

## Global Learning Through Spring LITW Programs

ELIZABETH SAKA  
& WINSTON WU

Through Andover's Learning in the World (LITW) program, spring break presented students with an opportunity to engage with global cultures and communities. Five LITW trips took place this spring: Finland, Ghana, Nepal, Vietnam, and Sweden.

Mark Cutler, Director of LITW, emphasized that these experiences are designed to be intentional learning opportunities for students.

"LITW experiential learning opportunities are intentionally designed, rigorous, intensive, and outcomes-based programs in which participants develop global competencies—the sensibilities, habits, and practices of being an engaged global citizen," wrote Cutler in an email to *The Phillipian*.

For Sienna Rodriguez '27, the *Vietnam Today: From Roots to Rising Future* program allowed her to further explore her interest in Viet-

namese culture and history. She recalled her visit to the Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum as particularly memorable.

"I have always had somewhat of an interest in Vietnamese culture and history. I thought that this program would give me a good chance to explore that interest further in a hands-on way that doing my own internet research could not... I will never forget the trip we took to the Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum. One piece that I had not been able to get out of my mind was one of the statues [that] depicted a woman with a stature like the Virgin Mary, holding the helmet of a loved one she had lost in the Vietnam War. A real but often forgotten sentiment is that nobody wins in war. This statue perfectly encapsulates that, which is why it is so powerful," said Rodriguez.

Tasnia Begum '26, who was

*Continued on A5, Column 1*



COURTESY OF THANE MCCORMICK

Students roamed the streets of Vietnam at night during the trip *Vietnam Today: From Roots to Rising Future*.

## Pilot of All-School Meeting Seating Chart by Advising Groups Postponed



KELVIN MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Seniors took center stage during the first All School Meeting (ASM) of the school year. Starting next ASM, students will sit by advising groups according to a seating map.

SAKETH LINGSETTY

Andover has postponed the pilot of a new All-School Meeting (ASM) seating chart, originally set to begin this week, following concerns that the change would affect the Student Body Co-Presidential Debate. The plan is now set to begin on April 10.

Drafted by Gina Finocchiaro, ASM Coordinator, the seating plan moves the majority of Lovers to Kemper Auditorium (Kemper) and has advisors sitting in the Cochran Chapel pews with their students.

In a schoolwide email sent out on Thursday afternoon, Head of School Raynard Kington announced that the seating will be postponed in light of the final round of the election.

"After listening to students and faculty about this particular ASM and the need for students to be with each other and cheer each other on, we will postpone the seating by advisory groups until the next ASM... We thought this was a reasonable request that should be honored," wrote Kington.

Kington, who made the final decision to pilot the seat-

ing plan after discussions with senior leadership, explained issues with student engagement that the change sought to address in an interview with *The Phillipian*.

"I heard from both students and faculty that there was a sense that the All-School Meeting was no longer functioning as the community's collective classroom in the way that it was conceived and has historically been in the past. That was reflected in a number of ways. One, for example, the common occurrence of students talking while a speaker was speaking. More than once, speakers have had to stop their speaking because it was so loud that other students couldn't hear," said Kington.

He continued, "[The plan] was a group effort, a number of the senior staff were involved. Our senior staff included the Deans and other people involved in planning. I don't know exactly what specific people, but the senior leadership of the school was involved... There were conversations, and it was briefly discussed at faculty meeting... that's not always the best way to engage [in] conversations."

While rumors of a seating

chart had been circulating prior to Spring Break, many students did not anticipate this change. Maya Tomlinson '28 shared that she feels the decision resolves only a few of the issues associated with ASM.

"I felt that the fact that they separated it by advisory is just a little unnecessary. I know that there have been problems with the volume in the chapel, in that it's very loud, but I feel like at least where I'm sitting, it's not really that large of a problem, especially because it's really only chaotic in the beginning and the end of the ASM... I feel like they're making a big deal out of something that can be solved by a few more teachers walking through the aisles or just shushing people," said Tomlinson.

Robert Budzinski '26 similarly felt the chart marked a significant culture shift and commented on its implications for both students and faculty.

"My initial reaction was [surprise], as that's a big change from what ASM normally is. I

*Continued on A5, Column 1*

## Student Travel Plans Impacted by Conflict in the Middle East

OLIVIA TEMPLE & NICCOLO LEE-SUK

Over the spring break, several students experienced delays in international travel due to the ongoing war in Iran. Air travel hubs, including Dubai International (DXB), Abu Dhabi (AUH), Doha (DOH), Tel Aviv (TLV), and Beirut (BEY) airports, have experienced frequent flight cancellations and disruptions as airlines reroute to avoid the conflict in the Middle East.

International Student Coordinator Gina Finocchiaro communicated with students who required support with their travels, including coordinating last-minute adjustments to their plans.

"I reached out to students, to all international students, the weekend before spring break to find out who needed support and who needed help rerouting travel or making other arrangements because their plans were being impacted. So in some cases, students had to reroute flights or their travel was delayed. In other cases, students had to make totally different plans. And some of them were able to do that on their own, and some I had to make some last-minute host family pairings," said Finocchiaro.

Michelle Onyeka '27, an international student, usually flies through Dubai to return home via Emirates, but encountered a flight cancellation impending her departure

on March 6. Onyeka described the stress of balancing the situation with academic tasks.

"I got an email on Wednesday, two days before my flight saying that my flight was canceled, and I would either have to reschedule, or I would get refunded. I ended up having to stand hold with Emirates for hours, trying to reschedule my flights to either a later date, or with a different airline that doesn't go through the Middle East," said Onyeka.

She continued, "It was stressful because it was during finals week, but we ended up getting my flight rescheduled to leave on Sunday, the 8. But I ended up having to travel to Toronto instead of leaving from Boston because the next flight out of Boston to Dubai was all the way on the 15. I didn't have as much time as I wanted to at home. It's not much, but I got two less days, and I was recovering from jet lag for longer than I anticipated."

Dina Namjoo '28, who originally planned to visit her friends and family in Dubai, described the disruption to her travel itinerary.

"My plans were completely canceled. The flight was canceled, and I had to request a refund for the airline ticket, of course. It was a big deal because I had hotels booked and the flight was booked and I had plans to see my friends and family, which I was not able to," said Namjoo.

The Learning in the World (LITW) programs also experi-

enced travel disruptions over spring break. Mark Cutler, Director of LITW, worked to reroute flights for the programs "Nepal: Traditions of the Himalayas and Dark Nights" and "Celestial Lights: Auroras & Photography in Arctic Sweden."

"[We had] to look at where people were traveling through. Would travel for one of these programs take anybody through the Middle East or the Gulf region? We identified that we had thirteen travelers who were supposed to fly through the Gulf region, twelve on one program to Nepal going through Dubai, and then one other student who was traveling from Hong Kong to Sweden via Doha, Qatar. And so we quickly acted on behalf of the twelve travelers on the program, and the individual, working with them to redirect them," said Cutler.

Cutler continued, "We redirected the Nepal group. Thankfully, we found tickets that were reasonable, that weren't exorbitantly expensive, and it delayed them by about 48 hours, but it wasn't so much that we had to scrap the whole program. We determined that going to Nepal and Sweden was a reasonable proposition, and we found better routes to get there."

## Aarav Dengla '28 Earns Chess Grandmaster Title



COURTESY OF BART BEIJER

Aarav Dengla '28 contemplates a move in the Groningen December 2023 Competition.

FELIX BRET

Aarav Dengla '28 became a Chess Grandmaster (GM) on February 28, the highest lifetime distinction in chess. Dengla is the first recorded Andover student to attain this title, becoming the 93rd GM of India and 3rd of Mumbai. Other members of Andover's community in the chess world include Carissa Yip '22, the #1 female chess player in the U.S., and Dana Nance Mackenzie

'75, a chess writer and National Master.

Dengla is currently on a leave of absence and will return to campus in the fall. During his year off, he attended multiple tournaments, most recently winning two in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dengla also won the Championnat du Grand Paris Masters in 2024, the youngest player to do so.

*Continued on A5, Column 4*

Commentary, A2

**"The Foundation of Community: Collective Experience"**

Community comes from a sustained collective effort from the student body.

Eighth Page, A8

**Brackets Busted**

First week back, get me out of here.

Sports, B1

**Boys Volleyball Starts the Season Strong**

Boys Volleyball defeated St. John's 3-1 to win its first game of the season.

Arts, B7

**Sounds of Spring**

Read about what Andover students are listening to as spring weather approaches.

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Editorial

# Who Run the World...

As Women's History Month comes to a close, we'd like to highlight to our dear readers a few of the women who inspire us year round...and also happen to have graduated from Andover.

**Katie Porter '11**

Porter served as the U.S. Representative for California's 47th Congressional District from 2019 to 2025. After Andover, she attended Yale University, then Harvard Law School, and became a law professor at UC Irvine before launching her first-ever campaign after the 2016 election. She went on to serve three terms in Congress.

**Olivia Coffey '07**

Coffey is among the most decorated American rowers of her generation, winning gold in the quad sculls at the 2015 World Rowing Championships. She represented the U.S. at the 2016 Rio Olympics, and is a three-time world champion. Her discipline and competitive drive began at an early age. Fun fact: she first competed at rowing whilst at Andover in 2005.

**Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward '58**

Ward was one of the earliest voices in feminist literature. She is best known for 1868 novel *The Gates Ajar*, which sold over 100,000 copies and challenged what was (at the time) conventional religious views on the afterlife. She spoke out against violations of women's rights, advocating for dress reform and the humane treatment of animals, positions that were considered radical.

**Hafsat Abiola-Costello '92**

Abiola founded KIND in 1997 in her mother's honor after her mother was assassinated by Nigeria's military junta. The organization works in Africa to advance democracy and women's leadership. For instance, KIND has worked with other major organizations to demand for the reconsideration of the gender bill rejected by National Assembly of Nigeria. Abiola has received several international recognitions for her activism, including being named a Global Leader of Tomorrow at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

**Susan Chira '76**

After graduating from Andover, Chira attended Harvard University, where she was the president of the *Harvard Crimson*, and then went on to join *The New York Times*. She rose to Senior Editor and worked on *The New York Times* team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for reporting on sexual harassment in 2018. She later served as Editor-in-Chief of *The Marshall Project*, a nonprofit newsroom dedicated to criminal justice reporting.

Women of Andover, we love you!

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# The Phillipian

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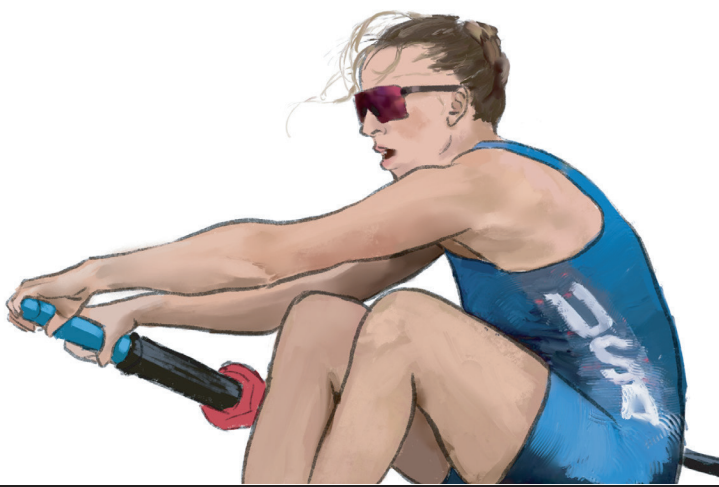
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ANGELA GUO / THE PHILLIPIAN

# Time's Up. Let's Talk College.

JEANNIE KANG



K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

College is a 600-pound Silverback Gunga in the room. Everybody sees it, yet a very few muster up the courage to speak about it. And when we do speak about it, the conversation often ends with a "I hate school," "Who cares about college anyway," or "I don't wanna think about it." Speaking about college has now become a source of discomfort and awkward silence at Andover, leaving many students to worry about their chance of landing at an Ivy League institution or the strength of their extracurriculars behind closed doors. As lowerclassmen, we are told by the older students to refrain from talking about college or even asking questions vaguely related to admissions, because that might fix our reputations as college-obsessed. But why? The administration has acknowledged the importance of discourse surrounding college by opening up College Counseling for lowerclassmen, yet the cultural discouragement against such discussions remains prevalent in the student body. 99% of students at Andover will eventually take part in the college admissions process, and most of us already go through simi-

lar feelings of anxiety, fear, excitement, and confusion when thinking about college. College admissions should no longer be a taboo topic; we must establish safe spaces in which students can honestly discuss their struggles and concerns. Here are some ways in which we can make Andover a safe space to "talk college." From Juniors to post-graduates, each grade has distinct expectations regarding discussions about college. Lowerclassmen are told that they are "too young" to think about college and that they should "chill out." Upperclassmen, on the other hand, are expected to have a fully fleshed-out plan about future majors, career plans, and strategies. If you are a hard-working student with a variety of passions, people assume that you are doing everything for college, whereas if you do not speak much about your passions, you may be seen as a "slacker" who doesn't care much about college. These stereotypes and boundar-

ies hinder students from opening up, especially when their relationship with college does not align with broader expectations. A Junior who already has a dream school and is passionate about college admissions, a senior who doesn't care much, a hard-working student who has no idea how the process works, and an introverted student who really wants to go to a specific college: all opinions and thoughts are valid in the confusing process of admissions. Therefore, the first step in establishing safe spaces is to acknowledge that all students have a distinct relationship with admissions, regardless of their grade level, ethnicity, or other personal backgrounds. Another concern that often serves as a barrier to discussing college is the intense competition. Some students believe that disclosing their honest thoughts, plans, and experiences makes them vulnerable in the competition. What if someone "steals" my passion project

