

Evolution of Halloween at Andover: The Dance, Abbotween, and Pumpkin Carving

JONATHAN OH & SAYA JAMESON

The Halloween Dance, Abbotween, and pumpkin carving were some of the most popular and longstanding traditions that students participated in this past week. With flashy costumes, games, and plenty of candy, Halloween at Andover is one of the biggest weekend events of the year. Christopher Capano, Director of Student Activities, spoke on the most prominent Halloween traditions observed at Andover and how they have changed over the years. He touched on the details and planning that went into these events and how the Student Activities Office has contributed to encouraging cultures and traditions that come with Halloween. “[This] Friday night we did pumpkin carving, and we had tarot readers here. I think we carved 150 pumpkins; it was pretty popular... We started doing pumpkin carving right when I started working here. [For] our annual Halloween Dance, Pine Knoll and Flagstaff students from their Cluster Councils do all the decorating, but getting the DJs, the space, and the photo-booth was my end of helping out. The Halloween dance has

been around since before I got here... [Then], [Taylor] Washburn, [Dean of Abbot Cluster], and folks in Abbot are doing Abbotween, which [is] a Phillips Academy trick-or-treating night,” said Capano. Brandon Fu ’25 spoke on what events he enjoyed participating in on Halloween during his time here, highlighting the Abbotween candy. “Normally, everyone goes down to Abbot Cluster to get a bunch of candy from all the Abbot dorms; it’s something that the Abbot Co-Pres[idents have] set up and it’s a really fun event. My Freshman year, I went, got a lot of candy and afterward Brace Center was open and they had some apple cider there too... Everybody wears their costumes on Friday and Saturday to the dance which was really fun as well. I feel like people put a lot of effort into [costumes]. It’s always fun seeing people walk around with unique costumes,” said Fu. Fu mentioned conversations around guidelines for Halloween costumes that he’s seen reiterated. “They’ve done a better job of this every year, but really

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I. PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Halloween decorations adorn parts of campus.

Students, Faculty, and OPP Highlight Importance of Proper Disposal Procedures

NIKI TAVAKOLI & SELENE XU

A message from the Office of Physical Plant (OPP) was relayed in weekly Cluster Memos to students last week noting an uptick in clogged plumbing. In an email from Austin Washington, Dean of Flagstaff Cluster, sent on October 23, the OPP reiterated proper disposal protocols and included a list of items that students should not flush down drains. According to Larry Muench, Director of Facilities, OPP has been responding to accounts of clogged toilet drains in faculty residences and dormitories and elaborated on the process of resolving the issue. Along with inappropriate materials being flushed down toilets or poured down drains, Muench also attributed part of the problem to the design of the toilets. “We first send an OPP Plumber to rectify, but most of the time the clog is so severe that we need to hire an outside company to clear the drain. It’s costly, time-consuming, and can also damage the drain system... [In addition], we install low-flow devices which are now required by the Building Code and this contributes to the problem. The lower flow toilets don’t use the amount of water the old fixture did and items tend to hang in the piping system,” wrote Muench in an email to *The Phillipian*. Murewa Biyi-Olaoye ’27 detailed a myriad of troubles her dorm, Johnson House, has had

with clogged drains since the beginning of the year. Biyi-Olaoye commented on how it was oftentimes to identify the exact cause of the clogs. “Our sink in the basement once got clogged because a bunch of food got in there, and for some reason, we don’t know what happened, but one of our showers started leaking...so we had to get that fixed. We’re not sure what exactly happened... Then, one of our toilets got clogged, so...someone had to use the plunger. We’re not sure what happened there either,” said Biyi-Olaoye. Jaylen Daley ’25 commented on how drain clogs also disrupt students’ hygiene routines and daily lives. He noted the challenges students in the Pine Knoll cluster face during the yearly pipe cleanings, and emphasized the disruption a bigger plug could potentially cause. “If you were to ask someone that lives in [Nathan] Hale or in Fuess, whenever the pipes are being cleared or drained or something’s going on with the system, the water turns brown, the sink gets bad, and some people can’t use the shower, some people aren’t brushing their teeth. It does change the hygiene habits of a lot of kids. I know there were people who last year had to go to Snyder [Center] from Pine Knoll [Cluster] in order to take showers and stuff like that, so some people just chose

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Honorees of 2023 Alumni Award of Distinction Share High School Experiences at ASM



A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Pictured above from left to right is Paula Caballero ’80, Elaine Finbury AA’68, and Peter Saji ’96.

