

The 2026-2027 Blue Key Head Tryouts Begin



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO & CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Gabrie Kawooya '27 (left) and Chris Lee '27 (right) during their auditions to be 2026-2027 Blue Key Heads.

2025-2026 Cluster Co-Presidents and Representatives Announced

JEREMIAH NUNEZ & ELIZABETH SAKA

The annual Cluster Co-President and Cluster Representative elections were held on April 3rd. Following a round of student voting, the 2026-2027 Cluster Co-Presidents were announced: Kachi Ikekpeazu '27 and Oumou Bah '27 for Flagstaff (FLG), Shiloh Robinson '27 and George Richardson '27 for West Quad South (WQS), Tyler Baty '27 and Dolly Nguyen '27 for West Quad North (WQN), Mwaita Nyakujarah '27 and Jonathan Oh '27 for Abbot (ABB), and Tomas Tejada '27 and Genie Han '27 for Pike Knoll (PKN).

Abbot's Co-President-elect Nyakujarah described how her experience complements that of her co-president-elect Oh.

"I experienced the lowerclassmen dorm life in Abbot, having lived in Double Brick [House], whereas Jonathan has experienced what it's like to live in a stack... We have different perspectives and different experiences to know how to lead Abbot next year, because we know about Abbot's different needs," said Nyakujarah.

Cluster Co-Presidents return to campus early for leadership training and to help prepare for new student orientation and start implementing their initiatives.

FLG Co-President-elect Bah emphasized the importance of creating events that cater to students' needs.

"We know specifically during finals week, people could be down, people can be demotivated. I know I order a lot during finals week because I'm very stressed. We're trying to implement surprise munches. [We would] pull up to all the dorms with Dean Washington [Flagstaff Cluster Dean] and surprise each dorm with pizzas to uplift," said Bah.

Cluster-sponsored events, such as Casino Night and Abbot Cabaret, tend to have a large attendance. WQN Co-President-elect Nguyen said that she hopes to build that energy in her cluster.

"Because of our location on campus, we're somewhat separated from school life, and I want to rebuild that connection. We have Quad Night, which everyone looks forward to, but we also have another initiative planned for the spring to keep the spirit going throughout the entire year. I really loved it during the fall of this year. It was really lively and fun, especially since it's at the beginning of the year when people don't have as much work," said Nguyen.

Nguyen continued, "We want to create [another] event, [WQN Carnival,] because West Quad North doesn't have a signature cluster event the way other clusters do. West Quad South has Ca-

sino Night, Pine Knoll has their event, Flagstaff has the Halloween Dance... We didn't have something that embodies who we are."

Richardson, WQS cluster Co-president-elect, reflected on WQS's current Co-Presidents and how they created a warm welcome for incoming students.

"Lilly [Hall '26] and Maya [Swanson '26] have done an amazing job opening the barn up to the WQS community and really honing in on what makes this cluster special. One thing Dean Weissbach [WQS Cluster Dean] brought up was releasing WQS merch, and that is our number one priority stepping into the role of Cluster Co-Presidents," said Richardson.

Richardson described his motivation to create long-term relationships as WQS's Co-President.

"As much as I'd love things like the Seasonal Battle of the Quads or the Mini Pep Rally before Cluster Olympics to live on, what I hope most is that the relationships we've built throughout our time here last. I know it's cliché to say, but community building is our number one priority, so above anything else, I'd want the tight-knit community we've worked to cultivate to be what endures," said Richardson.

Editor's note: Kachi Ikekpeazu is a Business Manager for The Phillipian.

Updates on the Search for the Next Head of School

NIKI TAVAKOLI & SAKETH LINGISETTY

The Head of School (HOS) Search Committee and search firm Carney, Sandoe & Associates (Carney Sandoe) have been soliciting input from community members over the past few months. Select student leaders from the Senior class were invited to a focus group session when Carney Sandoe consultants visited campus for two days during the finals week of Winter Term.

On March 5, Amy Falls, President of the Board of Trustees, invited current and former parents, employees, alumni, trustees, and other "friends of the school" to share their thoughts in a survey inquiring about qualities and priorities they would like in the next HOS. The survey was not sent to the current student body.

On March 16, Falls announced the members of the

HOS Search Committee via email. In an email to *The Phillipian*, Tracy Sweet, Chief Communications Officer, said that the Board of Trustees determined the composition of the HOS Search Committee, though she could not name the specific individuals involved.

Eric Zinterhofer '89, Search Committee Chair and Trustee, explained the committee's decision to involve students through focus groups rather than through the March 5 survey.

"We felt it would be more effective and meaningful to speak with students in person, which focus groups allowed us to do. This also followed the guidance of our consultants who have years of experience running school leadership searches. The committee remains open to hearing all input from students and anyone in the Andover community. Every email

Continued on A5, Column 1

Why Does Attendance Vary at Sports Games?



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Attendance at a Boys Lacrosse game. Throughout the year, students and faculty have noted a decline in Andover sports viewership.

NICCOLO LEE-SUK & TEDDY STEINERT

Athletics is an integral part of Andover, with 67 interscholastic teams in 21 different sports. Yet, sports games at Andover have seen varying attendance this year and in the past, with some seeing much larger turnouts than others.

Daniel Matloff '28, who plays baseball as part of the Junior Varsity (JV) team, noted a consistently lower turnout at JV games in contrast to their varsity counterparts.

"People just aren't really interested in JV sports. A lot of people in general aren't very interested in watching Andover sports games unless they have friends playing in them. So if someone were to just, on a random Wednesday, want to go to a game, they would prefer to go see a varsity game rather than a JV game," said Matloff.

Sarah Bae '26, who captains Indoor Track & Field and serves as a Blue Key Head, noted a decline in game attendance throughout her time at Andover. She explained reasons that could be attributed to this trend.

"My freshman year, especially at football games, the stadiums were packed. You couldn't move. And now less and less people are going. I don't know if that's a shift in the amount of work we're getting, or a shift in overall student happiness or interest in sports, but I feel like there's totally been a downward trend," said Bae.

Girls' games are often less attended than boys' games, a common theme that Karen Kennedy, Assistant Director of Athletics, has noted over the years. Kennedy explained how this culture has been stagnant throughout her tenure, citing an example from Andover/Exeter (A/E) in 2012.

"The Boys' Soccer team was up 4-0 over Exeter in the first half. The Girls' Field Hockey team was in the stadium just across the bridge going into overtime. Tied score. I tried with a few other administrators and faculty members to get the crowd to move from the boys soccer game, which was early on with a big lead over to cheer on the field hockey team. No one moved... I probably have had [ideas] and have tried to change culture, and nothing I tried to do was successful," said Kennedy.

Kennedy explained how competitive scheduling addresses Andover's limited capacity to host home games by scheduling certain games at similar times.

"There's always a concern. For instance, Andover/Exeter, when we host it, our facilities and our basketball facility can't hold all of the people that would come to the game. So, we do competitive scheduling where the Boys Hockey and the Boys Basketball [teams] are competing for fans against each other, because there's usually not a problem of people going to the Girls Hockey game, which starts the day, or the Girls Basketball game, [which] finishes the day," said Kennedy.

Lisa Joel, Director of Athletics, elaborated on how this strategy factors into varying attendance. She noted how students often have to make decisions about attending games within the same timeframe.

"By and large, competition days are Wednesdays and Saturdays. Those are the days everything happens. They relatively happen at the same time... So kids have to make choices about, are they going to watch Squash, are they going to watch Indoor Track, [or]

Continued on A5, Column 3

What Do Cluster Co-Presidents and Representatives Really Do?



COURTESY OF JONATHAN OH

Jonathan Oh '27 (left) and Mwaita Nyakujarah '27 (right) will serve as Abbot's 2026-2027 Cluster Co-Presidents.

SOPHIA TOLOKH & SOPHIA FANG

Following the recent elections for next year's Cluster Co-Presidents and Representatives, *The Phillipian* asked current Cluster Co-Presidents, Representatives, and Deans to provide insight into how these positions shape the Andover community.

Nafi Diagne '26 described her weekly responsibilities as a Co-President of West Quad North. She outlined that her role involves attending formal meetings, such as Dean's Table and Cluster Council, and fostering community at cluster munches.

"On Wednesdays, from 1-2 p.m., [we] have Dean's Tables, which is all the Cluster Co-Presidents, the School Co-Presidents, and all the deans: Cluster Deans and

the Dean of Students. We meet every week to talk about issues on campus, upcoming events for planning for the student body, and more. The next thing on Wednesday [nights] is we run cluster council, where two representatives [are sent] from each dorm in the cluster. We plan cluster bonding events, cluster meetings, and cluster dinners. Then there's a cluster munch after cluster council until sign-in, where you're just hanging out, being there as a face of the cluster, and interacting with students," said Diagne.

She continued, "Every other Thursday morning, from 7:40 am to about when classes start, there's student council, which has class representatives, student co-presidents, and cluster council. We plan [things] like Abbot [Semi-formal Dance] and class assassin. Then on Thursday evenings, usually there's a [Growth

and Accountability Plan] meeting or two."

Jennifer Weissbach, Cluster Dean of West Quad South, explained the Cluster Representatives' role in advocating for a student both before and during a GAP meeting.

"Our cluster reps are present for GAP meetings. Their responsibility is to reach out to the student who is sitting for the GAP meeting, meet with the student ahead of time to offer support, to help them with their reflection, to ask questions, and to get a better understanding of the situation. In the GAP meetings themselves, the intention is that [the cluster reps] have a large role, so they're asking questions of the student, offering a student perspective, and really just being a student voice in the room to help navigate the conversation, whatever that looks like," said Weissbach.

Eliza Francis '26 is one of two Cluster Representatives from West Quad South. She reflected on the crucial balance between being empathetic and understanding of a situation and holding a student responsible for their actions.

"Something I specifically value and would recommend [to next year's Cluster Representatives] is this idea of finding accountability within empathy. Obviously, empathy should be paramount and we should make sure to always treat our fellow

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Commentary, A2

"The Courage to Embrace Imperfection"

Experiencing imperfect moments are necessary for growth as human beings.

Eighth Page, A8

Blue Key Head Tryouts

The Blue Key Heads have been chosen.

Sports, B1

Softball Continues to Dominate

Softball defeated Tilton 10-3 and Governors 15-0 to start the season 3-0.

Arts, B8

Words Without Borders

Gavin Shyroch '28 earns recognition from the Japanese consulate after crafting a concise essay highlighting multiculturalism.

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Editorial

I Mog You

If you've spent time on Instagram Reels or TikTok recently, you may have heard of the influencer Clavicular. Perhaps you've encountered his devotion to looksmaxxing routines, which entail "bonesmashing" (striking one's own jaw in hopes of the bones to fracture, ultimately growing back stronger and more chiseled) with the hopes of "mogging" (to appear physically superior to another). Looksmaxxing is a trend that refers to the process of optimizing one's own physical attractiveness. Clavicular, among other figures, has helped popularize the idea among young people that improving one's looks will result in a generally better quality of life. However, modern looksmaxxing and the principles behind it are counterproductive to building genuine self-worth.

Primarily, modern looksmaxxing centers around a way of thought that equates one's value with their external attributes, negating the value of character and intellect. This view implicates how we think about human connection. While looksmaxxing influencers might say that connection stems from exterior qualities, the unique complexity that human beings possess suggests that our physical qualities make up only a small — if not negligible — part of our overall character. It's perfectly normal to want to become more physically able when that desire stems from our own aims toward self-improvement. But physical quantities certainly don't determine individual worth.

Additionally, looksmaxxing hinges on comparison. The popular verb "to mog," for instance, is directly dependent on putting down another to uplift the self. Rarely does

looksmaxxing exist in isolation, where the person wants to look better solely for themselves. While it is natural to feed off of external attention, the desire to "mog" others is like chasing a horizon. Because one can never objectively deem oneself the most attractive or the most intelligent, the pursuit of "mogging" will inevitably result in disappointment.

Many students may agree that a "mogging" culture is present on our campus. That is, it is common for students to compare test scores with their peers or fret over the number of leadership positions they hold. While some are more vocal than others, the desire to "mog" seems almost inevitable at a place with so many ambitious students. However, while it's normal to be competitive, it becomes toxic when that is a student's sole pursuit.

Whether in the realm of looksmaxxing, academically, or socially, trying to "mog" others will never give us the satisfaction that we're chasing. Real success is derived not from constant comparison but from a genuine passion for learning and doing. While an obsession with being better than others seems to have taken over the internet, it need not exist at Andover. We should seek out opportunities and engage in activities for the sake of bringing joy to and bettering ourselves.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This letter is regarding The Phillipian Vol. CXLVIII, No. 19, specifically the article "Morse Hall Needs A New Name," by Jeannie Kang, published September 26, 2025.

Kang argues for Morse Hall, the building for Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science, to undergo a name change due to Samuel Morse's bigoted actions, most notably that he "actively vilified immigrants and sponsored the institution of slavery." This letter stands not to deny these actions or their gravitas; they are truly indefensible. Rather, I write to assert that the renaming of Morse Hall, while symbolically satisfying, is an undefended, uncorrelated, and irrelevant response to the ongoing

inequities that the Anti-Racism Task Force (AATF) was created to address. The article mistakes symbolic gesture for substantive action, failing to show how erasing Morse's name from a building translates to any real benefit for marginalized students. Simply, it would be an empty gesture that solves nothing.

The article cites Yale and Loomis Chaffee as proof that renaming is worthwhile, but neither actually has evidence of improving the lives of marginalized students. It just shows how other institutions also made this symbolic, yet ultimately fruitless gesture, which is circular reasoning. Kang provides no evidence establishing the logical process going from "discrimination" to "renaming Morse Hall." Additionally, removing the

names from these buildings set a precedent of erasing the legacy of slavery, rather than confronting and learning from it. It is quite powerful that Morse Hall is now filled with faculty and students from all over the world; it truly shows how far Andover has come. We must acknowledge our grim past rather than hide it. Renaming does not erase Morse's ideology from history; it only erases Andover's obligation to confront it.

As Kang states, Andover established the AATF in 2020 to address the "implicit discrimination of racially marginalized students on campus." These tangible injustices are present throughout our campus and are being addressed by this task force. The article provides no explanation why renaming

a math building should be prioritized over addressing those tangible, present harms. Kang does a thorough job of establishing Morse's reprehensible views, yet she fails to prove how changing the name of the building actually addresses this campus's history of discrimination. If Andover truly wants to "stand firm for its missions and beliefs," it should address the real issues rather than make a token gesture. Andover must reform internally, not "look good" externally by changing a name.

Notably, the article does not highlight any Andover faculty, student, or alum who feels harmed or unwelcome in Morse Hall, whereas, on the contrary, Morse Hall has hosted one of the most welcoming Andover communities: the Community

and Multicultural Development (CaMD) office. It is a space of connection where people confront and learn from the inequities in our community. The most powerful rebuke to a bigot is not erasing his name, but filling the halls that bear it with everything he stood against. And on that count, Morse Hall already succeeds.

Signed, Konnor Fortini '28

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CORRECTIONS:

The Courage to Embrace Imperfection

JUNWOO SHIN



J. NUÑEZ / THE PHILLIPIAN

Imperfections are not blemishes that render someone incomplete. Rather, they are avenues to a quiet display of courage, an act of heroism. This act is not in regard to dramatic triumph, nor in a defiant rebellion, but instead the choice to enter a room of uncertainty. To me, this looks like walking into Paresky Commons, unsure of how I seem to others, being hesitant to share controversial ideas in discussion, and exposing myself to the gaze of others. But looking at this sense of distress from a philosophical point of view, it can be revealed that growth is spurred only within these moments of discomfort.

Several philosophers assert that humans have always had the natural inclination to focus on their own perspectives, and anchor all of their thoughts and opinions with their own internal state. They explain that this is due to our instinctual desire to be accepted as a part of a group for a more likely chance of survival. While reading Hannah Arendt's *The Human Condition*, I learned that we naturally long to belong in a community because we must be among others for our identities to unfold. To disclose oneself is to open oneself to interpretation, which in turn acts as an opportunity for one to also discover one's own self. Yet, naturally, this ex-



HARRY ZHOU / THE PHILLIPIAN

posure generates anxiety. By revealing our authentic selves, we are also susceptible to be seen, evaluated, and misread by our friends, our teachers, and the rest of the world. I was terrified by the idea that my actions, views, and character were all points of judgment that the people around me would use to evaluate my value as a person. My research into this topic stemmed from my own fear that I would forever live afraid of the gaze of others.