FELISHA LI / THE PHILLIPIAN

idea? What if people laugh at me because I am shooting too high? In a competitive environment like Andover, where students simultaneously care about their relationships with peers, academic success, and future plans, it may be difficult to confide in a general group of people to share their honest feelings. However, overcoming this perspective of competitive pressure helps ease the anxiety and

**To end this vicious cycle, next time someone brings up college, ask questions and contribute your opinions.**

stress that comes from comparing ourselves to others. Though many students might appear as trophies and untouchable magicians when viewed at a distance, engaging in honest conversa-

tions helps us recognize that we are in the same boat at the end of the day. Regardless of one's achievements and reputation, we are all high school students trying hard academically while balancing social life and extracurriculars. This understanding is necessary for Andover students to support one another in the face of a common challenge of college. Therefore, the parents, school, and the student alike must make an effort to foster honest discussions with our peers, rather than exacerbating the competitive pressure. Once we kick-start normalizing on-campus discussions regarding college, another hurdle remains: sustaining thoughtful, engaging discourse rather than dismissive ones. As aforementioned, many college-related topics end up as a meme or a lighthearted joke because students feel uncomfortable engaging in deeper-level discussions. To end this vicious cycle, next time someone brings up college, ask questions and contribute your opinions. And don't censor yourself from sharing your emotions and thoughts that may be unpopular, since these conversations break the awkwardness and let genuine opinions flow. College, college, college. Thoughts of college make me thrilled one day and incredibly anxious the other, scared out of my mind one day and excited the other. All emotions and perspectives on college matter, and Andover must make an intentional effort to let these opinions take the stage. We don't have to worry alone, because we are all in this together.

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# You Should Probably Read a Memoir

MEDHA KONDA



A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

In my short lifespan, I've spent time with a variety of interesting literature that gives one much to ponder about. From mystery books, we are prompted to inspect our surroundings more closely. From classic books we're assigned at school, we must discover why high schoolers 50 years ago read this novel too. Many, when asked, can jump to say they love the whimsy of high-fantasy novels, are intrigued by vibrant historical fiction, or perhaps even the lengthy philosophical type. However, one genre of literature that I seldom get to talk about with friends is memoirs. I'll admit my first impression of memoirs was a collection of unsolicited advice from renowned individuals. I would later learn that not all of them are told by a Nobel Prize Winner, and instead are told by people whose lives may appear easy on the surface. Through the tribulations of depression, self-discovery, and pursuing their dreams, memoir authors expose what sometimes even their closest allies never knew about them. What I have taken away from reading memoirs is that healing is rarely linear. There are a multitude of ways in which humans process grief, change, and uncertainty, both in positive and negative manners, and to portray both honestly is what

a good memoir does.

To be frank, I am often not receptive to unwanted advice. In making decisions solely for my own pursuits, it irks me when people make comments on choices of my own volition. Because of this, self-help books, cherry-picked for high points and superficial lessons, have never stuck with me. They seldom come across as messy and uncertain at times, though that is simply how life often is. Memoirs are thankfully quite the opposite. In her memoir, *Crying In H-mart*, Michelle Zauner openly admits the multitude of mistakes she's made in her life. Despite the seemingly easy life she had led, she still experienced complex struggles with depression and letting her mom down. The memoir explores moments preceding and following her mother's death, in which she reflects on her disconnect from her Korean heritage and their relationship. While the bond Zauner

had with her mother could be viewed by some as unconventional, it certainly resonates with those who've experienced tough love. Throughout the memoir, Zauner never makes an explicit remark that suggests the reader take away something from her story. Still, it's impossible to read through her experiences and not reflect on your own relationships and the

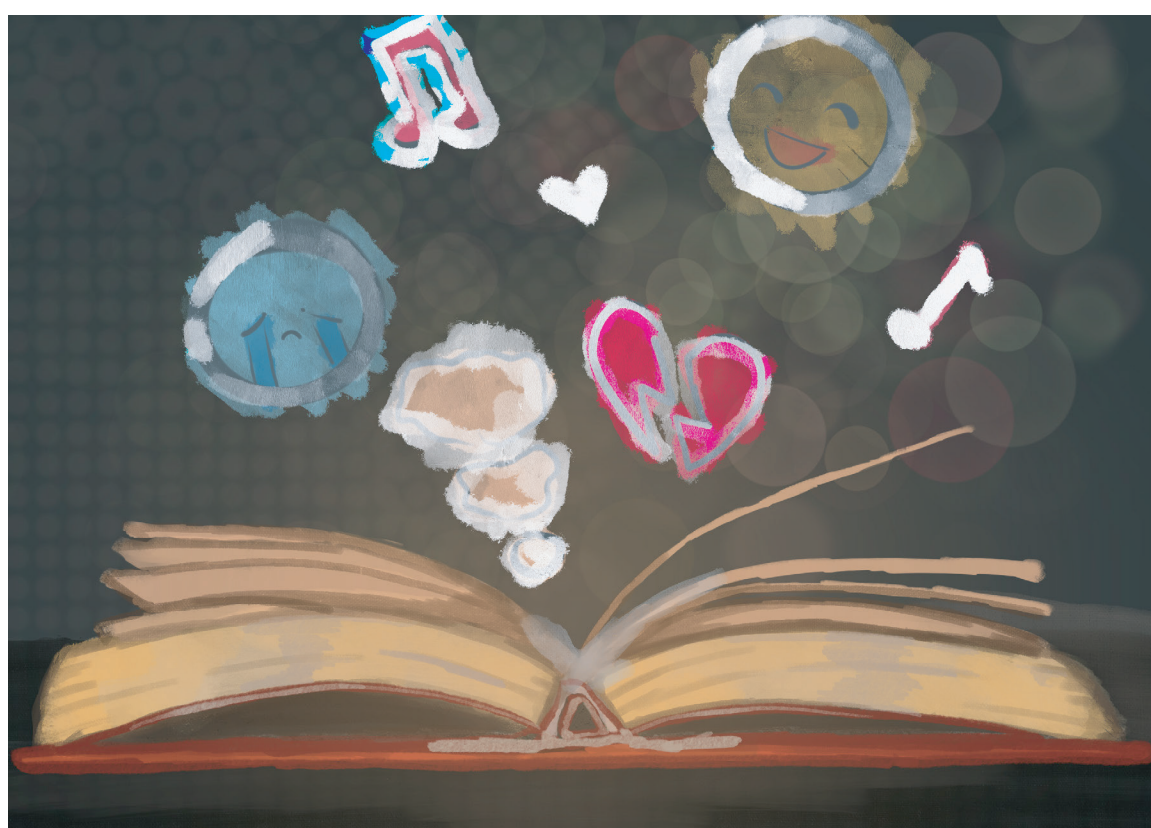
**There isn't another genre, I believe, that subtly encourages self-reflection quite like a memoir.**

ways in which love has shaped us. There isn't another genre, I believe, that subtly encourages self-reflection quite like a memoir.

A common assumption one might have upon seeing an 8-year-old girl playing in her yard in the afternoon is that she's taking a break after school let out. However, for Tara Westover, the author of *Educated*, that would be quite inaccurate. Her father's fundamentalist Mormon ideology clashed with the public school system, which led her to be able to step foot into a classroom for the first time at the age of 17. Despite this, she not only attended university but also received a PhD in history. Her memoir punctures the bubble that many of us high school students live in – that people our age are all preoccupied with college and jumpstarting adulthood. To us, who constantly push the limits of our knowledge both inside and outside of class, being forbidden from education is far from a reality we can imagine. The story she tells directly invites youth to rethink education: at Andover and else-

where, we sometimes loathe it and criticize it, yet for Tara, it was costly freedom. Yet, she's someone who now leads a "normal" life, even if her upbringing wasn't as such. The openness an author shares with us through their memoirs is one that translates into empathy in ourselves. There is not one way in which to suffer; neither is there a single path to stability, but perhaps we better poise ourselves to change the way in which we view the mundane by absorbing the journeys others have forged.

The voracious reader knows that even as you have your favorite type of book, you eventually need a switch-up. To that, I suggest that reading a memoir can be the most thrilling choice imaginable. Emphasizing with the narrator is simply unavoidable, as you're frequently reminded that the moments of grief, excitement, and uncertainty actually occurred. Being in the front seat of another person's life: realizing that "normal" people make mistakes, and have winding paths to healing or success, is the beauty of them. More so than any other genre, you'll find a way to take away something to implement in your life. Perhaps that is something as small as calling your mother more often, or having more gratitude for the education you're lucky to receive. Small as they may be, the power of the memoir is in the author's ability to connect to people very different from themselves. So, will you be willing to take that chance?



CAMILA CHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

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# The Foundation of Community: Collective Experience

WOJIN OH



J. NUNEZ / THE PHILLIPIAN

One evening, I walked to Borden Gym for Cluster Dodgeball, expecting the kind of unifying energy that usually accompanies anything labeled "school-wide." The format of the event seemed promising: students from each cluster would come together, form teams, and those not participating would cheer for their peers on the bleachers. Yet as I stepped inside Borden, the gym was filled with fewer people and a weaker atmosphere than I had imagined. A similar feeling lingered weeks later, when I attended the winter pep rally with my friends. When we arrived, several left after getting food, and our group quickly shrank to just a few. In both moments, nothing was obviously lacking; the events were organized properly, and those who were present participated with great enthusiasm. However, something about them felt incomplete. It was strange how a place as full as Andover could still feel this disconnected. I thought about why this was the case.

Over Spring break, I was reminded of the day last year when I received my acceptance letter. I was overjoyed and almost instantly scheduled my revisit in mid-March. The most memorable experience during the revisit for me was the talent show. While the performances

themselves were engaging and impressive, what stayed with me most was something else: the act of cheering and enjoying the show together with the Andover community. In those moments, I felt like I belonged.

Looking back, that sense of belonging I felt at Andover came not from events, but from the act of sharing an experience together. It was the same kind of bonding that people feel when watching an intense game of sports, rooting for the same team. Everyone in the room, though briefly, aligned into applauding, performing, enjoying, and sharing something communal. That was what made the night memorable and what made the community feel so whole.

In contrast, the moments that felt incomplete during the Cluster Dodgeball and the winter pep rally mentioned earlier were lacking in that same

shared willingness to be present. Without that, even the most well-planned, well-funded events can feel lackluster, never fully becoming the communal experience it was meant to be.

This isn't to say that participation is always easy, or that students deliberately choose to avoid these events. At Andover, time often has to be distributed across academic responsibilities, extracurricular commitments, and personal rest. After long days or before important tests, staying in rather than attending an event can be reasonable and necessary. In this context, the absence of collective energy is not the result of disengagement but of the many personal responsibilities that outweigh engagement.

At the same time, these demands make moments of collective experience matter so much. Just like how a group chat dies after the physical separation of

a group, a community is something that has to be actively created. Pep rallies and Cluster Dodgeball are meaningful because they offer a structured

**The sense of belonging I felt at Andover came not from events, but from the act of sharing an experience together.**

opportunity to step outside individual routines and share something together. When students choose to show up, they transform these events from organized gatherings into something genuinely communal. Without that shared engagement, the sense of connection many students seek remains in-

complete.

Ultimately, the unifying sense of belonging I felt during my revisit was not exclusive to that one revisit night; it was an example of what community Andover can be at its best. That same feeling is not out of reach, nor is it limited to special events. It exists in the moments when individuals come together to collectively engage with each other. Sometimes, the difference between a place that feels full and one that feels connected begins with something as simple as choosing to show up.

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CARINA PAIK / THE PHILLIPIAN

# Yes Kids, I Fought in the “Battle of the Unemployed”

SIMRAN SHAH



COURTESY OF SIMRAN SHAH

It all started when the penultimate episode of season one of “A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms” (the next installment in the Game of Thrones universe) debuted on IMDb as a 10/10. *Breaking Bad* fans were quick to act, “review-bombing” the episode with 1-stars so as to keep the episode from breaking the record of *Breaking Bad*’s Season 5, Episode 14 “Ozymandias”, the only episode on IMDb to hold a 10/10 rating. This led to a “review war”, as *Game of Thrones*’s fans rushed to review “Ozymandias”, ultimately resulting in the loss of both shows’ 10/10 rating. Within hours, the IMDb page of each show looked like a battlefield: thousands of defensive perfect scores colli-

**IMDb scores attempt to quantify something subjective, but different audiences value different things, and different experiences impact preference.**

ing with thousands of one-star attacks. Social media blew up, reinvigorating memes and ref-



JIA-YI ZHI / THE PHILLIPIAN

erences from each side, and a mutual realization that no show would ever get a 10/10 rating on IMDb again. Media covering the war labeled it as “stupid” with many on social media calling it “The Battle of the Unemployed.” When two shows are thought of in the same playing field constantly, it’s understandable that the fans of each show would ironically “go to war” for their show. People become emotionally invested in defending their favorite media. IMDb scores attempt to quantify something subjective, but different audiences value different things, and different experiences impact preference. The moment perfection becomes measurable, it also becomes contestable. I believe that this “war” offers a unique perspective on the subjective interpre-

tation of perfection.

