



happy birthday, you dorks



COURTESY OF SEACOASTONLINE AND PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

Pictured above is (from left to right) Tom McGraw and Peter Merrill.

In the past two weeks, the Andover community has lost two retired teachers. Peter Merrill passed away on April 16, 2023 and was an instructor in German and Russian during his time at Andover. Tom McGraw passed away on May 1, 2023 and was an instructor in English. **Continued on A7.**

Construction Update on Roberty S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology and Falls Hall

LUCAS BENARDETE

In the plot next to Graves Hall, there has been ongoing construction for the new music building, Falls Hall, and the restoration of the interior of the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archeology. Renovations to the Peabody include adding an elevator.

Graves' larger parking lot has been closed, affecting student drivers and access to the buildings. Mark Leonard, Director of Campus Safety, shared updates on the construction and the affected areas of campus.

"With the Graves parking lot being unavailable during construction of the music building, we have directed students to park in the Rabbit Pond circle gravel head-in spaces, or to use the gravel parking lot across from the Pan Athletic Center on Fieldhouse

Road. Although these areas may be a bit farther from the main campus area, they allow for sufficient parking for students and others," said Leonard.

Leonard continued, further elaborating on the projected timeline for the construction and renovation of the two buildings.

"The Peabody is off line for several months during construction. The Graves parking lot will be unavailable until September due to the construction of the new music building... I believe the Peabody construction is expected to last until this Fall, and the new music building will not be complete until sometime mid to late 2024. Once the site excavation and preparation is complete for the music building, the steel framing will begin to go up, and the building will

Continued on A4, Column 1

Students in Medicine Reestablish Annual Blood Drive In Partnership With The American Red Cross

JACQUELINE GORDON

On May 2, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Andover partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive in the Pan Wrestling Room, which has been happening annually for over 40 years barring the Covid-19 pandemic. As one of the largest high school blood drives in the region, students and faculty alike came to volunteer and donate blood hoping to save lives, with each donation possibly saving up to three lives.

Michael Kuta, Head Athletic Trainer and Instructor in Physical Education, described his role in organizing the blood drive, which he has been doing for approximately 42 years. His job includes making sure the eligibility requirements are updated and known by the community. Kuta also expressed the importance of donating blood in saving lives, how people globally need to donate, as blood isn't something that can be synthetically created.

"[While organizing the blood drive] we keep our community updated on who is eligible to donate and then try to maximize the number of donations. It's one of the few things that can't be, it has to

come from other people, it has to come from donors, you can't make blood, yet anyways, so people's lives depend upon donating from all over the world. We can track where the blood ends up, not what person but what city, what hospital. It's kind of neat to know that you can follow your donation's voyage," said Kuta.

McKenzie Williams '24, Co-Head of Students in Medicine (SIM), spoke on how the club is looking forward to facilitating the blood drive for students, breaking through the pause on the drive in the last couple of years due to Covid-19 restrictions. Williams also noted how she hopes that by having students come and give blood it diminishes possible fears about donating blood while also saving lives.

"I'm really excited because this year is the one where we're going to be able to start the blood drive [again], which hasn't been able to happen for a few years due to [Covid-19]. [SIM] supports Mr. Kuta in the Blood Drive by getting students signed up and excited about doing this. At Andover we have a ton of students who want to change the world and participating in a blood drive

Continued on A5, Column 1

A Remark to Remember: Seniors Reflect at All-School Meeting

CATHY MA

Four Seniors — Jaeyong Shim '23, Alice Fan '23, Devan Hernandez '23, and Dori Rosentrauch '23 — shared personal stories and advice from their Andover experience at All-School Meeting (ASM) on April 27. Their speeches constitute the first out of two ASMs dedicated to hearing from members of the Class of 2023, formally known as "Senior Remarks."

During his speech, Shim reflected on his distanced relationship with his grandmother, encouraging students to savor every moment with the people they cherish at Andover. Shim appreciated the experiences that he has shared on this campus and posed questions for the audience to consider going forward with their Andover journey.

"However many years you have at Andover is finite, and it will go by a lot faster than you imagined, [so] really spend each day like it matters. Make connections that you keep beyond high school and express gratitude towards everyone who has made an impact in your journey here... Who would you be and how would you live without your best friends, teachers, coaches, teammates, or even [Paresky]

Commons staff? Who would you be without Andover?" said Shim.

Meanwhile, Fan described embracing an "And Not Or" mindset. Fan emphasized the importance of reimagining and redefining oneself throughout the Andover experience by being open-minded and taking risks.

"It is up to you to carve your own path at Andover. One that is winding, complex, and hard to explain and one that truly feels like you... In each of the spaces that you inhabit, you have the opportunity to choose whether you will listen and learn from the incredible people around, and whether you will gift yourself the freedom to grow in ways that you have not even imagined... This is what success at Andover really means," said Fan.

As she was used to attending ASMs by older people who were more experienced, knowledgeable, and successful, Gracie Aziabor '26 enjoyed this opportunity to hear from relatable speakers that she also knew on a personal level. Aziabor commented on Fan's remark and how it shifted her views on the different possibilities she could seek.

"Coming to Andover, you're told you can do almost anything you want. There's so many opportunities and because of that, I liked her be-

sage because it reminded me that you don't have to squish yourself into a box and something that you do Fall term of your Freshman year, isn't something that you have to continue on until you graduate. You could if you wanted to, but you can [also] try something completely different," said Aziabor.

Beginning his remarks by displaying a photograph taken by NASA titled "Pale Blue Dot", Hernandez explained how the picture reminded him of what was truly important to him in life. Hernandez encouraged the audience to follow their heart and to take on challenges, as that is what provides people with their sense of purpose.

"Why not make the choices that give you the most meaning? Why place so much importance on metrics such as grades or test scores, when my true worth comes from my values and beliefs? Why not take risks and put myself out there, even if there's a chance that I fail? ... At the end of the day, one life is all we've got on our Pale Blue Dot. How are you going to make the most of it?" said Hernandez.

To end the ASM, Rosentrauch framed her remark as a

Continued on A4, Column 4



R. NASSERZADEH/THE PHILLIPIAN

From top left to bottom right, Dori Rosentrauch '23, Jaeyong Shim '23, Devan Hernandez '23, and Alice Fan '23.

Jewish Student Union Commemorates Holocaust Remembrance Day with Author and Speaker Karen Kirsten

CONNOR GLEASON

Karen Kirsten, daughter of a Holocaust survivor and author of the book "Irena's Gift," presented on her family's experience with the Holocaust in an event hosted by the Jewish Student Union (J.S.U.) on April 28. In her speech, Kirsten reflected on the people who risked their lives to protect her mother and her family during the Holocaust.

The event was hosted as a part of the observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day. J.S.U. also hosted a trip to the New England Holocaust Memorial on April 30. In Friday's event, Kirsten related the selflessness of these individuals to the importance of showing kindness and empathy towards others in the present day. She cautions against placing individuals on

a binary, as binaries can create strong senses of exclusion and "othering."

"Recently, I read a study on Polish people who saved children like my mother. Some of them, they said they didn't see a Jewish child, they just saw a hungry child, or a crying child. They felt empathy for that child. I'm here talking to you today because a few people chose empathy and kindness over hate," said Kirsten in her speech. She continued, "Today, we live in a country that divides people using binary terms, like Republican or Democrat, [and] left or right. Belonging to a group of people who think or look like us is a natural human instinct, but the thing I find is that, if you belong to a group, it makes you feel good, but everybody outside of that group is outside of the group. So that is exactly how othering happens."

Kirsten continued by urg-

ing attendees to find connections with those who are different. By doing so, she believes that people can develop our empathy and deconstruct hatred.

"On behalf of my grandmother and family, I encourage you to actively seek out people who don't agree with you, who think differently from you, or you just have nothing in common... Don't talk about what you disagree on or what's different, just talk about that one tiny thing that you have in common. I think, once we do that, we learn how to listen to other people. We learn to be empathetic. If we all do that, we can change our city, we can change our hate on campus, and we may even be able to change the world. But, one thing's for sure, we will de-

Continued on A4, Column 1

Commentary, A2

PASC Reflection

A member of the Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC), Sebastian Lemberger '25 discusses why he views the climate movement as a form of youth empowerment.

Eighth Page, A8

Everyone, Stay Calm

Don't panic, we are the targets again.

Sports, B1

Boys Tennis

Boys Tennis beats Exeter after close loss against Groton.

Arts, B6

Drama Labs

Students performed in the last Drama Lab of the year, facing challenges along the way.

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Vol. CXLVI
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Editorial

The Big L

As the first Monday in May passes once again, reflections on the messaging coming out of the Met Gala are highlighted on the world’s stage. This year’s theme was “Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty,” featuring world-renowned fashion revolutionary Karl Lagerfeld. Lagerfeld, beyond his most notable accomplishments at fashion houses like Chanel, Fendi, and Chloe, was a man that embodied and publicized extreme fatphobia and racism. Nonetheless, countless A-List celebrities showed up on the red carpet, donning gowns and suits designed in his name.

High-scale events that command such a large viewership need to be more conscious of the figures they choose to represent themselves with. By establishing Karl Lagerfeld as a theme, they platform his beliefs by overlapping his message with the MET Gala’s outreach, which was seen by over 12.3 billion viewers online, glorifying his wrongdoings. The name, Karl Lagerfeld, cannot be used in the theme of the gala, only representing his contributions to fashion, representing both his merit and flaws. In highlighting his achievements, the MET Gala only darkens his controversies.

Karl Lagerfeld has made definite marks on fashion: his work for Chanel, Fendi, and Chloé earned him recognition in the field. When Chanel, the brand that he made his deepest impressions, was at its low in the 80s, Lagerfeld revitalized the brand by refreshing Chanel’s ready-to-wear line, changing the brands silhouette to be more contemporary, padding shoulders and shortening skirts. One of his most notable controversies, among many, was his comment about Heidi Klum, a supermodel at the time. He stated that she was “no runway model,” describing her as “simply too heavy” and “too big a bust.” Many took this comment as blatant fatphobia against the

model. Another instance was when Lagerfeld completely dismissed the #MeToo movement with this comment, stating, “If you don’t want your pants pulled about, don’t become a model. Join a nunnery, there’ll always be a place for you in the convent.”


Whether it is the intention of the MET Gala to endorse these qualities, Karl Lagerfeld is inextricably tied to his past and ideas espoused during life. As a memorial of Lagerfeld as an individual, the MET Gala celebrates every facet of his career, regardless if it is a hammer strike against the chisel sculpting the fashion or cutting comments that contribute to the festering culture of fatphobia and misogyny in the industry. When placed on the MET Gala’s pedestal, you display both Lagerfeld’s manicured front image and questionable backside.

Instead of having problematic people represent the MET Gala’s stage, those who decide on the themes need to consider who they feature from angles in addition to fashion. While the MET Gala’s emphasis lies in the clothing industry, their publicity lends itself to the necessity of comprehensive review in all aspects, its influence beyond the stunning outfits on the red carpet.

This editorial represent the opinions of The Phillipian, Vol. CXVII.

The Climate Movement Is Youth Empowerment

SEBASTIAN LEMBERGER



I. PADMAWAR / THE PHILLIPIAN

Throughout history, most large social reform movements have been characterized by a charismatic figurehead. For the Civil Rights Movement, it was Martin Luther King Jr. In the fight for Indian independence, it was Mahatma Gandhi. The climate movement is less centralized than either of my previous examples and thus does not have as clear of a leader, but if I had to label someone the figurehead of the climate movement, it would be Greta Thunberg. While it is true that there are many powerful figures leading the climate movement, such as Mary Robinson, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Al Gore, none of them have become cultural icons in relation to the movement in the same way that Thunberg, who began her work at a young age, has.

It is very telling about the nature of the climate movement that the closest thing it has to a leader is a twenty-year-old activist whose work began when she was fifteen. The fact that the movement is led by someone as young as Thunberg highlights a key component of the climate

The climate movement provides a way to rage against the machine in a way that no other current social movement does.

movement: it is a space that empowers young people. This is partially thanks to the nature of climate change as an issue. Most of the political matters of our time are based in the present — economic issues such as job creation revolve around the current state of the economy, and immigration issues revolve around the current influx of migrants into a nation. Climate change, however, is an issue that we will only truly see the magnitude of in the future.

If the average age of a senator in the United States of America is around 65, it is unlikely that many of them will live to see the full fury of climate change. Young people, however, will grow up and raise children in a world locked in combat with the climate crisis. This is a textbook talking point when speaking about the climate, but it illustrates that the climate movement draws in youth because it is dedicated to a grave issue that will primarily fall on their shoulders.

Beyond this, I also believe that youth are driven towards the climate movement because it provides a way to rage against the machine in a way that no other current social movement does. Issues such as immigration, gun reform, or student loan forgiveness are all important ones, but they all exist, to a degree, within the status quo — progress on any of these issues will not drastically shift the way that society functions. Climate change, however, is an issue that merits radical change to combat. There is simply no easy way out. For this reason, the fight against the climate crisis represents more than avoiding danger; it represents the destruction of the status quo. It represents tearing down unsustainable institutions and taking dramatic steps towards progress. This radicalism is especially appealing to adolescents, for a benefit of being young is

that you are not yet engrained enough in societal systems to accept them without question. Joining the fight against climate change helps young people direct their societal frustrations towards a specific end, which is both a source of appeal and empowerment.

As a result of these factors, the climate crisis has brought a boatload of opportunities for upstanding youth to make change in their communities and the world at large. There are, of course, the cases of famous young leaders such as Greta Thunberg, John Paul Jose, or Andover’s Salvador Gómez-Colón, all of whom started as activists at very young ages. However, there are also, and perhaps more importantly, large amounts of students across the world who perform acts of climate resistance with organizations like Sunrise, Fridays for Future, or XR Youth. The existence of movements like this, which are targeted towards

y o u t h , serve as a testament to how the climate movement champions youth action. Youth movements and organizations extend beyond

planting trees and recycling — they allow youth to participate in activities such as demonstrations or lobbying, which prompt genuine political engagement.

My views on the nature of the climate movement certainly reflect my observations of it, but they reflect my personal experiences with it as well. In Freshman Year, I became involved with the Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC), which then led me to join a different advocacy group called Our Climate Massachusetts. My work with Our Climate has granted me a degree of political agency that I did not think was possible for a high schooler. It has taken me from the steps of the Massachusetts State House to the halls of Congress. Although my political activism often seems like a pointless battle against partisan politics, the most important thing that I have learned is that it is genuinely possible for young people to meaningfully participate in the political process. The climate movement is one of the best tools by which we can do this — climate change is universally relevant, and almost anyone can speak upon it without being an expert. It is the

Schools possess the power to provide opportunities for climate activism to their students, through education and action-oriented programming.

perfect jumping-off point for making your voice heard on the political stage.

