

Students Savor Slushies and Stations at Quad Night



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Cindy Duan '28 (left) and Julianne Neff '28 (right) try on various costume props at Quad Night.

HELEN XIONG & KANGHUI KIM

Students brought excitement to Quad Night last Saturday, which featured food stands, inflatable attractions, and dorm-run activity tables. This year's Quad Night also included a slushie stand and firepits for roasting marshmallows. The lighting of the event was a newer logistical factor for Quad Night. Before becoming an evening tradition in 2025, the event took place during the day. According to Christopher Capano, Director of Student Activities, the shift in timing was driven largely by student schedules and attendance. "For the longest time it used to be 'Quad Day,' and we would do it on Sunday afternoon. But we started to realize that the crowds were getting smaller and smaller because [students] have so much homework and [on] Mondays, all seven periods meet. We switched it to Quad Night a few years ago. We noticed that the kids stuck around. It was a bigger crowd, and we've been doing it since," said Capano. In preparation for Quad Night, students worked in dorms to organize an activity table.

Booths featured caricature drawing, card games, and tarot readings. Clio Canellos '30 identified the student-run caricature drawing as an enjoyable attraction. "The caricatures were super fun. Everyone enjoyed the funny faces, and I really liked how I saw people in my grade drawing them, which made it more fun," said Canellos. Having attended Quad Night in the past, Chance Hernandez '29 enjoyed the larger selection of activities this year and found the human foosball attraction to be amusing. "[Quad Night] is an opportunity for people to have fun experiences with their friends. I had expectations from last year, which are being lived up to so far, as well as all the inflatable stuff, which is humorous in the degrading nature of tying yourself up to a rope... There's more areas to explore, so it's more time you can spend here," said Hernandez. For many students, the event served as a leisurely opportunity to bond across residential boundaries. Cyrus Law '27 also noted that the night provided a relaxing space for the broader student body to ease into the fall term. "[Quad Night] helps people get a better sense of dorm community, especially in the quads, but it's also something that any-

one in other clusters can enjoy too. [The purpose of Quad Night is] to have fun and take it easy from the start of Fall term, kind of [to] set the mood," said Law. Though the goal of fostering student connection and fun remains the same, the attractions and food options change slightly each year. Capano mentioned adding a new food item next year in response to student requests. "[This year,] we rented more rides... we had four rides this year and only three the year before. We did snow cones or slush this year, which was a new one. I know next year we want to do fried dough. A couple kids asked me, and I was like, 'Yeah, absolutely,' so for [Quad Night next year], we'll have fried dough," said Capano. After attending both Fall Carnival and Quad Night, Canellos suggested a more cohesive range of activities for Quad Night in the future. "I really like the maze from the Fall Carnival. Maybe they could have a Quad Night theme or something because I really enjoyed how the carnival had a theme where they had the corn maze and the bull, but this one didn't seem to have a theme [to unify] it," said Canellos.

History Department Administers Diagnostic Assessments to Gauge Skills and Align Grading

TEDDY STEINERT & SAYA OISHI

Last week, all students in History 100, History 200, and History 300 took in-class diagnostic assessments designed to evaluate their ability to analyze and interpret sources. Although the assessments varied in structure across courses, all involved using evidence to respond to a prompt under timed conditions. Keri Lambert, Chair in History and Social Science, explained that these assessments were designed to provide teachers with an early understanding of students' writing abilities. "These common assess-

ments shared most of the same goals; for example, we wanted instructors to gain an early sense of students' historical thinking and in-class writing skills and for students to receive some actionable feedback on a low-stakes assignment before completing more significant majors," wrote Lambert in an email to *The Phillipian*. In the 2026 State of the Academy, 66.3 percent of respondents identified History when asked which departments had an unreasonable grading disparity between teachers. Lambert elaborated on how these assessments

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Paresky Commons Revamps Menu to Expand Variety



OLIVIA ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

TEDDY STEINERT & BELLA HE

As a result of several changes implemented by Paresky Commons (Paresky) this year, students have already begun to notice improvements in their dining experience. According to Paresky faculty, these changes include the removal of duplicate stations to promote variety, a beans and rice counter, a dedicated protein station, as well as new pizza toppings and gluten-free pizza at the Hearth.

The changes were introduced in response to general feedback from students, satisfaction surveys, and an annual self-assessment conducted by the Paresky Dining Team according to Ernie Nelson, General Manager of Aramark, a company which facilitates food services for Andover. "Our menus are developed in a collaborative process that involves culinary expertise, nutrition science, and student and client feedback from all of

Continued on A5, Column 4

Andover Athletes Respond to Sydney Sweeney's Novig "Just Sports" Advertisement

SARAH SUN & VICTORIA CEN

Sydney Sweeney's "Just Sports" advertisement for the sports trading app Novig has gone viral, sparking a wave of backlash online. Thousands of female athletes have taken to social media, posting images and videos of themselves competing, training, and participating in their sports. In response to the ad's portrayal of women in sports, the posts have highlighted representation, athleticism, and how society views female athletes. Abby Jeong '29 noticed that the ad focused more on attractiveness, particularly through its visual emphasis on Sweeney's appearance, than on achievement in women's sports. "The ad suggests that women's sports are not as 'legit' as men's and are more for visual appeal than actual achievement. In fact, the

only time Sweeney actually demonstrated a sport in the ad was a single golf swing, otherwise, it was just her posing nearly nude with sports equipment. In this way, the ad is associating 'just sports' with women's bodies, insinuating that women's role in sports is to look good playing them rather than playing well," said Jeong. The ad's portrayal of Sweeney's body also raised questions about the difference between sexualization and bodily confidence. Mad-dy Lehman '27, Co-Captain of Girls Crew, questioned the ad's presentation of women's bodies and its connection to sports betting and sports as a whole. "The way that she's dressing and the way she's talking about sports had nothing to do with the message the company was

Continued on A5, Column 1

Students Launch 'STEM Night' Initiative to Draw Importance to STEM at Andover

JOHN KIM

Borden Memorial Gym (Borden) bustled with chatter and excitement as students toured the booths of several clubs during Andover's inaugural STEM Night. Coordinated by members of the Phillips Academy Robotics Club (PARC), the event

last Friday invited fifteen STEM-related clubs to introduce themselves, arranging a space for interested students to sign up for clubs ahead of the larger club fair. STEM Night was primarily organized by Hayley Fan '29, Ryan Zhu '29, and Grace Zheng '28, all of whom are involved in PARC and other STEM clubs. Fan elaborated on the rationale behind hosting the event.

"The club fair is so big. So many clubs, so many people milling around in Snyder, and each club, each booth, only gets max a couple of minutes of attention. The problem with that is STEM clubs are instruction,

Continued on A5, Column 1



COURTESY OF KATELIN LEWELLEN

Students gather around Chemistry Club's booth to make DIY popping boba.

Commentary, A2

"Envy Is Your Catalyst. Hate Isn't"

Medha Konda discusses how to differentiate between envy and hate.

Eighth Page, A6

Contagion

Campus is in lockdown after another contagious disease spreads around campus: senioritis.

Sports, B1

Football Completes Comeback Victory

Football started the season off strong with a win over Hotchkiss, overcoming a large deficit to secure the win.

Arts, B5

Drumline Brings the Beat

Read about "Keeping the Beat," a Drumline performance that brought energy and school spirit to campus.

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Editorial

If You Can’t Beat Them, Ban Them

Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump banned CNN, MS NOW, and Politico from the White House, shifting his justification from their intentional reporting of “negative news” to claims of a national security threat. In response, the restricted outlets filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration on the basis of having their First Amendment and due process rights violated. While Judge Timothy Kelly temporarily reinstated their access on Thursday, the underlying threat to press freedom remains. As aspiring participants of a democracy, we stand in solidarity with these journalists, in firm defense of our nation’s foundational freedoms of expression, speech, and the press.

This ban harkens back to another instance the Trump administration has sought to suppress independent journalism through the revocation of press passes. In November 2018, the president denied CNN journalist Jim Acosta’s access to the White House after a heated exchange between the two. An ensuing lawsuit’s ruling, however, forced the administration to restore Acosta’s access because of a violation of due process. In his first term, Trump set the precedent of journalistic censorship, stripping those he disagrees with of their media access.

Almost eight years later, the president continues with that precedent, except on a larger scale; it’s truly troublesome. When a government attempts to dictate which journalists are allowed in the room to ask questions, it effectively tells its own story rather than being accountable to the public. Moreover, Trump’s ban prompted ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox, and NBC, which share the responsibility of film coverage of the president, to boycott such duties. U.S. citizens do not have live video coverage of the president from major television networks. To access camera footage now absent due to the boycott, citizens can choose to access “Trump TV,” which the administration claims to feature the “latest and greatest from the administration all in one place.” As the president stifles independent journalism, he simultaneously promotes a state-run media. In doing so, the administration is creating a foundational threat to our democracy, and we must recognize that.

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

Envy is your catalyst. Hate isn’t.

MEDHA KONDA



Your insides are crinkling and curling up on themselves. You’ll get a text and learn that another friend has an internship, a published paper, a shiny medal they can bite with their teeth. All you have are hollow congratulations, layered over festering sadness. Envy is starving you, because you’re not capitalizing on that emotion. Living with envy is normal; you don’t need to be ashamed about feeling it. But maybe your discomfort runs deeper. Have you lost your ability to feel happy for those friends? Do you ever wish failure on your friends? The latter will likely evoke a resounding “no,” but that can be false. Many people engage in mean behaviors all the time, like identifying someone’s flaws when presented with their achievements. Suddenly, everyone is no good, gives a friend the cold shoulder, or has a scary resting

face. We bumble around with what they don’t have to convince ourselves we don’t want to be them. Secretly, we even wish for their downfall sometimes. However, that’s not quite right. Does that make you a bad person?

Inside the shell of envy is a fleshy impetus for improvement. We often find it when performing social comparison: what does he have that I don’t? Envy reminds us of what truly matters to us. When you truly decipher what it is you desire, it can be seldom negative, but rather helpful. Do you really want to win that science fair, or do you just want something for your resume? The root of our negativity provides an opportunity to recenter our path to success, even if it doesn’t look like someone else’s. Considering this, when you’re feeling envious, consider it a crossroads. We can use our catalyst to learn

When you truly decipher what it is you desire, it can be seldom negative, but rather helpful.

about opportunities and develop a resolve to work hard. Ask those bright friends and peers for help, instead of caging them in a glass box you subconsciously idolize, but deem you cannot



FELISHA LI / THE PHILLIPIAN

reach. Or, have you taken the other path? Are you falling into hate — a negative cycle in which we never improve and try to de-rationalize the success of other people?

Struggling to be happy for your friends, constantly feeling your self-esteem sink when that guy uploads on Instagram; envy itself is not hateful, but it is what happens when we take it in the wrong direction. In a scenario where someone fits conventional standards of success while we don’t, we often make assertions about their character or nature to boost our self-worth. Take Elle Woods, the ex-

pert in blonde blowouts, “girly” advice, and also penal code. She falls under the “popular-girl stereotype”: a blonde bombshell who will never be smart or successful, but forever reliant on her dad’s money. Though her achievements say otherwise, people continue to make assessments based on their perception of her. Similarly, when somebody has achieved something we want, we like to make negative assertions, put them down, and spread hatred in order to undermine their success. Hate prevents us from supporting friends, not envy. Hate transforms us into negative people.

If you’ve felt jealous of your friends, you might ask how you can start getting better. If you know you want to detach from your hateful thoughts while climbing to higher achievement, you must know the root of your envy. What need isn’t being fulfilled? From validation to skills, by breaking down your thoughts, you’ll certainly discover your path to success doesn’t have to be the same as others. Society wants you to believe that your success comes from putting others down. Or maybe somebody’s been teaching you that accomplishment looks one way. Coupled with an uncomfortable envy, you’re feeling stuck. Sit down with that friend, and tell them you’re looking for a similar success, because a real friend wants you to get there too. There are also crucial steps to that level of success you’ve been missing as well (like your ten thousand hours of practice). Intrinsically, humans loathe uncomfortable feelings or situations. But just like you tell yourself at the gym, you need that displeasure, especially to remind you to get back to what you care about. There’s nobody to challenge but yourself.

Medha Konda is a Lower from Tallahassee, Fla. Contact the author at mkonda29@andover.edu.