Many Andover students choose to shape their identities to fit the mold of conventionality by speaking only when articulate, acting only when confident, and participating only as a collective. Such self-curation promises safety in reducing unpredictability and allows us to manage the narrative our peer students construct about us. However, the perceived safety achieved through this concealment carries a cost. Refusing to engage in life without a perfected identity is to refuse liv-

ing at all. Existential philosophy insists that existence precedes essence. We as humans are not finished beings who have already achieved a flawless form. Rather, we are formless, waiting to become something more through action. Imperfection is not a deviation from being; it is the process of becoming.

While researching this pressure to seem perfect I came across Friedrich Nietzsche, who argued that to be human is to overcome. He believed that as a human, we should not aim to maintain our being, but rather focus on becoming a better version of ourselves every day. In a similar sense, I believe that to demand perfection before participation reflects a misunderstanding of the structure of growth. Growth is iterative; in unfolding through trial, error, and revision, humans sculpt themselves with the chisel of perpetual exploration. When we wait to contribute to a class discussion until we feel ready, we deny ourselves the forma-

tive experience of being argued against. Perfection, in contrast, is static; it is an image fixed in time. In the first place, it is impossible for a human to be perfect. If we refuse to take any chances until we feel perfectly ready, it is likely we will never step outside of our comfort zone. Even worse, if we live believing that we are perfect, we will never welcome growth or development. Thus, the most authentic individuals welcome risk and engage deliberately with their incompleteness.

This raised another question in my mind: "If we are shaped by our flaws, will our mistakes always weigh us down?" I have realized that it is irrational to fear that others will define us by a single moment, because this fear assumes that perception is permanent. Throughout my life, I have failed far more than I have succeeded. Yet, the people around me have never called me out for a mistake I made several years ago. This is because human memory is fluid, and evalu-

ations can shift. Our choices can easily transform the opinions of others, and only by embracing one's flawed existence can one form genuine connections with others, without superficial interaction, but with an honest moment of acceptance between two individuals. To me, appearing imperfect is an act of trust that the rest of the world recognizes that I am more than my mistakes or my shortcomings, because it is in those moments of imperfection that the person I am is shaped. Every hesitant word spoken, every misstep taken, and all of our flaws are a part of a larger story that defines our character. To pull back in search of perfection is to stay frozen, to remain untouched by the very events that create a sense of self. To exert a presence, even when imperfect, is to accept the process of becoming.

To live fully among others is to accept exposure. Exposure not as humiliation, but as an openness towards our immeasurable promise as individuals. We cannot control interpretation, but we can control our acceptance of it. In finding the courage to appear imperfect, we ultimately develop the courage to exist in honesty. The next time you walk into a room, don't hesitate to speak up even if you don't feel perfectly ready. At Andover, we are often illusioned with the idea that we are evaluated by our achievements, whether that be our grades, sports teams, or orchestras. But when we allow these "flaws" to restrict us from expressing our identities in their entirety, we lose the most authentic versions of ourselves. Perfection may promise admiration and comfort, but imperfection permits participation. And participation is where life unfolds.

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A Quarter Million Miles From Home

MUAZ REZA



COURTESY OF MUAZ REZA

On April 1, 2026, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched four astronauts on a flyby around the Moon for the first time since Apollo 17, nearly 54 years ago. The mission, Artemis II, carries astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen. The mission is estimated to be a 10-day endeavor, looping the astronaut around the moon and back. Yet this mission is more than a simple loop around the moon: it's a rebuttal to cynicism, a testament to human collaboration, and evidence that ambition can still produce something to believe in.

We live in an era of endless cynicism: skepticism about large institutions, anxiety about the job market, and a somewhat unenthusiastic outlook of our future. Even within STEM, the romanticized image of breakthrough or discovery has been replaced with a more mundane and nuanced reality, one where AI and clerical work supplements scientific investigation. Though this isn't necessarily a bad thing, it can overshadow the beauty of collaborative human ingenuity. That's why I'm excited about Artemis.

Every rocket that lifts off,

every crew that leaves Earth's orbit, is a testament to our strength as a collective.

There are, of course, other reasons why I'm excited. Among Artemis II's objectives is to demonstrate life support systems for the first time with a crew aboard, laying the foundation for an enduring human presence for future Moon and Mars habitability missions. This is Artemis II's key distinction with its close cousin, Apollo. Apollo was a flashy mission with stunning achievements, but they were also, in a sense, stunts — flag placed, pictures taken, astronauts returned. Instead, Artemis II is a sustained, multi-decade-long mission building the framework for interplanetary human habitation. In that sense, the Moon is not the final destination, but rather one piece of the puzzle, a recharge station.

As a prospective scientist, this framing matters to me. Whether or not you believe in multi-planetary human colo-

nization — which is a loaded ethical question in its own right — it's difficult to disregard the positive impacts of Artemis II in our day-to-day life. The infrastructure being built to support Artemis II is bringing real advancement in material science, life support engineering, radiation biology, and propulsion. Furthermore, the diversity of astronauts aboard Artemis II has great significance. Victor Glover became the first person of color, Christina Koch the first woman, and Jeremy Hansen the first non-US citizen to travel beyond low Earth orbit. Representation in spaceflight tells young people from underrepresented backgrounds that space isn't this elite, untouchable frontier for them. That's critical to convey in our rapidly expanding world of STEM.

Still, despite the symbolic implications of the mission, space investigation continues to be a controversial topic in our present. Private companies

compete alongside NASA for public attention. Billionaires fund rockets as a hobby. The line between commercialization and scientific integrity has grown increasingly blurry. We may be entering a "Golden Age" of scientific exploration, but the existence of a Golden Age requires questioning who benefits and who bears the cost. The practical cost of space exploration is not small. Each NASA launch mission has a price tag estimated in the billions, which could be alternatively allocated to climate research, expanding domestic infrastructure, or innovative healthcare technology. I bring up these points to paint the practical implications central to the problems scientists and policymakers alike grapple with. In a world of increasing disparity, it's difficult to contextualize where spaceflight sits on our scale of importance.

The sheer scientific innovation attempted by Artemis II is astounding. During the planned

CAMILA CHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN



lunar flyby of April 6, the astronauts will photograph areas of the Moon's far side never seen before. These areas have shadowing conditions that make them undetectable under full illumination. There's something deeply poetic about humans finally seeing something technology has only been able to approximate.

The Artemis II crew is expected to break the Apollo 13 record for farthest distance from Earth, roughly 252,021 miles from the Earth. It's a difficult number to visualize — a quarter million miles away from home. No human has been that far since 1970, and yet there are four aboard a small capsule, floating through darkness, staring back at the blue dot we're living in.

As a student interested in science, this mission has given me perspective about my future prospects. I'm reminded that aerospace engineers who designed the spacecraft were also once high school students struggling through their calculus problem sets. The astrophysicists charting the crew's return path were once like us, unsure if their scientific aptitude would amount to anything practical.

Artemis II is more than a moonshot. It's a snapshot of what's to come, laying the groundwork for exciting future possibilities in space. The generation of future engineers and scientists that will land on Mars, and perhaps even build a permanent lunar base, is sitting in classrooms right now, perhaps agonizing over a particularly difficult physics problem. Artemis II is evidence of

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New Co-Presidents, New Community Suppers

LARA KIM



COURTESY OF LARA KIM

Two Fridays ago, I sat in the Chapel eagerly watching the big presidential debate. By the time Q&A rolled around, I was completely invested in both parties. When Chloe and Alfonso expressed the student body's concern that community suppers were too restrictive, like All-School Meeting (ASM)-assigned seating, it brought to my attention

We are all capable of getting outside our comfort zones and showing up

the fact that Minnie and David's dinner idea brings much uncertainty to Andover. For me, the idea always seemed like a great way for people to socialize and meet others. However, many classmates believe it's old-fashioned, intimidating, too much work, and most of all,

that it's simply better to just eat dinner with familiar friends. While I agree there are many things that must be sorted out for these suppers to work, my own biggest concern is people's misunderstandings and fears of a night that's meant simply for fun and community building.

Community suppers are formal dinners occurring once or twice a term. The concept is that seating will be assigned and randomized, giving students opportunities to engage with people they would never have before.

Additionally, a faculty member would

be assigned to each table to help facilitate and guide conversations between students. Minnie and David strive for a sophisticated vibe featuring white clothed tables and perhaps even waiters. An idea like this is most likely unfamiliar to a lot of Andover students and faculty, many harboring concerns of sitting with unfamiliar individuals instead of close friends. Realistically

speaking, I imagine I would be pretty nervous sharing a meal with unacquainted classmates. How intimidating would it be for a freshman to sit with uppers and seniors, when even a lowerclassman daring to step foot in lower right is a death sentence? Still, even the "fresh meat" of the school have been here long enough to know anyone you'll meet is open-minded and friendly. And one of Andover's biggest values — community — cannot possibly be

a source of "community" like the title suggests. It's also one less night I have to worry about who I'm going to eat dinner with. The worst thing is coming back from sports or practice and finding out my friends have already eaten dinner. Community supper fixes this problem that I'm sure many people have had. Additionally, it can even be a source of excitement or an event people can look forward to. Who wouldn't love a fancier vibe in Paresky Commons, being

these dinners? Who's going to wait tables? How will seating be arranged? There are currently a lot of doubts, but community and formal suppers is an idea that's worked for generations across the nation. Many boarding schools have them, such as Deerfield, St. Paul's, Groton, and Brewster. However, their suppers are mandatory and occur weekly. When compared to these schools, Andover's potential community dinners already sound much better. However, one lingering problem still persists. What's to say people will actually show up if it's optional? Although community suppers are not mandatory, considering some students' busy schedules or shy nature, I believe many students will still attend, purely out of faith in our school's non sibi spirit. We are all capable of getting outside our comfort zones and showing up, but I fear some are unwilling to give it a try.

Although I know it's an idea that's not for everyone, I believe Andover's students value community and friendships. No matter who you might be sitting with, everyone is welcoming and kind. As the saying "you never know until you try it" goes, maybe even try it once before you decide whether you like it or not. And who knows, maybe just by attending a single dinner you can meet your future best friend or spouse?

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FELISHA LI / THE PHILLIPIAN

achieved if students are scared to share a meal with each other.

Another potential concern is the fact that community suppers seem to limit freedom. However, community suppers are completely optional. If you want to attend, then great, and if not, that's perfectly fine too. Community suppers aren't something to stress over, but something to look forward to,

food like in a restaurant, and even dressing up or getting ready with friends? Perhaps the idea of a more formal setting is intimidating, but one thing to keep in mind is that it really is just meant to be a fun, chill way to meet others.

Others might say it just seems too hard to organize. After all, we've never had anything like this before. What about costs and organizing

Because What's the Rush?

SAMIHA TASNIM



A. BAETEN-RUFFO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Monday morning strikes you in the head like a hammer as you reach and finally smash your alarm clock to end its eternal beeping. You run to your first two periods back to back, missing breakfast because you had a late night doing homework, and you take your first breath as conference comes about. After grinding more work for forty minutes, you sit in each of your following classes wondering when it will end, and wondering when you can fill all the small gaps and crevices of the day to complete Tuesday's assignments. Unsatisfied with the

completion of tomorrow's work, your mind runs to the work for Wednesday and the days that follow. The dynamic hands on the clock are beyond you. Beyond your mind, and beyond your sense of agency. We constantly act in ways to support the future. The problem lies not only in looking towards what is ahead, but also in how we constantly stress about the worries of tomorrow. We concern ourselves with filling every millisecond of space with something that can help us in the future, but we forget to help ourselves in the present. Giving yourself grace in the present instead of rushing to help yourself in the future can prevent the cruel feeling of losing sight of what matters to you. In the present, you do not always have to solve your future problems. Instead, the present you needs as much attention, support, and care as the future you does. When you forced yourself to keep working after finishing the tasks for tomorrow, you ignored your present cries for rest. When we rush towards the future and only have it in mind, the unresolved issues of the present get swept under the rug. These is-

sues resurface to the shore like a tsunami when you complete all the tasks ahead and are faced with the old burdens you ignored. This tsunami could have been waves if you addressed the problems and paid attention to the small joys of the present in the moment.

When I find myself stuck and lost in a cycle driven by the dopamine of completing tasks and being ahead, I start to forget what really makes me happy. I realized that I am not really ahead, but instead have been sacrificing the precious acts of a day that bring a smile across my face. I forget the joys of sitting at dinner with my friends and not worrying about the test I have the day after tomorrow. I forget the laughter that comes with going to my friends room and playing games until lights out when I finish my homework instead of rushing to do the work for the days ahead. When I lay in my bed and look up at the ceiling while the bright moonlight seeps in through my window to expose the realities of the room, it hits me that I did absolutely nothing to satisfy my soul in the last few days. I began to wonder if I will ever really

live in the moment and cherish it.

Living in the moment makes every day feel memorable. The moment is the only thing you can control, while the future is an entity of circumstance that you do not have access to quite yet. Instead of burning through every single day for the sole purpose of completing your commitments and going through the motions, you are meant to live through every day. You are meant to laugh at the joke your classmate made instead of stressing with your head down, have a night of rest and dreams instead of wrestling with your sheets from left to right with anxiety about what tomorrow holds, admire the gorgeous weather and mellow sunset while you walk to Paresky Commons, and attentively listen in the conversation you are having with your best friend. When you address the tiredness you feel right now, you will not face the cruel burn out later. When you take that time to hang out with your friends on Friday night instead of rushing to finish your work for the weekend, you will feel fulfillment for allowing yourself to feel the moments

CARINA PAIK / THE PHILLIPIAN

of the present to cherish in the future. When you take that time on Thursday night to eat ice cream, watch a movie, and maybe shed a few tears because the day went poorly, your present and future self is thanking you for taking care of yourself instead of letting feelings build up and affect the future. To take control of the present is to move closer to living out your dreams, being in control of what you can control, and feeling the sensations that will balance your internal state and mental health.

Forgetting to take control of the present is what causes that emptiness when you lie awake at night. This is what makes you lose your passions. Your ability to be present. Your ability to live in the moment. Your happiness slowly seeps down the drain like rain that slightly floods around it. You rush towards the future to take full control of it, when you do not have control of the present. You let the days drift by you, each day rushing to pack up its bags and disappearing from your memory once the clock hits twelve. The twenty-four hours of a day act as a shallow period of grinding through pages and pages and pages of homework. But a day is so much more than that. So really, what is the rush? By living in a demanding atmosphere where the people around you are always working on something, always talking about how they finished this and that, and always talking about how much they have done, it is difficult not to rush yourself, not to move with the fast moving currents, and not to squeeze every bit of your might and energy into feeling like you are ahead. It is not bad to have agency over the future, but where the boundary lies is where you have no agency for the present. Time is not running away from you. It exists alongside you.

Samiha Tasnim is a Junior from Queens, N.Y. Contact the author at stasnim29@andover.edu.



Cluster Leaders Explain Their Roles and Responsibilities

Continued from A1, Column 3

peers with the utmost respect and understanding, but part of the reason why our Growth and Accountability system works is because it's not just a pat on the leg. There's an actual system in place to ensure that a student can be successful and not cause that harm to themselves or to any other campus member in the future. So we prioritize, 'can we both look out for the student and then look out for the student's behavior?'" said Francis.

Amina Gorman '26, a Cluster Representative in Flagstaff, elaborated on her responsibility as an expert on the Growth and Accountability Plan (GAP) and offering advice to students throughout the year.

"We are also supposed to be a support system before and after GAPs. If anyone has questions about how the GAP system works, even if they're not in trouble, we're not mandated reporters or anything. If someone has a hypothetical question about 'how would this situa-

tion look in a GAP meeting,' we are there to be able to give that guidance. We can also help people craft their reflections before their GAP meetings. A lot of times, people are kind of wary of talking to us. We are mandated to keep everything confidential, and we sign a contract," said Gorman.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Austin Washington, Cluster Dean of Flagstaff, highlighted the close community that student leaders intentionally aim to create through friendly interactions.

"These student leaders make the campus community richer simply by showing up and becoming a familiar face. We hope students come to recognize these student leaders as the kind of peers who would go out of their way to help a community member feel seen. That can mean doing something as simple as waving or saying hello when walking along the paths. It can also look like making an effort to be a friendly face at a cluster munch. These small acts of kindness go a long way toward making our campus feel more welcoming," wrote Washington.

Students and Faculty Reflect on Ways to Increase Student Attendance at Sports Games

Continued from A1, Column 5

are they going to watch Hockey, because it's all happening in the relative window. They could bounce to things, but my experience is you go to the event, and then you stay at the event," said Joel.