I would like to close by pointing out that although I have spent considerable time gushing about the opportunities the climate movement presents to young people, it is often difficult to find those opportunities. Climate work is a big commitment, which often leads to homogeneity in climate spaces, as they usually only consist of people who can afford the large time commitment that comes with being an activist. Furthermore, young people lead busy lives — there is often not enough time for them to consider issues like climate change that can be easily dismissed as existential in nature. Thus, while the climate movement already serves as a bastion for youth activism, it can do so to an even greater degree. Large institutions, schools in particular, possess the power to provide opportunities for climate activism to their students, through education and action-oriented programming. With the climate crisis becoming more urgent by the day, it is high time they do so.

Sebastian Lemberger is a Lower from Boulder, Colo. Contact the author at slemberg-er25@andover.edu.

AVERY LIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

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rick Thompson David Manteo Tyquan Graves Kanna Flowers Rodney King Luther Jacks
is Ruffin Jr. Phillip Jackson Michael Blu Thomas Rayshard Brooks Vincent Harris Leroy B

LET THE WORLD READ

T. ZENG / THE PHILLIPIAN

The Distance Between Heartbreak and Rage



“If you think you know enough to say this poem / is about good hair, I’ll correct you / and tell you that it’s about history / which is the Blacksmith of our tongues. / Our eyes. Where you see misunderstanding /...I see the waterlogged face of the fourteen-year-old boy. /...I do not feel sorry for you. No. I think only that when a man / is a concept he will tell you about the smell / of smoke. He will tell you the distance / between heartbreak and rage.” Ross Gay.

Carolyn Bryant Donham, the white woman who accused 14-year-old Emmett Till of accosting her and prompted his lynching in 1955, died on Tuesday at 88. And no, this article is not about how I am happy that she finally died. Death is not a happy thing.

But I am tired, tired of not being surprised that Ms. Donham and her husband were not charged with Emmett’s death. Hell, I am more surprised that they even saw the inside of a courtroom. America continues to murder its Black citizens with impunity, and it is about time it stops.

On August 31, Mr. Bryant beat Emmett until both of his wrists

were broken, until some parts of Emmett’s skull were crushed and others crumbled. Mr. Bryant beat Emmett into such an unrecognizable pulp that his mother’s only point of identification was a silver ring on his finger. After the brutal beating, Mr. Bryant tied a 75 pound metal cotton-gin fan to Emmett’s throat with a barbed wire, shot him, and tossed him into the Tallahatchie River like he was a sack of garbage. All in the name of protecting Carolyn Donham. She was the catalyst in Emmett Till’s death. Yet for the past decade, she has receded into history, despite the cries of many. I will not let her stay there.

After all, Emmett wasn’t the first and, as frustrating as it is to admit it, he won’t be the last. To that end, Carolyn Donham’s death serves as a reminder of how far we still need to go. Her death reminds me of the constant ignorance, prejudice, arrogance, and misunderstanding that pervade our social structures. The metaphorical lynching rope that literally killed Emmett extends through American history and into today. It has been there since the days of slavery; it has passed through the deaths of George Floyd, Aura Rosser, Breonna Taylor and countless others; and it is still around the necks of every African American in this nation. Although Black people only make up about 13.4 percent of the population, they make up 22 percent of fatal police shootings, 35 percent of individuals executed by death penalty, and 47 percent of victims where assailants are wrongfully exonerated, according to theThe National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Unaddressed systemic racism has

America continues to murder its Black citizens with impunity, and it is about time it stops.

simply changed its revolting form and continued the generational enslavement of Black citizens.

After all, we have built a history of racial prejudice, starting with chattel slavery in the 1600s but infecting us today in the form of police brutality, workplace discrimination, and countless other systemic obstacles to African American success. This is a history that we now have to dismantle, system by system. America did this to itself, and it’s about time to right these wrongs.

Donham’s life should be a cautionary tale for the white Americans that decide to above their privilege. But it is not. She gets to die, without having served any time in prison, and without truly facing the consequences of her actions. She should have died after serving what is close to a life sentence, constantly remembering the life of the 14-year-old boy that she essentially killed. The boy she threw away, like he didn’t have loved ones, like he didn’t deserve to see the first man walk on the moon or live to adulthood. And perhaps there is a God that will deliver justice in the afterlife. But I am not satisfied with that, and neither should you be.

America simply needs to do better. We need to continue to address the racial bias in the criminal justice system — through eliminating mandatory minimum sentences, reforming cash bail, addressing racial profiling, or all



KIRA STEPANOVA / THE PHILLIPIAN

of the above and more. We need to invest in our minority communities, especially our Black and Brown communities, to provide equitable opportunities and ensure policies and programs are responsive to their needs. These are just a few steps, and in no way are they easy steps. It will take a collective effort to dismantle the systemic prejudices that America is built on, but that’s no excuse to not try.

Emmett Till’s mother should not have had to make the decision of having an open-casket for her 14-year-old son’s funeral. But she knew the government would not help her, and the only way to get her son’s story out there was to have his cold corpse captured through photography, so that she

could not be refuted or framed as a liar. Emmet Till should have outlived his mother so that he and his family could bury her in 2003. And if it were to still be the case that Emmett’s mother outlived him, she should be crying not because of the injustices of the world, but simply because she loved her son and was sad to see him go.

For too long has the mistreatment of Black people in America gone unseen and unheard, like the smell of smoke. I hope you feel my heartbreak. I hope you feel my rage. I do not know what else I can do anymore to make you un-

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Armenia’s Unsung Story and the U.S. Public Curriculum



It’s 2018 — the day is slow, and my number two pencils are sharp. History, while my favorite class, is still tedious. Although, I can’t complain much because in 5th grade, learning about World Wars is light work. In fact, it is, in hindsight, light content. So was eighth grade history, and so was news channel CNN10, which we’d watch before the end of the school day every year. Only, history has never been anything but heavy.

I find new pros to being an Andover student on the daily. This enormous privilege comes with three sports complexes and an art gallery. Most recently, I’ve come to appreciate the freedom in our cur-

riculum as an independent school. The latitude in our classrooms to discuss not only what we need to learn as students, but as members of society. It’s a liberty often overlooked.

In Hyeryoung Rhee’s History 100B class, we often divert from the original topic of discussion. Learning about the Crusades during class on April 25, no one was surprised when we inevitably switched topics. However, I was more surprised that the new matter of conversation was the Armenian Genocide (1915-1923), which according to the Armenian National Institute, was a tragedy of epic proportions that I’d never heard of. I was even more shocked to learn that the remembrance day of the massacres was April 24 — the day prior. Over 100 years ago, the Ottoman Empire started a campaign against Armenians, and these efforts of ethnic cleansing are maintained by Azerbaijan and Turkey, or the present-day Ottoman Empire. And to round off this in-class Google search, I found the genocide was not only a horror of the past but that the murder and torture of Armenians are ongoing, according to Time Magazine’s article “Don’t Just Remember the Armenian Genocide. Prevent It

From Happening Again.”

The most heartbreaking detail is that while an entire group of people is facing decapitations, sexual mutilation, cultural destruction, dehumanizing statements by authorities, and a constant threat of attacks — there’s a severe lack of not only media coverage but even basic education. Even on remembrance day, Armenians were overlooked by the vast majority of major American news publications, with only The Times, Washington Post, U.S. News, and Politico reporting on the situation this past week. The truth is, the government in the United States of America does not even provide assistance to the Armenians during the 1915 atrocities, as they chose not to intervene to not make unnecessary enemies. It was only in 2021, 106 years after the massacre began, that President Joe Biden officially acknowledged the genocide, according to the The New York Times.

I’m not fluent in the relations the U.S. holds with Azerbaijan or Turkey, nor am I capable of designing a school curriculum. But to those who are, whose job it is to decide whether to educate — do better. Because I know one thing: no money the U.S. government

makes from oppressors holds a candle to the lives being stripped from undeserving Armenian victims. Those who lack the necessary education have the potential to cause far greater destruction than any supposed “concern” about exposing youth to violence. To be clear, this is violence — but it is also a humanitarian crisis.

We, as a country, must pause, take in these aforementioned priorities, and evaluate whether our societal systems are aiding in meeting these priorities. (Hint: they’re not!)

It’s imperative that we approach education the way it’s been intended: to prepare the youth to succeed and improve the world.

It’s imperative that we approach education the way it’s been intended: to prepare the youth to succeed and improve the world.

ties to teach thoughtfully. Memorizing the South Carolina counties didn’t enhance my education as much as understanding how colonists in the Carolinas eradicated Native American tribes. Glazing over the most horrific details of World War I, because it doesn’t align with the theme of American excellence, isn’t conducive to my development as a compassionate member of society, in the way discussing all events, including the Armenian Genocide and the U.S.’s lack of a response for nearly a century is. A standardized test shouldn’t have been the reason my fifth grade teacher chose to teach about X from the exam, rather than diving deeper into important historical events and building the character of her students. Once we rectify the issues in our school curriculums, and prioritize people — we can begin to truly educate our youth.

Micheal Kawooya is a Junior from Colombia, S.C. Contact the author at mkawooya26@andover.edu.

The Armenian Genocide (1915-1923)

Methods of Killing:

disease sexual violence dehydration poison massacres deportations starvation gas

Armenian Population in Ottoman Empire, by year

Number of People

2,133,190 387,800

1914 1922

P. TRAN / THE PHILLIPIAN

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CORRECTIONS:
Alvin Liu '24's class year was incorrect in the Sports article, "Laps and Luminaria: Andover Students Organize Relay for Life Fundraiser."
Constantine Krenteras '24's class year was incorrect in the Arts article, "Constantine Krenteras '24 Expands His Clothing Color Palette and Often Dons Pieces that are Sentimental."
The Phillippian regrets these errors.

Brace Fellow Leo Peters ’24 Explores Impact of Politics on Desire in Gay Asian Communities

BAILEY XU

In the fourth and final Brace Fellow presentation of the 2022-2023 school year, Leo Peters ’24 discussed how oppressive social and political contexts shape desire, with a focus on the experiences of gay Asian American men. Peters delivered his presentation, “‘So You’re Gonna Be My Little Geisha Boy Tonight?’ Gay Asian American Men and the Politics of Sexual Discrim-



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN
Leo Peter ’24 spoke about desire in Gay Asian communities in Abbot Hall.

ination and Desire,” on May 1 in Abbot Hall.

Peters began his presentation by examining the influence of the patriarchy and politics on perceptions of sex and desirability. Presenting sex as a construct of patriarchy, he explores the socially normative expectations of male dominance and female docility.

“Sex, as it exists in the world, was constructed by patriarchy and thus defined by the eroticisation of male domination and female sub-

mission... In America, Asian bodies as a whole have been marked as hyperfeminine. In contrast, Black bodies have been marked as hypermasculine. These gendered racial meanings intersect with patriarchy, which has shaped sex so that we find men who are dominant [and] women who are submissive, erotic,” said Peters.

Peters continued, “Our sexual preferences are shaped by hierarchy, [and] the question of who is and isn’t desirable ...can more often than not be answered by more general patterns of historical and categorical domination, such as colonialism, war, racism, and class domination. In this way, our sexual preferences are not just personal, but political, too.

Analyzing the origins of the hyper-feminization of Asian men, Peters traced this history back to the first Asian American immigrants in the 1840s. He explained how laws that prohibited interracial marriage and restricted the immigration of Asian women prevented male Asian immigrants from fulfilling standards of heteromascularity, relating this to the fetishization of gay Asian men.

“In addition to marginalization, gay Asian men also experienced another form of sexual racism: sexual exploitation... Gay Asian men are often fetishized as ‘geishas of a different kind’ by a subgroup of gay white men, who seem to con-

firm their masculinity through the sexual domination of the feminine other. As a result, gay Asian men in the gay community are often only considered desirable to the extent that they perform hyper femininity and submissiveness. Yet, many gay Asian men reported feeling as though they had no choice but to fulfill the exploitative expectation of men who fetishized them in order to not be completely excluded from the sexual marketplace,” said Peters.

Investigating the liberation of sexual desire from hierarchical political influences, Peters highlighted the importance of change on both a structural and personal level. One part of this solution, Peters described, is to gain a greater awareness and acceptance towards the fluidity of identity.

“One of the more profound things I came across when I was doing research was this idea that a lot of the reason we treat other people who are different than us is because it’s frightening to our own identity when we see someone who is like us in many ways, but also different... And I think that the solution to that has to be being more open to fluidity in ourselves... I think this project has made me more aware of all the possibilities in everyone and including myself, and recognizing that none of us are static objects,” said Peters.

Dr. Kiran Bhardwaj, Chair of the Department of Philos-

ophy and Religious Studies, served as Peters’ faculty advisor for his research project. She emphasized the nuances of moral responsibility Peters addressed in his project.

“[Leo] was interested in exploring how sexual preferences can be shaped by oppressive cultural contexts, and whether, in such cases, we can be held as morally responsible for sexual desires that are in line with or even contribute to those contexts. It seems very easy to conclude that we don’t have control over our sexual desires. I think Leo’s central question is one that should be of interest to all of us: could we be responsible for those of our desires that contribute to systems of oppression?” wrote Bhardwaj in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Attendee Cindy Yang ’26 was initially drawn to Peters’ presentation due to its connection to the fixation on hyperfeminine men in danmei, a genre of Chinese literature that features romantic relationships between male characters. They expressed how Peters’ discussion of desire afforded them a new perspective on sexual attraction.

“I really liked the whole exploration of desire, because I hadn’t thought about all these ways in which social aspects influence your desire. And I guess that’s something to think about next time when you’re thinking ‘this is attractive’ or ‘this is not attractive,’ wonder why,” said Yang.

Construction in Peabody and Graves Continue

Continued from A1, Column 2

start to take shape,” said Leonard.

Abbey Siegfried, Chair of the Music Department, detailed her own involvement in the building planning process. She is involved in meetings surrounding building development and the future use of Falls Hall.

“I actually have had weekly meetings with the project manager...to talk about every level of detail from the locks on the doors, which doors have card access... Earlier this week I had a furniture meeting where we were looking at preliminary ideas for what kind of desks will be in the classrooms, and what kind of chairs will be in the court for people to hang out on. I have a meeting next week about audio, and that will be all of the audio technology in the classrooms, and all of the recording technology and live streaming technology,” said Siegfried.



