

PA to Discuss Future of Allowing Film Crews on Campus

Continued from A1, Column 6

campus, according to Porter.

The \$20,000 covers the day of shooting, the preparation time needed to set the scene and the time required to clean the area after filming, Porter said. He added that any additional costs that the crew incurs will be added to the original fee.

“The \$20,000 works out nicely for the entire school. It fills a little hole in the budget created by the recent decision to keep Commons open longer,” said Porter.

“The Social Network” is not the first film to shoot a scene on the Andover campus. A scene of the recently released movie “The Invention of Lying,” starring Rob Lowe and Jennifer Garner, was filmed at the Andover Inn in the spring of 2008.

Porter said that the recently lowered taxes on filming in Massachusetts have made the state more attractive to many production companies. As a result, he said, many film companies have sought permission to film on the Andover campus.

“We’re still trying to decide as an institution whether allowing a movie shot on campus is a good idea. We’re weighing the pros and cons,” said Porter.

PA charged Warner Bros. \$15,000 to film on campus for “The Invention of Lying,” said Porter.

Porter said, “The [previous] experience... made us a little wiser this year. If we are going to allow filming movies on campus, we need to establish guidelines—what is acceptable to charge and where they can film.”

“Whether it’s a small budget movie or a big budget movie, it still causes disruption on campus,” he continued.

The Business Office, Public Safety, the Communications Office and the Office of the Physical Plant (OPP) are all involved with the filming this weekend.

“When a production like this comes to campus, it involves an influx of a lot of people and a lot of equipment, and they all have to go somewhere,” said Porter.

Before the school gave approval for the film shooting, OPP first tested the effects of fake snow on the lawns to determine whether the mess would be difficult to clean up afterwards.

“The simulated snow was a big concern. We were worried about how easily it would come off,” Porter said.

Although the snow did not affect the grass, many students tampered with it. Porter said it appeared that students had a snowball fight.

Administrators realized that extra security would be needed to ensure that students would not tamper with or trek across the fake snow.

Public Safety will patrol the Flagstaff Quad while the film crew is preparing the set and filming on campus.

“An officer will be stationed at the Gelb [parking] lot to restrict parking and an officer will be assigned with the crew for the time of the shoot in the evening,” said Thomas Conlon, Manager of the Public Safety Office.

Columbia Pictures will provide additional security personnel to watch over the set, Conlon said.

ASM John Ratey Links Increased Physical Activity with Higher Levels of Brain Stimulation, Encourages Students to Exercise More

By GREG WANG

Author and Harvard professor John Ratey urged Andover students to embrace exercise and improve their mental and physical health at Wednesday’s All-School Meeting.

Ratey is the author of several books on psychiatry and neurology. His latest book, “Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain,” urges its readers to revitalize schools, combat the obesity crisis and fight the underlying cause of many chronic diseases.

Catherine Golas, Administrator of Isham Health Center, and Michael Kuta, Athletic Director, worked together to bring John Ratey to Andover. They achieved this objective with the help of an Abbot Grant.

Golas wanted to share Ratey’s message with the Andover community after she read Spark. “After reading each chapter, I went for a run,” she said.

“When I exercise, I know how great I feel,” Golas said. “I wanted students to feel the same way, and I was hoping that [Ratey] would have an impact on non-athletes—to motivate them to see the science, and want to make that change,” she continued.

Ratey spoke about the connection between physical exercise and mental stimulation.

He explained how the human race has evolved over time to become less and less active, yet more in need of additional exercise than ever.

He said that early hunter-gatherers covered an average of 10 to 14 miles a day, but now the average human spends 10 to 14 hours in front of a screen each day.

“For the early humans, [exercise] was a necessity, not a choice,” Ratey said.

He then encouraged students to embrace active lifestyles. “We are not meant to sit. We are meant to move. We need to move,” he said.

