargun ’27 described some of the changes he perceived.

“In my freshman year, most people didn’t really see him, and he didn’t feel so connected with the community... He’s not as integrated as most of us would like, but he is working on it,” said Hargun.

Hargun continued, “My guess is [this] happened because of the SOTA. He’s been trying a lot harder to have his school munches and other events where he’s with students since last year.”

From that same interview with *The Phillipian*, Kington mentioned opportunities such as lunches and meetings

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### HEAD OF SCHOOL APPROVAL



KELVIN MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Editor’s Note: This graph uses data from the 2024 and 2025 State of the Academy surveys.

Commentary, A2

### Chat, Is This “Lowkirken-ainely” Wrong?

The use of slang words must come with awareness of their cultural and societal implications.

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### Renamed Buildings

Academy buildings are renamed to interesting new things in this week’s edition of the Eighth Page.

Sports, B1

### Leaving It All In the Pool

Boys Swimming and Diving placed second at the Eastern Championship.

Arts, B9

### Plot Twists to Paradise

Students share thoughts on the final ending to Season 5 of the South Korean reality dating show, *Singles Inferno*.

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The oldest preparatory newspaper in the United States. Founded 1857.

Vol. CXLIX  
Phillips Academy

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## Editorial

# The Best Present

When was the last time you laid your pen down in the Garver Room to examine the ornate details of the space's ceiling? Have you ever noticed the wood-carved eagle perched above the double doors leading from the Garver Room to the Dole Room?

Too often, Andover students overlook the beauty of the spaces we inhabit on campus. It is hard to blame us. Loaded with assignments, extracurricular activities, and (hopefully) social obligations, it is easy for Andover students to lose sight of what is around them. This wasn't always the case.

Andover's campus is made special by its history. Walking along the paths, we see the same Foxcroft Hall that was built in 1809, the same library constructed in 1929. The divots in the stairs were made by students walking in the 1930s. In the past, Andover students placed more value on these historical spaces. Indeed, upperclassmen used to hold the privilege of sitting upstairs precisely because Commons' second-floor ceilings are particularly ornate. Students would value the details of our campus even in the face of academic and extracurricular commitments, thinking about these details even when deciding something as simple as where they'd like to eat.

Now, we rarely hear offhanded praise of our unique campus architecture, and upperclassmen no longer sit where they believe is most significant. Over the years, perhaps we have taken for granted the impact that our campus

architecture has on us. If all of our buildings were suddenly to be made anew, it would surely change the way we feel on campus.

Admiring our imprinted steps, our ornate ceilings, and our English desks etched with words of wisdom are all small ways to appreciate our campus. Andover certainly will not stop challenging us anytime soon, but if we encourage ourselves to notice the history embedded in wood and stone, we may find a sense of steadiness and perspective even as we hurry to our next test.

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

# Dreams That Fade at Dawn

JUNWOO SHIN



J. NUÑEZ / THE PHILLIPIAN

You never seem to learn. Once again, it's late at night, and you are still awake, lying in your bed, scrolling through a perpetual cycle of distraction. Then, the clock strikes twelve. The air seems to shift, and the street lamp spilling through your window feels a little brighter than usual. Something clicks in your mind, a seed of thought plants itself in your consciousness. You throw off your covers and pull out a small journal. You draw a roadmap to

your success, buying into the delusion of belief. In that moment, you feel invincible.

But as always, morning comes, and you are woken by the light seeping through the blinds. As you pull yourself up against the weight of reality, the spark is gone. Last night is still there, but it feels distant, replaced with an overwhelming sense of guilt. Why is it so much harder for you to believe in yourself in the bright of day? You blame yourself for not being desperate enough, for allowing last night's ambitions to slip through your fingers. Slowly, surely, your dreams fade out just before the first light of day.

Midnight has a way of kindling inspiration inside of us. For a fleeting moment, we are able to glimpse a version of ourselves that we never thought was possible. But when the sun rises, our burning passion disappears. This phenomenon isn't just a coincidental event that we experience; it reveals a deeper layer to the nature

of motivation and questions whether intensity alone is enough to create lasting change. At night, stress hormones such as cortisol drop significantly, and the noise of the day fades into the background. All the pressure, anxiety, and distractions that filled our lives become insignificant, and we are free to unfold our wildest dreams. But when the dawn presents us with our harsh reality, we fall back into a rhythm of responsibilities and emotional exhaustion. In a research paper by Mohd Azmi et al. (2021), cortisol secretion was stated to follow a daily pattern, declining throughout the day, with its lowest levels occurring between 2:00 A.M. and 4:00 A.M. during the night. In another experiment conducted and published by Honk et al. (2014), individuals with lower base levels of cortisol were found to have a greater dependency on rewards and a lower sensitivity towards consequences. This finding indicates that cortisol levels have an inverse correlation with mo-

tivation: those with less cortisol are more willing to take risks and move to action. As such, it is only natural that we all experience these random bursts of determination and proactivity; it is encoded in our very biology.

When we experience these

**We shouldn't feel pressured to unfold our boldest dreams at the same time; it's enough to take one step at a time.**

rare moments of inspiration, it is tempting to treat them as a special turning point in our lives. In the quiet of the night, every ambition feels like it is only a few steps away, because our minds are free from the strain of inhibition. But what feels urgent and essential at 2:00 A.M. often lacks the structure, resources, and long-term drive needed to survive the light of day. Research con-

ducted by Vartanian et al. (2014) highlights the decline in performance found in the prefrontal cortex when deprived of sleep. The part of our brain that governs planning, self-control, and realistic assessment holds less dominance over our thoughts late into the night, which explains our heightened imaginations in this state. What feels like drive is merely a spike in dopamine from imagining our ideal selves. Confusing these fleeting emotions of motivation with realistic aspirations will only set us up for disappointment when the morning reveals how far we are from the version of ourselves we thought we could become.

These bursts of passion offer insight into our deepest values and priorities, and our ambitious plans reflect what we care about most. When our prefrontal cortex is suppressed, the creativity that emerges allows us to explore possibilities that daylight logic could never conceive. The real value in our midnight adventures lies in their role as navigational aids, guiding us towards what truly matters to us. We shouldn't feel pressured to unfold our boldest dreams at the same time; it's enough to take one step at a time. One small act, when carried out with intention, will shine brighter than any distant galaxy of impossible ambitions.

Ironically, by morning, the brilliance of the night fades. It should not be our goal to preserve every spark, but to choose the ones that burn the brightest. Some ideas will vanish entirely like a star swallowed by the dawn, but others will endure, waiting for effort to bring them to life. Real change doesn't happen all at once like a supernova; it is a constellation of several stars that begins with the quiet decision to try.

CARINA PAIK / THE PHILLIPIAN



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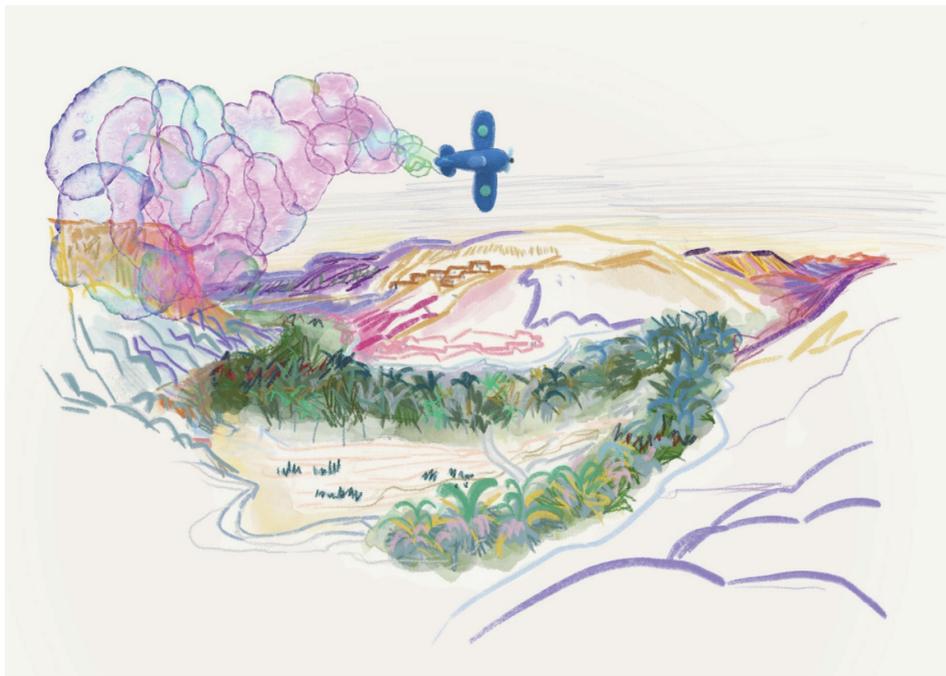
# The World Is Ending (And I'm Just Watching)

MEDHA KONDA



A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

I care about climate change. And not in a “save the turtles” way, but rather in a “eating less meat and avoiding buying new clothes” way. In my quest to become a more “true” climate advocate, I became a pescatarian, did extensive research on sustainable clothing, and tried to remain involved in student movements. Yet, even with these efforts, I still feel unequivocally hypocritical. By attending boarding school, flying to and from school for the holidays, or indulging in fish at times, I’m perpetuating carbon emissions. If I’m not being a model, sustainable citizen, how can I encourage others to contribute to the movement? Even if not about climate change, we as students often feel the pressure as a generation of “change-makers” to do something different. But this comes with the pressure and guilt when we take one backwards step: giving one more dollar to an unethical company or offering one less tip to an underpaid waitress. In the face of this anxiety onslaught, we often forget that preventing harm doesn’t equate to perfection. Though we have responsibility as privileged members of society, justice movements are not made by one person but by many organizations, conglomerates, and people who try to get



SOPHIA KIM / THE PHILLIPIAN

better together.

Current climate change messaging often perpetuates negative feelings called “climate anxiety”—we see a melting iceberg and a crying polar bear,

**In this guilt, we withdraw from advocacy and weaken the threads holding together our movement, which in turn allows blame to be shifted away from systems and to people.**

but what can we possibly do about that? The climate change movement isn’t alone in this; racial injustice, animal equal-

ity, and more movements send a message that makes youth feel incredibly guilty about what they are and aren’t doing to support these causes. A 2023 Study surveying youth in the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) Advocacy Institute found that youth who advocate often suffer from immense guilt, rage, and disappointment related to issues they care about. Though I strongly believe those who want to fight climate change should help however they can, I can’t help but feel some discontent towards the general public who don’t care to reduce their meat intake at all, or those who order DoorDash incessantly from places less than a mile away. However, more productive thinking is instead looking at how, in joining these movements, we as individuals have grown to consider how we consume and become more self-conscious. As I look

back at how I interacted with climate change just a year ago, I inevitably see how I have become more sustainable and aware, and using plastic utensils one time doesn’t erase that.

Overcoming such guilt is one part of the process, yet identifying the perpetrators of such feelings is another. For example, in the case of racial injustice, it is not the actions of 500 people that push the need, but systemic reformation that makes a difference. The government and media win by pushing guilt onto the people, repeating that individuals must change their lifestyles in order to be more ethical. Feeling shame about not minimizing your impact enough, or about mistakes we’ve made, leads to a disconnect from issues we’re trying to support. In this guilt, we withdraw from advocacy and weaken the threads holding together our movement, which in turn allows blame to be shift-

ed away from systems and to people. We advocate to remind us that people are voices, but not the only vehicles of change.

**In the face of this anxiety onslaught, we often forget that preventing harm doesn’t equate to perfection.**

Rather, we’re catalysts for powerful organizations to reform—the party that should be feeling the guilt.

We can’t expect to be ethical in every step of our lives: we can’t always choose plant-based food, the most ethical labor factories, or donate as much money as we want. Yet, guilt and shame are not what we should take away from those moments, but a hope to get better. As we involve ourselves in social justice, we’re always getting more informed, more aware, and more ethical; room to grow always exists. When systems that perpetrate injustice shift blame onto us, we as individuals shouldn’t accept it, but call out those parties, using them to fuel activism efforts.

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## “Lunar New Year” Isn’t Enough

ANDREW PARK



E. CHAI / THE PHILLIPIAN

This past Tuesday, billions of people celebrated the Lunar New Year, a celebration for many Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese people and diasporas. In America, this holiday is often called Lunar New Year as a general term to talk about the many cultures that share origin or characteristics. Similar to how “Happy Holidays” is used, “Lunar New Year” seems to be able to avoid some potentially unwanted tension between observers due to true origins or ownership. While this is a good use of a general term in this diverse country, if we truly want to be proud and respect the traditions of the past, using a romanized form of the holiday would be better. This romanized form would use the roman script to phonetically convert the original name of the holiday. By using this form, we can understand the tradition with more nuance of sophisticated Asian history and stop addressing Asian culture as a monolith. “Lunar New Year” would then result in the Chinese *Chunjié*, the Korean *Seollal*, and the Vietnamese *Tet*.

First of all, this “lunar” system used in this celebration is not just a lunar calendar, and shouldn’t be remembered as only lunar. The system, initially thought to be created by the Zhou dynasty of China, and through a process of refining and dispersion, was also used in Korea and Vietnam. This system was a lunisolar system, using as-



CAMILA CHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

pects from lunar dates and solar dates. The days of the months are based on the 29.5 days in the moon cycle, making 12 months of either 29 or 30 with a total of 354 days. However, this would be around 11 days less than the 365.25 scientific days of the solar year, leading to unmatched seasons and dates. Thus, the scientists at the time added a “leap month” every 2 or 3 years to match the seasons. The government relied on this condition as the dates were used for civil and spiritual observations, and farmers relied on the dates to see when they needed to schedule agriculture and business. Its name is “Nónglì”, literally “agricultural calendar” in Chinese. If the system didn’t have the leap month, it would then mess up where the harvest season would have been. The Islamic calendar functions similarly, which has religious observations like Eid and Ramadan on dates cycling in comparison to the Gregorian Calendar.

While that information might seem technical, these de-

tails of technological history are part of Asian American culture. If we say that this holiday is just lunar, it diminishes the important advancements and deep considerations of the systems that made the holiday. Acknowledging the technicalities allows us to appreciate some humanity of ancient societies,

**Acknowledging the technicalities allows us to appreciate some humanity of ancient societies.**

based on calendars, and thus should be taken seriously.

Secondly, the idea of using “Lunar New Year” as a catch-all term for celebrations of a common date seems to treat “Asian” culture as a monolith. While the origin came from Chinese dynasties, New Year celebra-

tions vary in aesthetics and underlying spirit. For example, the Chinese celebration, *Chunjié*, is characterized as a boisterous celebration, with red decorations, dancing dragons, and the popular red envelopes (*hóngbao*) with money. On the other hand, the Korean celebration, *Seollal*, is much more solemn, concerned with familial piety, with food offered to deceased ancestors and bowing (*sebae*) to older relatives. Finally, the Vietnamese celebration, *Tet*, has regional differences, including specific folklore of *Bánh chưng* (a traditional food made during this time), as well as more homage towards Vietnam’s Buddhist identity.