Siegfried also received similar preliminary deadlines surrounding the construction and expressed her own excitement for the project. According to Siegfried, Falls Hall will include new technology for the music department to utilize.

“I think you can start to see a foundation emerging... What I am most excited for in the building is for us to have space that is reflective of not only the size of the music program that we have here but also of the modern day, and an actual modern day recording studio, and classroom in which we can teach music production, and performance spaces were we can easily live stream both audio and video of our performances and concerts,” said Siegfried.

LUCAS BENARDETE

Students from Andover, Andover High School, and Cushing Academy gathered in Kemper Auditorium to kick off the Phillips Academy Interscholastic Model United Nations conference (PAIMUN) on April 30. The conference took place between different country “delegations,” with delegates debating designated issues in committee in a parliamentary style. Delegates worked together to create “resolutions” that solved issues in their committee.

Eirini Evangelinos ’23, president of Phillips Academy Model United Nations (PAMUN), spoke on her role in planning the conference leading up to the event. According to Evangelinos, much of her role included the administrative and logistical work leading up to the conference, as well as making sure that the conference and its participants were logistically in accordance with all school rules and policies.

“A lot of my role was the build-up to the conference. So it was a lot of putting everything together, chasing down Deans, shout-out to Dean Estyl, Dean of Students and Residential Life], for a lot of administrative

PA Model United Nations Club Hosts First In-Person Interscholastic MUN Conference Since 2019

stuff... There are a lot of new rules that have been stated in terms of bringing folks on the campus that nobody was really aware of... I led the effort to invite different schools, chasing them down, getting signups, and everything administrative leading up to the conference was sort of overseen by me,” said Evangelinos.

This year, PAIMUN saw over 30 attendees from three different schools, including Andover. Charles Vest ’25, a participant in the conference and a member of PAMUN, expressed how he enjoyed the scale of the conference. Vest explained that while he was accustomed to larger conferences, he enjoyed the smaller-scale format that PAIMUN introduced.

“I thought it was a fun conference. I thought we had a lot of good delegates both from Andover and the delegates who came from out of North Andover. I’m used to conferences that have dozens or even hundreds of people, so it was a little different having only nine people in [a] delegation, but I think it was a cool experience to have a much more... close-knit conference,” said Vest.

Elyse Goncalves ’23, the Director of Internal Affairs for PAMUN and a Secretary-General of PAIMUN, described

how she felt the highlight of the event was seeing delegates’ efforts, particularly through the closing ceremony. This is Goncalves’ last high school MUN conference; she expressed how she still felt extremely excited seeing the dedication and effort brought by every delegate.

“The way MUN is run is we have an opening and closing ceremony and then there’s a session of debate, a break in between for lunch, and then another session of debate. And so, at the very end of the day, it’s been a long day for delegates. At the end of the day, we got into our final session for the closing ceremony, and seeing everyone in that room was something that I had never seen before, students from other schools and stuff like that. I hadn’t really gotten the chance to experience that because I haven’t been to an in-person conference since middle school,” said Goncalves.

She continued, “I got into that room and I was just so excited hearing everyone say their favorite elements of the day... It was an exhilarating thing to experience and was also heartwarming to know that other people appreciate this club as much as I have in my past seven or so years with it,” said Goncalves.

Author Karen Kirsten Celebrates Holocaust Remembrance Day with Andover Community

Continued from A1, Column 5

velop the capacity to save lives,” said Kirsten during her speech.

Ella Kowal ’25 attended Kirsten’s speech and highlighted Kirsten’s disconnection with her faith. Kowal believes that hearing a personal story about the Holocaust from someone who is not strongly connected with their faith grants a new perspective.

“I thought it was really interesting to basically hear someone who’s disconnected from her Jewish faith talk about her family during the Holocaust. Being someone of Jewish descent, most of the stories I’ve heard are centered around people who took on stronger feelings of their faith. I think it was really interesting to hear something new. It was really an incredible story. It was great how

empowered she was to find out her story,” said Kowal.

Isa Matloff ’24, Co-Head of J.S.U., compared Kirsten’s speech to speakers that the J.S.U. has hosted for previous Holocaust Remembrance Days. Matloff noted that a common sentiment among speakers is the importance of having a mindset of compassion instead of hatred.

“One of my biggest takeaways is how similar and yet how different some of the stories I hear from the Holocaust are. The man who we heard speak last year was an actual child during the Holocaust who survived. This woman was a child of survivors. They of course had very different experiences, but things that they both shared in their experiences were that they really wanted us to take away that you need compassion, you need empathy, and you really need to listen to the people around you and collaborate. The fact that both of them and most Holocaust-related

speakers I’ve heard have said to come away with a message of love in your heart instead of hate is so important,” said Matloff.

Matloff also reflected on how little Andover discusses the Holocaust. Matloff believes that Kirsten’s speech is a valuable opportunity for Jewish students at Andover to have discussions regarding the Holocaust that they might not be having in other spaces on campus.

“We’ve been talking a little bit as the J.S.U. about how there’s not much Holocaust learning or education here at school. Having a separate event where we can invite community members to learn more and hear personal experiences and also Jewish students to reflect on their own families and the histories their own families might have had with the Holocaust is super important. Overall, I thought the event was very successful,” said Matloff.

Class of ’23 Leaves Mark with Senior Remarks All-School Meeting

Continued from A1, Column 5

“love letter” to the friends that she cherishes here at Andover. Rosenrauch emphasized how the people are what make places like schools special and motivated listeners to discover their space at Andover.

“The best thing about wherever you go is the opportunity to find your people and I hope all of you listening have found that here. I will admit, I got lucky. I didn’t have to do a lot of digging. but I would have excavated this entire campus to find my friends. These relationships are the most meaningful thing I have received [from my time here], so I encourage all of you to grab a shove or a drill. There is a place for you here, you just have to find it,” said Rosen-

strauch.

Brandon Fu ’25, who knew Rosenrauch as an emcee for Abbot Cabaret, complimented her heartwarming address and her bubbly energy. Fu spoke to how Rosenrauch’s speech reminded him to cherish the time that he has with his own circle and to make the most of his experiences.

“I really felt inspired to continue sharing the time I have left here with the friends that I have. Because by the time you finish high school, I’d say like 95 percent of the time you’re gonna spend with these guys and people there [is] gone. It’s really [important] for every single day to just connect with and be with them as much as you can because when you leave, you leave,” said Fu.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY PRISHA SHIVANI

Politics: Christale Spain, First Black Woman Voted as State Party Chair by South Carolina Democrats

Christale Spain, the former executive director of the state Democratic Party, was elected by South Carolina Democrats to be state party chair at a convention on Saturday. The role of the state party chair is to communicate a party's brand to voters, endorse campaign fundraising, and oversee internal party governance. According to "The New York Times", it was Spain's connections and campaign strategy that allowed her to win with the support of about 700 out of the 1,000 delegates who voted. As state party chair, Spain's first job will be preparing for the presidential election in 2024.

Science: SpaceX Launch Starship Flew Out of Control in First Test Run

SpaceX recently ran a test flight for their Starship rocket. The rocket unexpectedly generated a "rock tornado," and multiple engines failed as it

ricocheted out of control. As reported by "The New York Times", the primary goal of this rocket is to ultimately appease SpaceX's goals of sending astronauts to the moon and getting humans to Mars by 2025. Despite the failure, Elon Musk, the company's founder and chief engineer, saw this test flight as a success in the way that they were able to learn from their mistakes. Moreover, Musk has said that four or five more Starship launches are expected this year.

Health: CDC Anticipating to Stop Reporting Covid-19 Community Levels

Reported by "CNN Health", the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is set to stop reporting their color-coordinated Covid-19 Community Levels on May 11. This map was used for individuals to decide what level of precaution to take based on the level assigned to their community and was established in late February of 2022. The three levels consist of low, medium, and high. As of right now, 97

percent of counties and territories in the United States of America have low Covid-19 levels. However, the CDC will still be keeping a close watch on Covid-19 by tracking hospitalizations in higher-risk areas.

World: Sudan Conflict Continues and Hundred Evacuees Land in Saudi Arabia

According to "CNN", a ship carrying over 1,800 evacuees docked in the Saudi city of Jeddah on April 29. Out of these evacuees, 20 were Saudi citizens with the rest being people from different Asian, African, and European countries. These evacuations were caused by the intense fighting in Sudan, which is now entering its third week. Many evacuees expressed their fear for those still in Sudan, as well as relief to have left the situation behind. Those who still reside in Sudan are facing looting, and diminishing food, water, and power supplies.

Students Participate in American Red Cross Blood Drive

Continued from A1, Column 3

is a really nice way to do that because you just come, donate your blood, get some snacks, talk to friends, and save some lives," said Williams."

Similarly, Marcela Hernandez '25, SIM board member, described why she originally signed up to donate blood for the first time. Hernandez also commented on her experience, noting the strong collaboration and communication between campus volunteers and the American Red Cross organization.

"I've always thought about doing a blood drive and the fact that they had this to access on campus and knowing that your healthy self is able to help someone in need who may not be surviving, it gives you a good feeling knowing that you're helping someone. It's a very selfless thing to do. It was really good overall, the Red Cross worked very well with everyone and was very friendly, and it was a relatively easy process," said Hernandez.

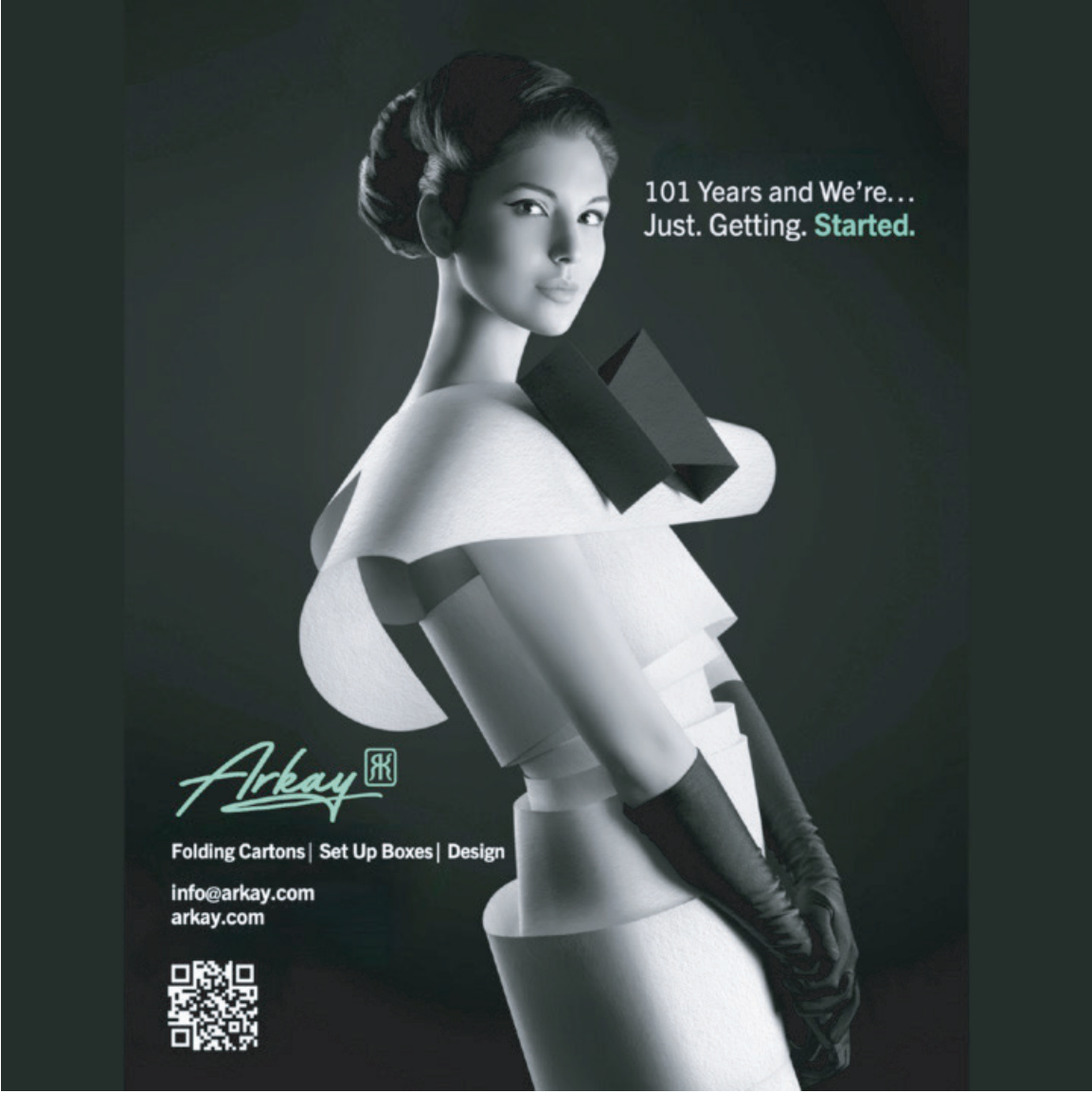
Alice Fan '23 spoke on how she believes the education of teenagers on the importance of giving blood is crucial to the survival of people who become injured and who need it for surgery. Fan also noted how the process of giving blood for

teenagers who are healthy and have access to a blood drive, such as the one held on campus, is easy.

"It's really important [for students to know about blood drives] because when you go to a hospital and you need a blood transfusion, you would like for there to be blood available. The fact that there's a shortage when so many people can give blood is a little sad. I think it's very important for teenagers to know, especially when you turn eighteen, the importance of giving blood. Also it's a very simple thing to do and any healthy human being can do it," said Fan.

Clyde Beckwith, Instructor in Physics, described his reasons for donating blood, expressing that the large amount of annual accidents and surgeries mean that hospitals require a large amount of blood. Beckwith also noted that he had been donating blood since the start of his career at Andover and hopes the school continues to offer the drive.

"[I donated blood today] because hospitals need blood, because we have so many accidents where there are folks that need blood when they need surgery and also because I've been giving blood ever since I arrived at Andover, thirty years ago. It's absolutely great [that the school offers the drive]," said Beckwith.



Students and Faculty Reflect on Lack of Midterm Comments

REPORTING BY JACQUELINE GORDON

Following the release of the Midterm grades, many noticed a lack of comments. Students spoke on their reaction to the change, as well as whether they felt comments were necessary.

Cleo Maglaras '25 (she/her)

"I think the midterm [grades] are kind of redundant. It is good to know whether you are passing but having low pass and regular pass is something you can tell on your own, as you kind of know where you are in the class. So I think number grades or comments are more helpful."