Ratey continued by linking physical activity to higher development of the brain. He connected the parts of the brain that control movement and thinking and explained how the health of one affects the other.

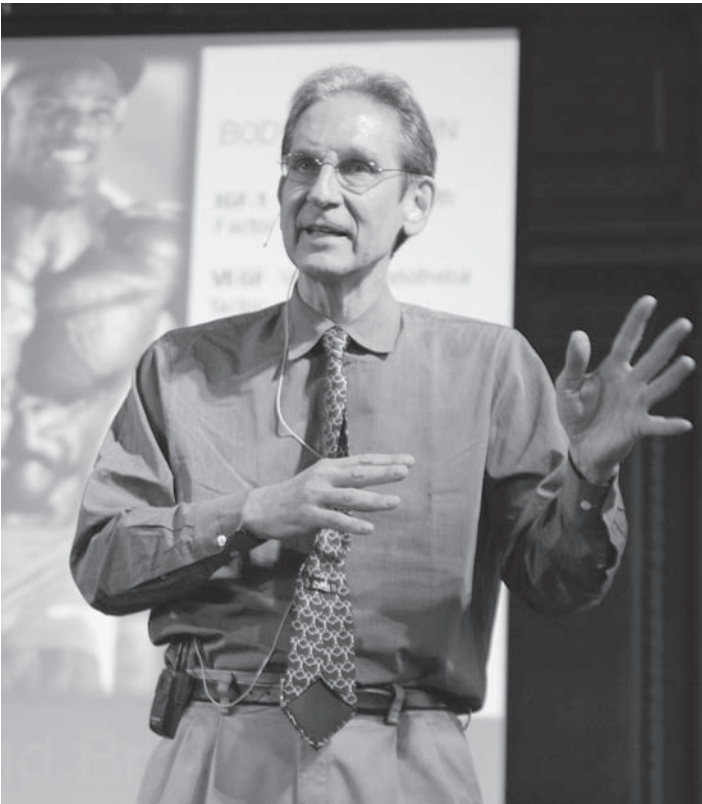
“The moving brain is the thinking brain,” he said.

To bolster his theory, Ratey cited a study that compared the IQs of obese toddlers to those of their average weight siblings.

The study showed that obese toddlers at age four had average IQs that were almost 30 points below their normal-weight siblings, compared to the usual five to 10-point difference between siblings.

Ratey explained that obese toddlers also showed symptoms of early Alzheimer’s disease, an incurable, degenerative and terminal disease usually diagnosed to people over 65 years of age.

Ratey discussed the reasons and logic behind the statistics. In a study that analyzed the major factors that keep a brain young, active and healthy, exercise proved to be the most important, he said.



M. LEE/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Golas and Kuta organized Ratey’s visit to campus.

After citing another recent study analyzing the correlation between exercise and brain health, Ratey said that lab rats that ran almost 20 miles a day scored 20 percent better on tests measuring memory, cognition and logic than rats that did not exercise.

The rats’ brains also became larger, and the brain cells grew in size and in number, he said.

Ratey concluded his presentation by urging the students to become more active during the day. He cited cases where schools all around the country began to adopt more exercise programs for their students.

One school, after starting a daily exercise program, saw an 80 percent drop in disciplinary problems, Ratey said. Both attendance and concentration levels shot up more than 35 percent, and grade point averages raised one and a half letter grades, he added.

“I wanted to change opinion, knowledge and awareness,” Ratey said after the presentation. “I wanted the students to be aware of what inactivity does, and activity’s impact on physical, mental, spiritual and cognitive health.”

PA Faculty Recall Memorable Experiences of Teaching Parents Over Parents’ Weekend

Continued from A1, Column 5

Many Andover teachers remember past experiences teaching classes in front of parents.

Therese Zemlin, Instructor in Art, said, “Teaching the class is always a lot of fun. One year, students were sculpting facial expressions using animals or people. One student had used his dog as a starting point. His parents walked into the class and the woman exclaimed, ‘Oh my god, that’s our dog!’”