Grouping these three extremely different celebrations by labeling them “Lunar New Year” flattens culture and promotes ambiguity. Using this faulty term limits the possibility for further interest, as “New Year” is globally understood, and “Lunar” incorrectly pins it to a solely lunar system, keeping the idea in the comfortable

Western lens for those unfamiliar. Continuing to use the umbrella term would be like closing a door for further curiosity

**The idea of using “Lunar New Year” as a catch-all term for celebrations of a common date seems to treat “Asian” culture as a monolith.**

before anyone had the thought to ask, actively discouraging interest. The linguistic choice to group them leads to a “isn’t it all the same?” narrative by those uninitiated with the holiday. Conversely, if the original names are used, it may help push for necessary cultural differentiation between these cultures, revealing the interesting differences between this shared festival.

In conclusion, “Lunar New Year” doesn’t do cultural justice for the many holidays it encompasses. While it is acceptable to be used as a general term for the many Asian celebrations, we should use their original names. If that happens, the underlying cultures could be better understood through the knowledge of their origin from the lunisolar calendar, as well as keeping the many cultures of Asia differentiated to appreciate their growth in different terrains and subsequent histories. If the name of Mardi Gras is kept in French due to its unique origin from the large feasts in France, why can’t the celebrations of “Lunar New Year” become *Chunjié*, *Tet*, and *Seollal*?

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# Chat, Is this “Lowkirkenuinely” Wrong?

JEANNIE KANG



K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

“Chat, I am lowkirkenuinely in a flowstate.” “Twin, that’s high-key aura farming.”

High school hallways invent a new Urban Dictionary every week, with words that capture the latest trends, controversies, and memes. When my dormmates used the word “lowkirkenuinely” for the first time two weeks ago, I thought it was another SAT word to go on my vocabulary list: Mellifluous, Surreptitious, Anachronistic, and Lowkirkenuinely. Yet I later found out that it is the latest slang, a combination of “low-key,” “Charlie Kirk,” and “genuinely,” also known as “lowkenuinely.” None of my friends who used the phrase really knew what it meant, each advocating for a different “authentic” definition of the word. When I searched up the definition on Reddit, I found users commenting on how stupid the phrase is. A few days later, however, I found myself saying it in conversations, throwing the word in to fill the awkward silences and gaps, though I never fully comprehended its definition. This trend is not limited to “lowkirkenuinely,” however. Slang like this has been heavily integrated into the Gen-Z culture, yet many of them go too overboard, generating memeful words out of tragedies and di-



ANGELA GUO / THE PHILLIPIAN

luting the significance of issues. Now is the time to reconsider the necessity of our excessive, almost habitual use of slang.

Modern-day slang has turned language into a polarizing force rather than a unifying one. Slang from the 1980s, such as “LOL,” “wannabe,” “hella,”

**Modern-day slang has turned language into a polarizing force rather than a unifying one.**

and “psych,” has survived for decades due to their universally comprehensible nature. These phrases are all self-explanatory and easy to integrate into daily life. Regardless of age, social sta-

tus, or geographic location, people are likely to face situations when they “laugh out loud” or need a casual replacement for the word “very.” The wide applicability of older slang made it so appealing to all generations. The slang invented in the past few years, however, tends to be less intuitive. For instance, people find it difficult to guess the meaning of “lowkirkenuinely,” since the phrase requires a nuanced understanding of how Charlie Kirk’s death turned into a meme, as well as the definition of another slang term, “low-key.” This is precisely why an attempt at explaining “lowkirkenuinely,” to older generations begins with a question of “Why is Charlie Kirk a meme?” The use of such slang is further polarizing, since Charlie Kirk has now become a controversial figure, depend-

ing on one’s political affiliation. This is why older generations have grown less receptive to Gen-Z and Gen-Alpha slang, often attempting to characterize slang as inappropriate and unintelligent, especially in family settings.

Modern-day slang lacks clear and comprehensible purposes. Slang such as “lowkey”

**Lack of meaning prevents many people from understanding the slang, unless they are heavily invested in social media.**

has vague meanings that are difficult to explain. Some commonly brought-up synonyms of “lowkey” are “kind of” and “sort of,” but not a lot of people use the phrase appropriately with a full understanding of its true meaning. Similarly, “skibidi,” often seen as the symbol of Gen-Alpha slang, does not have a single meaning widely understood by people who use the word. This trend of incomprehensible definition can be attributed to the origin of many modern slang terms. Gen-Z and Gen-Alpha slangs often generate from memes that go viral on social media, such as the viral YouTube series “Skibidi Toilet,” resulting in the popularity of the word “skibidi.” This lack of meaning prevents many people from understanding the slang, unless they are heavily invested in social media or have constant exposure to short-form content targeted towards the younger generations. Likewise, the complexity of modern-day slang has resulted in its usage being more akin to fillers, reducing the entertainment and value that come from using these words accurately.

Finally, modern day slangs have normalized making light of serious issues such as mental health struggles or political violence. Slang phrases such as “kms,” an abbreviation for “kill myself,” have grown prevalent as a way of expressing stress, frustration, or sadness. Though convenient, slang words like “kms” reduce serious mental health struggles to lighthearted complaints. Portraying suicide as a commonplace occurrence rather than a serious mental health issue risks dismissing real pleas for help as jokes. Similarly, slang words such as “lowkirkenuinely” portray political violence and corruption as topics to joke about, rather than nuanced issues that warrant complex conversations. Likewise, modern slang downplays the severity of many critical issues for entertainment.

Slang, when well-used, acts as instruments for different generations to express their unique personas and values. They have the potential to bring people together across generations, opening up conversations on cultural practices and trends. To appreciate the true potential of slang, however, we must learn to carefully re-evaluate the necessity and the purpose of slang words. The continuation of this trend is not merely “lowkirkenuinely” wrong, but can be incredibly divisive and desensitizing.

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# Today’s “Useless” Science, Tomorrow’s Revolution

WOOJIN OH

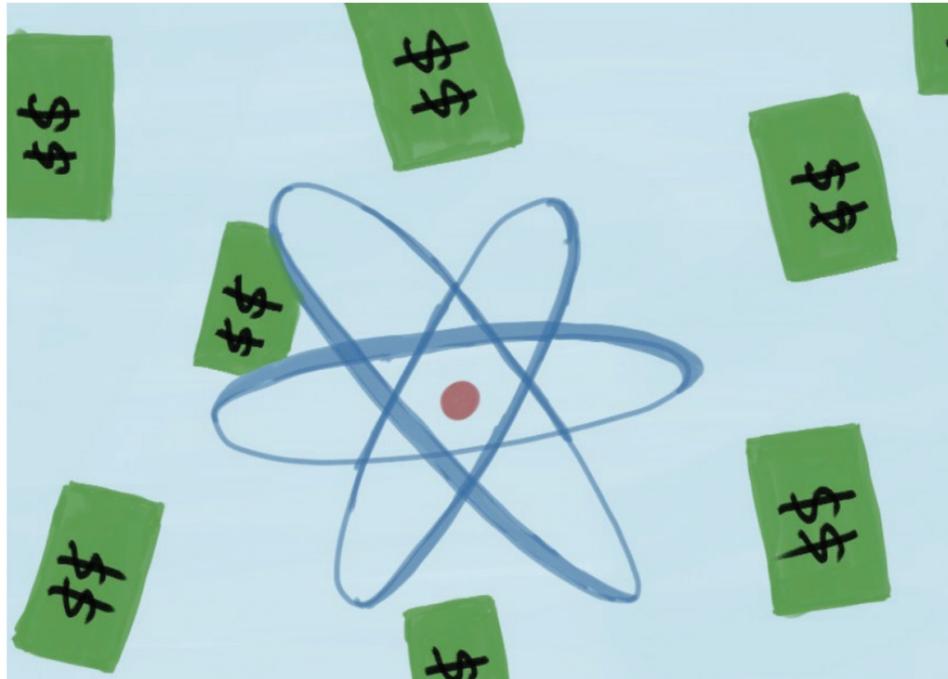


J. NUÑEZ / THE PHILLIPIAN

In early 2026, the future of the Future Circular Collider (FCC) became a subject of heavy debate among scientists, politicians, and critics. The FCC is a particle accelerator planned by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). It would have a circumference of almost 100 km, almost three times larger than the current largest particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), and cost \$20 billion. By splitting minuscule particles, the FCC would allow researchers to study topics like Higgs particles that the current LHC struggles to experiment with.

To critics, the FCC is nothing more than a twenty-billion-dollar luxury. They argue: Why should governments pour money into discovering particles no one can see? Why invest such great funds into abstract physics when there are dire social issues at hand? The FCC almost seems like an expensive, ambitious, and unnecessary toy for physicists.

This criticism sounds reasonable, but it’s also very short-sighted. Abstract science has proven time and time again to possess the possibility of supporting technological development, even if its usefulness might not be evident at the moment.



KAYTLYN XIAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Take Einstein’s Theory of Relativity, for example. Although the concept itself deals with the warping of spacetime in objects with great mass, an idea generally impractical to daily life, it started playing a crucial role in GPS accuracy 40 years after the theory’s release. GPS accuracy relies on calculating the position of the user by measuring the time it takes for signals from the satellites to reach the user. Because the high speeds and altitudes of the satellite influence the flow of time as explained by the Theory of Relativity, engineers must correct the clocks on satellites to account for these errors. Otherwise, according to GPS World, GPS would drift by about 10 kilometers per day. Today, GPS not only enables navigation but also influences agriculture, emergency services, finance, and countless other systems we take for granted. Without the Theory of Relativity to predict

the errors in calculations, much of modern technology and infrastructure would not be reliable.

A similar pattern was observed in the Human Genome Project. The Human Genome Project, an international research effort in biology, spent about three billion dollars se-

**These examples in history point to the fact that pure science is never a waste.**

quencing the human genome. The project initially received similar critiques to the FCC today, highlighting the high cost and no immediate application. Yet today, thanks to this research, the price of analyzing human DNA dropped from billions to less than \$1,000 per genome. This dramatic cost

reduction cascaded into personalized cancer treatments, early disease detection, and the rapid vaccine development that proved crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These examples in history point to the fact that pure science is never a waste. On top of the Theory of Relativity and the Human Genome Project, innovations like the World Wide Web and modern electronics were all unexpected byproducts of the science community and quantum mechanics, respectively. The FCC may follow the same trajectory. While exploring current mysteries like Higgs particles and the identity of dark matter, the FCC may eventually yield technologies like new superconductors, cancer therapy methods, and many more we cannot yet imagine.

Admittedly, the biggest concern for the FCC is the cost of the project. With a projected budget of \$20 billion, many crit-

icisms arise from the argument that those funds could be used for alleviating immediate issues such as climate change or

**Abstract science has proven time and time again to possess the possibility of supporting technological development, even if its usefulness might not be evident at the moment.**

poverty. This view is not invalid — \$20 billion is a large sum of funds that could make a difference in any field the money is invested in. However, human progress has never come from playing it safe or funding only what we immediately understand to be useful. Many celebrated discoveries inherently came from curiosity that fueled ambitious projects that seemed unreasonable until they became essential. The debate over the FCC is not just about subatomic particles or abstract physics; it is about whether we are the kind of civilization that knows to look beyond the horizon and invest in the future. Just as past generations invested in theories that seemed useless at the time, we now face the same choice. The \$20 billion for the FCC is not caprice or luxury; it is an investment in the future and a deliberate effort to uncover the laws of nature that may power the technologies, medicine, and infrastructure of the next generation.

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## New Measures Address Concerns with Open Campus

Continued from A1, Column 2

counselor apartments and dorm common rooms.

“We had this sense of security, which maybe is a little false sense of security, that as long as I have my phone I’m safe, when in fact, when we had the gas explosions years ago, the phone lines were so busy that we couldn’t make calls out. In a true crisis, sometimes the usual channels of communication don’t work too because of the chaos and all the people trying to use the network at once. So, it’s important to always be thinking about what are the things we could improve upon,” said Esty.

Recognizing Andover’s open campus, Ellah Kotlarsky ’27 felt that the ongoing measures provide an extra level of security necessary for handling emergencies. She stressed the importance of adapting safety measures from traditional schools in ways that work best for Andover.

“Since Andover’s campus is so large and sprawling, we forget that it’s a high school sometimes. Most high schools where I’m from are a lot more tight and secure than this. Unfortunately, there is always the danger of an emergency situation in this place, so I appreciate that they’re taking these measures,” said Kotlarsky. “There’s always the worry about safety. I completely understand why they would make an effort to have these measures, especially with everything that’s going on related to violence on school campuses. There’s always a risk.”

One of the primary changes to campus will be the installation of gates along campus roads which will restrict access for non-Academy members during certain times of the day. These locations include Chapel Avenue, Fieldhouse Road, Great Quad Road, and Old Campus Road. Leonard elaborated on the device students and faculty can register their vehicles with to gain entry to these gates.

“It’s a simple device in their vehicle that could open the gate. As the vehicle approaches, it would recognize that this vehicle is allowed to pass through, and the gate would raise automatically.

Say a faculty member is returning back to campus at 8 p.m., 9 p.m. at night. They would be able to have the gate open automatically by having that very inexpensive device that would be in their car, like the transponders that people have on their windshields. Not something that big, just something very small that would be able to communicate remotely or as a vehicle approaches to let it know this vehicle is allowed through here to make it as least

impactful and least invasive as possible,” said Leonard.

Maya Tomlinson ’28 considered this implementation an essential measure to improve campus security. Weighing its potential advantages and disadvantages, she discussed how the gates would benefit safety at the cost of convenience.

“At my old school, we had a gating system. It prevented people from getting in or out who were undesirable, but it didn’t really impact student life... I was a little shocked when I got here that there weren’t gates because that means anyone can drive in and be fine. That said, [they] would prevent rental cars like airport pickups, and parents visiting, especially if they don’t have a car permission sticker. And delivery drivers, how are they going to get in? How am I going to get my DoorDash? That doesn’t make sense. But generally, it’s a good idea,” said Tomlinson.

Guetty Moita ’26 conveyed a contrasting opinion of the gate installation, citing a concern that Andover may begin to appear more closed-off to external communities with this addition.

“I have conflicting notions about how Andover in some ways can become a bubble if you have certain things like completely locking the campus off to other people or having gates and otherwise. While there are significant benefits in regards to safety, if that were to be the case, there should be greater occurrences of community engagement such that Andover isn’t just its own bubble walled off from the greater community,” said Moita.