Arthur Wu '25 (he/him)

"I would prefer having midterm comments because I feel like I would improve more based on the teacher's feedback. I would prefer to have a comment, even if it's negative, just so I could know where I need to improve. Therefore I would prefer having midterm comments or some sort of reflection of progress summary rather than leaving it blank."

Jacob Kaiser '24 (he/him)

"Teachers need to give us midterm comments, I don't understand. It's not that hard because a lot of teachers end up copying and pasting their comments anyway, and even with a few sentences personalized to each student it can go a long way in conveying to us what we need to work on."

Anna Ohm '24 (she/her)

"I understand that it's a lot of work for teachers and that's probably the reason why they don't do it, at least that's my understanding. However, I do find it very dissatisfactory because when I'm looking to get feedback, some of my teachers haven't even posted grades at all, and so it's really difficult because I don't have any feedback then and it's past midterms. Midterms would be a good spot for teachers to look holistically at how you're doing in the class."

Paul Murphy, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science (he/him)

"I think what we're trying to do right now is trying to figure out what is valuable to students and parents and have to balance that against the amount of time it takes for an instructor to put together something thoughtful. I think there's been a lot of conversation about that. From a different perspective, I get that parents want to see a little bit more about what's going on and probably students do too. It does feel weird to me to have nothing versus just a little bit of something. I can imagine us getting to a place where we write very short ones but even that may be a little unsatisfying. We have to get better at this, Covid[-19] changed things and we have to figure out what makes sense moving forward."

Oliver Young '26 (he/him)

"I think not getting an actual grade can be a little confusing but getting the comments can be pretty helpful, especially with class engagement and how they think you're doing. I think in terms of the written feedback it's pretty good but including an actual grade instead of pass or fail would be more helpful to see where you're going in the class as some teachers have different grading scales."

10 Questions with Matthew Hession

REPORTING BY WILL GE

Matthew Hession is an expert on the year 1968 and an instructor in History and Social Sciences. He coaches Andover Girls Hockey and is a complementary house counselor in Johnson and Adams dormitories. Hession was a former Dean of Flagstaff Cluster from 2011 to 2017 and has been working at Andover for 18 years.

Why did you decide to teach history?

I love learning about people and their lives. The stories of their lives, and [the] circumstances and challenges that people faced in the past. I discovered at a certain age that chasing down histories was a really interesting way of learning about the lives that people lived, or if it was a group of people, the kind of lives that they lived. The amazing thing about history is...It's also about narrative and storytelling and who's in that story...Trying to figure out the evidence that you select, the sources that you choose to include, and the arguments, debates and exciting conversations that you can have about those stories was something that I was drawn to.

You're known for knowing a lot about the year 1968, what about that year is significant?

One of the great things about history is we can change the metric; we can change the unit of measurement. The remarkable thing about, say, History 300, is studying hundreds of years of history and thinking about change over time. There are moments where the change over time is rapid, and other times where the change over time is slow and glacial. In the history of 1968, the unit of measurement... is that it's one single year. But it's a really important year in the American past for a lot of different reasons: It's a transitional year, but it's also a year of crisis. And it's not one single crisis. If we think about literally a human body, it's the kind of shock that's reverberating time and again, and the fact that in this particular instance, the nation never really had the time or the space to recover. It's a time of incredible violence. It's an age of assassination with the deaths of both [Martin Luther King, Jr.] and RFK., Bobby Kennedy. It's a time of incredible mistrust of government, where the American people realize that the war in Vietnam after the Tet Offensive is just not winnable, but all of the underpinnings and rationales for the war are under great assault. It's a time where all the conventions and traditions of American society are being put under the microscope and they're being questioned, challenged, and interrogated. All of this happens in such close proximity...in [19]68, because these concussive shocks happened in such close proximity. It's a year that's seismic, in terms of just thinking about the past and where the country had been, but also where we were going in the next decade.

What advice would you give to students who are interested in teaching/studying history as their career?

Take as many history classes as possible. So here



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

at Andover, after you've exhausted the diploma requirements, take as many Senior electives as you can, and pursue a lot of different histories. Study histories that are associated with the American past, study histories that are associated with other parts of the world, study histories that find and create and associate all kinds of fascinating connections between other parts of the world and the United States [of America]. Once you go on to college or university, continue pursuing history, even if it's something that you're not going to major in.

How do you balance everything in your life? What advice would you offer to Andover students trying to balance their lives?

I would say that the same struggle that my students have is the same struggle when I look in the mirror that I see. One thing that I really admire about An-

dover students is Andover students are ambitious, which I think is a great quality to have, but I think that that idea of balance can be elusive at times... One thing that I love about being a part of this community is the day never ends. So my day starts, oftentimes over at [Paresky] Commons, having breakfast with my kids, and then I teach throughout the day, and in the afternoon I'm coaching and going to the dorm at night and talking with students. My advice would be to be ambitious, but to give yourself a break...to know that it's okay to be reasonable of what people ask of you.

Which one of your many roles has been the most impactful to you?

I gotta give a shout out to Girls Varsity Hockey, because that time in that community is really important to me. We have an incredible group of kids who have unbelievable care for each other: they're

wildly talented as athletes, super competitive, and go about their athletic lives and what it means to be a team and supportive of each other in all the right ways... I'd also give a huge shout out to Johnson and Adams dormitories, where I've been helping as a complementary house counselor this year. The students that I have been lucky and fortunate to talk with at night and to hear about the best parts of their day or a part of their day that was frustrating; that's a favorite part of my day as well.

What's one of your favorite memories from coaching?

Admittedly, it's the most recent, but it was this past season that we had for Girls Varsity Hockey. Every season is a journey: the wins and losses matter, but the journey only matters because of the people that you're with. It was an amazing group of student athletes who demanded so much of

themselves, who committed so much of themselves to the season. We came a step short of what our one of our big goals was when we lost in the championship, but that doesn't take away from anything that we accomplished over the course of this season, but also, more importantly, the support and dedication that [the team] showed to themselves and to each other every afternoon at the rink.

What's one of your favorite Andover student interactions?

At the end of the day when students come back to the dorm, we want that dorm to be a place where, after all of the business and hecticness and craziness of the day, [students] can come back... and feel as though, not just with their dorm mates, that there are adults who care about them, value them, and take a keen interest in their life. I take a huge amount of joy in just knowing how their day went: if it was a great day, I love to be a cheerleader, and I love hearing what it was that made it a great day. Likewise, if there was a part of the day that was annoying or frustrating; if there was a part of the day that was a letdown, I think it's important that the kids know that they have adults that are there just to listen, and to help them make sense of something that we don't necessarily have all the answers to.

Who do you take inspiration from?

My students. Every day. Andover students are the best, Andover students are dynamic, Andover students are motivated, Andover students have an appetite for discovery, and Andover students bring energy. If I'm looking for inspiration, the place that I look, when I close my classroom door, is on that sea of faces that's excited for whatever it is that we're kind of undertaking that particular day. I'd say my inspiration comes from my students.

What's your favorite Paresky Commons food?

I love our clam chowder. I love chicken nugget day. Can't get any better than that.

What's your favorite thing to do outside of Andover?

I would say family stuff. I have two kiddos who have really busy schedules themselves. I help coach their teams when they're on a team and I love being a part and taking them to wherever it is that they happen to go... If there's not the craziness of school that's going on, then you can definitely find me with my family. When it's vacation, we go up to the Adirondacks where my wife's family is from, or we spend time down in Cape Cod.

Alumni and Faculty

Remember the “Epic” Life of Tom McGraw

SARAH HASSANEIN



COURTESY OF THE PHILLIPIAN

Pictured above is Tom McGraw in Bulfinch Hall.

Terrell Ivory ’00

“And so it was one of these things that I sort of cherish because it was a story told by like this amazing storyteller. And he sort of captured the essence of who my father was in this letter that I had, right because my father was gone, but I had this letter, that meant the world to me, and it sort of shows like, you know who coach McGraw was right? And how he made, in my opinion, how he made people feel.”

Louis Bernieri, Instructor in English

“Tom left an indelible mark on the students he taught, coached, and house counseled. He was passionate about all his work. He loved his students and they loved him. Among the many things they still talk about were the times he co-hosted several radio shows with students on the old WPAA. During those evenings, the whole school was tuned into the station and what they talked about and the songs they played were the buzz of the campus the next day.”

Sam August ’10

“I think it was really cool to just see and hear an adult say these antiauthoritarian things with such force and vigor and passion and and just to see somebody pretty pissed off about a lot of things but for really good reasons because he was such a smart, thoughtful, well written and well spoken guy... I think I was drawn to that as a kid that was doing this P.G. year thing and I didn’t really know what I was doing, and I was a little frustrated about things. And just to see a guy like McGraw air his own grievances so eloquently, I think really validated a lot of emotions that I was having too.”

Retired English Instructor Tom McGraw passed away on May 1, 2023. Starting his career at Andover in 1983, McGraw taught English for 32 years before retiring in 2015, and served as a house counselor in Harsey House while also coaching Junior Varsity football, Junior Varsity basketball, and Varsity baseball during his time at Andover.

Most notable for his handwritten letters, memorization of “The Odyssey,” “natural” humor, and being a “gifted” storyteller, McGraw left an “indelible” legacy behind. His daughter, Molly McGraw ’07, reflected on her father’s character.

“He loved so strongly, his wife and his children, and that was felt forever. Even in the end years, it was palpable how much he still lit up when he saw my mom, for example. My mom was the true love of his life and he was a devoted husband and father without question,” said McGraw.

Chris Cameron ’11 reflected on the impact McGraw had on his Andover experience. Initially knowing McGraw as an English teacher, he soon became a mentor in all aspects of Cameron’s life.

“You have those teachers or professors that kind of transcend the role of just being a teacher or professor in a way and connect with their students, both inside and outside of the classroom. And I’d say that Mr. McGraw is definitely one of those for me, and I know he was for a lot of other folks, both academically and on and off the baseball field as well. So that’s the impact he had to me and I know he did for a lot of other students as well.”

In his English classroom, McGraw possessed an intense passion for literature, specifically “The Odyssey”, “Moby Dick,” and “Herman Melville,” and often recited literature from memory – sometimes even in Greek or Latin.

Molly Ozimek-Maier ’07 reflected on the high demand for his class amongst students.

“But people would be willing to trade dorm room numbers to get into Tom’s class, that’s how intense it was to try to get into [his] class. And everybody knew McGraw, his legacy way preceded him and hopefully post-ceded him as well,” said Ozimek-Maier.

In his time as a coach, McGraw often played one-on-one with his athletes, helping them to improve their game. According to Christopher Capano ’77, Director of Student Activities, McGraw often shared personal stories on the bus rides to games and the players would intently listen.

“The minute the bus left the parking lot of Andover, he started telling stories and you didn’t mind how long the bus ride was because he told amazing stories about everything and anything whether it was – he went to Notre Dame where he played college basketball and college baseball, he served in the army for a little while and was stationed overseas in Panama... He just always had a cool story,” said Capano

Ozimek-Maier recounted a common occurrence when McGraw’s passion for sports and literature intersected. In a challenging baseball game in the 2007 season, Andover was losing, but at halftime McGraw called everyone into the dugout and delivered a speech; not in English but in Latin.

“He called the whole team into the dugout, and everybody was there, and he gave this inspiring speech, but it was in Latin and so there was a kid on the team Joe Smith ’07, he translated the whole thing on the fly because he was taking Latin. And there were also times that he used ancient Greek and the boys would have to translate and it really inspired everybody to just kind of get back out there and

we won the game,” said Ozimek-Maier.

Andrew Bedell ’92 who had McGraw as both an English teacher and JV football coach, shared how McGraw inspired him to pursue a teaching career.

“He was the first teacher I had that showed me that caring about students as a person more than say, a student in your class or an athlete on your team, was important to him, and he certainly invested the time in me to help me see that and appreciate that about him. And it led me down the path that I chose to take as a teacher. So I look back fondly over the interactions that I had with him as a student in my work as a teacher,” said Bedell.

In the last few years of his life, McGraw was diagnosed with early onset frontotemporal dementia. His brain has been donated to the Massachusetts General Hospital’s frontotemporal unit for research. McGraw’s daughter shared how his diagnoses impacted his last years.

“And so to see someone who was previously so verbose and able to recite passages from Shakespeare and ‘Moby Dick’ and from ‘The Iliad’ or ‘The Odyssey’, freely, to become nonverbal, is really sad. And it’s just I think he would appreciate the tragedy of that... He was a very dramatic human, and I think he’s probably looking down on us from somewhere or looking up, who knows, I don’t know, and laughing about that great irony, but it is a tragic irony too,” said McGraw.

Matt Hyde ’92, who had McGraw as a coach and house counselor, summed up the palpable effect McGraw had on his students.

“He had a real magic about him. In making you feel like you were important, that you were significant, and that really you could do anything that you wanted with your life,” said Hyde.

Leevert Holmes ’95

“I always referred to him as coach because he was my life coach. He would meet me after my last class on Wednesdays and we would play full and sometimes half-court one-on-one. He taught me how to improve my form & where I could be most effective as a player. All the while quoting Melville and Homer.”

Tom Nelson ’95

“[He] had the most profound effect on my life as a teenager. Made me see that I could be anything I set my mind to. I know we will play one-on-one full court soon enough.”

J.R. Santaniello ’08

“He always just brought out the best in people. There was something about his demeanor, his attitude, his approach to life. That made that team, the 2007 team, come together and and really want to play for him and play for the school and in play for each other, more importantly...It really broke my heart when I heard this news because that season...is one of, if not the most memorable part[s] of my entire baseball career.”

Matthew Hession, Instructor in History

“I guess the thing that I remember most is how I felt on the baseball diamond with him. And we would in the course of practice, we could go from working on bunt defense and baseball to suddenly talking about the Homeric tradition, to suddenly a couple rounds of batting practice, and then somehow we’d end practice and we’d be talking about the anti-war movement from 1967 to 1970. And he was just a dynamic and gifted thinker.”

EXPERTS PREDICT ALL CO2 TO LEAVE THE ATMOSPHERE IF ANDOVER HAS EARTH DAY ON

An Honest Senior Reflection

Charles Vest

To my fellow students and beloved teachers: As I stand here today, looking out at the vast sea of faces before me, I am reminded of the memories I have made with each and every one of you. Whether it be through good times or bad, we have always been a part of the same colloquial “Big Blue Family.” And though we may be stereotyped as a school full of druggies, alcoholics and Communists, my experiences here have proved that it’s the people that make Andover fun, not any illicit substances! Like that one time before th- well, we had that Venezuelan snow... Or that dance where we- nah, that was when we hit up that AHS kid, wasn’t it?