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CORRECTIONS:

Wheelie Happy: Riding on the Cult of Scooters

JEANNIE KANG



An average Andover student’s mind includes: grade deflation, hypercompetitiveness in college admissions, DNA synthesis, post-modern World History, and... pink scooters with glow-in-the-dark wheels. For the past few weeks, scooters of all colors and sizes have dominated the campus, with many students, from football Post-Graduate athletes to Junior girls, riding them around. A few nights ago, I walked across a circle of twenty students. Each of them brought their scooters towards the center of the circle, almost as if gathering for a spiritual ceremony. Though the scooter trend (or, as I call it, the “scootrend”) may seem “odd” or even “cringe,” the popularity of a seemingly childish mode of transportation reveals a special bond in the Andover community. As a Prefect, I witnessed the rise of the scooter trend among the Juniors in my dorm, who were discussing which scooters to get and inviting other people in the dorm to join their scooter sessions. Although students might come back with scrapes on their arms, scooters serve as a special memory for all



CAMILA CHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

of them and students beyond. Specifically, the trend defies the glorification of “nonchalance” and the misconception that academic success and trivial joys cannot coexist. Andover students, or boarding school students in general, are often held to higher standards of emotional and intellectual maturity. In a tightly knit residential community of peers and instructors, we are often compelled to maintain an impeccable image of ourselves. Our daily routines are integrated into our social lives at school, and small mistakes or arguments with peers can lead to immediate inconveniences. Furthermore, the academic pressure from other students, family, teachers, and even within oneself, can cause many to feel demoralized and exhausted after a long day of work. To combat this widespread stress and pres-

sure, Andover provides an array of activities for students to enjoy, from various munches to Cluster activities. However, these activities — organized by the administration to manufacture a healthy social life — don’t feel as fulfilling as coincidental moments of joy like storming the football field or participating in a nine-square tournament. In other words, the most effective modes of alleviation from social and academic pressure originate from the student body. The recent trend of scooters captures the beauty of the random collective that frees students from Andover’s continuous “All-In” mindset. When we ride scooters, we are no longer tethered to expectations of maturity, as scooters are commonly seen as remnants of childhood. If a single student had dedicated their life to riding a pink scooter, they might have

been called out for being “cringe” and “antisocial.” However, the collective decision to embrace the “cringeness” and nostalgic connotation of scooters enables students to scoot away without fear of social judgment. In a time when many high schoolers turn to unhealthy coping mechanisms for stress and anxiety, such as substances, detrimental relationships, and doomscrolling, Andover students bonding over such a simple and entertaining activity is refreshing to observe. Despite this positive influence, some students still call the cult of scooters “trivial.” They may argue that scooters are a fleeting trend that does not reflect the overall culture at Andover. Many students, especially upperclassmen who are too caught up in the college admissions process to enjoy the scooters, have expressed their complaints

about the “scootrend.” Some argue that it is frustrating to see a herd of Juniors riding past them on unicorn scooters. For those who don’t resonate with this trend, the abrupt addition of a new transportation system might be unsettling. Nonetheless, the scooter trend is powerful precisely due to its triviality. Caught in the hectic schedule of hopping between classes, extracurriculars, and athletics, most students cannot afford a dedicated time slot for hobbies or, at times, self-care. In my Junior year, developing hobbies or activities for personal joy seemed impossible with the amount of assignments and assessments given every day. Riding scooters to classes or the gym, however, doesn’t require an extra time slot; instead, it makes a mundane moment more entertaining, convenient, and efficient. This accessibility and a low entry barrier allow students to substitute their morning strolls with riding scooters with friends. Once we shift our mindset, we can finally begin to appreciate the simple beauty of the “scootrend.” We are too young to dim our passions, to chase after nothing but success, and to consider stress a daily emotional routine. Scooters remind us that no matter how hectic and frustrating life gets, there’s always time to “scoot” the negative emotions aside and instead “scoot” away with your friends.

Jeannie Kang is an Upper from Seoul, South Korea. Contact the author at nkang28@andover.edu.

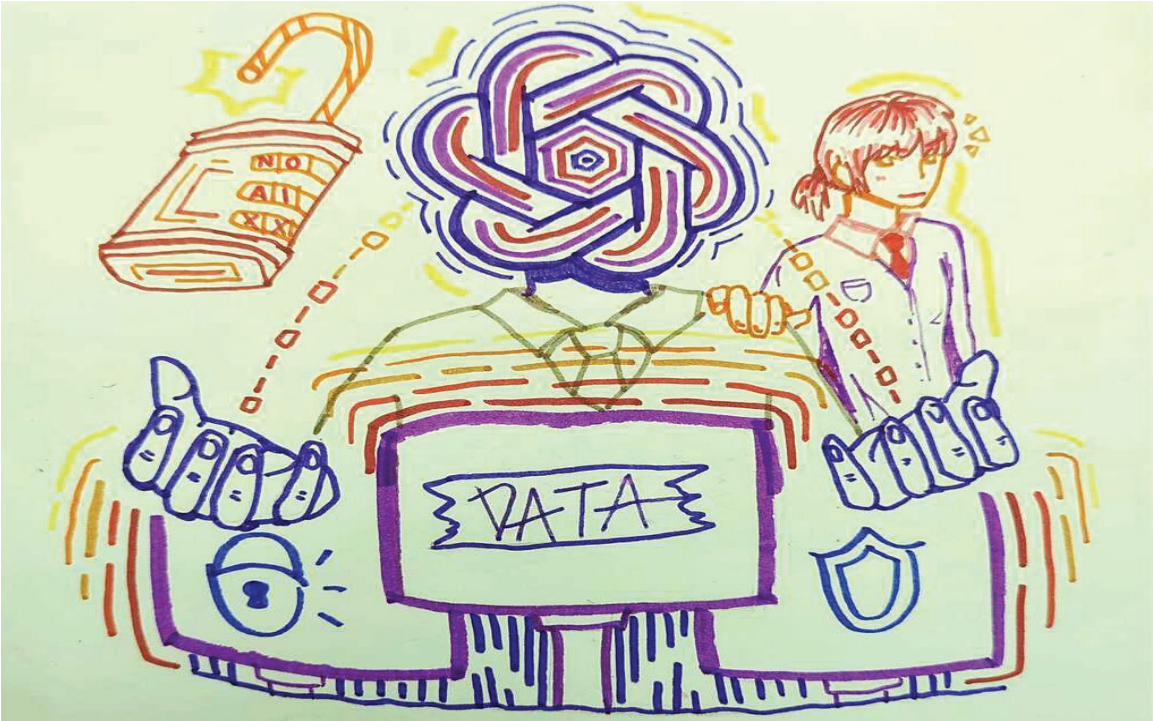
Privacy, with an Asterick

WOOJIN OH



Earlier this May, Darren Zhou was arrested for writing threats to kill his ex-girlfriend. Darren shared detailed plans with ChatGPT, which OpenAI noticed and eventually brought to the attention of legal authorities. Though the fact that AI may now play significant roles in criminal cases may seem fascinating to the public, it is much less important than the question of privacy that this case entails. The fact that Zhou was flagged means that AI companies may be monitoring chats. In fact, OpenAI stated that data may be disclosed “to protect the safety, security, and integrity of our products, employees, users, or the public.” However, as people gradually begin to incorporate AI models and tools in their daily lives, Zhou’s case raises the question of where the boundary between violation of personal privacy and necessary intervention lies. There are theories that staff from companies like OpenAI are secretly watching all AI conversations and documenting every single word choice. However, most major AI companies do not manually monitor chats, instead implementing an automatic detector for harmful conversations or activities, such as in the case of Zhou. Each

company may have a slightly different detection algorithm, but most pay attention to illegal or dangerous activity. After an alert, a human staff reviews the report to determine whether it was a false positive or a real threat. In the process of doing so, some companies like OpenAI can involve legal authorities. Therefore, it is also a common misconception that conversations with AI models remain completely internal between the model and the user. However, when the user sends a message to a model like ChatGPT, the message is stored on cloud servers managed by the company operating the model. In the case of companies like OpenAI, the messages may then be used to maintain chat history, improve the model, or check for policy violations. The issue of AI privacy is surprisingly important to students, especially teenagers. Research from Pew Research Center showed that almost 1 in 8 students used AI for emotional support. If privacy in AI usage for emotional support, which teens likely resort to due to the lack of a confidant to rely on, isn’t assured, those suffering emotional struggles would no longer have the only place they could comfortably rely on. It is still painfully true, however, that setting blind exceptions for cases like these can also create exploitable loopholes in policy. The answer is therefore not blind leniency nor blind strictness. In order to answer a question about privacy, there must first be a definition of privacy, or at least what it requires. Oftentimes, the privacy of information is determined by who has access to the information and who it can be shared with. However, what often gets neglected is considering whether the owner of the information is aware of how much of their privacy is protected. Since there aren’t any universal laws in pri-



ELLE PARK / THE PHILLIPIAN

vacy, along with other fields of ethics, settling on one specific objective set of values is most likely impossible. Therefore, decisions about who has access to personal information will ultimately rest with the model and the company, as they develop policies that they believe strike the optimum balance. However, users of such services should be informed about how much individual information can be shared with whom. To allow such a transparent environment to exist, users must make an effort. The most accessible and actionable method is actually reading the lengthy privacy policy. Yes, it’s extremely boring to read through twenty pages of lengthy legal statements, but even if we don’t read its entirety, skimming through the parts we deem important—including where and how our data is used—should be worth it to prevent feeling deceived or having our privacy violated in the future. Corporations also have major responsibilities. Companies often use vague, general language, such as “threats to the

public,” instead of specifying “threats of theft, murder, or violent illegal behavior.” It is convenient for corporations to use such language in order to escape as much legal responsibility as possible, but such wording does not add any useful information. If a company cannot explain its intentions, how is it reasonable to assume that customers can understand them? Though it’s sometimes necessary to use legal jargon, it should be the company’s duty to optimize transparency to protect its users. If such foundations — about how user data is used and shared — are clear, the balance may adjust towards a more optimal balance, wherever that may be. On one hand, a company that overfocuses on safety and neglects privacy will struggle to attract users, forcing it to either adjust its policy or risk falling behind in the market. On the other hand, a company obsessed with concealing all user activity, legal or otherwise, at the expense of safety may face numerous lawsuits for allowing such dangers to reach the public. Telegram is a good ex-

ample of such harm-inducing platforms. Though not yet experiencing a decline in usage, Telegram, with its heavy emphasis on user privacy, has repeatedly clashed with governments in costly legal disputes. While Telegram’s decentralized structure may allow it to withstand such pressure, an AI company with a clearly identifiable headquarters and a centralized database would likely be far more vulnerable to government intervention. If AI corporations don’t work towards finding this balance, they will inevitably face consequences. In a nutshell, transparency gives the user the ability to judge whether they are willing to accept the balance their service has set. Giving users such abilities may create positive side effects, such as market pressure that rewards companies for working towards a favorable balance while discouraging those that sway toward either extreme.

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

10 Questions with Sarah Scherini

REPORTING BY SARAH SUN & MING-YI TANG

Sarah Scherini (she/her) is an Instructor in Art, specializing in ceramics. She also interviews for the Admissions Office, coaches Recreational Basketball, and serves as a house counselor in Paul Revere House. Prior to coming to Andover, she worked as an art and ceramics instructor at various public and private institutions. In her free time, she enjoys visiting towns and beaches in New England and going to concerts and performances in Boston.

How did you first develop a passion for art?

I was absolutely one of those kids who wanted art supplies for any presents. It's just what I did. First career day, first grade, I dressed up as an art teacher because I had a really cool art teacher. So, I wanted to do this since the first time I learned what a job was.

What makes the art medium of ceramics special to you?

Clay is a material which gives immediate feedback. It creates resilience. It helps you deal with setbacks. I hope it helps you realize that failure is actually part of the process and a good thing to happen. I can tell you until I'm blue in the face that something is gonna fall apart, but you will remember it when it falls apart on you. It also draws people because it is an art form that is functional as well as decorative. Folks who may not enjoy art for art's sake will enjoy the opportunity to create something useful for them or a loved one.

What challenges did you encounter along your journey as an art student?

I did get really burnt out in undergrad when I was an art student, because I was pressured to work a certain way. Not sleeping was glamorized by our professors and peers alike. I actually didn't make any art for a couple of years, which is wild, because I've been making art since I was old enough to walk. I had to come back to it and repair my relationship with it, but ultimately, I'm kind of glad that happened, because it has prevented me from being a similar kind of teacher that [would] glorify the grind instead of the joy too.

Why did you decide to teach art?

It took a minute. I did other jobs for a while. I was a bartender for many, many years. I wondered if I should teach, because I had art teachers in my home state of South Carolina tell me, "Don't do it." Deciding to

JEREMIAH NUÑEZ/*THE PHILLIPPIAN*

teach was something that happened in my late twenties. I went to grad school for it, and I was a little nervous about, "Is this going to be for me?" My first day in the classroom, I was like, "Oh yeah, this is for me. This is it."

