

Winter Storm Prompts Cancellation of In-Person Classes

SAKETH LINGISETTY

Blizzard-like conditions brought by a winter storm caused the cancellation of in-person classes on Monday for the first time since 2015. Teachers provided instruction via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, or asynchronously, while athletics and off-campus events were cancelled for the day, according to Susan Esty, Dean of Students.

In an email sent to the campus community on Sunday, Esty outlined several other changes, including barring day students from traveling to campus and closing the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) and all athletic facilities for the day. In coordinating the response, a campus ‘Storm Team’ comprising administrators across several departments—includ-

ing Facilities, Campus Safety, and Human Resources—had convened Sunday morning, according to Caroline Odden, Dean of Studies.

For Paul Murphy, Instructor in Mathematics, the decision to cancel classes made sense given the storm’s circumstances. He noted that such a cancellation remained uncommon, considering Andover’s residential nature.

“Usually, we don’t take time off for bad weather, even with a lot of snow. We’ve definitely had days when the town of Andover canceled school but we did not... We’re essentially a small town on the hill, and everyone is in high school, so getting to class normally isn’t difficult. But this felt like one of those storms where we might consider not having

Continued on A5, Column 4



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

During the snowstorm, students walked to Paresky Commons, the only open campus building that day.

Football Leadership Transition Begins with Ernie Adams Appointed Interim Head Coach



Read Adams’ full interview on A7.

COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY ARCHIVES (LEFT) & WINSLOW TOWNSON (RIGHT)

Ernie Adams in 1971 (left) and Adams in 2019 with the New England Patriots (right).

FELIX BRET

Ernie Adams ’71 will be serving as Interim Head Football Coach for the 2026 season, marking the beginning of a broader restructuring of the football program and the head coaching role. Prior to his appointment, Adams served as football research director for the New England Patriots, contributing to six Super Bowl championships. The search for a full-time head football coach for the 2027 season onwards is underway.

In an email to Football players, Director of Athletics Lisa Joel, Dean of Faculty Ben Temple, and Assistant Head of School for Admission and Financial Aid Jim Ventre announced that the Head Football Coach position will be

restructured into a full-time role with a “comprehensive focus on the football program, including year-round player development, practice and game preparation, strength and conditioning coordination, prospective player recruitment and support for college recruitment.”

The role moves away from the traditional “triple threat” approach, in which head coaches also served as instructors, house counselors, or admissions officers. Ventre explained that Football’s demands have grown beyond what that approach allows.

“It’s very time consuming to coach Football because there are elements of it that are unrelated to what happens in the game. Football requires a very steady and consistent recruiting strategy to get football players to come to Andover. Then they come and

they play here with good coaching, and then they would like to play in college. And so, you need someone who can spend time recruiting, manage the day-to-day of the football’s actual operations and coaching, and then someone who can help our players move on to college. [Football is] unique unto itself, [which] doesn’t allow for someone who does multiple things at the school to have the same focus on what is required for football. And other schools that we play in our league, if you will, have moved to this model. And so, why should those student-athletes who come to Andover not have the same benefit of being recruited to come focus here?” said

Continued on A5, Column 1

Student and Faculty Grading Forum To Be Held on Friday

RIAANA BAJAJ & NICCOLO LEE-SUK

A roundtable discussion about grading at Andover will be held this Friday in the Mural Room of Paresky Commons (Commons). Consisting of faculty members and students, the forum will involve a guided discussion and interactive exercise.

Anny Wang ’26 and Frank Hu ’26 organized the event. According to Wang, such forums were one of the initiatives in their co-presidential campaign last year. Wang emphasized the ubiquity of grading concerns, especially disparities among instructors, among the student body.

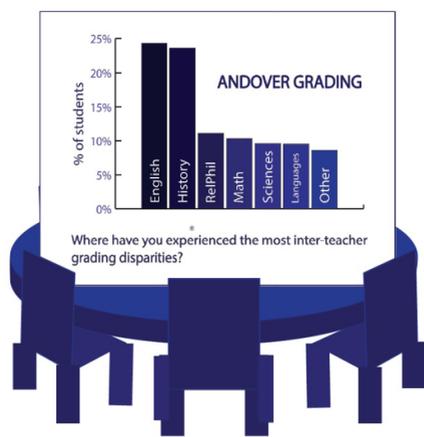
“Grading has been a huge conversation since my freshman year. People talk about how it’s super inconsistent and how it’s based on your luck with teachers and your schedule. Different departments are very different grad-

ing-wise, and even within a department or in one section of the same class, teachers grade differently,” said Wang.

She continued, “There is a difference in power dynamic between teachers and students where even when students face situations where they feel like the grading is unfair, they don’t have the

courage to stand up to the teachers because they fear that the teachers will dislike them or grade them even worse because they stood up for themselves. The two

Continued on A5, Column 1



*Data taken from the 2025 State of the Academy
ATHENA GUTIERREZ-EWING/THE PHILLIPIAN

OWHL Scholar Symposium Interweaves the Past and the Present

WINSTON WU & JOHN KIM

The 2025-26 cohort of Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) Scholars presented their year-long research projects at the annual OWHL Symposium, showcasing their work through a range of formats, including videos and papers. The projects were united under this year’s theme, “In the Presence of the Past: Reflections, Refractions, Reverberations.”

One of the five scholars, Isabel Djerejian ’26, pre-

sented *The Last Generation of Artsakh*, a documentary that she made exploring the long-standing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, a former enclave of Armenians living inside neighboring Azerbaijan. She discussed how she aimed to bring greater awareness to a conflict absent from mainstream headlines.

“When I was hearing about the exodus [from Armenia] that happened in 2023, I basically couldn’t find any written accounts, especially in English, of the Armenian or Nagorno-Karabakh [enclave’s] perspective of this conflict. So I felt the responsibility to gather their voices and be able

to share their experiences, so that it wouldn’t be forgotten,” said Djerejian.

Presenter Bianca Mohamed ’26, whose project examined Egyptian graffiti during the Arab Spring and subsequent revolutions, explained the personal motivations behind her work. She added that she hopes projects like hers encourage students to look beyond Andover’s campus and engage more thoughtfully with global issues.

Continued on A5, Column 4

Microwave Mishaps Result in Microwaves Withdrawn in Stuart and Fuess

JUNIPER KLOCK & ELIZABETH SAKA

In recent weeks, the dorms Stuart and Fuess have had their microwaves confiscated following inappropriate conduct. In Stuart, a student deliberately placed a soda wrapped inside an aluminum-lined wrapper in the microwave. In Fuess, ramen was burnt in the middle of the night two Mondays ago, triggering a fire alarm.

The incident in Stuart was significantly more serious as the event appeared to be intentional. Dr. Derek Jacoby, a house counselor in Stuart, provided additional details on the incident and the work being put in to resolve it.

“It happened during study hours, and some students who were near the microwave in their rooms heard a very loud pop. They came out of their rooms and saw that there was a fire inside the microwave. They unplugged it, picked it up, and ran to put it outside. The Dean of Students is working to try to figure out what they can find out about who might be responsible,” said Jacoby.

Stuart House is not the only dorm dealing with safety issues regarding microwaves. Fuess House had a similar incident, though it was accidental. Wilton Cordero Suarez ’28, a resident of Fuess House, gave his perspective on what occurred in his dorm and what led to the repercussions.

“Someone put ramen in the microwave without any water. I don’t know how it happened or who did it, but we had the firefighters to [come] and check. Eventually, they came out with a burnt chunk of ramen. [Originally,] when people were smelling the smoke, they couldn’t figure out where it was coming from. Some

people thought it was like a gas leak or something,” said Cordero Suarez.

Students are searching for explanations for why these incidents are occurring and coming to their own conclusions on who may be responsible. Russ McLaren ’27, a Stuart resident, gave his insight into student reactions following microwave disasters.

“We don’t know who did it. There’s speculation, but no one actually knows. Other students are saying who they think it might be, but those might be rumors. My house counselors found out that people are spreading rumors or talking about it, and we had to have another dorm meeting addressing the fact that we can’t create rumors. We don’t have microwaves anymore, and I’m not sure when we’re gonna get them back,” said McLaren.

House counselors are working on building back trust within their dorm communities and implementing the values that both the dorm and the school hold. Their main goal is to make sure that these incidents are not repeated. Dr. Jacoby discusses his thoughts on the situation.

“There seems to be no other conclusion other than it was intentional. Since it was intentional, we discussed a lot of what the person responsible was putting at risk, which was the entire dorm community, their neighbors, and their colleagues. We have house counselors and faculty children in the building. We discussed the severity of the incident, whether it was malicious or whether it was a prank, and discussed how it didn’t align with our dorm values and our school values,” said Jacoby.

Commentary, A2

“Where Democracy Thrives and Falls Short”

The flaws of democracy and how Andover’s co-presidential elections overcomes them.

Eighth Page, A8

Winter Wonderland

It snowed. A lot. Again.

Sports, B1

A Historic Season

Girls Squash placed third at nationals, the highest in program history, and followed that up by defeating Exeter 7-1.

Arts, B8

A Tapestry of Sound

The Academy Orchestras featured professional guzheng musician Dr. Haiqiong Deng and senior soloist Brian Zhu ’26 on the erhu.

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Editorial

Babe Wake Up, Boys JV Hockey 6:00 P.M. Tonight!

This weekend will mark the 148th Winter Andover/Exeter (A/E) day. Be there. However, we're here to encourage hype not only for our amazing Varsity athletes on A/E but for our Junior Varsity (JV) athletes every week as well. On Wednesday, Girls JV Hockey demonstrated that energy can be created at any game, as long as the crowd wants to create it.

According to attendees of the game, it was one of the most hype competitions of their season, which can be attributed to the lively crowd. Several parents had shown up, as well as members of Boys JV Hockey and multiple Blue Key Heads. During the game, also, the team celebrated Senior Night and its Head Coach Jacob Montanaro's departure following the end of this season. The team and the crowd was determined to make the game count. Why don't we see this more often?

The fact that many students look forward to A/E as the highlight of fall and winter beg the question as to why students cannot create this joy for themselves regularly. While A/E is special with its crowds of painted faces, desperate Exonians, and competitive spirit, we have the free will to bring some of this vigor to all of our sports games. Indeed, the solidarity that we feel wearing Andover merch and cheering on our Varsity teams is something that can be created whenever we'd like; recognizing this will spur our school spirit.

Students notice that school spirit is lacking,

and yet, we don't do much about it. Our final two Co-Presidential candidates have both publicized their goals of community-building and invigorating the student body. Some students complain that dances have become less attended, and community activities feel like drudgery.

The solution to this problem, though, lies in plain sight: show up. Each Wednesday and Saturday, Director of Athletics Lisa Joel posts sports competitions across the JV, Junior Varsity 2 (JV2), and Varsity level. As students, we can do better in attending these games and cheering on their players. We can also act by spreading the word about underrepresented competitions and getting hype for our peers. See you Saturday!

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



ANGELA GUO/ THE PHILLIPIAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you regarding *The Phillipian's* Article "Student Reflections on Kington's Leadership as HOS Search Begins," dated 20 February 2026.

At the outset, I first express my deepest appreciation to the Co-Authors, Sophia Fang and Winston Wu, for writing this timely and crucial article, and to the other students who provided their insightful reflections about Dr. Raynard S. Kington's mandate as the Sixteenth Head of School of Phillips Academy.

I seek to write this correspondence to elaborate on certain points in my reflection.

First, on the "...need [for] a leader who comes from within," I believe the Trustees of the Academy must prioritize a Candi-

date with extensive experience not only in leading boarding schools but also in truly engaging with students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This means finding a leader who is willing to listen, learn, and co-lead Andover with its community.

That is why I propose that the Trustees identify Candidates for the Head of School mandate from within. Andover has numerous faculty who have spent decades at this institution, including some who entered as students and chose to devote their entire careers to this place. These experienced staff and faculty have led Andover, with many having prior appointments as Deans, Department and Division Heads, and other administrative positions.

There is no reason for the

Trustees to hire a costly search firm to externally source candidates for the Head of School who do not have the requisite experience to lead Andover successfully. The experience of teaching, living, and engaging with Andover is the most valuable asset a candidate can bring to qualify for this sacrosanct position, and we have ample faculty and staff who possess this distinguished experience.

For far too long, this academy has failed to communicate effectively with the student body, leaving many of our community members, including myself, feeling that their perspectives were neither valued nor meaningfully considered in the academy's decision-making.

This cannot be the new norm for the next Head of School. The

position of Head of School is respected and valued because of the authority the students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni grant; without us, there would be no Head of School, nor would there be Phillips Academy.

The Core Blue of the Academy states that students must "[live] cooperatively...sharing the responsibilities inherent in living together, without adversely affecting others." I believe the same principle must extend to the position of Head of School, where one is willing to lead by example and co-lead this Academy by working constructively and cooperatively with all community members.

I seek to publish my letter today because I know that *The Phillipian* is read by the very people who can change this pat-

tern.

To the Trustees of Andover: as you begin the process of electing who will lead Andover, I challenge you to demonstrate the principle of non sibi by appointing a Head of School who will co-lead and co-create Andover with us.

Signed,
Jaewon Choi '28

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CORRECTIONS:

Black History Month Should Matter More to Asian Americans

ANDREW PARK



With Black History Month coming to an end, I felt it was important to remember the purpose of the month: to explore the history of Black Americans and the African diaspora worldwide. For me, the most important topic to think about was regarding the importance of Black history on Asian Americans. For many Asian Americans, the status quo is living in cultural enclaves, with a potential for multicultural drought. It can even be seen at Andover, where Asian monoracial friend groups exist. These friend groups, while not explicitly disliking Black history, may lead to a blind spot in what history actually happened. Further, this may lead to a fogging of the importance of Black History in our own stories. For example, a perception of Asian American progress could be looked at just by itself, a sole cause and effect pathway of merit. However, as a community, we have to promote a proactive understanding that Black History Month should matter deeply to us because our legal rights, cultural influence, and social mobility were built in part on the struggles and victories of Black Americans. Social flourishing for the Asian Amer-

ican community necessitates the acknowledgement of the intertwined history between our foundation in America and Black liberation.

While the current American immigrant mix largely consists of Asian immigrants, this is a relatively new process, with the majority of Asian Americans coming after the 1960s. One of the important legal protections for Asian immigrants was the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which removed nationality quotas and allowed for a new era of possibility. The people who advocated for this were Black civil rights activists, suggesting that the Black Civil Rights movement actively accepted Asian Americans and protections for them. The same civil rights acts that allowed disenfranchised Black citizens allowed a smoother journey for Asian Americans to settle down into the U.S. Therefore, without the help of courageous activists the possibility for many of our Asian American families would be impossible.

Similarly, in the 1900s, so-called "Oriental Schools" were created to separate Asian American children from white children, mirroring the separate and obvious lower quality schools forced onto Black children. However, the legal segregation in schools that oppressed both Black and Asian Americans ended with *Brown v. Board of Education*, where Black lawyers were able to systematically reign in and

eventually end racial segregation in schools. With this protection, Asian Americans were also able to access the right to

We should deeply appreciate that protection because without consideration of Black Activists, our first learning opportunities wouldn't have been possible.

equal education. Additionally, for many of us who went to public school, we should deeply appreciate that protection because without the consid-

eration of the Black Activists, our first learning opportunities wouldn't have been possible.

More recently, modern East Asian culture has been greatly accepted into American culture, mainly aspects of pop music. One genre is K-pop, a style with exceptionally large ties to Black History. The roots of K-pop started through the inspirations of Black music. Due to the importance of Black music to American popular music, Black musical styles, like Hip-Hop, R&B, and soul, were also emulated in Korean music, eventually culminating into modern K-pop. Additionally, the aesthetic K-pop tries to portray occasionally leads idols to wear fashion akin to popular Black imagery, or has lyrics containing Black slang (AAVE), but often without the right cul-

tural context. The simulation of Black culture isn't inherently problematic, but becomes a problem when said culture, the fashion and the vocal stylings of Black artists, are used without acknowledging the history of resistance that produced them. When that happens, we risk cultural appropriation and cultural erasure. Black History Month should be a call to move past the superficial 'vibe' and recognize that the art we use to express our modern Asian identity was forged in the fire of Black struggle.

The journey of Asian Americans in this country has been largely influenced by the path made by the Black community. From the century-long process of Black liberation, from emancipation to legal safeguards for protection, Black political activists laid the foundation for many more people of color, including Asian Americans, to exist and thrive. Furthermore, Asian Americans relied on Black culture to compete in the global cultural stage through musical inspiration, which should come with holistic embracement of the culture. As February comes to an end, we need to understand that the benefits we received in history can still be appreciated. As we are also people of color, political threats against Black Americans today affect us, and that necessitates solidarity between cultures. In a larger context, our future as Asian Americans depends on the same courage and coalition-building that Black history has taught us all along.