Aight, screw it. To be honest, like half of y’all kinda suck. I mean, don’t get me wrong there are lots of chill people here, but some of you guys need an ego check. Trust me, nobody thinks you’re the [expletive] for pulling up blasted to Casino Night. Also, y’all are not slick for slipping that 5.9 GPA into every conversation. We don’t care. Like, c’mon, I’m majoring in journalism. Why do I need a 105 percent in calc? And don’t even get me started on the disciplinary system. I mean damn, GAPs? Really? C’mon. I’m sorry, but it’s stupid. It’s a stupid system.

To my teachers: In the spirit of Non Sibi, I’ll be honest for a second. That time I “slept through” math class? Smoking pot with the hypnotist guy in the Borden squash courts. Remember when I was “too sick” to go to English? Hooking up with an AHS kid in the downstairs Commons bathroom (y’all are lucky I covered it up with barbeque sauce). How about when I “shattered my collarbone” and couldn’t submit my History 300 paper on time? Actually, my memory of that one’s pretty hazy; but I do remember that it involved a Gunga costume, Uburger, and an unnamed faculty member’s scent.

In conclusion: Screw y’all, I’m taking a gap year in Methuen. [Mic Drop]

WEEK’S TOP HEADLINES

- *In Light of Mental Health Awareness Month, Deans Remedy Campus Depression by Reminding Students to be Nice to Each Other*
- *Eighth Page Significantly Less Funny After @PhillipsAcademy Instagram Reel Says to Take Humor Seriously*
- *Experts Predict All CO2 to Leave the Atmosphere if Andover Has Earth Day On*
- *Spanish Curriculum Threatens to Put Gender Studies Courses Out of Business*
- *Eighth Page Staff Holds Protest Outside Newsroom Before Realizing No One in The Phillipian Gets Paid*
- *Study Shows College Counseling Only Stressful for Stupid Losers*

“Will a fascist manifesto win me class rep?”

“No one ever talks about the land my ancestors lost. Ever heard of Rhodesia?”

“I hate when my actions have consequences.”

“You’re a ChatGPT guy? Damn, I just take adderall.”

“Coach, my political leaning precludes me from putting the stick in my left hand.”

“No way Ukraine reads *The Phillipian*, they have bigger things to worry about”

“Go protest something.”

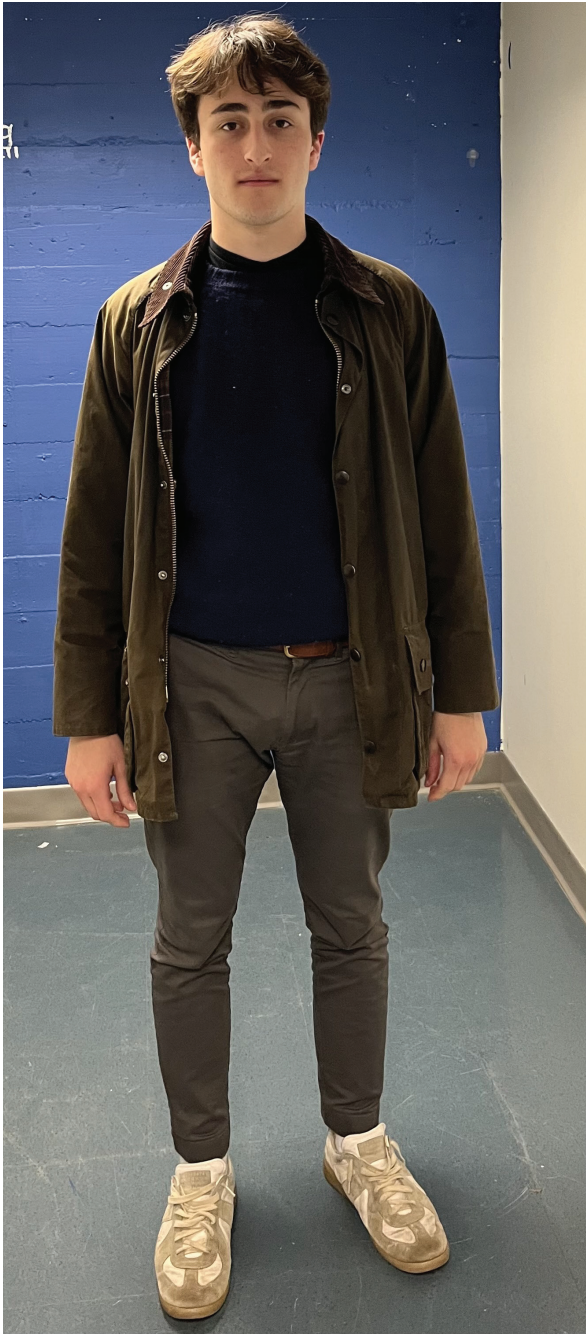
“I love that Jared Leto is normalizing furries.”

“I hate intellectual conversation with intellectuals because I only care about my opinion.”

“Just found out about Pearl Harbor. I won’t be eating sushi for a while.”

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

Donning a Wax Jacket, a Navy Sweater, and Slate Khakis, Nicky Essaid '24 Takes Inspiration From His Troubled Upbringings and Passions for Hinkleys and Chocolate labs.



Essaid described his sweater as “100 percent Scottish shetland wool” and wanted us all to know that the Margielas are his “beaters.”

Essaid takes special pride in his sentimental clothing. Underneath his sweater is a classic cotton T-Shirt from a brewery in the small, relatively unknown mountain town called Aspen. Don’t worry, Deans, the shirt was Essaid’s only purchase.

Hailing from coastal southwestern Connecticut (guess which town), Essaid credits his style to his two foremost role models, Boris Johnson and Tom Buchanan. He is very proud of his attire and uses it as a way to celebrate his identity. As his color palette shows, Essaid is a very vibrant guy. This spring and summer, he is quite excited to mix in some pastels and possibly a few new fabrics, including linen, madras and seersucker. Essaid, who prides himself on his friendliness and open-mindedness, uses fashion to show his fun side.

Essaid stated at the end that his wax jacket had been used properly and had stored many pheasants shot with his 19th century Purdey, in the back pocket, unlike the frauds who wear them around now. “You know who you are,” he said menacingly.





The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLVI | Number 11

wheat thins

May 5, 2023

Small Setback, Major Comeback: Boys Tennis Dominates Exeter Rivals

HENRY HE

FRIDAY	
Andover	3
Groton	4
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	6
Exeter	1

Following a tight 3-4 loss to Groton last Friday, Andover Boys Tennis was able to display a powerful performance against rivals Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) on Wednesday. A sweep in doubles alongside comebacks from Ben Shin '26 and Chase Burke '25 in singles led the



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN
Chase Burke '25 and Ben Shin '26 were doubles partners against Exeter.

team to a 6-1 win. One important factor in Wednesday's win was the energy of the team, according to Burke. The team was able to use the momentum from a strong start to generate positive results. "Energy started low, maybe because of the gloomy weather, but as the team stepped up to win all three doubles matches, the energy level as a whole rose. We had momentum going into the singles matches and it showed in the results," said Burke. Even the little things, such as words of encouragement, can swing the tide of a game. Kevin Niu '25 described how the unity of the team allowed the players to feed off each other's energy. "Energy not only helps you individually but also as a team. When we cheer and support each other, it helps everyone with their next point. Supportive statements such as 'right here' and 'love

that' are simple but effective ways to energize everyone. It is hard to explain, but when someone next to you brings energy, it travels to you and helps you play better. When I see my Captain or teammate yelling and cheering, it helps me focus for the next point and the rest of the match" said Niu. Despite the individual nature of the sport, the team has bonded due to the amount of time teammates spend with each other. Shin highlighted how the team is always together, on and off the court. "What makes this team so special is our ability to connect with each other. All of us are able to hang out and just chill. This relationship has been built over long car rides, team meals, and staying at a hotel together. Also, we all support each other immensely. Even when we are losing, we try to bring each other back up, yelling and cheering for each other. We just have a great dynamic as a team," said Shin. A strong team culture has led to a strong season, with Wednesday's matches bringing the team's record to 5-4. The ability to win matches through the lower seeds has been a game-changer, according to Niu. "Our biggest strength is the depth of our lineup. While many teams might only have a strong starting three, we have a complete lineup that can change overnight. The potential for everyone on the team is sky-high, we just need to perform to that level," said Niu. Recently, the team has found new ways to improve. Shin highlighted the benefits of working with some expert advice from the Director of Manchester Athletic Club — a tennis club based in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. "We just started working with tennis pro Francisco



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN
Andover Boys Tennis No. 1 Seed and Co-Captain Ethan Wong '23 prepares to return the ball.

Montoya. He is helping us tune up our game and train us for the rest of the season. He is a great coach and was in charge of a huge tennis club in New England. It is great to be working with him," said Shin. Moving forward, the team hopes to continue shining in doubles play. As displayed in Wednesday's match, a strong start in doubles can play a major role in the final outcome. "We can definitely improve in doubles. The doubles point is huge for gaining an advan-

tage, and we need to do a better job of focusing from the start. Other than that, everyone needs to play their game and be confident in their ability," said Burke. Andover Boys Tennis hosts Choate on Saturday and Hoo-sac School on Wednesday. *Editor's Note: Kevin Niu is a Digital Editor for The Phillippian.*

Two Sweeps Keep Win Streak: Girls Tennis Continues Undefeated Season

SOPHIA CRATTY

SATURDAY	
Andover	9
Exeter	0
MONDAY	
Andover	9
BB&N	0

Andover Girls Tennis defeated both Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) and BB&N 9-0 this week, which extended its win streak to eight games. On Saturday against Exeter, Lena Ciganer-Albeniz '25 played in the longest singles match of the day. Teammate Evelyn Kung '26 admired Ciganer-Albeniz's persistence throughout her match. "[Lena] lost the first set but then came back in the second and ended up winning the match. It was the longest match so all of us were on the sidelines cheering her on after we had finished our own matches, so that was a really fun," said Kung. Amy Oku '25 outlined the team's matches against BB&N on Monday. Despite the dominant win, the team had to adapt to a change in match format. "We only played two eight-game pro sets for doubles and singles, so I feel like we had a little more pressure today, but I think we all pulled through in the end," said Oku. Tara Phan '24 highlighted Oku's match on Monday, describing it as very intense. Ac-

cording to Phan, Oku's match involved the entire team, making it all the more exciting. "Amy's match was absolutely superb... They would keep on going back and forth all the time. Sometimes Amy was winning and sometimes the other girl was winning, but in the end, Amy pulled through. So that was amazing, and the whole team was cheering for her, and that was really fun," said Phan. Monday's matches were the team's first indoor matches of the season, and Oku commented on the different environment. "I feel like we were tight today because we were playing indoors instead of outdoors which we weren't quite used to... I feel like the team was a lot quieter but we were still lifting each other up across points so that was good of us to do," said Oku. With just three matches until the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Championships (NEPSAC), Kung noted her eagerness to spend quality time with her teammates. The team will face Exeter again on May 24 to end its season. "[I'm looking forward to] just playing more matches and getting out there with the team. Just doing fun team bonding activities, team dinners, and playing Exeter again at the end of the season. That'll be really fun," said Kung. Andover Girls Tennis will play Milton at home on Wednesday.

Editor's Note: Amy Oku is a Copy Editor for The Phillippian.

ANDOVER SOFTBALL vs. PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY

After splitting a double-header against Austin Preparatory School on Saturday, Andover Softball defeated Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) 9-4 on Wednesday.



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN
Co-Captain Fallon O'Connor '23 pitched four scoreless innings against Exeter.



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN
Co-Captain Kiley Buckley '23 hit a two-run home run against Exeter.



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN
Girls Softball cheers on Co-Captain Kiley Buckley '23 as she approaches the home plate.

GIRLSLACROSSE

Co-Captain Grace Hammond '23: The “Heart and Soul” of Girls Lacrosse

MEG STINEMAN

Girls Lacrosse Co-Captain Grace Hammond '23 began lacrosse at a young age, when her parents started her in a program. Instantly falling in love with the sport, Hammond continued playing ever since then.

When Hammond became a Co-Captain, she knew that the importance of supporting her fellow teammates could not be understated. Especially with many new underclassmen players this season, Hammond and her fellow Co-Captain Kiera Reidy '23 decided to emphasize support and growth.

“Prior to coming into the season, Kiera and I really wanted everyone to feel confident. We graduated a lot of Seniors last year. So we wanted the underclassmen and people that were coming into more substantial roles on the team to feel confident. So we wanted, obviously, confidence to be a big thing on our team, that everyone felt re-

spected and felt okay to make mistakes,” said Hammond.

According to Lauren Herlihy '25, Hammond has shown the importance of working hard for what she wants. Herlihy plays two sports with Hammond, and her hard work and dedication in both sports are clear during both practices and meets.

Herlihy said, “As soon as I joined the lacrosse team last year, Grace was instantly my role model. I really look up to her. She does track too, I look up to her on the track and on the field. I think she just is a great example of what we stand for... For lacrosse, I think she really pushes me to be my best on the field and off the field and, trying to step up and be a leader myself. She's just an amazing leader and I feel like she is the heart and soul of our team.”

Quiana Bell '26 appreciates Hammond's ability to maintain intensity while also enjoying time with her teammates. While Hammond gives her teammates feedback, she also jokes with them and is a friend.

Bell said, “During prac-

tice, if she's not being serious, she'll always joke with us. She'll laugh with us. When we're not in the drill and I just feel like it just shows that, yes, you can go hard, 100 percent. Yes, she coaches you during practice, [but] she is also there for you, as a Captain, as someone to talk to, which I feel [is] a really great quality.”

Herlihy shared similar sentiments to Bell, adding how the entire team views Hammond a mentor. She feels that Hammond's feedback is extremely beneficial to the success of the team.

“I think Grace has a really good mix of being really caring for all her teammates but also giving us good constructive criticism on what we can do better on the field. I think she is definitely the person that everyone looks up to on the field...and [she] leads us to the games with all our energy and spirit going,” said Herlihy.

Hammond looks forward to continuing her academic and athletic career at Tufts University next year.

Hammond said, “I'm go-



C.BARBIE/THE PHILLIPIAN

ing to go play the D-III level, which I think is a perfect balance for me. So I can focus on academics too and I'm excited just to go compete more. [Tufts] has been second in the

national championship for the past three years, and so I want to come in and maybe try to win one.”

