

ASM Speaker Dr. Myron Rolle Explores School, Support, Service, and Spirit

CATHY MA

Dr. Myron Rolle, a Bahamian-American neurosurgeon, former NFL football safety, and Rhodes Scholar, spoke to the Andover community during last Friday's All-School Meeting (ASM). Coming out of a 24-hour shift at Mass General Hospital, Rolle discussed his transition from childhood to adulthood, the evolution of his philosophy in the process, and his numerous life journeys and accomplishments.

Rolle's visit was hosted by the Caribbean Club. Nick Donaldson '23, a Co-Head of the club, later spoke of the reasons for hosting Rolle as an ASM speaker. While the co-heads were originally interested in exploring Rolle's experiences as a Caribbean man, they believed that other facets of his identity and his

determination could resonate with many people.

"He provides a perspective for everybody on campus. He's an athlete, he's a Rhodes Scholar. He's a Black man, he's a Christian. He can relate to so many different areas of identity. [His visit] wasn't just about him being Caribbean, even though that was why we first were interested in him. He provided such a diverse perspective that we thought the whole school could benefit from hearing from him," said Donaldson.

During the ASM, Rolle encouraged students to focus on the personal growth of four prongs of life: school, support, service, and spirit. As for service, he highlighted the importance of aiding those who are of underprivileged communities and the pleasures that can come from helping others.

"That's what service is about. Leading from behind,

pushing people forward and saying you can do it. I'm telling you, when you can do that, your life will be that much more fulfilling, too. You will feel to yourself, 'I'm accomplishing something, I'm doing something good, because I'll help someone else achieve their goal.' And it all sort of rolls back to you. A rising tide lifts all boats," said Rolle.

Attendee Siena Pradhan '24 reflected on her former perception of self-improvement, which focused on doing things solely for oneself. After hearing Rolle's words, Pradhan explained how her ideology shifted to also include providing for others.

"I feel like when you think about improving yourself, I don't usually think about helping others, I think [I usually think of it as] trying

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COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY
Dr. Myron Rolle spoke to the Andover community at All-School Meeting about his life experience, from difficulty with his attitude to his later successes.

Malaka Gharib Presents on Exploring and Writing About Identity Through Questions

WILL GE

"You have a million and one stories to share," said Malaka Gharib, a journalist, cartoonist, and graphic novelist. On December 12, through a Zoom presentation held in the Freeman Room of the library, Gharib shared her creative process and journey with art since high school. Gharib explored the theme of ethnicity in storytelling and encouraged students to dig into their own stories.

At the beginning of the presentation, Gharib described how she created her first magazines with a borrowed printer from her high school journalism class, experimenting with smaller mediums to make "mini-zines." Gharib has written two graphic novels: "I Was Their American Dream" and "It Won't Always Be Like This," the latter being re-

leased this past September.

"I think I started to figure out why I like magazines so much: because I was trying to capture the maximum amount of emotion and create my world within the confines of a very small space. This, in essence, is cartooning, and it leads me to the next era of my artistic career. The little things that you do in high school, your little interests, can morph and change into something totally different and unexpected. If you keep playing with the format, whether it's photography or poetry or songwriting or dance, if you keep reflecting on it and tweaking it, it can bring you to some really creative places in your life," said Gharib.

Corrie Martin, Instructor in English and Interdisciplinary Studies, highlighted Gharib's suggestions for maintaining productivity during times when there is little motivation for writ-

ing. Martin hopes to incorporate Gharib's advice into her classes and guide her students to become avid writers.

"Students in English 300 and my Senior elective in Asian-American Literature and Film attended the talk. I will be applying Gharib's insights about writing and creating, in particular, about the process such as indulging in a 'creative appetizer' in order to get into the mindset needed to get started on a project you are less excited about, and about how concision, the 'economy of the line,' is an essential skill. I will also apply her questions about exploring one's identity and stories, about learning that everyone has a story to tell. Gharib is a masterful storyteller, and she made the virtual-hybrid

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Alexandra Bell Farr '13 on Her Journey From Andover to the Military

TIANYI GU &
ADDISON DENG

The Office of Alumni Engagement hosted Andover's 13th Annual Veterans Day Program and dinner on November 10, inviting Captain Alexandra Bell Farr '13 as a keynote speaker. Following her graduation from Andover, Farr attended the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), where she pursued volleyball, mathematics, and data science.

Farr recounted her pursuit as a military cyber officer after graduating from Andover. Influenced by her father, a West Point alumnus, Farr expressed that her interest in military service bloomed after visiting West Point. According to Farr, although she was initially interested in the

school's volleyball program, the new challenges West Point offered ultimately drew her to the academy.

"I went to visit for the first time during my junior summer, and I was very impressed with the way the cadets carried themselves and West Point's focus on leadership development in particular. It was an area that I hadn't necessarily felt like I'd explicitly developed here at Andover, and so I liked the idea of the challenge of that and growing in that area in a way that I didn't see myself growing at other places at the time. So really through West Point was my path to military service after that," said Farr.

Farr described the takeaways she learned from Andover, noting that West Point expanded on this knowledge. The school provided Farr with the opportunities be-

yond her studies to strengthen her morals.

"In unexpected ways, my Andover experience ended up informing my army experience. Andover taught me a lot of diligence and to stay on top of my studies, but then when I got into the military, that diligence transformed into an understanding of my responsibility in the context of a team. Andover also made me very compassionate, and the army pushed that to a different understanding in terms of service. I saw what service and practice looks like in small everyday acts like making sure that you show up for people and small actions to help other people and not these big grand things," said Farr.

After her Andover and

Continued on A5, Column 4



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

The boys bathroom in Paresky Commons, as shown above, was cleaned by Paresky custodial staff after it was vandalized.

Barbecue Sauce Spread Across Boys Bathroom In Paresky Commons

STAFF REPORT

An unidentified person, or group of individuals, smeared barbecue sauce across the walls and ceiling of the boys bathroom in Paresky Commons on December 14. According to Andover Student Body Co-President Nigel Savage '23, this was the second night in a row in which an act of vandalism occurred in Paresky.

Students were informed of the incident in emails sent by their respective cluster deans following the incident.

Savage, alongside other student representatives at Andover, wrote the email addressing the act of vandalism. The email called for recognition of the effects of the vandalism and the people who they have affected.

"We wanted to make sure that everybody knew that [this happened]... and we just wanted to make sure people understood that this isn't Andover. One, it's disrespectful to the Commons staff who work here, because they get here at six or seven in the morning, [making] us delicious food, and they usually leave at like 8 p.m., which [are] really long hours.

They had to stay afterwards because someone thought it was funny to throw barbecue sauce all over the walls and ceiling of the bathroom," said Savage.

Paul Murphy, Interim Dean of Pine Knoll Cluster, was informed of the vandalism by Paresky staff and witnessed the damages caused by the second incident after a Dean's meeting. Although it remains unclear whether the act was committed by a member of the Andover community, Murphy urges students to step back and reflect.

"It's just not something that happens here — not to say that we're not above that but it's just not something we deal with... If it turns out to be a student of course there'd be some kind of response. We assume if no one steps forward, or no one knows anything. We'll hopefully go down the road of looking at those cameras and seeing if there's a way to play the records because it's just something you need to stop and it's juvenile," said Murphy.

Eridania Taveras, a Paresky employee who helped clean up the barbecue sauce, felt that the incident was disre-

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Public Forum Hosted by Andover Committee on Challenging Histories

LUCAS BENARDETE

Andover's Committee on Challenging Histories hosted a student-led forum, featuring the histories of Morse Hall's and Bartlet House's namesakes — Samuel Morse and William Bartlet — and their complicated connections to the slave trade, either direct or indirect. The forum, held on December 7, explored the connection between Andover's building names and the school's past in regards to slavery.

The Committee on Challenging Histories was announced by Raynard Kingston, Head of School, on November 9, 2021, in an email to the Andover community. Andover was the first secondary school to join the consortium on Universities Studying Slavery (USS), founded by the University of Virginia.

Facilitated by Shreya Bajaj '23 and Student Body Co-President Nigel Savage '23, the forum concluded with an open discussion at the end of the presentation, where students asked questions and were welcomed to provide feedback. Bajaj voiced the importance of involving the community in the work and findings of the committee.

"The main role of the discussion was to involve as many people as we could in thinking about our campus history and the concept of renaming. We heard a wide variety of opinions and questions, and... all

the perspectives brought up good points, which just goes to show how complex this issue is," said Bajaj in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Christopher Jones, Instructor in History and Social Sciences and the Chair of the Committee on Challenging Histories, explained the significance of the forum in educating Andover community members on the spaces which they inhabit.

Jones said, "You might have students who have no idea who Samuel Morse is and they walk in and out of Morse Hall and don't think much of the name specifically; it's just a building where they take math classes. But you might have other people, students, and faculty, who know a lot about Morse, or enough to know about his views on non-white peoples, his views about non-Christians and [non-] Catholics were really impotent too. That name might have very different meanings for that person, so it can be quite variable."

Jones continued, "We can't escape the fact that names on buildings are usually doing two things that are inseparable. The first is that they are offering some window into our past or history, and the second thing is they are discounting certain kinds of honor on someone, more or less like every other name build-

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Commentary, A3

What are Three More Sins?

Leilani Glace '25 discusses the issues within modern-day celebrations of Christmas through a Christian lens.

Eighth Page, A8

It's Not That Deep

The Eighth Page makes college jokes.

Sports, B1

Girls Indoor Track

With a dramatic comeback in the 4 x 400-Meter Relay, Girls Indoor Track took the team win in its home opener.

Arts, B6

Sketchy Show

Sketchy opened their first show of the school year, performing a variety of Andover-related skits.

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The oldest preparatory newspaper in the United States. Founded 1857.

Vol. CXLV
Phillips Academy

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Editorial

Let’s Talk about Dorm Talks

Dorm talks are a key avenue through which students can learn to interact freely and respectfully with one another, and presentation-style talks such as those given by YES+ seek to educate students on topics that may not be covered in the classroom. Boarders may also recall substance education talks run by proctors and house counselors. Many students, however, see these opportunities not as a chance for learning, but as a Sunday-night timesuck that keeps them from their homework or bingeing their favorite show. From a lack of engagement to immaturity in difficult conversations, we’re reflecting on why dorm talks seem to be so inconsistent in both quality and effect, how that affects our community, and whose perspectives are missing from the conversation.

Let’s begin with a scenario most boarders will be familiar with. One Sunday evening, YES+ has come to your dorm for your healthy relationships conversation. The moment the student presenter says the word “penis,” the room churns in an uncomfortable giggle. With each new topic, your dormmates grow more uneasy and side conversations break out. By the time the presentation is over, you walk out, somehow understanding less about sex than you did in the first place. In this scenario, it is easy to dismiss disengaged or distracted students as uninvested and disrespectful. Conversations around how to stop a dorm sex talk from derailing into fits of laughter often frame individual immaturity as the primary cause of distraction. This would suggest that immaturity itself should be reason to modify sex talks themselves to be more easily digestible for a younger, underclassman audience.

However, immaturity itself may be a reaction to awkwardness, a natural response to new ideas. While laughter may be disruptive, we should recognize that for many, immaturity is the first step in becoming familiar with a new topic. Regular talks that accept discomfort as a way of learning will help to bring that maturity up to the level where proper conversations may be held. Exposure leads to growth. And we need to start somewhere.

However, these conversations can not be held in the first place without student engagement. Productive conversations where people gain valuable takeaways and insights requires

willing participation. If people do not want to participate, they simply won’t engage, and if someone feels uncomfortable, they might start a side conversation or intentionally disassociate. All dorms should grant leeway to students. If a person finds themselves distressed by a conversation about, for example, sex, they should be given the space that they need. By making the environment more conducive to productive conversation for all those comfortable, students will get more out of dorm talks. But it won’t stop there. After an engaging dorm talk, students will be more likely to continue the conversation on their own. Students actively learn from their peers. They may acclimate to difficult topics in dorm talks, and later dive into these subjects through unstructured conversation between friends. Those who were excused from the talk would find other, less formal ways in which to educate themselves.

Here, we’re specifically discussing dorm talks—presentations on specific topics, such as sex or substance use, typically hosted by a house counselor or student group—not weekly dorm meetings. However, principles from one apply to the other. Engagement during meetings, dismissive attitudes, and disruptive behavior emerge in both settings. Perhaps this is a chance to consider our structure of “dorm talks” themselves.

When confronted about reforming dorm activities, such as meetings or dorm talks, the answer often comes down to: “it depends on the dorm.” Indeed, the efficacy of standardized dorm talks relies heavily on individual dorms, house counselors, proctors, and students. But seeking to solve inconsistency among dorms through standardization may not be the right path.

Simply put, dorm talks should remain run at each individual dorm’s discretion. However, that does not mean that the consistent frustrations we have noticed should be disregarded. Dorms, on the individual level, should evaluate how maturity and engagement are lacking in their dorm talks, and should recognize improvements. And how better to talk about the concerns of a dorm than with a dorm talk?