Though I am personally biased in my preference between the two shows, it is clear that the two iconic shows both of-

**When attachment to one thing comes in, a fan may not review other shows unbiasedly. Therefore, it is possible that there is no need for rating platforms like IMDb when they can be so easily manipulated by fanbases.**

fer different things and attract different fanbases, which have become naturally competitive. *Game of Thrones* is praised for its political intrigue, dramatic

**By trying to defend perfection, each side ended up destroying it. The relentless pursuit of standard devalued the “trophy” they had prized for so long.**

storytelling, expansive world-building, and complex characters. Comparatively, *Breaking Bad* focuses on the transformational character arc of just one character, which is regarded as one of the greatest arcs of all time. It is praised for its precise storytelling and the generational work of its directors, as demonstrated in one of its greatest episodes, Rian Johnson’s “Ozymandias”. *Breaking Bad* was an original screenplay by Vince Gilligan, unlike *Game of Thrones*, which relied heavily on source material from George R.R. Martin’s book series, “A Song of Ice and Fire.” While we may never be able to pinpoint the exact reason each *Breaking Bad* fan felt they needed to submit a review, the 10/10 on “Ozymandias” clearly became more of a trophy than a rating in the end.

Can art ever really reach the standard of perfection? Of course, perfection is a subjective quality, one that can only be ascertained by the viewer. When attachment to one thing comes in, a fan may not review other shows unbiasedly. Therefore, it is possible that there is no need for rating platforms like IMDb when they can so easily

be manipulated by fanbases. We cannot be sure this weighted rating system is wholly accurate when “review-bombing” is now a prevalent concept. The most important part of all is the irony of the event. By trying to defend perfection, each side ended up destroying it. The relentless pursuit of standard devalued the “trophy” they had prized for so long.

No episode now holds a 10/10 on IMDb, and IMDb ratings in general do not hold nearly as much significance. *Breaking Bad* fans have, for years, left one-star reviews on any episode that might touch “Ozymandias” in ratings. As of February 22, “In the Name of the Mother” has 14,000 1-star reviews. Fans of several shows that neared 10/10 ratings on certain episodes (until *Breaking Bad* fans attacked) left 88,000 1-star reviews on “Ozymandias”. Still, this isn’t about blame. A 10/10 episode is seen as perfection, and after the war, there may never be another. The fact that *Breaking Bad* and *Game of Thrones* had such a profound impact on their fans is testament enough to the beauty of both shows. Maybe “winter has come for Ozymandias,” as IMDb user bobbycollins-80914 points out, or maybe “Winter never reached Albuquerque,” as TheGuliyevMurad mentions. Maybe both shows deserved 10s, and now neither has one. At the very least, we can all agree that both shows are treasured by many; to an extent, very few shows would have the power to create.

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## Life Through a Moving Lens

JUNWOO (JACOB) SHIN



J. NUÑEZ / THE PHILLIPIAN

A photo is worth a thousand words. By this logic, a single video should constitute several million. Filming brought a special change to my life. When I first pressed the record button, the way I viewed the world shifted. Suddenly, every breeze that created rustles on a tree, every ripple on a disrupted lake seemed deliberate. When the red dot appeared, I started paying attention differently. The way someone moved through the grass, the subtle but genuine excitement I could see in their eyes; every detail could be captured and preserved in a video. By seeing through a lens, my eyes learned to adjust to new frames, and through filming every moment, I learned to live in the overlooked intervals of the present and perceive the world in its purest form.

This past winter term, I took a 300-level elective class to learn more about videography. The PLC provided me with a DSLR camera from Canon, and my classmates and I were tasked to film different projects across campus. Despite occasionally forgetting to bring my camera with me to capture a special moment, the DSLR acted as a window to a new angle to view the world from. I stopped viewing moments as isolated images, but as a series of transitions: the process of a smile forming, the

pauses between people in conversation, and the way light shifted across someone’s face. Real moments of beauty often lie not in individual moments, but in the seconds in between.

When editing a video, there are several ways in which I shape the final product through an intentional selection of clips. In a software, concepts like time become a material; by slowing down or speeding up a scene, I can make a single second heavy with significance or organized with coherence. I can cut out mistakes, rewind moments, and edit a video into an ideal version of itself. In doing so, I can easily create a variety of narratives. A single shot can make someone appear powerful or vulnerable. Music in the background can shift the mood of a scene entirely. The reality that we see in the news, online, and on social media is often partial, fragments of a truth framed, trimmed, and clipped into an actuality filtered through selection. It is only by

considering the clips that were cut out, the angles that were excluded, and the outside of the frame that we can recognize the truth for what it is and view the

**The reality that we see in the news, online, and on social media is often partial, fragments of a truth framed, trimmed, and clipped into an actuality filtered through selection.**

world without distortion.

Editing taught me that perspective is power. People say that the camera never lies, but I’ve come to learn that it always selects. Every frame excludes more than it includes, and every video leaves something be-



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to archive the entirety of the experience, but to learn how to notice it.

Now, even without a camera

**Over time, I’ve learned to lower the camera when I need to. Not every moment needs to be color-graded to matter. The goal was never to archive the entirety of the experience, but to learn how to notice it.**

in my hands, I see the world through a different lens. I pay attention to transitions in emotion, to the elements that lie outside of the frame. I notice how conversations shift in tone, the way silence carries weight, and how light affects the mood of a scene in my life. I value the fragility of time—how quickly it moves, how easily it slips away when I am not living in the moment. Life is a film. It is a sequence rather than an image, and it is never the whole truth. Life is a collection of scenes. Its beauty lies not in the individual clips, but in the fluidity of the collective whole.

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## Students Share Highlights from LITW Trips

Continued from A1, Column 2

also part of *Vietnam Today*, reflected on both the connections she formed and how her perspective on remembrance and reflection changed.

“There are multiple moments from the trip I don’t think I’ll ever forget, including a cycling and scooter motorbike tour through rice paddies and mountains in Mai Chau, being guided on crosswalks through busy city streets, meeting high school students, and visiting tailors. Each of us met someone new at Andover, and we also met students in Vietnam, bonding over shared interests or speaking about daily life,” said Begum.

Begum continued, “The trip changed how I viewed a lack of space, reverence, reflection, and view toward ancestors. In Vietnam, I saw narrow buildings to accommodate the lack of space, reverence towards leaders or political figures, and recognition [or] photos of the high school’s presidents and accomplished students... Many people shared a spiritual connection with their ancestors by burning incense sticks or fake money to forward their prayers.”

Kristian Kearins ’27, who participated in *Nepal: Traditions of the Himalayas and Dark Nights*, reflected on how the

trek through Nepal reshaped his understanding of life in more remote regions.

“When we first started the trek, we started off in the city of Bhaktapur, which is a subsection of Kathmandu. When we started trekking, we would see these tea houses and the people that own [them] stay there year-round. They never go into cities. Their whole job is just to pretty much be isolated and wait for trekkers to come along so that they can feed them and house them for a night or two. It was interesting seeing how disconnected people can be, because even in the smallest towns in America, they have paved roads, they have a police station. But these people were hour-long hikes away from even the next teahouse, let alone like a town or a police station or a hospital. So it was pretty interesting to see the, I guess, disconnect from civilization,” said Kearins.

Will Unetich ’27 described how visiting Buddhist monasteries during the Nepal trip altered his assumptions about purpose and daily life.

“Along the way, we stopped at a lot of Buddhist monasteries. So [we] met a lot of monks, got to sit in on different prayer sessions. I was surprised about how spiritually devout everybody there was, and it was really interesting to learn about how people would stay in those temples, in those rooms, doing

prayers for five days straight at a time depending on what time of the year it was. Then there was also another time we stopped at a monastery. We could see kind of huts up in the mountain. And we were told that some monks stayed in that one little hut for like three years at a time or something, just getting spiritually connected. And it was very surprising and eye-opening to me because I feel like, having fun in life or whatever, it’s always connected to using your phone or being outside and playing with friends. But it was interesting to see how such a different way of life that seems completely opposite to ours can give someone just as much purpose as, I guess, what gives us purpose,” said Unetich.

Nicholas Smith ’28 recounted the warm welcome he felt on his trip with *Akwaaba Ghana Adventure*.

“I was surprised the most by the culture and the people. They were really welcoming. For example, if we were ever driving by like a town or a city, everyone that was on the sidewalks or playing games would stop and wave. We talked about it a lot in our debriefs at the end of the day about just how welcoming everybody was and how we wished that we could bring that to our culture and our society,” said Smith.

## Friends of Dengla Reflect on Memories With Him

Continued from A1, Column 5

Dengla discussed the challenges of balancing school and competitive chess.

“[Andover] only allows about five Dean’s excuses, so it was pretty hard to go to most tournaments, especially the top ones. I had to skip World Youth and the World Junior basically every year. But outside of that, it was worth [being here] to some degree. It was an experience,” said Dengla.

Dengla originally entered Andover in 2023 as a member of the class of 2027. Yoll Feng ’27, a dormmate who first met Dengla at New International Student Orientation (NISO), shared his memories of Dengla.

“There were a lot of conversations we had from very late at night... [They] never revolved much around chess, because I don’t play chess. But, aside from all that, he would be updating us about his recent progress in games, ratings, and whatnot. Not that I knew very much about the details or how the chess system works,” said Feng.

During his time at Andover, Dengla resided in Stearns. Jason Lu ’27, fellow Stearns resident, often spent time with him.

“He made a lot of funny jokes. He taught [me and my roommate] how to be better at chess. I actually improved by 100 Elo because of his advice. He was actually the reason why I was inspired to play chess again... He’s a very dedicated person when it comes to something he wants. I admire that about him,” said Lu.

Dengla attended Andover from 2023 to 2025, and reclassified from the class of 2027 to 2028 following his leave. Looking ahead, he plans to continue competing in chess while balancing academics.

“I will try to structure my classes and stuff in a way that if there is a tournament that is very prestigious, I will try to play it. There’s maybe a hundred people or fewer who have been able to [become GMs] at my age and almost all of them had to drop out of school for it, whereas I took one gap year. It feels really good to get it at a young age,” said Dengla.

He continued, “I don’t really plan on doing it at the collegiate level... There isn’t anything like D1 chess or something. You can’t get recruited for it. I’m hoping to get at least a World Junior title soon. After that, I’ll decide whether I want to take a step back from chess or try to become a World Champion. But I don’t plan to pursue it professionally or full-time.”

Apart from chess, Dengla is a polyglot and enjoys watching TV shows, introducing friends to shows such as *Suits* and *Lupin*. Feng highlighted his pride in Dengla.

“Ever since [joining the school as an International Master], [he has been] constantly talking about the day that he becomes a Grandmaster. He’s certainly put a lot of work into it. So when I heard the news that the thing that happened is the thing that he’s been dreaming about for the past however many years, I was very proud of my boy,” said Feng.

## Students Provide Thoughts on Effectiveness of ASM Seating Plan

Continued from A1, Column 5

also honestly felt bad for the advisors, because they’re all teachers who are very busy, and that’s one of their break times. It’s the only time they can go eat at lunch without there being a thousand kids there. I felt bad that they were having to spend an extra hour overseeing us like that,” said Budzinski.

A notable aspect of the chart is the relocation of most Lovers to Kemper for seating. Tomlinson described the consequences of this change, noting that it conflicts with what she sees as ASM’s purpose and goals.

“I don’t think it’s necessarily fair to force any group of students

into Kemper. Not that it’s the worst thing ever, but it’s not ideal because you want to have that community that you get in ASM. It detracts from the point and the community that we’re trying to inspire because ASM is supposed to be a place for students or all students to get together and then learn something in togetherness, and now we’re splitting that up,” said Tomlinson.

Kington said the relocation considered both space limitations in Cochran Chapel and ways to maintain a sense of community.

“We don’t have a space on campus that can hold the entire student body and faculty. What we may do is we may ultimately rotate which group is in Kemper, but that was the thinking... there are different ways of building community, and one way is to have all

the students together. One could argue that we’ve done that, and it hasn’t worked out well. So this seemed like the greatest chance of having an impact, and would least violate the sense of community,” said Kington.

Clara Isaza-Bishop, an advisor to Upper day students, thought that the change could also create more opportunities for discussion in advising groups.

“There was an old model that was not working that well, and we’re trying to create a different structure to create a sense of more community, and be able to reflect on what we see or what the students see in the [ASM]... I’m happy to share an experience with my advisees, actually. It’s like going to an event with my advisees and then kind of reflecting on what we saw in advisory,” said Isaza-Bishop.

op.

Echoing Tomlinson’s sentiment, Allegra Lee ’27 explained how the chart may act as a restrictive measure that prevents students from taking responsibility for their conduct.

“Part of Andover is supposed to be figuring things out for yourself and learning how to be a respectful person on your own, which I think people are capable of, and I honestly don’t think the seating chart is teaching people how to do that. Part of what we’re supposed to learn here is how to recognize the value and the time and effort that ASM speakers put into their presentations and choosing ourselves without discipline just because we want to make that respectful choice to listen to them and to ask questions. I don’t think

that more policies are necessarily fixing that,” said Lee ’27.