Co-Captain Kiera Reidy '23 Leads With Positivity, Passion, and Confidence

ANGIE LUCIA

Girls Lacrosse Co-Captain Kiera Reidy '23 started playing lacrosse in the second grade. This turned into a combination of club and high school lacrosse at her local high school, before she came to Andover to play field hockey in the fall and spring lacrosse. Being a Co-Captain has allowed her to share her positive, motivating, kind, and compassionate leadership on a broader level.

Reidy described the bal-

ance between managing the responsibilities of being a Co-Captain and wanting to connect and have fun with your teammates.

“To me, there isn't really any shift [from being a player to a Co-Captain]. I mean there are definitely more responsibilities and more things that I have to do and be aware of, but it definitely hasn't changed the teammate I've always wanted to be and have been. If anything, it's kind of just opened up my mind more to be extra mindful of how many of these younger kids are looking up to you. I had that before, but having this

captain name also gives you all these responsibilities and pressures that you have to follow, which can be great but can also be taxing. As for the lacrosse team, they've been so good about it... I do think the biggest thing that was different is that you can have fun as a teammate, but as a Captain, you can have the fun, but you also have to know that you are holding your team up,” said Reidy.

Teammate Charley Drouin '25 shared how confident of a leader Reidy is on the team. She noted Reidy's passion for the sport and how inspiring it is to see.

“I would definitely say Kiera's been very supportive all over the field and even off the field too. Her leadership qualities are something that I've really been inspired by just because she can take charge and she's very confident, which is so great about her. Ever since I met her, her passion and drive has been one of her major qualities that everyone aspires to do on and off the field. And she always motivates us to be our best every single day,” said Drouin.

Quiana Bell '26 emphasized Reidy's ability to connect the team through organizing get-togethers off the field and motivating people on the field. She also praised Reidy's vocal positivity.

“Off the field, she does a really great job of hyping everyone up. She'll cheer you on, she'll give you pats on the back, and she'll be the one to say, 'Oh, team dinner tonight. Everyone better be there.' And then on the field, whenever I have the ball I think her [voice] is the first one I

always hear. I'll always hear, 'wheels, Q!' And I feel like it's like that for every single person. She'll be the one yelling for you. She'll always be the first one to [say], 'Come on guys, we better talk, we better communicate on the field.' So because I think her voice is just so loud and so positive that it really just strengthens the whole team and makes us want to perform,” said Bell.

Reidy shared how her experience of not receiving positive feedback leads her to give her teammates plenty to motivate them. She also makes sure that underclassmen never doubt that they are just as valuable to the team as upperclassmen, helping to eliminate the divide between underclassmen and upperclassmen.

“I love to be positive and give positive comments because when I was younger, I wouldn't get that and I'd only get negative comments and it made me feel [like] so less of myself and...I keep doing everything wrong. So my number one thing is to really try and hype up my teammates, especially the underclassmen to make them know that they have a voice. They made the team for a reason, they wouldn't be here if they didn't have the skills, if they didn't have the I.Q.,” said Reidy.

According to Co-Captain Grace Hammond '23, Reidy connects with each player on an individual level to check in with them personally. She assesses the type of motivation that is right for each person and works that into her leadership.

“She's really good at talking to people individually. She'll

talk to the team as a group and motivate people, but I'd say that she really takes the time to talk to people individually and connect with everyone on a one-to-one basis and get to know people and motivate them through the way that is most effective for them,” said Hammond.

When asked about how she stays engaged with the sport and also keeps her teammates engaged at the same time, Reidy mentioned the importance of a bonded and supportive team. She strives to create a positive, trusting environment that her teammates are excited to be a part of.

“I honestly think it has nothing to do with the game, but about the team. If you're playing with a bunch of girls that you don't like, you don't wanna be around, that make you feel less about yourself, you're not gonna wanna be there and you're not gonna wanna play. But if you're on a team where everyone loves you, would go to the wall for you, would do anything, not necessarily outside of the field, but when you're on the field and you know that everyone has each other's back, [and] you see them all the time, it's like a family. It really is. And the more you make that this great, positive, kind environment, the more kids are gonna want to come and play and be there,” said Reidy.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

ANDOVER GIRLS LACROSSE

C GRACE D. HAMMOND '23 BARRINGTON, RI	C KIERA A. REIDY '23 SCITUATE, MA
LOLA AGUIRRE '26 BARRINGTON, RI	MAREN BOYLE '26 SCITUATE, MA
MOLLY BOYLE '25 SCITUATE, MA	LAUREN HERLIHY '25 READING, MA
KENNEDY HERNDON '23 MINNEAPOLIS, MN	PEYTON KENNEDY '25 SUDBURY, MA
KATE MCCOOL '23 RANCHO SANTA FE, CA	SIOBHAN REIDY '23 SCITUATE, MA
ELISABETH ROURKE '23 WELLESLEY, MA	CAROLINE YOUNG '26 READING, MA
QUIANA BELL '26 LOWELL, MA	LUCY BOOTH '23 BERKELEY, CA
CHARLEY DROUIN '25 NORTH ANDOVER, MA	SHEA FREDA '24 LEXINGTON, MA
CARLY HOPKINS '24 NORTH ANDOVER, MA	DYLAN KAYSER '23 CORTE MADERA, CA
ELLIE PARKER '25 ANDOVER, MA	LUCY PARKER '26 ANDOVER, MA
NEICIA SMITH '25 WATERTOWN, NY	SARAH POWERS '26 LYNNFIELD, MA
MANAGERS	ELLIOT CHUNG '24 GREENWICH, CT
	GEORGE RYCKMAN '24 NEW YORK, NY

Head Coach Heidi Wall '94 Instills Confidence and Prioritizes Communication in Girls Lacrosse

NABILAH NAZAR

Girls Lacrosse Head Coach Heidi Wall '94 leads her team with experience and passion. Through meeting one-on-one with players and creating a detailed practice plan, Wall seeks to improve the team through individual connections and communication.

During her time at Andover, Wall was a tri-sport athlete at Andover. She went on to play Division III Lacrosse at Amherst College, where she received both academic and regional All-American honors and led her team to its first Eastern College Athletic Conference title (ECAC).

Wall said, "I started playing lacrosse here and I was a four year starter at Amherst. I broke the all time scoring record when I was there. I was a Captain in my Senior year, an All-American. The Amherst team won the ECAC championship twice when I was on the team, my junior and senior year. And I think my playing experience was really positive in such a way that I was really excited about being able to get back to the sport as a coach."

Wall's coaching technique relies on feedback from the team, according to Charley Drouin '25. Through trial and error, Wall is able to find the best plays for the team dynamic.

"On the field she does a very

good job of communicating her ideas, and her coaching style is probably one of my favorites. I would say just because she will set up new plays and she'll try to see what works best for us. And really tries to get us all to help each other out to set the play to score or to get the ground ball or to ride on attack, which I really like. And she'll pull individuals aside or a midfielder aside and she'll tell us what she would think would work best," said Drouin.

Regardless of the outcome, Wall remains optimistic and encourages the team with affirmative comments. Quiana Bell '26 emphasized how her approach uplifts the team and sets them to continue to grow.

"Coach [Wall] focuses a lot on the positives of the situation. I think she really just wants to see our growth as a team rather than like how many wins or losses we have. And she'll give us things to work on, but I feel like every single practice after every single game. She'll always start off her emails or when she talks to us with, 'This is what I think went really well. This is how you grew from like the last time we played.' And I actually think that helps boost our team's confidence," said Bell.

Through a "buddy" system, Wall creates a supportive environment for the members of the team. She also sets up individual meetings with each player to re-

flect on their individual goals and progress.

"We've got the girls paired up with each other and thinking about supporting each other in their play [and] we've done a lot of goal setting. So I met with all the players to think about things that they wanted to be working on, ways that they could help contribute to the team's success. So we've done a lot of reflecting on things that each of us individually could be doing in order to better the team," said Wall.

Bell recalls her experience of goal-setting with Wall, where she was able to reflect and talk about ways to enhance her performance relative to the team.

"A couple of weeks ago, she had one-on-ones with all of us, which is something I've never really seen before with a coach. But she set up time to talk to us for 15 to 20 minutes each and just ask how we were feeling about the season, how we were feeling about each other, what we want to see from her as a coach... And I think that aspect just helps bring our team more together and become more cohesive because we all wanted the same goals," said Bell.

In 2019, coaches from St. Paul's, Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter), Andover, and Lawrenceville came together and created the SEAL Cup in place for a pring championship. Now, the SEAL Cup has been converted to the Prep Cup, with a total of eight teams. Wall



J.CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

hopes the Prep Cup can expand further in the future.

"As a group of coaches, we're just looking to try to continue to celebrate our teams together through playing lacrosse. So it's a way to build camaraderie. There will be college coaches there and our hope also is that eventually we can try to turn this into something bigger," said Wall.

Wall admires the athleticism and creativity involved in the game of lacrosse and hopes to share her passion for the sport with her team.

"I always hope to try to instill a love of the game, share my love of the game with my players and my team. And it's just so exciting to see how much lacrosse continues to grow and evolve as a sport... The players are able to do so much more, there's just so much amazing athleticism displayed. And I just love the game. It's such a game of speed and finesse and teamwork," said Wall.



Lawrence Hotaling '24



Luke Gallo '25



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CYCLING

Energetic All-Gender Cycling Captain
Amelia Vinton '23 Helps Foster Tight Knit Bond

SOPHIA CRATTY

Andover Cycling Co-Captain Amelia Vinton '23 continuously strives to make the cycling team a fun and inclusive environment for anyone. Vinton organized various events for the team and often works collaboratively with coaches and Co-Captain Daniel Zou '23, according to Anna Ohm '24.

"She organized a hike to Holt Hill and made sure everyone became unified as a team. I think as the term and as the season progresses it's more so to support people through the races and also to work with the coaches. Our captains work a lot with the coaches. There's a lot of logistics for cycling, between the bikes and everything. So she does a great job talking to the coaches and planning our rides for the day," said Ohm.

Vinton explained her role on the team. She mentioned the added pressure of showing up to practices or races as

her best self.

"There's definitely an added layer of showing up. When you're a member of a team, it's like you show up every day, and then when you become a captain it's really about showing up even more every day with whatever you have to give and making sure that you're there and as best as you can be," said Vinton.

Emily Wu '25 feels that Vinton is a Co-Captain that always has high energy and a positive attitude, constantly boosting the team's morale.

"She is one of the most energetic people that I have met, and she's just very enthusiastic about being here or just being around you, and she's full of energy every time that I see her. She's really good at cheering people up and even when she's feeling down. It makes me wanna be part of her journey because she is really open and compassionate, which is why I think she's just really cool and I love being with her and having her as my team captain," said Wu.

With the season coming to

an end, Vinton reflected upon special moments she shared with the team that were representative of a strong team dynamic. However, Vinton also looks forward to the two races that the team has remaining.

"I'm looking forward to hopefully some more sunny days soon so we can get out to some bigger rides and also a few of our races that hopefully also won't be rained out. The races are always really fun and just more time for the team to bond together. I know that one highlight was on the way back from our last race, we had kind of a spontaneous karaoke moment that broke out in the rally wagon on our way back where we were all just singing a lot of songs. And it was so lovely and I was like, 'Yes, this is what I picture when I picture a team environment,'" said Vinton.

Wu looks to the end of the season with a slightly more bittersweet outlook. While Wu is excited to savor the time that is left, she acknowledges that her time with the



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

team's six Seniors is coming to an end.

"They're all really nice people and I look forward to every single moment that I get to spend with the team. The team is 12 people, it's a

really tight team of people who are really close together, and I really enjoy being with them, and I love this experience," said Wu.

Daniel Zou '23 Holds Together
Andover Cycling's Community Through Endless Spirit

MEG STINEMAN

Andover Cycling Co-Captain Daniel Zou '23 came to Andover as a new Upper, where he has brought his love for recreational cycling into a more competitive atmosphere. Zou has found freedom in exploration since

he can remember, and has enjoyed transitioning into a different energy of cycling. Since joining the team, Zou has developed connections with his teammates that have lasted through his Andover career.

"One of the things that I think is really important is that everybody feels valued

and that they're part of this community, and we all get to know each other on a personal level because our races are all kind of far away. So we're in the car for two hours together. So I just think that feeling of belonging that everybody has is really important. If we win or if we do good in our sport, then that's also a plus. I feel our community is really unique in that we are one of those super competitive teams, but we're a team where people come and have a good time and just wanna do a sport in the spring that's fun," said Zou.

Yuliya Solyanyk '23 appreciates Zou's personality with his teammates. Not only does he make it his job to personally connect to each teammate on an individual basis, but Zou also holds together the community with his positivity. Solyanyk specifically highlighted how Zou pushes team's spirit during and outside of races.

"I feel like Daniel is the type of person who knows how to find the right approach to like anyone on the team. And he has this ability [to] make everyone feel like they belong on the team... I think it's not an exaggera-

tion to say that our community, the cycling community, is very tight-knit thanks to people like Daniel who could kind of hold the team spirit together," said Solyanyk.

According to James Davis '23, Zou's ability to thrive in his sport while continuing to be modest is greatly appreciated among his teammates. Zou leads the cycling team by example in the sense that he is able to focus on himself when necessary, but also help his teammates when they are in need.

"He's very expressive and emotionally he likes 'taking a lot of space,' but at the same time he's also very humble. He has a lot of humility and he's always trying to make space for people," Davis said.

Not only does Zou bring lighter moments to his team, but he is also able to focus and be competitive when need be. Solyanyk mentioned Zou's recent move to a higher division for races, truly emphasizing his hard work in practice.

"I feel like, on top of being a Co-Captain, he also has this kind of responsibility to do his absolute best during races and during every race during every practice. And that's no wonder why his resilience

and kind of this devotion to the sport helped him to move from the category boys C to category boys B, which is [a] more advanced one and represented over during every race was dignity and this confidence," said Solyanyk.


Zou has found himself bringing many laughs to the team. He motivates his teammates by consistently cheering them on during races, and acting as a vocal captain.

"[I'm] trying to keep the team motivated by cheering people on, and just having a good time, whether it be making jokes in practice about different things. I say coaches also do that too, but...I bring a humorous kick into the team," said Zou.