During A/E Weekend, there is no competitive scheduling. Joe Donnelly, Head Coach of Boys Soccer and Coach of Girls JV1 Squash, noted that these games tend to draw higher attendance.

"When we stagger the games on A/E weekend, all the games are extremely well attended because there's only one thing to go watch at each time. A/E weekend is a great example of high attendance because everybody has the time to go see them, unless you're playing. But even then, you get to go to the other games regularly," said Donnelly.

Emerson Davis '29 noted that the Spring term, in particular, has contributed to declining attendance. She

explained that busier afternoons later in the year make it harder for students to attend games consistently.

"The timing of Spring Term plays a major role. As the year progresses, students tend to become increasingly busy with academic and extracurricular commitments. Because of that, many people no longer have consistent free afternoons to attend games. Some sports, including crew and golf, compete off campus, which makes it difficult for them to build a consistent audience and for members of those teams to have the time to attend other games," said Davis.

Looking forward, Bae described a possible solution to improve attendance despite the limited benefits of competitive scheduling.

"Staggering them more is obviously logistically extremely hard. But coaches can work with others if it's a recovery day or a lighter day at practice, and the team advocates for really wanting to see the opposite gender team play," said Bae.

Minnie Kim '27, a captain

of Girls Squash, echoed Bae's observations. As a 2026-2027 Student Body Co-President, Kim plans to address these trends in sports game attendance in several ways, including punch cards that offer incentives for attending on-campus events.

"In some really popular [sports] like Football, Lacrosse, or Field Hockey, I don't see a lot of student attendance. And then especially in sports that are not as popular, like Squash or Swimming or Wrestling, there's a striking lack of student viewership... [Our punch-card initiative is] a great way to reward students for devoting that extra time to going out there, exploring different things on campus," said Kim.

Kim continued, "Student athletes at Andover devote a lot of time and energy, and it's really hard to manage academics and athletics. We want to recognize our student athletes in that sort of way."

Seniors Involved in Carney Sandoe Focus Group Recall Discussions

Continued from A1, Column 5

[to HOSsearch@andover.edu] is read by the committee chair and shared with the full membership," wrote Zinterhofer in an email to *The Phillipian*.

When asked whether and when the Search Committee plans to involve the current student body more in the process, Caroline Odden, Member of the Search Committee and Dean of Studies, pointed to existing avenues for student input and what has already been accomplished.

"Students are encouraged to email the selection committee (HOSsearch@andover.edu) at any time with thoughts and ideas. Student leaders were invited to take part in a breakfast meeting with the consultants when they visited campus in March... Student feedback has been incorporated directly in the Position Description," wrote Odden in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Odden provided a list of 10 student leaders who attended the student focus group. Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, explained how these students were chosen.

"The consultants from

Carney Sandoe asked us to invite a small group of students to a breakfast during Finals Week. We invited the School Co-Presidents, Cluster Co-Presidents, EBI Seniors, and Blue Key Heads, who are all part of the leadership cohort that receives training organized by the Dean of Students Office. Of course, there are many other leaders on campus, and we would have loved to include more students if possible! We hoped that by including the Co-Presidents we were inviting leaders students feel represent them. Because it was finals week, we opted to include a larger group in case students had finals that conflicted with the meeting time (which some did)," wrote Esty in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Denys Tereshchenko '26, current Flagstaff Cluster Co-President, recounted that three consultants from Carney Sandoe attended the breakfast and described the discussion.

"The focus wasn't on specific candidates, since none had been selected yet. They explained that the next Head of School could come from either inside or outside the institution. The discussion centered on what values, policies, and leadership qualities the new head should have, as

well as how the search process should be conducted," said Tereshchenko.

Miklosh Frusztajer '26, an EBI Senior who also attended the meeting, recalled the major themes students raised.

"A lot of people mentioned engagement with the community, an energy and passion that mirrored the students, and a desire to go to events and interact with students, not only events necessarily planned out by the Head of School, but all sorts of events on campus. And regular interaction with the student body," said Frusztajer.

Will Ware '26, a Blue Key Head present at the breakfast, encouraged the Search Committee and Carney Sandoe to reach out to more students to better encompass the student body's diverse needs.

"Each grade has a different perspective on what they want out of their Head of School, and so hearing only from seniors isn't the most productive. If they could hear, maybe from the class [representatives] of each grade, or if they could hear from Upper Prefects in dorms to get more of a touch of dorm life. There were a few holes if they were trying to encompass the entire campus. I don't think they covered everything with the group of students that they

were able to meet with," said Ware.

Tereshchenko noted that he wanted the Search Committee to keep students more in the loop about the process.

"I wasn't aware of that survey [sent to the Andover community on March 5]. If surveys are already being used for other groups, it would make sense to include students as well. Even if it's difficult to involve large numbers of students in meetings, surveys are a scalable way to gather input... On one hand, there are limits to how much [the Search Committee] can share, since too much transparency could complicate the process. On the other hand, it would be helpful if they communicated more clearly what they've learned from different groups, students, faculty, and staff, and what priorities they are identifying. More broadly, I'd like to see better communication, not just collecting information from students, but also sharing information with us about the process and findings," said Tereshchenko.

Zinterhofer outlined the next steps in the search process, writing in his email to *The Phillipian* that "the Search Committee will begin engaging with top candidates later this month, with interviews taking place throughout

the spring and early summer." Additionally, he stated that "later this month, some of us will be meeting with alumni on campus."

Academic Awards Process Kicks Off

DINA NAMJOO & RIAANA BAJAJ

At the start of Spring Term every year, departments across the school are notified by the Dean of Studies office to begin the selection process for academic awards. Each department has their own separate process where they review a student's relevant performance. The awards serve as an occasion to offer recognition to a student's efforts. The term culminates with an awards ceremony to recognize students' excellence and commitment in a particular subject.

Robert Lazar, Theater & Dance Department Chair, offers insight into his department's approach.

"Our selection is largely contingent on participation in the department - this can intersect in many ways with many different faculty members, all of which have input in the selection process. I imagine that ours is unique in that to earn the award, you must be involved with the department throughout your Andover career - not just your senior year," wrote Lazar in an email to *The Phillipian*.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Hector Membreno-Canales, Chair of the Art Department, describes how the art department focuses on a collaborative and reflective selection process for its awards. During this process, faculty members convene to identify candidates, which is limited

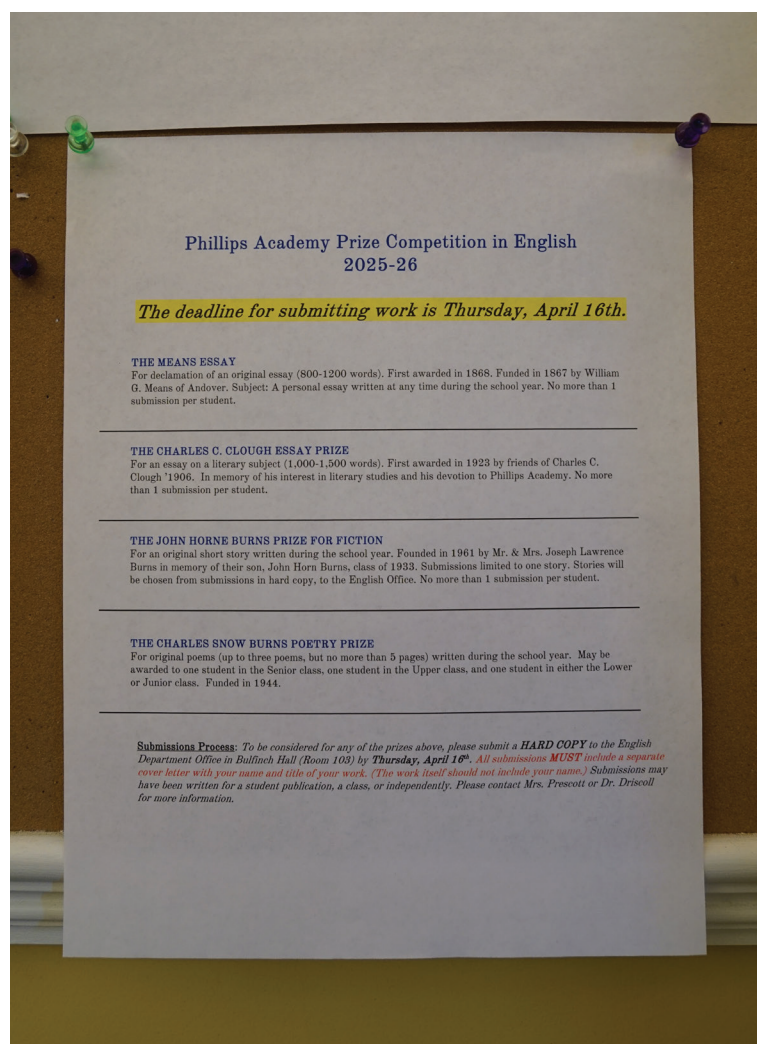
to graduating seniors.

"Candidates are identified by Art Department faculty through a collective discussion during the Spring term. All nominees are graduating seniors whose work and growth faculty have observed directly over the course of their time at the Academy. We review students' midterm and end of term comments, final grades, and discuss a student's growth, commitment, and quality of their portfolio," wrote Membreno-Canales in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Leon Calleja, English Department Chair, discussed how the English department's process differs from others by incorporating a submission-based model. Rather than relying on faculty nomination, all students are given the option to apply, with entries evaluated anonymously to ensure impartiality.

"We advertise the prizes at the start of each spring term in classrooms and hallways in our department and around the school, PANet, and encourage all teachers to let their classes know or post them as announcements on Canvas. Prizes are open to all students subject only to the criteria elements listed in each prize description. They are judged anonymously by members of the English faculty," wrote Calleja in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Susan Eliassen, History & Social Science Department Office Administrator, highlights how the history department ends the year with a special ceremony. Eliassen



COURTESY OF ANGELA WANG

Posters around Bowfinch Hall advertised the various prizes in English.

gave additional details on the ceremony itself.

"At the end of Spring Term, the History & Social Sciences department holds a prize ceremony honoring all stu-

dents that receive a prize. All faculty are present, and students can bring a guest. Students are presented with the prize (handpicked books by the nominating teacher spe-

cific to the student's area(s) of interest) by the nominating teacher who shares some words about the student's achievements. It is a wonderful end of year celebration and is one that teachers and students look forward to each year," wrote Eliassen in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Membreno-Canales also reflected on the significance of these awards within the Art Department, noting that they represent more than just recognition of technical skills. They serve as the culmination of a student's artistic journey at Andover, highlighting personal growth and artistic identity.

"The awards represent one of the most meaningful moments of the academic year for the Art Department and serve as an opportunity to recognize not just technical achievement, but artistic character and growth. They reflect the department's long commitment, stretching back to Abbot Academy and the early years of the Addison Gallery, to honoring the full development of the student as an artist," wrote Membreno-Canales.

10 Questions with Brad Seymour

REPORTING BY OLIVIA TEMPLE & JUDY LIU

Brad Seymour '00 (he/him) is the Technical Director of Andover's Department of Theater and Dance and a house counselor in Stuart House. Before he arrived at Andover in 2018, Seymour obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Theater and Dance from Colby College before attaining his Master's Degree in Performance Production at the University of Connecticut. Additionally, he worked professionally at the Connecticut Repertory Theater and Portland Stage Company. In his free time, Seymour enjoys skiing and experiencing the outdoors.

What was your childhood like, and when did theater come into the picture?

I grew up in New Hampshire. I'm the oldest of three kids. I went to public school through 8th grade and then came [to Andover] as a 9th grader in 1996. I really found theater in high school as a pathway. I didn't have any specific ambitions, no direct path growing up, but always had the idea that it would work itself out, and that I would find something. All kids go through phases where whatever they're interested in, they're trying on as a way to decide whether there is something there, or if that is interesting to them. I tried a bunch of those things and settled here on this one.

Would you say that you attending Andover yourself has helped shape your decision to pursue theater?

It provides me a certain amount of insight into where students are at. I will say that, 25, 30 years ago, the world was a very different place. The demands on students' time, attention, and focus was very different. One of the wishes I have is that we could find a way to focus more on that ability to just try something new and explore. It would be less likely, just given everything where it is, that a student would just randomly find themselves in the theater. I could be wrong, and I've had some students who have done so. Being an alum, it gives me that lens, but I have to very intentionally [say] 'this is not me, these are other students, and this is not then, this is now.'

After you graduated from Andover, you went on to attend Colby College and the University of Connecticut. What is something surprising you learned at these higher education institutions?

For Colby, I did not go in with the intention of majoring in theater performance. I went in with the intention of majoring in economics, and I did that too. For me, the surprising thing there was the realization that the theater direction was going to be the direction I was going to go. And it was in that sort of collaborative, creative field that was most interesting for me. I stuck with economics for a while, and I still am super interested in it. It's interesting, but the realization that there was something there that was going to be the direction I was going to go was a big, important one.

You've worked in professional production at the



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Connecticut Repertory Theatre and Portland Stage Company. How would you compare professional theater to your previous experiences?

Connecticut Repertory Theatre was tied to my graduate school, so that was a resident professional company under the umbrella. Portland Stage is a professional, regional theater. The biggest difference between that and the work I do in schools is what is the overall goal. In a professional theater, the overall goal is to sell seats to audience members, and they're there to see an artistic work. The secondary goal from that is to do artistic work. In this setting, the primary goal is not really about audience seats. It's not really even about art, although it's connected. There are artistic goals there, but the primary goal is student learning, and especially for the students most directly involved. We're like, how do we set up the

systems so students have this opportunity to learn from the process rather than how do we just get them to that end point? And that informs everything.

What inspired you to teach technical theater on top of practicing it?

The goals are different. If the goal is an artistic, commercial-facing performance, an artistic process that has always just been less interesting to me than one where we are designing a learning process that ends in a performance. For many reasons, that's always been more interesting. Because you need to be much more aware of what you're doing. You need to really rethink how we are fitting this process, not just to students, but to our students. And one of the great things about Andover is that it's going to look really different from term to term, just because of the cadence of our academic curriculum.

You oversee the technical side of department productions and teach courses in Set Design and Stage Craft. How do you think theater has evolved at Andover and in larger productions over the years?

At many places, theater is at best a co-curricular or purely extracurricular after-school activity. Here, it's really woven into our program. As students' lives have become more complex, that structure has been really helpful for us to both tell students when we need them to be in a certain place, but also to help us define scope of what a performance project is going to be. The result of that is that we were actually able to focus on 'what are the learning outcomes, and how do we deliver that within the time envelope we have,' rather than 'how do we find more time and add stress to everybody.'

What is your favorite Commons meal?

A recipe hack. If it is chicken nugget day, you get a tortilla, you get some bacon and some cheese, and then you put the nuggets in, and you make a chicken bacon ranch wrap, and you put it in the panini press.

Where do you like to go and what do you like to do in your free time?

I like the [Cochran Bird] Sanctuary a lot. I'm just around the corner. It's one of those spaces that actually feels unchanged from when I was a student, which is cool. It's also a great place to go and disengage from the speed at which everything happens in the buildings. The common thing I like to do is be outside. Perhaps [it is] a reaction to my job being mostly in windowless rooms.

What is one small thing that always improves your day?

In terms of theater, it's those moments when a student very clearly has learned something that they didn't know before and is excited by that. When those sort of connections happen, it's really rewarding to me professionally... There's always that really cool moment when you walk outside, and it is that either the sun has gone down and you didn't realize that it happened, or it came up. That's more in graduate school when you're in the studio all night, but when something's changed outside, and you realize that you didn't notice that happen. I've learned to take that as a good moment to pause, which is nice.

What is a memory you cherish that you will never forget?

I distinctly remember my daughter's first day of school because it was that first fall back. She started kindergarten in 2020. There was a combination of my kid getting on the bus for the first time in the middle of [COVID-19] when campus was barely open. The reason I'll never forget it is simply because it was just such an intersection of newness and discomfort. But then, it's also helpful to realize that moments like that help you push it and realize, there were all of these variables and everything turned out fine. Your head goes through all the what ifs, and then all those what ifs are actually relatively unlikely, and you actually get to a pretty good place.