Colin Lee ’28 explained that similar policies can end up being ineffective for inducing cultural change and encouraged more intentional efforts to improve ASM.

“It’s making it feel like the administration’s doing what they want. I don’t think that’s going to really spark the change they want. You know the saying, you can bring a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink... What they’re doing is dragging the horse to water, but what they should be doing is seeing if the horse is thirsty, if that makes sense. They’re making policies to create changes that there isn’t much desire for, intentional or otherwise,” said Lee ’28.

ASM Coordinator Gina Finocchio declined to comment.

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## Choosing Your Own Adventure: Independent Projects at Andover

**ADELYNE LIU & JEREMIAH NUÑEZ**

For decades, students have had the opportunity to dedicate one of their class periods to an Independent Project (IP) as part of the Abbot Independent Scholars Program (AISP). In place of a class, the program allows students to design and execute projects on topics of their choosing, ranging from computational chemistry simulations to extensive French language research to astronomy board games. These students work with mentors over the course of a term, allowing them to pursue topics that oftentimes fall outside the Core Blue curriculum.

Kenneth Shows, Associate Dean of Advising and AISP Director, emphasized the purpose of IPs to facilitate

targeted learning not offered by electives. He noted that, as Andover’s curriculum expanded over the years, AISP transitioned from being the sole means for independent research to providing an outlet to navigate specific topics without a dedicated course.

“[Research-focused classes] are drawing some of the demand that used to come to the AISP into their programs instead, whereas 15 years ago, if a kid wanted to do a computer science independent project, the only way they could do it would be the AISP. Now, they’re more likely to go through the computer science program and do CSC600. As a result, there are fewer kids who do it since they’re doing these other classes instead. [AISPs are] more likely to be focused on areas like language and English that don’t have a commensurate research program,” said Shows.

Last term, Andre Wu ’26 conducted a group IP on computational chemistry. Wu explained how the AISP provided him and his group a low-risk opportunity to dive deeper into their interests.

“For our project, we needed some pretty expensive software, which the chemistry department provided. They bought us a software and a laptop to use it on... It was getting the opportunity to learn something that I really like and was interested in. Additionally, I did it with some of my friends, and we just had a really good time. Even when nothing was working, we had a good time just messing with the software. We were able to take everything in stride. It was a pretty low-stakes environment, but we were able to get a lot done, which is really fun,” said Wu.

Mentioning the flexibility of IPs for independent

research, Shows shared his desire to offer IPs to more students with different interests and grades.

“In this term, we’ve got a kid doing a music theory project. We have a kid doing a Russian project, we have a kid doing a project in French and international relations. Those are so different from each other. It’s fun to read the projects and just see how wide the areas of interest our kids have,” said Shows.

Shows continued, “I’d love it if we could offer it to a wider range of students, but I don’t know how to practically do that, to be honest. It tends to be mostly Seniors for really understandable reasons, because I think it’s hard to devise a good project until you’re really deep in a subject. But I’d love it if we could find a way to offer it to a wider range.”

Drawing from his experi-

ences as a former IP mentor, Eugene Hughes, Instructor in French, offered advice for students interested in participating in the AISP program. He encouraged students to pursue an IP with full intention and preparation.

“Make sure that you exhaust the actual courses that are offered here on campus in the course of study, and to have a really good reason to try to do an IP. Find someone you think you would work well with, but to take it really, really seriously. A lot of people, maybe the second or third time, have a lot more success. Having a really good thought out topic first, and then coming up with a really solid syllabus in conjunction with a teacher and/or a group of teachers, and that can really help,” said Hughes.

# 10 Questions with Kate Lewellen

REPORTING BY SOPHIA TOLOKH & JOHN KIM

*Katelin Lewellen is an Instructor in Math and Computer Science and is the advisor of the Robotics Club. Lewellen has been the primary faculty member behind developing the Robotics program at Andover. She has previously taught at Eastside Preparatory School and Shoreline Community College, and has worked at Microsoft and Intel. Additionally, Lewellen is a passionate runner, an avid reader, and enjoys knitting and quilting.*

### What has been your favorite class that you've taught at Andover so far?

I've built out the robotics [course], and I have loved having a chance to build that and teach it every term that I've been here so far, which has been delightful. But I have a really soft spot for the algorithms class that I'm currently teaching. I had it last winter as well. It's really the study of how to pick the best method for doing something, which we think about in terms of computer science, but [it] applies to human life. There are all kinds of things, like the best way to organize your desk and the best way to choose a college, that you could get out of doing an algorithm class. It's really a puzzle-solving class, and I love puzzles, so that makes me feel happy.

### Where else have you taught before Andover?

I tell people I've taught everything from middle school to graduate school. I spent quite a long time at the University of Washington doing various types of graduate work, and taught classes to college students at the university there and graduate students. Then when I was in the process of transitioning to teaching, I taught in middle school, high school math, and high school programming, and at a community college and an independent school. So I wandered all over the place. [Andover] is the best of all of those worlds. I get the excitement of the 'learning to be yourself' moment of high school. But I get to teach college-level classes because [Andover] is such an awesome place to teach.

### What brought you into the job of teaching?

I took a long, wandering path to teaching. Which is kind of funny, because my parents will tell you I told people I would be a math teacher when I was in middle school, but then I very quickly veered away from that. I worked at Microsoft a long time ago, and while I was there, I took on a job volunteering [to teach] in the morning to students in a [nearby] high school. And so, first period, you come in, you teach. It's like, "bring in the industry professionals," right? It was the best part of my day. Every single day, to be in a classroom with kids, and just seeing that moment of discovery... reminded me of the delight I had when I had first taken computer science. That was a really fun moment. I was like, well, if that's the best part of my day, I should just



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

go after [teaching]. Do it all the time.

### As a runner, do you have a favorite race or course that you've run?

My first half-marathon was in the San Juan Islands, which is a collection of islands off the coast of Washington. They are gorgeous and tiny, and [the marathon] was on one of the islands where you ran along the coast. It was such a delightful scenery for me to run that even when you hit that point of misery most of the way through the race, where you're like, do we really want to be doing this? Keep running. But it's gorgeous, and it's like 'look, there's the ocean' and it ended on a beach. It's like, 'how could [it] get any better?'

### What was your childhood like?

I had a very weird childhood because my parents are both in computer science. And so I grew up hanging around the Williams College campus and doing weird things in the computer labs, like hiding under desks and unplugging wires that my dad was trying to fit together. So that's not a standard childhood. But I also had a lot of running, crazily, around the neighborhood, and climbing trees. I was very much a tomboy, and usually climbing trees with a book, then sitting there, and reading for a very long time. And so I [brought] a lot of books and stuff outside, and puzzles. Most of those have carried through the [many] years.

### What is a hobby you particularly enjoy?

Reading, always. I'll read anything that sits in front of me for long enough, and that's my favorite kind of recharge activity when I'm feeling fried by work. I'll just descend into a book for a long time. I like to knit and quilt. So I am probably the most analog tech teacher you will ever meet, because all of my hobbies have nothing to do with computers. But it's just really nice to do things with my hand and feel, and live in the world and not just in the computer.

### Do you have a favorite sports team to watch?

I really enjoy watching the Red Sox, although I listen to them more on the radio than I do watch them. I'm

kind of old school in that [manner]. I like to have it on in the background.

I mean, a baseball game goes on for hours. I know they've put in changes recently to make it go faster, which I'm not a huge fan of, but it is kind of nice to have it as a background and listen, and then stop and pay attention when something interesting happens... I love watching hockey but mostly in person. I don't love watching hockey on TV.

### What is your favorite animal, and what's your experience with it?

I feel like I have to say dogs. I have a big dog. He's like a 90 pound black lab that I adore. I used to volunteer at an animal shelter, and [was] a buddy for the dogs who were in there and we would matchmake. So if someone came in and was like, 'oh, I want a dog,' [we'd say], 'okay, I'll introduce you to a couple of the dogs.' [They would] just hang out with them in basically a giant yard with a whole bunch of tennis balls and stuff. It was an awesome place.

### What are you excited about in the future of education?

I get asked about AI a lot. We're in a really interesting position where we're in transition, and no one really knows what the transition is, and we're all guessing on it. I keep seeing all of these doomsday articles about education and the end of the ability to grade. I see all of these different things, like, 'oh, students are just using AI and they're turning everything in, they're not thinking for themselves.' I think [AI] is actually a wonderful opportunity to rethink education and play with it in different ways. We don't know what's going to happen, but we can't know unless we try it. I would love to just see more people jumping in, and just getting messy with it. Just try it and see what happens.

### What is one piece of advice you would give to students who are either entering the world of STEM or are trying to pursue it in college?

STEM classes have a reputation of being really challenging and a lot of work to get through, [which can be] intimidating to people. We forget that they also tend to come with a lot of support. So I would say, don't believe that just because it's hard in the moment, it means you shouldn't do it. Ask for help when you need it and find a study group.

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# HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY DINA NAMJOO & TEDDY STEINERT

## Economy: Central Banks Warn of Global Inflation Risk

As the U.S.-Israel-Iran war continues, the Middle East's energy infrastructure and transport system remains under severe strain, pushing global fuel prices higher. Since the start of the war, Iran has closed down the Strait of Hormuz, transporting a fifth of the world's oil. In doing so, prices of Brent crude have skyrocketed 43% to \$102 a barrel, reported Trading Economics, though prices remain unstable. The Group of Seven (G7) nations—the central banks of the United States, Japan, Britain, Canada and the Eurozone—all convened this week to discuss the rising prices, according to The Japan Times. After facing criticism from reacting slowly to post-pandemic inflation, policymakers from around the globe are determined to reel in prices without affecting economic growth, aiming to avoid “stagflation” overall, according to Yahoo Finance. The Wall Street Journal notes that the conflict particu-

larly affected Europe because of its heavy reliance on imported energy, with natural gas prices almost doubling since the start of the conflict. Reuters notes that on Thursday, European Central Bank policy makers left interest rates unchanged, though warned that the war could push inflation much beyond its 2% target.

## Culture: 98th Academy Awards Take Place in Los Angeles

The 98th Academy Awards took place on March 15, 2026, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, with comedian Conan O'Brien returning as host for the second consecutive year. According to ABC News, Paul Thomas Anderson's “One Battle After Another” dominated the night, sweeping the top categories. Ryan Coogler's “Sinners” also had a strong night, earning awards including a history-making Best Cinematography win and a Best Actor win for Michael B. Jordan. According to Variety, the

film entered the evening as the most nominated film in Oscars history with 16 nominations, breaking the record previously shared by “All About Eve,” “Titanic,” and “La La Land”. Best Casting was introduced as a new category, the first since 2001, according to the Los Angeles Times. Cassandra Kulukundis took home the inaugural award for her work on “One Battle After Another,” dedicating it to “casting directors who never had the chance to get nominated,” according to The Hollywood Reporter.

## Politics: The Iranian People's Response to the Death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

A day after the United States and Israel launched an attack on Iran with the aim of toppling its theocratic regime, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, Iranian officials and other official sources confirmed the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Since then, the New York Times has reported large crowds of Irani-

ans pouring into the streets of Tehran and other cities to celebrate the death of Khamenei, and the hope of a long-awaited regime change in the country's political future. Following a government-ordered nationwide blackout, hundreds of thousands of Iranian people marched in protest, reported ABC. Protestors are now calling not only for the removal of the current leadership, but also a complete restructuring of Iran's political system. According to Human Rights Watch, Iranian security forces have carried out mass killings of protestors during this time, with thousands reported dead as part of the coordinated nationwide crackdown.

## Climate: Record High March Temperatures Recorded Throughout Western United States

A historic heat wave shattered temperature records across the western United States this week. CNN reports that over 100 all-time March

records were broken or tied across California, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Temperatures have risen 20 to 40 degrees above average, with Phoenix hitting 105°F. Scientific American notes the surge was driven by the strongest high-pressure system recorded over the Southwest before in March, which climate scientist Daniel Swain called “one of the more meteorologically exceptional events” seen in the American West in recent years. According to Yale Climate Connections, the heat wave would have been virtually impossible without human-caused climate change, with climate change increasing the odds of this heat by five times. Health officials have issued advisories regionwide, with elevated wildfire danger through the end of the month.

# Students Welcome the 249th Class With Reflections and Advice

SOPHIA FANG & JUDY LIU

Andover will welcome the incoming Class of 2030 during four revisit days this month and in April, one of which happened this past Thursday. Amid this excitement, students recalled their first impressions of the school and shared advice for the incoming class.

Elisa Lee '26, a revisit host this year, described her thoughts on her revisit day and mentioned how having a friendly host can positively shape the experience.

“I remember liking [my revisit day] a lot more than my St. Paul's one; it was a very cute ‘Day In A Life’ format. I do like that you tag [along]

and follow [your host] around. It really depends on the person and whether the person is a welcoming person or not. [But] my revisit day was pretty good,” said Lee.

Lee encouraged prospective students to engage with the community during their revisit despite any hesitation they might feel.