Moita continued, “It would be good if, alongside having gates that seclude campus, there were stronger forms of community engagement so the bond between the community and the school isn’t completely severed. Maintaining safety for students and faculty is very important, but it’s about seeing how to do that in a way that’s tasteful.”

Henry He ’26 reflected on some of the measures currently in place to enforce campus safety. In particular, he expressed the need for training procedures to equip students with the knowledge to handle certain types of emergencies.

“In terms of emergency drills, we have a fire drill early on, but at my old school, we would always have lockdown drills and fire drills at the start of the year, and we don’t have that here, so I feel like we’re not educated in terms of what to do during a lockdown drill versus an active shooter drill or anything like that,” said He. “If there were more safety concerns, drills and education would never hurt.”

## Protest Attendees Elaborate on Driving Beliefs

Continued from A1, Column 5

effect onto other schools to recognize the importance of showing student support,” said Plouffe.

Ma said she and Plouffe opened the sit-in by framing the issue as one of human rights and moral responsibility rather than partisan politics.

“With this protest, we tried our best to keep politics out of it and frame it as a human rights issue. We wanted our students and our faculty to make a statement of care because there are students in our community that are impacted by this. We have faculty that are from Lawrence, we have students that are from Lawrence. And so it was very imperative that [we] take a stand on things that we believe are morally incorrect,” said Ma.

Plouffe added that the idea for a demonstration had been in discussion since October, and gained renewed momentum in the wake of national walkouts.

“We have been thinking about and planning a protest for many months, starting in October, but we started more closely workshoping this specific one a few weeks ago, following the storm of walkouts across the country. We wanted to make sure that the community was safe, and we believed that a walkout was a more peaceful and toned-down version,” said Plouffe.

Ma elaborated on the intentionality of the sit-in’s format and timing during class hours. She pointed to both historical precedent on campus and her and Plouffe’s belief that protest should require a personal stake.

“On [Martin Luther King Jr.] Day, Vivian and I both heard a lot of praise, the school administration was really lauding Brian Gittens’ 1989 protest to have MLK Day ‘on.’ In addition, we wanted, very importantly, that this would be a walkout that would cost students a cut because we believe that protest is something that you must have some sort of stake in. We were very adamant about having students skip their 7th period. You have to relinquish something to advocate for something, especially with regard to something like human rights,” said Ma.

Jason Cai ’28, who helped distribute flyers, explained his reasoning for attending.

“I felt like it was a matter of obligation rather than a matter of having a choice in the matter because, to me, it was essentially a question of: are you willing to

take one cut, or are you willing to just skip seventh period to communicate that this campus cares about the people who are dying on the streets? So the obvious question to that answer, at least to me, [was] yes. It wasn’t a matter of heroism and I didn’t feel like I was going above and beyond by attending, but more like I was performing a duty that I had. To me, sacrificing or skipping one period is almost negligible,” said Cai.

During the sit-in, a group of faculty members gathered on the side of the steps in support. Eliot Davenport, Instructor in Philosophy and Religious Studies, explained why he invited his 7th period class to attend the protest with him.

“I wanted to go support the students who were at the protest. So, I said that any students who wanted to go with me were welcome to come with me, and any students who wanted to stay and have class, I had a solo activity that they could be doing. Protest always comes with real-world consequences. To protest, sometimes [you] are putting your body on the line, sometimes you’re missing work. Getting an unexcused absence is a very low-stakes but real consequence. I told the students that, and I [said], if you don’t want an unexcused absence, you’re welcome to stay here. Every single one of them came to the protest. We all walked over together,” said Davenport.

Olivia Isacson ’26, founder and president of the Current Events Club, gave a speech at the demonstration. She highlighted the significance of maintaining awareness of events outside of the Andover bubble.

“What I loved and I found so meaningful was that cutting class and just sitting together was just a symbol of solidarity in our community. I was able to speak to people I haven’t spoken to all year [and] communicate with teachers. It was a moment to take a break in our busy and overwhelming Andover lives just to be in community and think about the world around us. We can change [our] community mindset, and it speaks to a larger issue that too often we’re so busy and we forget to think about others. We forget to think about the broader implications of our work,” said Isacson.

Last Thursday evening, teachers in the History Department led an open forum to answer questions on current events. Eric Denby, Instructor in History and Social Sciences and a member of the panel, elaborated on the importance of creating further op-

portunities for facilitated discussions on campus.

“There’s absolutely a need for more forums in which students can discuss in a civil way what’s going on in the world and how to understand it. That’s one of the reasons why the History Department has attempted to offer a couple of these panel discussions and forums. [On] Thursday, about 120 [students showed up], and we have more planned. As long as there are historians and faculty colleagues who are willing to do these types of events, I’m going to try to plan more with them,” said Denby.

Associate Head of School for Equity, Inclusion, and Wellness Linda Carter Griffith encouraged students to form coalitions and communicate with both administrators and faculty.

“I definitely want it to be known that we are looking for students to come forward. As an adult in this community, my goal is not to influence you about what you need to protest about or care about. My goal here is to help facilitate: what’s the information you need, what’s the awareness [we need to address]? So what I’m looking forward to doing is bringing in more folks [to speak] on some of the controversial and difficult topics that we’re addressing. I know what some of [the topics] are, based on the questions I heard [at the History Panel] on Thursday. I want students working with students. It should not be an administrators-led matter... So my desire is that students who were standing [up] for any of the issues that were presented [at the protest] consider coalition building,” said Griffith.

Griffith continued, “I really encourage students to reach out to teachers. It doesn’t have to be administrators. If you’re interested in bringing a speaker, if you’re interested in putting something together, there’s the Abbot Grants, there is the Speaker’s Committee, which I do coordinate. And so, come by and talk, come with a friend, to have a conversation. Consider it. If we can create some spaces to better learn what’s on students’ minds, I’m all for it.”

Aquita Winslow, Dean of Community and Multicultural Development, and Gina Finocchiaro, International Student Coordinator and Protestant Chaplain, declined to interview.

*Editor’s Note: Kristen Ma is a News Editor for The Phillipian. News Editors were not involved in the reporting or writing of this article.*

## Students Emphasize Importance of Current Events Education

Continued from A1, Column 2

actions by ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), and connected the topic to his background as the child of an immigrant.

“It’s really special that we have the opportunity to be in an institution with such knowledgeable teachers. I am the son of an immigrant, [and] I feel ICE and what they’re doing is pretty horrible. I wanted to hear what others had to say, especially others who are much more educated than I am. It was really great to see such well-read, knowledgeable people,” said Vermont.

As an international student from Italy, Gabriele De Carlo ’26 highlighted the use of the panel in looking into the American perspective.

“I was interested in U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the Arctic, but also in seeing how some of the American students would ask questions and react to various things about American domestic policy, especially with what’s going on in Minnesota... The U.S. does have a very great history of international relations, and looking at the American present through the lens of the American past can be very informative from the point of view of people who have different cultural and historical

experiences from different parts of the world,” said De Carlo.

Olivia Isacson ’26, president of the Current Events Club, emphasized the importance of such talks and ways in which the event could have been improved.

“I’ve always wanted to create a space where we can learn from professors about issues happening, and we can directly apply our understanding of the past. I wanted to see [teachers in] practice, because I’m really curious to hear what they have to say. All the teachers who hosted were fabulous and very informative. I wanted to see how our faculty can try to share their opinions while still enforcing some sort of neutrality, but still showing humanity,” said Isacson.

She continued, “They had a flyer where you could fill out a form and submit your own questions, but they didn’t address any of the questions people asked. They wanted them to stand up and ask. It lacks anonymity, and you get people who are asking maybe random questions that are very specific to them. So what would have been nice is if they had tailored a class on current events and then taken questions at the end.”



Student attendees used hand-drawn posters to express their beliefs.

STELLA SEONG/THE PHILLIPIAN

## Students Share Hopes for Next Head of School

Continued from A1, Column 5

with student leaders as spaces where he feels he can build relationships more meaningfully.

“The HOS munches, the lunches where kids can sign up and have lunch with me... those types of interactions, helping students think about the world and helping them think about strategy, the meetings that I have once a month with the co-presidents... I realize that those are the settings where I really like the connection in a way,” said Kington.

Gracie Aziabor ’26, 2025-26 Student Body Co-President, shared how her impression of Kington changed over time as she met with him more often. She encouraged students to consider Kington as someone they can approach beyond his position.

“Honestly, I was intimidated by him when I was younger. But now, [Philip Meng ’26, Student Body Co-President] and I meet with him about

once a month, and it’s been nice to sit down and have a conversation with him. I feel that because he’s obviously busy and students are busy, we don’t get to see him very often. You forget that he’s just another adult on campus that you can talk to, and I’ve had a pretty great time getting to know him,” said Aziabor.

Other students have noted that Kington’s experience outside Andover can make it challenging for him to fully connect with the student body. Jaewon Choi ’28 emphasized that familiarity with the school’s unique needs can make a difference.

“A Head of School is different from a college president. Dr. Kington’s leadership comes from the fact that he has been the deputy director at the National Institute of Health and the president of Grinnell College. But a community [like] Andover, which is a boarding school and not a college, requires a different type of leader. We need a leader who comes from within,” said Choi.

Choi continued, “I feel that oftentimes, new leadership that comes from other institu-

tions do not know the unique needs that we have, and so the result is at least for the first few years, there’s some mismatch that happens between the needs of the school and the needs of the community with the decisions that are being made.”

Aziabor expressed her hopes for a future HOS with more experience communicating with the student body and who could foster stronger connections between students and faculty.

“If the next head of school is also someone who’s pretty extroverted and able to talk to students and connect with students, that would be a really good thing, and maybe someone who just has really good communication skills. Especially as we’re entering a time where the school is going through a lot of changes or planning to go through a lot of changes, having someone who’s really skillful at communicating ideas, especially to a younger student body, would be really helpful,” said Aziabor.

# 10 Questions with Talia Natoli

REPORTING BY ELIZABETH SAKA & JEREMIAH NUÑEZ

*Talia Natoli (they/she) is a Teaching Fellow in Physics, Assistant Coach for Girls JV Soccer, Head Coach of Girls JV Tennis, and a house counselor in Stearns House. Natoli attended Smith College for their undergraduate studies, where she was involved in theatrical performances. In their free time, Natoli enjoys reading books, playing video games, taking care of plants, and spending time with their dog Clover.*

## What drew you to physics, and when did you realize it was something you wanted to pursue?

When I went to college, I took a lot of different classes... and I ended up taking an astronomy course that I really enjoyed. Astronomy was this really cool intersection of storytelling and science. So I majored in astronomy, and we do a good amount of physics in astronomy. I came here as a [Teaching Fellow in Physics], and I've just been learning more and more about physics.

## At Smith College, you participated in Smith Shakes, performing Shakespeare every semester. How was that?

It was really fun. [Partly because] of my parents being theater people, I grew up going to Shakespeare in the Park in Los Angeles. Maybe not my favorite playwright, but it's some of the easiest plays to do because they're all free. They're in the public domain, so you don't have to actually pay anybody to do them, which is really great. And so I was one of the founding members of Smith Shakes. It was a great opportunity for those of us who really loved Shakespeare and acting, but weren't necessarily acting majors. A lot of us who were in Smith Shakes were English majors, History majors, there were some engineering majors, too. It gave us that outlet.

## What is the most memorable play that you have directed?

In my senior year at Smith, I directed a show called "Craters or the Making of the Moon Landing" by this really amazing playwright called Elise Wien. That was a fun experience because we got to meet with the playwright when I was in New York for a period of time... It wasn't with Smith Shakes but with a different theater club at Smith, and we got to be in a real black box theater. I got to do more lighting stuff. We had costumes. Because it was about the moon landing, I got to bring in a lot of my astronomy and science history background into it as well.

## How did your time at Smith College shape your experiences with the intersection of art and science?

In high school, I was very frustrated because I wanted to do sports. I played varsity tennis in high school, and I was doing plays. And I couldn't do both. There were semesters [when] I couldn't do both, and it frustrated me so much that I had to choose between doing a sport and being an artist. And so I embraced this interdisciplinary approach that Smith provid-



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN



COURTESY OF TALIA NATOLI

A still from Talia Natoli's self-directed play (left) and a photo taken on their telescope in college (right).

ed me. There weren't any graduation requirements. The only class that we had to take was a freshman seminar on how to write, and that was it. That gave me a lot of freedom to take an art history class, science class, [and] calculus class. I ended up taking Italian. I did poetry class. I did almost every department. That was a big thing that Smith allowed me to do.

## You believe non-traditional educational spaces are the best for learning. Could you expand on this?

Working in a non-traditional educational space, people don't feel pressure. When you go into your classroom, and you're learning about physics or history, there's this pressure to take notes, to cram it all in your head,

to remember it. Once you study for a test and you take the test, [most of] the information goes out of your mind. The advantage of non-traditional education spaces is that whether you feel like you're good at science or history or whatever, you're still able to enjoy it. It's more like this idea that we learn better when we enjoy something, and if we're not feeling like we have to get a good grade.

## What have you felt to be the difference between playing tennis and soccer and coaching them?

Even when I was playing those sports, I would give my friends pointers and coach them in a way. It's the same with how I started teaching. I remember being in algebra class and helping my peers because I felt that

the teacher wasn't explaining it well or that they were just saying the same explanation over and over again.

In that way, teaching and coaching are the same. I enjoy coaching, maybe more than playing. I'm a better coach than player.

But it's also frustrating, watching from the sidelines and being like, "You just got to do this."

## How has performing theater influenced the way that you teach at Andover?

Teaching is theater. It is your acting. Especially with physics, I have all my props. I have my toys. I do a lot of demos. I like to do things with my hands. We have our lesson plan. It's like a script in a sense, and then there's a lot of space for improvisation within

that. But there's absolutely a connection. It's [as] if you're standing up in front of an audience and presenting something.

## What is one of your favorite astronomy fun facts?

Crazy things happen in the middle of a black hole. One of the processes of falling into a black hole is called Spaghettification. Literally, Spaghettification. It is where you basically spaghettify and elongate, because your feet are so much closer to the black hole that they accelerate faster than your head. And so you stretch. Kind of scary, but the term is very funny. Spaghettification.

## Could you tell us about some of the most fascinating things you've seen in astronomy?

Seeing Saturn in the telescope is pretty cool. It's so amazing because when you look in the telescope, it looks like a picture of Saturn. It looks like [as] if you Google "Saturn." It doesn't look real. It's really cool when you're looking at it, and you're like, "Wow, that is actually right there." You can see the rings really well. It's also fun seeing globular clusters, which are clusters of stars. There's one, which is the globular cluster in Hercules, that we did a lot of looking at over the summer. It looks like this little puff ball... In college, I was able to take a picture of a galaxy, which was really fun. We used the telescope, and the way we take pictures is with a special camera called a CCD camera that is really just a bunch of numbers, and they assign light and color values to those numbers to make a picture.