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HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY TAYLA STEMPSON & SARAH SUN

Space: Artemis II Mission

NASA launched the Artemis II mission just four days ago on April 1, 2026. According to The Kennedy Space Center, humans are being sent back on the path to the moon for the first time since 1972. NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen from the Canadian Space Agency will orbit around the moon for a 10-day mission before splashing down off the coast of San Diego. NASA stated that the astronauts are putting the Orion spacecraft through a set of tests to evaluate its performance in space. They will perform manual spacecraft operations and monitor automatic activities to evaluate the spacecraft's life-support, power, navigation, and more. They also plan to conduct communication over long distances and trajectory adjustments, according to NASA. The launch was not only monitored from the space station, but also seen by flights all over the country. "BBC" reported passengers on Delta Airlines Flight 1784 travelling from Costa Rica to Atlanta getting a glimpse of the rocket's blast off. According to the "New York Post," some

people have speculated the most difficult part will be safely landing on the Earth near the end of the mission.

Technology: Apple's New MacBook Neo

On March 4, 2026, Apple launched its new MacBook Neo, their cheapest MacBook yet. Apple announced that it comes with four stunning colors, silver, blush, citrus, and indigo. According to CNN, John Ternus, Apple's Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering, described the MacBook Neo as being "totally new" and built "from the ground up" during an event in New York last Wednesday. Compared to other Macbooks, the Neo has a smaller screen and less memory. It also runs on Apple's A18 Pro processor, a chip similar to the ones used to power the iPhone 16 Pro. This is the first time Apple has used one of its mobile chips to power a laptop. Jitesh Ubrani, a research manager for the International Data Corporation explained that he expects the new MacBook to be popular among college students and young adults that may not have as much disposable in-

come. Apple is currently facing a supply chain problem due to the A18 Pro chips reportedly running low according to reputable analyst Tim Culpan.

Sports: Michigan and UConn Advance To Men's NCAA Basketball Championship

In this year's NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, both the Michigan Wolverines and the UConn Huskies have advanced to the championships with Michigan beating Arizona 91-73 and UConn beating Illinois 71-62. The championship will take place on Monday, April 6, in Indianapolis in the Lucas Oil Stadium. Michigan is making their third national title appearance in four years, after winning back to back championships in 2023 and 2024. The New York Times stated that while UConn is a strong contender, Michigan is the favorite to win. According to CBS, The UConn Huskies are second seat with a 34-5 streak and the Michigan Wolverines are first seat with a 36-3 streak. ESPN says Michigan will win if The Wolverines can guard UConn's perimeter players and UConn will win if The Huskies make

shots and Tarris Reed Jr. stays on the court.

Film: Writers Guild and Hollywood Sign Agreement for Better Benefits

On April 5, 2026, the Writers Guild of America and Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) signed a four-year long tentative agreement with Hollywood studios. The guild went on strike, made up of around 10,000 screenwriters, went on strike to come to an agreement with Hollywood Studios in 2023. As reported by the "Associated Press," the vote for this new contract was unanimous and came with better compensation, improved job security, health plan fund protection, and more regulation of artificial intelligence. The associations came to an agreement much faster than the previous strike agreement, which lasted 146 days according to "The New York Times." The Guild and Studios both agreed that discussions had to be kept shorter as to minimize complications and organization necessities, as screenwriters in the Guild's Los Angeles branch had been on strike since February.

Science: New Fossils Found in Southwest China Change Timeline of Evolution

A recent fossil discovery at the Jiangchuan Biota fossil site in the Yunnan province shows that complex life existed millions of years before what the scientific consensus has been, according to "CNN." The fossils were found to be in impressive condition, and scientists are researching them to investigate the factors that allowed for this preservation. Previously, the Cambrian era had been agreed on to be the period when complex life formed due to existing fossil records. This discovery challenges that theory, showing that these organisms from the Ediacaran era had internal organs, limbs, and organic tissue. Ross Anderson, associate professor of natural history at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, commented on the discovery: "What were their ecologies? Where were they living? What kinds of organisms were they? I think that will inform us a lot about our own ancestry. That's something I'm quite excited about from this deposit."

Students Share Goals for Spring Term

REPORTING BY IAN S. KIM & HELEN XIONG

With warmer days coinciding with the arrival of spring, students and faculty resumed their routines and classes for the final trimester. Members of the school community reflected on their objectives for the last term, sharing their motivations, goals, and plans to achieve them.

Maddie Yang '29

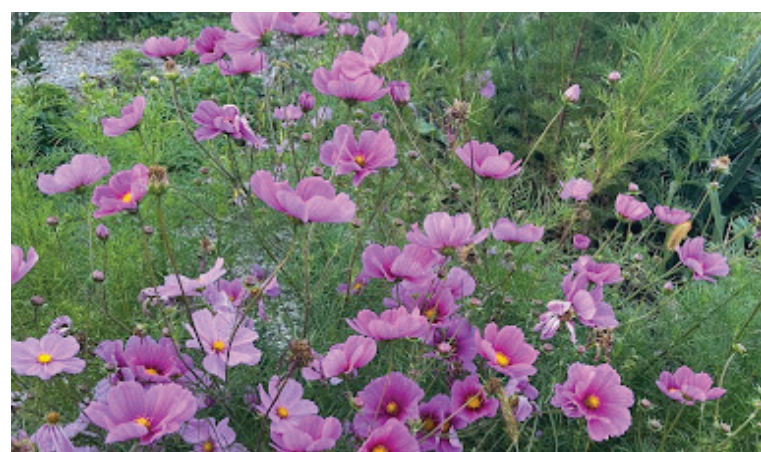
"This spring, I'm really focused on Papers, so I want to refine my research paper and push it to a level I'm proud of. [Reaching out] to mentors and upperclassmen who can give me feedback is something that would help me reach my goal. I also want to keep improving on Girls Varsity Crew and contribute as much as I can to the 3V boat, such as by erg-ing in my free time. Crew is a huge time commitment, so balancing and managing my time efficiently is probably going to be a struggle. It's something I need to focus on this term."

Anoushka Pandey '28

"The weather's been getting better, so I'm hoping to spend as much time outside as I can, [such as] being outside and studying on the lawn with my friends instead of going back to our dorms. The spring does tend to be heavier with work. The same amount of material is being crammed into a shorter period, but all in all, it should be alright. There's not really that much to do during winter because it gets dark so quickly, so I want to make the best of the daylight saving change because now [sunset] is finally at a reasonable hour."

Comfort Halsey Leckerling

"I am doing a yoga teacher training course, so my goal is to complete that and learn as much as I can. I practice every day in some aspect, so I hope to challenge myself to keep doing that. In the community garden, I'm also working on building a perennial bed and transplanting some plants from Eaton Cottage. I go to the garden every day to move plants one at a time and to see how things are going. I really enjoy doing both of those things. They're concrete things that I do to feel well."



COURTESY OF COMFORT HALSEY LECKERLING



COURTESY OF OWEN HUANG

Owen Huang '27

"A goal I have for the spring is to get more organized with schoolwork and to set myself up better, so that I feel more inclined to do work and avoid procrastinating. I've been using my calendar app to put in blocks of time, such as for studying bio or for working on my history paper. In addition to managing my own life, I would like to help some of my younger dorm mates manage their work as a prefect. I'm also rowing this spring, so I'm looking to improve by building speed."

Write for NewsZZZ

email:

- fbret27@andover.edu
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Phiery President

Andover Weekly Memo!

DT Deans Team
(By Konnor Fortini)

☺ ↩ Reply ↶ Reply all ↷ Forward 🗄 ⋮

Dear Andover,

What's up!! It's the **DEAN TEAM**, and welcome back to ANOTHER WEEKLY MEMO!!!!
We hope you read this email in its entirety.

Notes on the Week Ahead

Monday

- Spring Revisit Day: Make sure to tell your revisit how you **LOVE** our **Big Blue** community!

Tuesday

- Juniors and Lower: Get ready for an awesome time at EBI! This week's topic starts with playing the Imposter game and ends with connecting it to how "some people (the people in the know) have more privilege than others (the imposters)."

- Uppers: The College Counseling Office is ready to destroy your life too!

Wednesday

- Please, please, please make your way to the cluster munch from 8:45 to 9:15. This week we got food specially imported from Commons: the delicious crispy cod! Even better: there will be virtually no line. :)

Thursday

- Nothing for today! Just a reminder that we are 80% into the school year and are still waiting on digital Add/Drop... fingers crossed.

Friday

- Mandatory Fun: Attend a formal dinner with your 2026-2027 Co-Presidents at 6-7 PM.

Important Reminders

- If you need an easy leadership position next year, apply for Pine Knoll Cluster Co-President or Cluster Rep!

- Keep your door locked, at all times! Especially at night when we let the English Department loose.

- Seniors, PLEASE GO TO CLASS! We will reach out to your future university and ask them to rescind your application.

Birthdays This Week!!!!

- 04/13: Tuff's Lacrosse

- 04/20: That one PG in the YES+ talks

- 04/27: Samuel Morse

Best,

Your FAVORITE Deans <3

Week's Top Headlines

- *Lowers Found Tripping on Stairs After EBI "Scout" Activity*
- *Co-Presidents Give Students a Good Night Kiss Before Bed*
- *Blue Key Heads Judge Potential Blue Key Head for Next Positions*
- *Commons Stops Serving Eggs After 11 A.M.*
- *Christ makes Unexpected Easter Appearance in Weekly Andover Athletics Update*

Walk 'Em Like a Dog!



CINDY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Thiago Jollon '27 (left, on the floor, cosplaying a particular furry friend) folds under zero pressure.

Historic GAP Meeting Against Dr. Kington Leaves Many in Shock

Claire Bancroft

After an anonymous report (comic in the Eighth Page), Dr. Kington has been invited to the Dean's Office to address several accounts of academic integrity. This unprecedented event is already securing its place in Andover's lengthy GAP history.

The academic integrity violations are as follows:

- 1) Found with a phone open on his lap during a senior administrative meeting. Refused to show the screen.
- 2) "Would you like me to modify the tone of this content in a more formal or descriptive manner?" - spoken out loud at ASM address
- 3) Em-dash count surpasses 26 in one page of writing.

Kington pulled up 10 minutes late to the hearing, and the Deans had already begun discussing his punishment. Upon arrival, he quietly sat beside his cluster representatives as he listened to his case unfold. When given the chance to respond, his casual manner surprised everyone:

"I don't even understand why I am here. It was just Chat istg. Everyone uses Chat it ain't that deep."

Evidently, Kington didn't expect his beloved GAP system to work against him.

Overheard on the Paths

"Can you be my mother for Mother's Day?"

"Ted is a very relatable movie."

"No sabo español now."

"Why is that revisit kinda cute?"

Andover Athlete [KIDNAPPED] at Exeter

Connor Chung

It's 2:48 A.M., and Eddie works on his Spanish essay due the following morning. His blinds are raised. He needs all the light he can get, and the moon barely illuminates his paper. His sleep schedule is one of the best on the Exeter campus, getting at least two hours each night.

Little does he know, the greatest rescue mission in history is happening right before his eyes. In the darkness of the night, Agent A places padlocks on each building. Each building except for the Library.

Eddie was kidnapped by Exeter students and has been forced to live in captivity. It is believed the motive of this capture was to make sure their team could win the Varsity A Tennis game on Friday, but they lost anyway.

Now, a team of five agents (EBI Seniors) is trying to rescue him. Now that they have locked down every building, they enter the library, easily findable because Exeter students never shut up about it, and start climbing the floors.

Upon reaching the ninth floor, they start searching. Nothing to be found. The only thing they find is a ladder leading to a secret level of the building, completely locked to the public. He has to be in there.

They get to the tenth floor and find a chicken sandwich. As protein-starved Andover students, they eat the sandwich for its approximately six grams of protein.

However, they fall into a horrible trap. While eating their chicken sandwiches, they get ambushed by the dastardly Exeter Tennis team, who had set this trap hours ago.

Unfortunately for them, they lost yet again, and the agents made it to the final stage, where they found our kidnapped athlete. Unceremoniously, they throw him off the building. The rope is a little too long, and Eddie goes flying into the ground. It is the lone bright spot of his past couple of days.



The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLIX | Number 8

Courtesy of Rest

April 10, 2026

Baseball Dominates Twice Against Winchendon, Refines Approach Following Loss to Dexter

TIGER WANG

SATURDAY 4/4	
Andover	3
Winchendon	2
SATURDAY 4/4	
Andover	5
Winchendon	2
WEDNESDAY 4/8	
Andover	0
Dexter	1

Baseball (3-2) extended its early-season momentum in a Saturday doubleheader game against Winchendon on home turf. Despite its narrow defeat to Dexter Southfield (Dexter) on Wednesday, the team remains confident.

Owen Prior '29 described the intense, back-and-forth game against Winchendon on Saturday and credited the pitchers who stood out to take the initiative for the team.

"Our pitchers really set the stage in that first game. Michael Gilligan [26], our Co-Captain, threw incredibly well and gave us a solid chance to stay in it. Then, Jacob Honor [27] came in and was outstanding. He has a knack for getting out of jams and is a fierce competitor who always gives 110 percent. Finally, Matthew Ulicny [PG '26] took the mound in the seventh and held them off, allowing us to win it in



Matt Shampine PG '26 winds up for a pitch.

ANDREW PIZZA/THE PHILLIPIAN

the bottom of the inning," said Prior.

The defensive stability provided the cushion for a high-stakes second matchup between the two teams. The dugout struggled to maintain its high enthusiasm from the earlier walk-off win and faced an early deficit, which required mental stability that tested the team's performance under pressure. Thomas Perri '29 highlighted the challenge of the mental reset for the second game of the day.

"After such a high peak in game one, getting a walk-off win and having everyone so excited, we got off to a slow start. [Winchendon] put up two runs in the top of the first [inning], and we didn't answer until the sixth

inning. However, we did a great job of keeping the energy up and trusting our talent. We knew our time would come, and it did. We put together a huge sixth inning to pull off the comeback," said Perri.

Beyond the technical skills and tactical strategies of both teams, Prior noted the energy of Andover's dugout culture. This culture proved vital as the slower start of the second match threatened to diminish the team's fire.

"We all get along incredibly well, and that chemistry translates to the field. We're always cheering for our guys and staying loud in the dugout. In the second game, we were down [0-2] for a significant stretch before we broke through with a big inning.

I remember when we scored the go-ahead run, the entire dugout cleared to celebrate. It's such a high-energy environment, and everyone is genuinely pumped to be a part of this team," said Prior.

Transitioning from its tough comeback win on Saturday, the team struggled against Dexter on Wednesday. The game was highlighted by another strong performance on the mound, which kept the team within striking distance until the final out.

"The biggest success was definitely on the mound. [Matt] Shampine [PG '26] [pitched five innings and two out of the three outs in the sixth inning], only giving up one earned run at the very end. Through the first five innings, he was incredible; he

only allowed two baserunners and racked up a bunch of strikeouts. His energy and charisma always keep the team fired up, and seeing him pitch a gem like that against one of the best teams in the northeast kept us locked in defensively the whole game," said Perri.

Looking forward, the team will use this close loss as a blueprint for future adjustments.

"We definitely had opportunities with baserunners where, if we had capitalized, we could have scratched a few runs across, which was all we needed. There were a few innings where we had guys on second and third with less than two outs. Moving forward, we're going to work in practice on moving runners over and driving them in so that next time, we have those extra insurance runs to work with," said Perri.

While the Dexter defeat was a setback, the team remains positive and assured of its abilities. The team's mindset is rooted in a present-minded philosophy and is hopeful for the future. Shampine described this practical mindset.

"I love this team. We have a mentality that we stay with us, and keep positive energy from pitch one to the last pitch of the game. We have to be where our feet are, or be present, as [Interim Head] Coach Ben [Reinisch '15] says. We had success defensively today and had some quality at-bats, but failed to execute in some big spots," said Shampine.

The team will host Belmont Hill on Friday.

Boys Tennis Shows Growth and Team Chemistry Despite Narrow Loss

JOHN LEW

SATURDAY 4/4	
Andover	3
Taft	4

Boys Tennis (1-2) fell to Taft in a competitive loss on Saturday, losing by only one match. In singles matches, second seed and Co-Captain Ben Shin '26, fourth seed Nick Nawracaj '28, and sixth seed Sean Liu '28 secured victories against their respective opponents. Taft, however, earned a tie-breaking fourth point by winning two out of the three doubles matches.

Despite Andover's defeat, several key moments highlighted the team's potential. In singles, Shin defeated his opponent 7-6, 6-3. George Richardson '27 reflected on a strong start from Shin that

helped set the tone early in the match.

"One moment I can remember from [the event] was Ben's start to a singles match. He started off the game playing really well, so he went up to a 40-0 lead, and then he ended up winning that game, and that really set him up with good momentum for the rest of his match," said Richardson.