BAILEY XU & ALLEGRA LEE

Sustainability advocate Paula Caballero ’80, historic preservationist Elaine Finbury AA’68, and television writer Peter Saji ’96 received the 2023 Andover Alumni Award of Distinction at All-School Meeting (ASM) on October 27. The award is distributed by the Alumni Council annually to Andover and Abbot graduates “who have served with distinction in their fields of endeavor.” *The Phillipian* has written on the alumni experiences visiting classes on page A5. The writer of the sitcoms “Black-ish” and “Mixed-ish,” Saji had always harbored a passion

for creative writing, but only discovered filmmaking during his last term at Andover. Through an elective about video production, Saji produced his first short film and screened it at a film festival at the end of the term. He described how that experience sparked his love for filmmaking. “I remember sitting in the very back row so I could see the entire auditorium watching the movie, and I was so nervous about how they were going to react to it. I was just very invested in the success of this short film. And the people really dug it. I remember exhaling and realizing I [was] holding my breath. It was a joke film, people were cheering or laughing, and I remember thinking: This is what I want to do,” said Saji.

Saji discussed his writing process and the evolution of his pieces. He mentioned how he focuses on telling a story through his writing, rather than contriving a story to accommodate one particular message. “[Writing] is about the story. If there’s a message that naturally comes out of this story, then that’s great to me. But especially at times right now, where things are so polarized, I feel like more than ever, it’s important not to shy away from things. It’s important to start with a story. The universal story can connect people, but a message

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Bink-A-Thon Brings Warmth to Children in Need

SAKETH LINGISETTY & ZACHARY YUAN

In the depths of the forest, the rhythmic click of scissors and sewing needles culminated in the creation of over 90 blankets for children in need. This past Saturday, members of the Andover community gathered in the Cochran Sanctuary Log Cabin to create quilts and blankets for Binky Patrol — a non-profit organization that donates blankets to children who are ill, in foster care, or faced with emergencies. The annual Bink-A-Thon event was hosted by Andover’s Community Engagement program as a Non sibi 365 project. For over eight years, the event has produced hundreds of blankets from the combined efforts of students, faculty, and staff volunteers. Cheryl Douty, Art Store Manager, shared her experience attending as a seamstress. Douty, who has attended the Bink-A-Thon in previous years, highlighted Binky Patrol’s commitment to providing students and faculty with the opportunity to help those in need outside of Andover.



L. DE BOER/THE PHILLIPIAN

“[The] cabin was a nice place to make blankets. It felt homey. There was a true excitement in the air as we were split into separate groups to do the cutting, tying, and sewing. We had a lofty goal to make 150 blankets. We counted upwards of 92 that were either complete or in the process of being completed. Since we only had three hours with changing shifts, I think we were quite successful. What kept us going was the knowledge these blankets would comfort children caught up in violence,” said Douty.

Attendee Sydney Jan ’26 described how the event offered her a unique opportunity to work with other communities. She compared the event to her prior experiences helping out kids. “I went to this service because I saw it in an email and I was interested because I used to help kids back in Hong Kong and I wanted to do the same thing here but through different means. I feel that

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Filipino-American Heritage Month Event Provides Safe Space for Students and Faculty

JAY JUNG & ANDREW CAI

Asian Women Empowerment (AWE), Asian Society, and Taking a Deep Dive celebrated the closing of Filipino-American Heritage Month in the Underwood Room on October 29. Ever since the first celebration of Filipino-American Heritage Month in 1992, this special commemoration has marked an important date of independence for the Filipino population. The event consisted of a general orientation and an information session from two guest speakers: Mark Pulido, the first Filipino-American mayor of Cerritos, California, and Maria Graciela Alcid, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Practitioner at BB&N,

shared their perspectives on the deep-rooted history and discrimination of Filipinos in America and communicated the history of development in the recognition of Filipino-American immigration. As a Filipino-American educator and speaker advocating for Filipino-identifying populations, Alcid emphasized the importance of this event to only Filipino-identifying students and the overall student body at Andover. “I met with five PA students who [were in the] affinity space before this...and we talked about creating connection and looking at connection as, like, a pre-colonial sort of concept of shared inner belonging. I said, ‘Look, you have shared with me about what you’re learning about Filipino American history,

and now you get to do it as a part of the majority with this dedicated time and space,” said Alcid. Alcid continued by stressing the importance of self-reflection when creating a space to engage in Filipino history amongst limited time and priorities. “One, continue to ask questions as you learn more about your history. If you get stuck on something, how do you embrace that as a portal for deeper understanding? Whose story is not represented and why? The power of a question simply to introduce a change of thinking is really powerful... The second part is

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Commentary, A2

On Staying Informed

Grace Kim ’27 stresses the importance of a delicate balancing act: staying informed in our current world while protecting one’s mental health.