A.TSAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

ANDOVER CYCLING




AMELIA VINTON '23
PALO ALTO, CA

JAMES DAVIS '23
RENNES, FR

KIRA FULDA '23
BOVENDEN, DE

DANIEL ZOU '23
SUGAR LAND, TX



PETRA MRAZOVA '23
BRATISLAVA, SK

YULIYA SOLYANYK '23
UZHHOROD, UA

JAY KAUFMAN '24
CHICAGO, IL

ANNA OHM '24
MADISON, WI

YASMINE TAZI '24
CASABLANCA, MAR

MATT WASILEWSKI '24
NORTH READING, MA

EMILY WU '25
BOSTON, MA

DAVID PORTO '26
VINHEDO, SP, BR

ZADIE ROBINSON '26
AVON, CT

Empathy, Reliability, and Humility: Head Coach Thayer Zaeder '83 Leads His Twentieth Cycling Season

ANGIE LUCIA

As a student, Cycling Head Coach Thayer Zaeder '83 was a part of Andover's first cycling team, established in 1980. According to Zaeder, his introduction to the sport as a Junior "solidified a lifelong passion for the sport." Now, Zaeder is in his 20th year coaching cycling at Andover.

Zaeder elaborated on his coaching style, sharing how he likes to balance success with safety on the bike and roads. He leads the team alongside Assistant Coaches Ben Duclos and Sara Parker.

"We share the coaching and each of us brings different areas of experience and knowledge to the coaching of student athletes. Personally, I try to model the habits and focus and attention to detail that is crucial to long term success and safety on the bike. As a coaching cohort, we try to create a fun and supportive team dynamic while still pushing our athletes to improve and grow as competitive cyclists," wrote Zaeder in an email to *The Phillipian*.

David Porto '26 shared similar thoughts about Zaeder leading by example. Porto also appreciates Zaeder's insightful feedback.

"A lot of times he gives us an example, especially for regular rides because the coach is always going in front. So we all just follow him, but also, in general [he gives] feedback. I remember one time I fell over because I did something wrong, and then he helped me and taught me not to do it again," said Porto.

Petra Mrazova '23 explained how dedicated Zaeder is to his athletes. He also prioritizes safety, whether it's helping out with a technical issue or making sure everyone is feeling their best on the road.

"He tries to demonstrate everything to his best understanding, tries to dumb it down for us, and any time anyone is confused or has questions, he is more than willing to help you out. On the road, he's really thorough. He looks after our safety, especially on the intersections and roads where there are a lot of cars, and any time someone has a problem, he's the first to stop

by and try to help you out," said Mrazova.

Mrazova continued, further highlighting Zaeder's empathetic and caring personality.

"We got a flat a few weeks ago and even though he passed us, he turned around and he was the one who helped change the tire. He was the one who stayed behind with the girl, so he's really attentive. He is also our technical guy, so any time something is wrong you know that he's going to be the person who will help you fix the equipment [and] he's going to be the one who's gonna offer you a snack if you're feeling unwell," said Mrazova.

According to Anna Ohm '24, Zaeder has been supportive throughout the whole season. In the beginning, Zaeder's efforts revolved around ensuring new riders were comfortable and had access to the right equipment.

"We do preseason meetings where essentially, they have to line up all the bikes for the prospective athletes and get them ready for them because you have to adjust the bike seat. And then as the season

kind of progresses, he's always really encouraging to people at the start, especially new people to the team. He also just has a big wealth of knowledge about cycling, and shares that with the team, whether that's game strategy or maybe it's changing a flat," said Ohm.

Mrazova shared one of Zaeder's values that he spreads throughout the team. She also mentioned his emphasis on personal care and having a positive attitude.

"You don't have to be the best, but you have to do your best. He doesn't expect you to win, but he expects you to do your best, what you can give on that given day. He always makes sure or reminds us to take care of our bodies, take the rest, eat well, sleep well, so he's looking after us in that sense. As well as have fun. He tries to make practices as fun as possible," said Mrazova.

Reliability and humility serve as core values of Zaeder's leadership. He also emphasized the importance of growth in a sport that often has a challenging transition period.

"Cycling is a very demand-



THE PHILLIPIAN

ing sport that requires not only excellent fitness, but also skill and coordination and good decision making. I try to give student athletes the opportunity to improve and to give them the proper perspective on the arc of their growth as an athlete," wrote Zaeder.

Boys Volleyball Looks to Extend Win Streak Against Choate

NABILAH NAZAR

SATURDAY		
Andover	3	
NMH	0	
WEDNESDAY		
Andover	3	
Exeter	1	

Andover Boys Volleyball defeated Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) 3-0 on Saturday and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) 3-1 on Wednesday, extending the team's win streak to four.



T.ZENG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Henry Zhao '23 is an outside hitter for Andover Boys Volleyball.

NMH displayed impressive athleticism, but Andover dominated the team through skill and communication, according to Inti Stephenson '25. Stephenson credited the team's hitters for their offensive plays and strategic placement of balls.

"A lot of their weaknesses came with technical stuff like passing and strategic things, like when they're out of system on a play and they don't know where to pass a free ball and communication. And I say like that's something on our Varsity team that we're really good at. We have a lot of athletic hitters. But overall, our team strengths during the game were our communication and our ability to just always place the ball where we needed to place it," said Stephenson

William Suh '24 credited middle Arthur Wu '25 and setter Eddie Lou '24 for the win against NMH.

"I think everyone was playing really well overall. The hitters were converting at a really high rate. Defense was pretty solid. I want to give a shout out to Arthur for making a lot of kills and Eddie obviously, he always does a great job of giving us the balls. I think that's why we won," said Suh.

Stephenson highlighted Suh's placement on one of his kills.

"Will, he's our opposite spiker, and he was set by Eddie on one of the plays, and he just had this beautiful zero block hit... It was just this amazing cross court shot that just had pure speed and power," said Stephenson.

Stephenson noted an area for improvement was consistent serving. Leading up to the Exeter game, the team used drills to help serve better under pressure.

"The one trouble though that we did have was serves ... Whenever we were in a deficit and we needed to make the serve, we would constantly miss them after an important point. And that would kind of give life to this team that really was not on our level," said Stephenson.

ND Nwaneri '24 recalled how well the team played as a unit against Exeter. He highlighted the team's chemistry when defending.

"Our Exeter game was great. Coach was telling us about how last year was the first time we beat Exeter in like 5-10 years and this year, we beat them twice in one season. So he was just emphasizing how awesome that was... Our defense really stood out that game. It was incredible from our back row, especially in the first set.



T.ZENG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Eddie Lou '24 was the team's main setter in both wins against Exeter this season.

It felt like I was watching one giant organism play. Like everyone was just so attuned to the game and to each other," said Nwaneri.

The 2022 New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Championship (NEPSAC) was the first time Andover had beaten Exeter in recent years. The team was looking forward to a rematch against Exeter again after winning 3-1 earlier in the season, according to Stephenson.

"Every time we play Exeter [and] we win, we just feel great because previous years, Exeter has just been so dominant in the Boys Varsity league for Phillips... But today, our first set, we came out swinging. We were insane. Everyone was pumped, the energy was there... We lost [a set] because [of] silly mistakes... there [was] miscommunication on the free ball or there was no movement on the defense for attack... [But] we brought the energy back towards the earth

to win everything back," said Stephenson.

Andover's final game of the season against Choate will finalize its seeding in this year's NEPSAC tournament. According to Stephenson, the team feels prepared for its last stretch before the championship.

"We're really confident that we're going to beat them and we'll secure our spot for first seed. But right now it looks like we're first seed in the league, but then again our coach told us that... it's good to have a little bit of nervousness... So [it's] always good to be cautious about who you're playing and no matter what the ranking is," said Stephenson.

Andover Boys Volleyball will host Choate Rosemary Hall on Saturday.

SCENES FROM GIRLS LACROSSE vs. DEXTER SOUTHFIELD SCHOOL (April 28)



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN



L.REESTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

From left to right, Co-Captain Kiera Reidy '23 and Kate McCool '23

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Fidelio Society Finale Encourages Audience to Savor Every Moment

HANA YOUNG

Fidelio Society closed out their 2022-2023 performance season with the Fidelio Concert in Cochran Chapel on Sunday. The group of 24 vocalists performed a variety of songs, including “Let My Love Be Heard” by Jake Runested, “I’ll Be on the Way” by Shawn Kirchner, and “Only in Sleep” by Eriks Ešenvalds.

Lauren Mahoney ’23, a soloist for “Only in Sleep,” described memorable aspects of the performance.

“‘Let My Love be Heard’ has always been a favorite for us. We’ve done it every year I’ve been in Fidelio. I think a newer one that I really like is ‘Only in Sleep.’ I think it’s just so beautiful. The swelling of all the Soprano Alto Tenor Bass [SATB], and that flowy solo on top...it just came together really well,” said Mahoney.

Sunday’s program was a combination of Fidelio favorites and newly learned material, explained John Latham ’23, a soloist for “I’ll Be on My Way.”

“There was extensive prep. I would say this concert was about 50 percent new music that we started in spring, the other half is stuff that we recalled since last year over Zoom, some from the fall. Some stuff we only brushed up once or twice. I think two of the pieces we



Due to illness, many members of Fidelio had to miss rehearsals before the concert.

L.GARRETT/THE PHILLIPIAN

only sang, we didn’t even run it, we just sang it. That was a little scary,” said Latham.

Even with Fidelio’s successes, Caroline McGirt ’23 described the various challenges that came throughout the preparation process. Many members were sick, so

not everyone was able to join the rehearsal sessions.

“Some people were sick, including myself, which was a little stressful and frustrating at the beginning. I freaked out a little bit right before the concert, literally a few minutes before, be-

cause I was nervous I wasn’t gonna sound my best. But I realized that, honestly, when we were singing, everything was going to be fine, and whatever happens, happens,” said McGirt.

The concert was sentimental for Seniors, as it was

their last major performance with Fidelio. Leverett Wilson ’23 reflected on his experience with Fidelio as his time at Andover comes to an end.

“It’s just been a really melancholy experience. And looking back on all we’ve done in Fidelio, and just this being our last experience having our Fidelio concert definitely brings back a lot of memories and makes me a little bit sad to think about the year coming to a close. But I think I’m just really glad to have experienced and be in this family of really, really special people,” said Wilson.

Latham hoped that audience members could take away more from Fidelio’s performance than just the music.

“Realize that what you create and what you are a part of at Andover is not forever, and you have to take that and use all of the time you had and be in the moment and be a part of it,” said Latham.

McGirt shared a similar sentiment to Latham, further elaborating on the message Fidelio hoped to convey through its performance.

“Really appreciate the family that you have and whether that be by blood, or by choice. Really don’t let go of them... Don’t take life for granted,” said McGirt.

Implicit Racism and Familial Dynamics: DramaLabs Explores Complex, Sentimental Themes

WENDI YING AND
AVA CHEN

The stage lighting reddened as Jason, played by Iwo Wicinski ’24, argued with his South Asian girlfriend, Mahika, played by Mira Patodia ’26, over racist comments he had made. “Speak Up,” directed and written by Kashvi Ramani ’24, strove to bare and explore such issues of internalized racism through the tense dynamic between Jason and Mahik. Audience member Zadie Robinson ’26 talked about what she thought of Ramani’s play.



I.PADWAMAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Justin Parker ’24, Bianca Morales ’24, and SOMEONE

“I thought the first act where my friend, Kashvi...directed it, it was really good. I remember afterwards my friend next to me, he was telling me how he wanted it to be a Netflix show because it was genuinely one of the best things I’ve ever watched,” said Robinson.

Last Friday’s DramaLabs consisted of three short plays and a stand-up comedy act by Owen Cheng ’23. Sebastian Lemberger ’25 directed a skit called “Family Ties,” which revolved around a mother and daughter relationship. After her cousin tragically passes away, the daughter refuses to attend his funeral, giving

rise to complex explorations of familial tensions. Lemberger commented on the more sentimental nature of this DramaLabs in particular.

“I think one of the more unique things about this act within last week’s DramaLabs was that it was not really a comedy to the extent that a lot of the other stuff that was performed was. It was slightly a more introspective play, I think,” said Lemberger.

Ramani recruited Wicinski to play the male lead of her play, while Patodia responded to an open invite for South Asian women to play the female lead, and ultimately got the part. She oversaw four to five rehearsals with Wicinski and Patodia over a two-week period, practicing blocking, staging, and lighting in addition to memorizing lines.

“A memorable part was just sitting down with Iwo and Mira and discussing with them their characters and their interpretations of their characters. And it was really, really inspiring to see that they had grasped my script so well. And they were so interested in learning more about the South Asian Struggle, which we were talking to Iwo about in our own descriptions of being both Indian,” said Ramani.

Despite being initially nervous and new to acting, Patodia felt that Ramani, along with others involved in DramaLabs, were really helpful in streamlining the process for her. She reflected on rehearsing in the Theater Classroom, experimenting with different lighting effects, sound effects, and prop work. Overall, Patodia felt that the process ran really smoothly.

“At the beginning, I was really scared. I’m sure it was also because I was acting with someone who was an actor. So it was nerve wracking for me because he knows what he’s doing, but I don’t. But after some time, I became more comfortable. It also helped because I was friends with Kashvi, so she made it more comfortable for me in the space. It became really fun toward the end because I got to know the both of them better,” said Pato-



I.PADWAMAR/THE PHILLIPIAN
Mira LAST NAME and Iwo Wicinski

dia.

The Producers, directors, and performers faced various challenges throughout the process. For Lemberger, one of his actors quit, so he needed to recast. For Ramani, she wasn’t certain on the performance date, requiring flexibility on the directors’ and actors’ parts.

“We weren’t sure which day we were gonna do it on. So we had to be prepared for anything. So we could have had to do it by the end of that week or we could have done it two weeks after that. We ended up doing something in the middle, which was preferable, but it was very up in the air there,” said Ramani.

Overall, though, Ramani and Lemberger felt their plays and the overall DramaLabs

ran smoothly and successfully. Lemberger also commented on Cheng’s stand-up routine, as he was a “mainstay” in the DramaLabs program and this was his last performance as a Senior. Ramani reflected on the audience’s reception of her play.

“My actors did amazing and they didn’t forget any of their lines and blocking went pretty well. And the audience reaction was really great because they gasped every single time he said anything remotely racist. It was really good. I feel like it really was hard hitting for the audience members especially, and for the actors [to] see everything they did come to fruition,” said Ramani.

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Met Gala 2023: Best and Worst Dressed

TINA ZENG

The 2023 Met Gala — a PR dream for celebrities, high fashion brands, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art — glittered with designs honoring Karl Lagerfeld, a late designer who most notably directed and designed Chanel from 1983 until his death. The body is a canvas, and last night, it was art. Today, I will impose my opinion on the best and worst dressed celebrities of the night to celebrate fashion (in no particular order), while ignoring his controversies. Read the upcoming editorial to learn more about Lagerfeld's problematic past.