Richardson also pointed to the performance of newer players stepping into larger roles, noting how important their development has been as the team adjusts to a roster with four newcomers early in the season. According to Richardson, Nawracaj is one of the new players that flourished in his third match of the season.

"I think Nick, one of our new Lowers, did really well in his match. This was his third match on the team and his first singles win, so I would really like to commemorate him for that, and honestly, he played really well in the match, utilizing the skills we have

been practicing and working on," said Richardson.

For Tomas Tejadaibul '27, doubles stood out as a major positive. Alongside his doubles partner Nawracaj, he was able to secure an 8-3 victory. When reflecting on their performance, Tejadaibul highlighted the importance of communication and trust.

"We won our match, and it was a pretty strong showing from us. We had really good chemistry with one another, and we worked really well together. We made good plans, and I'm looking forward to playing more matches with him in the future," said Tejadaibul.

Sean Liu '28 won his match in 1-6, 6-1, 1-0, and Nawracaj defeated his opponent in 2-6, 6-3, 1-0. A newcomer to the Varsity squad, Liu praised the team's resilience in responding to adversity.

"In both my game and Nick's game, we both lost the first set and were able to come back starting in the second set. So that's an



ELLIOT CHAI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Ben Shin '26 prepares for a backhand shot against a Taft opponent.

important moment for both of us," Liu said.

As the season progresses, the team remains focused on growth and team chemistry. Co-Captain Jeff Shen '26 summarized the team's mindset moving forward.

"We're always saying, 'don't get down on your teammates'. It's obviously good to give constructive criticism, but never harbor any ill

will towards each other and ensure that you're always helping each other out because at the end of the day, success from a teammate is success for the team as a whole, and that means success for you."

Boys Tennis will play Greenwich Country Day School this

Boys Lacrosse Extends Winning Streak Against NMH and Proctor

JOHN LEW

SATURDAY 4/4	
Andover	18
NMH	10
WEDNESDAY 4/8	
Andover	13
Proctor	4

Boys Lacrosse (5-0) extended its winning streak with two

matches against Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) and Proctor. Key injuries allowed new players to step up and shine as the team cruised to a 5-game winning streak.

Luke Honos '28 praised faceoff specialist Alex Dimnaku '27 for a dominant showing, as well as Benjamin Kazlouski '28.

"Our faceoff specialist, Alex Dimnaku '27, went about 95 percent in both games, which is pretty otherworldly. He definitely played really well. Also, shout-out to Benjamin Kazlouski '28, a [Lower] who had to step up after our [Co-]Captain, Jack Farrell [26], got hurt. He's been playing very well all over the field, picking

up ground balls, contributing in transition, and making the right plays," said Honos.

Michael Attubato '28 shed light onto the players who stepped up against NMH when the moment called for it, especially having lost Farrell due to an injury.

"We had just lost one of our best players, Jack Farrell, so we really focused on keeping our defense under control. We had to make several adjustments, with Kele Gregory moving down to close defense and Ben Kazlouski moving up to [long stick midfielder]. We spent a lot of time preparing defensively because of those changes. It was something we worked on a lot, running six-on-

six drills and getting comfortable as a new defensive unit. We also really wanted to win for Farrell," said Attubato.

During the NMH game, Attubato described how the team adapted and fought against a strong NMH offense.

"There wasn't really a specific point where we pulled away. Our offense was consistently strong, but on defense, we struggled with their off-ball movement. They kept finding players open on the inside. Even though we scored a lot and had 18 goals, they were able to keep up because of that," said Attubato.

With the undefeated start, a sense of confidence and hope

towards the rest of the season is seen. Luke Honos '28 described how the team will be able to use this start and build off of it.

"Starting 5-0 definitely boosts our confidence. It's great to open the season strong and build momentum going into a tough stretch of games. It helps us get comfortable playing together, get back into the rhythm of competition, and shake off any rust," said Honos.

Boys Lacrosse will continue its season next Wednesday away against Brewster.

GIRLSULTIMATE

Selene Xu '27 Leads with Energy and Inclusion To Shape Girls Ultimate

ALEX GODSEY

Co-Captain Selene Xu '27 leads Girls Ultimate with a welcoming enthusiasm that has driven the success of the team.



KAYLA LYONS/THE PHILLIPIAN

around, and I feel [that] that's what's important about being a Captain. You can't just be that intimidating person because, I know on some of my sports teams, I was scared of the Captains and I didn't want to be the person [that] people were scared of.

Xu shared that she focuses on building a close-knit and supportive team, where people can come and play sports to have fun. She described the past experiences that led to this philosophy, and the steps that she actively takes to create an inclusive community.

invites new players and works diligently to integrate them into the team.

"Selene has this nobody's left out mentality. Because we have a lot of new kids trying the program this year, she works to incorporate everyone into the activities. She talks to a lot of the new kids, she throws with a lot of new kids, and she would also split up all the returners to make sure that everyone feels really included.

At Andover, sports are typically very results-driven, with pressure to perform coming from every direction. Jane Hlavaty '28 recalled a moment that went against this idea, when Selene and the other Co-Captains dressed up in matching clothes to design a fun atmosphere that acted as a break from a stressful academic day.

"An example of this would be when the three [Co-]Captains for the team all wore matching duck shorts. It was just supposed to be this sort of silly thing, but it was in the first few weeks of playing, and

it was to get everyone to goof off a little bit, be a little silly. And that just really connected the team and made people less serious with each other. I realized that this is more of a community beyond just a competitive sport," said Hlavaty.

Even while working to support the newer players, Xu also fosters growth among returners, working to develop their games on the field. Gong spoke about her personal connection with the Co-Captain, describing the way Xu pushes her teammates to give their best effort on the field.

"Last year, I got really close to Selene. She always had a really bubbly personality, but this year she's definitely pushing more returners into their full potential. She's not letting us catch slack. She's pushing us to new positions that she thinks we can do, and she's also just giving us opportunities to play positions that perhaps we wanted to try, even if that means giving up her own typical spot," said Gong.

Leading with Passion: Niki Tavakoli's Journey

LUCY VINNAKOTA

Niki Tavakoli '27 was first introduced to Girls Ultimate in eighth grade, when her science teacher would take a few students after school and teach them how to throw a frisbee. This marked the start of her love for the sport, which has continued throughout her journey at Andover.

"In eighth grade, I went to a local middle school, and I had a teacher who was actually an alum here. She was a science teacher, and she decided at one point that she would take a couple of us after school, and would teach us basic throwing. She was an Ultimate Captain [at Andover] as well, and her name is actually in [George Washington Hall]. But that is how I got introduced to the fact that I like throwing a Frisbee. When I came [to Andover], I figured, why not give it a shot? And so I basically

started as a novice, and I really enjoyed it," said Tavakoli.

Tavakoli recounted how, in her Junior year, mentorship from Seniors on Ultimate critically aided her development both as a player and now as a Co-Captain.

"I take a lot of inspiration in my leadership, and in character, from the team that we had [my] freshman year. It was two freshmen, two Lowers, and a bunch of Seniors, so just seeing the way that they were able to help us feel more comfortable on the field and on campus was a very formative example for me. And something that I realized is that this was really valuable to me and something that I would love to do for the people on the team," said Tavakoli.

As Co-Captain, Tavakoli focuses on creating a tight-knit community within the team, ranging from throwing a Frisbee to simply getting to know one another.

"My goal is to make Ultimate focused on player development,



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

because a lot of people start off new, so going aside with people, throwing with them, that is really important to bring everyone up to the level where we can function as a team. I try to be a person that has a big mantra, and in Ultimate, we

look after each other on and off the field, so I try to be that person that my teammates can feel comfortable talking to," said Tavakoli.

Teammate Jeannie Kang '28 described Tavakoli's consistently positive energy.

"Niki is like a ball of sunshine. She can be very grounded and mature when leading the group, but she can also be very hyped up, and bring energy to the team. That's what all of us appreciate about Niki, that she knows when to be grounded and when to have fun, and she is very good at serving as the core of the team," said Kang.

Teammate Emma Tan '29 similarly detailed how Tavakoli creates a positive environment during both practices and games.

"She is always pumping people up and being supportive. Even if people mess up, she tries to help them with what they are doing. She always makes sure to be really positive, and she leads by example by always demonstrating drills and throws and everything that we would need to do," said Tan.

Editor's Note: Niki Tavakoli is a News Editor for The Phillipian.

First Throw to Co-Captain: Iris Liu '26 Leads with Skill and Community

WESLEY PHAM

Girls Ultimate Co-Captain Iris Liu '26 discovered the team during her Junior year and quickly fell in love, evolving from recreational beginnings to becoming Co-Captain this season.

Liu highlighted the inclusive nature of Ultimate that drew her in, despite having no experience at the beginning.

"I started playing my freshman year. I remember wandering into Snyder and seeing this 'Ultimate open house' that the returning players and captains were hosting, so I joined them for some throwing and scrimmaging. It was really fun, and everyone was super supportive, so I decided to try it out. I played recreationally

that fall and then joined the JV team in the spring. Ultimate felt a lot less intimidating than other sports, which made it easier to give it a shot, even though I had never played before," said Liu.

Teammate Samantha Gong '28 reflected on how Liu helped preserve the same atmosphere that once drew her in.

"On the field, Iris is very flexible. She makes sure that a lot of people get playtime and that people get the disc. She's also a really strong player when it comes to advancing and playing forwards. Off the field, she's very positive, very cheery, very happy, and it really brings up team spirit," said Gong.

Fellow Girls Ultimate Co-Captain Selene Xu '27 recalled Liu's welcoming demeanor to newcomers on the team during Xu's

Junior year.

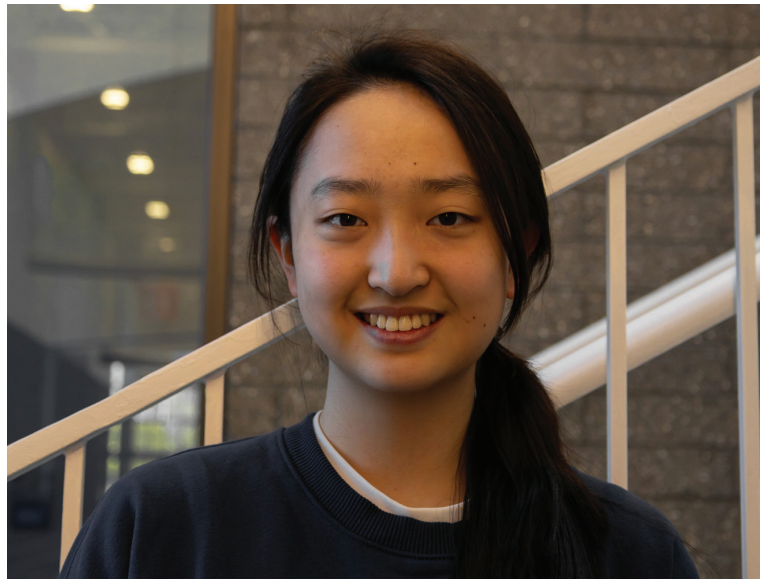
"When [Iris] was a Lower, she really helped me feel comfortable on the team. She wasn't intimidating at all as an upperclassman, and she would joke around with me, and that's when I really started to feel welcomed. Even now, she's one of my best friends on the team," said Xu.

When asked about future plans for her seasoned career, Liu spoke of her excitement for the transition to the collegiate level and the opportunity to meet a new team.

"The college I'm planning to attend has a women's Ultimate team, and I'm really excited to meet everyone, whether that's during revisit days or at the start of next year. At this point, Ultimate has become such an important part of my life that I wouldn't

choose to give it up unless something else made it necessary. I've also heard that college ultimate is

pretty different from high school ultimate, so I'm excited to experience that for myself," said Liu.



TAKUNDA BASVI/THE PHILLIPIAN

GIRLS ULTIMATE

NIKI TAVAKOLI '27 C ANDOVER, MA

IRIS LIU '26 C ANDOVER, MA

SELENE XU '27 C ANDOVER, MA

TIFFANIE AN '29 ATHERTON, CA

OCTAVIA CHUNG '29 MILL VALLEY, CA

SYLVIA SU '29 LOWELL, MA

ALYSSON GUZMAN '28 LOS ANGELES, CA

LILY FRANCO '29 SANTA ANA, CA

CHARLIZE SOW '28 KIRKLAND, WA

SAMANTHA GONG '28 NORTH ANDOVER, MA

SAMMY DONOVAN '28 NORTH ANDOVER, MA

JANE HLAVATY '28 HOBOKEN, NJ

LINDEN HUANG '28 SHANGHAI, CN

JEANNIE KANG '28 SEOUL, KR

KATHERINE POLING '29 ANDOVER, MA

EMMA TAN '29 LEXINGTON, MA

DASHA GOMEZ '28 BOSTON, MA

ELLIE SU '28 RIDGEBFIELD, CT

MING-YI TANG '29 FOSTER CITY, CA

ANGELA WANG '29 ANDOVER, MA

AURELIA ZHANG '27 SHANGHAI, CN

HELEN XIONG '29 BROOKLINE, MA

BOYSULTIMATE

Captain Cyrus Law '27 Leads Boys Ultimate with Energy and Intent

ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN

Boys Ultimate Captain Cyrus Law '27 leads with a balance of intensity and composure that defines both his presence and his team's identity.

Law's introduction came through family. His older brother Linus Law '24 first sparked his interest by throwing with him during breaks, showing him what the sport could look like at a high level.

"I started playing ultimate my freshman spring. My brother had gotten me into it because he was a [class of '24] at Andover. I was really impressed by how good he had gotten at frisbee, and that's when I got really excited to play here," said Law.

What kept him in the sport, however, was the environment. Ultimate's self-officiated structure creates a unique dynamic, one that Law believes draws in players who value respect and accountability.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

"Ultimate is unique in that it's a self-officiated sport, meaning that players on the field make calls, and there are no refs. As a whole, the community is very supportive and very uplifting. Even when I was a beginner, I felt very welcomed," said Law.

That emphasis on community carries directly into Law's leadership. Rather than focusing on being the most skilled player on the field, he centers his role around communication and building a strong team culture.

"My role as a Captain is less

about how good I am as a frisbee player... but more of what type of culture I can build with the team," said Law.

For newer players, that approach is immediately clear. Cristian Ramirez '29 described Law as someone who defines what it means to be a captain both in the way he plays and how he supports others.

"Cyrus is the example of what it means to be a Captain. He's so welcoming. He sets a really good example of tone and mood for practices, games, and the culture of ultimate," said Ramirez.

Law's presence is especially felt in the energy he brings to the field. Whether playing or watching from the sideline, he makes a point to stay vocal and engaged, helping teammates stay aware and confident during games.

"I try to be a very loud player when I'm on the field. I call out things to my teammates that they might not be able to see. But even on the sideline, I am helping them out and cheering when I can," said Law.

That energy often sets the tone for the rest of the team. Team-

mates point to his ability to lift morale and keep players focused, even when the team faces challenges.

"He motivates people. He brings energy to the team. We could all be down, but he's always the person, making the noise, and supporting everyone else," said Ramirez.

Miklos Frusztajer '26 noted that Law's leadership also comes from the standard he sets in how teammates treat one another. By avoiding negativity and encouraging support, he influences the team beyond just gameplay.

"He doesn't really engage in negative team talk. Rather than demean or belittle one another, he inspires us to support one another, and he's really stepped up into being louder on the pitch this year," said Frusztajer.

Through his focus on communication, respect, and consistency, Law continues to shape a team culture that reflects the core values of ultimate. In a sport where players are responsible for both competition and integrity, his leadership helps ensure that the team succeeds in both.