Eighth Page, A8

Attention Freshmen

Stay out of Silent.

Sports, B1

Boys Cross Country

Boys Cross Country places first by two points in a five-team meet at Northfield Mount Hermon.

Arts, B6

Chinese Karaoke

Last Friday evening, students from all levels of Chinese classes prepared and performed a song, showcasing their Chinese learning, rapping skills, and choreography.

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Editorial

Campus is Beauti-fall

Whether it was on a tour or during registration, every student has had a first time that they have stepped onto campus. A variety of things may have stood out: the armillary sphere sitting out on the Great Lawn, the bell tower on the horizon as you drove in, or Sam Phil at the end of the vista. Campus is full of things that awe students on first arrival, but these campus monuments do not stay topics of conversation for long. After some time, they seem to lose their novelty, replaced by academics and other stressors, and instead of looking up at Andover's campus, students start walking with their eyes cast down on their phones.

Regardless of how long you've been a student at Andover, however, the board believes that there is always plenty to appreciate on campus. Even if you're walking the same path, the foliage changes with the season, squirrels run up trees, and flower buds bloom in the spring after the ice thaws. Racing from one class to another during the school year, even the scarce moments between commitments are consumed by our need to be productive, but there is a healthier way to spend these moments. Instead of reloading our Canvas page or emailing our teacher, we can spend the minutes between classes or back to the dorm following the retreating sunset or gazing at the great, old trees.

This is admittedly difficult. Nonetheless, attempting to block out Andover during quiet moments is the first step. To appreciate the beauty that exists on this campus, we must choose to actively observe the ground, the trees, and the sky, to make the difficult, yet rewarding decision to practice the art of noticing. We all have preconceived images of an orange sunset and pillaring trees, but a true appreciation of beauty comes from simply noticing what's there. Through the art of observation, each day presents a new landscape, and so the novelty of this campus' beauty should never expire.

This seems like an intimidating task, with no

obvious starting points, so here are some ways that the board tries to appreciate the campus. One method we discussed was to walk around campus as if you're looking for a good photo to send to friends, searching for the perfect angle or frame. By looking at nature with this attitude, it's more natural to notice the sunset peeking above the horizon or the wizen shape of the branches ono that tree you always walk past. Another way is to let yourself be present in the moment. Give yourself a good five to ten minutes to just exist without the expectation of doing work or going to meetings. Be aware of your surroundings, give the world around you your most undivided attention, see things the way they are, not the way you think they should be.

Campus can be beautiful, but only if we allow ourselves to see truly see it. At the same time, we must acknowledge and show gratitude towards those who maintain the natural landscape at Andover. Appreciating our campus also means appreciating all the effort that goes into its maintenance. Like friends and other parts of campus, our time here will come and go, and it's a privilege to be at Andover. Take a moment and take in the view.

Staying Informed in a Hectic World

GRACE KIM



Amidst the devastating conflict between Israel and Palestine, a plethora of news reports on shootings happening across The United States of America, and the abundance of other current catastrophes, it is easy to feel an impending sense of doom. In fact, with all the anxiety and stress you feel just by looking at the headlines, it seems much easier to stay blissful in ignorance. As much as I want to tell you to do so, to simply hide away in a little bubble, as long as people are suffering in the world, it is vital for us to be educated — through the news and by the victims themselves — on what is happening to them and advocate for change. But there is a way to manage both your mental health and keep updated with the news: careful discernment of where you source your information and taking breaks when you need it.

I believe that one of our greatest traits as humans is our empathy. Empathy drives people to help strangers, allows people to relate to one another, and increases cooperation among people to work towards a given goal. Howev-



NATHAN WU / THE PHILLIPIAN

er, empathy only comes from comprehension. A person cannot feel empathy for a person in a situation that they do not understand. Which is precisely why staying informed is so crucial. By being aware of what is going on in the world around us, we are equipped to help others. With information, we have the option of becoming active contributors, no matter how small, in the efforts to bring safety to those devastated by tragedy. For example, once equipped with knowledge of what is going on, you can advocate for change or start petitions and donations to aid in rehabilitation efforts for the victims.