“Talk. Be open to talking even if you are nervous or intimidated. There's really no reason to be. Hopefully, the host will help you feel less nervous or scared to walk around, but know that everyone is aware of you, but they're aware of you in a very positive manner, in a very ‘Oh, this is going to be our future generation,’ type of manner,” said Lee.

According to Lucy Vinnakota '29, advocating for yourself is key to making your re-

visit experience meaningful. Vinnakota advised students to go beyond the standard revisit schedule and request to learn more about aspects of Andover that align with their individual interests.

“Asking to go to a lot of specific places instead of what's just on the schedule is very important. For example, I am a golfer, so I really wanted to go to the golf simulators. So [be] really specific and use your time very well, because it determines whether you want to go there or not,” said Vinnakota.

Vinnakota discussed her class's enthusiasm and receptiveness as a positive aspect of her revisit experience.

“[Your class] wants to get to know you. Everybody at Andover is very passionate about what they do, and so even if you don't have a simi-

lar interest, they always show some level of interest in what you're talking about. I feel like the level of engagement from everybody was something that really stuck out to me,” said Vinnakota.

Emma Hong '28 was motivated to become a revisit host her Junior year because of her own experience as a revisit student. She reflected on how her revisit day contributed to her decision to attend the school.

“I originally hadn't planned to come to Andover, but coming here in person really sealed the deal for me. In comparison with the other schools I had toured or revisited at, Andover was just so... like all the schools were nice, but Andover went out of their way to make you feel comfortable and tell you as much as they possibly could about

the campus and anything that might excite you,” said Hong.

Hong assured that teachers and other campus adults are open to meeting revisit students and encouraged them to branch out into unfamiliar territory.

“Teachers are always really excited to have revisit kids. So maybe [try] talking to a teacher. It's kind of intimidating to step out of your comfort zone, and I surely didn't do this so this is kind of hypocritical [of] me to say, but [you should] go out of your way to do these things, because trust me, you won't look stupid doing it. People would just admire how curious and courageous you are, even as an incoming freshman,” said Hong.

# Students Take On Spring Break

REPORTING BY SIMRAN SHAH & SARAH SUN

Following a nine-week winter term, students rested and recharged over spring break. Students spent time with family, travelled to new and familiar destinations, and participated in Learning in the World (LITW) Programs affiliated with Andover.

## Camden Schopler '27

“I spent the break with my mom and my siblings. My grandma came up, so that was really nice. I then traveled to Lake Tahoe by car, and it was around an eight hour drive. We went out to ski. The slopes opened at 8:00 a.m., but because there were longer lines in the morning, we went out to the slopes at around 10:00 a.m. Then, my brother and I would split off from the rest of my family because we like to do more double blacks, and the rest of my family can't. We would do those and then meet up for lunch at around 1:00 p.m.”



COURTESY OF CAMDEN SCHOPLER



COURTESY OF COOPER SIMON

## Cooper Simon '28

“I was on vacation in Aspen, Colorado. I usually woke up around nine-ish, skipped breakfast, and then skied until about four. We skied until the end of the day every time. Then, I'd go back to the hotel and lay in bed for a while and watch TV. The third day we were there, it finally started to warm up, and it was not too hot yet, and it wasn't too cold. It was 30, 40 degrees, and it was just really nice spring skiing. I had a sweatshirt on. And it was just a really enjoyable time. The conditions were the best they were the whole trip.”



COURTESY OF MADDIE YANG

## Maddie Yang '29

“I participated in the crew training trip and also participated in the New England swimming competition at the beginning of spring break. We would usually erg or go out on the boats right away. On a daily basis, we had this stretching routine where we would gather in a circle and do lines and do fun and dynamic stretches as a group. The practices lasted around three hours, and then we would come back to the hotel. We also did fun activities, like team bonding. We all went to the arcade and went bowling.”



COURTESY OF MOJMÍR HORVÁTH

## Mojmír Horváth '26

“I traveled to [Los Angeles], and later on to San Francisco, and then back to LA. I did cliff jumping. After exiting the ocean, I noticed there were baby sharks just living in that area. I would typically wake up at 7 a.m. and text a friend in a different time zone. I would then work on a computer science project for the next few hours and get breakfast, which was also lunch. Next, I did some more coding and later on, went to dinner with friends. [A highlight of my break] driving the Pacific highway to San Francisco.”

# Pheeling Phuckin' Bad

## Former President and Exeter Alum Press Conference

Konnor Fortini

After the death of the Iranian Supreme Leader, the United States has been sending troops to Iran to keep retaliation at bay. In a recent press conference, President Doris Dasher, an Exeter alum of 1967, had some ecstatic comments about the situation. To ensure the president was telling the truth, he was given an unholy concoction of truth serum. He seemed a little bit too comfortable drinking liquids such as that one.

**Q:** Why start this war today?

**A:** Well, I was looking through the Epstein files for no particular reason when I found that my glorious school, Phillips Exeter Academy, was mentioned, and I knew I HAD to act. Distracting from the files is necessary to preserve the #2 spot on Niche.

**Q:** Why didn't you inform United States allies before the strike?

**A:** First of all, this was not just a strike; it was a big gun attack. I learned at Exeter that when compensating for something, it has to be BIG, MASSIVE even. Thus, it is insulting for you to even call it a strike; I prefer the BOMB-JUMBO (BJ) in all caps. Don't make me drop a BJ in your office!

**Q:** What are you compensating for, Mr. President?

**A:** Wouldn't you like to know, weatherboy. Next question, please.

**Q:** What future international plans do you have?

**A:** I plan to compete in the World Cup for the United States. I may be old, but these joints still have groove!

**Q:** Sir, I'm talking politically.

**A:** Cálmate, cálmate. Sorry, I've been so immersed in the Mexican culture that Spanish just starts slipping into my vocab, which is short for vocabulary. I plan to stop with the attacks for now while the Epstein files are no longer being talked about. However, if it comes back...well, I'll just say watch out 180 Main Street.

**Q:** Why Iran?

**A:** Because it's me, of course. Everyone runs to come see me!

**Q:** President Dasher, that is not what I meant. Can you please make your answers of a higher caliber?

**A:** Caliber? I hardly know her!

**Q:** Goodbye, Mr. President...

**A:** YOU PEOPLE, the press, are always all work, no play. Well, big daddy president wants to play. I'm sorry I'm not "serious enough" for you.

**Q:** Anything else, Mr. P-

**A:** I want to thank my mom, my dad, my wife, my other wife, and my other dad for being here today. And lastly, GO BIG RED!!!!



NATHAN WU / THE PHILLIPIAN

## Overheard on the Paths

*"Your cousin committed to Harvard for Water Polo?"*  
*"No.... Harvard Westlake....."*

*"Is pickleball ever that serious?"*

*"I know I might be just a revisit student, but could I add in to this discussion?"*

*"Hey, worst comes to worst, you can always sue the school!"*

*"Did the journal factory explode?"*

*"Call her Doctor Strangelove the way I don't worry about why she's the bomb."*

*"You're not going to believe what my house counselor's safe word is..."*

## Week's Top Headlines

- *Jake Paul Fired by W Labs for Being 'Too Much of a Political Sweat'*
- *Munches Revealed to Make the World Go Round*
- *ICE Agents Immediately Fix Airport Waiting Times, to Fix Commons Lines Next*
- *Humanitarian Disaster Avoided! ASM Seating Plan Changed at the Last Minute*

## Bodacious Success of New Learning in the World Program

Staff Report

One of the newest offerings in Andover's Learning in the World program is a 2-3-day spring trip to the Republic of Dagestan. Led by visiting UFC fighter Christopher Taylor Edwards (CTE), each student must prove their chudness before being accepted into the program. As expected, the program consisted mostly of students from Ultimate Frisbee and Boys Junior Varsity Hockey. The program met together after Finals Week and travelled together first to Moscow, then to Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan.

Participating students immediately engaged in de-chudding activities. One group of students was sent to swallow an enormous black pill while listening to the Zoolander music, and another watched thirteen continuous hours of Andrew Tate edits. Before long, the students were rejecting the idea of attending the movies. Some Seniors on the trip even claimed that they would be skipping prom. The Eighth Page interviewed one such Senior:

"What's prom gonna do for me? Imma hit the gym. Prom dates are for chuds."

Upon hearing this, a member of the Boys Varsity Basketball Team encouraged his peer to have some fun. "Bro go to prom."

CTE declared the trip to be a massive success. After being sent to Dagestan for 2-3 years, nearly every Ultimate Frisbee player decided to switch sports and join Crew. Phillips Academy and Learning in the World look forward to bringing this program back in future years.

## Spring Term Hopes

Thiago Jollon

As spikeball nets proliferate around campus, the grass gets flooded with pesticides, and the starry nights at the globe get longer, spring is in the air. At the end of a grueling winter, these are the hopes of an Andover student for the spring.

- Walkable lawns. Stop cordoning off our green spaces with ropes.
- Some sunny weather. Enough with the rain and snow, show us why the climate is changing.
- Better school spirit. Every Girls JV2 Lacrosse game better be attended.
- Bigger St. Patrick's day celebrations. No better way to revive Andover's school spirit problem than with some Irish revelry!
- A stress-free term: remove the History 300 paper, replace with watching the news for 1930s part of the term.
- No more war!
- More political action on campus. Some old fashioned street fighting should do the trick.
- Be true to yourself. Show that lower back tattoo, red baseball cap, or rastafarian cap.
- Claude Pro subscription. Khanmigo ain't cutting it.
- Rep your cluster colors. Participating West Quad North and Abbot members get a free trip to Parkway Gardens in Chicago!
- Successfully audition for BKH. Now my skirt-wearing will finally be public!
- Become a part of Andover Crew: hopefully I keep that Oreo clenched tight!



# The Phillippian SPORTS

hi lol

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March 27, 2026

## Setting the Tone: Boys Volleyball Opens Up the Season with Energy

XAVIER HOWELL &  
BEN KAZLOUSKI

WEDNESDAY 3/25

Andover 3

St. John's 1

Boys Volleyball (1-0) opened its season with a 3-1 home win against St. John's Prep (St. John's) in a scrimmage this Wednesday. While the team is still ironing out its chemistry with a new roster, it showed coordination across serve reception and offense.

A strong serve reception, one in which a player can steadily receive a serve and deliver it to the setter, sets up

the tone in volleyball. Ren Oh '28 noted how the team's focus on improving serving directly shaped its execution of the win.

"Yesterday, we worked on our serve reception, which helped because you can't attack if you can't set, and you can't set without getting a good pass from the serve receiver. Without a good serve reception at the start, it just throws off the tempo of the entire game," said Oh '28.

The team also maintained its momentum, building confidence quickly and turning small runs into bigger stretches of control. At the same time, there were moments where breakdowns in awareness and coordination exposed gaps in their defense. Oh '28 described challenges with covering the



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Michael Huang '26, Jeremy Woodley '26, Co-Captain Ray Williams '26, and Jonathan Oh '27 (left to right) share a lighthearted moment in the team's first competition of the season.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Papa Yaw Paintsil '26 (left) and Maurice Ntoro '26 (right) jump up, preparing to block a scoring attempt by St. John's.

middle of the court.

He said, "I think once we get going, it's hard to get us to stop... we're really good at keeping the momentum. A weakness of ours was in the back row. There's a spot in the center of the court where most opponents will tip, and we had problems getting the ball up in that area. It requires a lot of communication between three defensive players, and that was throwing us off a lot."

Kai Szanton '26 highlighted several contributors on offense, and elaborated on the impact of serving on the match's outcome.

"[A key player was] Jeremy [Woodley '26], probably our strongest hitter. Another one [was] our Co-Captain, Ray [Williams '26], who is a good service receiver and has good communication on defense. The last one would probably be Justin Puno [26], as he stepped

up for us today. The ones that stood out to me the most were probably our serve runs, as every set that we won, we won off a serve. It was really entertaining. I feel like we're a team that gets hype very easily, so whenever you have a big swing, you feel the energy on the court shift," said Szanton.

Will Oh '26 emphasized the importance of upperclassmen supporting younger players, given the team's composition.

"Our team is Senior-heavy, so we have a lot of experience to share and impart with fellow underclassmen. From last season, we lost around five or four Seniors, so the change across the team hasn't been too dramatic. We hope that even though we have some more Seniors that will leave after this year, we'll be able to impart the same knowledge onto the underclassmen that stay," said Oh '26.

Oh '26 further reflected on areas for improvement after the team's first game, specifically with regard to team chemistry.

"A lot of players haven't played with each other for a long time, so it's difficult to see how to react behaviorally from one player to another. If I know that one player tends to pass it a bit faster, to the right, a bit farther to the left, or wants the ball set higher or lower, it's easy to gauge what I have to do. With more practice and games we have, it'll be easier to find that groove or that flow state," said Oh '26.

Boys Volleyball will face Lawrence High (Lawrence) in a scrimmage on Friday, followed by a doubleheader against Choate and EF Academy on Saturday.

## Money over Tradition: PGA Tour Shifts Motives by Allowing for Brooks Koepka's Return

LUCY VINNAKOTA

It is truly hard for me to describe LIV in one sentence, for the level of complexity and change that it has promised to the game of golf is nothing short of crazy. It may initially appear to be a breath of fresh air for viewers, with shorter tournaments, no cuts, and a revised format, and drawing in major champions like Phil Mickelson, Bryson DeChambeau, and Brooks Koepka. However, while this may seem like an extreme opinion to some, as someone who constantly watches and plays the sport, I believe that its establishment threatens not only the structure of the sport, but also the values the PGA Tour has upheld for a century.