What is your favorite artwork?

[Hieronymus] Bosch's "[The] Garden of Earthly Delights," which is a triptych painting. Really weird. Feels very groovy and strange for the time it was created and painted in. There's a heaven, earth, and hell panel, [and] the hell panel's kind of messed up.

Where do you find inspiration for your work?

A lot of it comes from science and nature honestly. I am so interested

in how the world works.

I'm interested in the micro-perspectives of things [like] the patterns that Mycelium makes [or] shells of bugs and crabs. Artists do turn to nature often. Also, I would say [to take inspiration from] your own life experiences. The best stories you can tell are your own. I do make art about growing up in the U.S. South and my identity as a queer person. Telling those stories is good for me, but also hopefully speaks to those who are experiencing similar things.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Reading, cooking, taking really long walks with my husband, and going out and exploring New England coastal towns and beaches, but in the winter when nobody is there. One

of the coolest things to me is going to the ocean and [seeing] there's snow everywhere. We are definitely big travelers in general, but local travel is my favorite thing, [like] those little day trips to a new place that you've never seen before. Weird things, like Edgar Allen Poe reenactments in a historic house when there were eight people there. [Also] going to performances in Boston, going to concerts.

What is your fondest memory at Andover?

It's at the start of the school year when we are all feeling a lot of pressure, nerves, and stress. Everything is so busy. Our schedules are all overpacked. There's things scheduled for us at every minute. And then I hear floating across campus, "Ms. Scherini!" Those

greetings with students that I've had [in] prior years that I haven't seen, and watching [them] all grow up reminds me why I do this. So, I'd say the opening of school, getting to see kids again after summer, and everybody being excited to see each other is my favorite thing here.

What is something about Andover that you didn't expect?

Even though I knew that the resources were amazing here, I didn't truly understand the breadth of them and how specifically tailored they could become for us until I started teaching here... With the [Robert S.] Peabody Institute [of Archaeology], I knew we had an archaeology museum [but] I did not know I was going to [get to] go down to the basement and play Lara Croft and select actual artifacts and vessels with the curators to put on a table in front of my ceramic students, without glass in between them, so they could study them up close. That is exceptional for a high school.

What do you hope students take away from your classes?

I love it when a kid comes in and says, 'I'm not really an artist' or 'I'm not artistic,' and they walk away [after] like, "Oh, maybe I'm not so bad at this." I hope that they take away [that] trying new things that have a harsh learning curve, especially ceramics, can be gratifying and rewarding. I hope that they take something with them that, later in life, they can remember during times of stress or worry [is something] that they can return to.

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2 Elm Street Andover, MA

Students Split on Whether Diagnostic Assessments Accurately Capture Abilities

Continued from A1, Column 5

would assist in grade norming across the department. Lambert continued, “The written work supported grade norming exercises, which is when teachers discuss and assess anonymized student work to confirm that we would all assign the same grade and offer similar feedback. We want to curb students’ impressions that History instructors have different grading standards, so as a department we’re emphasizing these kinds of exercises and other alignment efforts.” Students differed in their opinions of how accurately the assessment represented their writing abilities. Bella Huang ’28 discussed the limitations of such assessments. “It definitely reveals a lot about how we work under pressure as a group, but at the same time, it’s pretty limited. First, everyone is really making the same argument somewhere along the same lines. Also, they’re rely-

ing on similar pieces of evidence. It establishes a good baseline, but I don’t think it does a lot to say how we [generally perform], since it’s the first assignment that we’ve had since we came back from a very long break,” said Huang. The History 300 assessment took place during a 40-minute period on Monday. Echoing Huang’s sentiment, Hannah Jung ’28 questioned whether the assessment fully captured her capabilities. Nonetheless, she saw value in giving teachers a point of comparison for her later work. “I don’t think it accurately represented my writing abilities because it was a really short period. I don’t think I was able to analyze the primary sources to my fullest extent, and the argument that I developed was kind of on the spot and it didn’t feel as thorough as it could have been... It’s a benefit for the student because the teacher will be able to see how much you’ve grown as a writer and critical thinking throughout their class,” said Jung. The History 200 assess-

ment took place during a 75-minute class period. Yet even with more time, Emerson Davis ’29 felt that the format made it difficult to develop her ideas fully. “I don’t think one assignment can really show how someone writes in general. Sometimes I’ll have an idea that takes a while to develop, and you don’t really have that opportunity when you’re writing under a time limit... Certain stressors are a big factor in people’s writing abilities, and I think many students may not be able to write to their full potential under timed pressure,” said Davis. On the other hand, Hannah Oh ’27, a Senior in History 300, said that the assessment more accurately captured her skills because of her familiarity with in-class writing. “It accurately represents my writing because there have been a lot of in-class writings over the years. Because I’m a four-year Senior, I’ve experienced in-class writing, and so I feel like over the past four years I was able to develop my writing style and show it through

this in-class. Honestly, I feel like this was the easiest in-class writing I’ve done so far,” said Oh. Matthew Hession, Instructor in History, emphasized that the assessment’s main goal was to observe students’ analytical skills rather than their writing style. “This assignment is less about establishing a writing style as opposed to giving students the opportunity to examine a handful of historical sources and write about them. As well, we don’t try to ‘establish’ a student’s writing style so much as support them in strengthening their skills of written inquiry and helping them find their own style (or voice),” wrote Hession in an email to *The Phillipian*. “By doing this assignment at the very start of the year, we’re able to see where students are in their skill development. It’s an assessment where we can observe students’ historical reasoning, skills of assessment, and claim-making.” Jung also suggested that an in-class writing sample could provide teachers with a reference point when evaluating students’

future writing, especially as Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage grows. “I know for some students, they find it really hard and stressful to do in-class writings, so it might not be the most accurate example of their writing. But I feel like it does help the teachers to some extent, knowing how a student writes compared to, for example, if someone used majority AI to write their essay,” said Jung. Audrey Lasater ’30 noted that the assessment could build a stronger overall learning environment by helping teachers understand their students’ skill sets. “It was important that the teachers could understand how advanced their class is in writing, what their class needs to work on, and specific students. It also showed the students what is expected in the class, the stuff that is coming up, and how to prepare for those things,” said Lasater.

Athletes Call for Better Representation of Women’s Sports

Continued from A1, Column 2

trying to send in terms of sports betting. It’s important to be confident in your body, but [the ad] wasn’t promoting body positivity or confidence. It was trying to sexualize sports in general. The best thing about women’s sports is that it’s a reminder of what your body can do instead of how it looks. Sydney Sweeney’s ad was negating that idea, saying that sports are just about how your body looks, [which] is completely missing the point,” said Lehman. Similarly, Mason Carbone ’30 shared his perspective on the ad’s intention regarding female athletes and their appearances. “It’s suggesting that the value of women in sports is purely appearance-based, even though it’s really not. And women have been working towards even being able to participate in sports for centuries. The whole goal of it was to promote that women’s sports are just looks-

based. [Female] athletes have worked their entire lives to be where they are today, and her slander is definitely not helping that,” said Carbone. He continued, “Their goal was just to make more money, and everybody’s falling for it, rightly so, because this is awful what she’s saying here. The company’s making more money off of people getting mad at Sydney Sweeney. Essentially, completely profit-driven. This has been going on for a while, but the American Eagle ad really proved this because American Eagle’s stock tripled after the ad. So, this [advertisement] proved it, and now companies like Novig are doing this same sort of formula.” Contrary to Sweeney’s portrayal of female athletes, many athletes see their sport in terms of their personal goals and ability to practice sportsmanship. Chloe Ru ’27, a competitive swimmer, talks about the commitment and diligence behind each athlete. “Athletes are so much more than their appearance. Their dedication to their sport, the way they support their teammates through sportsmanship, their discipline, hard

work, and consistency... As a swimmer, I hope people notice more than just my times or how I place in my race, but more of my dedication to my sport, the amount of time and effort I have put into it, and the way I cheer for my teammates as well as how they cheer for me when I swim,” said Ru. While the ad drew backlash, it also brought attention to women’s sports, as Lehman noted. As discussion spread across social media, female athletes shared videos of their own experiences under the caption “This is what women in sports look like.” Lehman noted a positive shift in representation of women athletes. “Even though this ad definitely had negative responses, the upside of it was that it brought a lot of attention on social media to women’s sports because when something is controversial, it’s an opportunity to promote what you believe in and what you stand for. It’s been a great opportunity for women athletes to share their platform and show what women’s sports is about,” said Lehman.

Paresky Utilizes Diner Input to Prepare Popular Food Options More Frequently

Continued from A1, Column 5

you on campus. Our teams work together to create recipes that are balanced, appealing, and aligned with what our community wants to eat. We continuously evaluate feedback and adjust where needed,” wrote Nelson in an email to *The Phillipian*. Nelson elaborated on the rationale behind reducing repetition across food options and introducing new stations. “In the past, duplicate stations helped reduce lines, but we found that it limited our ability to showcase our recipes. Now, each station offers something unique. We are experimenting with new action stations, including: tossed-to-order salads [and] new ‘Crunch’ offerings such as Crispy Hot Honey Turkey, Popcorn Shrimp, and Crispy Cod,” wrote Nelson. Students such as Elinna Etuk ’29 have noticed the wider variety of food options being offered and commented on the outcomes so far. “There have been a few noticeable changes this year. It feels like they’ve been trying to have more variety and introduce different foods instead of serving the exact same things all the time. There are definitely some days where there are more options to choose from, which is helpful because not everyone likes the same food. I wouldn’t say everything, especially [since] the meat variety has not changed, but I have noticed that they’re making more of an effort to give us different things,” said Etuk. Victoria Li ’28 expressed appreciation for how the increased variety allows for more customization of meals. “I’ve noticed that they’ve been experimenting with the menu more. There are certain meals that we didn’t really see as much last year. I’ve also noticed that there seem to be more choices during some meals... I also really like the sources of protein they provide. There are more vegetables and sides available so you can put together your own meal instead of just taking whatever the main entree is,” said Li. Nana Dampety ’27 noted future areas for improvement, highlighting inconsistency in offerings.

“I wish they had chicken in the salad bar more often... I normally like to have chicken with some sort of protein, but I don’t like tofu, and I’m not trying to have bacon bits on my lettuce. And so, chicken is my go-to. But recently, at least for every day that I’ve gone to the salad bar, I’ve never seen chicken, even though that used to be more consistent last year,” said Dampety. According to Nelson, Paresky is now preparing dishes that are widely enjoyed by students more frequently, a change that Kai Karsan ’29 has noticed. “We’ve had meatball subs twice, and those are nice. They did have them last year, but they had them less often. I like that they’ve been serving them more this year because they’re something that I think people enjoy, and it gives us another option instead of having the same foods all the time... Foods that people like more have been served more often, while foods that people dislike more have been served less often,” said Karsan. Etuk felt that Paresky could consider expanding their variety of drink options to mirror the food improvements that have been made thus far. “They should introduce more drinks because the ones in the drink machines are very repetitive and they could mix it up a little bit. A lot of the drinks are a variety of juices and teas but they should increase the options so we don’t have to go down to [Susie’s] to get something different,” said Etuk. Looking ahead, Nelson encouraged diners to share thoughts and requests with the Paresky Dining Team to shape future changes. “If there’s something you enjoy or something you’d like to see in the future, please let us know. You can submit feedback using our Quick Vibe - MyDiningFeedback QR codes, which are displayed in the dining hall and at Susie’s,” wrote Nelson.