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FELISHA LI / THE PHILLIPIAN

MUN, Co-Pres Election and Electoral College: Where Democracy Thrives and Falls Short

COLIN LEE

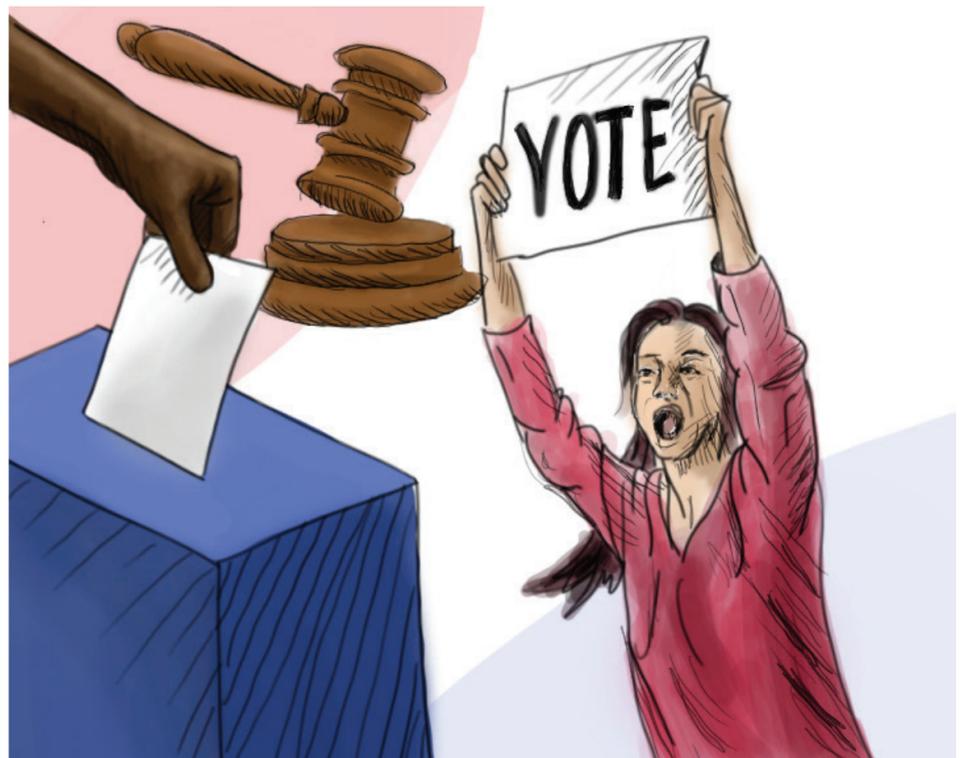


Since it usurped monarchy in the West, democracy is largely hailed as the golden standard for determining leadership in a society. However, like all systems, it has its strengths and weaknesses, so its efficacy can prove highly situational. Recently, I went to Harvard Model United Nations (MUN), and the democratic system set there was extremely dissatisfying, and it got my mind thinking analytically about democracy as a whole, especially in the context of America. Then the Co-President election happened in Andover, and I found that it did not have many of the issues I saw in other places. These experiences made me realize that whether or not democracy is a good fit for a situation comes down to the transparency, scale, and ultimately the agency available to stakeholders.

For some simplified context, in a MUN committee, the role that each participant or pair of participants plays is the delegation for a country, with the end goal of working with other countries to pass a resolution that benefits them. The committee starts with short speeches where delegations present their stances to connect with others who have similar ideas during

unmoderated periods. In those same periods, the groups write their resolution before presenting it in a speech where its passing is voted on. Throughout this whole process, judges are observing and will give out awards at the end. While different judges emphasize different things, in this committee, it was about "taking leadership" and presenting resolutions. My group was a small cluster of people, starving to "demonstrate leadership," often without having any ideas of substance, and a larger group of people too timid or considerate to join the fray. Consequently, my group had an extremely hard time moving forward, and ultimately, the people who were chosen to represent the group were not those who could present it best, but those who were simply the most popular. In this case, this was particularly problematic because those who were popular often echoed vague, common, or outright dysfunctional ideas of the majority, rather than constructing quality ideas. That committee devolved into what Aristotle labels a demagoguery, where appeals to desires or bias dominate rational thought. Thus, I have three big gripes with the current system: first, the number of those who follow blindly far outmatches those who research thoroughly; second, the way information can be skewed or dominated by chance or by the powerful to create dominant false narratives; and third, the nature of a two-party system that breeds dogmatism and polarity.

The consequence of these problems within the system is that elections are currently decided by who better appeals to the masses than who creates a better policy, and those who do bother to assess the situation don't have much further



SOPHIA ZHANG / THE PHILLIPIAN

agency on a national scale. So, voters realistically lack full understanding of the person they are voting for and their policies, either due to a lack of effort to understand them or because of the widespread misinformation confusing them. This is especially true due to the complexity of policy and how it can be twisted through statements like, "the economy made a positive turnaround under President B," when in reality it was from the delayed effects of President A's policies. Then the nail in the coffin is the two-party system formed from non-preferential voting that limits the voters' choice of candidates to the lesser of two evils at best, and a blindly followed label of good guys and bad guys at worst.

But I find these problems aren't really applicable to the

copresidential elections at Andover, and I think it really comes down to the voters having the agency to get what they want. The voting pool is far smaller, so people who don't care won't vote, and if someone really cares, they can convince others, and it will actually make a difference; effort and is rewarded. Furthermore, they have the time and resources to have comprehensive and constructive discussions where everybody knows the same basic premises. My issue with voter knowledge is fixed because the Co-president candidates are people whom the voters actually can get to know if they don't already. Additionally, the policies the pairs run with are limited, so the voters can actually understand clearly, and their consequences are direct, lead-

ing to less misrepresentation. Finally, the process is smooth and resetting as students cycle through the school, preventing stagnation and instead allowing for the development of ideals and mechanisms.

The result is a democracy where the voters can easily grasp most of the situation and therefore vote for the leadership they actually want. In conclusion, I think the copresidential election does democracy really well, perhaps reflecting the intrinsic necessity of transparency, consumability, and flexibility for democratic success.

Colin Lee is a Lower from Pottomac, Md. Contact the author at clee28@andover.edu.

A Collective Nomination: Memory, Empathy, and the Meaning of Non Sibi

WOJIN OH



Recently, the people of South Korea — as a collective — were nominated for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for their resistance against the threat of a military regime. It was a “Revolution of Light” as the nominators called it. In the late night of December 3, 2024, President Yoon Suk-yeol declared martial law, suspending civil liberties and transferring power to the military. Within hours of that announcement, thousands of ordinary citizens gathered in front of the National Assembly in Seoul to resist soldiers guarding the building, allowing senators to enter and nullify the declaration. What brought them there wasn’t heroism. It was a sense of empathy and the spirit of *non sibi* that stretched across generations, distance, and time.

South Korea’s modern history of three-decade-long military regimes carries deep cultural trauma. For many, “martial law” is not a simple power of the president in times of crises but a vivid memory of soldiers in the streets and a violent suppression of democratic movements, most evidently experienced in

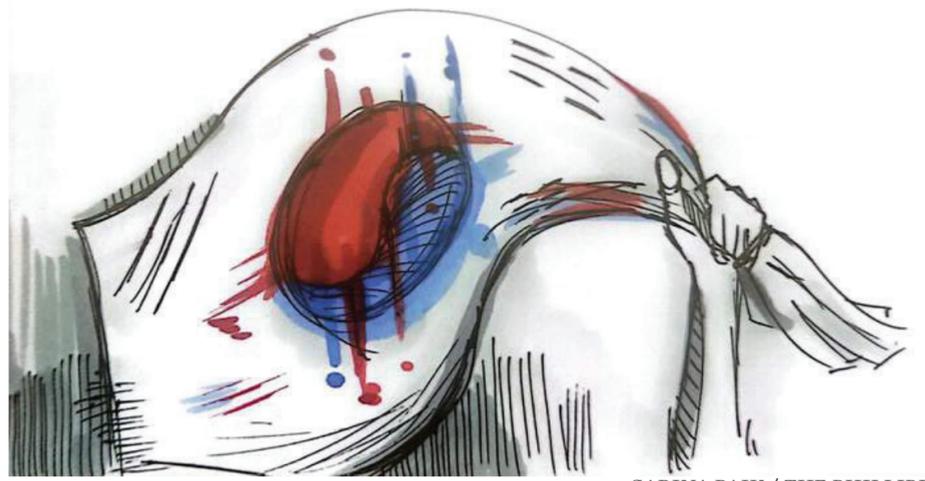
the Gwangju Massacre in 1980. The cost of losing democracy is remembered by the public as common knowledge. For many who gathered in the streets that night, their protest meant confronting the possibility that history could repeat itself.

However, the trauma also provoked a sense of responsibility: they were the generation that could stop a second chain of military regimes. Remembrance of the pain of the past gave citizens a sense of duty to prevent their children and grandchildren from living through such oppressive times. This belief fueled courage and let them face authority even under pressure.

Empathy between the citizens and soldiers also changed how the protest unfolded. Without empathy, it wouldn’t have been difficult for the citizens’ sense of threat to turn into anger towards the soldiers ordered to enforce the martial law; when

It is the willingness to act for something larger than personal comfort.

anger begins to flow between protesters and soldiers, the results often result in tragic casualties. Yet that escalation did not occur. Instead of treating the soldiers as enemies, many citizens chose to see them as young men forced to carry out orders given by their superiors. Some protesters who themselves had completed mandatory military service spoke to the special forces standing outside govern-



CARINA PAIK / THE PHILLIPIAN

ment buildings, reminding them of their responsibility to protect the people. In moments where shouting might have been easier, they chose conversation. In a setting primed for confrontation, they practiced recognition.

Empathy was not only in the streets, but also in acts miles away. As the sun began to set over the East Coast, Korean communities across the United States watched the live news from Seoul. Despite the thirteen-hour gap, Koreans outside their home country began contacting cafés near the Assembly and in Gwanghwamun. They prepaid drinks for strangers standing in the freezing night. What began as dozens of cups quickly grew into hundreds, then thousands. Donations accumulated to the point that most nearby coffee shops were effectively opened for citizens.

After the eventual lifting of the martial law, some policemen and soldiers enforcing the

order were seen apologizing to the citizens. The gesture was brief, but it sent a clear message that despite being on the other side of the barricades, they were unified by the cause to maintain democracy and prevent a dictatorship.

This caring for one another for a common goal reminded me of Andover’s value of *non sibi*.

Non sibi—not for oneself—is often spoken of in classrooms and assemblies as an ideal of service and leadership and a core value of the Andover community. That night in Seoul revealed what the phrase truly means. It is not simply volunteering when convenient or supporting a cause from a distance. It is the discipline to think beyond oneself when fear encourages retreat. It is the ability to see those who stand across from us and recognize their humanity, not with animosity. It is the willingness to act, whether by standing in the cold or by buy-

ing a stranger a warm drink, for something larger than personal comfort. In that sense, *non sibi* is easy to say and hard to follow. It was not easy for those in Seoul. It was cold, fearful, and uncertain. Choosing the other person required neglecting the comfort of silence, the safety of the crowd, or the convenience of looking away. They only had the memory of what it meant to lose something precious, and enough empathy to act before it was gone. Perhaps that is why a collective nomination makes sense — not because of the nation’s eventual triumph, but because of how its citizens chose empathy when escalation was easier.

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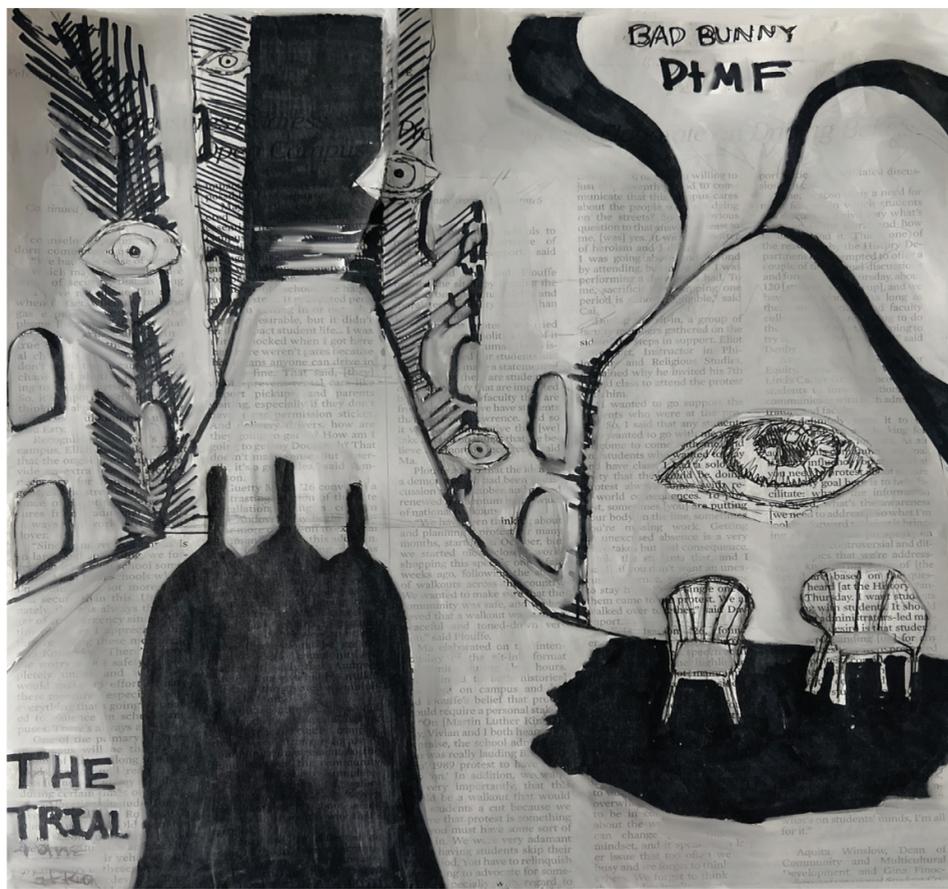
A Rebellion of Joy in a Tyranny Without a Tyrant

IAN M. KIM



Franz Kafka’s “The Trial” from 1914 tells a story about a banker named Josef K, who gets arrested one morning by a foreign legal system without a specified crime. Josef must navigate his way through a maze-like, illogical legal system, with the story eventually concluding in Josef’s death by stabbing, internally shouting his final words, “like a dog!” Many of Kafka’s moral dilemmas center around human existence being victimized to a system with the sole purpose of perpetuating itself; that is, a system designed not to bring justice nor equality but to act in a way that justifies its existence. These moral conflicts of ordinary people suffering inside an omnipresent, illogical situation designed by a powerful system was so pervasive throughout every Kafka story that the literary world coined the term “Kafkaesque.” Hannah Arendt, American philosopher and historian, later articulated these ideas as “a tyranny without a tyrant,” elaborating on this idea of society being built around a tyrannical system without a clear culprit to blame.

In 2026, this Kafkaesque reality lives in the US as a personality cult with a central identity and ideological faith but still without a clear culprit. Prevalent in this personality cult is a carefully crafted fear within the masses. This fear breeds complacency and conformity. Such examples include the mass deployment of the national guard



JIA-YI ZHI / THE PHILLIPIAN

at the capital, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) being spread out throughout the country enticing violence and protests in several major cities, and a social media rampage sending messages of racism and hate. Contrarily, a system structured through joy promotes self-expression, which is the mortal enemy of a government seeking control. Thus, that joy inherently threatens a tyrannical system

So when Bad Bunny stepped on stage at the halftime show at Super Bowl LX, a cultural event with tremendous global impact, the fear from the tyranny without a tyrant became quite evident. This tyranny had crafted itself around the fear of immigration, but more broadly, the fear of cultural diversity and assimilation. In the name of being “American,” this tyranny has

broken the masses up into moral enemies: one with the incentive to drive out “immigrants” and the other being driven out and discriminated against. History has repeated itself: the number of those in power is often minute in comparison to the masses, and to retain control of their power, the wealthy must pit the masses against each other to distract them from their own doings. Thus, a narrative that incentivizes hatred transfers the responsibility of stigma and discrimination from the wealthy to the masses, perpetuating a tyranny that legitimizes the authority of the powerful.

Now, the emotion of joy produced by Bad Bunny directly challenges this narrative by providing a leeway to unity. Whether the masses agree with the message or not, a message of joy told on such a big stage is des-

tined to have an impact against this tyrannical narrative. That’s why the tyranny was scary. Scared of the masses. Scared that the masses would come for them instead of each other. Scared of the truth. Along with media slander weeks before Bad Bunny took the stage, the tyranny planned an “All-American” halftime show. Though the powerful will always have the ability to shift the narrative in some way, the very existence of that effort to divert attention away is a sign of vulnerability, of weakness, and of dread.

Bad Bunny performed many songs from his most recent album “DeBí TiRAR Más FO-ToS.” At the final minutes of his concert, he listed out all the countries in North and South America, with a billboard in the background that read in plain black text “THE ONLY THING

MORE POWERFUL THAN HATE IS LOVE.” And that, along with his unified message of destigmatizing immigration and cultural diversity, proved to be a well-planned rebellion against the narrative of hate. Along with his last song of the performance, “DtMF,” Bad Bunny lifted a football with the inscription “Together, we are America.” Through a joyous celebration of music that was broadcast globally, the performance was not just a call for unity but the breaking of the illusions set to divide. Through joy, he provided a new path to move forward, combatting insistent and pervasive hate not with more hate, but with love. The path forward was to drown out the hate. The path terrifies tyranny.

As citizens of this tyranny, we have the duty to respond. It isn’t easy, as the prevalence of widespread paranoia seeps into every aspect of our daily lives. But though love was always powerful, it’s never been easy to maintain or protect. In this critical juncture of history, we must always maintain the hope that love is possible in everyone, and keep our arms open to receive it. Because the powerful want us to believe that a brighter future isn’t coming, that the pain, hate, and grief are necessary—never cave into the fear that division is the correct answer. Never compromise love because fear is the easier way out. Love is more valuable precisely because it’s so hard to achieve in such an autonomous tyranny. Because the truth is deceptively simple for the masses and incredibly scary for those in power who recognize the simplicity of their fallacies. The only thing more powerful than hate is love, and that love is the purest form of joy. The rebellion of joy. Ahora sí!

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Andover Football Shares Excitement for Adams' Upcoming Leadership

Continued from A1, Column 5

Ventre. Football Co-Captain Thane McCormick '27 said he views the shift to a full-time head coaching model as a positive step for the program.

"It definitely steps up the program to another level where we're able to bring in a coach who is nationally recognized and who's going to come to Andover and see how Andover can be on the national level as a competitor," said McCormick.

Assistant Football Coach Christopher Powers pointed to similar leadership models already in place in other Andover athletic programs.