This editorial represents the views of The Phillipian, Vol. CXLV.

Does the West Have a Reason to Meddle in Iran?

WILLIAM BUEHLER

Over the past month, the protests in Iran have remained incredibly active despite the increasingly despotic treatment of protestors by the Iranian government. Mohsen Shekari, a young 23 year old man, was recently sentenced to death for his roles in the protests, being charged with moharebeh, meaning “waging war against God.” In the mind of the Iranian government, this was warranted after Shekari allegedly injured a Basij agent, the Basij being an arms of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and one which has been described as a terrorist organization by the United States. Even so, we have also seen some very superficial promises at reform by the central Iranian government. In the West, there have been stirrings of acknowledging possible regime change, and Western media watches the situation with eager eyes. As the successes of the protests seem to ebb and flow, a question which remains is what role might the West play in these affairs? If the success of the current political movement is the priority of an observer, Western involvement is likely an important aspect, even despite the fact that Western involvement will likely have primarily ulterior, strategic rather than moral motives.

To begin, let us table defining the word “role” as listed above and simply speak of the intersection between strategic interests of the West, moral and social interests of

the people, and the mutual effect which both parties seek to obtain. While the role of great powers and their blocs in the internal affairs of others remains contentious, it is undeniable that there are overlapping interests of both the people of Iran and of Western states. In the best case scenario, a liberalized Iran is an Iran more amenable to the West, one less prone to being used as a proxy by the Russian and Chinese governments. As for the people, a liberalized Iran means for the people an Iran which is, at least in theory, less authoritarian, more secular, and a state wherein the voices of minority groups, mostly religious and ethnic, are more able to be heard than under the current theocratic system. Thus, both parties ultimately would opine for a reformed Iran in very similar ways, though this analysis is admittedly not quite professional due to its rather shallow depth and is very much up for debate on a more serious level. The point, however, is not to address every nuance of the situation, but rather to draw a general

picture of what might be desired by the two chief opposition parties.

With this in mind, it’s important to acknowledge that whatever “role” the West plays in Iran will inevitably be one from which national interests are prioritized before the goals of the movement. Under normal circumstances, this may be enough to admonish the West for planning their own involvement for selfish rationale as some might suspect that the West’s goals would ultimately lead to the degradation of the movement which it claimed to support and ultimately the destabilization of Iran, but such is not the case today. The West is more than happy to see the current movement succeed chiefly because it would be a propaganda victory, ostensibly a pagoda for human rights, and would weaken the strength of Iran’s theocracy in favor of a more liberal government. But it should be clear that weakening Iran as a whole is not really quite the point for the West, liberalizing Iran is. A stable, liberalized Iran is far more

useful to the West than a weak, liberalized Iran, which is itself more useful to the West than a strong theocratic Iran. We know from the case of Iraq the danger of removing a regional hegemon within an area of conflict, and we know that it would only ultimately harm Western interests. Hence, no capable Western statesman is aiming for the destruction or battering of Iran as a state, it simply would not serve the West’s purposes. We already know the social goals of the protesters of Iran, and they would benefit in obvious ways from a strong liberalized government, much in the same way we have seen moderate social successes in Iraq owing to democratization. Although the rationale for involvement in Iranian affairs for the West and for the people of Iran do not overlap, the ultimate goals are quite similar. Both want liberalization and secularization chiefly among a slew of things.

As for what the West’s role should be, I believe anything from continued political awareness to diplomatic pressure are all within

the realm of rationality. Those who propose sanctions or other economic measures have the right intentions, but fail to understand that this might disproportionately affect the working class who make up the bulk of the protesters rather than the government itself. We can support those who protest with our government’s statements, through the funding of protesting groups and groups specializing in human rights abuses, etc. Our roles will ultimately be largely financial, media-related, and about projecting Iranian voices outwards rather than placing Western spokespeople in front of them or putting demands into the mouths of those who protest. We aim to amplify the protests rather than to take the demands of Iranians and enforce them ourselves. And, yes, there are ulterior motives to the West’s support of Iranian protesters, but I would like to posit to the reader a question: would you rather both the Western powers and the Iranian protesters succeed in their goals or would you rather the protests and their advocates fade as a result of some principled stand against perceived Western imperialism?

There is no doubt that Western support for Iran reeks of the filth of imperialist motives, and, yet, the support is more useful than it is detrimental all the same. If the West fails to adequately support the protests in Iran, there is no telling how much longer we will simply be allowing ourselves to be witnesses to continued oppression. There is a moral obligation which we have to the people of Iran who call for reform, one which is further bolstered by Western security interests.

We have global influence. Let us properly utilize it.

William Buehler is a Upper from Greenwich, Conn. Contact the author at wbuehler24@andover.edu.

MERRY... CHRISTMAS?

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry. What Are Three More Sins?



Christmas has always been a time for festivities — a time to indulge in all the food you can possibly eat and relax with your loved ones, sitting around an open fire, and sipping a warm cup of hot-chocolate with tiny marshmallows floating on the top. The beloved holiday can be summed up into the little phrase, “Eat, drink, and be merry.”

However, as a religious, Catholic person myself, I can’t help but feel like I have been lied to, or at least been a little bit misled, on how to properly celebrate Christmas. I always thought that being merry went hand in hand with devouring pounds of food and walking no more than the stairs that led from my bedroom to the kitchen. But as I started to understand my religion more thoroughly, the tightly-bound Bible that stared at me through the glass cupboard began to foster a guilt that ate away at my enjoy-

ment every December. I suddenly felt like the words of the very religious figure that I was celebrating did not support my modern observation of Christmas at all.

The Bible has forever told its readers to reject the pleasures of the flesh.

Nowhere in the Bible is there reference to any form of “Christmas,” at least in the modern form of the word — thus, it is impossible to directly justify the current celebration of Christ’s birthday using the Bible. When Christ was born, “the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about... The Shepherds then returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told’” (Luke 15-20). Though it is not mentioned specifically in the Bible, one can assume from the gathering of the Shepherds to praise Christ on the day of his birth, that it is natural to gather with family and friends and worship him on the day of Christ’s nativity. The problem lies in the fact that today, Christmas is celebrated in a rather demonstrative manner. While it is not chastised in the Scriptures to have a special occasion to praise Christ, one’s adoration is not measured in splurging on worldly pleasures — in fact, as we have seen, it is

quite the opposite.

Furthermore, the Bible has forever told its readers to reject the pleasures of the flesh. The Galatians states that “those who do such things [as...] sensuality, sexual immorality, drunkenness, and things like these... will not inherit the kingdom of God,” and that “those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Romans also say that “if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” According to the Word of God, there is no place in his kingdom for those who give into the craving for that Pinot Noir that they have been saving in their wooden cabinet to consummate another long year of blood, sweat, and tears. These passages indicate that one must not live “according to the flesh,” which I consider to be focusing too much on serving oneself first and foremost. Unfortunately, Christmas is a prime example of this lifestyle for many people. When I ask someone what they enjoy most about Christmas, it is not the family reunions or the fact that the holiday is a perfect day to show appreciation for someone they cherish, but the gifts they will receive under the tree. In this way, Christmas, especially for younger generations, is a day to fulfill their desires — to gain, not to give. In my interpretation of the Bible, such people go against God’s words, as those who are in Christ cannot “live according to



Lorem ipsum

AVERY LIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

the flesh” by definition.

In short, from my individual understanding of the Bible, there seems to be no place in God’s kingdom for those who observe the act of providing people around them with gifts. This act simply perpetuates materialistic and even selfish principles, since one often asks for something in return for their purchase. Therefore, such sensual ways of observing Christmas are unchristian, ungodly, and must be suppressed in favor of demonstrating selfless love for others and God.

Leilani Glace is a Lower from Brooklyn, N.Y. Contact the author at lglace25@andover.edu.

The World Cup Dilemma



The FIFA World Cup is perhaps the most popular event in the world, with global viewership comparable to that of the Olympics. The 2022 World Cup in Qatar has been perhaps the most exciting one in the competition’s history so far, with countries from traditionally weaker regions claiming victories against powerhouse teams. However, the excitement for the tournament contrasts with its many controversies regarding Qatar’s human rights violations and discrimination. These acts blemish the event’s significance as a global sports event which promotes inclusivity. As a result many people, including fans of the sport, are boycotting the tournament.

So, here’s the question: Should you watch the World Cup?

The simple answer would be, no. Qatar is a terrible place to host such an event, and it would be best if everyone boycotts it, whether it’s the fans or players.

Qatar is a unique nation where only about ten percent of its residents are Qatari; the rest are migrant workers from South Asia, as Priya Dsouza reported. While the country has a whopping Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of over 80,000 dollars, the treatment that these foreign workers receive is unimaginably harsh, with forced labor and overworking being almost normal. Many activists even

liken Qatar’s labor laws to a modern form of slavery. So it’s pretty clear that a country that openly breaks human rights and discriminates against foreign residents and an event that symbolizes the unity of the world don’t really go together.

Qatar isn’t even covering up human rights offenses, which is malicious in its own right — it’s actually creating more. In order to build all the facilities needed to host the event, workers underwent labor under harsh conditions, with many being underpaid and working long hours under the hot desert climate, resulting in over 6,500 deaths, according to The Guardian.

Besides all the human rights offenses, homosexuality is also illegal in Qatar, and this World Cup is contributing to this already existing discrimination. While the Qatari

government has temporarily allowed the display of rainbow flags in stadiums and assured LGBTQIA+ couples will not be arrested during the event (how generous!), the problem at its root has not been resolved at all. Fans who wore rainbow-colored outfits were denied entrance into stadiums and even detained. Players that attempted to wear rainbow-colored armbands for OneLove, an anti-racism, anti-LGBTQIA+ discrimination campaign, were forbidden to do so, and were instead forced to wear black armbands with the words “no discrimination,” according to ESPN UK.

But while it would be ideal if everyone boycotts the World Cup, that isn’t realistic. Moreover, the issue of watching the World Cup isn’t so black and white.

For many, the World Cup is an

event where you gather with your friends and family to cheer together and connect to your country and heritage. As an international student, watching the World Cup has given me a chance to connect back to my country, create watch parties with friends, and talk about South Korea’s qualification for the knockout stages with my dad. While the event may be tainted, it’s maybe the only occasion where two countries can put aside their political, social, and cultural differences and enjoy a sport.

And in a more positive light, the event has brought global attention from many people such as myself to the issues in Qatar. Alongside that global attention is a possibility for future change. Due to the World Cup, more news coverage and research have been made about issues in Qatar. Changes, although temporary or minor, have been made due to international attention, which is still a significant step for a conservative Muslim regime to take.

But the most daunting fact is that most criticisms are forgotten, as we are quick to move on to other attention-grabbing issues. It might be discouraging, but even if I as an individual speak up against what is happening in Qatar, or even boycott the World Cup, chances are that no meaningful changes will occur.

But it’s about setting a statement. If watching the World Cup is being tacit to the issues in Qatar, the answer is to not be tacit. Speak up. Whether it’s informing those around you, acting on social media, or even writing articles for *The Phillipian*, show that you care about these issues and stand for something. Change doesn’t start from an individual, it starts from a group of people who think similarly and are driven to create change. If we can’t create a spark for immediate change, we should at least plant seeds for the future.

This extends to other fields as well. In modern days, it’s harder

And if you are a true fan of the sport, you shouldn’t just watch “a sport as a sport.”

to find things that don’t have any connection to an immoral offense. Wealth from Gulf dictatorships is in multiple sports teams and global corporations, it is impossible to avoid their influence. Russia, who hosted the World Cup just four years ago, doesn’t exactly have the cleanest track record when it comes to human rights either. The same goes for many other nations, including the United States of America. Even when it boils down to everyday life, whether it’s ordering packages from Amazon, shopping at Walmart, or even listening to Kanye, we’re unknowingly, or knowingly supporting something immoral going on behind the scenes.

Whether you are boycotting or cheering on your team in the World Cup, the fact is that 6,500 workers paid for those stadiums with their lives. But if we recognize what has happened, spread awareness, and organize a collective effort, perhaps we can prevent such a tragedy from happening in the future. And if you are a true fan of the sport, you shouldn’t just watch “a sport as a sport,” because it is more than that. It’s a reflection of the good in our world — the excitement, unity, inclusivity, fairness, and everything else we cherish. So unless you agree with these values being tarnished with corruption, human rights violations, and discrimination, it is your duty to be aware, to speak up.

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KARISHMA CASTILLO / THE PHILLIPIAN

The Phillipian welcomes all letters to the Editor. We try to print all letters, but because of space limitations, we enforce a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to edit all submitted letters. Letters must be responses to articles already published by *The Phillipian*. We will not publish any anonymous letters. Please submit letters by the Monday of each week to phillipian@phillipian.net or to our newsroom in the basement of Morse Hall.