STEM Night Helps Students Gain Earlier Exposure to Club Offerings

Continued from A1, Column 5

demonstration, and help based... When I first came here, at the club fair, I felt like I missed a lot of stuff. Originally I didn’t sign up for [Biology, Chemistry,] or Physics club because I just walked right by them...We wanted to prevent that in our new students and encourage the demonstration aspect of STEM,” said Fan. Katelin Lewellen, Instructor in Computer Science, shared her perspective as the advisor of the event. She noted the initiative the organizers took throughout the planning, coordination, and communication process. “Hayley did a lot of work to seek out interest from different clubs and then compile it together and then send a final survey where she got together all of the information and was really great about updating Mr. [Christopher] Capano and myself at various points throughout the process... I played a role in asking some questions and making sure we had our bases covered on various things, and then helping with getting some resources and then being an adult chaperone. But really, most of the organization was student-run, which is an awesome thing that [students] can do at Andover,” said Lewellen. During the event, numerous clubs featured demonstrations and presentations designed to foster interest and preview their offerings to stu-

dents. Donatas Vasiliauskas ’28, who is on the board of the Science Olympiad and Chemistry Club, expressed his appreciation for the outreach the event enabled. “For us, the board members as a whole, I feel like it was a motivating experience, because when you see those people who can help your club in a lot of ways, who are interested in Science Olympiad, we had a lot of people come up with past experiences that would be of great help to our teams... you want to feel that what you’re doing is actually important. It helped [us see] what the people want and how we can help them,” said Vasiliauskas. For many students, STEM Night served as one of their first opportunities to explore clubs at Andover. Lucas Hernandez ’30 noted how it helped him gain a complete understanding of the various options for exploring STEM at Andover. “I’ve been involved with STEM clubs in general since middle school. It’s been something fun in my day to look forward to. Going to clubs, meeting with like-minded people, building stuff and projects. The STEM culture here at Andover is well built, and there’s definitely a lot of options for different fields of STEM... I [like this] because it gives you more time to see what they’re about, and you’re not spending as much time at the larger club fair, looking around at the STEM clubs,” said Hernandez. Christian Estrada ’27, who leads Phillips Academy Paper Exploration and Research So-

ciety (PAPERS), mentioned how STEM Night especially benefited his club’s timeline by allowing them to offer students earlier exposure. “What was really cool about the STEM Night was that it was very early in the year versus the Club Fair in [mid-October]. For PAPERS, because we have that three-term sequence, we want to start as early as possible so students can start thinking about their projects as early as possible. So, we try to have at least one event early on in the year. The STEM Fair was a perfect opportunity for us to gain early interest from a lot of students,” said Estrada. The event experienced multiple logistical changes throughout the planning process, including a location shift from Snyder Center (Snyder) to Borden and a scheduling conflict with the Office of Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD) showcase. Lewellen reflected on these as lessons to carry into future implementations. “We’d like to coordinate better with CaMD so that we’re not on the same night because that was an unfortunate collision. I mean, in one sense, it’s fun to be able to have people go around. But if we were to do that, it’d be nice to be in the same space. Ideally, we’d be on separate nights. We learned some things in terms of organization and supplies. The hope is that we’d be able to continue it in future years,” said Lewellen.

Phever Pitch

Andover Student Wins Big on Kalshi After Betting \$1 that Andover Football Would Win



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CINDY ZHOU

The Different Events of Quad Night

Ian Min

We all love dormrotting instead of doing anything productive on our Saturdays. After all, what else is Sunday at 11 p.m. besides studying for two majors, writing an English essay, and discovering you have a History in-class tomorrow? This mindset is shared by the many students who attended this year’s Quad Night.

Rockwell’s underground gambling ring apparently resurfaced for the event, with a table dedicated to playing Poker for “fake money.” The “Bartlet Beater” broadened the connotations of his name with a ‘generational’ win streak in Poker (and also at the arm wrestling booth, though strangely, he lost on his left hand every time). Reports say he *beat* everyone arrogant enough to think they could outdo him. He says that it’s about focus and pacing yourself so as not to burn out. This is also, coincidentally, advice no Andover student has ever followed academically. The students of Bartlet, missing his presence, took this advice to heart, hoping to someday take his place.

Among the food options were pretzels, ice cream, and slushies. The ice cream truck was apparently operated by McDonald’s, as it was down for the entire event. Apparently, they were busy trying to fix the ever-broken Mc... Flurry machine. On the other end of the spectrum (not the spectrum Andover students are usually on) was the “Ultimate Slush” stand, which had a line that spanned half the courtyard. Many left the line unsatisfied. The pretzels were also quite successful, although some people were miffed by the lack of marshmallows. Sadly, after running out of marshmallows within the first 27 minutes, an investigation into whether the marshmallows had been laced with something stronger than sugar was prompted. Turns out, jealous Flagstaff students stole 4 bags after realizing that Quad Night had more than triple the attendance of the Fall Festival at Flagstaff Courtyard. There was also a table for chips, but no one ever found it wedged between the ice cream (or a lack thereof) and the slushies.

As for inflatables, our old friend Adrenaline Rush II showed up once more. At this point, it’s been at more events this year than 60% of actual students. There was also a knockoff Hungry Hungry Hippos and an untitled soccer game where everyone was tied together. A lower with a 6 in their RelPhil class stated that it was an allegory for Andover: “It’s a bunch of hollow, hungry people racing despite being tied down with the expectations of others and the burdens that come with being a student at such a difficult school.” Another student with a 3 in the same class said that it was like football, since “you kick balls, run fast, and yearn for even more balls.” For this incredible insight, the latter student, a 20 year old PG, received extra credit for his next assessment in the class. Whether it is out of amazement or pity is unknown.

Week’s Top Headlines

- *Andover Security Force Actually Called to Respond to Emergency, Panic Ensues as Realization Hits That Jobs Entail More Than Driving Around Campus*
- *Andover Roommates Found to Be 300% More Likely to Perform Science Projects in the Common Room Microwave Between the Hours of Whenever You Went to Bed to Whenever You’re Waking Up*
- *First Chills of Winter Felt at Andover, “@%#\$” Says Everyone*
- *Lower’s First RelPhil Submission Lands Him in Sykes Wellness for Making the Teacher Reconsider Their Life Choices and Leave for the Mountains*

BREAKING NEWS

Senioritis Plagues Campus

Devin Akyali

Across high schools nationwide, a virus has infected millions of students year after year. And no, before you say it, we’re not talking about mono. Unlike mono, this virus has historically been successfully contained within small groups of students, who mostly leave months after contracting it. This year, a breach in containment has left the virus running rampant throughout the student body, causing devastating consequences. It has been dubbed by experts: Senioritis.

In the past, students worked hard for years on end. They worked their childhoods away, aiming for a Top 10 elementary school, then a Top 10 middle school, then a Top 10 high school, supposedly ending the horrific cycle right at the famed gates of an Ivy League. Life was simple for them, because they didn’t have one.

After the unintentional release of the virus, hardworking students have become increasingly hard to find. For some reason, students now seem to think they are entitled to “work-life balance™”.

But who started this infection? Unlike most viruses, Senioritis did not get its start in China. Scientists theorize that the cause of the disease’s breach into the general public may have been the realizations that:

- There are other ways to find happiness in life
- Becoming a baller is not about what college you go to, but **what CEOs your dad is buddies with**
- Day trading, dropshipping, Kalshi, and Novig are all viable sources of income

Whatever the reason, many of Andover’s own students have contracted this illness and lost their drive for crafting the theoretically perfect college app, one that Harvard would get on their knees for. This has led to an increase in “fun” and a decrease in “stress”. Some severe cases have left students so unmotivated they won’t even bother to have ChatGPT do their work, or ask their “friend Claude” to take their SATs for them.

In order to slow the spread of Senoiritis, please report if you notice you or your friends exhibiting these behaviors:

- Treating graded classes like everything is Pass/Fail
- Spending free time “hanging out with friends” or “pursuing hobbies”
- Lack of a paralyzing adrenaline rush before any and all tests/quizzes
- Attendance at munches, activities, or clubs that can’t be put on a college application
- Asleep before 11:30 pm
- Acting like a recruited athlete
- Spikeball on the lawn

As the student body continues to become low-cortisol, and more and more people contract an aversion to 4-hour-long study sessions and only thinking about school, the consequences of this plague have become clear. The teaching staff is considerably more concerned than they were about the Hantavirus outbreak last year, as the number of Freshmen who booked “coffee chats” for the first week of school has dwindled down to single digits. [Same with the number of Seniors booking coffee chats with them]

Luckily, our staff at Sykes has worked vigilantly to create some cures for this ailment. If you find yourself thinking you were created for something greater than keeping your GPA above a 5.8, try these remedies to snap out of your delusions:

- Listen to an Instagram college influencer
- Talk to that kid who got a Palantir internship straight out of Andover
- Remember the holy trinity (Doctor, Lawyer, Engineer)
- Call your parents

With your help and cooperation, we can contain this outbreak and return to our usual course of life. In the meantime, you can find solace in the fact that if you get a bad grade on your next chem test, your classmates may tip you an extra \$2.50 when you bring them their Uber Eats.

Overheard on the Paths

“You had breakfast this morning?? Why?”

“I’m trying to contribute a little more to climate change. I have so many more summer outfits to wear.”

“What happened to 2026 being the next 2016??”

“No man I’m not Christian, I’m Clav.”

“My girlfriend has mono and I don’t... Am I cooked?”

“I’ve been hiding a pig in my room. He doesn’t get out much, but I’m stuck with him as my roommate for a year.”

“Hello, Campus Safety... I had another accident in the Sanctuary.”



The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLIX | Number 19

do your job, and do it
well, and do it with
pride

September 25, 2026

Girls Volleyball Defeats Hotchkiss and Taft in Double-Header

JULIEN REQUA &
BETSY HOFFMAN

SATURDAY 9/19		
Andover		3
Hotchkiss		1
SATURDAY 9/19		
Andover		3
Taft		0

On Saturday, Girls Volleyball (3–1) played both Hotchkiss and Taft in a home doubleheader. After falling to both teams in blowout losses at this same event last year, Andover looked to settle the score and continue its strong start to the season. Girls Volleyball emerged victorious against Hotchkiss in a close 3–1 match, before extending its winning streak by beating Taft 3–0.

Girls Volleyball opened its match against Hotchkiss with a dominant 25–10 first set. However, in the second set, Hotchkiss regained its footing, delivering an early push that quickly shifted momentum out of Andover's favor. As the team lost its lead, down 17–18, Kailynn Zheng PG'27 stepped up to the service line, looking to help her team take back the set. Grace Fang '30 explained a crucial three point swing that helped drive Girls Volleyball to the second set win.

"In the middle of the second



ANGELA WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Kailynn Zheng PG'27 smashes the ball onto Hotchkiss's side of the court.

set, and the score was really close, there was a massive three point swing. Kailynn had a really hard serve, which aced, then followed by a really great hit from Danielle [Han '28] to keep the momentum, and then Kailynn served it to a super short gap for another ace. Then the set eventually ended with an ace from Zaeemah [Keshinro '29]. The fact that we won the second set was really important. If we had lost the second set, and then we lost the third set, if we had been down 1–2, it would have completely changed the game," said Fang.

Andover fell short in the third set as Hotchkiss raised its play-

ing level, but the team regrouped in the fourth set to close out the match. Zoë Gilbertson '27 explained what went wrong in the third set and what changed when the team reset.

"In set three, we were getting a little bit complacent and letting them pick up our softer balls, and not being super strategic about where we were heading. [Hotchkiss] also picked up their game as well. Then in set four, we regrouped, reset, and played the game that we played in the first two sets," said Gilbertson.

Throughout the entire game, but primarily in the fourth set, the

middle hitters played an important role in maintaining control at the net. Specifically, Keshinro consistently got a hand on the ball, relieving the defense and giving Andover more chances to score. Fang described a moment in the fourth set when Keshinro's play helped the team grit out the win.

"In the fourth set, Zaeemah had three huge blocks in a row, which brought up the energy on our side. Everyone on the bench and in the crowd got hype. Those blocks helped us to go on the long run. Throughout the game, Zaeemah and all the other middles were all really crucial, they were great at

tacking, and had strong blocks all day," said Fang.

After finishing victorious against Hotchkiss across four sets, Andover carried its momentum straight into the second match of the doubleheader against Taft. Serving and defense would set the tone early, Co-Captain Selene Xu '27 highlighted a standout performance from one of her teammates.

"Shoutout Danielle Han, [she] had a crazy serve run. It was so many points in a row that the other team had to call a timeout so that they could throw her off, but they didn't and she just kept serving hard. Also, we had great defense today. Whether you're a defensive specialist or a libero, generally we played really strong today and we were hustling a lot," said Xu.

As the game entered set two and the other home sports events on Saturday afternoon ended, the Blue Key Heads arrived and electrified the gym. Later in the set, Boys Soccer arrived in full uniform to show their support. Elsa Wang '30 described how the fans brought additional energy and confidence to the team, helping the team finish the night strong with a 3–0 win.

"The Blue Key Heads came in, and it was really energetic. It was hard to keep the energy up in the first set, but much easier in the second set with the help of the crowd. Our bench players were yelling all the time, and we got more comfortable playing," said Wang.

Girls Volleyball will compete against Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) away this Saturday.

Football Completes Comeback Victory Over Hotchkiss in Season Opener

JULIEN REQUA

SATURDAY 9/19		
Andover		28
Hotchkiss		23

On Saturday, Football (1–0) defeated Hotchkiss 28–23 in its opening game of the season at home. Despite falling behind early 14–0, Andover battled back to tie the game 14–14 by halftime. Using this shift in momentum to its advantage, Andover continued to push for touchdowns, holding on to a tight second half to secure its first win of the season.