Temba Maqubela, Dean of Faculty and Instructor in Chemistry, wrote in an email to *The Phillipian*, “I once had an argument with a parent about a demo I did in chemistry. The parent was relentless in stating he was right.”

“I stood my ground only to find out after class from a colleague, the late Mr. Sherrill, that I was arguing in front of parents with a Nobel Prize Winner in Biochemis-

M. DISCENZA/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Teachers greet parents at last year’s Parents’ Weekend.

try,” continued Maqubela.

“I thought I was going to impress the parents. I never did the demo on Parents’ Weekend again,” he added.

Peter Neissa, Instructor in Spanish, recalled one parent who committed the same

gaffe many students do in class.

“One parent, who had come in on the red-eye flight from California, fell asleep and fell out of his chair,” Neissa wrote in an email to *The Phillipian*.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A. LEVINE/ THE PHILLIPIAN

The blue glow from the clock on Samuel Phillips Hall was illuminated against the night sky.

You see much more of your children once they leave home.

- Lucille Ball

WRITE FOR NEWS

Email [jliu1](mailto:jliu1@andover.edu), [myan](mailto:myan@andover.edu), [sbouchard](mailto:sbouchard@andover.edu)

A CAKE FOR ALL SEASONS

My name is Elaine Morello. I have baked for Savour Kitchen and the Andover Inn. Some of you may have had some of my desserts through school or at graduation at the Andover Inn. Remember those delicious cupcakes? I have provided Birthday cakes for some of the students in the past through their Parents who have contacted me directly from out of state. I have some great ideas of what I could provide to the students delivered directly to school to celebrate special occasions or to have that Home-Away-From-Home delicious, healthy goodness just like Mom or Grandma makes, muffins, YUMMY cookies, etc. I am local and can be reached at 978-852-7087 cell, 603-362-4892 home or acakeforallseasons@myway.com

robert
jason
salon

92 Main Street • Andover, MA 01810

978-470-3100

www.robertjasonsalon.com

Meath Founded Private Children’s Media Company ‘Andanzura’ After Leaving Andover

Continued from A1, Column 3

volved in a main stage production of “The Tempest” using full body puppets. We prerecorded each part in the media lab and mixed them into a soundtrack. I was the voice of Caliban. The puppets were manipulated by three or four people,” said Meath.

“The Theater Department back then was a mixing of all kinds of artistic endeavors. To be involved in such a thing in high school is really a gift,” he said.

Meath graduated in the class of 1974, the first class to graduate after the integration of Abbot Academy.

“My Junior year was the first without a dress code, and by the time I graduated, all of my classes had girls in them.”

Though TVs had not yet been introduced to dorms while Meath attended Andover, there were weekly feature-length movies.

“During my Junior year, there was a Saturday night feature-length movie in GW. At the first show of the year, before they would start the movie, the Blue Key Heads got

up on stage and made us learn by heart ‘The Royal Blue,’ Andover’s fight song,” said Meath.

“The most wonderful opportunity at Andover is the population of students, and how we interact. The faculty is wonderful in stimulating and allowing creativity to happen. But creativity itself comes from the students,” he said.

Meath now serves as Executive Producer at Andanzura, which delivers “vibrant and highly entertaining media content that inspires kids to embrace and internalize the process of making informed decisions for themselves,” according to the company website.

In the past, Meath has worked for the Discovery Channel and PBS. He said that his jobs at these larger companies were to develop “an idea into a show or taking an existing show and developing and producing it.”

Meath has also worked alongside Jim Henson, creator of “The Muppets.”

Meath was motivated to create Andanzura because he sought more creative freedom

than the larger companies had afforded him.

To start his company, Meath gathered a team of partners from all sectors of the media. “The first step in creating a new company was finding the right team. My partners bring expertise in business, finance, educational development, creative and production. It’s liberating but risky being a co-owner of a production company,” he said.