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CORRECTIONS:
The Arts article “Vintage and Victorian: Exploring Dark Academia With Bellina Zhou ’26” was miscredited. The correct author is Jorge Briones Sausa.
The illustration for the Commentary article “Pedestal” was miscredited. The correct illustrator is Karishma Castillo.
The News article “Notable Increase in Student Migration from Physics 400 to Physics 300” contained inaccurate information. The number of students switching to Physics 300 has remained consistent in recent years.
The Phillipian regrets these errors.

ON

CHINA'S PROTESTS

C. SHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

ADDISON DENG

C. BARBIE / THE PHILLIPIAN

On November 24, 2022, a fire struck an isolated high-rise apartment in Urumqi, China. According to CNN, ten were reported dead, and an additional nine were injured — all because too many minutes had elapsed until the firemen removed the looming barricades, which were in place due to the

Nevertheless, Shanghai will always be the place I call home.

country's Zero-COVID Policy. In the days following, large-scale protests regarding the situation broke out, yet rather than speaking against the Zero-COVID-19 policy itself, many attacked the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its leader, Xi Jinping, calling for a revolution.

As an international boarding student from Shanghai, China, I am proud to see voices finally being projected towards the detriments of China's lockdown. But I urge them to unite and speak against the Covid-19 protocols, instead of the CCP. Though I am not a Chinese citizen, as I was born in California, I still wish to return home. Revolting against the government will cause as much turmoil as the Zero-Covid policy has caused. Opposing the policy itself may more efficiently lead to change.

Throughout its implementation, the Zero-Covid policy acted as a quarantine countdown that would essentially force an entire region into lockdown with every new case discovered. In Urumqi, the fire broke out on the 110th day of quarantine. Unused vehicles lined up the driveways, creating distance that prevented water from the firehose from reaching the flames. Even doors were locked from the outside, causing the residents to be trapped in their units.

Amidst the protests, there were countless exclamations demanding the CCP to step down and calling for the resignation of Xi.

However, I believe that the protesters' targeting of the CCP was impulsive and short-sighted. Considering that Xi has been in power



DILNAWA KIZGHIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

for nearly ten years and it is not typical of the Chinese government to respond to citizens' protests, change is unlikely to begin with. In the event of a drastic political change, the Chinese citizens themselves will likely be most affected by the tumultuous transition period. Even if change does occur, future ruling positions are usually reserved and adapting to a system-wide change would become the real challenge. If the people were to get what they protested for — that is, having CCP or Xi step down and lifting all the Covid-19 protocols — instead of rejoicing in freedom, I predict that there will be chaos and fear. The frightening image of Covid-19 the government has painted in citizens for the past three years would submerge them in terror as they inevitably see an exponential increase in cases. What branches from that might be freedom—but also chaos. On the other hand, freedom, albeit regulated by the government,

can be derived from small changes. Those steps can be taken by speaking against one policy at a time.

This is also one of very few instances where citizens have harshly criticized the government en-masse. Reality shows that despite their efforts, the power still belongs to the ruling party.

I may not be in China, but many of my friends still are. Sophia Gong '26, a student at Shanghai American School and an active voice in the movement, described how in the face of resistance, the CCP still has substantial control on health codes and personal lives of citizens in Shanghai.

“To stop these protests, the government is tracking down the people who take part in the protests from videos online and security camera footage, and they're using facial recognition to track them. They're tracking down these people and turning their health codes red so they can't go anywhere. If your health code

is red,

they won't let you in anywhere. You can't go on the subway, you can't take a cab. For some matter, even though these protests are happening, the government still has a lot of control... over the people,” said Gong.

Despite my critique on their methods, I still admire the protestors' persistence. They have proven to be strong in the face of hardship, as Lilian Cai, an Instructor in Chinese, noted.

“With oppression, there will be resistance, and my people have been a people of resistance for thousands of years..They are incredibly resilient,” wrote Cai in an email to *The Phillipian*.

I acknowledge that I'm not a Chinese citizen, and that can change my stake in the protests compared to those who are. Nevertheless, Shanghai will always be the place I call home. Like much of the international community, I rarely get the opportunity to fly back, and right now, I face the likelihood of not returning for years because of China's Covid-19 restrictions. Restrictions that should've been altered a long time ago.

Therefore, I also wish for a change to occur—but more specifically a change that will bring China back to where it was prior

I believe that the protesters' targeting of the CCP was impulsive and short-sighted.

to the pandemic: an environment where reasonable policies were established, both generally and particularly pertaining to public safety. An environment where people lived safely and with bodily autonomy. Not an environment wrestling with abrupt political changes.

Attacking the CCP is short-sighted. A revolution is not likely to take place, but if it does, its aftermath may be even worse.

So as people raise their blank sheets of paper to participate in the A4 revolution, may they have in mind that the CCP is not their enemy, the Zero-Covid policy is.

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WRITE FOR COMMENTARY

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Committee on Challenging Histories Looks to Use Student Feedback From Public Forum

Continued from A1, Column 5

ing on campus is honoring someone of a past time.” Nahila Hutchinson ’24, an attendee of the forum, appreciated the forum for educating community members on the history of Andover buildings’ namesakes. However, she added that there are further actions that the Andover community should take to maintain long-term recognition of its past. “If you rename a building, it’ll stay relevant for the next couple years, but in ten years, twenty years, people are going to forget the previous name, why we renamed it, and all of those things. A lot of us were thinking that this is something that we’d have to keep talking about, whether we talk about it during orientation, [or] we have a day-on [as] we do for

[Martin Luther King Jr.] Day, if it comes up in history classes, or just as something that it’s still present on people’s minds,” said Hutchinson. In a reflection on the presentation, Bajaj encouraged students and faculty to consider the histories of Andover and our buildings’ namesakes with our school values in mind. Bajaj wrote, “The present is built on the past, and no matter how much we may try to cover it up, our history has implications for the present. Even just walking around campus, you’ll see that most of our buildings are named after white men, many of whom were complicit in activities and institutions that don’t align with our school values. What does it mean that we continue to honor them, and shouldn’t we acknowledge the history behind the school’s naming choices?”

The Committee on Challenging Histories, intending to compile its work over a two-year period, will come to an end during the Spring Term. However, Bajaj noted that progress made through the committee should mark the start of future work done at Andover to recognize its history. “If a place like Andover begins to acknowledge its past, it sets the standard for honesty and genuine desire to be better, both at the institutional and the individual level.... The committee will end at the close of this academic year, but it simply represents the beginning of this work, since we’ve barely uncovered the tip of the iceberg,” said Bajaj.

Continued from A1, Column 3

West Point career, Farr went on to work various jobs, such as a data scientist for the United States Army Central Command’s Analysis and Control Element and as a military intelligence executive officer and data scientist for the Defense Digital Service. Farr described her current line of work, which is involved in cyber security, as well as how her journey to said career. “In the Army, I started off as a military intelligence officer. I did a little bit of data science work with the military intelligence unit, working to sift through some of their reports because they get a lot of them and helping them try to prioritize which ones were most important, what they needed to see first,” Farr said. Farr continued, “[Now, I’ve] transitioned to becoming a cyber officer and I’m heading to a defensive cyber unit. This job [leans] very heavily on data analytics, particularly in the defensive space, [in order] to be able to understand

what’s happening on the network because there’s a lot of traffic at any given time. I sift through all that information and see where malicious activity might be and data analysis helps with that.” Despite everything she has done after her time at Andover, Farr felt that returning to Andover after so many years was like returning to home. Farr reflected on some of her experiences at Andover and advice that she would give her freshman self at Andover. “A lot’s changed, but a lot is still the same. I was a very homesick freshman when I first got here, [but] you’ll make it to the other side and you’re gonna love it. I ended up growing at Andover and beyond in a lot of ways I wouldn’t have anticipated. I think to also believe in myself a little bit more for my freshman self to know that you really can do these things. Even if it doesn’t necessarily seem like something you’ve done before or it seems daunting, you can do it,” said Farr.

Speaker Malaka Gharib Advises Students on Writing about Difficult Subjects

Continued from A1, Column 3

experience really enjoyable and inspiring. She transcended the screen,” said Martin. Gharib also encouraged participants to spend time considering their own cultural and ethnic identities by asking questions such as, “How did my parents’ dream differ from mine?” Sebastian Cynn ’24, who attended the event, talked about how Gharib’s questions prompted self-exploration of his identity. “I’ve just started thinking more about [the questions]. It was yesterday, so I can’t pretend I’ve had some huge moral, or cultural epiphany because it’s been a day. But I think just having those thoughts in my head has made me think on a much deeper level about who I am, about the culture of my parents, and about my own culture. That’s been definitely eye-opening for me in a lot of small ways,” said Cynn. Gharib ended her presentation with advice on writing memoirs, particularly when writing about difficult memories. She unpacked her own experience writing about sexual assault while noting the uneasy writing process that involves tackling traumatic topics. “In my book, ‘It Won’t Always Be Like This,’ I do share a sexual assault scene. There were many other sexual assault experiences I had in Egypt, and the other

ones were too traumatizing for me to touch. I didn’t want to use those examples because every time I thought about it, it triggered me. So I was thinking to myself, ‘I don’t want to use that example. What’s another example that I can use that feels okay for me that I’ve processed; that I’ve absorbed; that I’ve questioned and analyzed, something that feels safe for me to share?’ said Gharib. Gharib continued, “I did end up finding an anecdote that got the point across but wasn’t an example that was so triggering

to me. You have a million and one stories to share, you don’t have to share the ones that hurt you. You can share the ones you feel okay with giving away to the public, to people, and to readers. It won’t diminish the quality of [your] art, I promise you. It just makes you a more dexterous storyteller, because you’re able to pick and choose from your life the story that you want to share.”



Above, Malaka Gharib presents on her writing to students in the Freeman Room of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library.

School and Student Leadership Call for Reflection After Campus Vandalism

Continued from A1, Column 4

spectful. She added this is not a common occurrence. “It’s a lack of respect, that’s what it was. Also because we are working for the better here, but I don’t know about anything like that [happening], so it’s out of the ordinary and we were surprised, it feels strange,” said Taveras. Josh Espinoza ’25 was surprised upon receiving the email about the situation. He described the vandalism as selfish and pointed out the effect it had on other members of the Andover community. “I was just really shocked. Because how could someone be so selfish to do something like that and not clean up after themselves? I mean, not that it’s okay to do that in the first place but someone else is responsible for cleaning that up and it’s really inconsiderate,” said Espinoza. According to Savage, there are further implications beyond perpetuating a culture of disrespect towards Paresky staff. He emphasized the image of Andover’s students portrayed by these acts.

“It [also] leaves a bad impression. Because if you’re on a tour, and there are a bunch of tours going on right now, and you walk in the bathroom. And then you see barbecue sauce all over the walls. It could [leave the impression] of, ‘Oh, I don’t want to send my kids here. This is kind of a bad vibe,’” said Savage. Murphy hopes that moving forward, the Andover community can cultivate a sense of self-accountability. He hopes that this incident can teach students a lesson. “I think we just have to be vigilant and I think we have to police ourselves, police each other, hold each other accountable, even in the small things, even things that have nothing to do with barbecue sauce. When someone does something or says something that eats at our community, if we don’t push back on that, we just let it go, slowly but surely the whole place starts to dissolve,” said Murphy.