Facing a strong secondary, Andover leaned on its run game, adjusted its defensive approach after the slow start, and kept confidence high through the deficit. Co-Captain Thane McCormick '27 described a defining moment from the game, highlighting a teammate's game-changing play in the red zone.

"Their running back is running outside, and he essentially has me beat. If they score, they go up and put our offense in a really tough spot. Caden Schrock PG'27, who's a [postgraduate student] this year and an outside linebacker as well, comes off the edge and chases down their running back who had a great game. He gets a forced fumble and a tackle for a loss, and we recover the ball. That was a total momentum shift for us in the game," said McCormick.

On the offensive side of the ball, the team began to find its rhythm after early struggles to move the ball. Quarterback Ayyub Zaid '27 reflected on how the first big play on offense helped restore the team's confidence and spark its comeback.

"A play that really stood out to me was the first toss that I had because our offense was having a lot of struggles moving the ball. That first toss was our first big-yardage play, and that really put a lot of spirit back into the team. That first toss is when everyone realized we



PORTER DAVITT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Jun An '27 stiff-arms a Hotchkiss defender.

got this, that we can definitely still come back and win," said Zaid.

Although the team faced adversity early, the team's belief in each other and trust in the coaching staff kept the game within reach. Rather than letting a slow start rattle them, the players stayed composed and maintained high energy. McCormick reflected on how the team's mindset and adjustments helped it climb back into the game.

"We went down 14 to 0 to start the game, and that definitely hurt our momentum, so it took a lot for us to climb back out of that hole. However, we believed in ourselves the entire time. The defense figured things out and started doing things differently, and the play calling from our coaches, [Interim Head] Coach Ernie Adams and Coach [Jibrail] Coy, was absolutely amazing," said McCormick.

Throughout a tight, back-and-forth game, Andover's composure and smart decisions in high-pressure moments ultimately led the team to its first win of the season. With the game on the line, one moment in particular would

test the team's physical and mental abilities. Giovanni Rosenfeld '27 highlighted a teammate's split-second choice that would decide the overall result.

"Will Corbin '27 had a tough decision to make. We were up 21 to 20, but we were punting from our own two-yard line, and the punt got blocked and was up in the air. He had to decide whether to knock it down and cause the safety or potentially give up a touchdown. He made the smart decision and let the safety happen, and it actually made us end up winning the game," said Rosenfeld.

The atmosphere matched both teams' intensity, with the energy building as the score remained close. For many players, the win brought an excitement that lasted long after the game ended. Rosenfeld described the mood in the stands and how the team celebrated afterward.

"It was definitely one of the more packed games. The energy was very high, especially towards the end when it got really intense. After the game, it was my first



PORTER DAVITT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Quarterback Landon Husereau '28 throws a pass.

time winning a game since I've been part of the team, so the energy was definitely high. We were all pretty hyped; we even stormed the field right after, so it was pretty cool," said Rosenfeld.

This Saturday, Football will travel to Williston Northampton (Williston) to compete in its first away match of the season.

BOYSSOCCER

Co-Captain Kai Myles '27 Finds the Fun in Leading Boys Soccer

SARAH WANG

Kai Myles '27 is in his second year as Boys Soccer Co-Captain. Raised in a family that cherished the sport, Myles started playing soccer at three years old.

Myles shared what his captaincy means to him, encouraging every individual player to be the best version of themselves on and off the field.

“It’s definitely a lot of ups and downs, and it’s more than just wearing an armband. It’s about being a second role model. It’s making sure everybody’s doing what they can do to the best of their ability, helping everybody become better day by day, [and] just being there for somebody,” said Myles.

As Co-Captain, Myles leads warm-ups and gives speeches before games. Adam Sealfon '29 shares how Myles' leadership has impacted the team's mindset go-



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

ing into both games and practices.

“Usually before practice, we’ll have a ritual where Kai will lead. It involves breathing techniques, getting focused on the game, and doing everything needed in order to have the right mental mindset when going into practices or games. Usually when we’re warming up, he’s the most vocal

guy there. He’s always saying, ‘you got the next one,’ and just being a positive guy overall,” said Sealfon.

Xavi Escobar '30, a new player on the team this year, recalled a moment early in the season when Myles made an impact on him.

“We were doing this cone drill with Kai, and I personally wasn’t doing that great, but Kai took me

aside and reminded me that I was here for a reason, and that I have to trust myself and just keep going, and then right after that, I thrived in that drill. Kai is also a helpful person. He believes in everybody on the team, and he knows that he can rely on us other players, and that we are all gifted and talented and we should feel very confident,” said Escobar.

In pursuit of a winning record, teams can often get caught up in performance. Myles emphasized the importance of not only focusing on results, but also remembering to have fun on the team.

“It’s always good to find the fun back in the game, whether it’s away from soccer or not. Outside, we hang out together. We’re always trying to find something to make soccer fun and enjoyable,” said Myles.

Sealfon, who has played on the team during both of Myles' years as Co-Captain, reflected on how Myles has influenced his outlook.

“He’s taught me the value of being positive. When I started Andover, I was a really negative guy... and that would be in the back of my mind throughout [each day]. But Kai’s made me think of being a glass-half-full kind of guy [who’s] always looking for the positives,” said Sealfon.

Looking ahead, Myles said the team hopes to reach the Class A playoffs, and also described a change in team morale since last season.

“It would be a better season than last season for sure, and it’s definitely shown that already. Making the Class A playoffs would be a big feat for us, and I think it’s something we’re capable of if we give it one hundred percent every day. Last year, the morale wasn’t the best, but it’s definitely improved already. You can tell that we seem more connected and happier together,” said Myles.

Myles plans to continue his soccer career in college.

Edrian Vargas '27 Builds a Culture of Positivity

JULIEN REQUA

Boys Soccer Co-Captain Edrian Vargas '27 has built his leadership on positivity, quietly cultivating an uplifting team culture that unites his teammates on and off the field. At just four years old, Vargas was introduced to the sport when his mother signed him up for a local club team. His mother played an instrumental role in nurturing his early development, driving Vargas to countless practices and games, and being a staunch supporter. From early on, Vargas played opponents that were older than him. Embracing the added competition rather than avoiding it, Vargas developed the drive that would shape him into the dependable and resilient leader he is today.

Now serving as Co-Captain in his final year, Vargas has taken on the responsibility of steering the team toward a fresh start after last year's difficult season. Rather than dwelling on struggles, he has made it his mission to set a new tone from the first day of practice, lead-



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

ing not just through his voice but by example.

“I want to promote positivity. Last year, the team struggled a lot with negativity. A lot of players were getting mad at each other, and that carried onto the field. This year, we’re doing a lot better already from the start, and I think it’s due to positivity,” said Vargas.

Vargas shares captaincy with Upper Jaeden Morgan '28 and fellow Senior Kai Myles '27. Having played alongside each other for years, Myles described the dy-

namic between the three Co-Captains, highlighting Vargas' quieter, understated leadership and how their partnership keeps the team running smoothly.

“He really helps me stay grounded and focused on certain tasks, what needs to happen, and what needs to be done. Even though my voice is louder, he tells me certain things that a lot of the team doesn’t know about, and it’s really helpful. It actually helps us become successful. He’s always there to help me guide everybody else, and he

even guides me throughout things. He’s kind of a silent leader who just doesn’t get enough credit sometimes,” said Myles.

In addition to his responsibilities in leading and maintaining a focused mindset within the team, Vargas takes the time to mentor players adjusting to new roles on the field. Wyatt Orraca-Cecil '28 recalled his first year on the team, when Vargas was unanimously voted Co-Captain by his teammates. Orraca-Cecil plays a position where a mistake can expose the defense, and Vargas would be the player forced to cover for him.

“I was new to the position I was playing, [and Vargas] was the guy who had my back a lot in games and practice, just showing me the ropes and helping me figure things out. Offensively and defensively, he’s just so good that it allowed me to take a little bit of risk and be more confident in my play because I wasn’t scared that if I made a mistake, the whole team would crumble. I knew [Vargas] had my back,” said Orraca-Cecil.

As a fellow defender, Chris Lee

'27 pointed to Vargas' technical ability, describing him as a player whose game other centerbacks would benefit from studying. Lee also noted Vargas' composure in possession, always aware of his options and unafraid to carry the ball forward if given the chance, an example of how Vargas' competency makes him a leader on the field.

“He is a perfect example of a defender, he’s very strong on the ball. If you want to learn, watch him play. The same goes for all the center backs, but with him especially, watching how he scans the field and how he intentionally takes his first touch is important. It’s the little things he does that can really change how the center backs move with each other and what plays he generates after he has the ball,” said Lee.

Vargas hopes to continue his soccer career in college. For Vargas, leadership is not about being the loudest voice on the field, but rather about forming a positive culture, holding himself to a high standard, and quietly making his impact on the team around him.

Co-Captain Jaeden Morgan '28 Brings the Energy to Boys Soccer

JULIEN REQUA

Jaeden Morgan '28 plays center back and serves as Co-Captain of Boys Soccer. Morgan began playing soccer in Jamaica; although he said he was not initially the strongest player, his friends played an important role in his development.

“I was just a regular guy. But then, after eighth grade, because my friends were getting better, I had to keep up,” said Morgan.

Morgan described himself both as a player and a leader.

“In terms of my position, I’m a composed, technical, ball-playing center back who communicates, organizes the defense around and the rest of the field,” said Morgan.

“As a leader, I’d say I’m not afraid to tell people what’s going on. Like,

I am your best friend when everything’s going well, but if you’re in a bad situation, I’ll tell you what’s real.”

Chris Lee '27 described Morgan as a passionate and caring leader, and discussed Morgan's willingness to hold teammates accountable while still helping them understand how they can improve.

“He’s not afraid to call you out on the pitch, which is a good thing. He’ll explain it to you,” said Lee. “He also can rally a lot of people around, he makes sure it’s not an all-serious type of game... But he’s serious when he needs to be. And when [it’s] game time, he does not mess around.”

Lee also pointed to Morgan's confidence as one of his strongest qualities as a leader.

“He’s very strong, very confi-

dent too,” said Lee. “He does not falter.”

Adam Sealfon '29 described Morgan as a focused, technical, and precise player.

“He keeps a solid check, especially [on] myself, conversing with me about what decisions to make during the game. Off the pitch, he is funny, but also a classy guy, which reflects on his attitude as [Co-Captain],” said Sealfon.

Morgan currently plays club soccer at the MLS NEXT level and hopes to play Division I soccer in college. He also discussed his goals for the season.

“Recruiting’s going well, so hopefully by Spring Term, I should be settling into that,” said Morgan. “My only goal for this season is to have fun. Enjoy the time with my teammates.”



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

BOYS SOCCER

C KAI MYLES '27
KINGSTON 8, JAMAICA

C JAEDEN MORGAN '28
KINGSTON 3, JAMAICA

C EDRIAN VARGAS '27
METHUEN, MA

ANDREW RODRIGUES '27
FAIR HAVEN, NJ

KHOI DO '29
LYNNFIELD, MA

WYATT ORRACA-CECIL '28
SHERBORN, MA

DAVID BURT '28
MERIDA, MEXICO

AVIAD AWA '28
WEST ROXBURY, MA

SUNNY YU '28
SHANGHAI, CHINA

MARKO PERIC '27
BELGRADE, SERBIA

ALISTAIR FRITZ '28
BRONX, NY

XAVI ESCOBAR '30
ANDOVER, MA

MATTEO DAMIAN '28
ANDOVER, MA

JACKSON LISAUSKAS '30
ANDOVER, MA

BRIGHT GUO '30
HONG KONG, HONG KONG

CHRISTOPHER LEE '27
EDMONDS, WA

JULIEN REQUA '29
SHERMAN OAKS, CA

HAOYU ZHANG '27
AP LEI CHAU, HK

RAYYAN SIDDIQ '27
NORTH ANDOVER, MA

JEFFREY YIN '28
SUDBURY, MA

EMMETT DUFFIELD '28
BURLINGTON, MA

MICHAEL STAIL '27
ANDOVER, MA

ZAEEM KESHINRO '29
KINGSTON 5, JAMAICA

ARTHUR BOISVERT '27
QUEBEC CITY, CANADA

ADAM SEALFON '29
SOLON, OH

TYLER GILMAN '27
DRACUT, MA

ETHAN BROWN '27
KINGSTON 19, JAMAICA

BRANDON WALTON '28
TOTOWA, NJ

DILLON CHUGANI '27
ANDOVER, MA

MANAGERS:

GRACYNN HARTLEY '27
HUDSON, NH

CHLOE NICHOLS '27
MILTON, MA

AMBER WATSON '29
BROOKLYN, NY

Boys Soccer Bests Belmont Hill, Tough Test Against Milton

JOHN LEW

SATURDAY 9/19	
Andover	3
Belmont Hill	0
WEDNESDAY 9/23	
Andover	0
Milton	1

Boys Soccer (2-1) continues its season with a 3-0 victory over Belmont Hill before falling 1-0 to Milton in a closely contested matchup. The team entered this season focused on improving its chemistry, communication, and ability to compete against strong opponents.