BOYS ULTIMATE

PAXTON AUGUSTE '28 OAKLAND, CA

CYRUS LAW '27 G PAINTED POST, NY

SOLON CHEN '29 HONG KONG, HK

MIKLOSH FRUSZTAJER '26 GUILFORD, CT

JOAO CARREIRO '27 FRAMINGHAM, MA

DEAN YANG '27 NEWTON, MA

NATE GOLDBERG '27 NORTH ANDOVER, MA

JACK GONZALEZ '27 ST MICHAELS, MD

PATRICK MENDOZA '29 WEST ROXBURY, MA

CALEB KIM '29 DOUGLASTON, NY

CODY HOENIG '29 ANDOVER, MA

CRISTIAN RAMIREZ '29 E PROVIDENCE, RI

KAI OBATA '28 MINATO, TOKYO, JP

ZACHARY YUAN '27 HONG KONG, HK

WILLIAM SUELING '26 LUTZ, FL

MATTHEW TRUONG '27 ANDOVER, MA

MANAGERS:

MAYA CLARK '26 EASTCHESTER, NY

LAURYN MORANT '28 ORANGE PARK, FL

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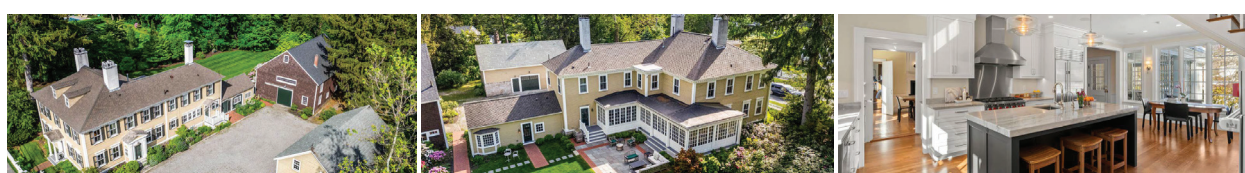
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BOYSBASEBALL

Baseball's Owen Callahan '26 Leads Through Guidance and Example

NATHAN BYUN

Baseball Co-Captain Owen Callahan '26 works to guide the team through a season marked by new faces and new challenges. Callahan emphasized that he strives to lead by example and serve as a model for underclassmen to look up to, both as a player and as a teammate.

Callahan shared that his experience as a Co-Captain this season has been especially meaningful because of how well the team has come together. With four Juniors joining the roster along with PGs, building chemistry was a major priority for the Co-Captains even before the season officially began.

"It's been awesome so far. One of the things I'm most proud [of] is how well the team has bonded together. We have a lot of new players on the team this year, and it was definitely a concern for us [Co-]Captains going into the sea-



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

son, how all these new players and students were going to come together to be part of one team," said Callahan.

He explained that he and the other Co-Captains worked closely with the coaching staff to create opportunities for the team to

connect outside of practices and games.

"[The Co-Captains and I have worked] with our coach to get a lot of time outside of baseball together, like team dinners. Especially in the fall and the winter, we were doing a lot of team meetings and gatherings to make sure we were kind of merging and getting used to each other before the season started," said Callahan.

Teammates described Callahan as a leader whose impact extends beyond his performance on the field. Kaden McNeice '28 noted both Callahan's athletic ability and his character.

"Owen's a great leader for us in warm-ups, on the field as a first baseman, and as a hitter, but he's also a great person. I got the privilege to room with him during our trip down to Florida, and it was my first experience here with the baseball team at Andover. He really made me feel at home with the guys, got me to meet everyone,

and you could just feel the impact that he was making around the other guys," said McNeice.

Nate Dubuc '28 similarly emphasized Callahan's reliability and the encouragement he provides both on and off the field.

"He's a great teammate. He's a real leader. You can go to him with anything, schoolwork, anything baseball-related, gym-related, anything, and he's your guy to give you a real confidence boost and the help you need," said Dubuc.

Dubuc also described the upbeat energy Callahan brings during practices and games, noting how his attitude can shape the team's atmosphere.

"I'd say he brings nothing but a positive attitude and positive energy. With practice today, it was cold out and he got right onto the speaker and played some loud music and got the vibe straight, and we had a great practice," said Dubuc.

Boone Fahey '26 Sets New Standards for Baseball

NICHOLAS JUNG

A member of Baseball since his Lower year, Co-Captain Boone Fahey '26's leadership keeps team morale high during practice and games. Although Fahey was unable to provide comments to *The Phillipian*, his teammates spoke to his positive attitude and encouragement toward teammates.

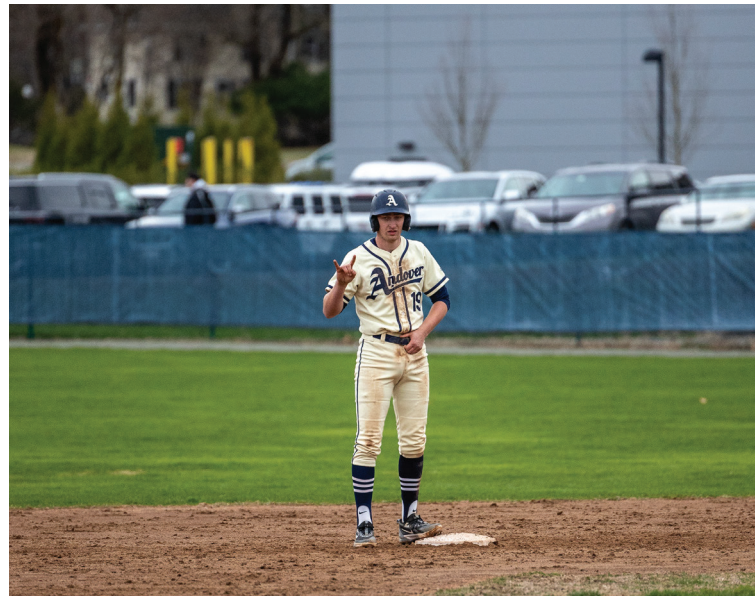
A new player on the team, infielder Cam Baldwin '28, recounted Fahey's fortitude and ability to maintain focus whenever he faced a challenge.

"He goes out there and does his best. Whether or not he gets the result he wants, if you were to talk to him after, he does a good job of sepa-

rating his game from how he treats everyone else. Even if he strikes out or something, he's not gonna get mad at you if you try to talk to him. He goes out there and does his best, and then when he comes back, it's completely different," said Baldwin.

Catcher Nate Dubuc '28 elaborated on Fahey's resilience and positive attitude both in the dugout and on the field.

"Seeing him lead by example and being such a positive guy, and even with his reaction to everything, really, it's just a role model itself. Watching him day in, day out, keeping the energy, and making a statement on how to get work done. Not being the loudest guy, but the guy that leads by example is very important,"



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

said Dubuc.

Dubuc detailed an example of Fahey's leadership from earlier in the week. Despite harsh weather conditions that

drained the team's energy, Fahey maintained intensity and set the tone, helping refocus the group.

"On Tuesday, it was raining

and hailing out, and really, really cold at practice. No one really had the energy to be there. And, you know, Boone really picked us all up and gave us a lot of energy for an important practice before a very important game against Dexter."

Baldwin also explained Fahey's commitment to building confidence across the team, noting how his constructive approach motivates others to improve.

"He encourages me to keep going. Some people, if you mess up a drill or something, they'll get mad at you and get on you about it, whereas he'll tell you what you need to do to get it right next time. He'll say it in an encouraging tone, so you feel excited and ready to try again," said Baldwin.

Michael Gilligan '26 Guides Teammates Towards Success

JULIAN REQUA

Baseball Co-Captain Michael Gilligan '26, with his experience and focused work ethic, has become a model for younger players on the team. Although Gilligan did not respond to provide comments to *The Phillipian*, his teammates spoke to his leadership.

Kaden McNeice '28 explained how Gilligan's personality uplifts teammates and Baseball's overall morale.

"Michael Gilligan is one of the most energetic [Co-] Captains on our team. When we're in games, whether he's pitching or on the bench, he's always up, making sure everyone stays in the game and firing everyone up. He makes

sure everyone is having a great experience with Big Blue Baseball, and he's always a friendly face if you need someone to talk to or want to pick his brain about baseball or pitching," said McNeice.

Teammate Jed Sanchez '29 described Gilligan's practical influence and impact on the team's success.

"As [Co-]Captain, he leads us throughout the games on and off the field. He shows us how to carry ourselves and do it the right way, the Big Blue way. On the field, he's there for everyone, teaching everyone how to play the right way and keeping us disciplined," said Sanchez.

Sanchez recalled practices where Gilligan helped him work on his technique.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

"I've had a couple, mostly on the field and on the bus. He showed me how to read things the right way, set things

up for practice, and ran me through the plays and plans. He's helped me with his prior experience, and he's a very

diligent player. He works very hard," said Sanchez.

In addition to his responsibilities for leading and keeping the team focused during training, Gilligan proves to be consistent in offering advice to his teammates, as McNeice recounts.

"He's a great leader and one of our best pitchers. We're both pitchers, so I like to ask specific questions about pitching: different pitch types, grips, how he handles situations, and what pitches he likes to throw in certain counts. I've also gotten to know him as a person. He's a very friendly face for me and has done a great job introducing me to the team and making me feel at home in my first year at Andover," said McNeice.

Write for Sports!



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Girls Lacrosse Extends Winning Streak Against Holderness and Deerfield

WYATT ORRACA-CECIL

SATURDAY 4/4	
Andover	11
Holderness	2
WEDNESDAY 4/8	
Andover	15
Deerfield	6

Girls Lacrosse (4-0) played against Holderness and Deerfield last week at home and away, respectively. It dominated in both matches and extended its win streak.

The team has done extensive preparation for the season and for each game. Sophie Stetson '29 shared how the

team prepared for the game against Holderness.

“We’ve been working a lot on our offense, especially the different plays we run. We have multiple different plays that really focus on trying to feed the ball to the attackers and the cutters coming from the opposite side, so that’s one thing that we’ve been preparing for the [Holderness] game and all of our games, because it’s been a game-changer for us. We were trying to master those different plays before Holderness,” said Stetson.

According to Stetson, the outcome of the game against Holderness, a nine-goal win, boosted the team’s confidence. Stetson mentioned that the referees handed out many yellow cards to Andover, so the team had to adopt a more cautious style of play and handle the adversity.

Stetson said, “[The game] definitely brought up our confidence. We can go into any game knowing we can do exactly what we did against Holderness and take something away. That’s really something we can take away. We had to stay patient and not commit any more fouls, since the referees were being sensitive to all the different fouls. So, dealing with that adversity is definitely something we can take into upcoming games.”

On Wednesday, its victory against Deerfield match on Wednesday was a momentum boost as the team enters a busy next week with three games within four days. Regan Driscoll '28 commented on what the game meant for the team.

“This win was super crucial for our momentum moving into this weekend and next

week... At the start, things were super back and forth, so for future games, knowing to settle into the game and move the ball with patience is important. The defense as a whole has been super strong and that generates the attack. Specifically, Lola Aguirre '26 did a great job on the draw circle and transitioning the ball up the field. The energy from a few people is so contagious to the rest of the team, making everyone happy to be out and ready to work hard,” said Driscoll.

Even with its undefeated record, the team still reflects on what it improved on and how it executed the plan. Compared to the Holderness game, Stetson shared that she believes that higher IQ plays were the cornerstone of its victory; she also reflected on the game and what the team

learned.

“The main thing [we learned] was that we needed to take care of the ball, and we needed to make sure we were making smart passes and not rushing. That’s something we definitely executed well. When we got off the draw, we were able to bring [the ball] down the field and turn it over less often. That was really helpful. Working on our plays was another big positive, and we were working on timing our cuts to the right at the exact moment, because sometimes we find ourselves getting too cluttered in the middle and not finding the open player. That’s something that showed in the Deerfield game,” said Stetson.

The team will host Milton Academy today at 5:45 p.m.

Softball’s High-Powered Offense Strikes Past Tilton, Mercy Rules Governor’s in Three Innings

WES PHAM

FRIDAY 4/3	
Andover	10
Tilton	3
WEDNESDAY 4/8	
Andover	15
Governor’s	0

Softball (3-0) closed out an eventful week with a 10-3 win against Tilton and a 15-0 victory against Governor’s. Over its past three games, the team defeated its opponents with a combined score of 34-3, including two shutouts.

Anaya Qamar '26 noted

that, despite the slow start in Softball’s game against Tilton, the team persisted in its dominant performances with multiple home runs per game.

“In the Tilton game, we started a little slower in the first inning. We didn’t have the best defense, and they scored three runs on us right away. We really came back well and ended up scoring ten runs, and there were a bunch of home runs as well. Today, it was pretty much a complete blowout. It was a mercy rule in three innings, so we won 15-0 in about half the total game. I think there were about five home runs,” said Qamar.

Qamar pointed to notable players in the game against Governor’s.

“Against [Governor’s], Rihanna Gomez [’26] hit two home runs, so that definitely made a big difference. Also,

Gaby Potter [’27], Gabby Gillette [’28], and Victoria MacKenzie [’28] all hit home runs as well. Pretty much everybody in the lineup got a hit, which was really great. Our offense was really strong. There was really good base running, especially by Mila Fan [’28], who was pinch running and stole a few bases,” said Qamar.

Fan cited the team’s hitting practice as particularly impactful in the game against Governor’s, and commented on her own contributions.

“We spent a lot of time working on it the day before, and you could really tell. People were making solid contact, and once we got going, everything just kept building... I was pinch running, and I was just trying to be aggressive and take advantage of any opportunities. I got a few steals, which was nice, and I think it

helped keep the pressure on [Governor’s],” said Fan.

Maddie Marshall '29 highlighted the team’s strength in focus and communication, as well as its chemistry early on in the season.

“Everyone was doing their job, whether it was at the plate or in the field, and we stayed pretty consistent throughout both games. Our communication was really good, especially on defense. We were talking through every play, which helped us stay really organized. Offensively, we were patient and made good decisions,” said Marshall.

Marshall continued, “We’ve improved a lot in terms of trust and chemistry. Everyone is more comfortable with each other, and that shows in how we play. We’re starting to really click early on, which is exciting.”

Softball continues to hone its offensive skills. Qamar added that, due to inclement weather, the team moved indoors, where it focused on hitting.

“Yesterday, we worked almost entirely on offense and hitting, and that really showed today. Since it was raining, we practiced inside, which meant we had a lot of time to work on tee work, swings in the cages, soft toss, and just hitting drills in general. Our offense really shined today,” said Qamar.

Softball will face BB&N on Friday, Milton on Saturday, and St. Paul’s next Wednesday.

Golf Falls to Tabor, Bounces Back in Win over Exeter

OLIVIA WANG

SATURDAY 4/4	
Andover	4.5
Tabor	7.5
WEDNESDAY 4/8	
Andover	2.5
Exeter	1.5

Over the past week, Golf fell short to Tabor Academy (Tabor) but rebounded with a close victory against Phil-

lips Exeter Academy (Exeter). Despite its tough loss on Saturday, the team’s win against Exeter on Wednesday demonstrated its determination to overcome challenges, especially given the harsh weather conditions in its match against Tabor.

Zorah Williams '26 noted that the weather was difficult, and the strong winds made it hard for the team to play a variety of shots in their Tabor match. She emphasized how these obstacles required adaptability and technical skill.

“We learned a lot about playing in [the] wind. It was super windy, like hurricane type strength winds in your

face. All of us had wind burn on our faces coming off the course. It was brutal. [In] conditions like that, you have to take a lot of low shots that stay close to the ground. They don’t get up in the winds, [because] the wind doesn’t move it as much. Those are hard shots to play, especially if you’re not mystifying it,” said Williams.

Williams praised Captain Evan DeMayo '26 for his notable performance during their match against Tabor.

“Evan DeMayo swept in his match, he won 6 up with 5 to play. That’s a huge, huge one. We were joking on the bus that it was a horrible day to be the Tabor six[th seed], because he got beaten so badly. He did a

lot to contribute to the team overall,” said Williams.

Alexis Lee '28 described the team’s increased focus on match play in recent practices, which aims to simulate the pressure felt during a real match.

“On Monday, we played matches against each other, and that was helpful for playing match play. Usually we play medal play [in practice]. It also puts a bit of pressure on each other. It was more high stakes than just regular practice,” said Lee.

Sophie Lu '28 elaborated on the importance of match play for finalizing match lineup.

“A lot of our practice involves people on the team

playing matches against each other, so the coaches can decide on the rosters for certain games,” said Lu.

Lee shared that their win against Exeter marked a positive shift in momentum, as it was their first of the season.

“It was our first win of this season, so I think that means that good things are coming. I think with the first win, it gives everyone more confidence that [we] can win and [also] have fun,” said Lee.

Golf will play Brunswick this Saturday.

Racing Through the Storm: Boys Crew Starts Season Strong against Salisbury

WYATT ORRACA-CECIL

Boys Crew hosted Salisbury on the Merrimack River this past Saturday. Despite heavy wind and rain, the team put together a strong showing on the water.

Due to the conditions, races were shortened to two-minute pieces rather than full-length races. Shota Lai '28 described the team’s perfor-

mance across boats.

“[Boat 2] did five of [two-minute races], and we lost the first one. We won all the other [races] after that. [Boat 1] won one or two, and lost three or four, out of five races. [Boat 3] won all of [their races],” said Lai.