Kicking Off 2022-2023 CaMD Scholar Presentations, Kate McCool ’23 Illuminates Social Justice Issues in American Disability Rights Movement

LUCAS BERNADETE & JAYDA LU Kate McCool ’23 delivered her 2022-2023 Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD) Scholar presentation, “Challenging ADA-Era Complacency: Legislation at the Intersections of Disability, Race, and Poverty” on November 9 in Kemper Auditorium. She explored the compounding effects of economic injustice, racism, and ableism in the United States. At the beginning of the presentation, McCool cited her brother, who is disabled, as her inspiration for pursuing this topic. McCool’s experiences witnessing her family navigate government bureaucracies as they tried to support her brother motivated her to research how government policy impacts disabled individuals. “I would notice the pages and pages of government forms that my parents would have to help my brother navigate through and the hours that they would spend on hold

waiting for a call back from a government office. This challenged my understanding of the American legislative system. It is not an impartial and omnipotent force as it is made out to be; in fact, it is often-times clouded by its historical prejudices,” said McCool. McCool continued, “At the end of the day, this project has just made me feel infinitely closer to my brother. Grasping with these understandings of his identity and disability and his personal experiences of oppression, I feel this project has bridged the three thousand miles that distance us, and I think it has helped me come closer to my goal of someday being able to be the one to protect him.” In an interview with *The Phillipian*, McCool spoke about her experience creating the project. She noted that her main goals were relatability and creating a connection between her material and her audience. “I know that legislation, at times, can seem dense and uninteresting, but I thought it was important to explain

the real-life implications of it, and the emotional connection that the audience might have to the material. I also wanted to focus on making my research, and my project, and my presentation broader beyond my own personal experiences... and complicating that by also navigating through the intersection between disability and race” said McCool. According to audience members, McCool’s hard work certainly paid off. For attendee Kai Mafunga ’26, McCool’s discussion of the correlation between racism and ableism resonated strongly with her. “I already knew that people who are minorities, specifically African American and Latinx, encounter more difficulty socio-economically per capita, as compared to people who are white. But I didn’t think about it [from the perspective of] disability, and how [McCool connected the ideas] was really enlightening. [It] really made me think about the struggles that people with disabilities face and

then the struggles that people who are African American or Latinx with a disability, how that can be even worse or exacerbated,” said Mafunga. Throughout the summer, Nick Liu ’23, a fellow 2022-2023 CaMD Scholar, and McCool supported one another as they worked on their projects. To Liu, McCool’s presentation felt like a final culmination of all the effort put into their research. “Last spring, when [Kate, John, Kianna, and I] were Uppers, we found out that we were the four scholars selected from the applicant pool to be the 2023 CaMD scholars.... So we became each other’s best support system. By that I mean we just became a really, really great group of people. We all just pressed on together. So it just feels so rewarding now, as Kate told me at the end of the presentation, that we’re finally seeing all this paying off.... And I’m super proud of her and looking forward to everything else that we’re gonna do,” said Liu. McCool’s advisor, Maureen Ferris, shared a similar per-

spective. Over the course of the project, Ferris had met up with McCool at multiple different points to provide support, feedback, and resources. Ferris hopes McCool’s work will support increased awareness of the American Disabilities Act on campus. In her paper, presentation, and interview, McCool encouraged students to get involved with disability rights activism. Reflecting on how the project helped shape her beliefs, McCool shared that through her research she discovered the impact that advocacy can have on legislation. “Even though there is work to be done, this, once again, should not be disheartening... because we know that advocacy has yielded such monumental results before. And so this isn’t a burdensome task, or a task that we shouldn’t be afraid of. It should be inspiring,” said McCool.

NEWS IN BRIEF

COLLECTED BY PRISHA SHIVANI

This Week:

The **Asian Identity Forum**, a collaboration between South Asian Society (SAS), Asian Women Empowerment (AWE), Asian Society, MOSAIC (Mixed-Heritage Affinity), and Andover Korean Society (AKS), was held on December 11 in Underwood. The forum provided an opportunity for Asian students to gather, meet new people, and talk about their experiences on campus.

As the holiday season approaches, **many festive events were held on campus this past weekend**, including an Ugly Sweater Party, a “Lessons and Carols” service in Cochran Chapel, and a trip to Lynnfield Market Street for shopping and ice skating.

Games of the **FIFA World Cup** were screened in the Kemper Auditorium, Susie’s, and the Tang Institute for students to watch with their friends.

Hosted by the Class of 2025 Student Council Representatives, a **munch and holiday movie screening** were held in CaMD on the evening of December 9.

On December 15, the **Addison Gallery of American Art hosted a virtual talk** on their latest display: “Rosamond Purcell: Nature Stands Aside.” This showcase reflects 150 of Purcell’s photographs, collages, and installations. Viewers were led through the exhibition, and Gordon Wilkins, a curator at the Addison, highlighted the various works and themes presented.

Looking Ahead:

Applications for the **Learning in the World (LITW) Summer Program** are due on January 9. The programs include A Greek Life: Athens, Greece; Civil Rights: The American Story; Berlin History, Culture, Language; and a variety of other worldwide opportunities. The application is available on the LITW program website.

Brit Bennett, author of “The Vanishing Half,” will speak on campus on January 13. Bennett will be the keynote speaker for MOSAIC’s Mixed Heritage Awareness Week.

ASM Speaker
Dr. Myron Rolle Preaches Two Percent Improvement Mantra

Continued from A1, Column 3

strike a balance between helping others and yourself. But I never thought about [them] not being mutually exclusive things and by helping others, you can grow as a person too,” said Pradhan.

Rolle challenged the audience to take away at least two percent of his advice and apply it to their lives. This request was on account of his mentality called the Two Percent Way, which urges everyone to seek new ways to make every day two percent better than the day before.

“It’s how I go through life, getting two percent of increase, two percent of edification at all times in anything that you do. Any chance encounter that you may have and a book that you read and an experience that you may have, grab a little bit of something, use it, apply to a journey in life, and it’ll allow your trajectory to move forward onward and upward,” said Rolle.

Alice Fan ’23 commented on Rolle’s encouragement of becoming two percent better everyday, relating it to a similar attitude that her former swim coach had. Fan expressed a desire for Rolle to have commented on allowing imperfection and allowing people to take a chance to rest.

“I feel like it’s a good mindset,

but also it’s okay to go two steps backward and one step forward. I feel like two percent implies that you need to have a good day every day, that you need to make the most of your day, but it feels like you can’t really make a mistake in the two percent way. I wish he had touched a little bit on the fact that you don’t have to squeeze every second out of your day,” said Fan.

To end, Rolle extended words of encouragement to the student body, as he motivated the audience to believe in their capabilities and to promote one’s spirit. He assured that with a positive attitude, greatness is achievable for anyone, regardless of identity.

“If you believe that you are good enough to do it, which I know you are... and you know your purpose is now, that spirit’s going to drive you forward to accomplishing those things. Because success can look like you, success looks like what you look like. Success comes from where you come from. Success sounds like you, success smells like you smell like, success has the same hair color, the same street address. Honestly, I go through life now with my head held high, with my Bahamian heritage, with my parents, with my faith, with my family... knowing that I’m here doing good work because my spirit is right,” said Rolle.

Contract Grading:
Exploring Alternate Grading Systems

BAILEY XU

“Contract grading,” a form of grading where a student’s final grade is determined by the number of assignments completed, was first introduced at Andover by Emily Raymundo, Instructor in English, last year. More teachers began to adopt the model as the Committee for grading and assessment and the Tang Institute continually held discussions around formulating competencies to best assess students’ academic performances.

In contract grading, the student’s final grade is determined by the number of assignments completed to a specified standard, with each assignment graded by completion. Prior to the first assignment, students fill out a contract detailing the grade they are aiming for and the steps they will take to obtain said grade. According to Raymundo, she first decided to use contract grading in an effort to implement a more equitable grading system.

“Traditional, numerical grading is something I’ve always struggled with, particularly when it comes to grading people’s writing. I think there’s so much that determines a person’s capacity to write an analytical essay that has nothing to do with how smart they are, how much they’ve worked, or even how good of a writer they are. It’s just about what they’ve been taught and how much they’ve been able to practice that,” said Raymundo.

Raymundo continued, “I felt if I did traditional grading, I would inevitably end up punishing students who just didn’t have the

same experience as others, and that doesn’t feel good to me. Contract grading was a system that I thought could still be a rigorous intellectual experience for those willing to commit the time, but also privileges the amount of effort [being] putting in.”

Kate McQuade, Instructor in English, addressed the misconception that contract grading measures effort at the expense of quality. By using contract grading in her Creative Writing classes, she hoped students would prioritize taking risks and exploring their creative voice, instead of focusing on numerical grades.

“I use contract grading in my creative writing electives because my main goal there is to help writers take artistic risks. A traditionally graded course can encourage students to play it safe, to write only what they know they can write well. But writers learn the most by trying things they’ve never done before. A contract-graded course can better support artistic experimentation because the grade is determined not by the quality of the final piece, but by following through on the learning experience. It can give students the confidence to amplify what makes their writing voice unique, allowing them to prioritize their own artistic goals rather than a grade,” wrote McQuade in an email to *The Phillipian*.

According to Raj Mundra, Interim Deputy Head of School and former Dean of Studies, Andover has held discussions around potential grading models and established a committee dedicated to this purpose, with contract grading being one of the grading systems faculty are considering. Mundra hopes discussions

around grading methods will be held more often in the following year.

Mundra said, “I believe that there will be an even greater focus next year around grading. We have had a committee on grading and assessment, and we’ve been looking at different models, looking at what other schools do. The Tang Institute has had a lot of discussions around grading with faculty, and faculty are trying different things. But I expect [by] the next school year, we will have much more in-depth, community-wide discussions around grading.”

Although contract grading is not used in the Math Department, some teachers have been experimenting with different grading approaches. Four instructors in Mathematics, including Heidi Wall, chose to use a “Feedback First” approach in the Precalculus sequence — Math 320 to Math 340 — this year, which provides students with feedback prior to the grade. Wall explains that this approach emphasizes student improvement.

“Our goal is to focus on providing our students with a variety of different types of regular feedback all focused on identifying areas of strength and areas of growth. In addition, we have been looking to help remove biases from traditional grading practices and help to provide a more equitable learning experience for our students across sections. We are interested in helping our students to grow and learn from their mistakes and this system has allowed us to help our students to focus on that growth, rather than a singular number grade,” wrote Wall in an email to *The Phillipian*.



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COURTESY OF YSABELLA VARGAS

10 Questions with Ysabella Vargas

REPORTING BY MIKLOSH FRUSZTAJER

Ysabella Vargas '23 is a Senior day student from Methuen, Mass. Vargas has been an active member of Andover's dance community since her Lower year. She is a member of many of Andover's dance groups, including Hypnotiq (Hypno) and SLAM, and she is the Co-Head of Fusion. Vargas is also a Blue Key Head and currently choreographing an original dance open piece.

1. What got you into dance at first?

I have a past in dance. I danced for ten years and then I quit. I quit dance in the past because it was conflicting with my club soccer. I had to choose which one I wanted to pursue, and I chose soccer. Andover remade the chance for me to do low-commitment dance, and then I started to get more into it.

2. How did your passion for dance grow at Andover?

Andover re-sparked my passion for [dance] over [Covid-19], and I've been really into it ever since. I started dancing during the [Covid-19] year, which was my Lower year. During quarantine, I was forced to explore some of my old hobbies, some being dance. I was able to branch out and explore different styles of dance in my free time and I grew really passionate about it.

3. What inspired you to choreograph a Dance Open piece?

I've always been really into choreographing, though I didn't choreograph last year because I was very busy. [This year] I decided I wanted to do a piece in the Dance Open. I'm doing a hip-hop dance, but not as hip-hop as Hypno. I actually just practiced 30 minutes ago. It's just something new I wanted to try, as I love choreographing.

4. How did you develop your artistic character at Andover?

I feel like I grew more as a performer here at Andover. Prior to dance at Andover, I was used to competition style dance, and that caused me to be a very technical performer. Now I can truly feel the music and allow myself to make mistakes on stage, which makes for a more genuine performance.

5. What is something you learned about Andover as a Blue Key Head?

It has changed me. I'm not sure in what way, but I realized that it's a tighter community [than I realized], because before I was just in the crowd and not doing much, but I'm a real leader of the community now. I can really see the ups and downs of the community, and the highs and lows of the people here. I feel like it has brought me closer to the school in general.

6. How do you balance dance, academics, sports, etc.?

People in the Dance Department and community are very welcoming and open and encouraging to try new things. Since I don't only do dance — I do other sports — people are always very adaptable. I played soccer in the Fall, and sometimes I had to sacrifice a game or two for dance or sacrifice a dance practice for a game. Everyone's really supportive in the dance department, and they understand time commitments and everything. They're also open to trying new things, which is really nice.

7. What do you like about having a variety of interests on campus?

I feel like I've hit a lot of different spaces around campus. I'm not just in the art aspect, sports, or academics. I hit every single side of campus, and I found a really unique space, a cross-section between everywhere and everybody. Getting involved with different sides of campus has also made me very open to communicating. [I'm now a] much better communicator in general.

8. What are your getaways from your busy schedule?

I love going out to eat with my friends, that's a big one... A classic is always Gati, everyone loves Gati, but also there's a Korean barbecue place that just opened a little farther downtown, which is really good. It's called Jason's Barbecue... But also dancing — that's a big stress reliever, even though it does fill up a lot of my schedule. Dancing just by myself is a good way to get my head away from academics or sports.

9. How has dance shaped your personal character at Andover?

I guess [I've] branched out. I used to be very in my shell a lot, and I feel like over [Covid-19], I really had to reach out to do the things I wanted and make the most out of that experience. It's really changed me as a person because now I'm really sociable and very able to meet new people, which I definitely was not able to do my Junior year.

10. What are your favorite things to buy at Susie's?

I always get an Arizona, the cherry-lime one. They're so good. Then I always get the watermelon Trollis, but they haven't had them this year. They had them a lot last year, but those are my favorites.

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JOICO the joy of healthy hair R+Co ORIBE
OLAPLEX.

THE EIGHTH PAGE

UPDATE: NED IS NO LONGER AN ECO-LEADER.

Relatable, Life-Ending College Rejection Letter Leaked

Dear Ms. Rhodes:

The Committee of De-termining Your Destiny has completed its Restrictive Early Action meetings, and I am pleased to inform you that we cannot offer you admission to our esteemed university, famous for an education com-parable to that of a community college with a tuition that could buy BitCoin. This year’s application pool was very strong, but honestly you just kinda suck. You have some lega-cy, but your parents haven’t been the best donors and it’s clear from your interest in music you don’t have much earning potential. We took a glance at your family’s finances, and it seems they donate the majority of their income to the Clinton Foundation.