"In my opinion, what the school is thinking about is they already have done this with a couple other sports. There's a Director of Squash, right? And our Squash program has seen some really great success. There's a Director of Swimming, there's a Director of Rowing. And I think it's kind of the way independent schools are kind of shifting in [how] they look at their head coaching roles. So I think what this will allow the Director of Football and Head Coach to be able to do is spend more time developing the systems and the recruiting and then the college placement of our players," said Powers.

Ventre elaborated on the cultural and institutional significance of football on campus.

"I think all of us care deeply about the way our football program is perceived and the fact that we are embedded in developing a culture that is about character and strength of friendships... I will say there has been real success with the way our football program has evolved, where the students and their families care deeply about our program. And so, it goes to kind of the emphasis on football right now. It becomes important. It becomes important

to those families and those students, and it's important to the school and the administration and athletics," said Ventre.

Prior to his appointment as Interim Head Coach, Adams served as football research director for the New England Patriots, contributing to six Super Bowl championships. He has worked with the Andover football program in the last four years, and served as linebackers coach last season. Adams reflected on both his time as a four-year student and his return to campus.

"[When I was here], I was the good kid who tried hard. I [wasn't] a real good player. But I was extremely interested in football. My senior year we had a PG who I ended up playing next to on the offensive line, Bill Belichick [71]. So that's where we started our fifty five year friendship. I had a chance to learn from a great coach at Andover, Steve Sorota. Andover football was very important to me and I got blue blood flowing through my arteries," said Adams.

He continued, "[Being back has] been great. I always have a warm spot in my heart for anything Andover. Largely because students are wonderful to deal with. It's a lot of fun for me being on campus working with students. A lot of alumni do volunteer work for the school but I get to do the fun stuff: I actually get to work with a bunch of guys who are trying to do something hard and I try to help them."

Former Football Head Coach Trey Brown PG '12 will remain with the program as Assistant Coach. Football Co-Captain Scott Carmichael '27 reflected on Brown's legacy.

"Brown brought me to Andover. He's opened an immense amount of doors and he's coached me everyday with passion, integrity, and graciousness. He's really an amazing guy. He has an amazing reputation on campus. He leaves a reputation and a culture at Andover that is built upon pillars of fam-

ily, strength, hard work, and integrity," said Carmichael.

The team and captains met with Adams earlier this week. Football Co-Captain Jun An '27 said Adams' familiarity with the program helped ease concerns about the transition.

"The most important thing is that the kids that have played on the team know who he is because he's been on the staff. A lot of the worries regarding the coaching change was that [the school] would bring someone that we didn't know. There's [anyway] going to be a new dynamic to the team but I really like the fact that it's someone that we all knew. And Coach Adams, is one of the most respected coaches in football. He worked with the Patriots. He knows what he's talking about," said An.

Adams shared that he is currently working on the scouting and recruitment process for next year's team, along with ensuring that the football team gets access to the turf field everyday during the fall for practice. Adams also discussed his views on his role as a head coach.

"My role as a coach is to give the players a good plan, and teach them how to execute it. My number one goal is to get the Andover team to play as close as possible to our maximum potential," said Adams.

Joel explained the search for a permanent head coach will follow a standard hiring timeline.

"The person who will step into the head coaching role for 2027, that's a long ways' away. So this is not something that people are going to see in the next couple of months. We'll put that out there and I expect there'll be a deep, deep amount of interest in this job. So we'll want to do a thorough job of vetting applicants and hopefully to name someone by the winter of [2026]," said Joel.

Campus Reacts to Rare Occurrence of Cancelled In-Person Classes

Continued from A1, Column 2

classes because of the timing and the winds. Not that it was dangerous to walk around, but it [became] difficult to get around," said Murphy.

Odden elaborated on the school's policy for weather-related events. She explained that Monday's decision was an exception to their default response rather than a rule.

"As a boarding school, we have many community members living on campus and a school year that is already short compared to many other schools. Therefore, our default is not to cancel classes for weather-related events. In this particular case, the scale and timing of the storm seemed to warrant the adjustments we made to classes. Every situation is different, so we do not have a standard solution," wrote Odden in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Andover's reluctance to cancel classes due to inclement weather meant that many students were caught off guard when the full scope of the storm became clear. Robert Budzinski '26 described his reaction upon reading Esty's email.

"I've been at the school for four years, and they've never canceled. They almost had to during the last snowstorm, but then they called a Head of School Day instead. I thought they might just do another Head of School Day or not cancel at all," said Budzinski.

The closure of certain buildings on campus was also unexpected for students. Allegra Lee '27 recounted heading outside during the storm only to encounter a change in her plans.

"I wasn't anticipating any of the buildings to shut down, and actually I remember even when the snowstorm was happening, I went outside still, because I had to go to [Paresky Commons] to eat food, and obviously that was open, but I also thought, 'Oh, maybe the Borden gym will be open,' but I went, and everything was locked," said Lee.

With the campus largely inaccessible, students navigated the day on their own terms. Lee noted a positive moment in the day despite the storm.

"Me and my friends did a

call, and we were able to play some online games. We just played the Google Doodle ghost game and also the Spanish bingo card game on Google Doodle. It ended up being pretty fun, even though it was kind of tiring too," said Lee.

Hannah Jung '28 also found an unexpected positive, turning the day into an opportunity to reconnect with friends.

"I was able to spend my evening with a friend in Isham [House]... we had a long common room visitation, ate dinner together, and talked while doing work, which was nice because I hadn't caught up with her in a long time," said Jung.

The disruption to academics was managed on a course-by-course basis. Odden described the approaches faculty took to assess the needs of their students.

"Instructors were encouraged to adjust plans in ways that made sense for their courses. Since most assignments are collected through Canvas, it was reasonable for instructors to go ahead and collect those assignments. However, I did hear anecdotally that some instructors extended deadlines. In-class assessments tend to be less common on Mondays, but in cases where they were planned, instructors had to adjust in some way. We left decisions about how to adjust up to instructors, because they know best what makes sense in the context of their courses," wrote Odden.

Drawing on a similar disruption during this term's Head of School Day, Jung suggested that the school improve how updates on building availability are communicated to students in the future.

"It would be nice to have a more reliable source of information. Everyone was waiting to see when buildings would be available, and it was unreliable to go to PANet because a lot of students don't know where to find that information. I had friends checking every 30 minutes. They ended up posting on Instagram, but I know some people who don't have that social media, and it felt exclusionary. It would be nice next time to notify all students directly if athletic facilities or Falls [Music Center] are open and when they close in situations like that," said Jung.

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Organizers Elaborate on Structure and Goals of Grading Forum

Continued from A1, Column 3

main [goals of the forum] are to address this inconsistency and to have a conversation to break the stigma around grading, which is such a prominent part of everyone's life.

Caroline Odden, Dean of Studies, helped Hu and Wang plan the conceptual aspects of the forum, including the invitations, agenda, and discussion questions. She explained that the forum aims to address requests from students for more structured conversations about academics.

"Frank and Anny approached me last spring about their interest in planning a forum for students and faculty to talk about grading, so we have been thinking about this together for a while. In addition, this year students have been asking for more organized opportunities to talk with faculty and administrators about a variety of topics related to campus life and the academic program, so I see this forum as a nice starting point to respond to those requests," wrote Odden in an email to *The Phillipian*.

The forum will consist of 15 faculty members alongside around 25 students. Wang elaborated

ated on the structure of the event.

"We're going to either break into small groups or have a big group discussion around what students don't like and like about grading. At the end, we will have a grading 'Bill of Rights' exercise, which pushes students to not only think about grading negatively but also think about how we can improve it," said Wang.

Hu highlighted his and Wang's efforts to ensure the forum fairly represents Andover's range of grading practices. He noted that spotlighted concerns in the student body often differ from those of the faculty, which the forum seeks to address.

"We tried to get a wide array of department representation. I think we did a pretty good job of hosting a wide array of teachers who will be participating... Oftentimes, students and teachers talk within their own bubbles. And it's hard for there to be actual dialogue across them, sharing students' versus teachers' perspectives on something that is so perceivably important as grading. So our overall goal is just to be able to [have] students share with teachers what students are experiencing, and hopefully for teachers to also bring to light some of the ideas or issues that students hadn't really thought about," said Hu.

Henry Zimmerman '27, who plans to attend the forum, appreciated this structure for its potential benefits for student and faculty discourse.

"I like that there is a somewhat balanced student-to-teacher ratio [for the event]. That will be helpful because students will be able to engage in more personal discussions with teachers who have different perspectives on grading, and teacher-student engagement is one of the most important parts of this process because it's not often that discussions about grading between teachers and students happen outside of a classroom context," said Zimmerman.

Maya Tomlinson '28 explained that she hopes to learn more about grading at Andover from other faculty and students at the forum.

"I thought it would be an important opportunity to be able to connect with my teachers about a topic that's so pertinent to academic life here and also because it's important for students to have a say in how we are being assessed... Things like this reduce the tension between faculty and students because there's a lot more clarity. It reduces assumptions and misconceptions, which are all very useful," said Tomlinson.

OWHL Symposium Presents Diverse Array of Topics

Continued from A1, Column 3

"I'm Egyptian myself. I kind of have really struggled in general with a lot of people not being educated about the Middle East and like a lot of dehumanization surrounding the Middle East. So for me, this topic was kind of a way to give people an opportunity to be educated and also humanize Egyptians through graffiti... I hope that it creates the conversations about people really challenging themselves to make an effort to understand the world outside of Andover, because Andover is a very isolating place, and it's very easy to try to kind of forget exactly what goes on outside of it," said Mohamed.

Ellah Kotlarsky '27, an attendee, appreciated the range of project topics and presentation formats.

"What's so exciting about OWHL [Scholars Program] is even though they're united by this theme, which was something about the past, I loved the diversity of the projects. There was one about Buddhism arts, Egyptian art, and astronomy at Andover. I love that they were super diverse, and I got to learn a lot of things," she said.

Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL, highlighted the intentionality behind this year's theme. She also noted several structural changes aimed at making the process clearer and more supportive for students.

"This year's theme grew out of our desire to help students think more deeply about how the past continues to shape the present. We wanted language that captured the many ways history works on us. Sometimes the past is reflected clearly, sometimes it is refracted through different perspectives, and sometimes it reverberates in ways we do not fully understand until much later. The theme invites students to

think not only about what happened, but also about memory, interpretation, and impact," said Torres Hoven.

She continued, "This year, we focused on making expectations clearer for students earlier in the process, especially around deadlines during the summer and presentation structure, slide preparation, and citations. We also worked to support students in thinking about how to communicate their ideas to an audience, not just how to complete strong research. Small logistical changes like clearer timelines and more intentional mentoring helped the entire event feel more organized and student-centered."

Kotlarsky highlighted how public presentations offered a fresh, engaging style of learning that emphasizes shared scholarship.

"It's so cool that we get to, as a community, celebrate these scholars for the incredible work that they've done over the summer and this term. We often associate a scholarship with a very solitary thing. It's similar to something where you're poring over books in your room. But this makes learning very communal by giving them the chance to share it with us and for us to appreciate them, it's really important," said Kotlarsky.

Attendee Hannah Jung '28 reflected on how hearing student research pushed her to reconsider how she engages with news.

"[The Symposium] made me more conscious of the fact that as someone living in America right now, I'm really impacted by the media and how things are on the headlines, but [there are] always so many other events going on that not many people notice, per se. After watching these presentations, I want to try practicing some meditation and looking at the news more deeply," said Jung.

10 Questions with Peter Cirelli

REPORTING BY OLIVIA TEMPLE & SARAH SUN

Peter Cirelli (he/him) is an Instructor in Music, the Interim Director of Performance, and the conductor of the Jazz Band. Cirelli began his career at Andover as an Adjunct Music Instructor teaching private lessons in 1986, making 2026 his 40th year of working at Andover. Cirelli plays the trombone, tuba, and euphonium. In his free time, Cirelli enjoys reading on his Kindle, playing golf, and spending time outdoors.

What has been your favorite thing about teaching for the past 40 years?

I love music, and so I always like helping others look for music. About teaching here, I particularly like the curiosity of our students and how they really want to learn. Many of the duties that I have involved directing music ensembles for which students don't receive credit. It's always enjoyable for me to see students working hard at something for which they're not going to get any academic credit or have anything on their transcript.

Did anyone in specific introduce you or inspire you to music? How so?

Quite a few people along the way. First of all, my father got me to play music, originally on the accordion and then on euphonium, which is a band instrument, a brass instrument. And then many music teachers along the way who mentored me. As a professional, a few other musicians who mentored me and gave me opportunities. I think it was everyone along the way. There are certainly little things, little quotes from different people here and there, but the cumulative effect of all of these different people get onto my path and help me realize that I need to be one of those people to younger musicians now.

What were some of your favorite moments while playing in the orchestras of Boston Swing, Colonial Boston Ballet, and Broadway shows?

There were many different moments playing Broadway shows or playing symphony orchestras or jazz bands, etc. I think one really gratifying, or two, I should say, was one performance about 25 years ago in Boston with Joni Mitchell. A lot of famous people travel around the country with only part of their band or orchestra. And then in each city, they hire local musicians to fill out their band or orchestra. I've played with a lot of people who I never met. And even on the day of the performance, I didn't say hello or have a conversation. They bring in their own core people and they hire a bigger orchestra in each city, so I got to play with Joni Mitchell in Boston and Aretha Franklin at the Newport Jazz Festival. Those were really, really fun experiences.

Prior to coming to Andover, you recorded record labels for Blue Notes, RCA, Phillips, and other companies. What was your experience with these labels?

Some of my recordings happened while I was living in Brazil in the early 1980s. I lived in the city of São Paulo and I was part of the freelance musician



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

group there who would be called into recording studios to make albums or TV jingles or things like that. Some of it was here in the greater Boston area, working with different ensembles, mostly jazz and sometimes Latin American music and salsa groups... Most of my opportunities [are] from other trombone players and from other musicians, always trying to be a good colleague and to fit into any musical group that I played in, rather than trying to be a star and trying to be above other people. And so you end up having recommendations from your colleagues much more than being recognized as someone who sticks out above the crowd.

You spent some time living in Brazil to teach in a music festival and a conservatory while playing in jazz ensembles and recordings. How would you say that experience contrasts with playing in an orchestra in Boston?

I'm in a completely different culture, learning to speak a different language. Brazilians are incredibly patient and warm people, and they were very

good to me and helped me learn Portuguese and corrected me often, which I appreciated. But being different than Boston, there are different musical styles that you're able to play in any country you go to. Each country has its musical traditions. Brazil certainly has its strong traditions. So in that way, it was different. There's also a real warmth among Brazilian musicians. It's so much fun to get together and play music. Not that it's not fun in Boston, but it's even more enhanced, I think, in Brazil. People just love to get together and hang out and play music.

You were also nominated for a Grammy in 1998 for the 30th Annual Grammy Awards. What were you nominated for and how has this affected the course of your musical career?

Just to be clear, I was not nominated by name. I was playing in a band. It was a salsa band. It was based in Lawrence, Massachusetts. We got a recording contract on a record label called A&M records. Because of that high-profile recording

contract, we had the votes and we were nominated for a Grammy Award. It's also a good quality record, but the Grammy nominations most often go to recordings that are made on large record labels.

Do you have any advice for aspiring artists at Phillips Academy who hope to pursue a musical career?

It's fairly rare for Andover students to go into a musical career. I wouldn't say impossible. There are certainly students who do that, but most of our students go on to universities and continue to study music while studying things. For those who are pursuing a career, just stick with it and certainly have other skills that develop because being a performer only is a very difficult career. Not very many people earn a living just as a performer. So many of us are performers and teachers. Continue pursuing [music] as a sort of lifelong way of continuing to develop your brain., I'm 67 years old, and I've been playing music since I was about six years old. There's still a vast amount of music in this world that I can

study, and that's one of the things that I plan to do in retirement is continue to study various styles of Brazilian music, of Cuban music, and different styles of music from around the world that interest me. There's an endless repertoire for me to study.

Has there ever been a moment teaching at Phillips Academy with like a student or a teacher or anything that you really feel like you remember or that you felt changed your mindset at all or anything?

I don't have any specific student in mind, but I always love that moment when I see a student's face change because they conquered something. If they've been working hard at learning, [like in] a part that they play in the jazz band or something else that they've been working on for a while, and they all of a sudden get it and they play it well, seeing that look on their face like 'Okay I've got this,' you know that's just one of the most rewarding moments definitely.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time outside of music? Do you enjoy any sports or films or movies?

I enjoy golfing. I'm looking out the window waiting for all the snow to go away so I can begin my golf season. I enjoy being outdoors in general. I also really enjoy going back to Brazil. My wife is from Brazil. I met her when I lived there, and we like spending a lot of time there at the beach and with family and just generally being outdoors in Brazil is, it's such a nature's period. There's so much to see there. I enjoy a variety of things, but those are probably the main things.

What is an unknown fact about yourself that most people don't know about you? Or like, what's one of your favorite things about yourself?

I like to end every day with fiction. I have my Kindle app on my iPad and my phone, and it's my gift to myself to read fiction every day. I've been through a lot of different things. Sometimes I read about history. Sometimes it's just pure fiction. I recently read historical fiction about the Second World War in Italy and a young man who was involved in the resistance. It was a really interesting book.

A Conversation with Ernie Adams '71

REPORTING BY FELIX BRET

Ernie Adams '71 is currently serving as the interim football coach for the 2026 season. To read full coverage on his appointment, go to A1.

Can I please have your name, role, and graduation year?