To begin, the controversy surrounding LIV's use of money to "buy" PGA tour players stems from the source of funding, as it is backed by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which has been linked to human rights concerns. As a result, many people, including me, judge the league's spending as unethical.

In 2022, PGA commissioner Jay Moyhanan enforced a rule stating that players who joined LIV golf were immediately suspended or deemed ineligible for tournament play, directly tell-



HARRY ZHOU / THE PHILLIPIAN

ing defectors, "You are no longer welcome on the PGA tour." This policy forced players to choose between the financial security offered by LIV and creating a legacy on the PGA Tour, while also acting as a deterrent to keep valuable players from leaving. This was upheld for four straight years; however, just three months ago, everything changed.

In January 2026, the PGA Tour created the "Returning Member Program", which allows LIV players to return if they have won major championships or the PGA Players Championship between the

years 2022-2025, and have not been an active member of LIV for at least two years. If eligible players choose to return, they receive severe penalties as a consequence of joining LIV. This includes a contribution, loss of bonuses, inability to join the equity program, restrictions on events, and only being allowed to play in a minimum of fifteen events each year.

As of January 2026, Brooks Koepka, who had left the PGA tour for LIV in 2022, made his return to the PGA tour through the "Returning Member Program." He cited the need to be closer to his wife and son, fol-

lowing personal family changes in late 2025. Koepka's penalty was widely viewed as lenient because it provided a quick and easy path back to the PGA Tour. While he was required to make a \$5 million contribution to the league, have no access to the equity program, forfeit 2026 FedEx Cup bonuses, and not be allowed to have any sponsor exemptions, do his penalties really matter or damage him in any real way, considering how wealthy he became playing under LIV?

To put into perspective how minuscule a penalty was imposed on Koepka, when he

joined LIV, Koepka signed a four-year contract estimated at around \$120 million, a guaranteed amount that contrasted the payment structure of the PGA Tour, in which players have to perform accordingly every week to receive better financial compensation. LIV's prize structure further reinforces this financial security, with even the last-place finisher guaranteed \$50,000 for each event, and winners taking home up to \$4 million per event. As a top player, Koepka capitalized on these opportunities, winning five titles and earning an additional \$46 million on top of his signing bonus.

With everything that has unfolded over the past four years, I believe the PGA Tour is prioritizing money, viewership, and publicity over the loyalty of its current players and the integrity of its long-standing rules.

This shift is clearly reflected in the lenient punishment given to Koepka, whose financial success in LIV far outweighs any consequences he faces upon returning. After losing many of its most recognizable players to LIV, the PGA Tour lost some of the audience that came with that. Allowing Koepka to easily reveal how the PGA Tour chose short term success at the expense of losing its century-old values of order and integrity.

BOYSVOLLEYBALL

# From Day One to Co-Captain: Ray Williams '26 Shapes Team Culture

WES PHAM

Boys Volleyball Co-Captain Ray Williams '26 started his volleyball career through casual exploration, joining instructional volleyball in the fall of his Junior year with a close friend. He quickly found himself drawn to the sport and the community surrounding it. What began as an alternative to baseball developed into a lasting passion and seasoned leadership.

Williams said that despite coming into Junior year focused on baseball, he shifted toward volleyball, in part because of a friendship from shared beginnings.

"I was looking for something else to do in the spring besides baseball. My friend Malcolm [Tolbert '26], who's also now on the team, got me into it because we both started by playing instructional in the fall. I fell in love with it from



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

there. The people made it easy too," said Williams.

Teammate Justin Puno '26 described how Williams has developed into his leadership role, noting his presence both on and off the court and sup-

port for younger teammates.

"One of the primary things that makes Ray a good captain for our team is his energy. He shows up to practice every day with a smile on his face and motivates the team. He's a very

loud, energetic guy, and that breaks up the mood regardless of how the previous game or practice went. On the court, he's very vocal, and that comes through with things like passing. He takes charge, and as a leader, especially in the back row where he primarily plays, he guides younger or more inexperienced players, giving them tips and helping them know what to do or where to stand," said Puno.

Williams explained his positive energy as coming from both the nature of the sport and the team's sense of community.

"From the sport itself, it's the team camaraderie, the excitement, and the thrill when you're on a really good run. Volleyball is a momentum sport, and it feels like a dopamine rush when you're playing well. From a personal side, I really like everyone on the team. From people who just made the team this year to those who started with me and kept play-

ing, everyone has an important role in keeping team chemistry and morale up. They make it easy to come to the gym every day with a positive attitude," said Williams.

A younger member of the team, Sebastian Serizawa '28, described Williams's approach to teammates.

"I've never had a teammate like Ray before. I've been playing volleyball for two years, and most of my teammates were focused on winning and improving individually. Ray is concerned about how each player is doing. He can be both a friend and a teammate on the court, which most captains can't do," said Serizawa.

Williams said he plans to continue playing volleyball after Andover, regardless of level.

"I was considering playing for a while. I love the sport and will keep playing, even if it's not at the NCAA level. I'll probably play in adult leagues," said Williams.

# Ajay Mistry '26: Calm at the Center of the Court

WYATT ORRACA-CECIL

Going into sixth grade, Boys Volleyball Co-Captain Ajay Mistry '26 tried the sport for the first time. He did not enjoy it at the time, often saying that his arms hurt too much, and before coming to Andover, volleyball was not something he planned to pursue. However, after trying out for the team at Andover, he continued with the sport.

Mistry said that older players on the team influenced his perspective and approach.

"I saw the Seniors back then, and they had so much passion for the game. I saw that and wanted to be like them when I got older and progressed through Andover. I have always thought back to their passion and their love for the game. Hopefully, I can be that role model for anyone who wants to play volleyball, and they can just look at me as someone who loves the sport

for what it is," said Mistry.

Alex Godsey '28, a new player on the team, described Mistry's support as he joined the roster.

"He definitely supports you, and he encourages you. He'll tell you when you made a great pass, and he'll give you feedback if you need it in the nicest way possible. He really makes me feel a part of the team, and he makes me feel like I'm good enough to be there and to be playing with the Varsity squad," said Godsey.

Mistry joined the team last year and began building relationships with teammates and coaches. Ren Oh '28, who joined the team at the same time, described him as approachable.

"He's just a really easy person to talk to. That's the biggest thing. If you hear anyone talk about Ajay, he's super chill, very friendly, and has the right demeanor," said Oh.

One of Mistry's goals this season connects players across both Varsity and Junior Varsity



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

(JV) teams.

"I want to be there for all the younger players. One of the things that I didn't like when I was on JV was that the captains never wanted to interact

with the JV players. This year, I really want to try and reach out to them a lot and be a mentor for them," said Mistry.

Mistry also described the team's efforts to build connec-

tions outside of practice, including weekly team dinners.

"We usually have team dinners every Friday organized by the captains and our coach, Coach [Brendan] Mackinson. They are going to be hosting at his house this year, which I'm really looking forward to because last year they were at Coach [Clyde] Beckwith's house, so we'll have a new person cooking this year," said Mistry.

Godsey commented on the differences in leadership styles between Mistry and Co-Captain Ray Williams '26.

"He understands his role and the balance between him and Ray. Ray is super energetic and always cheering, yelling, and getting people involved. It's like a yin-yang: Ray is that energy, and Ajay is like the calm presence. He knows when to get excited; he does, but it's definitely not the kind of wild noise from some of the other players. It's calmer and more controlled," said Godsey.

## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

**RAY WILLIAMS '26** **C**  
#3; L, S

**AJAY MISTRY '26** **C**  
#1; S

**KWADJO ADJEPONG '27**  
#17; MH

**ALEX GODSEY '28**  
#13; OH, OP

**MICHAEL HUANG '26**  
#11; OH

**MALCOLM TOLBERT '26**  
#23; OH

**KAI SZANTON '26**  
#7; S, OP

**MAURICE NTORO '26**  
#14; MH

**JEREMY WOODLEY '26**  
#12; MH, OP

**JUSTIN PUNO '26**  
#6; L, OH

**REN OH '28**  
#9; L, DS

**WILLIAM OH '26**  
#4; S

**SEBASTIAN SERIZAWA '28**  
#10; L, OH

**JONATHAN OH '27**  
#8; L, DS

**PAPA PAINTSIL '26**  
#18; MH, OH

ALL Students, Faculty & Staff  
Invited to Apply!



# DREAM IT, THEN DO IT

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Abbot Academy Fund Grant!

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- **CARING** Foster a community of belonging and *compassion*

**Share your ideas, get guidance.** All grant applicants must schedule an appointment with AAF community liaison Christina Landolt (clandolt@andover.edu) OR see her during Conference Period to chat about their ideas.

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Scan for application form and more information about the Abbot Grant program.

BOYSLACROSSE

## Jack Farrell '26: A Defensive Anchor for Boys Lacrosse

TIGER WANG

Jack Farrell '26 first began playing lacrosse in first grade. He now leads Boys Lacrosse as a defenseman and Co-Captain.

Farrell shared that his leadership style is rooted in positive experiences with the Co-Captains in his Lower and Upper years at Andover. He added that as a leader, he aims to stay grounded, open to giving a helping hand to his younger teammates and never holding himself higher than them.

"I try to model how I lead based on my previous [Co-]Captains. My [Lower] year and last year, I had some really good [Co-] Captains. First one in and last one out, hard work, and being there for the team, that's what I've tried to stress the most. Not making the [Juniors] carry the balls. I'll pick up the bucket every once in a while and just try to be there for the guys rather than holding myself higher than them," said



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Farrell.

Brayden Ko '28 emphasized Farrell's balance of work ethic and approachability, which positively reflects onto the team.

"He leads by example. A lot of

the actions that he does I really look up to. He's always super caring, [and he is the] first one on the field and last one off. He's super hardworking, [he] really gets all the boys dialed, and he's someone

you can really trust and know that he's got your back. That makes you and the people around you want to have his back as well," said Ko '28.

Farrell's leadership, notably through strong communicative abilities with coaches and his Co-Captain, has been especially impactful for new players who are adjusting to team culture and norms. Ko mentioned Farrell's ability to create a welcoming environment for him and others.

"Without hesitation, he instantly gave me a place where I felt comfortable. He helped me get to places, learn about the team, and get settled. At practice, scrimmages, or preseason, there were times people were unsure about things, like what time the bus was leaving, but Jack always took the initiative. He was always the guy to step up, whether that was asking coaches, making decisions, or talking with [Co-Captain Nick Norris '26] and the team," said Ko '28.

As a defender, Farrell shared that he employs physicality strategically, also noting his occasional excursions into offense.

"I like to try and bring physicality when I can, but it's more technical. I'm not just going around and trying to take people's heads off. I'm trying to take people's heads off at the right time and, even though I play defense, I like to have the ball on my stick. I like to push transition, play[ing] a little offense whenever I can," said Farrell.

From a player's perspective, Daniel Ko '29 praised Farrell for his defensive capabilities.

"He's a pretty patient defenseman. He's good at reading the body. He's really good with his stick, especially... As an attacker, it's very uncomfortable having him guard you," said Ko '29.

Next year, Farrell plans to compete for Wesleyan University's Division III Men's Lacrosse program.

## Co-Captain Nick Norris '26 Brings Passion and Joy to Boys Lacrosse

JULIEN REQUA

Boys Lacrosse Co-Captain Nick Norris '26 embraces the sport's fast pace and competitiveness while also recognizing the importance of building a strong team and community. Although he previously quit lacrosse early on, he later returned and continued playing through high school.

Norris started playing lacrosse in fifth grade but initially struggled with the sport's physical demands and stepped away. After the pandemic, Norris returned to lacrosse in eighth grade with a renewed mindset.

"I actually picked [lacrosse] up in fifth grade. I was super hot, and I hated it at first, but then I re-picked it up in eighth grade. I fell in love with the sport, and I just kept going. I played for three years at my public school, then I came here. And now, as a Senior, I love it. I think it's the best of all sports; it's fast, it's physical, and it's

very skillful," said Norris.

As a Co-Captain, Norris helps set expectations for both team culture and practices. Adrien Mosher '29 described Norris's balance of team bonding with a more focused mindset during training.

"When we're outside [practice] hanging out, he makes sure that everyone's there, and that we're all talking, laughing, and having fun. But in practice, it's serious. He makes sure that we're all trying to learn everything that Coach is teaching us. It's a good change-up during practice, and he does the best job at it out of any other person on the team," said Mosher.

Norris also spoke about the role of team relationships in his experience of the sport.

"I play best when I'm having fun. There are so many amazing people on the team, and practicing with them every day, playing games with them, the ups and downs. It creates all these connections and this camaraderie that I haven't seen



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

anywhere else. It puts a smile on my face every time I walk into the locker room. As a captain, that's something I love about the team," said Norris.

Mosher also described how

Norris has helped him adjust to field lacrosse.

"I'm new to field lacrosse. I've only ever played box lacrosse, so the systems are a bit different. I've asked Norris a

couple of questions to clarify what some vocabulary terms mean, and other little tweaks that have helped improve my game drastically," said Mosher.