## What is something that you want students to know?

Andover does a really good job in some ways of not pushing you guys into specializing, but in other ways, there is this push still, especially from colleges, to do one thing. When I was graduating in high school, and everybody was applying to colleges, you'd ask them what [they] want to major in, and they're like, "I don't know, but not science," or "I don't know, but something in the sciences." There weren't a lot of people who were like, "I have no idea, I'm gonna try everything." It's really important that you experience different things. I don't know if I did very well in high school physics, but here I am. You don't have to be really good at something to be excited about it, and you do it.

# Valentine's Day 2026: Love is in the Air

REPORTING BY RIAANA BAJAJ & SIMRAN SHAH



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

The Blue Key Heads offered various extravaganzas in Paresky Commons.

### Julie Powers, Administrative Assistant in the Dean of Studies Office

"I decided to add some non sibi [to the holiday] by making Valentines for a local elder care facility. ... I contacted Vanguard [elder care] on Andover Street and spoke with their Activities Director. She supplied a list of the names of their permanent residents and we went from there. My personal goal was to have 3 Valentines cards for each resident of Vanguard. There were 52 names on the list. I am thrilled to say, we reached that goal! I like to think we brought a smile and some joy to the folks living there. As my own mom ages, I know she loves to get mail and if we can brighten someone's day, especially during the winter, it is well worth it!"

### Malcolm Tolbert '26, Blue Key Head

"The vibes in [Paresky] Commons were super high and everyone was super engaged with all the extravaganzas and everything that was going on. There was music playing in the background and everyone seemed super happy and excited about what was going on. That was probably my favorite part. [Valentine's Day] serves as a good break from the academic stress and pressure. It's necessary for us to forget about all that stuff and have fun as the kids that we are. Events like this can serve as the relief that we all need from time to time."

### Sarah Bae '26, Blue Key Head

"Valentine's Day is one of the more unique things that [Blue Key Heads] do. This Valentine's Day, we just woke up at 6:30 and then went to [Paresky] Commons and decorated, and we each had an extravaganza. Will [Ware '26] did singing or serenading people. Maddie [Greenwood '26] did caricatures. Frank [Hu '26] did Lady and the Tramp with Twizzlers. Me and my roommate, and fellow Blue Key Head, did a 1st date thing."

### Shiloh Robinson '27

"My friend paid the Blue Key Heads for the Valentine's Day extravaganza for me to sit on Jack Farrell's back while he did push ups. It was really funny because my friends were all recording me. They thought it was really funny and they had been waiting all week. We all signed each other up for different ones so it was payback as well."

## Final Two Co-President Candidate Pairs Move Ahead to Final Election in Spring Term

### SARAH SUN & DINA NAM-JOO

The final two candidate pairs for Andover's 2026-2027 Co-Presidential positions have emerged following voting. Alfonso Gonzalez-Cano '27 and Chloe Park '27 center their platform on structural reform with an emphasis on connection, while Minnie Kim '27 and David Siahaan '27 aim to revitalize campus spirit and engagement across campus groups. Both candidate pairs share a goal to strengthen campus culture.

Some of Gonzalez-Cano and Park's initiatives are designed to expand connection. One of their main initiatives is PA Connect, an online tool that matches students based on clubs, classes, and interests. PA Connect required roughly five months of development before faculty review, with the build itself being only the first stage in a long negotiation process with Deans and the IT department.

"The actual process of [me]

building [the app] was around five months—and then I thought that was the hard part. No, that was the easy part. But it's been this whole really long process—but I can guarantee there's so much work being put into all our initiatives," stated Gonzalez-Cano.

Kim and Siahaan's campaign centers on reviving Andover spirit through various traditions. Their Community Suppers would assign students to elevated sit-down meals with random seating arrangements, in an attempt to encourage interactions across different groups on campus.

"I think our randomized community suppers are a big idea that I would love to implement. Other schools have it [like] Deerfield [and other] junior boarding schools, and I think it's something that could really strengthen community here. It is difficult to get people to actually want to come, but we are dedicated to doing whatever it takes to make all of our initiatives happen," stated Kim.

Sophia Tolokh '28 empha-

sized the importance of involvement with the student body for the success of any candidate pair.

"I think about how much social outreach they have, what kind of people they are, but also how much experience they have. At least one of the people in the pair has to have had some Stu-Co leadership, whether that's a dorm rep or being a class rep. [They should do] something at Andover with experience, social outreach, they should know a lot of people, they should do a sport or be a part of a music group, and they should do clubs. I should be able to recognize them for something that they do. I might not know everyone, but being social and knowing a lot of people on campus is important," said Tolokh. "Oftentimes those people are prefects, or someone you see on the path, they usually have a smile on their face. During their run, they should always be respectful of other candidates."

Kim emphasized the importance of candidates following through on planned initiatives.

"I think that responsibility and an enduring sense of perse-

verance are extremely important. Obviously, you can be loud, you can be spirited, and make grand statements. There's a lot of talk about what you can do as a leader, but it really depends. Your leadership really depends on what you do with that. A really good leader does not have to be loud or scream, but it's what you do with the platform that you have," said Kim.

Park described representation, particularly for minority students or those not comfortable voicing their concerns publicly, as a key component of leadership. She emphasized the importance of elevating quieter voices instead of amplifying only outspoken ones.

"Leadership is making sure that the people that are unseen or people that don't like to talk as much, making sure their opinions are elevated as high as they can be, as everyone's are, because if we're going to fight for our whole student body, then we're going to have to listen to every single person," said Park.

Kim also encourages student feedback as a way of making sure

everyone's voice is heard.

"It's really important to get student feedback. That's why we've been constantly having different outreach programs where David and I will talk to people, asking about their opinions on our platforms and initiatives. That's something that will continue if we do get elected," said Kim.

Eileen Zhu '29 would like to see more engaging activities during the school year. She believes that future Co-Presidents should help plan more activities over the weekend.

"I think over the weekend is such an important time for Andover students to, you know, de-stress, have fun. Do things they don't normally do during the school week. I think organizing more fun, you know, activities for students over the weekend would be really helpful and really nice to help students have fun," said Zhu.

*Editor's Note: David Siahaan is a Sports Editor for The Phillipian.*



**Major Academic Subjects and Test Preparations for SSAT, PSAT, SAT I&II**

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Andover, MA 01810  
978-475-5487**

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# Phailed Drug Test

## Program 2026

Ian Min

Before Dr. Kington departs Andover, he has decided to label some buildings to provide them with renewed significance and spirit.

This list, titled Program 2026, is a leaked version of campus building changes.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Library: For the Wise and Unshowered

Bulfinch Hall: Old Money, New Essays (Brought to you by GPT 5.0)

Morse Hall: 3 Dots 3 Dashes 3 Dots

Gelb Science Center: Yes, the Birds are Happy

Paresky Commons: Come One, Come All

Sykes Wellness Center: Sykes Day Excuse Center

Pearson Hall: No Man's Land

Graves Hall: (Aptly named)

Falls: Financial Literacy Teacher

## Overheard on the Paths

*"I would do it for a cheeseburger."*

*"I'm getting my Dogwalking Varsity Jacket Today!"*

*"These ski jumpers stole my idea!"*

*"Can I please have my EpiPen back?"*

*"I'm going to give up gooning for lent."*

## Cluster Olympics Investigation Reveals Numerous Questionable Performance-Enhancing Drugs

Connor Chung

Despite happening months ago, new data from after Cluster Olympics shows that many members of West Quad South (WQS) were actually under the influence of various stimulants to enhance their performance in certain competitions.

These stimulants aren't the usual ones you'll find in the ASC cabinet. Here are some unorthodox performance enhancers the Eighth Page Team found in blood samples secretly drawn during Flu Vaccines.

1. **Viagra:** For a reason currently quite murky to most people on campus, a number of WQS contestants in the 30-Yard Handstand Race were caught secretly taking Viagra before the competition. Since we could not rationalize their motives, we interviewed one of them on the condition of anonymity. "I needed it because I thought balancing would be easier with three legs than just two," she said.
2. **Cough medicine:** One member of WQS decided to down nearly an entire bottle of cough medicine before the timed crossword-solving competition. Having succumbed to the more usual side effect—drowsiness, the student-athlete didn't even finish. But the Viagra takers did.
3. **Laxatives:** After the Cluster Olympics, images of WQS athletes' brown stains surfaced, which they persisted were from the turf. Confirming rumors, blood samples showed that WQS competitors, in fact, started themselves due to heavy laxative use in hopes to "boost" their performance.
4. **Another group of WQS competitors** were also found to have injected themselves with a mixed juice extracted from Paresky Commons' stored fajitas.
5. **Poop Sponge Fumes:** While not specifically acknowledged in the blood samples, anonymous reports suggest that WQS student-athletes inhaled fumes emanating from a poop sponge. That is, the sponge contained poop scattered around the showers in Borden. Scientific analysis conducted by award-winning Andover student-researchers operating independently from the administration confirms that these fumes originated from Borden.

In response, the administration is considering giving WQS a 'special punishment,' which will entail cleaning up the recent overload of bodily fluids in the Borden showers, likely produced by Cluster Ball athletes. Moving forward, Andover will be issuing drug tests before the events to ensure fairness among all competing clusters.

## OWHL Scholar Presentation: "Raising Canes Munch if You Read This and Email UM"

Presented by: Konnor Fortini

Wednesday night, I watched a group of students slip on the ice while running to Pan for an acai bowl. I returned to my dormitory to see slobbering mouths and purple finger stains. Why must we become savages at the sniff of sugar? Primitives at the call of cholesterol? Brutes at the beckoning of blubber?

When it comes to food, we, "the smartest kids in the world," return to our most fundamental human instincts. It's like we got shot by the purple thing in Zootopia, but instead of having a savage urge for Judy Hopps, it's for a donut munch.

Or even at Commons when there are burgers. Suddenly, you end up going backwards in line. If you try to protest the people cutting in front of you, you get a slice of American cheese to the face. What happened to compassion over cravings, youth from every quarter, and our other pillars?

\*clicks slide\*

The good thing is, our hunger extends to a few other, less important but still worth mentioning, endeavors. We are hungry for success. We are hungry to start a new club that analyzes the intermediary avenues through which agricultural socioeconomic justice converges with gender studies. We are hungry to break a sweat during dog walking. We are hungrier still as we scroll through LinkedIn. Yet, it all comes back to one thing. If you go to Andover, there is a higher chance that you go to a good college. A good college means a lot of money. And what can money buy?

\*clicks slide\*

Sustenance. For those who don't know, I'm talking fries, burgers... now, now, don't get on your knees just yet. Those who want to stay after can. Anyway, OWHL Scholars are supposed to benefit the Andover community; so, what do I have to offer you? A Raising Canes munch, for a price.



**New Recruit for Jamaican Bobsled Team Tries to Win Gold**

KELVIN MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

## Week's Top Headlines

- **Co-Presidential Candidates Found "Colluding" in GW Basement**
- **Canada Hockey Fans Erupt in Commons Following Overtime Quarterfinal Win, Praising the Win over the Basically JV Team Czechia as "The most influential thing we Canadians have ever done"**
- **Leaked Luge double photos threaten to sink Wrestling team**
- **Denim Thong Found in Susie's With No One To Claim It**
- **MSA Found Missing After Sykes Presentation on "You Are What You Eat"**



# The Phillipian SPORTS

carbene carbene carbene  
(before sunrise)

Volume CXLIX | Number 4

February 20, 2026

## Boys Swimming and Diving Splashes and Dashes to School Records, Personal Bests, and a Second Place Finish at Easterns

TIGER WANG

Boys Swimming & Diving competed at the Eastern Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Championship (Easterns) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania this weekend, facing some of the strongest competitors of the season. Despite the tough meet, the team delivered a strong performance, finishing second in the boys division behind Mercersburg Academy. Although the team wasn't able to repeat for the fourth year in-a-row win, it set personal bests across the board and broke the 200 free-style relay school record.

At Easterns, the team performed with composure thanks to ample preparation from accumulated weeks of training beforehand. Owen Huang '27 described the team's mentality heading in.

"Easterns is our biggest meet of the season. This was my first time going to Easterns. Everyone on the team was super excited, but at the same time, we knew we were going to have really tough competition going in. We knew we would have to do a lot of really solid work and race really well in order to overcome that," said Huang.

Despite placing second, the team's performance reflected its depth and consistency across events as most swimmers swam personal bests in their respective races. According to Head Coach David Fox, its performance this year was historically great.

"Ultimately, we didn't get the result we wanted, but we did really well overall. Coach Fox told us that we raced really well as a team. We broke several records,



COURTESY OF HAOYU ZHANG

Competitors representing Andover at Easterns pose for a photo.

including the 200[-Yard Freestyle] Relay record with Lincoln [Tomlinson '27], Jay [Wei '27], Cale [Barker '28], and Oliver [Stabach '26]. The vast majority of our swimmers swam personal best times in their events," said Huang.

This year, the team entered a rebuilding phase after graduating several key swimmers from the Class of 2025. Ryan Loh '28 expressed that Easterns was a test of the team's ability to adapt and was also an opportunity for the younger members of the team to step up.

"It was a little bit challenging going into the meet because we

lost a lot of really good swimmers from last year. But everyone went in hoping to swim as fast as possible, and we ended up doing pretty well. The younger swimmers on the team were able to step up really well. They were able to rise to the challenge and perform under pressure," said Loh.

Reflecting his individual progress, Simba Xiong '28 talked about his improvement from last season. He also highlighted standout performances from younger swimmers like Beckett Kavanagh '29.

"I definitely improved a lot from last year. I made [the]

C Final in both the 100[-Yard Freestyle] and the 200[-Yard Freestyle]. Even though I didn't score a lot of points, I feel like I did my best and contributed [to] the team. As for the [Juniors], a notable mention is Beckett [Kavanagh]. He had almost a 12-second drop in his 500[-Yard Freestyle] which is crazy, and he made [the] B Final as a freshman. He has a lot of potential in the future if he continues to work hard," said Xiong.

The team now enters the final stretch of the season with Andover/Exeter (A/E) and New England Championships. It will focus on maintaining condition-

ing, unity, and finishing the season strong.

"After [the meet], we all hung out, played games together, and had a fun night. It really speaks to the kind of community that we have. Looking ahead, with A/E and New Englands coming up, the goal is just to keep improving and put in as much work as possible over the last two meets of the season," said Huang.

Boys Swimming & Diving will host Exeter on Saturday.

## Nordic Skiing Shows Strong Performances at Weston Ski Track, Hosts Season's Only Home Meet

ALEX GODSEY

Nordic Skiing competed under the lights at Weston Ski Track on last Friday, racing against Belmont Hill, Rivers, and Middlesex; the team then faced the same schools in its only home meet of the season on Wednesday. Only when Andover sees sufficient snowfall does it host meets, and last season, the team organized its first race on its home course in over 20 years.