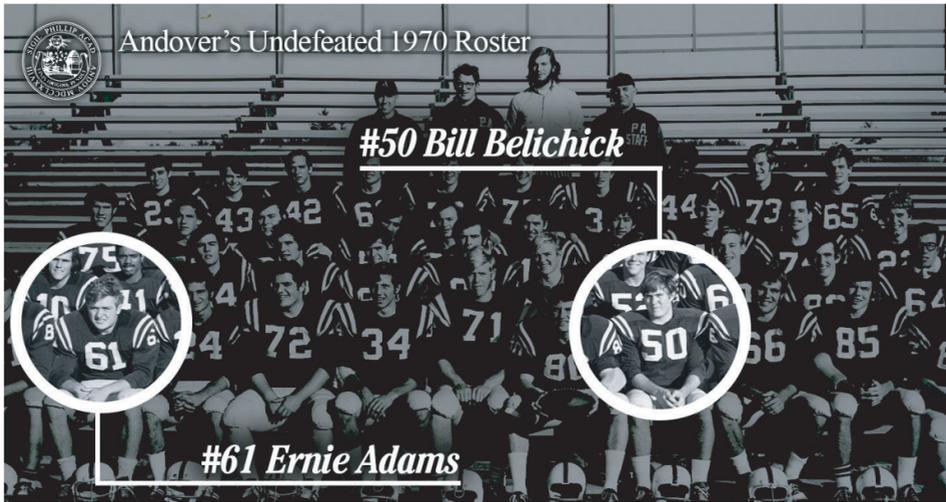
I am Ernie Adams, member of the class of 1971 and I am the interim head football coach at Phillips Academy. And I am the head Football coach but this is for this year for the coming 2026 season.

To start at the start, what was your experience with football at Andover and how did that impact your coaching career?

Well, I was a bit slow and a little bit stiff so I was the good kid who tried hard. I'm not a real good player. But I was obviously extremely interested in football. I went to Andover for four years. My senior year we had a PG who I ended up playing next to on the offensive line, Bill Belichick. So that's where we started our fifty five year friendship. Right there at Andover. I had a chance to learn from a great coach at Andover, Steve Sorota, who impacted me in a lot of ways. Even though I wasn't a very good player, Andover football was very important to me and I got blue blood flowing through my arteries.

Something that people aren't necessarily aware of as of now is that you've been quite involved with the football team over the past few years. I was talking to the captains and they were talking about how you've been especially involved as last year's linebackers coach. How's that experience been?

It's been great. I always have a warm spot in my heart for anything Andover. Largely because students, like you, are wonderful to deal with. It's a lot of fun for me being on campus working with students. A lot of alumni do volunteer work for the school but I get to do the fun stuff. I actually get to work with a bunch of guys who are trying to do something hard and I try to help them.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY ARCHIVES / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KELVIN MA

Obviously before coming to the high school level you had a long illustrious career as a research coach with the New England Patriots. How has it helped coming here?

A lot of stuff we would do in terms of strategy, tactics, playing the game. Stuff that works that works in the National Football League is a lot of the same stuff that works in high school. Obviously it's different when you're in an NFL team. You've got players who are twenty seven, twenty eight years old, they have really good college careers behind them and all that. We don't have that at Andover but it's the same game. I don't care what level you're at, high school, college or pro, the feels are you know fifty three in a third yard wide, hundred yard long... It's the same game in a lot of ways but dealing with younger players.

Would you say there are any main differences or similarities that stick out?

You know if you can control the game and run the football you're probably gonna do pretty well. In the National Football League you have extremely gifted professional athletes. The skill can be unbelievable at times which isn't necessari-

ly what you're going to have on a high school level but things are relative. [At] the Andover football team, we don't have professional football players. If things work in professional football they're going to work for the most part at Andover.

One big upcoming change is that the role of football coach is going to transition to a more year-round position? How is the planning going for that?

I think in reality at most of the schools there's usually the head football coach that will be an important part of their responsibilities. Fifty years ago a football coach was teaching four classes, working in a dorm and in a couple of major faculty committees. I'm sure you heard the old "triple threat" which is kind of going by the wayside, I'm not sure if that's for the best. But when I was at Andover our head coach was Steve Sorota who by the time I got there had been here for thirty years. He was the head coach of the track team, both the indoor and outdoor ones. He taught a couple PE classes and that was basically his job so [that] he could devote a significant amount of his time to football. So however you get to it, because football coaching has a lot to it. It's involved, it takes time, the head coach whatever

you call it is gonna be putting a considerable amount of his work time towards football.

What are your plans for this year's football team?

I told the team when I was introduced to them last Monday that my role as a coach is to give the players a good plan and teach them how to execute it. My number one goal is to get the Andover team to play as close as possible to our maximum potential.

Is there any other restructuring going on within the management or is this the main change?

I've been the main change. There are a few things that we've worked with the athletic department about. My top priority at the moment: the football fields in Siberia aren't really safe enough and play hard football on. I wanna make sure that the football team gets access to the turf field everyday. As you probably know on Wednesdays you may have a varsity field hockey game, a JV field hockey game which is great. Obviously if you're playing a game you have the entire field and for the football team that's a problem for us [so] we have to go on the grass. There will be Wednesdays in the fall where we go on the turf

field later after the games. Everybody may be off and ready to go for study hours. So just getting out and rearranging the schedule has been important.

Are you involved in the scouting process for the new coach and athletes?

Yes. I'm sure you know, the admissions and acceptances [for students] go out on March 10 so we're getting up there. For this coming weekend against Exeter there'll be a few potential students coming in and seeing the school and not just walking around and looking at the buildings. It's really important for them to get the feel of what it's like being a student at Andover so we've been trying to make sure they get to see that. As you know, coming to Andover is a big decision so I think it would be totally wrong to act like a used car salesman and so we'll show our potential students what Andover's about and they'll make the decision.

Apart from the standard seven PGs are there any other football recruits upcoming?

One of the great things about Andover is that we accept students at all levels. We have people coming in each class, of each year. We love to get every year a couple new players who can play football, and a couple new uppers who can play football. You need kids who start as juniors so that there's a constant pipeline because football has the biggest team on campus. We have the most players. We need a constant flow of students who are interested who may have some football ability.

Anything you would like to add?

It's always fun being back at Andover and coaching a football team is totally enjoyable for me.

Andover Hosts Women's College Panel Led by Faculty Alums

ADELYNE LIU & SOPHIA TOLOKH

For the first time in a decade, Andover held an all-women's college panel led by faculty alums. This event was organized by Aya Murata, Assistant Dean of Students and Associate Director of College Counseling, with the purpose of stimulating discussion between students and alumni of all-women's colleges regarding their experiences in higher education.

Reflecting on her college decision, Anny Candelario, Instructor in Mathematics, mentioned that she did not initially consider the gender-specific nature of Wellesley College as a deciding factor. Over time, she came to see the institution's single-gender environment as central to its strengths. She highlighted that she only fully appreciated the experience after graduating.

"I did not look at the gender piece when making that decision. I looked at everything that it provided, and throughout the years there, I knew why this was the experience that Wellesley provides. It being single gender is part of what makes all of the other things it offers be really, be really good. It took me until post-graduation to be a fan. I met amazing advisors, amazing teachers. Everyone, we still keep in touch. It was not until after that I appreciated my experience, but I have developed a sincere appreciation to be continued as to why," said Candelario.

Kaya Mangani '27 chose to attend the event because she had not previously considered women's colleges in her search process and sought to broaden her perspective. She emphasized that she did not want to overlook an

institution because it was single gender.

"I decided to go because I hadn't really considered women's colleges before, but it was interesting to diversify my range of colleges that I was looking at because I didn't want to restrict myself to a certain place, or I didn't want to miss out on a good school just because it was a women's college, per se. In looking at schools, it's kind of important to see it holistically, so, yes, it's a women's college, but also what other great programs do they offer? So just brightening my horizons of colleges," said Mangani.

Dr. Christine Marshall, Instructor in Biology and graduate of Smith College, mentioned she was drawn to the school's strong culture of mentorship and its focus on supporting women.

"Smith felt very compelling because it was a school that was set up for people of my gender, and the professors I met were just very dedicated to their students. The message that I got over and over was that you can do whatever you want to do, and we are here to help you do that, and that is our purpose. We've chosen to be at this school because it's a patriarchal society and there are different obstacles that young women have to consider as they step into adulthood and into the workplace, and we are really skilled at mentoring you. [I wanted to] make college just about me and my own personal development and make that deliberate choice for myself. The experience with the school was so powerful in a lot of ways," said Marshall.

Karen Douyon, Instructor in Theatre and Dance, graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia after initially getting accepted early action into her then dream school, Princeton. How-

ever, after getting into Spelman during her PG year, Douyon knew it was right for her before she even stepped on campus.

"My dad was driving the car onto Spelman's campus and I'm in the backseat looking out the window and there were all these girls that looked like me on the sidewalk with signs cheering, like how the Blue Keys welcome students back to campus. They had this chant that they were saying over and over 'Oh, don't you wish you were a Spelmanite like me?' and that was the chant we would sing all throughout our four years with such pride. In the car, I started to tear up with joy, and in that moment, I knew that this is where I was meant to be. I'm looking back at it as an adult, and I am realizing that this was the first decision I ever made for myself. For me, Spelman was something that I wanted for myself solely," said Douyon.

Cora Rogers '27 mentioned that she initially had reservations about attending a women's college. However, after the panel, Rogers highlighted the potential benefits of a single-gender space, noting that such environments can feel empowering.

"I was thinking that an all girls college would be very much... I was very worried about the social life and very much just feeling isolated and sad that there's not also guys around. It sounded like it really wasn't that way and that they all had really good social lives and that it was kind of nice to be in classes and take classes and have facilities that were all designed for your gender. Just to be on campus with everyone who looks like you: that felt very empowering. I really liked that idea," said Rogers.

Food Delivery Task Force Surveys Students Amidst Safety Concerns

SOPHIA FANG & THEODORE STEINERT

Advising groups received a survey on food delivery usage as part of the Food Delivery Task Force's efforts to develop a food delivery policy amid campus safety concerns. While the task force has begun drafting ideas for restrictions on food delivery on campus, the future of these services remains largely uncertain.

Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, explained how the survey was designed to help the task force better understand students' usage of food delivery and assess how their ideas may affect the Andover community.

"We're a large community, so even with students on the task force, we needed more information from the community to understand behavioral trends. Understanding what people are currently doing allows us to consider different ideas with the knowledge of how many people they might impact. For instance, if we limited ordering before the first period, how many students would that impact, versus limiting ordering after dinner? Our goal is to focus on meeting community needs for food while moving toward greater community safety," wrote Esty in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Esty addressed popular misconceptions about the task force's potential outcome, clarifying its purpose for institutional decisions regarding food delivery.

"I had not realized that so many students think the school is trying to 'ban food delivery.' We formed the task force to inform institutional decision-making, and because we value student voice. We did not enter into our work

together with the assumption that there would be only one possible outcome, a ban," wrote Esty.

Recent reports of delivery vehicles driving in unauthorized parts of campus have raised safety concerns among students and faculty, according to Esty. Ryan Levine '27, a member of the task force, described their intention to reduce the risk of pedestrian accidents.

"All [of] the board's priority is just safety. There are a lot of cars going pretty fast on roads and are going on roads that are not roads [but] pathways, especially at night. There have been a couple incidents where there have been really close calls, and we want some way to have a procedure that wouldn't put any students at risk of being hit by a car or anything like that," said Levine.

Levine outlined the task force's progress, emphasizing its priorities and limited role in the final policy.

"We already picked out the points [on] campus if we were to have some sort of delivery point where food would be dropped off and we plan to have at least one DoorDash drop off per cluster. We've also done what hours would be best with the safety concerns, and it came to a consensus that it being dark does have an effect on safety," said Levine.

Levine continued, "At the end of the day, we're just trying to make people safe, and it's not up to the students or even most of the teachers on the committee what is going to take place... There shouldn't be any backlash against the students on the committee. We're trying our best, and if there's any outrage, it should be against the people [who] are actually making the decisions."

Phinals Week Phun

Top 10 In-Dorm Snow-Day Activities!!!

Konnor Fortini

1. Have fun with your dorm rep! They do SO MUCH for the dorm and are always down to have a great time!
2. Clean your room! You have the opportunity to clean up all of the mess you made with your dorm rep. Yes, that includes the sock that a compsci class classifies as hardware.
3. Write a *The Phillipian* article! Now that you guys are all cleaned up, you can sit down, prop your computer open, and write a tuff article. (DOUBLE BONUS: if you finish early, read *The Phillipian* as we all do! Make sure to stop by the most read, best-edited sections: Sports and Arts.)
4. Have an indoor snowball fight! The administration said it's really cold outside, so let's bring the fun inside! Collect some snow, bring it inside, and throw it at your house counselor. They love the snow! You can also build a snowman on the second floor of your dorm to help accelerate the process of getting new floorboards and help OPP out with the removal.
5. Take a shower! (Optional add-ons: soap & water.) Please note that the water tank is frozen solid and nothing will happen.
6. Set off the fire alarm for some extra outdoor fun time! This has become very popular in Pine Knoll. (Pro Tip from a Fuesian: put ramen without water in the microwave.)
7. Sleep in a circle with all your friends! The first one to wake up loses :(Last one to finish wins (yay!). This is a variant on a game popularized by Rockwellians, but that has spread to almost all lowerclassmen boys dorms.
8. Put your phone in the charging station and don't touch it for the whole day. Your house counselor will think you're sooo cool!
9. Ask your house counselor to host a mandatory dorm bonding and share one rose and one thorn!
10. Email your teachers and ask for extra work, as you want more "learning opportunities!" School is about the learning, not the grade, so make sure to insist that the work not count towards your grade. You deserve that 4.

Week's Top Headlines

- *24 Students Get a "Concussion" From Ruthless Walking Injury; Each of Them Had a 3 in Biology 500*
- *Eighth Page Headline About Canada Hockey from Last Week is Proven True*
- *Japanese Monkey "Punch" Resembles Freshman Lost in Lower Right*
- *Missionary Rock Deemed "Shrinkage-Inducing," Frozen-Over Rabbit Pond Takes Over*
- *Aspiring Hockey Players Spotted Without Teeth Around Campus*
- *All Gender Housing to be Replaced by Iowa Frat Stack*
- *"Rhyme Without Reason" Spirit Week Theme Leads to Interesting Fit with Yahtzee Player and Friend*

Day in the Life of a Desperate PG

Elizandro Pereira

Man, thank goodness I came to Andover as a PG. Now I get the opportunity to receive offers from Curry College, Dartmouth – no that's UMASS Dartmouth, Smith College, Carleton (conditional on my participation in the GSA on campus) and Bunker Hill CC. All wonderful institutions that Andover students attend.

Bunker Hill has a nice campus. It's only two buildings but Boston is just a hop, skip, and a leap away. It's way better than the schools I was promised when I accepted my admission to Andover. You know, I did an official visit at Smith and I really loved the culture there, but the girls weren't into me for some reason. The All-Gender Frisbee Coach was into me though, and boy were they/them a score. We're hanging out later today to go over some plays at the crib.

The only school I was really dreaming of was Ole Miss, but me and Trini didn't hit it off. I just don't operate well on island time.

Other than those two buildings, Bunker Hill really didn't have anything else. I also just realized they haven't had a football team since Jeffrey (you know who) pulled funding for a women's team somewhere else. They still have a soccer team so I can just play with those guys. Also, looks like they don't even have a Cafeteria, "Hey, still better than Paresky Commons."

To be honest, I kind of love the illusion of Bunker Hill life. Having a solid foundation with the soccer team will really help me through my 9 years of college eligibility and my future role as a redshirt 4th year Freshman at Penn State, with my "boy" the "18 year old" Owen Stubblebine.



KELVIN MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

Overheard on the Paths

"Redbull spelled backwards is llubder. Which is funny, cause I really llubder this time."

"I say we stuff him full of sausage until he can't take any more..."

"Anybody else pocketjerk in Zoom classes on Monday?"

"Wait, which Caribbean island are we going to for this Senior trip?"

"What's all over you guys?" "It's just water..."

"We crack at dawn."

"Should I bring my Bluecard to the Bahamas?"

"I'm writing my History 300 paper on Rubi Rose desegregating schools!"

Exeter State of the Union

Thiago Jollon

Greetings Exonians. Like Donald Trump, whom most of us voted for, we are going to address the Union (of over-achieving international students and cretinlike New Hampshireites). Things are better than ever over here in the state known as 'Arkansas with Snow,' where us Exonians share with Arkansans the color red and a hesitancy to racially integrate. As we prepare to face our Andover foes, we must think back to our founder's core values: unoriginality. Just like we copied Andover back in 1781, we have decided to copy the Canadian hockey team, men's and women's, and come second (on Niche). Our close proximity to Canada caused some illegal immigrants (the 2018 Canada World Juniors team) to come join our Boys Varsity Hockey team.

However, these ringers might not be necessary. Our spies at Andover (people who think that "we are more alike than different from each other") tell us that Andover has been focused on other things than A/E. Apparently language has been flying around Andover's campus that is hurtful and offensive. Andover's most progressive faction, the Boys Varsity Hockey team, will surely be burdened by these revelations and play worse.



The Phillipian SPORTS

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Does anyone want to be forthcoming?! You need to see it from my perspective.

February 27, 2026

Girls Squash Ends Season with Historic Third Place at Nationals, Overcomes Exeter on Wednesday

EVA JACKSON

Girls Squash (11-1) placed third in the U.S. Squash Team Squash Championships (Nationals) this past weekend, the highest the program has ever placed. Andover competed in the tournament's most competitive division, which consisted of 16 total teams. Last year, the team fell to Hotchkiss in the quarterfinals at Nationals. On Wednesday, the team emerged victorious against Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) in a 7-1 win.

In the round of 16 and quarterfinal round, respectively, the team swept Springside Chestnut Hill Academy and defeated Agnes Irwin 6-1. In the semifinals, the team lost to Hotchkiss 6-1. Following its defeat, Andover bounced back, beating Westover 4-3 for third place in the tournament. Judy Liu '29 shouted out her teammate, Rachel Levitzky '28, who won the deciding match against Westover to secure a podium spot. The final score of Levitzky's match was 12-10, 7-11, 6-11, 11-9, 7-11.