However, it is important to not indulge only in statistics and data. Although our brains may understand the numbers given, to truly comprehend, we must go deeper and educate ourselves on the whole situation. Since only the victims are able to accurately describe what they felt, in order to empathize with them truly,

we must listen to their voices. The easiest way to do that is to search for interviews or posts where they detail their experience. By being better equipped with reliable information we can make decisions that will advance our global society and spur positive change that will lead to a more harmonious society.

As important as it is to stay informed, I also understand that the truth can get very overwhelming and so I urge you to take measures to protect your own mental health. One way to do that is to get your news from credible sources. While the advancement of technology has made obtaining information far easier, it has also made the regulation of them that much harder. This is mostly due to the number of unqualified people who were given access to post content on the internet. Therefore, you, as a consumer of the media, must take steps to make sure your

resources are reliable. Non-regulated platforms such as social media tend to amplify the shock value of events to gain more views and are fear-mongering. On the other hand, verified news outlets often give only relevant details that will set the foundation for one's understanding. This basis allows you to be in control of how to curate a more holistic perspective through research.

Additionally, take some time to decompress. Determine before tuning into the news, whether you are in a state in which you can regulate your emotions. If you are not in a healthy place, take a break and center yourself. Even in daily life, balance out the time you spend getting the news by also doing activities that bring you joy. For example, what I like to do when I feel overwhelmed is to talk with my friends or family about the topic that is causing me stress. The conversa-

Determine before tuning into the news, whether you are in a state in which you can regulate your emotions.

tions I have allow me to see the situation more clearly and interpret the facts in a different light. Remember, that it is natural to be affected by what is happening in the news and it is by no means selfish of you to put yourself first at times.

Even though it is hard and takes effort, being knowledgeable of world events is crucial. I urge you to be curious and actively expose yourself to the news while protecting your mental health and well-being. It is a delicate practice and I, by no means, have all the answers. But by consistently verifying the credibility of your sources, and taking time off when it is needed, you are already one step closer to finding that balance between staying informed and minimizing the negative effects that news can have on your mental health.

Grace Kim is a Junior from Seoul, South Korea. Contact the author at gkim27@andover.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor: Unity in the Face of Conflict

This letter intends to depolarize the recent conversations in the Andover community sparked by new advances in the Israel and Palestine Conflict. We, Muslim Student Association (MSA), Southwest Asian and North African Society (SWANA), and Jewish Student Union (JSU) Co-Heads are here to declare our unity and support for each other, and our hopes for the Andover community.

The conflict between Palestine and Israel stretches across decades of history. It is rooted in the responses to anti-semitism and genocide of the Holocaust. It is rooted

in the subsequent attempt to overtake Palestine and the displacement of Palestinians to Gaza and the West Bank. More so, neighboring countries, such as Egypt and Syria, have too been impacted. Broader powers, such as the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, often have additional political interests in this quarrel for diplomatic and material benefits.

Our initial silence within the school stems from fear of how we would be perceived and the challenges of lacking a large student-affiliation with our spaces. With an absence of Arab and Muslim faculty and minimal courses on this important, global re-

gion, Andover has not been a place to facilitate conversation about these identities. We want to garner action throughout campus—with power and reach to inform the student body.

We condemn the violence on all fronts: the humanitarian crisis, the families being forced to flee, and all the people suffering in the face of this politically charged conflict. We hope to push for critical inquiry, rather than be divided by binary perspectives. If an individual supports Palestinians, that does not mean they support Hamas's actions. Similarly, the support of Israeli citizens does not equate

to supporting Israel's military occupation of Palestine. It is important to make distinctions between the People of Palestine and the Hamas terrorist group, and the People of Israel and the Israeli Government.

We ask the Andover Community to lead with openness and sensitivity as we navigate this humanitarian conflict. We want to express our solidarity towards all groups on campus that are hurting by opening up to the community to have opportunities for an inclusive and informative dialogue. We acknowledge that this is a challenging conflict to understand, and our unity

is crucial in facilitating education towards our communities. Per Andover's values, we ultimately ask that you all lead with global understanding, humility, and compassion towards others. We are stronger as one.

Signed by:
The Co-Heads of MSA, The Co-Heads of JSU, and The Co-Heads of SWANA

Editor's Note: The print version of this article differs from the online version.

A Response to Dr. Kington and the School's New Policy

We, members of the Andover Jewish community, want to address the faculty, trustees, and broader Andover community about our deep disappointment in the administration's derogation, hypocrisy, and failure to uphold Andover's core values over the past month. We are profoundly hurt by the lack of action and disagree with Dr. Kington's defense of neutrality, published in *The Phillipian* on October 20, 2023.