With a private media company, “development takes longer,” said Meath. “There’s more sales involved. You have to sell the team, then the concept, find the financing, then ultimately produce the concept. The sales side is what lengthens the process.”

“We put together a team to create properties, but first you need to find financing from venture capital,” he continued.

Meath met one of his partners, David Masher, while working on the popular PBS children’s game show “Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?” The show aired from 1991 to 1996.

Meath currently resides in Cambridge, MA.

Obaid-Chinoy Discusses Need for Education Reform in Pakistan to Prevent Taliban Recruitment

Continued from A1, Column 6

ban insurgents, who are currently fighting each other within Pakistan. She also discussed how this fighting has affected civilians caught in the crossfire of battle.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the fighting in Pakistan. The political and social turmoil has destabilized the nation’s educational system, which leaves Pakistani parents with few education options for their children, she said.

Because the Taliban schools provide food and shelter for their students, they are particularly attractive to low income families, said Obaid-Chinoy.

“The Taliban definitely knows how to play people’s emotions,” said Obaid-Chinoy.

Over the past several years, more kids have joined the Tal-

iban forces and have carried out numerous acts including suicide bombings.

According to Obaid-Chinoy, the Taliban committed eight suicide bombings last week alone.

Obaid-Chinoy also interviewed wounded Pakistani soldiers and child victims of the terrorist violence in order to illustrate the severity of the current Pakistani situation, and to suggest that immediate assistance is necessary to stop the turmoil in her homeland.

Peter Merrill, Head of the World Languages Division and Instructor in Russian, said, “Having been to Pakistan many years ago before the Taliban rose to such power, I was surprised to see the country in such a serious, violent, political unrest.”

Angelica Jarvenpaa ’11 said, “I had followed current events but had never really understood the background of the

conflict in Pakistan. The film was incredibly insightful and taught me not only the basic background, but the challenges that lie ahead for the nation.”

Obaid-Chinoy concluded her film screening by expressing her hope for Pakistan to undergo educational reforms and concentrate on educating the younger generations of Pakistan.

Conflict between neighbors is one of the greatest challenges to resolving conflict in Pakistan, according to Obaid-Chinoy.

Obaid-Chinoy is the first non-American journalist to receive the Livingston Award, a national award issued to media professionals under the age of 35 for excellence in local, national and international reporting. Her films have aired on networks such as CNN, PBS and the Discovery Channel.



Obaid-Chinoy addressed the conflict between the Pakistani Army and the Taliban at dinner.

Chase and Tang to Host Webcast in November To Answer Questions from PA Community

By EMILY JAEKLE

Barbara Chase, Head of School, and Oscar Tang ’56, President of the Board of Trustees, want to educate alumni and parents about current initiatives at Andover through a live online webcast.

The “State of the Academy” webcast is designed to inform PA community members of the upcoming capital campaign and the state of the economy as they relate to the Strategic Plan of 2004. The webcast also plans to answer any questions in real time.

The webcast, scheduled for November 11, is the first of its kind, according to Tracy Sweet, Director of Academy Communications.

She said that administrators planned for this live Q&A session for “those who are not with us everyday and might not know the ins and outs of the state of the Academy.”

Chase first suggested the idea of the webcast and “gets credit for really thinking globally about how best to reach out to alumni, parents and friends,” said Sweet.

After their opening comments, Chase and Tang will answer questions from alum-

ni, parents and other visitors. The questions, which can be emailed beforehand, will shape the discussion topics of the webcast.

The webcast is also scheduled to coincide with the public phase of Andover’s capital campaign, set to launch a week before the webcast.

Phillips Academy’s social media networks, such as Facebook and Twitter, will inform the community about the webcast.

“We hope to get to everyone’s inboxes one way or another so they have every opportunity to participate in the program,” said Sweet.