BEST:
Janelle Monáe: Monáe's transformation, from delightful and high-fashion tweed coat to sexy and playful bikini, will

live in my memory forever. In particular, the Thom Browne coat — with its artful contrast, mismatched textures, and adorable Choupette bag — makes me want to hug something. Anything. I feel an emotional response to this acute and cohesive transformation.

Jared Leto: By far my favorite look of the night, Leto burst onto the (non) red carpet in a furry costume of Lagerfeld's cat Choupette (@choupetteofficial). The huge, and freakishly realistic, animal prowled about anonymously before ripping its head off to reveal Leto's smaller one. (It's important to ridicule ridiculous things like the Met Gala.) As iconic as this look already is, Leto's caped ensemble — the sleek black and varied textures — also dazzled the night with its intricate details and silhouette.

Jenna Ortega: Embracing her

signature goth style and Lagerfeld's high-collar Chanel, Ortega's Thom Browne corset dress is artfully accessorized with gold chains, interlocked pearls, and white accents. It's both vibrant and dark. Paired with a minimally adorned hairstyle, Ortega looks like the fallen angel of dark academia. I would definitely sell my soul for her.

Conan Gray: The art deco fan, pearl details, crisp silhouette, and heeled leather boots. Every element of Gray's outfit harmonizes with the others, flowing from his dark curls to the sequined coat train. No polyester in sight.

Anne Hathaway: In line with modern trends towards "reconstructed" pieces (like Janelle Monáe's Thom Browne), Anne Hathaway's pearly and intricate Versace gown was love at first sight. The deep slit between sleek panels of fabric, held together by gold safety pins, exude a vintage elegance. Her Bulgari necklace also softly balanced the outfit's top and bottom heavy design.

WORST:

Kendall Jenner & Kim Kardashian: I'm honestly impressed by the Kardashian family's ability to look cheap, tacky, and still hot, based solely on physique. Every year, they dress as the vapid and lifeless roles they occupy in pop culture. Whether or not they are to blame for their image, Jenner and Kardashian never seem to try for anything artistic.

Bradley Cooper/Tom Ford/Hugh Jackman/Seth Meyers: Every year, a slew of A-list celebrity men attend the Met Gala in straight black suits. With the resources of powerhouse designers and overwhelming fame, they continue to dress like Andover students on Casino Night. A low pass, at best.

Jack Harlow: Hey, Jack. Are you okay? You can't roll up to the red carpet in a too-small tweed almost-suit and expect the (admittedly elegant) red peek-a-boo to carry your outfit to the bare minimum, let alone fashion.

Maude Apatow: Maude Apatow might be attending the Met

Gala, or the fitting room of a strip-mall Macy's. The neckline, hairstyle, and diamond-crusted cutouts scream of Disney-extrat-prom.

Jimin: Oh, Jimin — BTS pop star who dashed the dreams of so many Army fans when he skipped the party. But who knows, maybe the Met Gala is exactly what it looks to be on screen: a flashy marketing bonanza by the filthy rich for the disgustingly beautiful. Basically, not such a loss for an international sensation like Jimin. (Although, to be clear, I would wholeheartedly sell my kidney to attend the Met Gala.)

HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Doja Cat: High fashion [expletive].



PATRICIA TRAN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Anok Yai: In her Prabal Gurung mini gown, Yai glows in the most literal way possible. Her glistening body makes it difficult to blink, but upon a closer look, the actual dress appears confused about its own silhouette.

Michelle Yeoh: Almost a white button-down, Yeoh's voluminous gown cascades in elegant panels and layers. The drama of her sleeves and her thick diamond jewelry only elevate the already classy and graceful outfit. All except the boots, which I'm still trying to understand.

Editor's Note: Tina Zeng is a Commentary Editor for The Phillipian.



PATRICIA TRAN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Pianist Evan Huang '23 Incorporates Unusual Percussive Elements in Performance

SOPHIE TUNG

Evan Huang '23's hands flitted across the piano, the shine of the fall board reflecting the blur of fingers. Across the stage, Huang's piano teacher Mila Filatova played the orchestral part on the piano alongside him. The student and teacher complemented each other, notes blending together in perfect harmony as they brought to an end the last piece of the evening.

Throughout his career as a pianist, this Senior Recital was the longest solo recital Huang performed in. Huang described that he found this as a challenge not only because he had to familiarize and perfect each piece but also since he had to maintain his focus throughout an hour-long recital. Despite his challenges, he expressed that he found himself enjoying the performance towards the end.

"I think it went pretty well. I think that [in] the beginning, it was a little hard for me to get into the rhythm of it but I think afterward, especially with the Bolcom and the Concerto at the end, I was really enjoying myself instead of worrying about if I would mess up or anything like that," said Huang.

Huang performed a total of seven pieces, each with their unique features. When choosing pieces to include in his Senior Recital, Huang reflected that he selected pieces from different periods, from classical pieces composed by Bach and contemporary music composed by Eleanor Alberga. Huang expands on the reason for performing this diverse repertoire.

"I think the point was to



COURTESY OF EVAN HUANG

Evan Huang '23 performed seven pieces that was a mix classical and contemporary music.

showcase all of the different unique aspects of each period of music. For specific pieces, the Haydn I think is supposed to be [a] very funny, sort of lighthearted piece so you can't really take each part of it seriously. Which is difficult to do when you're performing and you're trying to be serious and everything, but there's certain parts where you have to let yourself see the humor in the piece a little bit," said Huang.

In one particular piece, "The Serpent's Kiss," Huang

incorporated the clicking of his mouth and tapping his knuckles on the piano. He chose this piece in part because of the unique aspect of using more than just the notes of the piano but also because of the dramatic dynamic changes in the piece: in the opening, the right hand is playing soft notes while the left hand contrasts this but switching between forte and piano.

"I love how he incorporated multiple aspects of music into [the] piano, whether it

was the tapping of the piano board or even the clicking of his mouth. It was just really fascinating," said audience member Eliza Francis '26.

Reflecting on his musical career at Andover, Huang regrets that he was not more involved with music as a lower-classman. The main obstacle was Covid-19, which restricted his performing opportunities. Throughout the past two years, he participated in chamber music and found that he valued the opportunity to play with other people.

"Just to see all of the people who showed up who are very supportive. And also to be able to play not only our piece but also see the other groups perform. I think that was a really great experience for me," Huang said.

According to Huang, every performing experience was a small step to his growth as a musician. Playing in competitions and recitals allowed him to gain experience performing in front of people and helped him overcome his stage fright. Furthermore, being open with his teacher about his view of certain pieces and how practice is going has helped him improve.

"I would say, just one thing for anyone who's interested in music or interested in performing. I think it's just a good idea to perform a lot whenever you have the opportunity... I, myself, wish that I had reached out more to be able to have more performance opportunities. But I think performing is good both to improve yourself and just because it's something enjoyable."

As Huang looked back on his career as a pianist, he felt that this recital was the perfect close to his musical career at Andover.

"I think, first, to be able to have such a big recital with mainly my pieces and be able to choose the pieces I play and also to have a sort of musical event to kind of cap off my experience at Andover. It's been four years, and I think it's great that I get to share my music in this special form with the community one last time," said Huang.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

“Pay Attention to What You Love and Share It”: Ross Gay Demystifies Poetry

SOPHIE TUNG

Reading “An Abundance of Public Toilets” from a collection of short essays called “The Book of Delights,” visiting writer Ross Gay elicited laughter and applause from the Andover community. In addition to the humorous essays, Gay read aloud poems and initiated profound conversation with his audience in his reading last Friday in Kemper Auditorium, according to Eric Wang ’25.

“I was surprised by how relatable he was. I know a lot of his poems are down to Earth, but I was surprised by how cool he was in general. He’s very in-tune with the audience and could vibe with the entire room... The remarks he read during the reading. He didn’t strictly adhere to what he wrote and made small comments here and there where he found appropriate. It felt more natural,” said Wang.

Audience member Chloe Kim ’25 echoed Wang’s comment about the accessibility of Gay’s presentation, elaborating on how he moved away from presenting poetry as an esoteric or “high-sounding” genre.

“Seeing him as a poet demystifying poetry, making it more accessible for people made me connect and feel the same way. Sensing the relatability was very cool because this is the first time I went to a poetry reading... Poetry isn’t some abstract, high-sounding effort. He deals with deep human and profound things and drowns it in concrete detail. This is something I took away for my own writing as well,” said Kim.

Many of Andover’s English teachers included Gay’s writing in their curriculum. For example, Claire Wang ’26 created an English video project incorporating her favorite poem by Gay, “Ode to the Fig Tree on Ninth and Christian.” Wang appreciated the welcoming and casual nature of Gay’s reading.

“It felt so wholesome and cute to see people not being against each other and people being together to enjoy something so simple — eating figs. It reminds me of my grandma’s community back in China. Everyone knew each other, shared fruit and the grandpas smoked together,” said Claire.

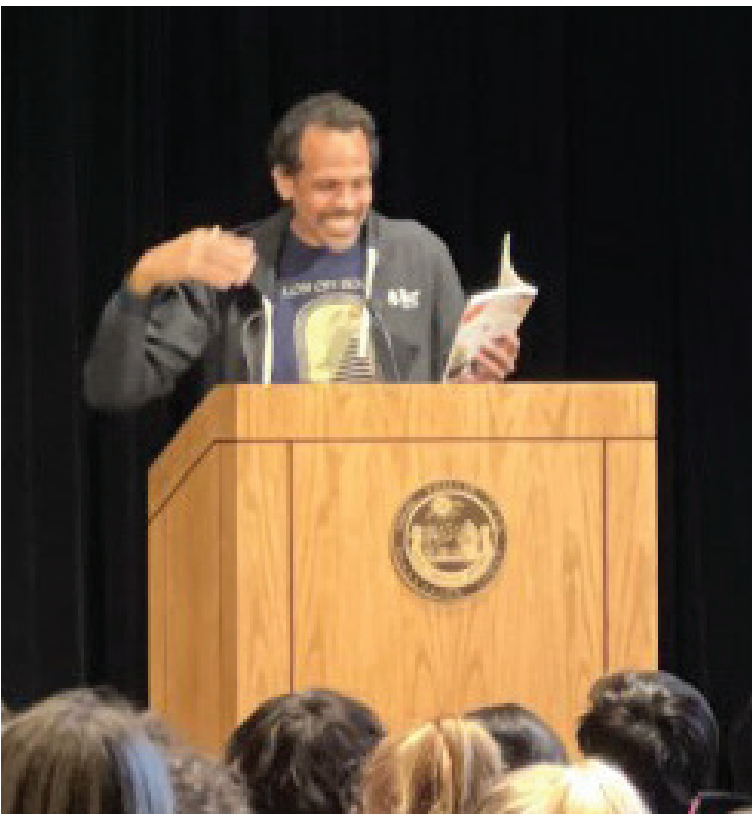
Eric also touched on the emotional nuance that Gay conveyed through his reading, such as com-

paring the tragedy of death with the wistful happiness of life.

“He read a lot from his ‘Book of Delights.’ It made me feel delighted, but there were also some other different emotions mixed together. There were brief moments he talked about someone’s death, but at the same time, you could also feel the joy that person brought into the world, so you’re not completely sad either,” said Wang.

After reading several of his poems, Gay hosted a question and answer session with the audience. He believed the session gave him an opportunity to listen to the audience — a connection he described as “beautiful.” Overall, Gay aimed to help students develop a sense of care and wonder around poetry.

“Someone asked a question about performance and I said one of the ways you learn how to read is to listen to the audience. It’s not just the audience listening to you but also you listening to the audience. During the Q&A session afterwards, we were trying hard to listen to each other, which was so beautiful. Reading can sometimes be like that... [I encourage students to] pay attention to what you love and share it,” said Gay.



E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Many Andover English instructors use the work of Gay in their classes.

Functional Streetwear: The Daring Aesthetic of Madison Yuan ’23

LANGAN GARRETT

Combining statement tops with a classic low-rise jean skirt, and black boots Madison Yuan ’23 is not afraid to add character into basic outfits. Her experimental aesthetic takes elements from Y2K and streetwear styles.

Despite her unconventional clothing choices, according to Yuan, she never sacrifices practicality for style. In addition to factors like the day’s weather, Yuan takes into account her activities for the day while planning outfits, as well as switching up her style across the week.

“Say I wear low rise jeans one day, the next day I might opt for high rise or a skirt or something [else]... If I know that I have dance later that day, then I will try to incorporate more athleisure items. If I know there are meetings or something like that, then I might try for a more ‘girl-boss’ look,” explained Yuan.

One of Yuan’s favorite accessories is her jade cricket necklace, which her mom gifted her when she was little. She often wears this necklace as a good luck charm on tests. Yuan described her cricket necklace as her overall mantra surrounding staple pieces in outfits.

“I’m kind of superstitious and I think that it brings good luck. I really do like it. It’s green and has a green string... When I build an outfit, I pick an item that I know I want to wear, and then I will build the outfit around



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Yuan’s top priority in her fashion is practicality, as she always makes sure she is dressed conductively to her daily activities.

that. So it could be a top that I really want to wear that day, or maybe shoes I want to wear that day, or a certain necklace or something,” said

Yuan.

Yuan credits her biggest fashion inspirations as supermodel Bella Hadid and online influencer Emma Cham-

berlain. Both women enjoy bold, colorful looks inspired by ’90s streetwear, but also opt for more formal designs at times. Furthermore, Yuan explained how she draws inspiration from friends’ styles.

“Some of my closest friends from [Hong Kong] have influenced my style. I think that you get a lot of inspiration from the people that you see around in a city, and also I have a friend who is really stylish, and I take a lot of inspiration from her... Overtime, I have tried to put a kind of functional twist on it,” said Yuan.

Tara Wei ’25, one of Yuan’s friends, touched on Yuan’s inspirational streetwear aesthetic. Moreover, Wei discussed the confident and unconventional nature of Yuan’s fashion.

“It’s very streetwear, but in a more elevated way... It brings some elements of almost the ’90s, and that sort of style and aesthetic... She definitely has more clothes, and is not afraid to wear different statement pieces, unusual styles, and overall things that are not super basic and conventional,” said Wei.

Looking towards the future, Yuan hopes to continue stepping out of her comfort zone and taking on risks with more daring or unconventional pieces. She hopes to “channel [her] creativity” through experimenting with new styles and techniques of self-expression through clothing.

“I want to take more risks, try and be more creative and you know, when I see a funky pair of pants at a thrift store, like ‘that’s cool, but I could never wear that, or style it,’ I want to buy it. I want to be that person that buys it, takes that risk, and isn’t afraid of the challenge,” said Yuan.



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Yuan prefers to rotate pairs of shoes throughout the week to add more variety to her weekly look.

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