"She [Levitzky] had a really amazing match that got the win for us. We were tied [3-3], and she was the fourth win that decided the match. She played in 5 games, which is the closest it can be, and she hit some really amazing shots,



COURTESY OF ISABELLA TANG

Rachel Levitzky '28 rallies against an athlete from Agnes Irwin at the Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center.

and even though she was tired, she kept on pushing," said Liu.

With months of preparation leading up to the tournament, the stakes were evident from the moment the team arrived. Liu reflected on the environment inside the Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center, which features 18 singles squash courts, as the competition began.

"The atmosphere was very en-

ergetic and very purposeful. All the teams had worked their entire seasons towards this, and going into the venue, you could feel a lot of excitement and a lot of cheering. It was really cool to be there," said Liu.

Though squash is played in individual matches, the results depend on the collective effort of the team. Isabella Tang '28 expressed her pride in the team's

performance and emphasized the importance of the team's unity throughout the tournament.

"I'm really proud of everyone because we would not have gotten third without any one of us. I also really enjoyed it when we got a team dinner together afterwards," said Tang.

The team concluded its season against Exeter on Wednesday, making the final high school

matches for its seniors. Robin Lukens '28 highlighted the team's two Senior Co-Captains, who both put on strong performances in their last appearances representing Andover.

"Our two Seniors, Prisha Shivani [26] and Evelyn Kung [26], definitely stood out. They both had really strong matches, and it was a nice final match to end off on and their whole season on. They performed really well, and it was great," said Lukens.

Beyond the results on the court, the match against Exeter also marked one last shared trip for the team. Lukens described her favorite moment of the night, which was spending time with the team on the bus.

"The bus ride to a match is always a really positive time for the team, but I felt like today was especially good. Because it was the last match of the season, A/E, the vibes were really there. Everybody was feeling really good. The bus ride was the best part for me," said Lukens.

This weekend, Andover will host the New England Interscholastic Squash Association (NEISA) Championships for Girls Class A and B NEPSAC teams.

Jules Stevenson '28 Reaches 1000 Career Points Amidst Split Week for Girls Basketball

BENJAMIN KAZLOUSKI

SATURDAY 2/21

Andover 69

Lawrenceville 41

WEDNESDAY 2/25

Andover 35

Holderness 41

Following a cancelled game against Deerfield, Girls Basketball (16-8) picked up a nearly 30-point win against Lawrenceville on Senior Night at home. However, Senior Night was not the only excitement of the day: Jules Stevenson '28 scored her 1000th point for Andover. In its last away game of the season, the team lost in a hard-fought battle against Holderness.

Amidst an eventful game and loaded stands, the atmosphere of Saturday's game was electric, according to Chloe Abou-Ezzi '27, especially given that Stevenson reached 1000 total points. Throughout the game's first two



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Jules Stevenson '28 scored her thousandth career point against Lawrenceville.

quarters, Stevenson had already scored more than 20 points. Abou-Ezzi shared some emotions felt during the game against Lawrenceville.

"It was surreal, especially because Senior Night already put us in a good mood and we were all anticipating Jules's 1000 points. When she did get it, it was such a surreal moment. They stopped the entire game, we celebrated

and stormed the court. Even after that moment, when we continued to play, the energy was higher in a way that it just didn't feel real," said Abou-Ezzi.

Along with her 1000-point achievement, Stevenson was named an All-NEPSAC athlete last season, and this past December, she averaged over 20 points per game. Maddie Marshall '29 credited Stevenson's milestone

to hours of work spent outside of practice.

"She works really hard. I see her in the gym every day. She'll go in her free period. She'll shoot and go [immediately] to lift right before practice. She deserves every point she gets. She really works hard," said Marshall.

Beyond Stevenson's achievement, Abou-Ezzi mentioned that defense was a main contributor to the team's victory with a margin of 28 points. Its aggressive 1-3-1 defensive style entails cutting off passing lanes. She elaborated on the importance of that style of play, also explaining the significance of the team's ball movement.

"One important thing is our 1-3-1 defense. That gives us many steals and fast breaks. However, the most important part of our game was playing as a team and playing together. We're always sharing the ball, being unselfish. At the end of the day, that's what really differentiates a winning team from a losing one," said Abou-Ezzi.

In the team's matchup against Holderness, energy and intensity kept the game competitive after a slow first half. Stevenson shared the team's good attitude and ability to hype each other up jump-started the second half.

"We started off slow, but in the second half, we came out a lot stronger. We needed to keep that same consistency throughout the whole game. One strength for us was not giving up. Although we had a tough first half, we came out in the second half excited, and we kept playing down to the last whistle," said Stevenson.

As Girls Basketball sets its sights on A/E weekend, it is looking to improve in several areas. Marshall noted that one of its biggest areas of improvement is focus.

Marshall said, "We talked about staying disciplined on defense because there's a point in the third or fourth quarter when our zone defense can get pretty tiring, and sometimes we forget the little things we need to do to make it really good. So, we're trying to stay committed to it for the full game and keep going. We're going to work on tweaking little things, and with our 1-3-1 [defensive style], we want to make it as good as it can get. In terms of offense, we want to clean up the little things and make sure we can take advantage of every possession we get."

Girls Basketball will face Exeter on Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

Every Match Counts: Wrestling at National Prep Championships

JULIEN REQUA

Wrestling (8-0-2) competed in the National Prep Championships this week, a tournament featuring the best wrestlers in the nation. Due to the event's high level of competition and demanding standards, Andover was only permitted to send nine wrestlers to represent the team at this elite tournament. Over two days filled with intense matches, Andover's girls collectively placed third, while its boys placed 43rd.

The team faced many experienced wrestlers, often of higher seeds, and, as such, it

would have to rely on its immense preparation and hard work. One of Andover's athletes, Co-Captain Ophelia Lee '26, described one of her toughest matches of the season.

"I went into the tournament unseeded, and my bracket was pretty difficult at 126 [lbs]. I wrestled aggressively and offensively, and in the consolation round, I wrestled the fourth seed in the bracket and won against her. I'm really proud of that match. It was probably the best I've wrestled all season," said Lee.

Throughout the tournament, several Andover athletes found themselves at a disadvantage in their matches. However,

despite the skill of the competition, the team never gave up, wrestling its very best until the final whistle. Devin Akyali '29 described his second match of the tournament, which highlighted the grit of wrestling.

"I was losing 6-1, but I was able to keep fighting, working hard, and not give up to get that pin. My coaches were really supporting me from the corner, and that meant a lot to me to win that match. It really made the whole tournament feel worth it, and it was a big deal to me," said Devin Akyali.

Devin Akyali also highlighted standout performances from his teammates, while providing a sense of the energy and scale

of the tournament. He praised Co-Captain Tasha Bohorad '26, Brady Haskell '28, and Serra Akyali '28.

"Tasha had a great match to get third. Brady had some good matches. Serra got a win against a girl she's wrestled a lot of times before. The match was pretty stressful and intense, and the difference was only one takedown. There are hundreds, maybe thousands of people there. The stadium is huge, and the whole place is filled with amazing wrestlers," said Devin Akyali.

Whether it be at practice or right before a teammates match, the team came together as one to support one another,

according to Toni Elliot '27. She elaborated on the team's sense of unity.

"When we were sitting in the stands watching, whenever somebody was on the mat, we would tell each other, 'Brady's going right now,' or 'It's Tasha,' so you knew that people were paying attention to you and watching you. During the final matches all of the girls came down by the mats to watch. They were cheering, and also talking to you before the matches," said Elliot.

The team will battle Exeter on Saturday at 3 p.m.

GIRLSHOCKEY

Girls Hockey's Caroline Averill '26 Leads With Accountability

JOHN LEW

Girls Hockey Co-Captain Caroline Averill '26 has been playing the sport for as long as she can remember. She first stepped onto the ice at just three years old, following in the footsteps of her parents, who both played collegiately. She went on to compete on the National U18 team for two years, where she won a Gold and Silver medal at the World Junior Championships.

Beyond her parents, Caroline Averill highlighted that hockey remains a family tradition, as her three sisters also both play hockey.

"Hockey's always been such a huge part of us. Both my parents played in college and my older sister played, so I just kind of followed in their footsteps early," said Caroline Averill.

As she grew older, Caroline Averill found a second family within her team, nurturing teamwork and shared goals that kept



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

her coming back each year.

"For me, passing plays and playing together as a team committed to a larger goal has always been something that's drawn me to the sport. I find joy in playing with my teammates, spending

time with them. Since I was little, that's always been a highlight of my life and some of the best parts of my day," said Caroline Averill.

Now serving as Co-Captain, Caroline Averill believes leadership begins with holding herself

to a high standard, which she trusts will inspire those around her to rise to the same level.

"I try to lead by example, whether that's committing to our systems and trying to implement what we're doing on the ice, but also with effort and just trying to be the best version of myself every day, so that I can represent the team well," said Caroline Averill.

Caroline Averill also explained that she hopes to model accountability for her teammates. She reflected on how, by pairing her personal discipline with consistent support, she has worked towards fostering a close-knit team culture.

She continued, "One thing that we always do, before we get on the ice, we get in a circle and say family on 3. Prior to that, everyone shares a pregame pep talk, whether it's the captains or anyone that has something important to say, we try to make it."

Caroline Averill's sister, Maggie Averill '27, witnessed her growth

firsthand and believes captaincy came naturally to her.

"Seeing her dedication off and on the ice throughout us growing up was special. I've always known that she would end up being a captain one day. It's not about what you say. It's about how you lead by example. And she does a really good job of that," said Maggie Averill.

Her youngest sister, Liz Averill '29, also highlighted how Caroline Averill consistently lifts up those around her, especially in challenging moments.

"She definitely helps bring everyone up and is very much for the team. There were moments in practice where, if you feel like you're maybe not doing a good job, or in a game, she'll try to bring everyone up, which is just good for a leader," said Liz Averill.

Caroline Averill will be attending Princeton University to play Division I collegiate hockey, and hopes to play at a professional level.

Keira Bruen '26: Competing with Heart, Leading with Consistency

XAVIER HOWELL & GAURI BHAKTA

Girls Hockey Co-Captain Keira Bruen '26 has built her hockey journey on competition, consistency, and connection. She began playing the sport at just six years old, growing up in a competitive household alongside her older brothers. Facing off against them from an early age sparked her drive and helped shape the intensity and resilience she brings to the ice today.

One of Bruen's proudest moments came last season in the

semifinal round of Girls Hockey's playoffs. Although the team ultimately fell short in the championship game, the semifinal victory stood out as a highlight of her career.

"It was a pretty close game. We beat them a few weeks earlier, but the year prior to that, they'd taken away our season in the playoffs. So, it was definitely a huge win. And, everyone came together, and we had one of the best games that we've ever played," said Bruen.

As a leader, Bruen reflected on her efforts to build strong relationships with both coaches and teammates, on and off the ice. She

credits much of her growth and success at Andover to the friendships she has formed over the past four years.

"I try to get everyone going before games and have everyone come together and just connecting everyone as a team is definitely what I try to do. I'm not the loudest person, but I just show up every day 100% so that others can learn from my style. But also, I like being on the team. I hope that they can learn from me like that," said Bruen.

Bruen will attend Cornell University to play Division I hockey.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Relentless on the Ice: Lilly McInerney '26 Sets the Pace for Girls Hockey

TIGER WANG

Co-Captain Lilly McInerney '26, a winger for Girls Hockey, began skating when she was around four years old, taught by her grandfather who played hockey professionally. As a leader on the team, McInerney strives to lead with intensity and positivity, serving as a role model for her younger teammates.

McInerney shared her excitement for being named a Co-Captain. She also elaborated on her leadership philosophy, which is centered around accountability, and her expectations for her teammates.

"Being elected [Co-]Captain was the best thing ever, and holding everyone to the same standard and myself to that standard on and off the ice is super important, and [it is] a big reason why we're so successful," said McInerney.

McInerney continued, "[I expect] everyone to bring their best every day, and that they do it for

themselves and everyone around."

Jackie Louie '29 described McInerney as someone who perseveres and plays relentlessly on the ice. Specifically, Louie praised the Co-Captain for her strength in forechecking — applying pressure in the offensive zone to gain possession of the puck — and backchecking — hustling back to the defensive zone to thwart opponents' attempts to score.

"She's a very gritty player, and on the ice, she never gives up. She's always giving 110 percent effort. She plays wing and is one of the fastest players on the team. She's always super quick moving up and down the ice, backchecking, and forechecking. She has great hockey IQ as well," said Louie.

Louie continued, "Backchecking and forechecking are her strongest examples. She always backchecks and forechecks hard and is really relentless. For example, if she had the puck and lost it, she wouldn't hesitate to win it back. She would skate really fast and put everything into getting



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Lilly McInerney '26 (right), skates toward teammate Sienna Glass '27, who attempts a shot on the goal.

that puck back. Yet she knows when to push forward and when to fall back."

Additionally, McInerney described how, alongside her Co-Captains, she composes the team in stressful moments.

"When we're not having the best practice before a huge game, if we all just need to lock in, we

have this motto, 'right here, right now,' which everyone just repeats themselves, or us as [Co-]Captains will reiterate. That helps everyone dial in, take a deep breath, and focus on where we are right now," said McInerney.

Katherine Cooke '29 shared how McInerney regularly strives to support her teammates, wheth-

er through inspiration at games or in reviewing film.

"On the bench, she's always super loud, cheering everyone on and giving constructive feedback. When we do film, or even on the bench or at practice, she's always making really good and thoughtful points that benefit everyone on the team," said Cooke.

Cooke also explained how she sees McInerney as a role model both on and off the ice.

"I see her in many different capacities, and I look up to her in many different ways. As a player and as a person, she's a really good person and is super sweet, so I look up to her in that way. As a player, she's amazing to watch, and I really aspire to be her. She's super fast, really gritty, and not afraid to be aggressive. She's a really key part of our team," said Cooke.

After Andover, McInerney plans to compete for Northeastern University's Division I Women's Hockey program.

GIRLS HOCKEY

KEIRA BRUEN '26 **C**
WEST ROXBURY, MA

LILLY MCINERNEY '26 **C**
NORTH READING, MA

CAROLINE AVERILL '26 **C**
WAYLAND, MA

CODI PICKERING '27
E FALMOUTH, MA

MAYA KOU '28
PONTE-CLAIRE, QC, CA

KIMBERLY DUPLESSIS '27
FRAMINGHAM, MA

AVERY HUTCHINS '29
NORTH ANDOVER, MA

MADELEINE GREENWOOD '26
NORTH FALMOUTH, MA

LIZ AVERILL '29
WAYLAND, MA

SIENNA DEANGELIS '27
HOLMDEL, NJ

MARIE LEE '28
ANDOVER, MA

AL HARTMANN '28
BROOKLYN, NY

SIENNA GLASS '27
ANDOVER, MA

CARLY GREER '26
RANDOLF, NJ

LILY LOUGHLEAN '27
PAWCATUCK, CT

SARAH LACKLEY '26
WOODSTOCK, VT

VANESSA HALL '28
SAUGUS, MA

SARAH POWERS '26
LYNNFIELD, MA

JACKIE LOUIE '29
DUBLIN, CA

LAUREN KENNEDY '28
SUDBURY, MA

KATHERINE COOKE '29
WENHAM, MA

MAGGIE AVERILL '27
WAYLAND, MA

MANAGERS: **AUTUMN CHRISTIAN '27**
STONINGTON, CT

JACKIE DILL '27
NEW HOPE, PA

VIVIEN VALCKX '28
WASHINGTON, DC

Girls Hockey Shuts Out Loomis Chaffee in Redemption Win

OLIVIA WANG

WEDNESDAY 2/25

Andover 5

Loomis 0

Girls Hockey (19-2-1) defeated Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) with a commanding victory on Wednesday, avenging its loss to Loomis in the championship game at the Patsy K. Odden Tournament in December.

In preparing for the game, Jackie Louie '29 explained how the team refined key areas of its play through film study and focused practices.

"The team did lots of film sessions with our coaches, going over game clips from previous games, most importantly our game against Loomis in the Pat-

sy K. Odden Tournament, when we lost to them in the championship. We have also been going hard at practice, focusing on our defensive zone position, pressuring the puck, and communication," said Louie.

Louie emphasized the team's spirit and determination to redeem itself after the earlier loss and highlighted standout performances from Marie Lee '28 and Sarah Powers '26.

She continued, "Everyone gave it their all, the energy was super high since we all wanted revenge and payback for when they had beaten us in the past. Our goalie, Marie, was an absolute wall in net, shutting out Loomis from scoring any goals at all. Senior Sarah Powers was relentless on the puck and generated lots of offense, scoring a nasty goal."

Vanessa Hall '28 echoed Louie's remarks, noting the team's optimistic and focused mindset before the game.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Caroline Averill '26 prepares to face off against a Loomis athlete.

"Everyone was really fired up and [there was] very positive energy in the locker room because Loomis is our biggest rival for the past two years," said Hall.

Following the decisive win,

Hall reflected on both areas for improvement and the team's progress since its previous matchup against Loomis.

"We took a penalty in the first [period], and it was a penal-

ty that could have been avoided. We also had to face their power play, which they scored on two or three of their power plays last time we played them. We killed it off really well, and our penalty kill looked really good the whole game," said Hall.

Louie expressed that the shutout provided a surge of confidence as the team heads into the final stretch of the season.

"Winning this game definitely hyped everyone up, and now we have more confidence that we can bring into the rest of our season, since Loomis has always been a tough competitor for us," said Louie.

Girls Hockey will play Phillips Exeter Academy at home on Saturday, February 28.