The Office of Communica-

tions, the Technology Office, the Office of Alumni Affairs, Chase and Tang were all involved in publicizing the webcast.

The webcast is still in the planning stages. “We have no idea how many people are going to tune in or send in questions so, for us, it is new territory,” said Sweet.

“We don’t have a plan to make this a series yet, but we do hope that this event is engaging and informative for those who take part,” she added.

For those unable to view the webcast, the session will be recorded and posted online to view.

The Computer Shrinks

“Behavior Modification for Computers”

Whether at your business or in your home – for any computer issue, including **hardware, software, peripherals, networks, training, repairing broken systems or adding valuable new capabilities.**

TCS has the expertise to do the job right, at your location and **at a price you will appreciate.**

The Computer Shrinks will help you with:

- Computer and Network Repair
- Hard Drive Issues and Repair
- Hardware
- Software
- Networks
- Virus and Spam Protection
- Pop-up Protection
- Data Recovery, Restoration and Backup

978-475-0409
TheComputerShrinks.com • info@TheComputerShrinks.com
P.O. Box 1242, Andover MA 01810

Captain Pizza

\$5.99 School Special
Any sub or sandwich
1 ounce bag of chips
12 ounce can of soda

Gourmet Pizza
Mediterranean/Arabic Food
Sandwiches/Subs
Salads
Calzones
Ziti
Chicken/Beef

978.975.1230

Present this ad and receive \$3 off of any order of \$12.99 or more

captainpizza114.com

Children aren’t happy with nothing to ignore, And that’s what parents were created for.

- Ogden Nash, “The Parent,” Happy Days, 1933

WRITE FOR NEWS

Email jliu1, myan, sbouchard

Beaven & Associates

Private Tutors

est. 1976

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

91 Main St.
Andover, MA 01810
978-475-5487

prbeaven@aol.com
www.beavenandassociates.com

Fashion Trend

The Boyfriend Blazer

Madeleine McClintic

Those who read Vogue or Elle have undoubtedly heard of the Boyfriend blazer, an edgy alternative to the regular blazer and one that can completely transform your look. This season we are seeing a return to the 80's, and this piece epitomizes the fashion of that era. When shopping for one, make sure it hits below the butt and that the sleeves are three-quarter length. Blazers in neutral colors like gray or black can be worn with almost everything and add instant, easy sophistication. Leave the blazer unbuttoned for a

laid-back feel, and contrast the neutral color of the blazer with a strong-colored shirt underneath. Try red, a color seeing a definitive rise in popularity this season. Add skinny jeans, flats and a long necklace, and you are ready to go. Another option would be to pair the blazer with a short skirt for the ultimate eighties feel. If you are not yet convinced that this piece is a fabulous wardrobe essential, but you like blazers in general, you could always try a strong-shouldered blazer. This blazer is equally as chic, and it makes the waist look smaller. When wearing a strong-shouldered blazer, stick with a t-shirt and skinny jeans, rather than a skirt, to balance the look.

In these times of economic hardship, invest in clothes that you know you will wear for a long time and that you can wear many different ways. Don't blow big bucks on something flimsy that you will only wear once a year. If you haven't already bought a Boyfriend blazer or a strong-shouldered blazer, but are seriously considering doing so, check out stores like Express or Urban Outfitters. Access the popular British store Topshop at their website, and do not forget about the online retailer Lulu's, which is also a good resource. Well, that is all for this week. Until then, do not be afraid to pay a visit to the past and shake up your style.



Top: A classic boyfriend blazer. Bottom: Blazers with cropped sleeves are modeled.

Courtesy of topshop.com

Ryder's Mix

Compiled by Hannah Lee

1. Pulling Me Back - Chingy feat. Tyrese
2. XPlosive - Dr.Dre feat. Snoop Dogg
3. One Call Away - Fabolous
4. Body - Ja Rule feat. Ashley Joi
5. Foolish - Shawty Lo
6. Modern Man's Hustle - Atmosphere
7. Ms. Fat Booty - Mos Def
8. The Light - Common
9. I Ain't Mad Cha - Tupac
10. That Go - Super Hyphy
11. My Body - Pretty Ricky
12. Ryder Music - 50 Cent



Think you have what it takes?