Teammate Daniel Ko '29 described Norris' approachability, citing examples of his efforts to include every player in team activities.

"I have a lot of conversations with him, and I shoot with him pretty often. He's an inclusive guy. He always makes sure no one's left out, and he asks anyone if they want to work out with him or practice with him to get better," said Ko.

Norris reflected that he has worked to be more open to others.

"I'm a person who feels like they can do it by themselves, and don't need outside help. But every time I've gotten outside advice, it's really helpful for my game. I try to be that open, inviting leader that everyone else can talk to," said Norris.

## BOYSLACROSSE

JACK FARRELL '26 **C**

NICK NORRIS '26 **C**

ANDREW BEANLAND '26

OLIVER MARRERO '27

MICHAEL STOUT '27

BRAYDEN KO '28

MICHAEL ATTUBATO '28

KIERAN MCINTOSH '27

DANIEL KO '29

JEFFERY LIM '27

KOSI UDEH '27

WYLIE POTTLE '26

MILES LEWIS '29

MASON CLISH '29

ZEKE PORTER '27

LUKE HONOS '28

JACOB GOURLEY '26

ADRIEN MOSHER '29

TYLER MIOCEVICH '26

WILLIAM OGLE '26

KELE GREGORY '26

BEN KAZLOUSKI '28

ALEX INGHAM '29

CARTER HAVEMEYER '28

ALEX DIMNAKU '27

PIERCE BRILLE '28

NATE KREPPNER '27

## Boys Lacrosse Clinches First Victory against KUA in Season-Opener

SARAH WANG

Boys Lacrosse (1-0) opened its season last Wednesday with an away win against Kimball Union Academy (KUA). With tryouts for the Varsity team finishing up the day before, the team quickly adjusted and won its first victory of the season. During Spring Break, the team also traveled to Florida

for preseason, where it trained and scrimmaged against other prep schools.

Alex Ingham '29 shared how the whole team contributed to the win. He specifically highlighted the performance of Co-Captain Nick Norris '26.

"Everyone on the team contributed today whether it

was cheering on the bench or on the field making plays. It felt good to get back out there and get used to playing with new teammates and get used to the dynamic of how everyone plays. Nick Norris, our [Co-Captain], stepped up in a huge way today by putting [six] goals in the back of the net

which really helped us extend our lead," wrote Ingham.

With its first victory, Boys Lacrosse hopes to carry its momentum at home against Hotchkiss this Saturday.

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GIRLSLACROSSE

# Quiana Bell '26 Leads Girls Lacrosse with Integrity and Warmth

EVA JACKSON

Girls Lacrosse Captain Quiana Bell '26 has been playing lacrosse since she was six. She started playing to follow in her sister's footsteps and has played on town, club, and school teams since. Coming to Andover as Junior, she began competing with the Varsity squad and has since remained there playing as a defender.

Bell shared that Grace Hammond '23, a former team Captain, was especially helpful in creating a sense of belonging on the team. Bell described the impact of Hammond's leadership and how she strives to foster camaraderie among her teammates as a leader.

"She [Hammond] always made me feel like I belonged on the team. She would always come up to me and start a conversation. I would be like, 'oh my gosh, the Senior is talking to



ALLEGRA LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

me.' But that's something that I've been trying to do as a Captain, which is to connect with the younger girls," said Bell.

Bell elaborated on her aim to truly connect with her team-

mates, which stems from the personal impact of past leaders' construction of a strong sense of belonging throughout the team.

Bell said, "One of my goals

is to make sure that there's not really a divide between classes, because my [Junior] year, I felt like I could talk to the upperclassmen. I felt like everyone was my friend. I could go to dinner with anyone. I want to establish that same team culture and mentality now, where we're always together and you don't really see [what grade a teammate is in]. You just see someone you could talk to as a friend.

Fittingly, goalkeeper Gracynn Hartley '27 shared her appreciation for Bell's approachability and ability to take responsibility for her actions.

"Quiana is an amazing person. Quiana's somebody you could walk up to and have a genuine conversation with, and she's not going to judge you for it. She's just a great person in general, and we love having her on the team and being our Captain," said Hartley. "She has a very authentic view to her in that she has a lot of integ-

riety. She's able to take a lot of accountability, which a lot of people, when they're Captains, don't really do."

Hartley also described Bell as knowledgeable in when to shift from seriousness to a more relaxed attitude. Hartley shared how that ability complements Bell's leadership.

"Quiana brings a very bubbly vibe to the team. She's serious, and she's ready to have fun at the same time, so it's very even. She's very competitive, and she knows when to be like, 'guys, come on, let's lock in,'" but she loves to have fun too. She's very assertive on the field, which I find very inspiring. I like having her as my Captain because it makes me feel like I have somebody who's very assertive, and I can put my confidence into them," said Hartley.

Next year, Hartley will compete with Middlebury College's Division III Women's Lacrosse program.

## GIRLS LACROSSE

MADELEINE GREENWOOD '26

QUIANA BELL '26 **C**

CHARLOTTE DORMAN '26

LUCY PARKER '26

SCARLET GLASS '26

AUTUMN CHRISTIAN '27

PIPER LASATER '26

LOLA AGUIRRE '26

MEREDITH SOUTHARD PANTANO '27

ASHLEY DIMNAKU '28

VANESSA HALL '28

LILLY HALL '26

MAREN BOYLE '26

MEGHAN MCKIERIAN '28

LILY LOUGHLEAN '27

EMMA MORRISON '28

SOPHIE STESTON '29

DYLAN SIEGEL '26

GRACYNN HARTLEY '27

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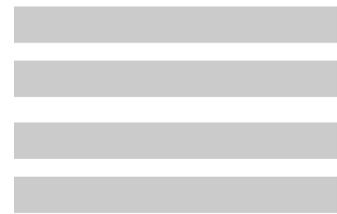


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# ARTS & LEISURE

The Phillipian, VOL. CXLIX



## Spring Simplified: Effortless Style for a New Season

### STAFF REPORT

Now that winter is over, students want to shed the heavy layers and muted palette that were dominant in the earlier months. Thus, it's time to let go of the piles of knitted sweaters, beanies, and snow boots, replacing them with outfits that are lighter, brighter, and more expressive. Spring fashion is about ease, color, and movement without struggling over uniqueness.

What makes spring style stand out is balance. Spring encourages outfits that feel intentional and natural, with the season's guiding principle being effortless elegance.

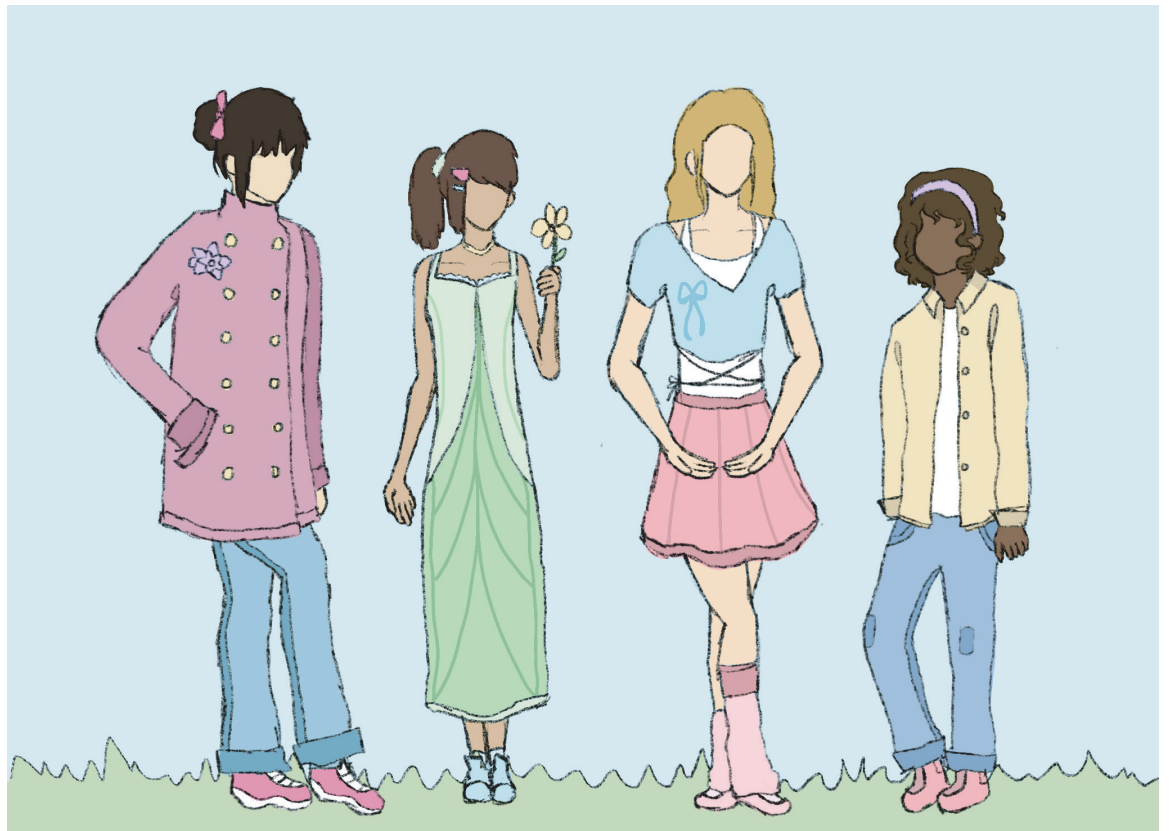
One choice that represents this idea is the trench coat. It is consistently flattering and versatile, which is why it has maintained its place in fashion. It works across styles and elevates the casual outfit. Combined with a hoodie and jeans, it creates an organic structure. In a season where there is rain one second while sunshine the next, the trench coat is a practical option and stylistic choice.

For those seeking softer aesthetics, the silky dress is a compelling choice. Its material gives it blurred edges and a beautiful glimmer. It catches light and elegantly moves with

the body. Beyond appearance, it's also comfortable, making it ideal for long school days or exciting after-school plans. Paired with sneakers for a casual look or dressed up with accessories, it works with all types of options.

Another trend that has found its home in spring is balletcore. While it originated on social media a few years ago, it has remained for its aesthetic appeal. Inspired loosely by the world of ballet, it emphasizes soft silhouettes, delicate fabrics, and a romantic color palette. Balletcore focuses on evoking a feeling instead of authenticity in dancewear. It has a lightness and grace that aligns well with the season. From a beige cardigan or flowy skirt, incorporating a single balletcore element can transform an outfit.

For a calmer approach, especially for those who favor simplicity, layering a lightweight button-up over a white t-shirt offers both a refined and relaxed look. It's an outfit that requires minimal effort and consistently delivers. The layering adds dimension, and the neutral base keeps things clean. It's also adaptable to the shifting temperatures of spring. Sleeves can be rolled up, shirts can be worn open or buttoned, and fabric choices can range from cotton to breezier linen



ELLE PARK/THE PHILLIPIAN

as temperatures rise.

What ties all of these suggestions together at the core is a spring mindset. Spring fashion focuses on choosing pieces that move with you, reflect your mood, and allow for both comfort and confidence. There

is no single approach to dressing for spring, which is what makes it fun and freeing.

In the end, the most effective styles are the ones that feel natural. A well-worn trench coat, a favorite dress, and a layered button-up become part of

your character. In a time where the sunlight finally stays past dinner, choose a style that reflects the renewal we have all been waiting for.

## Always In Character: Zendaya's Best Looks

### CHARLIZE SOW

There is no doubt that Zendaya is a fashion icon. From full chrome armor to intricately embroidered gowns, her looks span an impressive range of aesthetics, each one feeling entirely distinct from the last. What she wears is often an extension of the roles she plays, making her red carpet appearances just as compelling as her performances. Zendaya has openly spoken about using fashion as a form of expression and it's that level of intentionality that sets her apart.

For the 2021 Venice Film Festival, Zendaya arrived in a ruched nude leather Balmain dress, nude heels, and a stunning BVLGARI emerald snake necklace and matching ring. The skin-close ruching of the dress paired with her hair slicked back gave the entire look an elegant, drenched quality. Her makeup was just as deliberate, with a warm smoky eye that made a bold statement. An ode to her role as Chani in "Dune," this sandy palette and ruching directly connected to the desert landscape of Arrakis, while the wet hair seemed like a gesture to the most precious resource in the film's world, water. This look illustrates how Zendaya uses fashion to bring her characters to life beyond the screen, earning its place among her very best looks.

Inspired by her role in the film, "Challengers," Zendaya wore a striking glittering sage green gown designed by Jonathan Anderson. The deep V-neck halter silhouette and thigh-high slit created a sleek, elongated silhouette that drew attention straight to the graphic detailing at the center: a tennis ball and shadow of a tennis player swept across the fabric. Complementing the dress, Zendaya's hair was pulled into a loose updo and she wore matching green heels and delicate earrings to keep the look clean. Even with such a literal graphic, the look didn't feel gimmicky at all. Through the polished tailoring of the dress and strategic, minimal styling, Zendaya was able to make the outfit feel elevated and distinctly couture.