Against Belmont Hill, Khoi Do '29 described a first half in which Andover struggled to generate offensive chances and spent much of the game defending. After half-time, however, the team began creating more opportunities and playing as a single unit.

"We were on the back foot for the most part in the first half, and



PORTER DAVITT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Kai Myles '27 attempts to dribble past a Belmont Hill athlete.

we had very few opportunities to score and very few offensive opportunities. However, in the second half, we got a lot more breakthroughs. We started playing more as a cohesive group," said Do.

The team's breakthrough came when Rayyan Siddiq '27 entered as a substitute and scored the opening goal. Do described

the goal as a major momentum shifter in Andover's favor.

"I was on the bench at the time, but someone played a ball, I think, over the top, and then Rayyan ran onto the ball. Then Rayyan took the ball and scored," said Do. "Belmont really lost their momentum after that."

Wyatt Orraca-Cecil '28 highlighted Rayyan's impact off the

bench, as well as the defensive performance that helped the team maintain its lead.

"It's not always easy coming off the bench in a really competitive game and making an instant impact," said Orraca-Cecil. "And then [Co-Captain] Jaeden [Morgan '28], our center back. He played a good game. He was composed in the back."

Orraca-Cecil compared the team's outlook after the win with last season.

"We were hoping for a better season this year, and we already have two wins, and the energy is different. We're focused a lot more," said Orraca-Cecil. "We know that we can do well this year, and we know that we have a good team."

Andover next faced Milton Academy. Adam Sealfon '29 described how the teams shared possession and scoring opportunities.

"The game was fifty-fifty in terms of control, with it virtually going either way," said Sealfon.

Sealfon also highlighted the team's communication, combination play, and physicality as important factors in keeping the game competitive. He highlighted Jeffrey Yin '28's performance.

"Jeffrey Yin stood out with his defensive determination throughout the game, and for him being a new varsity player, he really rose to the occasion," said Sealfon.

Orraca-Cecil believes the group's continued development will come from staying connected.

"I feel like we're all locked in. There's a different type of locked-in feeling that we have this year," said Cecil. "We're focusing on just playing together, playing as one, [and] trusting each other."

Boys Soccer will face Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) on Friday and Brooks on Monday.

Scan this QR code to watch the team's Co-Captains speak about their leadership, stories, and more!



Girls Soccer Begins Season 2-0 With Strong Defense and Team Chemistry

TIGER WANG

SATURDAY 9/19	
Andover	3
Rivers	0
WEDNESDAY 9/23	
Andover	1
Milton	0

Girls Soccer (2-0) opened its season with a 3-0 shutout win against Rivers on Saturday, followed by a 1-0 home win over Milton. The two wins marked a strong start to the season, with players crediting both preparation and team chemistry along the way.

After the team's scrimmages against Lawrence Academy (Lawrence) and Pomfret were canceled, a match against Rivers marked the first time Girls Soccer took the field together. Lilah Velez '29 described how the team adapted to succeed on both ends

of the field.

"It was our first time playing an eleven-versus-eleven game all together, so it was different than practice. We didn't get to have a scrimmage beforehand, so it was our first time playing all together as a team against another team. We were really good at finishing and on rebounds. Our wingers and outside backs had strong crosses, and our defense was doing well. It was a shutout. Our goal didn't get a lot of action, which is a good thing. We mostly played on their half of the field," said Velez.

Emma Sharon '29 elaborated on the specialized preparation the team put into adjusting to Rivers' shorter field, particularly on set pieces.

"That's free kicks and corners. Since it was a shorter field, we knew we would get a lot of corner kicks and free kicks. We also worked on penalty kicks, because the field was shorter, so the box would be higher up the field than normal. So we made sure to work on those chances, on our set pieces, on where we get set and start," said Sharon.

Velez described the team's atmosphere during the game



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

An Andover athlete aims to get around a Milton defender.

and credited teammate and Blue Key Head Elizabeth Wodarski '27 with bringing energy to the group.

"We have the Blue Key Head [Wodarski], and she definitely hypes this up along with the [Co-] Captains. The bus ride there, we have the speaker with a lot of fun music, and everyone gets along well. We have a good team. Everyone's friends," said Velez.

With the season underway, the

team is already looking ahead and making goals for the rest of the year. Sharon elaborated on some of these goals.

"Our goal for the season is to make the NEPSAC playoffs, because last year we didn't make it. We want to make it this year, and once we get there, hopefully that's a NEPSAC championship. We don't want to go too far ahead, though. We don't want to go into the game tomorrow against Mil-

ton too comfortable just because we beat Rivers. We always go in with a humble mindset," said Sharon.

That mindset carried into Wednesday's matchup, as the team hosted its first home game against Milton. Elizabeth Patton '29 described how the team fared against Milton, eventually securing the 1-0 win.

"We played Milton, and overall the team did pretty well at holding their own. It was a tough opponent, so the defense did really well, making sure that the other team had no opportunities or chances. We held on until the end and kept our 1-0 lead from the first half," said Patton.

Patton also emphasized the excitement and atmosphere of playing in front of a home crowd for the first time this season.

"We had the Blue Key Heads there, and everyone on the sidelines was cheering. Everyone was lifting each other up, and everyone was excited to play their first home game," said Patton.

Girls Soccer will play Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) on Sunday at Suffield.

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Girls Field Hockey Opens Season With Two Dominant Wins

ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN

SATURDAY 9/19	
Andover	8
Dexter Southfield	1
TUESDAY 9/22	
Andover	6
Brooks	0

Field Hockey (2-0) opened its season with two strong victories, defeating Dexter Southfield (Southfield) 8-1 on Saturday, followed by a dominant win over Brooks, sweeping the team 6-0 at home. After scoring early in both games, the team maintained possession and continued to build on its offensive and defensive play.

Vanessa Hall '28 described the team's performance against Southfield, emphasizing how quickly the team established control of the game.

"It was a good way to start our season. We scored early and got a corner within the first few minutes, which is always a good way to start the offense and control the game. And then we maintained



ISABELLA BORJAS-ANDRADE/THE PHILLIPIAN
Regan Driscoll '28 gets past a Brooks defender.

that momentum through the rest of the game," said Hall.

The team continued its strong start against Brooks, scoring within the first two minutes. Although it wasn't as organized as the team would have liked, Field Hockey still pulled away and won the season opener. Hall explained that the early goal shifted the game's momentum.

"On Tuesday, we also scored early, but it was a little more clustered and back and forth than we had hoped, but we still possessed the ball well and kept Brooks out of our defensive end. We scored

in the first two minutes, and it was right off the bat, it pushed the other team back. They lost their momentum and upped ours. So it was a shift in the game all around and motivated us to keep going," said Hall.

Both the technical and mental aspects within the team were particularly strong, and Ariela Kweller '30 highlighted the team's intensity and passing against Brooks, pointing to the contributions of several players on the offensive end.

"We played really well yesterday, and we picked up intensity

and had really good attacks. And we finished in front of the goal, too," said Kweller.

Elsa Artemiuk '30 noted an improvement in the team's performance in its game against Brooks. Artemiuk noted that, while there is still room to grow, the team is improving.

Artemiuk said, "Yesterday's game versus Brooks, we definitely picked up the pace. It was our first game of the regular season. So we obviously had a lot to learn, but we're constantly improving."

Hall praised Kimberly Duplessis '27's performance specifically on her defensive play and passing.

"Kimberly Duplessis was really good as well. Her back tackles and passing were really good, and she had the craziest goal I've ever seen in my entire life," said Hall.

With the team making various changes between games, Hall said practice focused on pressing and moving the ball more efficiently.

"One thing we worked on in practice yesterday was the press, and being in the right lanes to intercept and force the ball into certain areas, which we did well. We had a lot of interceptions off of that. And on the opposite, when practicing the press, we also practiced our outletting and getting open for each other and trying to move the ball up the field. We did that well. I felt like we were cut-

ting into seams and gaps to get open for each other," said Hall.

The team brought energy during the game, and it also showed high energy before the game. Hall described the atmosphere surrounding both games, noting the energy from the team and the home crowd.

Hall said, "On Saturday, we had a lot of energy on the bus, and it was really upbeat, and the game was fairly similar. It was really good energy for the most part throughout the game. But on Tuesday the atmosphere was really high energy and there were a lot of people there, sitting along the wall. So that helped bring the atmosphere."

Despite winning both opening games, the team looks to improve in practice. Hall said the team will keep working on ball movement and changing the point of attack to improve its performance.

"We'll definitely practice our transfers and changing the point of attack because sometimes we get stuck trying to force it up one side, as well as holding onto the ball for too long. So we'll practice two-touch and moving the ball quick," said Hall.

Field Hockey looks forward to playing at Loomis Chaffee this Saturday.

Boys Water Polo Starts Season with Double-Header Sweep

SARAH WANG & LUCY MILLER

SATURDAY 9/19	
Andover	9
Loomis Chaffee	4
SATURDAY 9/19	
Andover	12
Hopkins	9

Boys Water Polo (3-0) started its season with a victorious doubleheader at Loomis Chaffee (Loomis), winning 9-4 against Loomis and 12-9 against Hopkins. During preseason and practice

es, the team worked on conditioning and passing drills, as well as held scrimmages. Jacob Shin '29 described the focus of those practices.

"We had a pretty intense preseason [where] we did a lot of conditioning. Up until the game, we were working on a lot of passing drills, because on the team this year, the team wants to focus on really having consistent and accurate passes, because that's something the team was missing from last year. In the couple practices right before the game, we did a lot of scrimmaging to see how the chemistry would be between the team," said Shin.

Jeffery Lim '27 described how the team felt nervous initially, but settled into rhythm as the match progressed.

"Going to the games, we could definitely tell that we were a little

nervous, obviously being the first two games of the season. I'd say the first quarter wasn't our best quarter, [but after], we played really well, [and] the game nerves were gone. We played water polo and just came out with two victories," said Lim.

Shin highlighted Co-Captain Hugo Appen '27, one of the team's goalies, for his save that contributed heavily to the team's win.

"Our starting goalie, Hugo, made an insane save. It was one-on-one between the opposing team and our goalie. He made a crazy save, which led to our win because after that we scored a bunch of times and we didn't let them score any. During that game, we had a lot of great defensive moments, and overall we were locking them down, and we were playing the textbook defense that we were taught," said Shin.

Shin also recalled a key moment in the Hopkins game, where Joshua Chang '27 made a critical substitution for a starter.

"Joshua had to substitute in for one of our starters who had a cramp. I remember that he was really solid on defense, and he had a really nice steal at some point in the game. It was nice how he stepped out from the bench and got some good minutes in," said Shin.

Aryan Gargi '29 said that the games gave players experience that they had not necessarily gotten from drills and practices.

"One thing that we definitely learned is more game sense because especially in practices, we don't do that many scrimmages. So having that game against Loomis and Hopkins was really eye-opening for a lot of our members, because in practice usually

we'll just do technical stuff, like passing and shooting, but having that actual in-game experience helped a lot of people," said Gargi.

Lim discussed the contributions of new players and Boys Water Polo's goals for the season.

"We have a lot of potential, and it showed in the last two games. There are new players coming in, and the last two games show us that these new players are capable of bringing the best out of all of us. So I'm excited to see what the other guys can do and contribute to the team. But the mission of the team has not changed. We are still trying to play the best water polo as we possibly can," said Lim.

Boys Water Polo will face Deerfield on Saturday.

Boys Cross Country Places Fifteenth at the Manchester Invitational

SARAH WANG

Boys Cross Country competed in the Manchester Invitational last Saturday, racing against a field that included Pinkerton and Concord. In the 5-Kilometer Varsity race, the team placed 15th out of 29 teams, with Andover's top three finishers Cameron Butler '28 (17:37.1), Lincoln Strandberg '30 (17:52.7), and Devin Akyali '29 (18:04.8) all running impressive races against a competitive field. In the two-mile freshman race, Andover came in first, with Ismael Montero '30 besting over 150 other runners in 11:12.4 to win the division.