On Question Three we asked, “Tell us a fun fact about yourself,” and you answered, “I can cook minute rice in 59 seconds.” In my 58 years of living and 23 years in admissions of all sorts, I have never seen such a horrible response. I guarantee that your parents are disappointed in you. This is exactly why your dog ran away. But back to the application, when we asked, “If you could have one superpower, what would it be?” you responded with, “That Kanye super power, and I’m not talking about music or fashion.” Yes, we need more political diversity at our university, but we also can’t risk me-dia attention. It did not help your case when you said that you were proud of your South African heritage. Your last name threw us off a bit.

We greatly appreciate your interest in our overhyped and no-fun school, and we offer you our best wishes that you find a place that accepts you for what you are: a failure.

Sincerely,
Officer Wokeman

8P's Annual Gift Guide

(This year, chemistry teachers get nothing)

- One-way ticket to Russia for your least favorite uncle
- \$25 Brazzers discount
- Height-increasing insoles for your sneaky link who’s still waiting on that growth spurt
- Used Prius (BMWs are so last year)
- Rizz
- Loftus International Blow Up Judy Doll (in case rizz is out of stock)
- Elie Weisel’s Night for overzealous Kanye fans
- Tickets to a silent retreat for that person who just won't shut the fu...
- Scale that calculates your moon weight
- Extended release viagra
- A sexy Cameo from tucker carlson
- A hot priest at your disposal
- A Hulu account (this is not a joke, please Dad)
- Head

“Are you sure that’s a Dean? I’m pretty sure that’s a kindergarten boy riding a bicycle.”

“I wish my house counselor’s children were as well-trained as their dogs.”

“What do you mean you ‘don’t ski?’”

“In my defense, I didn’t know that racoon was rabid.”

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

“Did you seriously just ask ‘Who is St. Barths?’”

“I just tell myself that I’m the danger and that I can do anything. Then I’m dialed for my Math 225 test.”

“Smash SBF, marry Caroline Ellison, kill the SEC”

“I wouldn’t call my mom liberal, but she certainly cares about all sorts of people.”

“Can we just take the squirrels or do we have to pay for them?”

WEEK'S TOP HEADLINES

- *Systemic Racism Shivering at Sight of Andover’s New Task Force Acronyms*
- *Brave Student: “If A Dean Finds My Cart, Just Let A Russian Arms Dealer Take My Spot”*
- *BBQ Incident Caused by Freshman Who Witnessed Reddit Post On “Similarities Between BBQ Sauce and Fluids of Vaginal Canal”*
- *In Effort to State Opinion on Issue of National Emergency, Academy Declares January 6 "Heroic Defense of Freedom"*
- *Student Writes Paper Connecting Horrors of Child Labor to Time He Had to Shovel the Snow off of House Counselor's Car*
- *YES+ Members Stumped When Asked Whether They Use Finger Condoms*
- *For Less Christocentric Caroling, A Capella Groups to Sing Adam Sandler’s “Hanukkah Song”*
- *Imagine Getting Rejected By an Upper and the College You Thought Was a Safety*



What House Counselors Do While Students Are on Break



- Water the mold
- DIY their own assortment of pickles
- Figure out new inventive ways to barge into student rooms
- Look for any left-behind weed to ease the stress of dealing with in-laws
- Hide from their spouse in students’ rooms
- Test out every single toilet
- Allow thieves into students’ rooms
- Check out the level of comfort of each stu-dent’s mattress foams
- Steal students' adderall for a Christmas decorating boost
- Borrow some lube from students’ top desk drawers
- Face-to-face with the drain flies in the bathrooms
- Loud sex
- Increase lead tolerance by taking shots of “filtered” water
- Double-check to make sure everything in the basement is still broken



The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLV | Number 26

December 16, 2022

the final countdown

Girls Hockey Shuts Out Dexter Southfield and Northfield Mount Hermon, Remains Undefeated

EVA MURPHY

FRIDAY	
Andover	1
Dexter Southfield	0
SATURDAY	
Andover	3
NMH	0

Andover Girls Hockey celebrated its first home game of the season with a victory against Dexter Southfield School, 1-0. The following day, Andover traveled to North-



Kiera Harder '23 is one of eight Seniors on Girls Varsity Hockey.

field Mount Hermon (NMH), taking a total of 71 shots on the net and ending the game in a 3-0 win. The team's record stands at 3-0.

Against NMH, Andover maintained composure in the game, despite various penalties being called on both teams, according to Peyton Kennedy '25. Head Coach Martha Fenton '83 encouraged the players to take more high quality shots after Friday's tight game against Dexter Southfield.

Kennedy said, "Although we only won 3-0, we had 71 shots on net. That could be good and bad because we didn't really get them in [the] net, but we did get the opportunity. We also were able to overcome a lot of challenges in that game with the aggressive number of penalties called on both sides.

Constant power plays, constant penalty kills, but we really, we came out on top."

Having many younger players on the team, Wendi Ying '25 stressed the importance of building good team chemistry. Ying commended Coach Fenton and the team's Co-Captains for their leadership and guidance in maintaining a friendly atmosphere.

"I think that there [are] a lot of new [Juniors] and even new Lowers, but I think it's really helpful having captains that really help to build that team dynamic because they've been here for so long. We also have our coach, Coach Fenton is really helpful and she makes people feel really welcome. My [Junior] year she made me feel really welcome on the team, and honestly everyone on the team is just really welcoming," said Ying.

Kennedy notes that especially with many players participating in the same fall sports, a lot of players on the team have already established a trusting relationship.

"We have a pretty young team this year, a lot of younger classmen, but we're looking like a strong team. A lot of us play the same fall sports so I feel like we're already connected" said Kennedy.

Keira Bruen '26 shared similar sentiments, noting how playing for the same club teams led to Andover's early success in the season. Coach Fenton's constant work with the team hopes to bring Girls Hockey to the forefront in the Patsy K. Odden Tournament.



C.BARBIE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Anne Averill '23 protects the puck.

"We've been passing really well, and a lot of us have played together before on club teams so I feel like that has helped. I feel like Martha is helping, too, and she's having us do drills that help us work together, so I think that really helps with coming together as a team," said Bruen.

With high anticipation for the Patsy K. Odden Tournament, which features the top eight schools in New England, the team looks forward to taking on competitive schools. Ying emphasized the importance of strategy and momentum going into the competition.

"It's always just playing as hard as we can and putting in

that effort. Coach Fenton really emphasizes that during practice: you earn your playing time. So when we go to Taft, obviously everyone's spirits are going to be really high. We just want to play our best, get shots on net, and just be really focused, and have a good time," said Ying.

Andover will compete in the Patsy K. Odden Tournament this Thursday and Friday, with hopes of winning the championship for the second year in a row.

Andover Girls Indoor Track & Field Wins by Four Points in "Intense" Home Opener

ANGIE LUCIA

A final lean at the finish line in the 4 x 400-Meter relay pushed Andover Girls Indoor Track & Field to a win over North Reading, Governor's, Wilbraham and Monson, and the Wheeler School in its home opener.

Competing in the meet's final event, members of the 4 x 400-Meter relay were already fatigued from participating in events prior, but nonetheless gave it their all, according to Kendall Toth '24.

Running stride-for-stride behind Governor's anchor leg, Toth gained the lead in the final straight and leaned farther over the finish line to secure the win.

"[The runner from Governor's] and I were close until the last 200 meters where she had a lead, but I was not about to let the other girls down knowing how hard they worked. So, I gave it everything I had at the end, and didn't look behind me because I knew Governor's was right on my heels. I didn't know how close until the last ten meters.... It was intense and exciting and shocking and tiring in the best way possible. The energy and adrenaline and the cheering from the amazing

crowd all created a feeling and a scene that are both indescribable," wrote Toth in an email to *The Phillippian*.

The win in the 4 x 400-Meter relay ultimately gave Andover enough points to take first in the team standing by a marginal four points. Besides Toth, the relay team's other runners, Hayden Fischer '25, Emma Hagstrom '25, and Lucy Parker '26, were all lowerclassmen. Langan Garrett '24 highlighted the younger members of the team who have the potential to grow exponentially in the three to four years to come.

"I think that both teams, both the girls and the boys teams, beat the other schools by a good margin, but I think it's a younger team. A lot of Seniors graduated last year, so there's a lot of potential with the younger students," said Garrett.

According to Gracie Aziabor '26, a key part in the team's performance came from the energy and connections the team formed in the first two weeks of practices. Despite the 120-person team, Aziabor found that it was easier than expected to form bonds with teammates.

"At the beginning, I definitely thought it would be hard for me to connect to most of my teammates just because of the amount

of people, but there's lots of things the team does as a group that gets us all to connect and get to know each other better. For example, there are buddy groups. They assign you a random group of people who are in different events and things, just so you can get to know them better and cheer them on... Also, there are lots of fun traditions...it's just something everyone can bond over," said Aziabor.

Annabel Tu '25 noted that in Track & Field, people compete in various events at different levels, making progress individualized for everyone. Tu commented that a common goal of the team is to continue improving as a whole, no matter what the specific goals of each individual look like.

"With track, especially since they combined [Junior Varsity] and Varsity, everyone is at a different level when they come into the sport. So I think a goal for everyone is just to improve. It's not like there's a common time or distance or number that you have to reach for everyone because everyone is at a different skill level. Everyone has their own personal goal of improving upon their mark, no matter what it is," said Tu.

Looking ahead, team members expressed hopes to work on its recovery habits and reflection. Aziabor emphasized the importance



A.TSAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Maddie Redmond '25 prepares to throw.

of assessing performances after meets in order to identify weaknesses to improve upon.

"While you're at meets, you're pushing yourself really, really hard, and so when you're going back to practice you don't want to completely throw yourself into a 100 percent workout just yet... Analyzing how the performances went at the meet, and using what we know about said performances to improve...just using what we know about the preparation for the meet, seeing how that affects

our performance, and then going from there and trying to make little tweaks and changes to maximize our performance in the upcoming meets," said Aziabor.

Andover Girls Indoor Track & Field will race at home against Governor's, Marianapolis, the Landmark School, Wilbraham and Monson, Lawrence High, and Austin Preparatory School on Wednesday, January 18.

Girls Squash Continues Winning Streak After Defeating St. George's following Groton Invitational

SOPHIA CRATTY

WEDNESDAY	
Andover	7
St. George's	0

Girls Squash dominated the Groton Invitational last Saturday, placing second overall. The team's starting streak continued over to their match on Wednesday against St. Paul's, in which it won 8-0. Its record currently stands at 1-0-1.

Migyu Kim '25 emphasized the intensity and enjoyment level the team experienced. She attributed this to the unique "hot court system," which quickened the pace of the meet.

"It wasn't necessarily a single match against Groton; they called it the Groton Invitational tourna-

ment. There were six schools—it was Brooks, Groton, Exeter, Nobles, St. George's, and us. [It] was really interesting because it was kind of a hot court system, and there were a lot of different, unique things that they put in place. [Y]ou would play best of three instead of best of five games. [Right] after a court would open up, you and your opponent would hop on to the next court based on the match number. [It] was a lot of fun, and there were a lot of teams there but it was also really intense because each person was ensured four matches, or even five, so it was really fast paced and [there was] a lot of playing," said Kim.

Liz Zhao '24 highlighted two crucial players at the Groton Invitational: Devika Hajarnavis '26 and Kim. According to Zhao, both played exceptionally well, overcoming mental pressure and hardships during their matches.

"One player that stood out to me was Devika Hajarnavis who played number 7 in the invitation. She had to fight through a

lot of tough matches in which she and the opponent were neck and neck, and the matches were quite long. It's not easy to do with that kind of mental pressure and I applaud her for doing as well as she did. And of course, Migyu, who won the entire invitational also deserves a mention. She didn't even drop a game throughout any of her four matches, which is incredible," said Zhao.

Kim highlighted her appreciation for the team's high energy and spirits through a tough tournament testing fitness levels and focus. She notes that the team supported each other exceptionally well.

"I think the team performed really, really well, especially because it wasn't necessarily determined in the win-loss kind of way and more in the total points that you collected as a team. I think it really allowed for the players to get the match experience without a lot of pressure. The team really flourished in that kind of scenario. Because there were so many

matches, it really tested fitness and focus. I think that the team performed really well despite being tired in the last couple games. I really just appreciated their enthusiasm and energy. I think that the team played really well overall," said Kim.

Despite Girls Squash's lapse in focus after a long bus ride to St. George's on Wednesday, Shreya Bajaj '23 emphasized the team's dominance and crucial comeback moments. Girls Squash controlled the courts and cheered on their teammates with enthusiasm.