Email a Top Ten Music Mix to Arts at arts@phillipian.net for your chance to be famous for a week!

Look of the Week: Dan Schultz '12

Metropolitan Punk and British Bohemian

Noël Um

Many high school guys struggle to find the time to put effort into what they wear. Daniel Schultz '12 sympathizes. His outfits are "usually a spur of the moment thing in the morning rush to get ready," he said. Yet amidst all the insanity of daily life at An-

dover, Schultz somehow manages to mix practicality with his mood to create an effortless look that is unique and true to his personality. Schultz's casual but conscious effort creates a look that is idiosyncratic and bold yet perfectly natural on him. His style is an encompassing coalescence of casual metropolitan punk and British bohemian. For Schultz, a sweatshirt and jeans

does not cut it. Skinny jeans, graphic T's, Puma high tops and headphones will often find their way into his outfits, creating a look that borders on British punk infused with retro-indie. "The main difference between my style and other guys' is background. I grew up in London and most of them grew up in the States, so they have emulated the styles here in the U.S.," he said. Prior to living in London, Schultz's style was mainly influenced by 80's punk rock bands such as The Ramones, The Clash and The Sex Pistols. But Schultz said that he has since shifted to a neo-British-punk fusion. Schultz said, "The 80's punk had the basics like skinnies, tailored shirts and graphic tees. The neo-British part added more color." But since then, Schultz has simplified his style, often opting for flannel plaids or plain button downs, while still keeping a hint of the 80's punk rock flair. Schultz puts a modern twist on classic colors. A neutral scheme with whites, blacks and grays stands out when a burst of color is added. Sometimes Schultz will wear black skinny jeans with neon green converse or a plain white T-shirt with a deep blue cardigan. "Contrast is key," he said. "When it comes to graphic tees, I think that the design should be something that reflects your personality," Schultz said. A couple of Schultz's favorite shirts are a "Where the Wild Things Are" graphic tee and a shirt that says "Dd" for Daniel. Schultz said that Urban Outfitters is his favorite place to shop for clothes. This is not a surprising match. A metro chic brand rising in popularity, Urban Outfitters sells clothing that reflects Schultz's contemporary tastes. Schultz also enjoys shopping



M. LEE/The Phillipian



M. LEE/The Phillipian

at American Apparel and "random places that sell cheap clothing." Risks are not a problem for Schultz. "The main reason I don't follow the trends is because I feel like the main stores in the U.S., such as [Abercrombie & Fitch] or American Eagle, sell clothes that are somewhat bland. People are scared about drawing bad attention to themselves, and they think that wearing crazy clothes is just over the top," he said.

Schultz likes dressing differently because he finds it enjoyable and displays who he is as a person. Schultz said, "I think that style is important because everyone's style defines who they are." For Schultz, fashion is his venue for expressing himself. "Some people [express themselves] through art, others through media and others [like myself] do it through style."

Nominate a stylish friend for

Look of the Week!

ncheng / hlee / nsun
x4380

PHILLIPPIAN ARTS

Arts Previews the 2009 Parents Weekend

GRASSHOPPER NIGHT

Sophie Gould

From pickpockets to merry murderers, from Michael Jackson to Kanye West, this year's "Crimes and Misdemeanors"-themed Grasshopper Night has it all. Whether you missed out on getting a ticket or just want to whet your appetite before

mance, belting at the top of their lungs and even attacking each other and rolling around on the stage floor, all the while keeping up a steady stream of entertaining banter. Some acts, such as the Cell Block Tango, directed by Isabella Uria '10, follow the "Crimes and Misdemeanors" theme meticulously. Based off the famous song from the movie Chicago, this number tells the individual stories of six women convicted of mur-