The race took place at Weston Ski Track, a venue familiar to the Nordic team. However, according to Matt Robinson '27, the course featured some changes.

"It's the same venue that we've used before for a lot of races, but they changed up the course to have some different hills. Overall, it was an easier course than we have been experiencing at the big schools up north," said Robinson.

Despite the relatively manageable terrain, conditions presented their own difficulties. The snow was firm and fast, allowing for quick speeds but increasing the risk of mistakes.

"The snow is very fast and firm, which also means that it's a bit easier to fall. People had to be extra careful not to lose their balance," said Robinson.

The course featured several



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Matt Robinson '27 grins at the camera while getting ready to race on Siberia Field.

critical hills that proved decisive in the race. Sebastián Vermut '27 explained how the terrain shaped the competition.

Vermut said, "There are hills, one after another, including one called Mountain West, which is very steep. On the back stretch is a long, flat section where you can really get fast. Because of that, the hills became really important. Everybody was going

pretty much the same speed on the flats, but the difference was made on the hills."

Vermut delivered one of the team's strongest performances, finishing third in the sprint and remaining in contention with the leaders throughout the race. Robinson also noted Julia Xu '28's strong performance, placing seventh.

"Sebastián Vermut was in

contention for the win the whole time. He ended up being third in the sprint. He had a really strong race, trading back and forth with the leaders the whole race. I also want to shout out Julia Xu '28. She finished seventh, a really strong race from her, and she was in contention with a bunch of really strong athletes from other schools, so we want to keep that performance up as

we head into the final few weeks of the season," said Robinson.

For Vermut, Co-Captain Noah Binkowski '26 also stood out, returning from injuries that had disrupted his season.

Vermut said, "He's been in and out of the season. He's had a couple of crashes, and seeing him back in this race was really cool. He did really well, definitely getting more confidence back. He's the captain on and off the field. This race is one of the times when he's proven that it's not a mindset thing; he can actually ski really fast, and he did, which is really impressive."

The team later hosted a race against Belmont Hill, Rivers, and Middlesex, continuing to build momentum. According to Alfonso Gonzalez-Cano '27, the second race featured slower snow conditions on its home course.

"The conditions weren't great, but it was more meant to be fun for me. The snow was slow for this race. There was hail, which was surprising because it's our home course. I thought it was a fun course," said Gonzalez-Cano.

With strong individual performances and continued improvement, Nordic Skiing looks to maintain its momentum as the season approaches the NEPSAC Championships this Saturday.

BOYSHOCKEY

## David O'Neill '26: A Unifying Force for Boys Hockey

ALEX GODSEY

Boys Hockey Co-Captain David O'Neill '26 was introduced to hockey at age three, learning to skate on a frozen pond behind his home with his father. Growing up in constant competition with his older and younger brothers, often on the same teams, he developed a drive for hockey. Coming to Andover in pursuit of competitive hockey alongside rigorous academics, O'Neill has since set the record for most games played in program history. As captain, he focuses on both maintaining a winning standard and fostering connections between teammates.

Having been part of the team for four years, O'Neill played under three different captains before assuming the role himself, which influenced his approach to leadership. He described the traits of past captains he hopes to emulate.

"One of the biggest influences was Bobby Corkery [23], my freshman year captain. I remember him always having fun and

looking like he enjoyed being at the rink. That's what I want other guys to see, and something important I try to keep in mind. Another captain I really admired was Sam Myles [24]. He led by example really well. He wasn't the most vocal, but I liked the way he spoke through his play. And then last year, our captain, Grayden [Robertson-Palmer '25], was a really close friend of mine, and I think he did a great job. That progression of good leaders is something that shaped how I try to lead the team today," said O'Neill.

Beyond practices and games, O'Neill described how he intentionally creates opportunities for teammates to connect off the ice.

"A lot of times, on the mornings before games, I'll invite a bunch of guys to Perry's downtown or just trying to go out to eat together and get to know more about each other off the ice. It doesn't really matter whether they're freshmen or, or whatever their ages... At the end of the day, I think that's a really important aspect of what being part of a team is, making those



KAYLA LYONS/THE PHILLIPIAN

bonds," said O'Neill.

Senji Kimura '29 highlighted how O'Neill's value of inclusion helped ease his transition to the team as a freshman.

"He keeps the team together. David includes every single guy on the team, from Juniors to Seniors. He's very inclusive and gets to know you personally, which

self and being open to any questions. Then once I got on campus, he was the first person to come up to me and introduce himself in person. He helped me along the way and showed me the locker room. In the fall, he led the skates for the team and showed me everything. He was just great," said Roberts.

On the ice, Kimura described O'Neill's mindset as one centered on collective success, leading with both effort and selflessness.

"David's a really hard worker, because at the end of the day, he wants to win. He's not selfish at all and doesn't care about his individual statistics. He just cares about the team. He just cares about winning. I think it's definitely very inspirational... he truly wants everyone to play at their best level, and he just wants the team to perform at their peak ability," said Kimura.

While O'Neill remains uncertain about his long-term future in hockey, he aspires to compete at the collegiate level and continue his passion for the sport.

## Louis Beaulieu '26 Leads as a Role Model

LUCY VINNAKOTA

Introduced to the sport by his father, Boys Hockey Co-Captain Louis Beaulieu '26 began his journey playing ice hockey at the age of four, starting free skates at two years old.

The competitive nature of hockey, Beaulieu shared, has been what has kept him coming back to the sport. Additionally, he noted his enjoyment of the sport being rooted in collaboration.

"From a very young age, I was always very competitive, and winning was always really appealing and fun to me. In hockey, I knew I could find that. So, that competitive aspect of hockey, it's really fun to me, being able to compete every day, and being part of a team is also a big part of it," said Beaulieu.

As a Co-Captain, Beaulieu explained that he strives to lead by example and serve as a pillar of support for his teammates.

"I'm not the loudest leader. I show examples more than I tell people what to do. I also try to support people more individually.



ELLIOT CHAI/THE PHILLIPIAN

When [my teammates] are going through hard times individually, I try to talk to them and help them navigate those hard times by giving them advice or telling them about my journey through Andover," said Beaulieu.

Boys Hockey held a camp in the summer for its athletes to prepare for the upcoming season and academic calendar. Beaulieu

explained how he, alongside his Co-Captains, sought to use the event as an opportunity to form lasting relationships among new and returning athletes.

"During the summer, we had a team camp, and that is when the team gets to know each other. As [Co-Captains], we try to bring the group together and make them feel welcome as quickly as possi-

ble by spending time together and creating connections. Throughout the season, the hockey team is a great example of how a team can become a family. Very quickly into the season, even before the actual hockey starts, the team always does a great job of including everyone. That has been part of the reason that the team feels more like a family than just a team," said Beaulieu.

Beaulieu, according to Max Krasovsky '27, highly influences his teammates through his overall behavior and experience on the team.

"In the off-season, [Co-Captains] Louis [Beaulieu], David O'Neill [26], and [Alexander] Small [26] all run practice. During the season, [Beaulieu] is one of the older guys, so he tries to show people how they should be behaving, especially at the start of the season," said Krasovsky.

Jack O'Dell '28 corroborated Beaulieu's presence on the team as a role model. Yet, O'Dell also elaborated on how the Co-Captain leads vocally.

"He just sends a message by

how he acts. He's never goofing around. He's always serious with what he does, and the younger guys on the team realize that and try to incorporate that and into their lives," said O'Dell.

O'Dell continued, "Among the players on the team, he just reminds us of how hard we have worked in the offseason, workouts, and practices. He just lets us know that we have worked hard, we can be here, and we can execute if we just play the right way and hold true to our standards," said O'Dell.

Reflecting on his captainship and time on the team, Beaulieu shared that seeing younger athletes develop was particularly meaningful.

"My proudest moment as a [Co-]Captain and Senior on the team is seeing some of the younger guys and the new guys improve, adapting to the rhythm of the game [and] adapting to the style of prep hockey. [I enjoy] seeing them thrive on the ice," said Beaulieu.

## Boys Hockey's Alexander Small '26 Leads With a Strong Voice

EVA JACKSON

Boys Hockey Co-Captain Alexander Small '26 is known on the team for his humor and voice. He leads the team by setting right examples.

Max Krasovsky '27 described how Small uses his humor to keep the spirits high throughout the team. Compared to his fellow Co-Captains, Krasovsky called Small the most vocal.

"He's a really funny guy, so he's good with keeping everybody in a good mood, especially with practice. He's the most vocal in terms of talking on the team, not about

anything specific. By nature, that makes him one of the guys people talk to the most across all the grades," said Krasovsky.

Small's vocalism and humor helped the team get more comfortable with each other in the Fall. Krasovsky commented on Small's amicability and how he pushes the team to get better.

"He's pretty friendly and he'll talk to anybody. That helped [the] guys get to know each other better. At this point, [Small] helps keep the team spirits up and if he sees something that he thinks we shouldn't be doing, he has no problem being vocal and pointing that out," said Krasovsky.

Small described himself as "annoying" to play against. He also compared himself to professional hockey players Brad Marchand and the Tkachuk brothers.

"Most people would describe me as a pest. I'm annoying to play against and get under the opponents' skin. I'm a two way center with an edge of a Marchand or a Tkachuk," said Small.

Small first got into skating at the age of three when his grandpa bought him skates. Ever since then, he has loved the game.

"[My] most memorable moment was winning the Flood Marr [Tournament] for the first time in Andover history. It might be the

happiest I've ever been and will be a core memory for the rest of my life," said Small.

Small will play Juniors next year with the hopes of eventually playing in college.



JEREMIAH NUNEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN

## BOYS HOCKEY

**LOUIS BEAULIEU '26** **C**  
SAINT-LAMBERT, QC, CA

**ALEXANDER SMALL '26** **C**  
PHEONIXVILLE, PA

**DAVID O'NEILL '26** **C**  
NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA

**SENJI KIMURA '29**  
BRATTLEBORO, VT

**NATE KREPPNER '27**  
TORONTO, ON, CA

**LIAM TENHARMSSEL '26**  
LOWELL, MI

**ZACHARY FEDELE '26**  
SAINT-LAZARE, QC, CA

**LUCAS CHAO '28**  
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA

**ROBERT GREER '26**  
LAKE FOREST, IL

**ALEX THEODORE '27**  
PETALUMA, CA

**ETHAN XU '28**  
CHAPPAQUA, NY

**EDOUARD LORD '26**  
QUEBEC CITY, QC, CA

**MATTHEW PIOTROWSKI '27**  
MORRIS PLAINS, NJ

**NOLAN ROBERTS '28**  
CARY, NC

**JACK O'DELL '28**  
WILMETTE, IL

**RUSSELL LOUIE '27**  
DUBLIN, CA

**JACK CANNON '29**  
BARNSTABLE, MA

**KIERAN MCINTOSH '27**  
VAL-DES-MONTS, QC, CA

**MICHAEL BARRETT '28**  
LYNNFIELD, MA

**MAXIM KRASOVSKY '27**  
TARZANA, CA

**JASON FAITH '26**  
MONTREAL WEST, QC, CA

**TYLER MIOCEVICH '26**  
TORONTO, ON, CA

**JOSEPH DOYLE '26**  
NEW YORK, NY

## Boys Hockey Falls to Governor's, Rebounds with Motivation to Push Forward Against Cushing

AVIAD AWA

FRIDAY 2/13	
Andover	3
Governors	6
WEDNESDAY 2/18	
Andover	1
Cushing	0

After falling 3-6 to Governor's this past Friday, Boys Hockey (12-10-3) regained its momentum with a statement victory against Cushing on Wednesday with a score of 1-0. At the home rink against Cushing, Andover displayed a dominant defensive performance that sealed the victory for the team, setting it up for a potential run of wins in its upcoming games.

Against Governor's, the team did not secure the victory it was hoping for, although there were still positives from the game and the way

that the team played. Michael Barrett '28 described how the mentality of the team's key takeaways from the Governor's match translated against Cushing.

"We did score some good goals, so there were some positives. We still played hard. Gov's is a really physical team, they were hitting, and they're an older team. We adjusted to that for today's game against Cushing, checked off all the boxes, and did what we needed to do for a big team win. Hopefully, we can carry that energy into these last few games and into the playoffs," said Barrett.

Barrett praised some standout teammates from the Governor's game who helped to build the momentum. The team built on these players' performances and was able to rally as it pushed for a win against Cushing.

"Jack O'dell [28] had a good play on the power play. He had a good goal. Our captain David O'Neill [26] scored the first goal of the game, and started us out hot. David O'Neill [has] been great for us. He speaks up in the locker



ANDREW PIZZA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Alexander Small '26 faces off against a Cushing athlete to recommence play.



ANDREW PIZZA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Michael Barrett '28, a forward, advances the puck toward Cushing's goal.

room, giving us good, for example, against Cushing, gave us a good pregame talk, got us going, told us what we needed to do, and we did it," said Barrett.

Max Krasovsky '27 shared the team's positive mentality as they entered the rink for the Cushing game. The team had not won a game since five games prior, and they were ready for redemption from these losses. This craving energized the team as they faced off against a playoff-caliber team.

"Everybody was fired up. We'd been on a rough stretch for two games before this, and it was a pretty important matchup for us. Cushing is the last playoff team we

play, so everyone was trying to get a big win. Everybody was pretty fired up," said Krasovsky.

Matthew Piotrowski '27 shouted out goalie Edouard Lord '26, who had a dominant performance in the net and proved himself to be a key driver of the victory.

"The goalie, Eddy Lord, was standing on his absolute head today. He got the shutout; he may have made 40-plus saves in that game. He was a brick wall in the net. He was just flying everywhere," said Piotrowski.

The team is optimistic about the remainder of the season after this reinvigorating win. Krasovsky shared how the victory against

Cushing set the team up to continue pushing forward with some of the strongest motivation the team has experienced this season.

"It sets us up for a good finish to the end of the season because we have Pingree, Brooks, and a match-up against Exeter left, none of whom are playoff teams. Hopefully, walking away with four wins is what we need to go for here. It's a good segue into that part of the season," said Krasovsky.

The team will play against Pingree at home this Saturday.

## Three Games, One Aim: Girls Hockey Stays Dominant

WYATT ORRACA-CECIL

FRIDAY 2/13	
Andover	7
Milton	1
SATURDAY 2/14	
Andover	3
Williston	1
WEDNESDAY 2/18	
Andover	2
Nobles	3

Girls Hockey (19-2-1) faced a demanding stretch this past week, playing three games against tough NEPSAC opponents. With matchups against Williston

Northampton (Williston), a 2024 NEPSAC finalist, and Noble and Greenough (Nobles), which entered the week with a 21-1 record, it was sure to be an arduous week for the team. Still, Andover carried momentum into the week, riding a 14-game win streak and knowing it would need to perform at its highest level to keep its run alive.