"I think there were some really great comeback moments in some of the matches—even though we won, many of us felt we may not have played our best because we had to travel 2 plus hours to get to St. George's and felt a bit unfocused after the bus ride. However, the support was great and since we were just working on hitting each individual shot well and playing our best during each point, we were able to turn some games around and maintain focus

during games where people were winning," said Bajaj.

The team anticipates a restful yet productive break ahead of them, continuing to train on their own and work hard on the more individual aspects of their game, according to Zhao.

"I think during the upcoming break, the team will train by themselves, take the time to train their own weakest aspects individually and focus on their own game and come back stronger and ready to take on the rest of the season. I know I'm extremely hyped up after how exciting and fun the invitational was and I think the rest of the team probably feels the same way. I know many of us are going to continue training over the break and by the time we come back, I'm sure everyone will be ready to continue playing matches," said Zhao.

Girls Squash looks forward to facing off Choate on January 7 after returning from break.

BOYSBASKETBALL

Captain Colby Duggan ’23 Serves as “Perfect Bridge” Between Teammates and Coaches

MEG STINEMAN

As a vocal and knowledgeable leader, Andover Boys Basketball Captain Colby Duggan ’23 demands active communication from both himself and his teammates. In only his second season on Andover’s team, Duggan brings wisdom and experience from his three years playing for Monson High School. Through transparent communication, Duggan hopes to build stronger relationships with his teammates. “My main job as a captain is to relay coaches’ messages onto the players in a way that might connect deeper with them... It’s just having a good relationship with the players,” said Duggan. Christopher Rey ’23 believes Duggan is reflective of his efforts to be approachable and trustworthy. According to Rey, Duggan remains en-

gaged with his teammates and coaches, answering questions and passing on important information. “[We value] his ability to lead not only on the basketball court as one of our better players, as one of our best players, but also, just his ability to use his knowledge as a captain, and someone who has been playing basketball for a long time. If a younger player, a player who hasn’t been on varsity for as long, doesn’t know something or has a question, he is able to answer that. He is the perfect bridge between some of the other players and [Coach Ivory],” said Rey. Davian McDonald ’25 emphasized Duggan’s leadership through example. Often demonstrating drills and plays, Duggan also brings commitment and persistence to the team. “I think Colby does a really great job of leading by example and showing everyone what we need to do rather

than just telling us. If there are any drills or something that we need a volunteer to show us what we need to do, Colby is that guy. Everyone just looks up to him since he’s our captain, and he’s the guy to look to when we need motivation,” said McDonald. Rey shared a similar sentiment to McDonald, highlighting Duggan’s work ethic. According to Rey, Duggan always puts in his all on the court. “When you see your captain diving on the floor or battling for a rebound, or in general just working harder than everyone else on the court...you are also going to want to do that. He leads by example really well. He’s always working hard when he’s on the court,” said Rey. Duggan prioritizes taking responsibility for his actions on the court. In addition to cultivating a bonded team, Duggan hopes to hold his teammates accountable in order to promote growth.

“Just spending as much time with [the team] as possible. We eat together. We’re always around each other and kind of just keeping the culture tight. Also, I think probably taking responsibility because if you’re able to take responsibility for your actions then it helps everyone grow,” said Duggan. Duggan is never afraid to speak out for the team, ensuring that feedback is communicated clearly, according to Rey. When coaches are not present, Duggan talks to teammates about ways in which they can improve. “Before and after every practice and before or after every game, he is usually one of the players that gets up and talks. Most of the time, it’s not even the coaching staff involved. It’s just the team. The coaching staff will go off and talk about what we need to do in practice or the game... But he is always saying something that bridges the gap between what [Coach Ivory] said, and



R.NASSERZADEH/THE PHILLIPIAN

making sure us as players understand it every time,” Rey said. Duggan will continue his athletic and academic career at Campbell University next year.

Coach Terrell Ivory ’00 Values Getting “One Percent Better” with Every Opportunity

MEG STINEMAN

In his 11th year as Head Coach of Andover Boys Basketball, Terrell Ivory ’00 (TI) looks to lead with zeal and at-



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

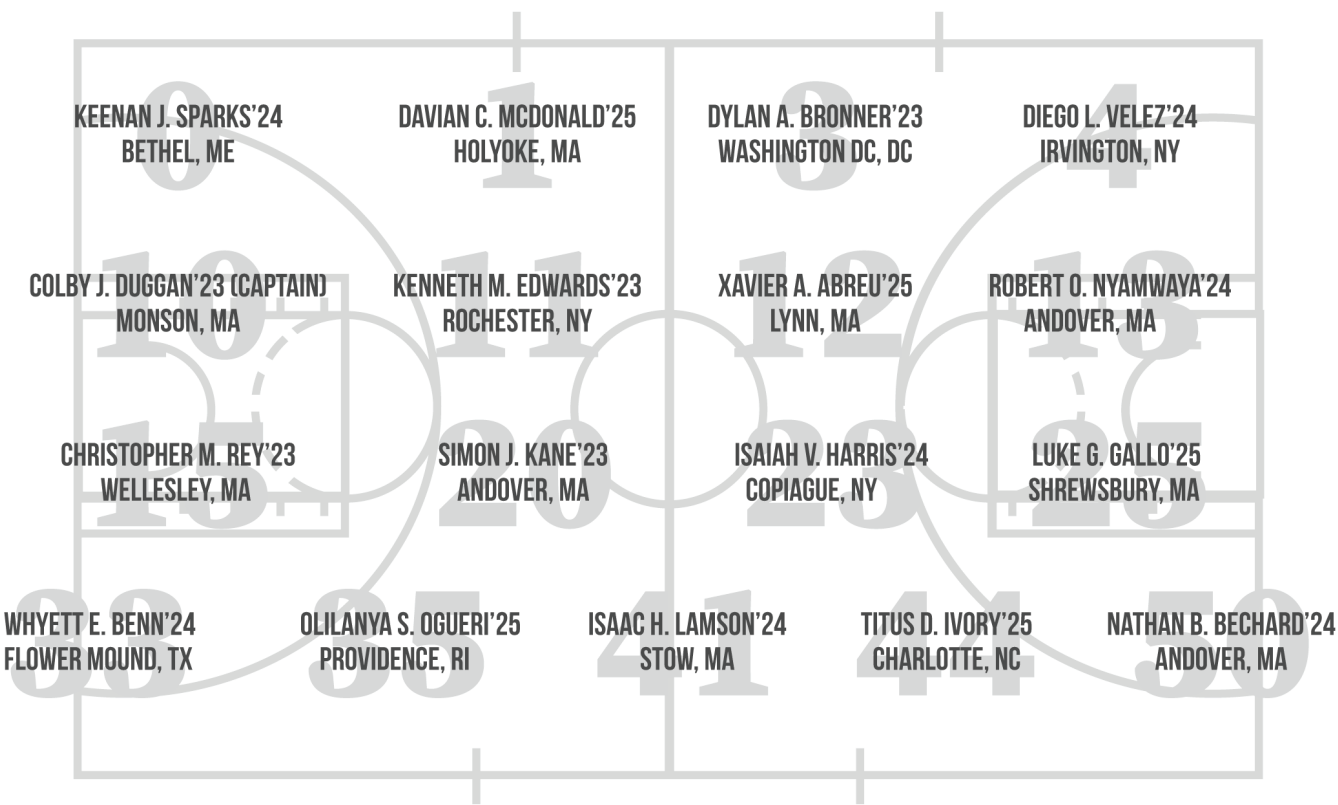
tention to detail. According to Ivory, since the team’s eyes are set on making the playoffs at the end of the season, he understands that the team must take smaller, more tangible steps towards its goal. Ivory stated that he prioritizes enjoying the process, not just the end result. “That’s the motivation... trying to help them understand that we do this because we love playing. We want to have fun. You can lose and have fun, but winning is so much more fun than losing. So the goal is to put ourselves in a position to win by doing all the little things that help us reach our goals,” said Ivory. Robbie Nyamwaya ’24 believes Ivory is reflective of his efforts to focus on the “little things.” Nyamwaya also appreciates Ivory’s consistent

enthusiasm, which often spreads to his players. “He really focuses on little details, small details that maybe some other coaches would let pass. So I think that makes him really helpful when you can play in the games. I also think he just brings his own energy with the team when the team doesn’t really feel like practicing, or when we all don’t have a lot of energy. He always brings the energy,” said Nyamwaya. Although focused on the court, Ivory’s personable qualities and approachability greatly strengthens the trust he establishes with each of his players, according to Christopher Rey ’23. Rey noted that Ivory uses sarcasm and humor to boost the mood of his players. “He is just very enthusiastic about everything. Also, he’s not your typical basket-

ball coach in terms of his serious manner. He’s more fun. You can be looser around him and more casual, which is fun because you don’t always feel like you have to be professional and stuff. But he also is really good at matching that with seriousness on the court during practices and games and making sure that we are doing our best when we practice,” said Rey. Ivory expressed that he emphasizes teamwork in his coaching. He believes that selfless teams find the most success in the long run. “[We value] the idea of working together to achieve whatever goal we may have. In order to do that, you have to be selfless and help out your teammate. I would say that’s the thing that I focus on the most. Being selfless and sacrificing for the greater good,” said Ivory.

Ivory brings experience from his 67 Division I collegiate basketball appearances and a professional career in England. Rey appreciates Ivory’s ability to maintain intensity while also nurturing a team environment conducive to learning. “A lot of coaches are really good at teaching or really good at being intense and not necessarily teaching. I think, usually, coaches are either good at one or the other. I think TI is good at both. He’s a really good teacher in general, whether it be basketball or not. He’s really good at getting his point across, but he also has this ability to turn on this intensity. He wants to win,” said Rey.

ANDOVER BOYS BASKETBALL



MANAGERS

- Ruby K. Flaherty '23 (Cambridge, MA)
- Layelle E. Abou-Ezzi '24 (North Andover, MA)
- Jaedyn K. Ford '24 (Brooklyn, NY)
- Caroline C. McGirt '23 (Charlotte, NC)
- Bryce Waweru '24 (Lawrence, MA)

R.YANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover Girls Basketball Falls to Loomis and St. George’s

EVIE WOOD

SATURDAY	
Andover	49
Loomis Chaffee	74
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	44
St. George’s	51

With consecutive away games on Saturday and Wednesday, Andover Girls Basketball faced Loomis Chaffee and St. Georges, losing 74-49 and 51-44. Its record now stands at 1-3. Loomis, the 2020-2021 NEPSAC Class A Champions, proved to be a tough opponent, according to Co-Cap-

tain Kiley Buckley ’23. “I think going into the game we knew it was going to be a tough game because they have a lot of good players and we’ve played them in the past and they’ve been tough games. So I think the game definitely didn’t go our way just because they are a really talented team. But we also didn’t come out as good as we could have, or as good as we have in previous games, so I think it just showed us a lot of things that we can work on,” said Buckley. The lack of energy was another reason Andover could not generate scoring, according to Leila Boesch-Powers ’24. She noted that the team will need to work on maintaining composure. “I think that the reason, or part of the reason that we didn’t come away from Loomis with a win is partly because once they started scoring baskets, we got in a funk and started playing a little more sloppily than normal. So I

think going into Wednesday’s game and all future games after that, we’re going to really try to keep the same intensity throughout, even while we’re playing very talented and tall teams,” Boesch-Powers said. The team was able to regroup in the last minutes of the game, but the deficit was too large at that point to comeback, revealed Buckley. Buckley said, “Towards the end of the game we just kind of started to calm down a little bit and move the ball around, and just get good shots and at that point we knew that it wasn’t going to be the best game. So just kind of turning the game around and working on what we could have been [and] what we needed to work on.” Boesch-Powers believes that the familiarity amongst the returners has translated into strong team chemistry and practices have been directed towards establishing good defense and communication.

“It’s a very high returner team, there’s a lot of returners, so I think a lot of the stuff we don’t have to relearn from last year, so it comes a lot more naturally. So the defense, I would say we’ve been focusing a lot in practice has gotten a lot better and it is one of our strengths, because we’re kind of comfortable with it, getting into help defense...while we’ve struggled with it last year, this year it has been a lot more natural and useful [and] we used it a lot more...I think the team’s bond is really good, because as I was saying, most people are returners, and even with the new people, everyone’s pretty close and communicating,” said Boesch-Powers. The defensive struggles continued on Wednesday at St. Georges as players struggled with rebounding, according to Emerson Buckley ’25. “I think we worked a lot on defense, which I think we executed well during the game. I

think we just let them get too many second chances with rebounding, but overall we kept them from shooting outside the three which was what they [wanted] to do. [We] held them to a lot of drives and I think [if] we [had] just [cleaned] up our rebounding which could’ve cut off a lot of the points they scored,” said Buckley. The team will jumpstart the defense, particularly focusing on rebounding for the season. Buckley ’25 said, “I think we’re working on, once again, rebounding, but also our press. Our press did work but we need to get more steals out of it, which would obviously help us get some points on them.” Andover Girls Basketball will play at the Lawrence Academy Holiday Tournament at Groton this Friday and Saturday.