to the "King of Pop" with their Michael Jackson Medley. "We saw this video online and thought it was the most genius a cappella song ever," said Peter Yang '10. "We emailed the guy for permission then transcribed it by listening to the video. We just thought, 'Wow. This is amazing.'" The medley is by no means easy, sometimes splitting into eight-part harmony or hitting very high notes in the boys' falsetto voices, but the effect of the many familiar songs blended into one is undeniably cool. Short drama pieces provide additional entertainment, covering topics ranging from a robbery-gone-wrong

stage and the curtain closes on another Grasshopper night, however, a large group of talented musicians plays the final number. Their selection is Canon Rock, a contemporary electric version of the classical piece, Pachelbel's Canon in D Major. The song's energetic, raw tone reflects the overall style of this year's Parents' Weekend variety show. Grasshopper '09 is a new spin on the old. It's not afraid to break the mold, flaunt its nerve, and commit some "Crimes and Misdemeanors." Think darker, funnier, edgier and badder than ever.

**Don't Have Tickets?
Don't Fret!**

There's always standby...

**Friday
6:45, 9:45**

**Saturday
7, 8:45**



Student groups and Grasshopper Night MCs break it down during an evening dress rehearsal.

opening night, here's a preview of the talent on display this weekend. The MCs, Patrick Brady '11 and Andrew Schlager '12, are in their melodramatic element, introducing acts either with Andover-themed parodies of famous show tunes or slapstick skits about anything from the PA administration to the Cheesecake Factory. Musical highlights include their rendition of "It's Grasshopper Night," sung to the tune of the Lion King's "the Circle of Life," and Brady's condescending "You are a Lower, Going on Up- per" ("You are Sixteen

der. The lyrics and choreography are sexy, sadistic and hilarious, though not necessarily parent-approved. The band 7-Layer Crunch Wrap Supreme delivers a head-banging rock song, while the Four Corners' performance begins with sweet and subtle lyrics and crescendos into a thrilling jam session. Other instrumental acts include Sam August '10, who kicks off the evening with a bluesy electric guitar tune, and Drumline, the marching student percussion group, which gets the

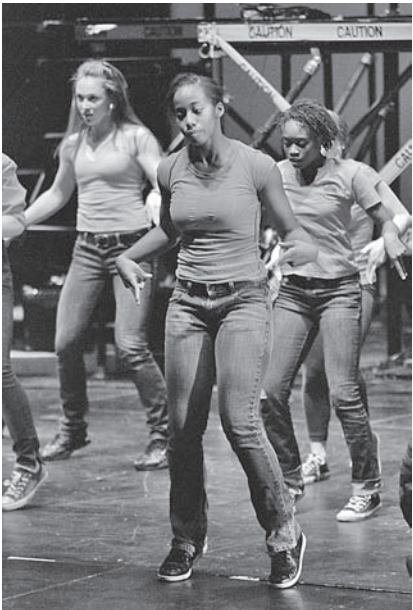
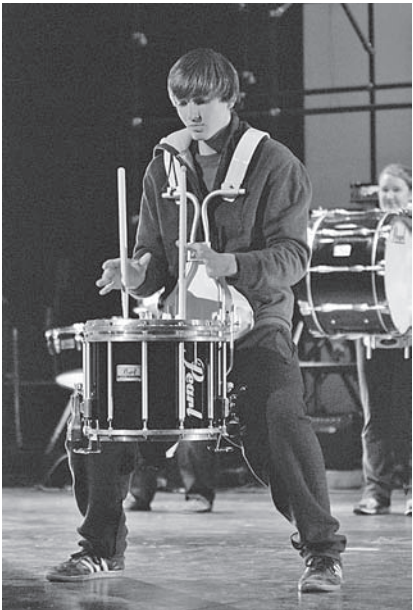
to a funeral. Tim McLaughlin '11 demonstrates his crazy juggling skills, tossing a blur of objects through the air, while Illuminati combines with a new group, Eclipse, for a colored-light show extravaganza. Charlie Walters '10 changes up the pace with his slam poem, "Board Games." The romantic, poignant poem has a rap-like rhyme scheme and plenty of fun board game references to keep the audience smiling ("We connect more than Connect Four.")