The team opened the week on Friday against Milton, executing its game plan from the start and earning a decisive 7-1 victory. Al Hartman '28 reflected on the team's strong performance and the energy they brought to the ice.

"I felt that we came out strong and with good energy. Even though we didn't score right away, we had a lot of shots, and then the goals followed. Overall, it was a great team win and helped prepare us for Williston the next day," said Hartman.

After a dominant win over Milton, the team turned its focus to a challenging stretch against two of NEPSAC's top programs: Williston and

Nobles. Marie Lee '28 emphasized the caliber of the competition, noting that matchups against elite teams demanded a faster, sharper, and more intense level of play.

"It's definitely a way faster-paced game than any of the other games we play. It's more of who's more ready to play at the level and the speed you have to play at in those games," said Lee.

Knowing that a fast start would be crucial against Williston, the team came out aggressively from the opening faceoff. When Maggie Averill '27 found the back of the net in the first few minutes, it immediately shifted the momentum in the team's favor, propelling the team to a hard-fought 3-1 win on the road.

"Maggie scored almost as soon as the game started, so that was huge. Sarah scored at the end of the 2nd period, so that also really carried over. We had all the momentum, and we did such a good job of controlling the play. I think it was the best hockey we played all year," said Lee.

Coming off a hard-fought victory, the team quickly shifted its focus to another challenging matchup against Nobles. The game proved to be tightly contested, and the team was unable to replicate the aggressive start it had against Williston. A slower opening period put the team on its heels early, forcing the team to regroup.

"I think Nobles is the best team other than us in the league. This was a huge game, and I think we started slow, but we really picked it up in the 3rd period. We were losing 3-0," said Lee.

However, facing a significant deficit with one period remaining, the team did not lose faith and instead leaned on its resilience. Kimberly Duplessis '27 sparked the comeback with two crucial goals, reigniting the bench as Andover clawed its way back into the game. Sarah Powers '26 reflected on Duplessis's impact in the final period.

"Kimmy's first goal came off her shot, and it was tipped in front. Then she scored again later in the period, so

she was a huge player in the game today. I'd also say the defense worked really hard at the end, doing everything they could to get pucks out," said Powers.

Girls Hockey endured a demanding three-game slate across six days. However, it did little to shift the team's focus away from its ultimate goal of a championship. Powers shared how the team is preparing for another challenging match-up against Loomis Chaffee (Loomis), as well as the intensity of the playoff season ahead.

"I think working on our defensive zone and out, so defense, neutral zone, and offensive zone. Starting there, and making practices really competitive and hard, and that's what's gonna make us ready for those types of games...and going into playoffs, which we know is gonna be a battle," said Powers.

Girls Hockey's next game is on Wednesday, February 25 at home against Loomis.

## Girls Basketball Builds Momentum With Two Controlling Wins Heading Into NE8 Tournament

WES PHAM

SATURDAY 2/14	
Andover	70
Pingree	27
WEDNESDAY 2/18	
Andover	73
BB&N	35

Girls Basketball (15-7) continued its strong season this past week with two dominant victories against Pingree and BB&N. The wins showcased the team's depth and balance, as contributions came from across the roster. The performances also reflected the team's preparation in practice, which carried over onto the court.

The week's games present-



ANDREW PIZZI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Sara Damon '29 dribbles the ball toward BB&N's basket at home on Wednesday.

ed multiple opportunities for members of the team to shine, and Maddie Marshall '29 highlighted how her teammates

rose to the occasion. Marshall emphasized how teammates Emma Moore '28 and Co-Captain Alani Rodriguez '27 found

the fine balance between strong individual contributions and reinforcing an overall team effort.

"Emma and Alani really stood out. Emma was killing it down in the post, and she took every advantage to get rebounds and do her work down there, which she ended up scoring over 20 points for us. And then, Alani did a really nice job facilitating the ball, and she was giving up her own shots to create better shots for other people," said Marshall.

Vera Pape '29 emphasized the team's structured preparation between game days, recalling its focus on sharpening ball movement and adjusting different defensive schemes. In practice, the team also worked on multiple defence strategies, including zone defenses, where players guard areas of the court, and man-to-man strategies, where each defender is assigned to a specific opponent.

"We worked on a lot of our passing and cutting against either zone defense or man de-

fense, and working as a team, specifically the guards working together and the post working together to work on our individual moves," said Pape.

Turning to Wednesday, the team hosted BB&N at home, where standout performances from Jules Stevensons '28 and Rodriguez helped power the offense. Both players capitalized on their opportunities, putting up points behind the three-point line and attacking effectively in the paint. Pape elaborated on how the practices leading up to the game translated to the team's dominant performance against BB&N.

"We were reading the ball really well, and a lot of the plays were made by making a lot of good passes in a row, and usually we got someone open for a three[pointer]," said Pape.

Looking ahead, Girls Basketball will compete in the NE8 tournament on Friday and Saturday, where it will face Deerfield and Lawrenceville.

## Grit and Effort: Boys Basketball Shows Determination in Back-to-Back Victories

NICHOLAS JUNG

SATURDAY 2/14	
Andover	57
Williston	65
WEDNESDAY 2/18	
Andover	68
St. Paul's	53

Boys Basketball (16-5) continued to show resilience and strength as its season nears an end. Despite a loss away against Williston Northampton (Williston) last Saturday, the team outperformed St. Paul's on Wednesday for a decisive win. The team delivered strong per-

formances from all players, demonstrating strong collaboration and camaraderie.

Coming off a three-game win streak, Boys Basketball faced Williston in an away game. Despite vigorous preparation, the team ultimately fell to its opponent. Nick Hailey PG'26 elaborated on some points of growth from the game.

"A challenge was us starting slow. In this league, if you start slow, you can get beaten any day by any team. Us not taking advantage of the opportunity early in the first half and getting down really stopped us from winning the game, said Hailey.

Nevertheless, the team continued to push through despite the deficit, focusing on playing with determination. Hailey highlighted the motivational words of Head Coach Terrell Ivory '00 (TI) and credited him for the team's consistent play.

Hailey said, "I want to give a big shout-out to Coach TI for our second-half adjustment. It was him staying positive in the locker room and encouraging us to play hard, even though we weren't really worried. We know the talent that we have. He encouraged us and instilled confidence in us to go out in the second half and play hard. I felt like we did that in the second half."

This constructive mindset proved helpful to Boys Basketball when it played St. Paul's on Wednesday. Zion Williams PG'26 recounted how the team's effective practices throughout the week prepared them for the game on Wednesday.

"We had a really good practice yesterday, [and] we've had really good practices this whole week. We are playing with joy and playing hard the whole practice nonstop. Outside of

practice, we were getting shots up as well," said Williams.

Despite a deficit in the first half, the team rallied back to win by 15 points. Williams detailed the game's obstacles and strengths.

"The challenges were honestly offensive rebounds, playing hard, playing together, and finishing layups. But, we did well as a team, and we got the win. We played hard in the second half after being down in the first half," said Williams.

Jake Marcone '26 added to Williams remarks and commented on Coach TI's halftime motivation. He noted the sense of composure that the speech gave the team, allowing them to enter the second half with confidence.

Marcone said, "At halftime, T.I. was telling us to stay calm. We all know we're good and can win those types of games. We had to believe in ourselves,

and we came out and played much better in the second half, and we ended up winning by 15."

As Boys Basketball prepares for its final two games of the season, Hailey narrated what the team should focus on. He added that physicality and aggressiveness from the start of the game will be imperative for success in the postseason.

"I want to say the biggest takeaway is [that] everybody should be staying aggressive, putting pressure on the rim, and starting out fast. When we start out fast, and we stay aggressive towards the rims, it's very hard for teams to stop us, and it puts us at an advantage. When we do that, we can get a lot of teams to back down," said Hailey.

The team will face Belmont Hill this Saturday.

## Leaving It All on the Track: Indoor Track & Field Rises to the Challenge at A/E Rivalry Meet

BEN KAZLOUSKI

Indoor Track & Field closed out its season with intensity at its annual rivalry meet against Exeter. The Andover/Exeter (A/E) showdown is one of the most anticipated events of the year, and this season's meet delivered loud crowds, record-setting performances, and athletes determined to leave everything on the track. Across events, Andover athletes showed energy, leadership, and steady progress built throughout the season.

Nicholas Jung '28 described the atmosphere as unlike any other meet this year. He noted how the rivalry amplified the team's energy from start to finish.

"It was really hyped up today since it's the last meet of the year. Everybody was cheering for each other during the 4x200-Meter [Relay] and all the relay races. Everyone was really excited to be there. It was the loudest meet of the year. Even from the guardrails, people were cheering," said Jung.

Jung highlighted individual excellence. He praised Amelia Alvazzi '26, whose performance stood out in a competitive field.

"Amelia stood out a lot. She ran the mile and the 1K and almost ran a sub-3 in the 1K. It was a really impressive performance. A lot of people were getting [personal records (PRs)] today, even though Exeter has a lot of good runners," said Jung.



ANDREW PIZZI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Kishan Clarke '26 races in the 55-Meter Race, ultimately placing second in 6.67 seconds.

Leadership before and during the meet helped set the tone for the team. Jung pointed specifically to Gracie Aziabor '26.

"Gracie, [Outdoor Track & Field Co-]Captain, was being a leader today. Whenever anybody ran, she was always yelling positive things like 'You got this.' Before the meet, she gave an inspiring speech to hype us up and make sure we left everything on the field," said Jung.

For Aviad Awa '28, the Girls 4x200-Meter Relay embodied the team's determination. In particular, he noted how each leg

attacked the race from the start.

"Eden Dunleavy '29 and the entire Girls 4x200-Meter Relay team really stood out. From the first leg to the last leg, everyone was going full out. You could see the focus on their faces. Everyone was cheering for them, just all energy," said Awa.

Awa emphasized how the rivalry fueled its performance. The history of the competition pushed athletes to compete at their highest level.

"A/E is our school's biggest rivalry. It's always fun going against your rivals because you

expect a good match. Knowing how strong they are was the motivation I needed to push myself as hard as possible. I think that mindset was shared across the entire team. Everyone was willing to leave everything they had out on the track," said Awa.

He also reflected on the team's growth under new coaching leadership and how the results showed meaningful progress.

"Going into this season with a new coach, some people were unsure how we were going to do, but [Head Coach Shalise Manza Young] has been a great coach.

Being able to see tangible progress from the start to the end of the season, especially at AE with all the PRs, has been a great indicator of how successful practice has been."

Lucien-Sinclair Herndon '28 described a defining moment in the Boys 4x200-Meter Relay. He recalled the speed and execution that led to a record-breaking result.

"Quentin Cynn '28 definitely stood out today. He helped build the lead in the 4x200[-Meter Relay], and that momentum carried us to a school record. I've honestly never seen someone that quick, the way he exploded out. The baton passing changed the whole race," said Herndon.

Herndon also recognized teammates who stepped up for the group. Specifically, he emphasized Papa Yaw Paintsil '26.

"Papa was a real leader today. He took the initiative to help our high jump team get warmed up and tweaked little things his teammates were doing. He's honestly just a natural leader and always wants the best for everyone else," said Herndon.

Whether in victory or defeat, the team's performance at A/E reflected a season of growth and unity.

Indoor Track and Field will compete at the USATF New England Championship next Sunday.

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## Wrestling Dominates at New Englands, Earns Highest Placement in Several Years

**BENJAMIN KAZLOUSKI**

This past Saturday, Wrestling sent 22 wrestlers to compete in the New England Championships (New Englands) at Green Farms Academy. Five out of Andover's 11 athletes who competed in the mixed-gender division placed in the tournament's top eight scorers. In the same division, Andover placed sixth out of 44 teams, its highest placement in several years at New Englands. In the girls division, with four individual champions within the tournament, Andover placed second out

of 28 teams, and nine competitors qualified for the National Prep Tournament this Saturday.

In practices leading up to the tournament, the team tapered its mental training to prepare for the difficult championship to come. Christian Robinson '28 shared how the team worked on its mentality three days before the tournament.

"[We worked on] calming down our bodies, focusing on technique, and being intentional with short bursts of energy in our drilling. We had a super hard practice on Wednesday that our coach was very blatant about. That hard practice mentally pre-

pared us for what New Englands was going to be, because we had [five to eight matches]. Having that practice before reminded us that we're prepared for these moments. We're ready for these moments that, both mentally and physically, help to set the tone," said Robinson.

After spectating a lengthy match from Serra Akyali '28 and competing in a lengthy match himself, Geza Labancz PG'26 explained the importance of the exertion training that the team underwent leading up to New Englands.

"Our cardio is pretty good. Conditioning, we focus on that, and we do a lot of it in practices. A lot of times, we see when [our conditioning comes into effect] going into late periods [of a match,] and we can still be on top mentally because of it. When I watched Serra, she went into double overtime and came out on top. I had a couple of long matches as well," said Labancz.

According to Labancz, Akyali faced an opponent in her weight class finals whom she had wrestled before, previously winning by points rather than pins. At New Englands, the rematch tested her endurance as the same situation occurred, and she came

out on top with another hard-fought win from points.

"Serra had a triple overtime match. She only won by one point. Wrestling matches are three periods. And wrestling, you can win by pin. If both on your shoulders are on the mat, you automatically lose. If you get 15 points more than your opponent, you ultimately win. If that doesn't happen, you win by points, if the three periods are over... If you go through all eight minutes and end up on top is a huge accomplishment," said Labancz.

During long tournaments, it is vital for the team to withstand not only physical strain from many matches, but also the mental endurance required to compete on the mat for up to 14 hours in one day. Labancz broke down his routine that allowed him to set a positive mindset for New Englands.

"Investing matches are a long time, so we got there at nine-ish. By 7:00 or 8:00 [A.M.], I'm weighed in, then warmed up, and the day ends at 9:00 [P.M.] The whole day you have to be in perfect shape, so I warm up, then I put clothes on, then I listen to music and the whole day I'm walking around. I'm eating enough but I don't want to get too full, so you have to watch out for that. I'm al-

ways mentally envisioning what I will do next. I know my opponents at that point, so if I know if it's going to be an easier opponent, mentally I'm more relaxed and in that mindset where I'm hyped up, but I'm also focused," said Labancz.

According to Shock Ingram PG'26, one of the most fulfilling moments can be watching teammates improve their skills drastically throughout the season. He shouted out Cindy Zhou '27 and Bella Shmuylovich '26, two competitors who won their weight classes, both with an undefeated record of 2-0 at New Englands.

"A couple months is a long time, but if you think about it, it's not that long, and seeing people develop and improve throughout that short amount of time really makes me happy... [Zhou] has gotten a lot better from the start of the season up until now... Bella, [who's] a Senior, did really [well] and has improved a lot," said Ingram.

This Saturday, Andover will send several wrestlers to the National Prep Tournament.