WRITE FOR SPORTS.

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This season Dr. Kington is opening Phelps House kitchen and you are invited to the table! Cook your food with our Head of School. Anything goes! Sign up by emailing the following to contact_kington@andover.edu.

- *Your name and the names of your friends (up to three students per episode)
- *Names of the dish(es) you would like to prepare
- *Ingredients needed

“Iron Sharpens Iron”: Boys Indoor Track & Field Wins Home Opener by Considerable Margin

EVIE WOOD

Andover Boys Indoor Track & Field took first place by 41 points in its home opener, with team members taking individual wins in ten out of the 13 events.

According to Sami Tokat '26, Saturday's home opener against North Reading, Wilbraham & Monson, Governor's, and the Wheeler School saw thrilling energy and numerous spectators. The team's focus was not only to gauge its early-season standing among its competitors, but also to build strong support systems.

“For the Indoor Track program, I would say that the

strength is definitely support, or always constant support. You know, we each have our own strengths and weaknesses, ready to support and push each other. We talk about iron sharpens iron. We're all helping each other along,” said Tokat.

Russel Robinson '25 highlighted impressive performances that contributed to the excitement of the meet, specifically those of Co-Captain Daniel Bae '23. In his first race of the season, Bae took 0.16 seconds and 0.19 seconds off his 55-Meter and 300-Meter personal records, respectively.

“What really stood out was Daniel Bae's 6.74 [second 55-Meter], which is pretty close to the school record.

[0.06] seconds off, which is really, really impressive.... He also won our 300-Meter race,” said Robinson.

Tokat, likewise, highlighted the success of the team's distance and mid-distance runners. Two runners in particular, Oliver Buckhoff '24 and Robert Budzinski '26 won their respective events, despite it being their first time competing for the program.

“Oli did the 600-[meter], and he won by [two seconds], and that was an incredible run. A lot of fun to watch. You saw the crowd cheering him on. He did fantastic. Another highlight I would say would be Robert Budzinski, who is a [Junior], and he won the Boys Mile with a time of around 4:55,” said Tokat.

Co-Captain Jaeyong Shim '23 believes the team can work to better prevent injury, which is often a result of the team's large numbers. With just ten coaches for 120 total team members, there is some difficulty in giving each athlete individualized training plans, according to Shim.

“We have such a wide range of people. We have newcomers. We have people that have been training for months, so I think it's hard to match that because we have a limited number of coaches.... Sometimes athletes get overworked, or they just follow the wrong training plan, and then they end up getting injured,” said Shim.

Looking ahead, Shim explained the team's long-term

goals, some even extending to the Outdoor Track & Field season.

“Our end goal for Indoor is just beating Exeter [Phillips Exeter Academy]. And then obviously, we're going to go out for Outdoor and then perform at Interschols. We're just training right now. [It was a] great season opener. So we're just going to relax for our Winter Break and then get it going again,” said Shim.

Andover Boys Track & Field will host Governor's, Landmark School, and Mari-anapolis on Wednesday, January 18.

Boys Squash Falls Short to Deerfield Academy, Comes Back with Sweep Over Milton

ANGIE LUCIA

SATURDAY	
Andover	3
Deerfield	4
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	7
Milton	0

Andover Boys Squash headed out west to face Deerfield on Saturday but fell short with a final score of 3-4. After reassessing its play and working on skill, strategy, and fitness, the team came back strong and swept Milton 7-0 at home on Wednesday. Andover's record now stands at 2-1.

According to Christian Graziano '25, leading up to the game against Deerfield, working on mentality was a key strategy. Graziano explained how preparation in squash differs from other sports.

“Unlike a lot of other sports, [in] squash, you already know who you're going up against. There's no defender switches or stuff like that. It's just one-on-one, you and your opponent out there. We were just working on our mental game and our strategic game [leading up to the Deerfield game],” said Graziano.

Due to the individual na-



Sean-Winston Luo '24 is Andover's fourth seed player.

ture of squash, the team does its best to connect outside of the courts and improve team camaraderie, according to Avery Lin '25.

“It's kind of tough [to stay connected] because even within the team, we're always competing against each other to move up and down the ladder or the position on the team, but it's pretty light hearted. I think the team this year, we're super young. Most of us are Freshmen and Lowers, so we're all just taking it easy. It's just pretty fun because we have team dinners and stuff like that. So as a team, we're super close,” said Lin.

On Wednesday, the team not only drew off of each other's energy, but also the energy from its home fans. According to Sean-Winston Luo '24, the team's familiarity of Andover's courts paired with the support coming from friends played a large role in how the team performed.

“The convenience of walking in and going to play squash is [of] a more comfortable feeling. For Deerfield you have to drive two hours, you're sitting in the car for a long time, and ultimately, to be more familiar with the Andover courts helps and having your friends watching...home energy does help, for sure,”

said Luo.

Graziano described how the team has an accountability system where teammates coach one another. He believes this to be beneficial because everyone picks up on different skills which make the team stronger.

“We all coach each other, that's pretty big. You cheer for your team a lot because there's theoretically eight players — seven players that count, but eight players on a true varsity team, and at a time, four are playing, the other four are sitting off. You have to do your best to cheer each other on while you're out there, but coaching each

other is really important because that's when you get together after the game and see what you felt as a player. If you're a spectator you say what you saw there, and you try and put your ideas together and get the next game,” said Graziano.

After the team's number two seed player got sick, other members had to step up for the Wednesday match against Milton. Luo highlighted the performance of Corey Shen '26.

“Good performance by our freshmen, Corey. Everyone needed to step up today because our other freshman Aiden [Chiang '26], who plays number two usually, he's a little bit sick, so everyone needed to step up. Good playing by the bottom people on the bottom ladder. They're not usually playing in those varsity matches, but they stepped up today and came out today,” said Luo.

According to Graziano, looking ahead, the team hopes to work on using skill to its advantage, especially during more challenging meets.

“In the future, when we have some harder matches, we have to play a little bit smarter. That was our problem this weekend...we have to stay really disciplined to our strategy, which will hopefully bring us success. Again, we're a young team, so we have a lot to grow,” said Graziano.

Andover Boys Squash will face Choate away on January 7.

After Weekend Loss, Boys Varsity Basketball Secures a Win

MEG STINEMAN

SATURDAY	
Andover	56
Millbrook	65
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	58
Suffield	48

After a tough 65-56 loss this Saturday against Millbrook, Boys Basketball increased its motivation going into its Wednesday game. The team battled for a 58-48 win against Suffield.

Despite the loss on Saturday, Head Coach Terell Ivory '00 mentioned the partial success that the team had on offense. Nonetheless, Ivo-

ry noted that their offensive efforts were not backed by a strong defensive presence, thus bringing the team to face a loss.

“I think we did okay offensively. We did a pretty good job of moving the ball and sharing the ball. Defensively, we really struggled. We tried to speed up the other team and pressure the ball and we did that a little bit. In basketball, the person guarding the ball has to do a good job, but the people off the ball have to be able to guard the person they are guarding and see the ball and help,” said Ivory.

Robbie Nyamwaya '24 highlighted the team's persistence throughout the challenging moments in the game against Millbrook. Nyamwaya believes that despite the team's struggles, it continued to put full effort into each minute of the game.

Nyamwaya said, “I think we definitely dealt with adversity well. There were times where the other team was leading or we were kind of down, but we

still fought our way back into the game. We kept it a close game until the end.”

Similarly to Nyamwaya, Captain Colby Duggan '23 emphasized the team's efforts throughout its Saturday game. However, he added that the team's shooting efforts can be improved throughout the season.

Duggan said, “I think we played really hard, we didn't necessarily make shots that we should have, but I think we played really hard and worked really hard. We didn't win, but I think we can be proud of our effort, but there's a lot to improve on.”

Luke Gallo '25 highlighted the chemistry the team had during Wednesday's game against Suffield, which helped gain the win. To prepare for the game, the team studied the opponent's tactics in order to plan the best approaches.

Gallo said, “Our strength was that we played very hard with very good effort. We're definitely growing as a team

and have good energy. We went through a lot of film and studied the other team's habits. We were playing hard in practice and practicing defense against their plays and practicing offense against

their defense, so we felt prepared.”

Andover Boys Basketball will face The Newman School at the BasketBull HoopFest on Friday.



Dylan Bronner PG'23 posts up in the paint.

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PHOTOS TAKEN BY CAROLYN BARBIE



Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Sykes Counselor Robots and YES+ Parodies: Sketchy’s Skits Appeal to Andover Humor

STAFF REPORT

From a Weekender Update skit reminiscent of Saturday Night Live, to a Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center counselor robot, to a parody of a YES+ talk about periods, Andover’s sketch comedy group, Sketchy, performed a variety of short skits in the Evans DeFelice Classroom last weekend. As their first show of the year, the performance introduced the creativity and humor of Sketchy, eliciting applause and laughter from the audience.

Led by co-heads Jack Swales ’24 and Kaia Heslin

’23, each script and skit — known as a sketch — is written, performed and directed by students, and ranges from current events to on-campus occurrences. According to Swales, Sketchy personalized their performance by using Andover-specific lingo and references to cater to their audience of solely Andover students.

“I would say that we try to keep the humor very Andover-based. We can make jokes about really anything that we want to, but it’s really funny if we, as a comedy group at [Andover], make jokes about [Andover], because then the students are able to connect with them a bit more, and find



COURTESY OF KAIA HESLIN

The Evans DeFelice Classroom allowed Sketchy performers to connect with audience on all sides, breaking the “fourth wall.”

them funnier,” said Swales.

Lydia Mechegia ’24, an attendee of the performance, voiced her appreciation for the skill of the performers and the energy of the audience.

“I enjoyed the humor and seeing my friends do their thing and be funny... I think that the show was perfect and I wouldn’t change a thing... The audience was very supportive and laughing all the time and it was just a really fun show overall,” said Mechegia.

The club began preparing content at the beginning of the school year to ensure a successful show. According to Juan Sepulveda ’24, the group met each day for an hour or two in the weeks immediately before the show to ensure

that everyone was memorizing and to get extra practice time.

Uniquely, the audience surrounded the stage on three sides for Sketchy’s performance, providing different perspectives from which spectators could enjoy the show. Kashvi Ramani ’24 discussed how this immersive performance setting helped the interactivity of Sketchy’s skits with the audience.

“I think the fact that it was in the black box theater on all sides really helped that. [It was] lot more accessible to the audience, we could interact with audience members. A lot of the time we broke the fourth wall and looked at the audience like ‘Oh my god,’ ‘What?,’ ‘Are you serious?’” said Ramani.

Looking forward, Sketchy plans to perform again during Winter Term. According to Sepulveda, as an established group on campus, they hope to continue spreading laughter with regular shows every term. Swales reflected on how interacting with the audience brought another layer to Sketchy’s performance.

“My favorite part was the audience reactions, and not even just to the sketches that I was in. But to the show as a whole, I think it was really entertaining to see what the audience found funny. And then what didn’t really go so well with the audience and kind of how they reacted with it.... It was nice to see that our work was paying off in the end,” said Swales.



COURTESY OF PEMA SHERPA

Kaia Heslin ’23 is one of the Co-Heads of Sketchy and performed the Weekender Update skit as a head reporter alongside Jack Swales ’24.

Artist Eliah Baez ’24 Ventures into Nature Themes with “Unfamiliar” Materials

WENDI YING

When he stumbled upon some drawing tutorials on YouTube, Eliah Baez ’24 began copying sketches as a way to relieve stress. Since then, Baez has branched into chalk and pastel, among other mediums, transforming his hobby into a passion.

“It was a way for me to express my ideas and it was just fun, and comfortable. It offered me an escape... I used YouTube videos and copied the paintings because it was fun and I could take my mind off other things,” said Baez.

Since coming to Andover, Baez furthered his Artistic passions by taking a multitude of Art courses, including Art 305 (Painting I: Paint, Palette, and Process) and Art 505 (Advanced Drawing, Painting, and Mixed Media). Baez is currently enrolled in the advanced studio course Art 600, and commented on the specific assets of the course that helps him to develop as an Artist.

“There’s a lot more re-

sources and tools available to me. Also the teachers are super helpful in helping develop my skills. [The resources here] make Art more accessible... [Because of Andover], my Art is just more meaningful, and it looks better. My skills have improved because of the resources available,” said Baez.

This fall in Art 600, Baez felt a particular connection with an assignment to create a piece that was “comfortable” and another piece that was “uncomfortable.” According to Baez, he utilized his own identity in his pieces and challenged himself to use unfamiliar mediums and materials.

“For my comfortable piece I explored textures of trees using chalk and oil pastels, because that was a medium that I wasn’t too familiar with, but I wanted to learn, and then trees was a comfortable sort of theme. And the uncomfortable piece was a medium or theme that we didn’t know and wanted to explore, so I did Greek mythology and Greek gods, and

I just recreated them to look more like me,” Baez said.