Sebastian Djerejian '28 recalled how the team kept itself centered.

“It was basically a race; we were still competing against the Salisbury boats. We came

in with that same mindset of doing our best, even if the weather was not so great,” said Djerejian.

Oliver Rogers '28 reflected on the welcoming and encouraging community of Boys Crew.

“Everyone’s super encouraging of one another. The [Co-Captains], Cade [Rutkoske '26] and Dean [Burton '26], are super supportive of [teammates] trying to get better. Charlie [Domina '27]

is, honestly, one of the nicest people I’ve ever met. He checks up on you after a hard erg workout and offers you advice,” said Rogers.

Looking ahead, Lai elaborated on the team’s plans for the remainder of the season, expressing confidence in its effort.

“Since preseason, we’ve been really locked in. I’ve seen people waking up early in the morning to go to the gym and lift and work out,

or even after practice. Everyone’s putting in the work, everyone wants it. We’re practicing hard, every day, we’re doing hard work, steady state, or race pieces, and we’re confident going up against Kent,” said Lai.

Boys Crew will face Kent away on Saturday.

Strong Serving Lifts Boys Volleyball Past NMH

BENJAMIN KAZLOUSKI

SATURDAY 4/4	
Andover	3
NMH	0

This past Saturday, Boys Volleyball (3-0) extended its winning early-season streak with a shutout victory against Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH). While aggressive serving runs and strong momentum fueled this game, the team still hopes to improve some areas of its play ahead of tougher matchups later in the season.

Jonathan Oh '27 highlighted Kai Szanton '26 for his impressive serves, many which were aces, in the game that contributed to the team's success.

"[Kai] went on a very long run of serves where he was [serving aces] and putting really hard serves down. He had a jump top serve instead of going for a float serve, which is a lot more aggressive and risky, but he was getting every single one of them in. Every time it went in and got like an ace, and everyone got fired up. NMH's [performance in serving]



Maurice Ntoro '26 (left) looks on as Justin Puno '26 (right) hits the ball.

wasn't the best, so we took advantage of that. Since we were winning so many points off the first touch or second touch, it pushed the momentum for the entire game," said Oh '27.

Warren Oh '28 shared his admiration for Andover's confidence and enthusiasm, notably in the face of a strong opponent

like NMH.

"We're a team that can adapt very well and play to our competition. When there's a really good team, we always rise to the occasion, and when we face a good team, it really excites us," said Oh '28.

Despite the team's dominant performance against NMH, it

is still early in the season, and players recognize areas for improvement. Oh '28 emphasized the need for patience and smarter decision-making when plays are less than perfect.

"When you can't get a good hit because the set isn't good, we often will hit into the same spot every time. When we're hitting something weak because there's a block up and we can't get a good angle on our hit, it goes to the same spot, which becomes very predictable," said Oh '28.

He continued, "We saw that a lot in Saturday's game, so being smarter when the set isn't perfect and having different shots that hitters can use, aside from simply smacking it down, are really important. We should work on being smart with blocking, like tooling the block, which means using the blocker's hands to kind of get the ball out, and tipping."

Alex Godsey '28, a newcomer to the Varsity squad this season, highlighted the importance of strengthening fundamentals on top of possessing strong decision-making skills during matches.

"We need to improve our basic passing and our ability to hit in the system. When the setter gives us a good ball, we should be able to turn those into kills

more consistently. That's something we struggled with against NMH and throughout the season," said Godsey.

Last year, Andover fell to North Andover High School, and on Tuesday, it hosted the school in a scrimmage. Oh '28 emphasized the importance of staying driven, pointing to its past season's loss against the school as motivation.

"Our goal for these upcoming matches is to hone in on bringing the competitive spirit and the championship energy that we need for these upcoming matches because we played North Andover High School, and we lost to them last year, which left a sour taste in our mouths. They're a good team, and we needed to show our best selves, which means being at practice promptly and practicing the way we play, like we'll have to against Exeter. We really need to be prepared for the more competent teams. Because we've already shown that we were proficient," said Oh '28.

Boys Volleyball will play its next regular season game against Wilbraham & Monson (Wilbraham) on Saturday.

Adaptability Pushes Girls Water Polo through Deerfield and Exeter, Keeps its Unbeaten Streak

EVA JACKSON

SATURDAY 4/4	
Andover	14
Deerfield	8
WEDNESDAY 4/8	
Andover	16
Exeter	12

Girls Water Polo (4-0) defeated Deerfield 14-8 on Saturday and came back from an early deficit to beat Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) 16-12 on Wednesday. Despite playing only away games so far this

season, the team's adaptability has carried it through its first four games.

After beating Hopkins and Williston Northampton (Williston) by a combined 27-5, the team faced its first major challenge against Deerfield. Camden Schopler '27 highlighted the team's composure and ability to adjust.

"Deerfield was a tougher team than our previous two games, and everybody held it together and kept adapting throughout the game. The adaptation is what really led us to win the game," said Schopler.

The team also faced adversity with injuries. Schopler pointed to Audrey Baeten-Ruffo '28 and Helen McNeely '29 for stepping up to assume the goalie position.

"Two people really stood out to me. One was Audrey, who isn't our starting goalie, but our starting goalie had a concussion. So she went in, despite having an injured ankle. And she had to get out throughout the game because it hurt a lot, and we had somebody who had never played goalie before, Helen, who's a freshman, and she got in, and she also did a great job in goal and let in 0 shots," said Schopler.

Mary Li '29 described the team's performance throughout the game and how its strategy changed.

"We did very well in the first and second quarters. In the third quarter, we started falling apart a little. I was getting much more nervous because the other team's scores

were stacking up... but then we had a change of strategy, and we kept changing it to adapt to the situation," said Li.

The team took a timeout to calibrate and reset after Deerfield gained some momentum, which proved successful. Li highlighted that moment as particularly memorable.

"Right after that timeout, we started to adjust to what the other team was doing. We started pressing up more. We also helped much more and strengthened our defense. We adapted, and it turned out really well for us," said Li.

Djenabou Bah '28 shared her favorite moment of the game against Exeter, another pivotal timeout.

"Even though we weren't actually playing, it was a good strategy, and once that timeout

happened, everyone went and did what they were supposed to. You could see the difference in our strategy right after," said Bah.

Bah described how the team's performance affected the rest of the season and clinched its spot in the NEPSAC Tournament.

"This game specifically helped because we have seven schools we go against for the whole league, and this was the fourth match we won... So this game puts us automatically in the NEPSAC Tournament. So that was really good. And the team is really happy about that," said Bah.

Girls Water Polo will face Williston on Saturday, April 25.

Girls Tennis Sweeps Austin Prep, Builds Momentum Through Teamwork and Strategy

XAVIER HOWELL

WEDNESDAY 4/8	
Andover	9
Austin Prep	0

Girls Tennis delivered a dominant performance in Wednesday's matchup against Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep), sweeping all matches for a 9-0 victory. With

a small roster of just eight players, the team's energy, communication, and adaptability proved just as important as technical skill on the court.

Nitya Madduri '28 highlighted teammates' adaptability in the face of unexpected setbacks.

"Two of our top four players in the singles ladder were injured and sick, so [Mira Phan '27] had to step up, and she played really well in both singles and doubles," said Madduri.

Madduri emphasized the team's early momentum as crucial to their overall performance.

"A big moment was when we all won our doubles. When we win these first three matches, it sets the tone for the rest of the singles matches and gives us a lot of confidence," said Madduri.

One of the team's defining strengths is its sideline presence, which Madduri pointed to as a factor in its success.

"Our key strength today was

our cheering from the sideline. Not only did it help motivate, but it's what keeps us a tight-knit team," said Madduri.

Angelina Zhang '27 similarly emphasized the importance of the team's positivity and collaboration.

"The atmosphere wasn't particularly hyped, but everyone was very supportive and we were complimenting each other on good shots, which I believe is more important," said Zhang.

Looking ahead, Girls Tennis

is aiming to build on its practice and translate it into even stronger performances. Madduri summed up the team's focus moving forward.

"In the upcoming week, we want to focus on our first strike and coming to the net as much as possible in doubles," said Madduri.

Girls Tennis will face Winsor on Friday and St. Paul's next Wednesday.

Boys Ultimate Falls to Concord-Carlisle in Narrow Loss

ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN

WEDNESDAY 4/8	
Andover	9
Concord-Carlisle	10

Boys Ultimate Frisbee (1-1) fell short by just one point in a hard-fought 9-10 loss to Concord-Carlisle this past Wednesday in their second game of the season.

At halftime, the team trailed 4-8 and completed an impres-

sive comeback, scoring five more points, while allowing only two more goals defensively by the end of the match. Captain Cyrus Law '27 emphasized the team's response after a slow start.

"We went into the half down 8 to 4, and we scored the last 2 points of the game. If we weren't stopped by the time, I think we would have had a fighting chance," said Law.

Law also highlighted several players who contributed key performances during the team's comeback.

"Nate Goldberg [27] was playing very well. He had a lot of good movement, helping us get the disc

down the field and exploiting weaknesses in the opponent's defense [...] Zach Yuan [27] got open a lot, had a few scores, and had a few layouts, really putting his body on the line," said Law.

Yuan commented on the team's second-half performance, as well as on newer players who achieved new milestones. He also highlighted the team's efforts to follow practice strategies, particularly in defensive preparation.

"In the second half, we put up some of the best Ultimate we've played in a while to bring it within one goal. Caleb Kim [29] scored his first goal... We worked on a

lot of zone defense. It didn't work that well in the first half, so we switched back to our all-person defense for the second half," said Yuan.

Despite fatigue, the team maintained strong energy throughout, according to Law.

"We had maybe four or five people out for sickness, so we were pretty tired. We didn't have a lot of subs, and it was a long game. But there was a lot of energy with lots of cheering and celebrating. We knew we had to get our heads back in the game, and we did have a comeback," said Law.

Looking ahead, Paxton Au-

guste '28 described the team's focus on their execution and communication, especially because of the number of new players this year. Five Juniors joined Boys Ultimate this season.

"We want to make sure everyone knows what they're doing, making sure our communication is good so that we don't give up points," said Auguste.

Boys Ultimate will face Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), Williston Northampton (Williston), and Xavier in a jamboree on Saturday.



ARTS & LEISURE

The Phillipian, VOL. CXLIX



LOTW: Claire Wang '26 Bears Ineradicable Silver Rings, Vintage Patterns, and Shining Red Hair

DYLAN KANG & OLIVIA TEMPLE

Silver bracelets shine as Claire Wang '26 adjusts the sleeves of her cardigan. Patterns are layered over one another in a way that feels natural rather than planned. Wang's outfits rarely follow a single theme, but they consistently feel like her.

At Andover, Wang's style stands out because of the way she blends all sorts of influences. Her love for bold patterns like polka dots and her instinct for mixing styles reflect her personality.

"I tend to lean toward more polished looks, but I've been try-

ing to add more edge... I've also been really into mixing bold patterns and bright colors. Another distinctive thing is my jewelry. I wear rings, bracelets, and necklaces every day. I sleep in them, shower in them. I basically never take them off except when I'm playing the violin. Even if I'm just wearing a hoodie and sweatpants, my jewelry ties everything together and makes it feel like me," said Wang.

Rather than having a fixed formula, Wang builds her outfits through instinct. Each piece in her closet has been chosen intentionally, allowing her to combine items freely.

"I wake up, pull something out based on intuition, and then build from there, adding or tak-

ing away pieces. I don't really think about it that much. Everything in my closet works together, so no matter what I pick, it usually makes sense," said Wang.

Even on rushed mornings, when outfits come together unexpectedly, Wang embraces the result as part of her own identity.

"Sometimes I throw on random clothes because I'm running late, and people joke about it, but I think that's kind of beautiful. It tells a story about my day. I believe clothes have energy, but they're not the most important thing. There are more important things, like people and memories," said Wang.

Wang's friend, Maggie Fulop '26, appreciates the individuality shown through her style.

"Some of my favorite pieces are her tabby ballet flats covered in silver leaf... She also has a really unique jewelry stack... She has a Vivienne Westwood pink orb necklace that she wears almost every day," said Fulop.

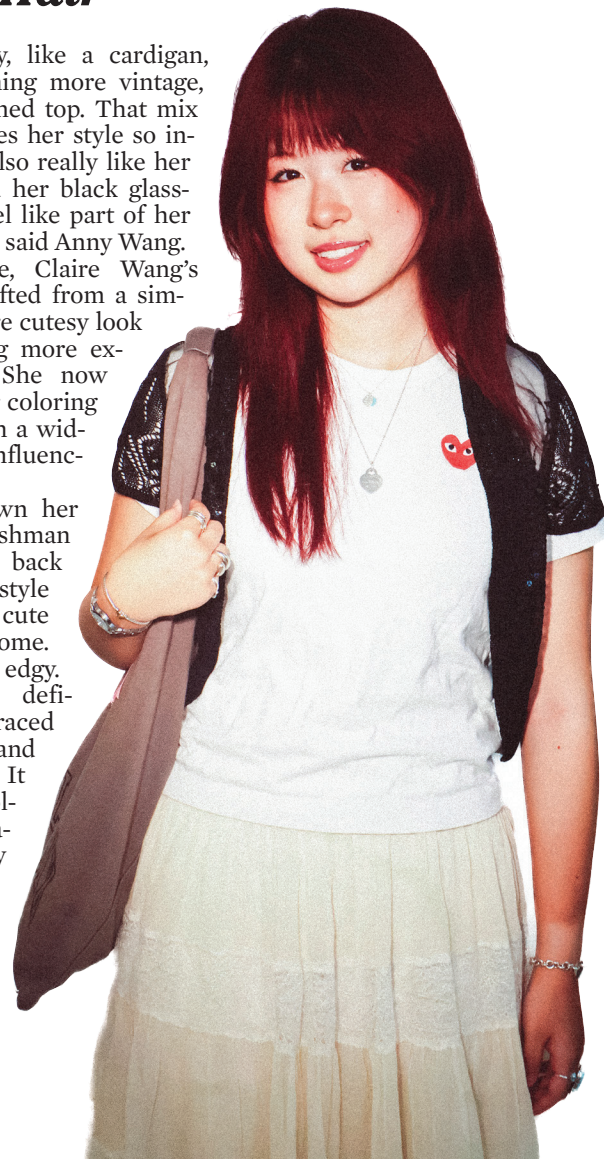
Along with her unique and diverse closet, Wang's style spreads to her physical appearance. With dyed hair and signature framed glasses, Anny Wang '26 recognizes that Claire Wang's overall aesthetic isn't just physical, fabric items, but also the accessories and cosmetic decisions she makes.

"Her closet isn't defined by just one look. She'll mix some-

thing preppy, like a cardigan, with something more vintage, like a patterned top. That mix is what makes her style so interesting. I also really like her red hair and her black glasses. Those feel like part of her overall look," said Anny Wang.

Over time, Claire Wang's style has shifted from a simpler and more cutesy look to something more experimental. She now mixes bolder coloring patterns with a wider range of influences.

"I've known her since freshman year, and back then her style was more cute and wholesome. It was less edgy. Now she's definitely embraced more edge and quiriness. It feels less polished in a traditional way and more expressive," said Anny Wang.



JEREMIAH NUÑEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN



JEREMIAH NUÑEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN

Wang's vintage jewelry mixes in bright colors and bold patterns.

Bartlet Street: Downtown's Healthiest Habit

CHARLIZE SOW & SOOHAN CHO

Tucked just off the main stretch of downtown Andover near J.P. Licks, Bartlet Street might be easy to walk past, but for a growing number of Andover students, it has become one of the most sought-after spots for an off-campus meal. With its chicken parmesan, avocado toast, smoothies, and extensive gluten-free options, Bartlet Street has steadily built its reputation as a culinary staple for those seeking for something fresher and healthier in downtown Andover.

Evelyn Kung '26, who was first introduced to Bartlet Street during her Lower year, has watched its following grow firsthand. Kung credits the food's freshness as a main factor for coming back.

"When I first went, it wasn't that popular, but now every time I go, it's completely packed. Most of the time, you can't even get a table... Everybody is there. Now it's become one of my favorite places over the years. I really like how they have a bunch of options and take a lot of variety. The food is definitely a lot more on the healthier side[and] not many restaurants downtown have healthier foods, like smoothies or avocado toast. The overall freshness of the food makes it unique," said Kung.

The sheer diversity of the food offered also draws stu-

dents who simply want more variety than most downtown spots offer, including Sarah Wang '29.