Hypnotiq and SLAM are fierce as always. Hypnotiq breaks it down to a mix of hip-hop songs, adding a bit of acrobatics and finishing by jumping into the audience. SLAM in particular takes full advantage of the stage set, which consists of edgy black scaffolding and platforms of various sizes. Silver masks and colored lights amplify the intensity of the dance, while robotic elements and a fight simulation between Aniebiet Ekpa and Orie Idah '11 add extra aggression, adhering to the "Crimes and Misdemeanors" theme.

Similarly, Brenna Liponis '10 choreographed a dance called "YES," which begins with dancers rushing onto the stage, pretending to hold guns in a Charlie's Angels fashion, and continues in a distinct, jazzy hip-hop style. Before the cast floods onto the

audience pumped for the show with its irresistible beats. The Yorkies perform a tribute

Going on Seventeen"). The duo has unbelievably high energy throughout the perfor-



MC SPOTLIGHT

Patrick Brady '11 and Andrew Schlager '11

Phillipian Arts sits down with this year's Grasshopper MCs, dynamic duo Patrick Brady '11 and Andrew Schlager '11, and talks faculty impersonations, fatal fears and faux accents.

Why did you want to be an MC for this year's Grasshopper Night?

PB: I hadn't really thought about it until I read the audition announcements. Andrew and I thought it would be fun to audition, but we didn't think we'd get it. Traditionally, the job usually goes to Seniors.

What did you do for an audition?

AS: We threw around funny songs and scenes and skits. We had a bunch of ideas, but we wimped out ten minutes before the audition and decided to wing it. We improvised for about 45 minutes. The Producers kept saying "Are you done?" and we'd be like "One more scene, one more..." It was fun.

How did you come up with ideas for your skits?

PB: First, we wanted to include a musical theatre tribute, as we are both staunch fans of that beloved genre. Second, we knew we wanted to employ a Barbara Chase [Head of School] and Paul Murphy [Dean of Students] impression. That's always a crowd-pleaser. Both Andrew and I are from Massachusetts, so we spontaneously developed Boston accents and a liking for Dunkin' Donuts and made that into a sketch too.

Was it difficult to incorporate this year's theme, "Crimes and Misdemeanors," into your sketches?

AS: That was a real challenge. We had to think of it in layers. For example, if we needed a skit that was funny, introduction-like, appropriate for families and one minute long, the theme of Crimes and Misdemeanors was just one more thing we had to think about. If the skit didn't meet the criteria, it was a no-go. It made things difficult, but helped us think outside the box.

Are you nervous about anything?

PB: I was definitely nervous at first about impersonating faculty members. But apparently Mr. Murphy and Mrs. Chase are OK with everything, so that eased those fears.

What is it like working with each other as MCs?

AS: I think we're a good creative team. We think alike, with similar views and a similar sense of humor. That helps a lot. We're just here to have fun. Other people ask me why I'm not freaking out about not having time to do work with all the rehearsals this week. They're stuck in their rooms studying, and I'm here, imitating people on stage. Why would I have a problem with that?

It is your job to make the audience laugh, but is it hard to keep a straight face yourself?

PB: Absolutely. My biggest fear is probably that I won't be able to keep a straight face on stage. A lot of our sketches are just improvisation outlines. The rest is left up to our own whim. Who know what will come out of Andrew's mouth that will crack us up? Hopefully, we'll be able to stay in character for the real show.



A. Levine/The Phillipian