Out of all the pieces he created, Baez’s favorite is his “uncomfortable” piece. Although he had experience with creating nature themed pieces, he usually gravitates towards clay, pastels, charcoal and paint as his go-to Art materials.

“I’m pretty proud of it because it was something that I hadn’t really done before. I never used chalk or oil. When I first started using the materials for the piece, it was very difficult. A lot of the pieces I made looked like a kindergarten did them, but I think I learned how to use the materials and work with them. The finished product...I was pretty happy with it,” said Baez.

Carly Hopkins ’24, a friend and Art 600 classmate, noted the relevance of his work with today’s world, and how his Art style and techniques inspired her as an Artist.

“[Baez] uses a variety of interesting mediums, and lately his Art 600 work has been oriented around nature, which is really cool with today’s politi-



COURTESY OF ELIAH BAEZ



COURTESY OF ELIAH BAEZ

In his “uncomfortable piece,” Baez recreated figures of Greek Mythology, Poseidon and Zeus, to resemble himself.

cal climate and move towards sustainability.... We both like to work with similar mediums when it comes to creating Art, so he’ll have some techniques that are very interesting and

inspiring. Like with his last Artwork, he worked with pastels, and now, I want to try that out,” Hopkins said.



COURTESY OF ELIAH BAEZ

Using chalk and oil pastels, mediums that he was not very familiar with beforehand, Baez dedicated his “comfortable piece” to exploring the textures of trees.

Arts & Leisure

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Behind the Curtain: Presenting the 2023-2024 Theatre Producers

REPORTING BY SERAFINA SHIN-VON NORDENFLYCHT

Over the weekend, the Andover Theatre and Dance Department made an important shift in preparation for the upcoming year, welcoming its new generation of Theatre Producers for 2023-2024. The selected group of Sebastian Cynn ’24, Simi Gandhi ’24, Matt Wasilewski ’24, Ivy Randall ’25, and Alicia Zhang ’24 will be a vital part of next year’s Theatre and Dance Department, coordinating the DramaLabs performances each term and running Grasshopper with the Dance Producers every fall. Below, each Producer delves into their reflections of performance art and overall aspirations for Andover theatre.

ALICIA ZHANG ’24:

“I’ve been doing theater for a really long time, and it has had such a huge impact on my life. So when I came to [Andover] I knew I really wanted to do DramaLabs and wanted to continue to do theater from middle school.... I just wanted to apply to be a Producer because I wanted to be able to bring theater to more people and to involve more people with theater... I’m really looking forward to working with everyone, because it’s such an awesome group of people, and I am just really excited to get more people into theater.”

MATT WASILEWSKI ’24:

“I was inspired to apply to be a Producer because I had wanted to get more involved with the theater department here at [Andover]. I was a part of tech crew for all three years of middle school and have taken a few theater classes here at [Andover], but I thought being a Producer would really allow me to experience what [Andover] has to offer.... The DramaLabs provide a space for students of Andover to continue to pursue their interests in theater, whether it be acting or directing or sometimes even writing their own play. They also are a great space for students to take risks and try something that they haven’t done before and we encourage everybody to try the DramaLabs out.”

SIMI GANDHI ’24:

“I wanted to be a Producer because there were so many people who helped me find myself as an artist, and I would really like to challenge other people to do the same. A lot of what I’ve learned in theater is very applicable to my life. I’ve developed skills such as resistance and work ethic from the theater, so I would really like to help people develop those skills as well. That would be really special to me.... I feel that theater has such a potential to help people find who they are, and I would love for kids to do that while connecting with an audience, while telling a story, because everyone has their own stories to tell.”

IVY RANDALL ’25:

“I take pride in being a Producer, and to me, it’s putting my all into making the theater community at Andover something that can be a home for everybody—and also, of course, putting on shows that we’re proud of, holding events that everyone in the cast feels happy with, feels a pride to perform, and [that] everyone in the audience is happy to watch... I think [DramaLabs are] an opportunity for people who might not be as involved with Andover theater, might not know if Andover theater is a place for them.... But if they’re hesitant to audition for a major production or if they don’t have enough time in their schedule to be in a major production, it is an opportunity to try it out and get that feeling of being part of a cast, being part of a team, and performing with a group of people, which I think is very fulfilling.”

SEBASTIAN CYNN ’24:

“Theater has been an integral part of my life for a really long time... It’s a community that I’m so proud to be a part of, and I’m hopeful that I get to bring that to more people and be able to include as many people as I possibly can in it.... For me, my performance background emphasizes the need to make the DramaLabs community [and] the need to build something that makes people feel supported. [So] that even when you’re on stage—which is something that is so inherently stressful — just having a bunch of people there who support each other [and] make each other feel safe and comfortable performing... I think one thing that I want to see is a return in many ways to this idea of it being more talent show-oriented because I know in the last few years, it’s definitely leaned much more into theater.”

Holiday DramaLab Overcomes Turnarounds And Brings “Life-Changing” Show to Audience

SOPHIE TUNG

Red lights flooded the stage, focusing on three figures as they tugged and yelled at each other, all while opera music picked up speed in the background. A scream rang through the crowd witnessing the fight. Then, all of a sudden, the red faded into white as a joke was cracked, lightening the mood and inviting laughter from the audience. The cast of “Après Opera” then continued their performance for the opening of this year’s Holiday DramaLab.

Held on Friday evening at the George Washington Hall Theatre Classroom, the Holiday DramaLab featured two short

comedy skits. There was also a holiday-themed trivia session in between where candy was offered. Audience member Zadie Robinson ’26 commented on her initial reaction after leaving the show.

“My heart is still beating from [the show]. That was genuinely the best thing I’ve ever watched. It was life-changing,” said Robinson.

Several weeks of preparation culminated in a show that was highlighted by vibrant lighting, music, and sound effects. Maya Rogers ’25 discussed her feelings after watching the show.

“I definitely liked the effects and how [the DramaLab] engaged the audience with the trivia.... I was a bit surprised by the swearing...[but] I like that they provide a

lot of freedom in making decisions on [the content] of the play.... The last act scared me a lot because of the screaming. It was very exciting, in conclusion,” said Rogers

However, the preparation process did not come without challenges for the producers, directors, and performers, as they had to readjust in a short period of time while back on campus between Thanksgiving and Winter Break. Jessica Li ’24, one of the DramaLab producers, described the situation as “hectic.”

“I think this DramaLab was a little bit harder for us to plan because we didn’t want [to] conflict with the CaMD Scholar presentation, so [the call time] was earlier than it usually is.... One thing that wasn’t working was the

sound system, and we didn’t have enough time to troubleshoot it,” said Li.

Sebastian Cynn ’24, who was Duncan in “Après Opera,” mentioned the camaraderie between the cast meetings created through the long hours preparing for the performance. Supporting one another was vital for the short time period they had to prepare for this DramaLab.

“Before the performance, all of us were very nervous backstage. We all had such a quick turnaround time. We just came back from break. We just got our scripts. But there was also a sense of camaraderie there. We’re going to do this. We got this. We’re going to get through this together. We’re going to get our lines, cues,

and make an amazing show,” said Cynn.

For future DramaLab performances, Li revealed that the producers are about to reach the end of their tenure and are currently passing on their experience to trainees. Performer Kashvi Ramani ’24 added that she would love to be a director and to watch out for future DramaLabs.

Ramani said, “I would definitely love to be in a directing role in a future DramaLab. I think that is a really cool position. [However], I started out with acting when I first came [to Andover], as that is something I’m more comfortable with.... Check out the future DramaLabs. Everything about it was unexpected, and I had a lot of fun.”

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Sweaters and Snow: Andover Celebrates Holiday Spirit at Ugly Sweater Party

REPORTING BY PIPER LASATER
AND MELINDA WU

As Winter Break draws close and temperatures turn frigid, Andover’s community gathered last Saturday for a festive Ugly Sweater Party. From elf costumes to Grinch onesies, students showed off their Christmas-themed outfits while enjoying caroling and cookies.

DEVAN HERNANDEZ ’23

“I am wearing a Buddy the Elf costume because I wrote my personal statement on Buddy the Elf...The spirit here is immaculate.

TUCKER NEE ’23

“I am wearing a Santa Claus blazer and I stole it from Devan... Christmas is all about giving so I thought I’d take something.”

CHARLES MURPHY ’23

“I am wearing a Grinch onesie... Ain’t nobody else got a heart three sizes too small...I am a big fan of cookies.”



COURTESY OF DAGNY BINGHAM

Five Blue Key Heads dressed up in Christmas-spirited costumes. Top row (left to right): Fred Javier ’23, Kelly Bu ’23, and Devan Hernandez ’23. Bottom row (left to right): Max Gomez ’23 and Dagny Bingham ’23.

MAX GOMEZ ’23

“My shirt is Buddy the elf saying ‘Oh my god Santa.’ It’s a quote from the movie [“Elf”] and he’s making a very excited face... [I decided to wear it] because I love Buddy the Elf and everything he stands for. He’s just a great person overall, great elf, and really just knows Christmas spirit and how to embody it... [My shirt] actually has someone’s face on it, which I think makes it kinda unique... My brother got it for me at a Secret Santa one year.”

SUI YU ’23

“I am wearing a sweater with a golfer on it because I have a deep passion for golf and Ultimate...This is from a thrift store so I know nobody else has it...I think the Blue Key Heads did a fabulous job [with this event].”

DAGNY BINGHAM ’23

“I am wearing a gingerbread man with a skirt and I wore it because it was provided by Mr. Capano, [Director of Student Activities], and looked very nice and is comfy... I didn’t see anyone else as a gingerbread man...I thought [the party] was fantastic, things really livened up in the last hour even though now it just got quiet. Energy was high, we had a kick line and a conga line, which is all that matters.”



COURTESY OF DAGNY BINGHAM

From left to right: Tucker Nee ’23, Devan Hernandez ’23, Sui Yu ’23, Fred Javier ’23, Charles Murphy ’23, and Dagny Bingham ’23.

Modern Streetwear and High Fashion: The Sleek and Confident Style of Allie Encarnacion ’24

LANGAN GARRETT

Layering a dark blue tank top with lacy black straps, Allie Encarnacion ’24 sports Finesse ultra-low-waist pants and silver and white New Balance 530s in a sleek and casual mix between modern streetwear and high fashion. She accentuates her striking monochrome look with new rings and earrings from the jewelry label Vitaly.

“I try to create one piece a term [where] you see that piece and you think to yourself, ‘That’s Allie.’ So, for my Lower spring, for example, I had this big leather jacket. It was incredibly oversized, it was huge, and I would wear it literally everywhere, and then I also had these white platform boots, and it was the combination of those two that



A.CHINN/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Encarnacion uses jewelry to deliver essential colors that complements the monochromatic tone of overall outfit.

as I grew up, that evolved, and that included the more trendy things like Justice was big, or Abercrombie & Fitch. It was the first time I had true autonomy over what I could wear, and how I could express myself,” said Encarnacion.

According to Encarnacion, her time at Andover has been additionally formative to developing her style. During her Upper year — a time where many people might, as she explains, when people gain confidence and “find themselves” — Encarnacion’s style became more intentional and vibrant, conveying her individuality through consistently polished outfits. Describing her style in one word as “lifestyle,” Encarnacion’s friend Langston Reid ’24 highlighted how Encarnacion’s fashion has additionally evolved to be more cohesive and sophisticated.

“She’s become more in tune with herself through her fashion. Because Allie as a person has evolved, her fashion has done the same, and it’s connected... Allie might have certain pieces that by themselves are really cool, but now she’s evolved herself to realize that pieces work together, so pieces in her closet will go with other pieces, and it’s all connected,” said Reid.

Drawing inspiration from places like fashion show Cactus Jack, fashion designer Virgil Abloh, and model Bella Hadid, Encarnacion also intertwines current clothing trends with authentic personal expression in her fashion.



A.CHINN/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Having enjoyed fashion since she was a child, Encarnacion considers potentially pursuing a career in the industry.

G a b b y
E d o k p a
'24, a
friend
of
E n c a r n a c i o n ' s ,

cion’s, talked about how she brings her personal touch to styling and wearing low-rise jeans that make them look unique, despite their status as a fairly popular item nowadays.

“I would describe Allie’s style as a unique take on modern trends, and ever changing... I think that she is very intentional with the pieces that she chooses to wear, and how she styles them... Low-rise jeans are kind of common right now, but the way she styles them makes her outfits look unique and not just trendy,” said Edokpa.

While Encarnacion isn’t certain about her future career path, one of her dream jobs is to become a fashion journalist. Encarnacion discussed how the flexibility of the fashion industry can create interdisciplinary opportunities that allow her to interweave her passion for poetry into fashion as well.

“The good thing about the fashion industry is that there is a lot of leeway and flexibility within [it]. I love writing, and I love poetry, specifically. And I think that, no matter what I do, I’ll find a way to express my fashion and to help other people express theirs in whatever industry I choose,” said Encarnacion.