Being the opening meet of the season, this was the first race for many new runners like Strandberg. He described the team's

preparation for the meet.

"Before the meet, we did a lot of training to get us ready for the first meet. We did hill work for the course hills, and we did some recovery stuff the day before. Some of the Varsity guys and I went into the ice bath in Snyder [Center], and that was fun. Everyone seemed super hyped for the meet, going to [Paresky] Commons at 6:30 [a.m.] for team breakfast on Saturday morning, and it was super fun," said Strandberg.

Set at Derryfield Park in Manchester, New Hampshire, this course is known for many rough hills that make pacing critical. Akyali described the team's pacing strategy and how it used downhill to its advantage.

"[This] is an extremely rough course. It is one of, if not the hardest course we run, and there's a lot of really rough hills. If you go out

too fast and go too hard on those hills, you will die out, so we had to find a good mix of not going out too hard but also not getting caught in a pack. Mostly our race plan was to try to maintain effort, not pace, on the hills. When you come off those flats and reach those downhill, everyone else wants to slow down. When they get tired, that's when they get discouraged, so that's when [the team] wants to kick it up and make moves," said Akyali.

Being on a steep hill, the start line caused visible worry for new runners. To ease those pre-race nerves, Teddy Frangakis '27 said the team encouraged runners before the race through a pre-race ritual.

"Before the race, we do a team huddle with words of motivation, basically making sure they know they have it in them and that they're strong runners. Being able

to tell them upfront that they're strong and know how to tackle this course, based on their own mental game, is important," said Frangakis.

Akyali praised Sebastián Vermut '27 for his results, but also for encouraging younger runners. Vermut finished in the top five, earning points for the team in his first meet on Varsity.

"Vermut, in his first ever time running [for] Varsity, scored points for the team, which was amazing to see because that guy works so hard and he really holds the team together. He always encourages everyone, and everyone appreciates that guy. It was great to run alongside these guys that I love to train with," said Akyali.

Following the invitational, the team is preparing for the Black Bear Invitational. Vermut shared some insights into how this meet

at Manchester sets the tone for the rest of the season, and what the team learned from it.

"This meet is really an opener for the coming season. Last season, we lost a lot of runners, including some of our top Varsity runners, but we're getting into a rhythm. This season, we have so many new runners, and it is a great start as our team keeps growing. So right now, we're already doing better than last year for our Varsity race. We placed a lot higher than we did last year at Manchester. [The season] so far has been through the roof, and I can't wait to see it for the upcoming meets, specifically this Saturday," said Vermut.

Boys Cross Country will travel to the Black Bear Invitational on Saturday.

Girls Cross Country Bests the Hills to Open the Season

TIGER WANG

Girls Cross Country strode into action at the annual Manchester Invitational meet on Saturday, securing strong finishes and insightful baselines for the season ahead. The team had multiple strong performances with three runners placing within the top 50 in the Varsity race. Sophie Stetson '29 placed 34th in 20:55.3, Maddie Marshall '29 finished 39th in 21:01.7, and Hannah Jung '28 placed 47th in 21:13.0. In the girls JV race, Anya Casey '28 had a dominant performance, placed first with a time of 21:36 over 5-Kilometers.

Stetson shared how the team prepared for the demanding hills

at the Manchester Invitational course.

"We did a lot of hill work, and that really helped because that was a major challenge for this course. A lot of tempo work was really helping just get us back into the race pace and race pace mindset. We did two easy runs before, which just helped us get our legs back and fresh before the race. Overall it really helped everyone run their best," said Stetson.

Given that it was the first meet of the season, the team was looking to get a baseline for future races and the rest of the season. Stetson elaborated on the team's mentality and goals for the meet.

"The weather was pretty good. It was cloudy, not too hot. Everything was perfect for running. The

mentality was of not putting any pressure on any of us. No one had the pressure on themselves to get to a certain time or a certain place. It was really for starting off the season and to see where you're at," said Stetson.

The team went into the race with a plan for the course's numerous hills and complexity. Stetson described the team's specific strategy for the course and the overall sense of joy throughout the race.

"One strategy was not going too fast in the first mile, because the second mile is really slow and you want to conserve energy for that, since there are so many hills. But other than that, we all just wanted to go out there, run, have fun, and cheer everyone on," said Stetson.

Although the team had to leave

on the bus early in the morning, it still brought energy and positivity to the race. Fatima Bah '29 described the support from teammates and coaches throughout the race.

"The energy was really good, especially since we were so early in the morning. Everyone was still so excited and everyone was so supportive. All of our teammates were cheering for us even after their races and even after they were so tired, and our coaches came up to us at the start line to motivate us and tell us that we got this. There were so many different schools there, and it was so nice to see all of these different schools from all these different places come together to run together," said Bah.

Beyond the race itself, the team's community played a role in its preparation for this season opener. After a large graduating class from last season, Michelle Oh '29 described the team's effort to rebuild its chemistry and strengthen its bonds during the first week of practice.

"Starting practice a week before the meet was really good, because we got to meet all the new people, all the new Lowers and the new [Juniors]. There were a lot of new people this year, but that also rebuilt our community after we lost so many Seniors," said Oh.

The team races again this upcoming Saturday at the Black Bear Invitational.

ARTS & LEISURE

The Phillipian, VOL. CXLIX

Drumline Brings The Big Blue Spirit to All-School Meeting

JIA-YI ZHI

Drumline opened the first All-School Meeting (ASM) of the year, leading the flag procession into Cochran Chapel to “Gunga’s Theme.” The performance set a high-energy tone to welcome new students and celebrate the Senior class.

Preparing for the opener required navigating tight schedules and mastering new repertoire, explained Co-Captain Kwadjo Adjepong ’27. He emphasized that the group’s goal was to build energy and Big Blue spirit.

“We had to work around each of our schedules to make sure we were all free to practice and get ready... At the end of the day, that’s what Drumline is all about: getting everyone excited for the new year and boosting morale, which will carry us through the year. With our performance, I hope we inspired the student body to carry school spirit wherever they go and to have Big Blue spirit in every setting,” said Adjepong.

For member Kamryn Cabrera ’28, the high-stakes performance brought a mix of excitement and nerves. After the performance, students from Paul Revere House told her they had enjoyed it.

“I was very excited during the ASM performance, but I was also a bit scared. There were some songs that I was a little wary about. I think a lot of people enjoyed it, especially the newcomers. Since I’m prefecting in Paul Revere, many of the girls came up to me afterward. They really enjoyed Drumline, and it made their day,” said Cabrera.

The group’s goal extends beyond entertainment; it centers



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Kwadjo Adjepong ’27 (left), Aurelia Zhang ’27 (middle), Ava Shu ’27 (right) playing the drums during the first All-School Meeting on September 11th.

on driving schoolwide morale, emphasized Co-Captain Kayla Lyons ’28.

“I think the most important thing is that our audiences get energized. We don’t just play to sound good... if Andover doesn’t bring the energy, how are our teams going to know that they are supported? It made me happy to be in front of my peers, playing and bringing the energy, especially for the Class of ’27,” said Lyons.

Dolly Nguyen ’27, Drumline’s third Co-Captain, did not perform because she carried a flag during the procession. She mentioned that watching the returning members play made her reflect on her Senior year and her time with the group.

“It was emotional for me because I wasn’t playing. Seeing the returners play made me emotional about already being a senior and how quickly time passes. As a Drumline co-head, seeing my teammates perform so enthusiastically and so proudly made our shared pride even stronger,” said Nguyen.

From the audience, Chance Hernandez ’29 noticed how the performance raised the energy in the chapel and helped prepare the community for the rest of the meeting.

“I thought there was a good energy-setting baseline. They didn’t have to scream, they could use their drums to raise the energy and introduce the

other parts of the meeting so the community was ready. It wasn’t just them playing the drums, but also the smiles on their faces and the good vibes, which are important for setting the mood,” said Hernandez.

Aura Lewis ’29 pointed out that Drumline’s presence is central to campus culture year-round, especially at other campus events like games and pep rallies.

“I wouldn’t say people don’t get hyped when Drumline isn’t there, but I feel like it’s a little harder to get hyped because it’s the volume and the beat that gets everybody moving. Drumline sets the tone for pep rallies and events like the first ASM.

Seeing them this year, it was nice to watch them welcome people into one of the most important events of the first week of school. I feel like everybody shared in the happiness of seeing Drumline play,” said Lewis.

For Tue Linh Nguyen ’29, a new Lower, the performance was her first time seeing Drumline. She noted how it helped her understand the school’s spirit and feel connected to the audience.

“This was my first time seeing Drumline. It helped me understand why the school has so much school spirit. [Drumline] brought a lot of energy and it was great to see that the performers were excited rather than feeling forced to perform. It was easy to match their energy because they were genuinely happy to show up for the school. These days, it’s hard to find something everyone can get excited about together,” said Nguyen.

Looking ahead, Drumline member Cabrera urged the campus community to recognize the athletic discipline behind the music.

“Drumline is so much more than a group of people that come and perform at games. We’ve built a community, just like everybody else. We are a sport, and a lot of people don’t consider it one, especially a varsity sport. We don’t have a varsity jacket for no reason. Please take into consideration the time and dedication we put into what we do. We should [be building] a more uplifting community as opposed to one that shuts us down sometimes,” said Cabrera.

The Finishing Touch: Accessories Across Campus

REPORTING BY
ELIZABETH QIN & ELLA CHEON

Whether it’s a necklace, charm, or watch, it’s often the smallest details that pull a look together. Some are heirlooms handed down through generations, some are gifts from friends, and others have simply become staples in a student’s everyday rotation. Though easy to overlook, each accessory carries a spark of personality, a small reminder of the people, places, and memories students choose to keep close.

ADDIE MARSH ’27

“I wear a good amount of jewelry, so that includes bracelets, rings, necklaces, and earrings. I have one necklace I wear almost every day. It’s an ‘A,’ and it’s a bubble letter, because A is for my name, Addie. My mom bought it for me, so it’s pretty special to me. I’m very grateful for it. I’ve been wearing it every day for almost two years now. I also have a bracelet that I wear every day that my grandmother gave to me for my bat mitzvah. I try to match [my accessories] to whatever my outfit is, so that could include colors, or if I’m wearing an outfit that I think is pretty minimal, maybe I’ll do a lot of jewelry to kind of even it out. But I would say, I almost think of it as the finishing touch.”



COURTESY OF ADDIE MARSH

JASON CAI ’28

“I have this necklace that has a little cat figure on it with three spikes that hang off of the top of the pendant, so that’s one that I wear pretty often. And then I have a medium steel chain from GU. Those are the two primary ones. I have some others, but I haven’t worn them just yet. [My accessories] are often silver, shiny, metallic, or a shiny metallic green, and I feel like it’s because it kind of complements the colors of what I wear. I tend to stick to having darker colors with complements. There’s often black somewhere in every outfit that I wear, and black works pretty well with silver. [My accessories depend] on what I happen to choose to wear that day, or sometimes I go the other way around and pick an accessory and build an outfit around it.”



COURTESY OF JASON CAI



COURTESY OF ADELYNE LIU

ADELYNE LIU ’28

“On my left hand, I have this ring from my friend, and it’s a Möbius strip. The one on my right hand is a flower with pink gemstones because I really like flowers, and I like pink, too. As for my bracelets, two of them are representative of Chinese culture. I have one that’s a charm of a snake because I was born in the Year of the Ox, and the snake’s a protective charm. On my right arm, I have a red bracelet, and it says ‘I wish you fortune’ in Chinese. Two of my other bracelets are made by my friends, and I have one Italian charm bracelet too. My necklace is a cow on a moon, and I wear it because when people ask me about my necklace, I can say it’s a ‘Moo-n.’ [When] I want to wear something simpler, or if I’m indecisive and I don’t know which ones to wear, there are four that I usually wear. One of them is a friendship bracelet from my friend, Eliza Francis [’26]. [The other three include] the lucky charm bracelet that I was talking about earlier and the two rings.”

SERAFINA LUK ’30

“I like to have a lot of keychains on my bag, like my smiski blind ball, a hand-made gift from my friend, a freebie keychain I got from buying a Laneige lip balm, and a fluffy leopard print heart keychain with a big studded gems. I think that these keychains are a more subtle way of expressing my personality. For example, from the type, design, and size of a keychain, you can tell what [someone’s] interests, passions, and aesthetic tastes are. It’s a really personal style and just like wearing a cute fit, it makes you feel better.”