At the 2024 Oscars, Zendaya opted for a rose and silver sequined Armani Privé silk gown. The asymmetrical roped shoulder strap and intricate embroidered palm tree motif scattered across the silk fabric added texture, contrasting against the



SHANNON CHISHOLM/THE PHILLIPIAN

reflective nature of the silk. Allowing the dress to speak for itself, Zendaya wore her hair swept back in polished waves that gave the entire look a timeless, vintage feel. To complement the rose silk, Zendaya wore red eye shadow and red earrings, making the whole look feel cohesive. Rather than alluding to a specific role, this look felt like a tribute to Hollywood itself with the palm tree motif reminiscent of Los Angeles, a city that has long defined the film industry. Even without relying on a role or bold concept, Zendaya was still able to bring attention to her look.

A modern take on the traditional sari, Zendaya wore a gown designed by Rahul

Mishra at the grand opening of Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre in India. The deep purple skirt and trailing veil were embroidered with stars and glittering details that scintillated like a starry night sky. At the hem of the skirt, delicate floral embroidery bloomed upward, the same motif continuing onto the gold bralette adorned with oversized gold leaf and petal pieces. Zendaya's hair pulled back into a low bun and minimal jewelry kept the look feeling refined, allowing the dress to speak entirely for itself. This look stood out for its deeper significance, as it honored Indian craftsmanship and culture through Mishra's intricate, hand-em-

broidered design. By choosing to wear an Indian designer for such a major event, Zendaya helped bring greater recognition to the artistry and tradition in Indian fashion, making the look both eye-catching and meaningful.

Co-hosting the 2024 Met Gala, Zendaya wore a custom John Galiano for Maison Margiela gown that felt like something out of a dark fairytale. The mermaid silhouette featured alternating stripes of semi-transparent green tulle and deep blue silk, anchored with an emerald green corset decorated with intricate botanical details of berries, leaves, and floral appliques. Along with the dress, Zendaya also donned a fascinator hat

with a net to crown her updo. Her makeup matched the intensity of the dress, with a deep red smoky eye and bold dark lip. The Met Gala's "Garden of Time" theme centered on the idea of nature evolving over time, and Zendaya's look captured that perfectly through its deep greens, layered textures, and floral detailing, which mimicked a garden grown wild and undone. As a co-host, it was an especially fitting choice, setting a clear and elevated interpretation of the theme for the night.

At the 2018 Met Gala, Zendaya arrived in a full silver chainmail and armor ensemble by Versace. Structured shoulder plates sat over a chainmail dress with a thigh-high split, while a dramatic floor-length chainmail cape trailed behind her. This bold look was further intensified with the copper blunt bob with straight across bangs. Statement rings and silver platform heels were the finishing touches in ensuring a cohesive look. For a theme centered around "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination," Zendaya offered a striking interpretation of Joan of Arc, drawing from religious history without relying on traditional church imagery. The armor-like construction and medieval references made the look stand out for its originality among looks filled with more literal interpretations.

Unlike the soft ruching and fluidity of her earlier Dune look, this one was fully armored and futuristic. For the "Dune: Part Two" premier in London, Zendaya wore a vintage Thierry Mugler chrome bodysuit. This ensemble was head to toe chrome armor complete with panels, mechanized hands, and silver platform boots. A jeweled choker necklace and slicked back hair were the only breaks from the silver, keeping the focus entirely on the sculptural intensity of the suit. While the look clearly nodded to the sci-fi world of "Dune," Mugler's design also suggested something deeper, with the rigid, almost dehumanizing form of the armor, hinting at ideas of control and the objectification of women. This made the look both visually compelling and conceptually layered, illustrating how Zendaya is not afraid to use fashion to engage with more complicated and uncomfortable ideas.

## The Oscars 2026: Stars, Snubs, and (Not So) Shocking Wins

### RAMSEY SARKISIAN

Stars dazzled on both the red carpet and stage of the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles last week as the movie industry's biggest names were praised for their work this year. Last Sunday, March 15, was Hollywood's biggest night: the Oscars. This year's most prominent films included Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another," Ryan Coogler's "Sinners," and Chloé Zhao's "Hamnet."

This year's award show was hosted by Conan O'Brien, whose years and confidence in the industry showed, letting him poke fun at some of the most well-respected actors this year. He took jabs at AI, Timothée Chalamet's opinions on the fine arts, and Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos. O'Brien highlighted that 31 countries over six continents were represented in the nominations, saying, "every film we salute is the product of thousands of people speaking different languages, working hard to make something of beauty." Despite the entertaining host and increases in Oscar viewership over the past few years, this year's awards were the least viewed since 2022.

Leading up to the awards, many thought that most of the winners would be toss ups between "One Battle After Another" and "Sinners," and this turned out to be true: "One Battle After Another" won six awards, and "Sinners" won four. Although Sinners lost twelve out of the sixteen awards they were nominated for, the Oscars were no letdown for director Ryan Coogler. Coogler won his first ever Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.

Also for "Sinners," the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role went to Michael B. Jordan, who honored past Black Oscar-winners in his speech,



KAYTLYN XIAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

saying, "I stand here because of the people who came before me... to be amongst those greats, amongst my ancestors." Jordan celebrated the win afterwards by going to In-N-Out Burgers in Los Angeles.

Unable to win any award this year was once again Timothée Chalamet, whose movie, "Marty Supreme," directed by Josh Saffdie, lost all of the nine categories it was nominated in, shocking audiences. Chalamet

was heavily favored to win Best Actor in a Leading Role at the end of last year, yet he did not cinch his victory, this being the third time he has lost the Best Actor honor.

The show included performances from both "Sinners" and "KPop Demon Hunters," singing "I Lied to You" and "Golden," respectively. "I Lied to You" was a blues performance that included stars like Shaboozey and acclaimed ballerina Misty Copeland. The performance of "Golden" infused traditional Korean elements, and the song won Best Original Song, making history as the first K-pop song to win the award.

In a rare but not unprecedented moment, the award for Best Live Action Short Film resulted in a tie; the award was shared between "The Singers" and "Two People Exchanging Saliva." Only seven awards have tied in Academy Awards history.

The award for Best Actress in a Leading Role went to Jessie Buckley from "Hamnet," who dedicated her award to motherhood and the "beautiful chaos of a mother's heart." Buckley highlighted her own experience as a mother, describing the "journey to understand the capacity of a mother's love" as "the greatest collision of [her] life."

Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another" swept the ceremony, winning Best Picture along with five other awards. Though Anderson has been directing since the '90s — he was first nominated for an award in 1998 — he secured his first Oscar this year.

The winners of this year's Oscar Awards, though not undeserving, were not altogether surprising. As many expected, "One Battle After Another" was the most awarded film, followed closely by "Sinners." The awards yielded some historic wins and made for an altogether entertaining ceremony.

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## Dressed to Win: The 2026 Oscars

### CHARLIZE SOW

The Oscars, the awards ceremony that celebrates excellence in films, arrives once a year; with it comes some of the most talked about fashion moments in Hollywood. Celebrities step out in gowns that have been months in the making, with each detail from the neckline to the train carefully chosen. This year, the looks ranged from feathered gowns to crystal-embellished silhouettes and detailed embroidery, showcasing the breadth of what a red carpet can hold.

Arden Cho turned heads at the Oscars in a black lace fishtail gown by Korean designer Miss Sohee. The corset bodice had a dark, shell-like structure that added structure to the dress, while the intricate lace continued down into a fish scale patterned skirt. Draped over her arms, a voluminous green shawl embroidered with flowers, branches, and birds trailed across the red carpet, creating contrast to the dark lace of the gown. A diamond necklace framed Cho's neckline, with matching rings and earrings complementing the look. This outfit was seemingly impossible to look away, fitting for a KPop Demon Hunters star.

KPop Demon Hunters singer Ejae showed up at the Oscars in a golden Dior gown that felt perfectly fitting for her nomination of the song, "Golden." The strapless bodice was accented with bold black florals at the shoulder and hip, adding texture to the gown. The train flared outward into fringe panels that swept across the red carpet, and a delicate diamond necklace framed Ejae's neckline. Ejae's hair was pulled back into an updo, creating a minimal look.



ERIC YANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Kate Hudson brought a stunning look to the Oscars in a custom jade green Giorgio Armani gown. Hudson wore a statement diamond necklace that drew attention to the sweetheart neckline of the dress. The gown featured a structured top that flared outward at the waist before giving way to a smooth, fitted skirt that extended to the floor. Embellished throughout with crystals and stones, the shimmering quality of the dress made it stand out amongst other looks. Her hair was worn in loose waves and Hudson wore simple earrings to allow the rest of the look to shine.

Looking every bit like a real life Sleeping Beauty, Elle Fanning arrived at the Oscars in a strapless white Givenchy gown. Her fitted corset bodice was covered in glittering silver embroidery that cascaded down onto a billowing ball skirt, the silver detailing growing sparser toward the hem. The sheer tulle layers of the skirt gave the dress a voluminous feel with a dramatic train pooling at the bottom. A chunky diamond statement necklace sat at her collarbone, filling the neckline and continuing the silver motif prevalent throughout the dress. Fanning's hair was also pulled back into a clean updo, keeping the focus on the gown.

Teyanna Taylor's look at the Oscars was certainly one of the most memorable of the night. Donning a custom Chanel gown, the black and white dress featured a sheer bodice embroidered with pearls and crystals. White layers of black and white feathers cascaded from the waist down, growing fuller toward the train pooled across the red carpet. The feathers, arranged in alternating tiers, gave the bottom half of the dress texture that contrasted with the sleek bodice above. A Tiffany & Co. diamond necklace and matching earrings drew out the white detailing woven throughout the dress, creating an overall cohesive look.

Barbie Ferreira arrived at the Oscars in a royal blue gown designed by Zac Posen. The corseted bodice created a cinched, sculptural silhouette that flared outward into a dramatic skirt. The skirt itself was layered, with the outer layer featuring a row of buttons running down the front and an inner ruffled skirt with black lace peeking out. The same black lace detail framed the neckline and straps of the corset, bringing all the layers of the look together. Ferreira also wore long earrings and a layered gold necklace which mimicked the layered construction of the dress. Her dark hair was styled in loose waves over one shoulder, keeping the look refined without overshadowing the gown.

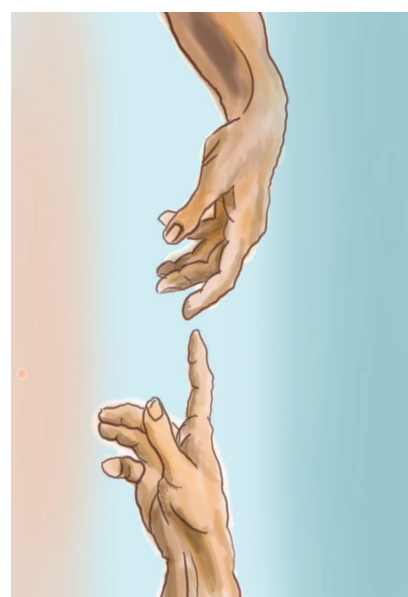
## POTW: Sounds of Spring

### HAYLEY FAN + AUTUMN XIA

As the temperature gradually warms and students find themselves back at Andover, the fresh beginning of Spring term invites a special list of songs. From inspiring messages to catchy tunes, this list of spring melodies is sure to begin your spring term with a bang.

#### WESLEY PHAM '29 - "VIENNA" BY BILLY JOEL

"[Vienna] has a really good message. It emphasizes not rushing through life despite an early focus on success. It shows that accomplishing the success you're imagining in the moment isn't about doing everything early or right away, it can often be about timing and balance. It's very unique to me how the song holds a timeless perspective. It was written decades ago yet speaks to people of all generations. This song is a subtle reminder to give myself time. [The line] 'Vienna waits for you,' [means to me] life's opportunities don't always disappear if you slow down."



#### KAMRYN CABRERA '28 - "RIVER" BY LEON BRIDGES

"I like [River] because it depicts the main subject, Leon Bridges, and his religious journey, describing how he goes from being tormented by a plethora of different emotions and depression, to then asking God to provide him spiritual redemption from his personal struggles, to [finally how God] provided him emotional renewal from everything that's been going on in his life. The song really shows how, through turning to the Lord, you can be cleansed of all the sins that you have committed, he can truly change you in beautiful ways. All you have to do is sit there and ask him to do it. This song really embodies the idea that the only approval that truly matters is the approval from him."

#### NISREEN DOHADWALA '27 - "LOVE ME NOT" BY RAVYN LENAЕ

"Love Me Not by Ravyn Lenae would be my favorite spring song because I'd like to be as positive as possible. This is one of the most beautiful happy songs I listen to, it always brings me joy and energy and that's perfect for spring, I like it because of its energy, theme of love, and its beat and rhythm. The lyrics are also extremely catchy, cute, and well done. [The song] brought a lot of happiness when I didn't think love was possible."



#### RYAN BAEK '28 - "I'LL LET YOU KNOW" BY DAVID HAZELTON

"I like [I'll Let You Know] because there's a good mix of bass, spacey notes, and it's just really relaxing to listen to even if I've listened to it many, many times. It's a song that I always come back to whenever I'm feeling stressed. Even if I'm having a good day, sometimes I just want to listen to [this] song because it always puts me in a good mood after listening to it. And I really find a lot of comfort in the familiarity. In the past, I never really liked jazz, but [a] close friend [recommended this song to me]."

SOPHIA ZHANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

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