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Ophelia Lee '26 pins down her opponent at New Englands.

## Girls Swim and Dive Proves Passion with a Ninth-Place Finish at Eastern Chamionships

**JULIEN REQUA**

Girls Swimming & Diving (4-0) competed in its first large-school meet of the season this past weekend at the Eastern Interscholastic Swimming Championship (Easterns). Over four days, the team faced 28 other high school teams, many of whom Andover competed against last year when the team placed seventh. These races drew a large crowd, both in person and online. Andover placed ninth with 302 points, showcasing the incredible skill and hard work it put in this season.

Each swimmer competed in

two individual events and two relays. Facing some of the most competitive swim and dive teams in the nation, Andover's athletes were pushed to their limits, resulting in numerous personal records. Chloe Ru '27, who placed ninth in the 50-Yard Freestyle and sixth in the 100-Yard Backstroke, highlighted standout performances from both herself and others.

"I [got a personal record] in everything... A lot of people PRed. Sophia Tolokh [28] swam her first sub 2:02 [200-Yard Freestyle], which was really exciting. Hannah Song [27] got really close to the school record. We also only brought one [Junior] this year, Maddie Yang

[29], and she did really well, and she was really supportive throughout the whole meet," said Ru.

Following the preliminary heats, the top 24 swimmers advanced to the evening finals, held each evening of the week. Although the team was already close-knit, four days of constant competition and cheering deepened those connections and fostered stronger synergy in relay events. Maddie Yang '29, the only Junior representing Girls Swimming and Diving at Easterns, reflected on her teammates' kindness and support.

"At first I was a little nervous. Being the only [Junior], it's a bit nerve-racking, especially since

there's no one in your grade that you can hang out with. But honestly, in the first few minutes, all my worries disappeared. I love hanging out with the Uppers, Lowers, and even the Seniors, who I didn't think I would be able to connect with at first. I connected with them really well, so they were all really supportive of me," said Yang.

The duration of Easterns required high endurance and energy from every member of the team. That commitment manifested not only in the pool but also on the deck, where swimmers cheered relentlessly for their teammates. Camden Schopler '27 described the atmosphere as one of high energy

and unwavering support.

"Madelyn Esposito [27] was cheering for everybody, and it was really nice to see her cheer for every single person on the team. The energy was definitely hype, everybody was cheering for everyone. I lost my voice from screaming, and it was definitely [even] more hype for finals. We'd make little tunnels for the finalists," said Schopler.

Girls Swimming and Diving will face Exeter at home for their Andover/Exeter meet next Saturday.

## Emily Mara '25 Thrives as Dual Division I Athlete at Boston College

**SARAH WANG**

As a former Co-Captain of Girls Soccer as well as a standout player on Girls Hockey, Emily Mara '25 has carried her athleticism into the collegiate spotlight, playing both Division I Soccer and Hockey at Boston College. Before her collegiate career, Mara excelled at Andover, winning the Yale Bowl at Commencement as a Senior and earning the honor of United Soccer Coaches All-State in 2022 and 2023. She also made history on the ice, setting the single-game record for most points with four goals and three assists. Now at Boston College, she continues to embrace the heightened competition and demands of Division I athletics.

This past fall, Mara, balancing both athletic and academic commitments, started in all seventeen soccer matches she played in, reaching a total of 1,273 minutes. She credited her time at Andover with preparing her to manage the rigorous academics of college alongside the intensity of being a two-season athlete.

"My first year competing at the Division I level in both soccer and hockey has been incredibly rewarding and definitely challenging in the best way. Andover always challenged me to perform at everything I do at the highest possible level, so being in a new environment, with even higher expectations, has been a very fun and exciting new journey. The speed of play, physicality, and



COURTESY OF EMILY MARA

time demands are all at a higher level, but Andover prepared me so well for balancing academics and athletics. Learning how to manage two in-season sports while adjusting to college life has pushed me to grow a lot as both an athlete and a person," wrote Mara in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Andover Girls Soccer Head Coach Lisa Joel has continued to follow Mara's success long after her time on campus, often travelling to Boston College to attend games. While Mara's talent is undeniable, Coach Joel believes her mindset and energy is what sets her apart, consistently supporting her teammates.

"Emily Mara is one of the most athletic athletes we've seen at

[Andover]. She was a great talent in both sports that she played in, and the X factor for Emily is that she's fiercely competitive. Her desire to perform at her top at all times and put her team and herself in the best position to win is literally, in my experience, second to none. She loves the sport that she plays when she's playing it, and she loves to compete. She is intrinsically motivated and is always performing at the edge. What makes her special is that she elevates everyone around her. Everyone wants to play better because they're feeding off of her energy in her play," said Coach Joel.

Joel also recalled Mara's aggressive style, which continually

left a lasting impression on opponents. Known for her competitiveness, she consistently played with a physical edge that set her apart from others.

"Emily was just always being Emily. I have dozens of stories of Emily literally sacrificing her body to win balls, make plays, and score goals in a kind of a wrecking ball way that opponents couldn't respond. She wasn't just special in her four years [at Andover]. She's one of the most special athletes. She's awesome," said Joel.

Throughout her high school career, Mara earned numerous accolades, including being named NEPSAC Athlete of the Year and selected, alongside eighteen other graduating athletes, to be a 2025



COURTESY OF EMILY MARA

Globe Foundation/Richard J. Phelps Scholar-Athlete. Yet, beyond titles, Mara elaborated on how her greatest motivation has stemmed from the team environments she has been a part of.

"Being surrounded by teammates who are equally passionate and driven creates such a special culture. There's something really meaningful about working toward shared goals every day. Whether that's in early morning lifts, long bus rides, or big game moments. Competing at this level is exciting, but it's the relationships and team bonds that make it unforgettable," wrote Mara.

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# ARTS & LEISURE

The Phillipian, VOL. CXLIX



## Abbot Cabaret Showcases Emerging Performers

SOOHAN CHO  
& DANIEL LIU

Kemper Auditorium (Kemper) filled with spectators for this year's Abbot Cabaret, a student-driven showcase that highlighted the wide range of talent across campus. From grand orchestral arrangements to K-pop choreography to martial arts demonstrations, the night emphasized not only performance, but opportunity, giving students a platform to debut new ensembles, celebrate friendships, and share passions that might not otherwise take center stage.

For many in the audience, the event was just as much about community as it was about showcasing performance. Chance Hernandez '29 attended to support his peers and celebrate the breadth of talent at Andover.

"I decided to attend the Abbot Cabaret mainly because of the opportunity to see the community of Andover perform and all of the wonderful talents that people have. I also just have so many friends there and I want to see them [performing] what

they've been practicing for a while," said Hernandez.

When asked to spotlight one act from the evening, Hernandez emphasized the overall spirit of the show before highlighting the newly formed band Channel 9, composed of completely of Juniors.

"All of the acts were wonderful and possessed the Andover spirit and energy. Though if I were to spotlight one in particular, I'm going to go with Channel 9 because they really bring out the energy of Class of 2029 and are just newly formed so they're filled with synergy and energy. They get along great and have a really good stage presence. You can tell all of them are not just confident, but enjoy what they're doing and do it pretty well," said Hernandez.

Bruce Ru '28 and the newly formed Fanfare Festival Orchestra opened the evening with an arrangement for chamber ensemble and solo erhu of "Galloping War Horses," a well-known Chinese instrumental piece. Ru discussed how the ensemble, founded earlier this winter, was created to address structural barriers in high school music education.

"It is insanely painful to



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

James Wang '28 performing with his guitar inside Kemper Auditorium.

know the amount of talent that is out there and how little opportunity there is for high school students to get experience as a soloist with an orchestra, to conduct an orchestra, and to compose original music for an orchestra. These are opportunities that normally would require students to win a major competition or to pay four or five figures to hire musicians. So it is not feasible for lots of people. By forming [Fanfare], we definitely wanted a high profile opportunity to have a debut. Abbot Cabaret came up, and we thought that was the perfect way to get our first performance in," said Ru.

Though Abbot Cabaret may not rival the scale of Andover's largest productions, Ru claimed the supportive and warm audience left a lasting impression on performers.

"It was a wonderful crowd. Abbot Cabaret attendance is a little bit less than one single performance of Grasshopper,

but the warmth of the crowd, the loudness of the cheering, and the absolute level of supportiveness really stood out. We could see the crowd was really there, taking time off their penultimate weekend to support all the acts, including us. Instantly we knew that it was the right choice to have that as our first performance," said Ru.

Allegra Lee '27, who performed a K-pop dance duet with Izzy Park '26 echoed this sentiment, describing the audience's energy as transformative.

"I am one of those people who gets very energized by an audience, and I feel like I perform better when there is an audience versus when I am alone. There were a lot of people in the audience who knew both me and Izzy, so they were cheering really loudly, and it helped me smile and be very powerful in my movements. It gave me a magical spark, which is fitting for the dance because it is supposed to feel magical,"

said Park.

Another physically engaging performance was the martial arts club, which delivered a demonstration featuring taekwondo, karate, board breaking, splits, and choreographed sparring. Celine Lee '28, who has practiced martial arts since she was four years old, described the preparation process leading up to the show.

"The first part was choreographing the demonstration, which was done by Erin [Lee '27], Satabhisha [Sarkar '27], and a little bit by me. Then we looked for people who were interested in doing the demo. After that, we started practicing a lot. We met once or twice a week to practice, teach everyone the demo, and go over the kicks, especially because we had some people who had not done martial arts before," said Lee.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Bruce Ru '28 and Matthew Wei '28 play the violin as part of the Fanfare Festival Orchestra.

## In Motion, In Time: Student Producers Explore Evolution Across Experiences

DYLAN KANG & JIA-YI ZHI

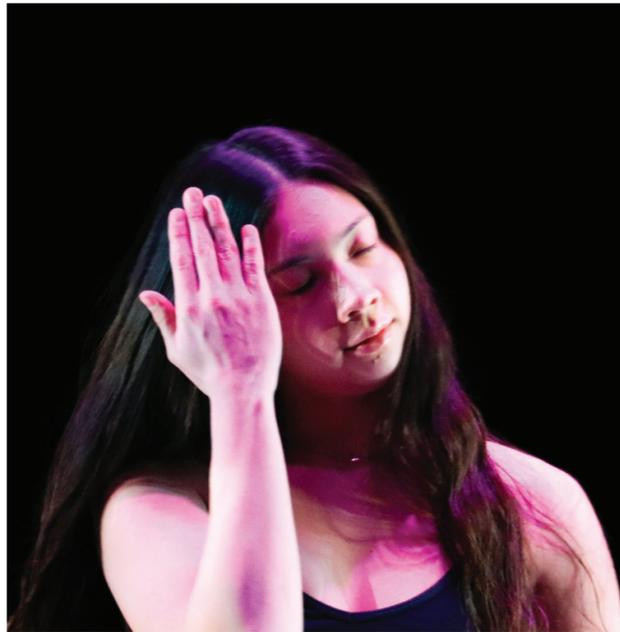
The beat drops during Kendrick Lamar's "United in Grief" and the audience gasps—a dancer is lifted above the stage, one leg extended behind her, one hand reaching up, suspended in space. In the Cristina A. Rubio Studio in Pan Athletic Center, a culmination of the work of four student choreographers, Anna Tsvetkov '26, Eliza Francis '26, Mayen Etuk '26, and Eugenia Evangelinos '27 took place. "In Motion, In Time," this year's THD902 student-produced performance focused on a common thread between all the pieces: that over time, any amount of time, humans go through change.

For many in the audience, the production was their first experience with a 902 performance. Nate Darocha '26, attended to support his friends after witnessing their early morning rehearsals, emphasizing how the dancers' hard work and dedication showed throughout the event.

"I haven't seen a 902 before [and] this was my first time seeing a student-produced dance show. I had a lot of friends in the show, and I saw how many hours they put into rehearsals. I really wanted to come and see the result of all that hard work and what they had been preparing to showcase. Mayen Etuk's piece in the second act [really] stood out because she blended her South African heritage with her dance training in a really powerful way. It felt like a strong display of her culture and the amount of work she put into the show," said Darocha.

Mayen Etuk '26, who choreographed one of the most talked about pieces, combined different styles of dance with diverse kinds of music in order to portray her message to the audience. Etuk elaborates further on her choreographic vision.

"My 902 is entitled Ukuhlanga, which translates to redemption in Zulu. I lived in South Africa for eleven years, so my 902 was an ode to home, an ode to South Africa's rich diversity, and its history, of both oppression and triumph. The dance forms that are represented are



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Isabella Huang '28 performs in Theater 902.

also very diverse. It has gumboot dance, which is a form of dance that was created by Black South African miners during the apartheid era when communication wasn't allowed in the mines. There are [also] contemporary pieces, and modern pieces, and a few balletic lines. I wanted to showcase a really rich tapestry of diversity and cultural heritage through my 902. [I tried to] tie two of my homes together by bringing my home on a different continent into the studio," said Etuk.

Throughout the performance, a spectrum of dance styles were shown, highlighting the incredible talent at Andover. Anna Tsvetkov '26 emphasized this in her piece, which reflects on her journey from classical ballet to jazz and contemporary styles after arriving at Andover.

"I wanted [my piece] to be a reflection of my journey from being a very classically trained ballerina into a more contemporary-jazz [style]. I wanted my piece to take you through phases of life or emotions as a reflection into our own lives and the ways they've changed. I feel like it[s] applicable to a lot of Andover kids, especially seniors now at the end of our four

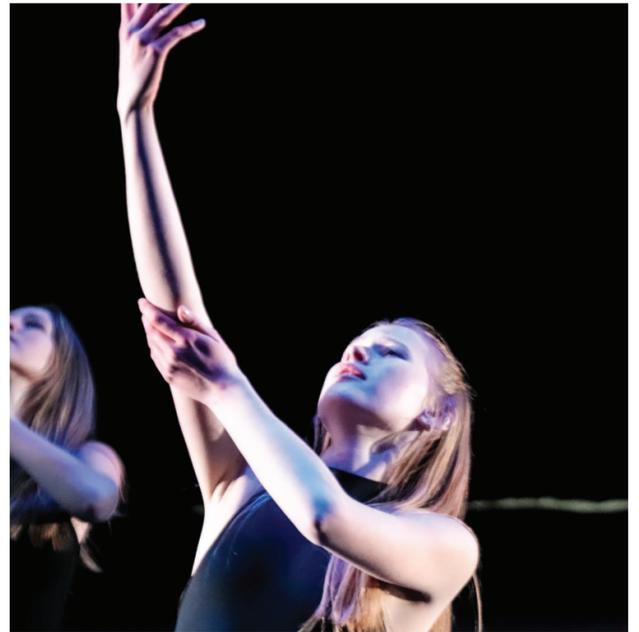
years," said Tsvetkov.