Boys Hockey Extends Winning Streak by Three Ahead of A/E Weekend

NICHOLAS JUNG

SATURDAY 2/21

Andover 5

Pingree 1

MONDAY 2/23

Andover 1

Brooks 0

WEDNESDAY 2/25

Andover 7

NMH 2

Boys Hockey (14-10-3) extended its winning streak to three with victories over Pingree on Saturday, Brooks on Monday, and Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) on Wednesday. Across these games, Andover scored 12 goals while allowing just three.

Coming off a win against Cushing Academy, the team car-



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Forward Russell Louie '27 shifts the puck toward NMH's goal.

ried its momentum into its match against Pingree. As Max Krasovsky '27 described, after conceding an early goal in the first period, Andover responded in the second and quickly took control.

"We know [Pingree was] going to come out and try to play hard, but we had a little bit of a rough start. They took an early lead on us in the first period, then in the second, we netted a couple of goals that were honestly kind of bad on their goalie's part. And so we just got momentum, and from that, the game was basically over," said Krasovsky.

Krasovsky added that the team stayed focused despite the matchup's stakes differing for each side.

He continued, "This is not our biggest matchup, but we know it's theirs, and so we kind of tried to treat that accordingly. We knew they're gonna play hard and try to upset us. So everybody was ready, everybody was focused, and it's important to win games like this with the position we're in, considering playoffs."

Andover carried that momentum into Wednesday's matchup against NMH. According to Zachary Fedele '26, recent prac-

tices greatly contributed to the team's performance.

"We've been doing a lot of battle drills, and we've been making sure to keep the intensity high and not drop it down throughout the weeks, and make sure we keep the same energy level throughout every game and every practice," said Fedele.

Michael Barrett '28 said the late point in the season added urgency for both teams, especially with seniors nearing the end of their careers.

"We knew that it's near the end of every one of these team's seasons. So they're all going to come out strong, they're going to come out hard, they're going to come out fast, [and] their seniors could [be playing their] last games for both teams. So every team's been battling hard because it really is some of these guys' last games. So it was definitely like a hard-fought game. They had some big guys. They could lay the body, but we were clicking. We were doing our systems well, and we could really put the puck in the back of the net today with some good shots," said Barrett.

Barrett also credited Co-Captains Alexander Small '26, David O'Neill '26, and Louis Felix-Beaulieu '26 for setting the team's tone and energy.

"The energy was great. The

Co-Captains Alex, David, and Louis all had good energy. They got us ready for the game [with] good warm ups. Everyone was talking, everyone was ready, and we took that team very seriously," said Barrett.

Barrett reflected on Boys Hockey's goals as it approaches the playoffs and Andover/Exeter (A/E) weekend.

"It's the Seniors' last day so it's definitely going to be a good game. Both teams are going to really want the win and it's going to be a special win towards the end of our season. And what we're going to take away is what we've been doing these past few games. We've been able to string some wins together. We've been putting the puck in the back of the net, playing our systems well, [and] finishing hits. We're gonna have a good week of practice leading up to it and we're gonna get the hype from the school," said Barrett.

Boys Hockey will play Phillips Exeter Academy at home on Saturday, February 28.

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2026 Winter A/E Day

Andover will host Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) this Saturday for the annual Winter Andover/Exeter (A/E) rivalry. Five teams will face off against Exeter. Last winter, Andover lost one matchup, tied another, and won three others. Andover looks to continue their winning trend while demonstrating strong school spirit, sportsmanship, and competition. Additionally, Girls Squash will host the New England Interscholastic Squash Association (NEISA) Championships for Class A and B NEPSAC teams. Boys Squash will travel to Groton for the Boys Class A NEISA Championships.

Girls Basketball

Girls Basketball (16-8) has competed in various settings throughout this season, including holiday tournaments, normal game environments, and the Northeast 8 (NE8) championship. The team has won the past five of its games, with a notable event on their Senior Night against Lawrenceville in the NE8 tournament, where Jules Stevenson '28 scored her 1000th point for Andover. Led by captains Ruby Kokinos '26, Laney Cafua '27, and Alani Rodriguez '27, the team looks ahead to their game against Exeter on Saturday at 3:45 p.m. and Andover hopes to recreate its win from last year's A/E match-up.

Boys Basketball

Boys Basketball (16-5) has picked up its form in the last few games of the season. The team started off the season strong, winning its first ten games in a row. Then, it hit a mid-season bump before winning five of its last six games, capped off by a 76-60 win over Belmont Hill. These past few years, the A/E rivalry has been split fairly evenly. The team will battle Exeter Saturday at 1:30 pm.

Boys Hockey

Boys Hockey (15-3-9) maintained a strong winning season despite competing with an extremely competitive roster and participating in a variety of high-level tournaments, including the Flood-Marr Tournament. Although the team was unable to defend its title as returning champions, it finished third overall, beating out KUA, a top-five NEPSAC team. While it fell to Exeter earlier this season, Andover has won at A/E for the past three seasons and hopes to bring the same energy this weekend to keep the streak alive. The team will face Exeter on Saturday at 2:10 p.m.

Girls Hockey

Girls Hockey (20-1-2) has had a historic season, with its record solidifying its place as one of the most competitive teams in NEPSAC. The team advanced to the championship round of the Patsy K. Odden Hockey Tournament earlier in the season and, although the team fell short to Loomis, it redeemed itself in the rematch on Wednesday with a 5-0 win. Now, the team looks ahead to its game against Exeter this Saturday at 12:00 p.m. While Andover has remained dominant over Exeter in recent years, last year's matchup ended in a tie. The team hopes to reassert control and keep Exeter at bay.

Wrestling

Wrestling (14-2) has its second A/E weekend dual meet against Exeter in history. The team has had one of its best seasons in recent memory, boasting a 14-2 dual record, only falling to Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) and Roxbury Latin, and placing second in both the Boys and Girls Divisions of the Class A Tournament. The team beat Exeter at the Seabrooke Duals earlier in the season in dominant fashion. Julian Rios '26 in the 120-pound weight class, Serra Akyali in the 106-pound weight class, and Geza Labancz '26 are wrestlers to watch as they hope to cap off their seasons with wins. Wrestling will face Exeter at 3:00 p.m.



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Geza Labancz PG'26 takes down a St. Paul's opponent.

Boys Swimming & Diving Extends 20-Year Winning Streak against Exeter

AVIAD AWA

On Saturday, Boys Swimming & Diving competed against Exeter at home, and with its win, continued a 20-year-long winning streak against its biggest rivals. With Andover/Exeter (A/E) being a home meet this year, the team was excited to win in home waters.

Lincoln Tomlinson '27 described the level of practice the team went through in the weeks leading up to Exeter. With several members returning from Easterns, the team got straight back into the grind.

"We're just coming off the Eastern Championships, so half the team is getting back into regular practice. For [half the team], this was championship season, so they've ramped things back up in practice, pushing their bodies to 100% to keep that level of perfor-



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Gavin Morales '29 swims in the 100-Yard Fly, in which he ultimately finished first in 58.38 seconds.

mance going," said Tomlinson.

Going into the meet, everybody wanted to compete, a drive seen amongst the entire team. Benjamin Levchin '28 described

the amount of effort shown throughout the days leading up to AE.

"Everyone just wanted to swim their hardest. You couldn't

really have a strategy...we all had a hell of a lot of energy and were ready, but other than that, we just swam the hardest," said Levchin.

Hosting a simulated meet before A/E, the diving team was able to experience the high-intensity feeling and prepare for whatever challenges it posed. Daniel Matloff '28 spoke on the fake meet and how it performed during the real competition.

"Practice and meets are very different, and just kind of having a fake meet before the actual one helps you prepare and helps you get mentally ready. I'm pretty sure Boys Swimming & Diving won. I know one of our divers got second in the boys section of A/E diving, and then we had first and second for girls," said Matloff.

Tomlinson spoke on the importance of this A/E both personally and to the team. He highlighted the fact that the team was on the verge of a historic winning streak.

"[This was our] 20th consecutive year winning A/E. And what was special about this one? This is my first time doing that at home in our own pool. So, in front of my friends, people whom I know. The same goes for a lot of people, so I know we wanted to swim extra well," said Tomlinson.

Looking to the future, Matloff spoke on some of the lessons the team gained from this meet. He emphasized consistency, especially under pressure.

"[We should] continue to have meets where it's realistic, we're getting judged, we're under pressure, just so that we're more comfortable when that time comes and that we kind of don't freak out and we just revert to what we know," said Matloff.

Boys Swimming & Diving will compete at the New England Championships from March 6-8.

Girls Swimming & Diving Builds Momentum Despite Loss to Exeter

NATHAN BYUN

Girls Swimming & Diving (4-1) faced Exeter on Saturday in one of the season's most anticipated meets for Andover/Exeter (A/E). This year, Andover hosted the meet and suffered a challenging loss with a score of 83-103. The meet showcased many individual milestones and a unified team atmosphere, with both Varsity and Junior Varsity athletes racing together.

Many swimmers entered the meet with personal performance goals. Sarah Sun '29, who set two new Personal Records (PRs), reflected on being able to meet her individual goals.

"My goal was to improve my time for the events I swam, and I did improve my time for two of my events, so it was overall good," said Sun.

Katherine Feng '27 elaborated on her goals to improve individually and as part of her team in

the 200-Yard Medley Relay. Her group, including three other Uppers, placed second, just below two seconds behind Exeter's first place group.

"My personal goal was just to swim fast on the relays and get some new best times in my individual events. I did, so that was really nice," said Feng.

Several swimmers delivered standout performances during the meet. Sun pointed to Aimee Qi '27 who achieved a Futures Cut, a qualifying standard for the Futures Championship.

"She did really good in her 50-Yard Backstroke and the 200-[Yard] Medley Relay. She made a Futures cut, which was very impressive," Sun said.

Other swimmers also reached major milestones. Feng highlighted Hannah Song '27, who broke the A/E record in the 500-Yard Freestyle, and Sophia Tolokh '28, who set a PR in the 200-Yard Freestyle.

"Sophia Tolokh and Hannah

Song both did really [well] because both of them [set] new best times. Hannah went under five minutes for the first time in her 500 free, and Sophia went under two minutes for the first time in her 200 free," said Feng.

In addition to individual accomplishments, many swimmers stepped into unfamiliar races to help maximize points for the team. Chloe Ru '27 emphasized the importance of adaptability for the team's success.

"Our goal as a team was to maximize our points, so I swam some events that I usually wouldn't swim to help the team, and I went some personal bests," said Ru.

Beyond the results, Feng said that the team's atmosphere stood out as a defining feature of the meet.

"The atmosphere was really nice. Everybody was always cheering for each other, and when you were standing behind the block, you could see every-



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Alexis Lee '28 (left) and Mary Li '29 (right) prepare to face Exeter swimmers in the 100-Yard Fly.

body cheering for you," Feng said.

Sun also described the heightened intensity of the rival meet.

"I feel like we were cheering on our teammates a lot because it was against Exeter, which is a harder rivalry," Sun said.

Ru echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of the team's unity. The team at practice may feel divided by event training and level, but the meet allowed for support to be shown across

competition levels.

"Everyone was really supportive. Varsity and JV, guys and girls, we were all cheering for each other," Ru said.

Girls Swimming & Diving will compete at the New England Championships at home from Friday, March 6, to Sunday, March 8.

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Boys Basketball Defeats Belmont Hill in Decisive Victory

SARAH WANG

!"#\$%&'()*+,-./:;<=>@	
Andover	76
Belmont Hill	60

Last Saturday, Boys Basketball (16-5) played at home against Belmont Hill, ultimately emerging victorious in a convincing performance. The team was effective on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. On offense, the team was efficient in its scoring, shooting 56 percent from the field, a remarkable 47 percent from beyond the arc, and 92 percent from the free-throw line. On defense, the team forced numerous turnovers, tallying 3 blocks and 8 steals.

Boys Basketball will face Phillips Exeter Academy this Saturday at home.



Cade Rutkoske '26 dribbles the ball.

A. PIZZI/THE PHILLIPIAN



Jaylen Edmonds '27, contested by two Belmont Hill athletes, goes in for the layup.

A. PIZZI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Boys Squash Makes Program History at Squash Nationals

ALEX GODSEY

This past weekend, Boys Squash (12-4) attended the culminating High School Squash Nationals. Following a 6-1 victory against Lawrenceville, they made Andover history by placing among the top eight teams in the United States. After falling to Haverford in the quarterfinals and Mercersburg in the four-to-eight placement range, the team was set to play for seventh place before the final match was canceled due to the winter storm. Throughout this challenging tournament, the Boys Squash lineup was riddled with injuries, but the team saw young players rise and veterans remain steady as it cemented itself into Andover history.

Andover played an extremely strong regular season, winning difficult matches all year and earning the sixth seed in High School Nationals. JJ Luo '28 spoke on the significance of High School Nationals and the team's anticipation for the tournament.

"For every team, [High School Nationals] is the peak of the high school squash season. All the training leads up to that point, and all the matches lead up to getting a good rank, a good seeding at nationals. All those good wins we had earlier season, Tabor [Acade-

my (Tabor)] and Choate, are good wins individually, but they also ensure that we get a really good seeding for nationals. We were seeded sixth this year, and Andover has never finished top eight before, so we just went in with the mentality of trying to make Andover history," said Luo.

Leading up to Nationals, Boys Squash, with three Seniors on the starting lineup, was excited to prove themselves and potentially make a final deep run. The weekend before the tournament, however, tragedy struck as second-seeded Luo suffered a severe ankle sprain that would take him out of the lineup. Furthering the setback, Jonathan Xu '28 — the third-seed in the regular lineup — suffered a concussion in Andover's first match against Lawrenceville, leaving him out for the remainder of the tournament. Even through this adversity, Philip Meng '26 stepped up as an unlikely leader, playing the seventh-seed after the lineup shifts. Luo described Philip's leadership throughout the tournament despite his inexperience as High School Nationals.

"We brought nine players, and for each match, we only carry seven. But without me and Jonathan, Philip had to step in as number seven, and he actually filled the role very well. After our



Harley Zhong '26 serves the ball in Wednesday's game against Phillips Exeter Academy.

first round, which we won against Lawrenceville, we had some really tough matches against Haverford and Mercersburg, and he showed a lot of leadership at the number seven position. He just acted like he was used to playing Nationals. And even though those were his first two matches at nationals ever, Philip stepped up and helped lead the team through those two matches," said Luo.

Following this major shift in the Boys Squash lineup, Kevin Wu '29 was forced to play the sec-

ond-seed, a massive jump from his usual fourth-seed position. Corey Shen '26 praised Wu for his impressive composure and resilience, even in the stressful and unfamiliar setting of the national stage.

"Someone who stepped up was Kevin. Just being so young, fourteen years old, and his birthday is in August... it can be scary for someone who's young like that. [On top of that,] he [has been] playing number four all season and having to all of a sudden play

number two, where a lot of eyes are on you, there are a lot of spectators, the pressure is a lot higher. Having to play up not just one position, but two positions is a pretty big deal, and it's a lot of pressure for a freshman. But Kevin stayed positive throughout, and I was really proud of how he kind of hung in there, even though it was a tough spot for him to be in," said Shen.

Beyond the stress of the squash courts, High School Nationals also provides a great team-building environment, where staying in closed-quarters allows players to build relationships and get to know each other. Wu described these small moments between matches as some of the most candid and fun times of the entire tournament.

"I feel like some of the best moments were in between the matches when everyone was just hanging out in the rooms. We would all gather in one person's room and play cards or just talk, talk about how life was going, and have fun conversations," said Wu.

Even with an incomplete lineup, Boys Squash looks towards the New England Championship this coming weekend.

Dance as a Sport: Honoring Tradition, Building Community

LUCY VINNAKOTA

At Andover, Dance as a Sport functions less like a traditional sport and more like a dynamic training space. Grounded in daily practice and offering a variety of options for varying skill levels, the program emphasizes both technical development and personal growth.

Long before it earned official recognition as a sport, dance had already secured its place in the Andover community. Rooted in a tradition that long predates the modern program, its presence reflects both an institutional change and a history of artistic expression. Kareem Lewis, Instructor in Theatre and Dance, recounted the history behind how dance came to be at Andover.

"Dance came 'up the hill' in 1973 with the merger of Abbot Academy and [Andover]. Abbot had a strong tradition of valuing dance, and that commitment to movement and the arts became part of the cultural fabric of the unified school. In many ways, today's Dance as a Sport program continues that legacy, honoring a history that has been part of Andover for decades," wrote Lewis in an email to *The Phillipian*.

With styles ranging widely in technique, Dance as a Sport allows students to explore different forms based on their area of inter-



Kareem Lewis teaches an advanced and intermediate level class.

AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

est, offering both structure and choice. Olivia Zhou '29 described what a typical week looks like for students taking the sport.

"We have practices from Monday to Friday, excluding Wednesday. Each day, we can pick between two different classes that we want to take. For example, on Monday, we could be taking Horton Technique with Lewis, or go to the downstairs studio to take Contemporary Dance with Ms. Clark, and it varies every day. Each dancer has freedom to choose which class they want to take, which is honestly kind of nice if you don't want to just take something ballet every day," said Zhou.

Beyond offering a range of

styles. Dance also supports varying experience levels, consisting of beginner, intermediate, and advanced instruction, creating an environment in which all are welcome. Izzy Park '26 detailed how the classes within Dance differ depending on level.

"For beginner class, you do a lot of the same warm-up movements, but our teachers would explain them further compared to more intermediate or advanced classes. Everyone will run through a routine multiple times. This way, everyone is on the same page before you do it with the music, for example. If you are learning a combination, you might learn the same thing with the intermediate or advanced group, but it will go

a lot slower. You cover a lot less of the combination, or take out more tactical moves from the combination that beginners might not be able to recreate," said Park.

Despite not competing together as a team, the community within the program is tightly knit. Dancers across all skill levels are able to form relationships that extend beyond the studio. Park reflected on how these bonds impact individuals on the team.