COURTESY OF SERAFINA LUK

The 2026 Emmy Awards: Best and Worst Dressed

BEST DRESSED:

ZENDAYA

Zendaya continued to raise the bar on the red carpet with her look at this year’s Emmys. Nominated for her role in the third and final season of “Euphoria,” she wore a sheer, crystal-embellished custom Prada gown with a plunging necklace. She paired the gown with a short pixie cut and large Mikimoto pearl earrings, creating a contrast between the dress’s drama and the looks more delicate details. Styled by Law Roach, Zendaya’s look once again demonstrated her ability to make a bold outfit feel polished.

JEFF HILLER

Jeff Hiller, nominated for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for his role in “Pluribus,” wore a tuxedo that stood out from the evening’s more traditional suits. What could have been another black tuxedo became more distinctive through embroidered playing cards, intricate gold stitching along the lapel, and a gold shirt underneath. The outfit balanced simplicity with intricacy, elevating what would have been a simple, uninteresting suit. Hiller wore Bode, a brand that specialises in using these kinds of artisanal techniques to incorporate in their outfits. His outfit was a pleasant surprise among many of that night’s

FLORENCE PUGH

Florence Pugh looked fairy-like in a lilac draped gown with a flowing tulle train. Her “messy” updo, styled by hairstylist Hyungsun Ju, was carefully arranged to look effortless. The corseted bodice and layers of tulle in the Vivienne Westwood gown worked together to create contrast between the fabrics. Pugh’s green and pink necklace added another pastel element to the look and complemented the gown’s color. The combination of the dress, hairstyle and jewelry made the outfit feel cohesive from top to bottom.

REPORTING BY RAMSEY SARKISAN

At the 2026 Emmy Awards on Monday, September 14, celebrities arrived on the red carpet in outfits that ranged from dramatic gowns to experimental suits. Presenters and nominees used their clothing, jewelry and styling to express personal taste and make statements. While some looks were polished and memorable, others were less successful.



SOPHIA ZHANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

WORST DRESSED:

SHAILENE WOODLEY

Shailene Woodley’s look was one of the more disappointing outfits on the red carpet. Styled by Balenciaga, Woodley wore crystal-embellished pants, a low-cut light-blue top and leather gloves. The combination of fabrics, colors and tailoring made the outfit feel disjointed, while the slick bun that covered her ears added another competing element. Although the look was underwhelming, Woodley won her first Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series for her role in “Paradise.”

CAREY MULLIGAN

Carey Mulligan, a first-time Emmy nominee, arrived at the Peacock Theatre in a royal blue, floor length dress covered in white flecks and finished with a pinned bow on the back. Mulligan has been known for her polished fashion choices, which made this dress feel disappointing by comparison. The bow and pattern made the dress look less refined than intended, although the bold color was effective. The Row dress ultimately fell below the standard set by Mulligan’s earlier red-carpet looks.

CIARA MILLER

Ciara Miller’s ivory two-piece had potential, but the tailoring and fabrics weakened the overall look. Her later Marc Bouwers dress, an homage to Whitney Houston, was striking and well-tailored, making the earlier outfit feel even more underwhelming by comparison. The top was ivory and covered in sequins, while the bottom was a flowing white skirt. Because the two pieces were slightly different shades of white, they looked mismatched when paired together. The outfit lacked the cohesion of Miller’s later dress, which used its tailoring and design more effectively.

Stars, Stripes, and Stadium Style: What did Students Wear to Saturday’s Football Game?

REPORTING BY ELIZABETH QIN + SAYA OISHI

Students filled Phelps Stadium in red, white and blue last Saturday afternoon for the football game. With America-themed outfits including blue sunglasses and Uncle Sam hats, students cheered on Andover with festive spirit.

SALALI SALTPAW ’29:

“I wore a white top, blue pants, and a gray sweater. I had blue sunglasses and a red necklace on as well. My favorite part was probably the necklace and sunglasses, because I thought they were a fun touch to my outfit. I got the sunglasses from an Andover spirit day last year. I’ve worn them a lot last year and this year because they really make the outfit when we’re trying to wrap our school spirit, especially with having as much blue as you can. Everybody wearing their red white and blue really added [the atmosphere]. It instilled a sense of pride, especially in our school. We were all doing chants whenever the team scored a touchdown or an interception. The vibe overall was just really fun and in the moment.”



COURTESY OF SALALI SALTPAW



COURTESY OF FAREEDAH BODUNRIN

FAREEDAH BODUNRIN ’30:

“Everybody in the drumline had American flags inside our pockets, or attached to drums, or whatever we were playing. I saw people running up and down the fields and showing that they were there and supporting us and we were there too. Even something as little as clothing really adds to that vibe. I feel really connected because it showed the football team that people from their own community, not just the staff, but their actual classmates or their peers, were also there in support.”

KIERAN KOLAR ’28:

“I wore a blue Vineyard Vines quarter-zip, some red Lululemon shorts, white shoes, and some of my friends were passing around an Uncle Sam type of hat, so I had that on for a minute. It wasn’t over the top. I probably could have gone more all out, to be honest. My favorite part of my outfit is probably the top because I was representing the whale Vineyard Vines. Shout-out to Uncle Go for getting me my shirt still. In the future, I would get myself a Star-Spangled Banner pair of overalls. There were a couple of other people wearing them. I thought it was a good outfit.”



COURTESY OF KIERAN KOLAR

SEWUESE UPAA ’29:

“I believe I was wearing black shorts and then a red sweatshirt or a red shirt. I’m an international student. You know, Canadian. And any excuse to get all American and dressed up and [be in] American pride is really fun to me. Hearing the anthem was cool, seeing the colors were cool, the drumline, everything. The whole spirit was really fun. Everyone was really dressed up. They were hyped, they were waving flags. Everyone was screaming. It was so cool seeing the Blue Key Heads cheering and everything.”



COURTESY OF SEWUESE UPAA

Hit Single or High Tech Hype: “new trick” by Rosé

HAYLEY FAN

Released on September 18, Rosé’s single, “new trick,” featured a stylistic change from her past music, prompting reaction among students. Her new production has drawn attention towards the song’s collaboration with Apple and the relationship between commercial advertising and music.

After her first listen to the song, Johannah Huang ’29 found it a refreshing departure from Rosé’s usual music.

“I watched the music video too, and I thought it was not Rosé’s typical style, but I initially still thought it was pretty cool. It’s got a school vibe too. I thought it was really nice and refreshing... I know Rosé typically has this softer vibe, especially her past few albums. I think they were all very love oriented, and they talked more about femininity. But this one’s more about her independence. It’s very cool pivoting, she’s really showcasing her singing and it’s great,” said Huang.

Rosé’s discography has generally leaned into emotional vulnerability and depth, contrasting with her group BLACKPINK’s high energy EDM pop. Her recent pivot in solo music style with high energy tracks like “APT” and now “new trick” has thus led to varying responses. Kaytlyn Xiao ’29 further commented on the difference between “new trick” and Rosé’s other songs.

“I know her past albums like ‘rosie’ and ‘APT’ were pretty popular also. I believe her past songs were more vocally strong, and more emotional pop ballads. But this



one felt more like 2000s rock, kind of Avril Lavigne’s music... I felt like personally, it wasn’t catchy enough for me to remember it. I just remember the overall vibes it gave,” said Xiao.

Agreeing with Xiao, Cindy Duan ’28 described the track as generally unimpressive.

“I really like the instrumentation and how the beat and the instrumentation come together. I didn’t really like the lyrics that much because I felt like they could’ve

put so much more in them, but they’re not bad... I would say it’s a decent song, but I probably won’t be listening too much because it’s just not my vibe,” said Duan.

The song also prompted discussion about genre as Boson Bai ’29 noted the musical aspects of the song that stood out to him.

“I think it’s a very unique song sitting in between two genres, K-pop and generic classic 2000s rock pop... the combination of the vocals and

guitar provides a nice contrast to the drum set because it’s more percussive whereas the guitar is holding more chords. I thought that was just a nice musical element,” said Bai.

While some students found elements of “new trick” refreshing, others felt that its structure limited the song’s impact. Huang gave her thoughts on the song’s composition.

“The song itself was quite repetitive. I think the main chorus plays three times.

Once at the beginning, then in the middle, and then at the end. There’s definitely some reason to do that, but I think lately in the music industry, it’s just been a little too repetitive. People aren’t really coming up with new creative novel ideas. They’re just recycling this whole one idea over and over because it’s trending,” said Huang.

Another topic of conversation was the song’s focus on advertising the new Apple iPhone 18, prompting discussion on where the line should be drawn between original solo music and advertisement. Xiao believed that the two things should be kept separate.

“I feel like artists should leave advertising out of music videos and music. Art itself is a form of expression and it’s a freedom. If it’s used to commercialize products and bring it into art, it ruins the purpose... Considering that I like some of her past solo songs before and she drops an Apple ad this time, it is a bit overwhelming,” said Xiao.

Duan reflected on how commercial collaborations can limit artistic liberties.

“In general, I feel like a collaboration with a big company on a song limits what you can do with it in terms of artistry and your own vision. I feel like this entire concept fits Rosé pretty well since she’s got so much experience, so I’m glad that Apple did a collaboration with her and not a different artist who may not have fit the concept as well... it feels like she’s pivoting her artistic vision a little bit from her last album. I’m just hoping that her next album will also be as true to herself as her last one,” said Duan.

Camaraderie and Community Spirit: Quad Night Events

REPORTING BY
HAYLEY FAN & ENZO YIN

A slight chill hung in the air, but it did little to dampen spirits as students of all grades gathered in the Quads for an evening of food, festivities, and fun. Last Saturday, dorms hosted student-run booths, offering everything from tarot readings and caricatures to Family Feud and friendly games of poker. Between slushies and rounds of cards, Quad Night drew students across grades and dorms together, fostering conversations between students from all throughout campus.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Crispin Black ’28 posing along with his caricature illustrated by Isham house.

MAXIE WU ’28: PEASE FORTUNE TELLING

“We ran a tarot reading, fortune-telling table. That was really fun because our house counselor got us these cards, and we did some research online, and it seemed like a lot of people were excited to get their fortune told... The idea was kind of spontaneous. I remember it was Claire Wang, she [has already] graduated now, but she told my friends and me our fortunes, and I thought that was really fun, so we recommended that idea to our house counselors, and people seemed to be on board... To be honest, we low-key just looked online. I searched up how to read tarot cards, and the tarot cards were also beginner cards, so they had specific traits at the top. We basically split the decks into the arcana cards, and then we did past, present, future with the other cards... We kind of made some things up as we went along, but it was just really fun.”

BENJAMIN BALL ’29: EATON COTTAGE FAMILY FEUD

“My dorm was Eaton Cottage, and we decided to do ‘Family Feud’ for Quad Night. We decided on it because we were thinking of fun game shows that we like to watch and Family Feud came up in our dorm meeting conversation...I helped with data collection, so we went around polling students on questions that we had come up with, so that was my role. Other people in the dorm helped put together the slideshare that we used and helped run the booth... We had a group of four girls and four guys who seemed to have a friendly rivalry going on, and they stayed with us for three rounds and kept going against each other. I think they made people turn their heads because they were laughing so loud, and it was really fun... It’s super awesome to help plan these events because so many people come out and enjoy it.”

TUE LINH NGUYEN ’29: SLUSHIES

“I came because I heard quad night was really fun, and also, I live in Johnson. Shout out to Johnson! It’s in the West Quads, and no one really comes here so I was really excited to have an event where people actually came down and hung out in this area, because there’s not much to do here... I really like the slushy... It’s really yummy, even when it’s cold... Events like this are actually an important way I really integrated well here. It’s really nice to have something that everyone enjoys doing and everyone comes around. All different quad dorms and people come around to play and just do games and it’s silly and fun. Sometimes you’re not even here for the games, you’re just here for the people, and I think that’s really the spirit of Andover.”

KAREENA KAPOOR ’29: ISHAM CARICATURES

“We thought it would be really funny to do some sort of drawing activity and then we thought of caricatures from there because of the night in Flagstaff... We did rotation, so everyone rotated with thirty minute shifts. Everyone had an equal role. You see someone, you ask them if they want to get drawn or people just come up to the table. Then you try your best to draw them or if it’s your friend, you try to draw them looking funny... I think Quad Night definitely brought a lot of the kids into the quads. There are fun activities and just the broadness of the activities is great too. Everyone’s friends are here and you’re able to just be together and have fun.”

JOSEPH ZHOU ’30 ROCKWELL POKER

“There were a lot of people who joined our poker station... I got to teach some people, and most of the time I was also being the dealer... Basically everyone at the table I met was new. There were some people from Rockwell, but most of them were from West Quad South or other dorms and other grades... It’s a great way to connect with more people, especially people from other grades or people you have never met before.”

Lillian Montalto

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