"I know there [are] a lot of options here. It's not just one cuisine. It's more diverse and it's cozy too [...] I would definitely try new stuff, because there's a lot on the menu. A lot of the menu items are unique and they're different from Brooks's, for example, which is mostly pizza," said Wang.

For students with dietary restrictions, Bartlet Street stands out even more. Jane Hlavaty '28, who is gluten-free, noted that roughly 90 percent of the menu can be made gluten-free, a level of accommodation she described as a rare find downtown.

"Even the restaurants that do offer gluten-free options are very limited. For example, at Brooks's, it's just pizza. The options are very limited and sometimes don't taste that great... At Bartlet Street, the gluten-free items are on par with the quality of their non-gluten-free items. It's just a great place for anybody with dietary restrictions, or honestly just anybody who wants something healthy that still tastes great," said Hlavaty.

Beyond the food, students consistently pointed to the atmosphere of Bartlet Street as another significant draw. Hlavaty, who returned frequently during finals week to study, described the interior



KAREENA KAPOOR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Students enter through the main doors of Bartlet Street in downtown Andover.

as a space that felt distinctly conducive to both work and conversing with friends.

"It's a good place for chatting and less crowded than [Caffé] Nero if you want to do work. It's more of a diner vibe, very casual. If you even want something to grab for breakfast, you can just walk down and get a smoothie. It's very lowkey," said Hlavaty.

Wang echoed that sentiment, noting that the restau-

rant's crowd, consisting mostly of students, adds to the familiarity and comfort of the space.

"It was mostly all students so it was a nice environment. The space was pretty cozy, the workers were really nice, and I liked the food a lot... I think it's pretty popular especially considering most of the people that we saw there were Andover students when we went," said Wang.

For many regulars, Bartlet Street has also become a social destination, allowing for friends to catch up on their weeks outside busy campus life. Kung, who juggles a busy schedule like most upperclassmen, shared how the restaurant offers something Paresky Commons simply can't.

"It's a really good place to go when me and my friends want to hang out if we don't see each other during the week because of classes and our schedules. It's good if you don't want a heavy meal as well. I'm also a huge fan of LaRosa's and Kokoro, but I feel like Bartlet Street is really good for when I'm not starving but still want a nice fresh lunch," said Kung.

Similarly, Wang pointed to the value of restaurants like Bartlet Street as hang out spots distinct from campus. As a student who sees downtown as an extension of school life, places like these are irreplaceable.

"I think downtown itself

is a big part of the school environment and interacting with friends. Being able to talk, hang out, and go places with friends is really nice as a break from campus. A lot of the small places that aren't chains like Bartlet [Street] are nice as a smaller place to get a meal," said Wang.

The one recurring criticism was the size of the restaurant, with its limited seating and busy afternoons, where finding a table can feel like a challenge in itself. Kung, who visits regularly enough, has said it is the only real drawback she has noticed.

"Every time I go it's completely packed. Most of the time you can't even get a table, especially during Friday protected time. Everybody is there. I feel like that's definitely the main [downside], because it's really small. Sometimes there isn't space, but outside of that I haven't noticed much," said Kung.

Despite the occasional bustle, however, the consensus on Bartlet Street remains overwhelmingly positive. Hlavaty, who believes the restaurant's reputation has yet to fully catch up with its quality, put it simply.

"I think a lot of people know about it, but I don't think many use it as a first option. For brunch or lunch, it's pretty good, and I would definitely recommend it. I think it's a little underhyped," said Hlavaty.



KAREENA KAPOOR/THE PHILLIPIAN

The health focused restaurant's street sign.

Writing Across the World: A Statement on Multiculturalism Through Language

JIA-YI ZHI &
ALEXANDER TONG

Gavin Shyroch '28 recently won a special award from the Japanese consulate general through a Japanese speech and essay contest. The contest itself was sponsored by the Boston branch of the Japanese consulate general, which is located in the Japanese embassy. The constraints of the contest included a character count under 800, and limitations on the length of time participants could have lived in Japan or spoke Japanese at home. It was introduced to Shyroch by Ms. Teruyo Shimazu. The pair dedicated their time and energy into creating an essay that discussed the importance of multiculturalism and interaction with foreign languages.

Shyroch discussed the premise of the contest, as well as how dedicated preparation helped him address the difficulties of writing in another language. He stated that one of his main reasons for choosing to enter the competition was for the practice of the language itself.

"The competition was generally focused on essays and speeches talking about the benefits of multiculturalism and what can be gained from interacting with a foreign language. A particularly unique point was that the essays were intentionally very short. They could not be over 800 characters, which translates to one side of a page, so it was definitely a challenge to create something that was mean-

ingful but also compact... the difficulty was expected, but also welcome. I participated in this specifically because my goal was to work on my writing [because] much of my fluency is predominantly spoken. I'm a much better speaker of Japanese than I am a writer or reader of Japanese," said Shyroch.

His instructor and the person who introduced the competition to Shyroch, Ms. Teruyo Shimazu, elaborated on the details of the writing process.

"I announced this opportunity to my students and Gavin thought this was a good opportunity for him to try. He started working on it. He is in the 600 class, so when he wrote it, we shared it with the classmates and asked for feedback on the contents. Then Gavin started editing according to the feedback. Because I don't think it's fair that I just pitch in and edit for him, I just talked about some formats. His work is his authentic work. Gavin is not a native speaker, but he's just into it. He goes beyond the work, beyond the class, and he just keeps doing and doing. It's really rewarding for me," said Shimazu.

Having only taken two years of Japanese at Andover, Shyroch elaborated on where most of his Japanese experience came from.

"This is actually the first time I've submitted for an essay competition in any language, actually. That being said, I feel like I definitely had a very firm grasp of the

mechanics of the language... I attended, for the past four years now, an immersion camp based in Minnesota, run by Concordia College. The staff speak exclusively Japanese. It's a fantastic experience, both because it's a very legitimate and sincere interaction with the language, which is super hard to get in the U.S.," said Shyroch.

Shyroch offered his perspective on how new technology, even on Andover's campus, can affect the way languages are learned.

"You're learning a culture as well as a language, and it's very important to do that with other people. That's part of the reason that Andover is an amazing community. Because we have so many people from so many different places, there will be at least one other person who's interested in obtaining fluency in the language you're interested in, unless you're interested in speaking something really obscure. Take advantage of the community that is being offered to you and find other people who are interested in learning that language because real conversational practice is the best thing you can do," said Shyroch.

Both Shyroch and his instructor encouraged students to participate in these events to realize that language is more than a grade on a transcript. Shimazu especially emphasized that students should enter competitions outside the Andover bubble to remember there is more out there.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Gavin Shyroch '28, recipient an award from the Japanese Consulate General.

"You would get to envision what your achievement on campus is in comparison to the regional and national level. You would get to understand that what you are studying is not only for the transcript, but also the actu-

al usage. And then, being at the ceremony, you get to hear other people's essays and other people's speeches," said Shimazu.

The Din & Tonics Return to Andover with Humor and Harmony

FATIMA BAH & CHARLIZE
SOW

For the second consecutive year, Harvard's Din & Tonics brought their acapella act to Susie's last Friday night. The set featured vocal arrangements of classics like "Shaboom" and "McDonald's Girl," alongside comedy bits and crowd interactions that drew as much of a reaction as the singing itself. For several across campus, the night brought not just a new experience, but also a collective sense of awe.

Jane Hlavaty '28 expressed particular excitement for the group's return. Having been one of the students who first pushed to bring the group to campus the previous year, she found their second performance to be an especially rewarding experience.

"Last year they hosted the event, and me and a friend from history class, Sammy Gong ['28], decided that we really liked the group and were trying to see if they could come to Andover. So we reached out to our history teacher, Mr. [Christopher] Capano, who was the head of student activities, and asked him if he could invite them over. He did, and it was really, really fun. I just wanted to experience that again this year," said Hlavaty.

Hlavaty further commented that the event's most memorable qualities was the atmosphere the group created in Susies. Rather than feeling distant or overly staged, the performance felt relaxed and genuine, animated by the group's rapport with one another and their willingness to interact with the audience.

"I think it was really cozy, honestly. They were very in-



ANDREW PIZZI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Din and Tonics performing for the second time inside Susie's.

teractive with the crowd, and the crowd really loved them. We were hyping them up, and they had a lot of jokes that the crowd enjoyed. It was just a very comfortable, cozy space. I feel like we were all just there to appreciate the music and enjoy the spirit of a cappella, which is more about taking life easy and appreciating everything around you," said Hlavaty.

The sense of ease in their performance, however, did not compromise the group's musical execution. Elisa Feygin '28, a singer in various a cappella groups on campus, noted that the Din & Tonics maintained a level of vocal precision throughout the performance that was difficult to find fault with.

"I just loved the way that they interacted with each other while they performed. I loved how interactive they were with us, as well, because it just felt so conversational and informal, and it was just like a really cool thing to watch...The blend was perfect. All the soloists were so good, and I loved the way one person didn't overpower the rest. It was just very balanced and professional and polished, and I really liked it," said Feygin.

Gabbie Kawooya '27 echoed Feygin's remarks, pointing in particular to the group's synchronization and vocal consistency. Even in a casual setting, the performance still reflected a high degree of rehearsal and cohesion.

"They always have such amazing synchronization. They always sound so together. Their harmonies are always on point, and they're incredible. I think they were amazing in all the songs that they chose. It's clear they've worked a lot on everything," said Kawooya.

Prior to the performance, the Din & Tonics also held a meet and greet, giving students the opportunity to speak with members of the group on a more personal level. For Kawooya, the conversation moved from questions about the group's rehearsal process to what life at Harvard looks like.

"I got to meet a couple of them and talk to them, and they were really nice. I talked

to them with my friend, and they told us a lot about the rehearsal schedules and what their day-to-day lives are like at Harvard. They're really easy to talk to. I know I talked to one of the girls named Shannon, who I think is graduating this year, and she was really, really sweet, and she was really fun to talk to," said Kawooya.

For Feygin, this performance was memorable not only for its musical quality, but also in prompting her to reflect on her own journey as a singer. Watching the Din & Tonics perform offered a fuller sense of what an a cappella could achieve, both musically and in the sense of connection it created with the crowd.

"Watching them and seeing the potential for what an a cappella group could be was really encouraging and made me want to kind of connect more without formal performances. They sang 'Lonesome Road,' which is a piece that our chorus performed last term...we were all gripping each other up front, because we were all so excited to hear the Din & Tonics performance, and they [performed the song] so beautifully. They had great dynamics. Everything was amazing about it," said Feygin.

In Hlavaty's view, the performance ultimately reaffirmed what had drawn her to the Din & Tonics in the first place.

"I think the biggest thing is the spirit of the Din. They're very appreciative of life. Their songs are very upbeat, even the more mellow ones. It's like they notice the little things in life and appreciate the time spent around people," said Hlavaty.

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New PSPA Collection Blends Campus Memories With Modern Style

DYLAN KANG & OLIVIA TEMPLE

As Spring Term has officially commenced, Parents of Students of Phillips Academy (PSPA) dropped limited spring merchandise inviting students and parents to take a look. Elena Kim P '27, P '28, a PSPA member, explained the wide variety of items included in the new merchandise.

“The [spring merch] collection includes hoodies, crew-necks, t-shirts, and a few accessories like tote bags and hats. We chose these items because they’re things students actually wear on a daily basis as their everyday style... We tried to keep the designs clean and modern so that students would feel comfortable wearing them both on and off campus,” said Kim.

Apart from original best-sellers, there were new items, designs, as well as partnerships with different brands. Victoria Kunzer P '29, the Campus Closet crew manager, commented on the new pieces of clothing available this term.

“We have a lot of staples that we try to have year after year that are really popular, like the navy hoodie. But then we try to do some new things, and some different colors for this year. The [partnership with the brand] Rab was a new experience for us. We are always interested in student feedback for designs or ideas or maybe brands that we’ve never heard of that we might want to try out,” said Kunzer.

Stand-out items included the Andover Pillow and Blanket, both created by partnership with J & Burke, which is a hand-stitched clothing brand founded by Colby Gendron



COURTESY OF PSPA

A pillow and a quilt with the new design, highlighting aspects of the Andover community.

’18. Kunzer explained in detail about the unified design of the two items.

“[The design of Gendron’s clothing] encompasses the entire four years at Andover in one small keepsake, which is really special. It has all the different quads, buildings, dorms, and all the activities there... It also has inside jokes and words you are only going to know if you have experienced your time here as a student, such as [team chants] during Andover-Exeter weekend,” said Kunzer.

Noriko Yamaoka P '28, the director of Campus Closet, em-

phasized the significance the two pieces of clothing hold.

“[Colby Gendron] brought up the design because he graduated from Andover. That’s why he made [his memories] into a piece. He brought all those memories, and he was also talking to his friends who also graduated [Andover]. He said he wanted to make a special item for you [students] when you graduate,” said Yamaoka.

Student feedback about the new items were mostly positive. However, some students expressed wishes of more diverse colors and sizes. Kunzer P '29



COURTESY OF PSPA

elaborated on recent feedback Campus Closet has received.

“The students said they love to come over, bring the parents, and then [take a look at the clothes]. And see, the problem [they said] is that sometimes we run out of certain sizes, and I feel bad when we don’t have a certain size, because we can only order things through the season. But, we always encourage [students] to try to grab something if [they] see something you like, as [we] might not have it back again.”

The spring merch also played a role beyond simply clothing

by serving as a link between students and parents. Kim P '27, P '28 added on the meaning Campus Closet merch brings.

“The collection helps create a sense of connection between students, parents, and the school as a whole. It allows parents to feel more involved in their child’s experience and reinforces a shared sense of identity and community... Even for parents who are not physically on campus, it creates a link to their child’s experience and to the broader community,” Kim said.

LWNG100: Intro to Lawning at Andover

ALFONSO GONZALEZ-CANO & HAYLEY FAN

ALEXANDRA LOVE '29

“I really like playing spike ball or throwing around a frisbee with friends. Being with friends who I never really got to enjoy the spring with before [makes everything much more fun]. A good game of spike ball for me is the best. I typically do [lawn] towards the end of the day, but I go to bed with a really good adrenaline rush and feel really well rested for [the] next day. [Lawning] shows how the [Andover] community can come together, especially [after] the winter. [Lawning] really brings out the liveliness of the community.”

MATTHEW WEI '28

“[I like] flying a drone. I do it with a couple friends. We flew to the Bell Tower two days ago. We flew to the top. It’s a nice thing to do with friends. Everyone gets to take turns. A little bit of competition is good as well, do[ing] some physical activity. I lawn towards the end of the day. A lot of times we get so involved with our grades, extracurriculars, sports... that we forget that sometimes you need to relax as well. And a lot of people think relaxing is like playing League of Legends in their room or is consolidating themselves. But I feel like the most relaxing thing you can do is to breathe in fresh [air] with some friends, no matter what you’re doing and just let all that stress out. My personal favorite lawn is the one right outside Rockwell. We explore the Great Lawn, the one in Pine Knoll, and the one in Abbot. I[d] say it’s an adventure to find all the different lawns.”

When the grass finally turns green and the air loses its sharp chill, outdoor activities appear again. Among these, an age old Andover tradition stands out: lawning. This is when students spend time on the great lawn and enjoy the warmth of the sun. Now, the time for lawning is once again upon us. Whether you’re an experienced upperclassman or a freshman lawning for their first time, here is how Andover lawns.



ANNIE MASTERSON '27

“Lawning makes my mood so much better and makes my day so much better. It makes me feel like I did something fun during the day, and since it’s during the middle of the day, it breaks up the day really nicely. A lot of Andover students can tend to want to hole up in their rooms and do all their work and prioritize work before everything else and just get all of it done. That is good sometimes, but I think it’s very important to have breaks from all the work for your mental health. Lawning gets you outside and makes you take that break, which is good for you. Also, being around other people in an environment of happiness, generally just makes you more happy. Everyone out there is really excited and it makes you have that too. When everyone is out doing this, it becomes a shared experience, and you’re all enjoying the same thing together. There’s a stronger sense of togetherness and being part of the community.”

KARLA SAFARIKOVA '27

“My favorite activity to do while lawning is probably to just sit there and talk to my friends. It sounds a bit boring but it’s really nice, especially when it’s the first couple of warm days because you are just outside enjoying the weather. Although at times we also like to play games like wavelengths or imposter which are really fun as well. When lawning I prefer it when there are a lot of people out and someone is playing music. Generally, just the good vibes where everyone is happy to be outside.”

Lillian Montalto

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