"I have met a lot of friends through the dance program that I would not have normally met in academic settings, especially people in different grades," said Park.

This term, Dance also introduced a men's class aimed at creating a more inclusive space for male-identifying students interested in exploring dance. This addition reflects a broader effort to redefine perceptions of athleticism on campus. Lewis elaborated on the reading behind the initiative and its goals.

"This past term, we saw a record number of male-identifying students participating in dance, which led to the creation of what is traditionally called a men's class. Historically, many male dancers have come to dance through athletics. This focused class creates a safe, inclusive entry point for male-identifying students, particularly those new to dance. It allows students to build strength, coordination, confidence, and expressive range

alongside peers navigating similar experiences, while expanding how athleticism is understood on campus," said Lewis.

Looking ahead, Dance hopes to continue fostering an inclusive environment while still having high standards for individuals. Lewis outlined his vision for how dance can continue evolving in the years to come.

"The next step is continuing to build a culture where anyone feels comfortable walking into the studio, regardless of background or experience. That means lowering barriers to entry while maintaining high training standards. Dance as a Sport should feel both welcoming and rigorous — a place where beginners feel supported, and experienced dancers feel challenged. As the program grows, I'd like to continue expanding pathways into dance so students can engage at different levels and stay involved over time. Long-term, the goal is for dance to feel fully normalized within Andover's athletic culture — not as something separate or intimidating, but as a legitimate and accessible option for physical training, expression, and community," said Lewis.

Striding Forward: Nordic Skiing Finishes Strong at NEPSACs and Lakes Region Championship

BEN KAZLOUSKI

Nordic Skiing, last Saturday, traveled to Gould Academy to compete at the NEPSAC tournament (NEPSACs). The team's boys placed fourth and the girls placed eighth. Andover also competed in the Lakes Region (LR) Championship hosted by Holderness on Wednesday. These final championships closed out All-Gender Nordic Skiing's season.

Sebastián Vermut '27 highlighted his admiration for the

team's overall growth, which was especially evident through strong performances over the weekend at NEPSACs.

"The team did well. The girls went first with a strong performance. Then the boys went, and we got fourth in the race overall... Last year, we weren't as competitive as a team, but this year, we were higher in the standings. It was good to see the team getting stronger," said Vermut.

Hannah Jung '28 turned the spotlight to Vermut's strong performance, commenting on his efforts and individual work at the

LR Championships that demonstrated consistency, even under the pressure from a large bank of competitors.

"On the boys side, Sebastián Vermut did really well today. A few of the other girls and I were watching the boys race, and he was pushing hard on the hills. He was the first place finisher for our school," said Jung.

Additionally, Claire Bancroft '28 highlighted how Andover skiers each played a supporting role in each other's performances and in maintaining a motivated mentality.

"The support of the team was important. When the girls were racing, the boys went out onto the course to see it and cheer from different places. During the boys race, the girls did the same. For example, Hannah Jung and Julia Xu [28] went up into the course during the boys race, in case somebody lost one of their poles. It was a supportive team environment to make sure everybody was able to have a strong performance for the entire race," said Bancroft.

Bancroft further elaborated on the exciting environment that

each competition fostered. All schools involved brought their own form of support that energized each racer throughout the course.

"The last race's atmosphere was strong. The Holderness course is hard, but they blast music during the races during the start and [toward] the end and in between races. The music was hype, and there were a lot of people there," said Bancroft.

From Poetry to Predictability: The Rise of the Pick and Roll

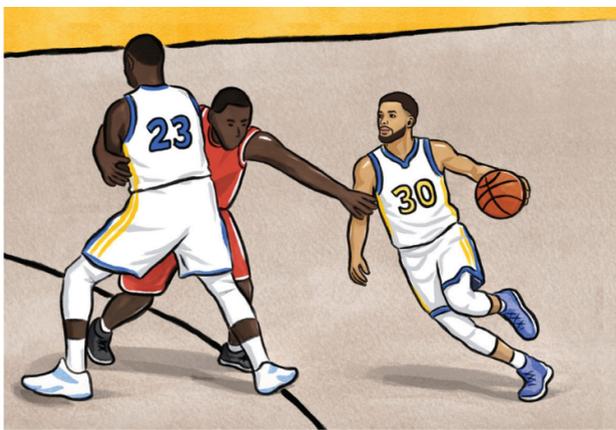
WYATT ORRACA-CECIL

The pick and roll is one of basketball's most fundamental plays — a simple screen of a defender followed by a cut straight to the basket. It is simple yet effective. It works at every level of the game, from youth leagues to the pros. Growing up playing basketball, the pick-and-roll was ingrained in my mind. By second grade, I had already learned the action of setting a screen to free a teammate. As a point guard, managing a screen is crucial for success. Yet, for a stretch of time, the National Basketball League (NBA) did not revolve around the high screen, and its usage was relatively sparse. In the 2000s and early 2010s, many coaches found the "on-ball" screen, for many reasons, informal, overused, and the incorrect way of playing the sport. Instead, they emphasized set plays, wing isolations, and fluid ball movement. Offenses flowed through multiple hands, forcing the defense to chase constant motion rather than contain a single player. But as the guard position evolved and perimeter shot-making surged,

the pick and roll returned to center stage. But in the NBA today, athletes' reliance on the pick and roll has made the game too predictable.

In today's game, more players, including me, are expected to play a "guard" role. This entails handling the ball, creating shots, and guarding multiple positions. Even if you are not the smallest player on the floor, you are trained to think like a guard. That is the modern blueprint. As versatile players of all sizes began to emerge, the pick and roll found itself as the foundation of offense once again. Players like Luka Dončić, Donovan Mitchell, and even Austin Reaves started to use their blend of size and skill to force switches and attack weaker defenders. The ball screen is now used as a way to get a mismatch for a quicker player against a clumsy defender. Some possessions feature up to four or five consecutive screens, all with the single goal of forcing a strong match-up that the ball handler can exploit and get a basket.

This shift, in my view, has stripped away part of the game's integrity. I grew up admiring the beauty of Klay Thompson scoring 60 points



HARRY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

with 11 dribbles, or the San Antonio Spurs swinging the ball 20 times in a single possession. Now, we rarely see that rhythm, trust, and constant motion in a game. Instead, players will take 11 dribbles in one possession. Luka Dončić averaged five dribbles per touch during the 2024-2025 season, a statistic that reflects how deliberate and robotic the game has become. The classic matchups of the best defender versus a strong offensive player are beginning to fade. Instead of watching the best scorer test himself against the best defender, we watch stars call screens until they

draw the weakest link. What once felt creative now feels mechanical, with innovation reduced to foul manipulation and spacing tweaks. I believe the repetitive pick-and-roll, prioritizing efficiency and optimization over spontaneity, has made the game less engaging and ultimately emptier.

On the other hand, however, this shift might be a testament to the defensive decline across the league. Although the scoring has become more efficient, the defense has also become significantly worse. Just as players adapted their game on offense, there should be an equal emphasis on refining de-

fense to counter today's play style. That could mean playing with greater physical intensity, improving lateral quickness, or training to switch effectively onto smaller guards without becoming liabilities. The real issue is whether players are willing to embrace work that won't always appear in scoring totals or highlight reels. Players should be prepared to sacrifice individual offensive numbers to restore defensive accountability and balance to the game.

Overall, the pick and roll, while being a tried and true offensive play, dilutes the excitement that once made basketball the most captivating sport in America. There shouldn't be a rule to eliminate it, and there likely never will be. But its repetitive use has made the game predictable. When every possession begins the same way, the spontaneity fades, and with it, some of the joy of watching.

Quick-et: T20 Is Bringing Speed, Shocking Upsets, and Stakes to Cricket

ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN

Cricket has traditionally been known as a slow and strategic sport, with some matches lasting up to five days. However, in 2003, as younger generations began to lose interest in the game, officials decided to introduce a new format to draw attention back to cricket. This format was called Twenty20 (T20), in which each team bats for only 20 overs, or 6 legal balls bowled. This shortened the total match time to around three hours, similar to the length of the average baseball and basketball game. At the time, T20 was not created to replace traditional cricket, but rather to attract new fans and increase viewership.

T20 was not taken seriously when it was first introduced. In fact, the first T20 matches featured players walking onto the field wearing wigs and costumes, emphasizing entertainment over competition. Many cricket fans believed that T20 would never compare to Test cricket, which had existed for over a century and was considered the most prestigious format. However, in 2005, Australia played New Zealand in the first official international T20 match, representing the beginning of T20 as a legitimate international format. While few people realized it at the time, this match would lay the foundation for what would become one of the most-watched tournaments in the world.



ALFONSO GONZALEZ-CANO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Today, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has grown into a global phenomenon. In the current tournament, over 20 billion minutes were watched during the group stages alone. This rapid growth can largely be attributed to three main factors: shorter matches, the inclusion of new and diverse countries, and the rise of domestic T20 leagues.

One of the biggest reasons for T20's popularity is its accessibility. Traditional Test matches can last up to five days in grueling conditions. This makes it incredibly difficult for many people to follow the entire match. In contrast, T20 matches last only three hours,

making them an event people can watch on a whim rather than track over multiple days. The shorter format engages viewers, allows the audience to watch the cricket match in its entirety, and makes each bowl, run, and wicket significantly more impactful. This results in aggressive playstyles, longer shots, and more entertaining finishes. For fans trying to get into the game, this makes the sport easier to understand and more approachable.

Another major factor in the growth of the T20 World Cup is the expansion of participating nations. Historically, cricket was dominated by countries such as India, Australia, En-

gland, and the West Indies. However, the T20 format has allowed newer teams to compete internationally, resulting in shocking results. For example, the United States participated in the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup and defeated Pakistan, one of the strongest cricketing nations, as an 8-to-1 underdog. This victory drew significant attention and introduced cricket to many new American fans. Similarly, Zimbabwe participated in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup and defeated powerhouse Australia, as 6-to-1 underdogs. The short format of T20 cricket introduced greater unpredictability, leading to upsets like these that rarely occur in Test cricket. Moments like these help expand the sport beyond its traditional audience and contribute to its rapid global growth.

Finally, the rise of domestic T20 leagues has played a crucial role in increasing the World Cup's popularity. Leagues such as the Indian Premier League (IPL), which began in 2008, attracted a massive global audience. The IPL alone is valued at over 10 billion dollars and features many of the best players in the world. These leagues serve as a launchpad for players to gain international recognition and build fan bases across multiple countries. As a result, when these players compete in the T20 World Cup, fans are more invested in watching them perform on the international stage.

The growth of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup is one of the most significant developments in modern cricket. What began as an experimental and even comedic format — with players wearing wigs and treating matches as entertainment—has evolved into one of the most widely watched tournaments in the world. The shorter format, increased global participation, and influence of domestic leagues have transformed T20 cricket into a truly global spectacle. However, despite its rapid growth, T20 cricket is still viewed in a lesser regard by some players. After Virat Kohli, one of the greatest players of all time, won his first-ever IPL, he said, "This moment is right up there with the best moments in my career. But it still ranks five levels below Test cricket. That's how much I value Test cricket, and that's how much I love Test cricket." Kohli's statement highlights the enduring prestige of traditional cricket while also underscoring how much the sport has evolved. Although Test cricket remains the foundation of the game, the rise of the T20 World Cup has introduced cricket to millions of new fans and reshaped its global future. What was once seen as a gimmick has now become one of the most powerful forces in modern cricket.



ARTS & LEISURE

The Phillipian, VOL. CXLIX



The Academy Orchestras Highlight Erhu and Guzheng Soloists in Culturally Rich Concert

BOSON BAI & DANIEL LIU

The Academy Orchestras presented a dynamic program last Friday that blended Spanish flair, contemporary composition, and Chinese musical traditions. The concert moved from the fiery energy of “Capriccio Español” to the rhythmic intricacies of “The Sun Shines on Tashkurgan” featuring soloist Brian Zhu ’26 on the erhu. Besides Zhu, the concert also featured guest artist Dr. Haiqiong Deng, an internationally renowned player of the guzheng. The evening highlighted cultural repertoire and instruments not commonly featured at Andover.

A centerpiece of the program was “Mo Li Fen Fang” (The

Fragrance of Jasmine), a reimagined concerto based on the well-known Chinese folk song, “Jasmine.” Soloist Deng showcased the guzheng’s capabilities while reflecting the traditional southern Chinese musical style. Deng described the significance of performing the work with a full orchestra.

“What excites me about this music is that it captures the essence of the instrument and the traditional Chinese musical flavor, particularly from southern China. It also reveals a shared image of Chinese musical sound. Collaborating with a symphony orchestra enriched the cultural collaboration between the instrument and the orchestral sound, and also the human connections. It connects many aspects together,” said Deng.



HARRY WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Senior soloist Brian Zhu ’26 played the erhu during “The Sun Shines on Tashkurgan.”



HARRY WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Dr. Haiqiong Deng performed “Mo Li Fen Fang” on the guzheng.

For audience member Jacob Gruneich ’27, Deng’s solo offered a rare opportunity to hear the guzheng played at a high professional level.

“Dr. Haiqiong Deng’s solo stood out the most to me. It was especially enjoyable to hear what a professional level musician sounds like on that instrument. All the soloists were great, but that performance was particularly memorable. As someone who is Chinese, the music felt personally meaningful to me. Hearing it performed at that level was powerful and made the experience especially impactful,” said Gruneich.

This concert’s program was notably diverse, spanning various cultures, time periods, and musical traditions. Attendee Vedant Bajaj ’28 highlighted Zhu’s solo, a work inspired by traditional Chinese music and rhythms.

“I have not attended orchestra performances in the past, apart from the mandatory ones during All School Meetings (ASMs) and

school events. But compared to those one or two piece performances, this one was really extraordinary, because I saw such diversity in pieces. Usually during the performances I previously attended, there was only one type of piece, tempo, or key. Whereas this concert featured many different types of pieces from different eras, and it really stood out to me how much variety there was,” said Bajaj.

Behind the scenes, the repertoire demanded technical precision and adaptability. Merson Tang ’29, a cellist in both the Symphony and Amadeus Orchestra, described the rhythmic complexity of “The Sun Shines on Tashkurgan” as particularly challenging.

“In ‘The Sun Shines on Tashkurgan,’ there was a section where the time signature constantly changed between measures of seven and five beats at a fast tempo. That made it difficult to count and know when to enter after resting. I worked through it

by subdividing the beats. For example, grouping seven as 3+2+2 and five as 2+3. Counting subdivisions instead of total beats made it easier to stay with the tempo,” said Tang.

Deng acknowledged the complexities of traditional Chinese music and commended the students and conductors for their hard work and dedication.

“Chinese music has a tendency where the melody does not entirely follow the notation, so there is flexibility. At first, [the pieces] felt slightly out of sync because the music look[ed] simple on paper. But after two rehearsals, I was amazed. The students were so intuitive. Dr. Jacoby is such an experienced conductor and immediately shaped those connections. The experience was enlightening for me. The students are not only talented, but also willing to collaborate and devote their passion. During the concert, it felt like we met that point together,” said Deng.

Joy, Culture, and Community Take the Stage in Saturday Night, Sunday Morning

DANIEL LIU & AUTUMN XIA

As Andover’s Theater Department staged “Saturday Night, Sunday Morning” in three performances this past weekend, Steinbach Theatre transformed into a 1940s Southern beauty parlor, complete with painted walls, vintage details, and a working Coca-Cola cooler.

Audience member Soleil Williams ’27 expressed that this detailed set made the performance feel strikingly immersive.

“I was so shocked when I walked in, especially with my friend who had taken a theatre class. That room, I think it was completely transformed, the paintings, the intricacies of the hair salon and the cooler with the actual muzzles of Coca-Cola. It really makes you feel like you were immersed in the era,” said Williams.

Gabbie Kawooya ’27, who played Taffy, felt that Steinbach Theatre was a more intimate environment to perform in compared to the Tang Theatre, which she’s performed more in. Kawooya explained the benefits and drawbacks of performing in a smaller venue.

“The audience is right in front of you. They’re all around you. It made it more vital for all of us to be constantly locked into our characters and understand the character’s thought process throughout the scene, even if you’re not actively talking, because the world is not just on stage. The world is surrounding the audience. You have to make sure you’re constantly keeping the world you’re trying to build alive throughout each scene,” said Kawooya.

Faculty director and Fellow in Theatre and Dance, Karen Douyon, explained that she chose the show with the intention of highlighting not only the struggles but also the rich culture of the African American experience.

“I chose this show specifically because in my experience, a lot of times the story is about Black people and Black history is always very sad. And it can be very traumatic and emotionally jarring for any audience, not



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Nana Damptey ’27 performed in “Saturday Night, Sunday Morning.”



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Gabbie Kawooya ’27 and Kaliah Fortune ’26 set inside a 1940’s Southern beauty parlor.

even just Black people. And so I want to choose something that allows my students to exist in multitudes because I think that Black people exist in multitudes.

It’s not just like trauma, post-slavery. We have so much of a rich history and a rich culture and the rich dialect and how we engage with each other. And it

was really important for me to showcase that. And I think ‘Saturday Night, Sunday Morning’ stood out to me because it did just that so effortlessly. It was

funny and digestible and joyful, and all the things that I was looking for,” said Douyon.

For Kawooya, the historical research behind the 1940s Southern setting deepened her connection to her role.

“It was really rewarding because it made the world that we were all supposed to be inhabiting feel a lot more real. It also gave a lot of understanding of the history of Black culture in the United States, especially the South, where I’m from. It almost felt like finding a bit more of myself and my history by learning more about the world these characters live in,” said Kawooya.

Audience members also recognized the production’s broader significance during Black History Month. Attendee Kamryn Cabrera ’28 observed that the show fostered collaboration and connection among students of color across campus.