Eugenia Evangelinos '27, the only non-Senior choreographer, spoke about the meaning of her piece and how she hoped audiences would react and connect to her creation.

"[I tried to] capture how we as individuals and also as a collective try to build the futures that we've imagined... I want[ed] the audience to [realize] that everyone experiences struggle in their own way, that everyone has these experiences, and that we can help each other. [In my piece,] the only way my dancers reach the future is when they all come together as one. While you can do it by yourself on your own, a lot of times what's really needed is other people to back you up," said Evangelinos.

A performer in Evangelinos's piece, Gavin Shyro '28, delves into how much work is put into the rehearsal and creative process. Shyro highlights that although there were some challenges, working with a producer closer in age allowed for a more comfortable practice environment.

"It was definitely a bit inconvenient because we had Saturday practices every day at 12:00 PM every week for two



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Georgina Grant '27 performing in Mayen Etuk's choreography.

months...[but] I actually preferred the experience because it [felt] a lot more personal. It feels good to interact with a choreographer who is of a similar age to her dancers and is interested in some of the same themes as us. It feels like you can have a more genuine relationship compared to if you had a faculty choreographer," said Shyro.

Another performer in Eliza Francis '26's piece, Isabella Huang '28, also described her experience. Huang hopes that by the end of the show, audiences realize how much dedication it takes to create a THD902, from conceptualization to showing.

"I would hope that [the audience members] recognize all of the dancers' hard work, how much work each choreographer puts into each piece, and how much detail and how everything is thought out, from the people in the pieces [to] the songs. It takes so much effort and so much work behind the scenes," said Huang.

Eliza Francis '26, who choreographed the opening piece of the event reflects on her piece. While choreographing, Francis focused on themes of heartbreak and love, an apt topic for the Saturday show, which

took place on Valentine's Day.

"We often think of heartbreak as being isolated to one moment, but love is much more nuanced than that, and heartbreak deserves the same sort of care we extend to love. I knew that the production would take place on Valentine's Day, so I thought targeting love from this aspect would be an interesting perspective to take. It is very seldom that we can erase a person from our mind. Memories come up when we least want them to and slip from the folds of our brains when we most want them to stay intact... Life in general is non-linear. It pauses and speeds up and freezes, and all these sorts of things that you can't really tie down to specific increments, and love is a part of everyone's life in some capacity. So I [looked] at how relationships with others, but particularly with ourselves, is always in flux, and how our identities are forever shaped by the people around us. The artist of my final piece, Olivia Dean, recently said "We are nothing without each other", and I think that is somewhat of a thesis of my work," said Francis.

## Gold in Fashion: Best and Worst Dressed at the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony

CHARLIZE SOW  
& ELIAS JEON

The Olympic Games have always been a showcase of athletic excellence, but in recent years, they have also become a stage for global fashion. At this Winter Olympics' opening ceremony, the myriad uniform designs showed how fashion can shape a nation's first impression, helping it stand out or fade into the background.

### BEST:

#### TEAM HAITI IN STELLA JEAN:

Designed by Stella Jean and inspired by Haitian artist Edouard Duval Carrié, Team Haiti's uniforms paid tribute to Toussaint Louverture and Haiti's fight for independence. Jean's hand-painted brushstrokes depicted intricate botanical details, a bold red horse, and a vibrant expanse of blue. The warmth and vibrancy of these outfits stood in striking contrast to the winter terrain. Though Haiti has only a brief history at the Winter Olympics and sent just two athletes this year, the team made a strong statement with their bold, symbolic designs.



### WORST:

#### TEAM AUSTRALIA IN KARBON:

Designed by Karbon, Team Australia's uniforms leaned heavily into functionality. The green and gold color scheme referenced national colors, and the outerwear created a practical, sport-driven silhouette suited for winter conditions. However, the overall design resembled high-end ski gear more than ceremonial dress, falling flat when compared with teams that incorporated more overt cultural references.

#### TEAM MONGOLIA IN GOYOL:

Team Mongolia's uniforms were designed by GOYOL and inspired by traditional attire from the era of the Great Mongol Empire. The designs incorporated a high-collared deel, silk trim, horn motifs in the embroidery, cashmere, and a skirt slit, reinterpreting traditional dress and longstanding cultural symbols in a contemporary context. These details effectively highlighted aspects of Mongolia's history and cultural heritage.



#### TEAM SWEDEN IN UNIQLO:

Designed by Uniqlo, Team Sweden's uniforms featured silhouettes in solid blue and yellow, which reflected the colors of its national flag. This sleek, cohesive look aligns with Uniqlo's well-known minimalist aesthetic. However, without impactful cultural references or decorative elements, its understated approach made the uniforms less distinctive.

#### TEAM USA IN RALPH LAUREN:

Designed by Ralph Lauren, Team USA's uniforms showcased a long white wool coat layered over a knit sweater displaying the American flag. This was paired with white tailored pants and complete with knit beanies and sturdy winter boots. The red, white, and blue color scheme mirrored the national flag, resulting in a clean, coordinated look that echoed tradition and national symbolism.



#### TEAM NEW ZEALAND IN KATHMANDU:

Designed by Kathmandu, Team New Zealand's uniforms drew on the country's outdoor identity. The collection included insulated jackets, performance layers, and athletic tailoring, centered around the motif of a silver fern. Several pieces also incorporated recycled materials, reflecting Kathmandu's focus on technical outerwear and sustainability. Nonetheless, with a restrained color palette and emphasis on functionality, New Zealand's uniforms failed to command attention on the global stage.

SOPHIA ZHANG & TIFFANIE AN / THE PHILLIPIAN

## Milano-Cortina 2026 Medal Review: Minimalism, Meaning, and The Power of Two

ISABELA DOUST  
& AUTUMN XIA

Every year countries feature their creativity and innovation with the Olympics medals, and this year was no different. After Paris showcased their Olympic medals containing authentic Eiffel Tower metal in 2024, an expectation was set for Italy's turn. Italy was already defying convention by being the first country to have two host cities, Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, for the Olympics, making the very structure of the Games divided geographically yet united in purpose. In a time of such distress across the world, Italy needed to bring unity to these Olympics in every aspect, including the medal design.

At first glance, one might see the design as underwhelming. Unlike previous metals, an emblem of the host city isn't jumping out at us. But in reality, the real significance is in the small details. The two halves concept was a new idea that represented both Italy and the Olympic champions. Rather than centering a skyline or landmark, the design centers a relationship. It shows two distinct sides forming one inseparable whole. In one manner, one side could represent the Olympic champions, and the

other side represents the people who helped these athletes get to the Olympics, such as the coaches, families, and teams. The medal quite literally refuses to let victory stand alone; one half cannot exist meaningfully without the other.

In another manner, one half represents Milan and the other Cortina d'Ampezzo. Two locations, two identities, but one Game. Placed at the center seam is the Olympic rings, acting almost as a bridge of unity between all the countries.

Aside from the two halves concept, there is also the composition of the medals. While similar to past Olympic compositions, for the first time, the medals are made entirely from sustainable and renewable materials and that are fully recycled. Tradition and innovation, permanence and renewability, history and future coexisting all within one object. With two different textures that shimmer differently in light, it is another message of individuality. Each medal is handcrafted, personalized with polishing and frosting details, meaning no two champions receive an identical piece. In this way, individual difference is preserved within collective unity.

Minimalism defines the aesthetic for the medals. Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo chose to discreetly carve their

name along the sides, with only a small mention on the back meanwhile the Olympic rings remain central. This choice reinforces the philosophy of two halves where the two host cities step back so the global whole can step forward. In a time of political fragmentation, centering the Olympic symbol rather than national branding feels intentional.

As great as the intent of the design, critiques are still coming through. Some critics argue the abstraction makes the design difficult to immediately interpret. Without detailed imagery or landmarks, the meaning requires explanation. Others have pointed out that the medals can appear plain compared to more elaborate designs from previous Games. There have even been reports of medals separating from their ribbons or along the central seam, an irony not lost on observers given the emphasis on unity.

Yet perhaps the abstraction is precisely what gives the medals depth. The two halves represent Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, athlete and support system, along with Olympic and Paralympic movements. The Paralympic medal includes braille, reinforcing inclusion and connection. The seam dividing the medal is a deliberate line of dialogue. It acknowledges separation while insisting



SHANNON CHISHOLM / THE PHILLIPIAN

on cohesion. Unity here does not mean sameness; it means alignment.

Ultimately these medals can be described as abstract yet intentional. They may not overwhelm with intricate detail, but they communicate a message the world arguably needs: unity through balance. Two cities, two textures, two narratives, two halves are presented on one whole medal.

In the end, the Milano-Cortina medals do not shout. They divide in order to unite. And in circular form with no beginning and no end, they suggest that strength is not found in a single shining surface, but in the seamless joining of the two halves into one enduring whole.

*Editor's Note: Isabela Doust is a Copy Editor for The Phillipian.*

## Singing Through the Darkness: Chorus Concert Ignites the Chapel

ELIZABETH QIN & DANIEL LIU

Under the warm stage lights of Cochran Chapel and against the lingering chill of late winter, Andover's Chorus and Fidelio ensembles presented their concert, "So Breaks the Sun." Featuring various spirituals, contemporary choral works, and a Beatles classic, the Friday evening program followed a deliberate emotional arc centered on hope and resilience through darkness.

The concert opened with "So Breaks the Sun," a technically complex piece that set the tone for the evening. Amina Gorman '26, Fidelio co-head, described the song as a departure from the ensemble's typical repertoire this year.

"I would definitely say that 'So Breaks the Sun' was a different song than Fidelio has done in the past, at least

throughout this year. It was a really, really difficult song to learn, and we spent a lot of time working on it. It came out pretty good. Our rehearsal beforehand showed us that we were ready and prepared for the concert," said Gorman.

Landon Maloney '29, a low tenor, explained how the idea for this concert came about, emphasizing how the emotional structure of it reflected Chorus Director Dr. Siegfried's broader philosophy of programming.

"[Dr. Siegfried] talked to me about [the programming] a couple of rehearsals before the concert, and how each song plays a really important part in [it's] journey. For this concert, [it] originally stemmed off of the MLK set that we did, and the idea of finding hope even through the darkness.

And then, from the MLK set, we added songs we did before holiday break, it starts out a bit mundane, then it gets better, then it gets worse, and



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Penelope Jaramillo '28 sings as part of Andover Chorus during their concert.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Harry Wang playing "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" on the saxophone.

then it gets better. It shows [how to] always look [for] hope through the ups and downs of life," said Maloney.

Part of the MLK set was the song "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," which was accompanied by Rebecca Plummer on the piano, and Harry (Ruihao) Wang '27 on the saxophone. Sarah Sun '29, an audience member, noted how the saxophone accompaniment elevated the performance.

"The saxophone was a surprising addition to the song 'Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child.' I personally would have never thought of pairing it with a chorus singing that song. But it added a cool touch to the per-

formance that was different from the rest," said Sun.

Hannah Oh '27, a fidelio and chorus member, found particular meaning in "Celtic Blessing," the fifth movement of Songs for the Journey, where the lyrics resonated with her.

"It was talking about how God [may] hold...your face in the palm of his hands, and I thought that was really emotional, because I'm also a Christian, and [the line reminded me of] whenever I have to leave my friends to go somewhere else, or just not be able to see family members for a really long time. It's a really powerful line, where it's talking about how we hope that God protects them," said

Oh.

"Here Comes the Sun" wrapped up the concert with a hopeful note while also leaving room for the audience to join in on the chorus. Sun '29 shared that the chorus's rendition improved the already iconic song by adding a distinct creative touch.

"My favorite part of the performance was 'Here Comes the Sun' because it's a song that's known all over the world and listening to it being sung by the chorus was really cool. They added their own touch to the song to make it more catchy. The harmonies from the sopranos were my favorite parts," said Sun.

## Plot Twists to Paradise: Andover Students Take On Singles Inferno Season 5

CHARLIZE SOW & HAYLEY FAN

YUMI LAI '27

SOPHIE LIANG '26

"It's always been my friends and I's tradition, since freshman year, we've been watching the show, and we always watch it together. Out of all the seasons, we've seen all of them together, this one actually was one of the best ones that we've seen. Mostly just because I felt like all of the people were really interesting in terms of their personalities, but they were also all very, very different. The dynamics were really, really fun to watch and discuss as well."

ANNABELLE ZHANG '29

"Personally, I had my opinions on the ending. I liked most of the couples, I thought they were cute. I didn't support Mina Sue ending with Sunghun though. I didn't like Sunghun because it felt like he was just picking her because he didn't want to leave alone. My perception of Hee-sun also changed a lot. At first I didn't understand when she said she felt too timid to go after Subeen, but after seeing her more and after she went to paradise with Subeen, I realized that I liked them. I think it's dating shows in general that are very popular. But I feel like this one especially has a lot of twists, and the way it is set gives people an incentive to get together with someone else."

Just days before Valentine's, romance was already in the air, or at least, on Netflix. After weeks of anticipation, the finale of Singles Inferno Season 5 finally arrived. Bridging its slow-burn romances, unexpected Paradise dates, and thrilling games to a close, these episodes had students eagerly waiting to find out which couples would make it to the end. From shocking reunion revelations to long-awaited final pairings, students weighed in on the pairs they had rooted for, moments that caught them off guard, and which couples were truly built to last beyond Paradise.



JIA-YI ZHI / THE PHILLIPIAN

ANGELINA LE '28

"Season five is more exciting than the others because these episodes were filled with more drama and more activities, like the bowling dates with two couples who had lingering feelings, so it brought more tension. [The season] felt like a roller coaster, especially because of compelling characters like MinaSue, who made the storyline intriguing through her active exploration. Overall, I think the episodes kept us on our toes. I also liked Jae-jin. I thought his inputs were random, and his funny personality made it amusing to watch. Even though I liked all the couples who ended up together, I really wish I-geon and Go-eun would have left together, because I felt like their conversations went deeper beyond the more superficial conversations many other couples had."

"On TikTok I see a lot of Singles Inferno content pop up, so it is interesting and fun to keep up and see where things go. I know there is a new reunion episode on Netflix now, and when it was released and we saw that Min-gee and Seung-il are not actually a couple and that he ghosted her, that made me feel bad for Mingee and changed my perception of him. But I was really happy to see that Subeen and Heesun are still together and seem to be enjoying their relationship. I think that is really cute because they were the couple I was rooting for the most."

ANGELA ZHAO '26

"I had a lot of changes in my impressions of their characters. For example, I think everyone initially had a joint impression that MinaSue was not the best person out there. But as the episodes went on, you could see her maturity and how she realized she was getting a villain arc edit, and she started becoming nicer. On the contrary, my friend and I were big fans of Hyeon-woo. When he went to Paradise, our impression of him drastically changed after five minutes of watching his date with Go-eun. It made us realize how much our perceptions can change based on the limited amount of screen time we see and how that shapes how we view them as people."

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