“[‘Saturday Night, Sunday Morning’] supported Black History Month because it allowed for a lot of students of color on campus to perform together and create friendships that they never had before. I know a lot of students there, but I’ve never seen them hang out together, and a lot of them got to bond and connect because of it. And it was just a very heartwarming scene to see how impacted the community was, and how still and soon we are with such issues, and how, instead of just being ashamed by it, people were somewhat open to hearing about it, and fighting towards a change,” said Cabrera.

Kawooya reflected that the cast’s bond extended beyond rehearsal and became a defining part of the experience.

“I think the chemistry was impeccable. I was telling them today that in all my life, I’ve never been part of a show that had such strong cast bonding, especially given the short period of time. A term is only a couple of months, and in that time we went from being people who knew of each other and were vaguely aware of each other’s presence on campus to being extremely close friends. The cast really did feel like a family,” said Kawooya.

On the Runway: Met Gala Inspired Looks at Casino Night

CHARLIZE SOW & RAMSEY SARKISIAN

Casino Night unfolded beneath scintillating fairy lights, flashy balloons, and a glittering red carpet backdrop. This year's Met Gala theme encouraged students to experiment with silhouettes and textures, drawing inspiration from film, family closets, and fashion icons. Attendees donned thrifted fur coats, open back gowns, tailored suits, and carefully layered accessories, transforming the evening into a celebration of individuality and flair.

Sophia Tolokh '28

"I'm wearing a yellow maxi dress from Windsor. It's open back. I really like it, and I wanted a yellow dress, because I love the movie 'How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days.' Andie Anderson has her iconic yellow dress, so I feel like this resembles it a little bit. I went dress shopping with my mom over the break. These platform heels I've had [for] forever. I did my hair. It was a struggle because I'm not great at curling it, but Natalie [Giancola '28] and Adelyne [Liu '28] helped. I think it takes time to dress up well, so knowing that people are going to be dressing up and everyone is going to look kind of similar impacts it."



Dasha Gomez '28

"I thought [my dress] was perfect for the occasion. I think it is adorable, and the theme was Met Gala, which [meant my outfit] could have been anything. Everyone at the Met Gala has a different style. I think white looks really good on me. It also had this little corset moment going on. At first, I did not want to [wear] this dress, because I thought it was too short. When you search up Met Gala dresses, they usually go all the way to the floor, but I think you can interpret fashion in any way. Although my dress was simple, I felt like it suited the occasion. I think it gave a winter vibe, which I really liked, and the ruffles were really cute."

Satabhisha Sarkar '27

"I'm currently wearing a black dress shirt and black pants with a black blazer and a red tie. I accessorized with some gold jewelry. I knew I wanted to wear a blazer, so I asked my mom if I could borrow hers. Pieces of this outfit are from my parents' closet. I thought it would be cool to go for an all black look. I tried to match my makeup to my outfit. I did red lipstick to match the tie and gold eyeshadow for the jewelry. My sister drew a little star on my eye. I feel more confident when I show up wearing clothes that I like and that let me express myself, so that definitely contributes to how I enjoy an event. I like Casino Night because you can dress up really fancy and rich, so that's fun. I wasn't too focused on the theme when I was considering my outfit, but I feel like it could fit the theme. I could see myself showing up to the Met Gala in this."



Jasjit Hargun '27

"I have a blue suit on, blue shoes, a blue silk pocket square, these dangly earrings, and this silver chain necklace with a star and some pearls. Most of these things come from my girlfriend. She's more of a silver person and I'm more of a gold person in terms of jewelry. So I matched her with all my silver jewelry. I think it's healthy in fashion to have a blend of masculine and feminine elements. I tried to incorporate softer elements with the more square silhouette of the suit. She has similar earrings, but hers are more rigid. I wanted to style them with these dangly earrings, which feel more feminine. A couple weeks ago, I never imagined wearing earrings or more feminine things. I don't see why men shouldn't wear feminine things or women shouldn't wear masculine things. Dress how you want to dress."



Dareus Conover '27:

"I'm wearing dark green dress pants, a cream colored shirt, and a suede jacket. I got most of it from a thrift store. I just looked around and put the fit together. I don't think I had a specific inspiration. I just thought it looked cool, so I wore it. I think [my outfit relates to the Met Gala], because it was me putting it together, and the Met Gala is about being unique in how you put your outfit together."

Evelyn Marshall '28

"I'm wearing a black dress and a fur coat I thrifted in Boston a few months ago, with my normal jewelry and black boots. I wanted to wear this coat, because I don't get to wear it a lot, so I chose a black dress to go with it. The fur coat was inspired by Margot Tenenbaum from 'The Royal Tenenbaums.' I love her fur coat. It's iconic, and that was kind of the inspiration for this purchase and the look in general. I like getting dressed up, it makes an event more fun. It feels like more effort and more of an occasion."

COURTESY OF CHARLIZE SOW & RAMSEY SARKISIAN

Two Voices, One Connection: The Heart of THD902 Production "I and You"

DYLAN KANG & HAYLEY FAN

In a single bedroom set in Pan Athletic Center, THD901's production of "I and You" explored themes of isolation and vulnerability with two singular performers. Written by Lauren Gunderson and directed by Maya Clark '26, the production was built upon collaboration between the director and performers.

Performer Katja Latva-Kokko '26, who portrayed the character Antonia, described her experience of acting in "I and You" as her first play.

"It was such an amazing introduction to what theater, or what a play specifically, can be. For me, it was just an opportunity to try something, to maybe make a couple mistakes along the way. But it was such an incredible experience to just perform for people. Specifically with Antonia, I felt like her character is such a complex and beautifully written one that I was just so glad I got to try something like that, and have the audience connect to it," said Latva-Kokko.

Only played by two people, "I and You" posed challenges such as a large quantity of complex lines varying in length. Daisy

Lopez '26, who performed as Caroline, spoke on the process of rehearsing and putting together the intricate production.

"It wasn't very stressful to be rehearsing, because our producer Maya [Clark '26] had a lot of trust in us and was very supportive throughout the process, especially because it's a two-person play. She understood the circumstances of it being a lot more difficult to memorize lines when it's only just the two of us. I felt the rehearsal was very loving and welcoming. I didn't have any sort of stress at all," said Lopez.

Mila Fan '28, who attended to support friends in the cast and crew, emphasized how the production's spatial awareness stood out to her, especially having performed on the same stage before.

"It was really interesting to watch how the actors use the space, having performed on that stage myself. I enjoyed observing the lighting and how they blocked everything, their movement throughout... For the plot twist, the scene and setting didn't change at all, but they were really able to use the set and tell a story through that, even though there was only one setting or place that they were in," said Fan.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Katja Latva-Kokko '26 (left) and Daisy Lopez '26 (right) portrayed a scene set inside Caroline's bedroom.

The heartwarming nature of the dialogue elicited a wide range of emotions from the audience. For attendee Kamryn Cabrera '28, "I and You" was her first THD901 production. She commended the two-person cast for their performance.

"I thought it was absolutely amazing. I feel like the actors really were able to get fully into

character and I really admire the way they were able to show so much emotion on the set, especially with it only being two people. I feel like it was really impressive how they were able to memorize so many lines and then also perform in such an emotional manner," said Cabrera.

Latva-Kokko shared the last-

ing message that she hopes the audience leaves the theatre with. "I hope they walk out of the theater feeling even more grateful for the people around them, and even more connected to the people around them, because you'll never really know what's gonna happen," said Latva-Kokko.

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An Ode to Courage and Support: Coffeehouse Showcases Student Songwriters

JIA-YI ZHI & CHARLIZE SOW

The lobby of Falls Music Center was transformed on Sunday for the Coffeehouse, an opportunity for student songwriters to perform their original songs. Decorated with fairy lights, round tables, and a stage with a speaker and piano, the event was the culmination of the Songwriting Workshop class (MUS480).

Sese Upaa '29 displayed her original song, "Whitworth Boy," which she spent weeks writing and refining. While she approached the performance with some initial apprehension, she ultimately viewed it as a meaningful conclusion to her work on the piece.

"Making the actual song wasn't too bad. It was really fun to make. I usually figure it out on the piano and think about what sounds good in my head. I show my friends the songs I'm working on, so I asked one of them if she wanted to sing harmony, and she said yes. Preparing for Coffeehouse was more stressful because I was worried about my pronunciation and intonation. But in the end, it was fine. It went really well. I was aware of some mistakes I was making with the mixing and I was wondering what was happening, but I don't think the audience noticed," said Upaa.

As an experienced songwriter, Elliot Chang '28 spoke about his experience writing his Coffeehouse song and how it differed from his usual pieces.

"Writing this song took a lot of time because I tried to go deeper than an average song. My goal is really to put



KAREENA KAPOOR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Elliot Chang '28 performed his original song "get lost/motivos," written for MUS-480.

meaning into everything and to lift people up, even if it's a more acoustic or sad track. I just wrote with that in mind in my instrumental. I had two reference tracks. One was this Kanye [West] song because Kanye's good at writing, and the second song was 'My Future' [by Billie Eilish] because I was inspired by that song. The best part about writing is getting to reflect on real life experiences. By writing based on real life experiences, you can really bring the track to life because nothing's better than the story that goes behind it," said Chang.

Audience member Ellah Kotlarsky '27 commended the bravery it took to step on stage

and expressed appreciation for the supportive environment.

"I attended Coffeehouse to support my friends and dormmates who were performing. I was so excited to hear the culmination of their efforts. I've never been before, and I thought it was incredible. I especially appreciated the bravery of the performers. Sharing a song is very vulnerable, and I was touched by the parts of themselves they shared through the microphone. I also loved the energy, which was lively and supportive. Every performer and spectator cheered loudly and listened respectfully," said Kotlarsky.

Breanna Ren '29 reiterated Kotlarsky's appreciation for both the atmosphere and the sense of community the event created.

"I went because one of my friends was performing, and I also needed concert credits for class. It's nice to go and cheer on your classmates and peers. There's food, it's relaxed, and it's just a good environment. It feels cozy and welcoming. It's a good place to go with friends, especially in the winter before a busy week. It's also a chill opportunity for student songwriters and artists to perform and showcase their talents," said Ren.

Holly Barnes, the teacher of MUS480 and organizer of the

event, praised the students for the dedication behind their performances, highlighting the time and preparation required to write and produce their tracks.

"It was a lot of preparation in terms of the classroom. Most of these kids sang songs that they wrote towards the beginning of Winter Term. Right now we're working on our final project. I think Bella [Huang '28] sang a song that she just wrote that's not due until next week, but she finished early. There's that, and then putting down all the tracks is very time-consuming. And of course, the day of the event we had to set up. It's an all-day setup. I think I got here around noon," said Barnes.

Barnes also discussed the reason for Coffeehouse's creation as a way to encourage student songwriters to share their craft to the Andover student body.

"It's always hard to find opportunities to perform, especially original works. The real hope of this kind of event is that people feel connected to the music department. You don't have to be a classical musician to be a part of the music department, and that's what really started the songwriting class. A couple years after I began the class, I started organizing these 'Coffeehouses' so that people would have a place to perform other than [Susie's]. It's really the hope that people who are not playing in the orchestra or band can feel that they belong in the music department and that they have a place to perform," said Barnes.

"Little Boxes" Explores Big Ideas Through the Geometry of Modern Art

OLIVIA TEMPLE & BENJAMIN PARK

The Addison Gallery of American Art (Addison) debuted its new exhibition, "Little Boxes," on February 7. Spanning works from 1940 to 2024, the exhibit examines the role of simple geometric forms, particularly the square and the rectangle, in modern and contemporary art.

Works featured a wide range of mediums, from print and works on paper to three-dimensional assemblages. Jamie Gibbons, Head of Education at the Addison, emphasized the breath of these approaches.

"I think there are a lot of different ways to come at an idea. So the exhibition is looking at an exploration of the square and the rectangle in two-dimensional work, in three-dimensional work, in abstract work, in realistic work, in photography, in printmaking, in painting, in sculpture. I think that there's this way in which that introduces how there's a lot of different ways to come at an idea," said Gibbons.

Christine Jee, Manager of School and Community Collaboration [at the Addison], plans to incorporate "Little Boxes" in her classes throughout the next few months. Jee described how students have already engaged creatively with the exhibition's themes.

"People seem to be delighted by the color and shapes in the gallery but quickly recognize the deeper meaning of this exhibition. Just last

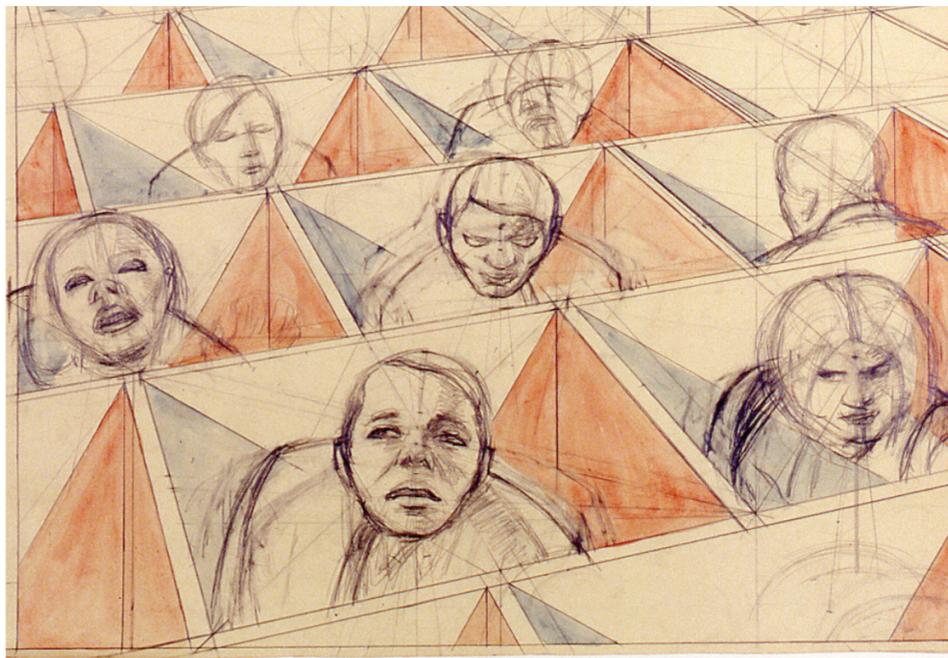
week, we hosted an art workshop and our activities were very much inspired by 'Little Boxes.' High school participants who are a part of our Addison Community Ambassador program from Andover High, Phillips Academy, Lawrence High, and the Greater Lawrence Technical School came up with ideas like creating dice with artistic prompts on them and using materials in the form of squares and rectangles," wrote Jee in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Jee shared what she hopes audiences will take away from the exhibit.

"I hope this show will invite people to think outside the box, to consider the potential and associations related to a simple square or rectangle in thinking about a broad range of ideas and topics," said Jee.

Among the featured works is *See See Love* by Stanley Whitney, a vibrant grid painting displayed near the exhibition's entrance. Gibbons highlighted the piece as a personal favorite.

"[See See Love is] the big piece that's right in the middle when you first walk in. And he does a lot of his work using the grid, but not sticking to it strictly. So there's this way in which he's starting from a particular idea and then taking it in a looser direction. He's inspired by a lot of different things. Some of the Addison community ambassadors are researching that piece and are going to be writing a talk about it," said Gibbons.



COURTESY OF THE ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART

Bill Owen's "Suburbia" (1972) (top left), Stanley Whitney's "See see Love" (2021) (top right), and George Tooker's "Study for 'Landscape With Figures'" (1965-66) (bottom) on display at the Addison Gallery.

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Lillian Montalto

SIGNATURE PROPERTIES INTERNATIONAL



1.5 MILES FROM PHILLIPS ACADEMY!

2 POWDER MILL SQUARE, U2B, ANDOVER, MA

\$799,900

3 **2 F 1 H** **2,425**

- MULTI-LEVEL TOWNHOME JUST ONE MINUTE FROM DOWNTOWN ANDOVER, SHOPS, DINING, AND THE TRAIN
- SOARING CATHEDRAL CEILINGS AND OVERSIZED DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS
- 2-CAR TANDEM GARAGE AND IN-UNIT LAUNDRY

"Let me find you the perfect home while your children attend Phillips Academy!"
Proudly serving the **Andovers** for over **40 years!**

**8-10 ESSEX STREET, U8
ANDOVER, MA 01810**

**2 PUNCHARD AVE, #3
ANDOVER, MA 01810**

**3 WEST HOLLOW
ANDOVER, MA 01810**



\$1,850/mo



\$10,500/mo



**OPEN HOUSE
SAT 2/28 • 1-3 PM**

\$2,299,000

1 **1 F** **469**

3 **3 F** **1,913**

5 **6 F 1 H** **6,814**

**UNIT FOR RENT AVAILABLE
MARCH 1ST!**

- 1.3 MILES FROM **PHILLIPS ACADEMY**
- MOMENTS FROM HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ANDOVER
- LOCATED ON THE 2ND LEVEL OF A MIXED-USE BUILDING
- WELL MAINTAINED UNIT INCLUDES SS APPLIANCES & HARDWOOD FLOORS

**STUNNING PENTHOUSE
SUITE**

- 2 BLOCKS FROM PHILLIPS ACADEMY
- LIVE RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF TOWN!
- PRIVATE ELEVATOR AND 2 BALCONIES
- CLOSE TO EVERYTHING YOU COULD POSSIBLY NEED IN DOWNTOWN ANDOVER!

**LUXURY LIVING
NOW EXCEPTIONALLY
PRICED!**

- MINUTES FROM **PHILLIPS ACADEMY**
- AMAZING COLONIAL IN A HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER NEIGHBORHOOD
- SPECTACULAR NEW KITCHEN
- PICTURESQUE 3+ ACRE LOT AND 1ST & 2ND FLOOR EN-SUITE BEDROOMS
- 3-CAR GARAGE

BUYERS



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