Andover's lack of response and statements to anti-semitism, both now and in the past, contributes to Jewish students feeling unwelcome. In the past two years alone, Andover has made at least 8 public statements in response to major events. Andover has taken a stance on civil rights issues, foreign wars, and countless other major events, yet never anti-semitism. Let us remind the school that they failed to publicly speak out against the anti-semitism of the Charlottesville riots of 2017 and the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting of 2018.

Now, we are told that under a new policy, Andover will refrain from making as many statements as in the past. Yet, the first and only time we are aware that this new policy has been enforced is now, as Andover again refrains from commenting on acts of anti-semitism.

Even under the administration's new policy, however, we contend that it is still fitting for a school statement on the October 7 Hamas attack and rising anti-semitism around the globe. As detailed by our Chief Communications Officer, Ms. Tracy Sweet, in the Spring 2023 issue of Independent School, the following questions must be answered by a committee before recommending a statement to the Head of School:

“Does it directly affect our campus community, families, and alumni?”

To this, we argue yes. Andover alumni and fam-

ily members were unaware of the campus response, but they trusted the school with the care of their children. At several points, parents have been unsure about the safety of their kids, a reflection of anti-semitism at other institutions. Beyond that, a targeted attack against Jews — an extreme minority — affects the Andover Jewish Community. To say it does not denies the antisemitic intentions of the attack. If any ethnic minority group faced a day of mass execution anywhere in the world, it would deeply affect that minority group everywhere in the world, including our campus. The administration is heavily mistaken if they do not believe Jewish students, faculty, and alumni were affected by the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Several of us had family members or friends who either died or are now in extreme harm's way.

“Is Andover compelled by the school's values to share the school's position?”

To this, we argue yes. We believe this falls under our value of Knowledge and Goodness: the union of intellect and integrity to guide and prepare students for a lifetime of learning and application for the greater good. It is under this value, that we equip our students with the tools to stand up against hate, racism, and bigotry around the world. We believe the school is equally compelled to guide students to stand up against anti-semitism. Part of that guidance is taking a stance. Let us remind Dr. Kington of his words in his Investiture speech in the spring of 2022, “I believe that an essential part of that education is the ideas, including ideas that some of us may find to be odious. I don't aim for a false notion of neutrality. I am not neutral on many controversial issues, especially those that are tied to our values and our mission. For those issues, in particular, we as an institution should not strive to be

neutral.” Why is Dr. Kington neutral now? He also said, “I want...this school [to] change and constantly aspire to become better, to remain relevant and to lead in a changing world.” Are we to infer that Dr. Kington believes in leading through silence, or that he has given up on his vision for this school and our values, not a year and a half later?

“Would some students, faculty, or staff feel ignored or silenced, their opinions unwelcome?”

To this, we argue no. On the contrary, we believe that it is the lack of a school response that has instead silenced teachers. Without direction or permission from the administration, many have voiced frustration, not knowing what is acceptable to discuss in their class. Beyond the classroom, we add that this is not about the geo-political issues of Israel/Palestine, but Hamas. Hamas' attack was one of anti-semitism, supported by their charter to kill Jews around the world. To argue students, faculty, or staff would feel their opinions unwelcome would be to openly welcome anti-semitism on our campus.

In answering these questions, under Andover's new policy, a statement is warranted. But what is the true value of making a statement, and what was the administration's true intention behind this new policy? It is a shame that Dr. Kington believes Andover has been “pressed” to make statements in the past, rather than making them because it was the right thing to do. It is also a shame that he feels a statement denouncing anti-semitism would be “superficial,” implying the school has no intention of addressing its own history of anti-semitism. Saying a statement has no substance without action is a copout for taking action itself.

We believe that there is another reason for the new policy, one which Ms. Tracy Sweet alluded to, but did not mention directly, “no matter what

a school says or does not say, someone will disagree with its statement... reactions range from thoughtful disagreement to alumni threatening to withhold donations because they do not support the school's stated position.” As we look around at other secondary and higher education institutions, we see a myriad of responses to public statements, some of which do include either student protests or pulled donations. Therefore, we conclude that Andover chooses to not make a statement now, not because of any policy, but out of fear of a negative response. To that, we are deeply disappointed. To refrain from speech for fear of backlash is not leading, but cowering, and it certainly does not align with our school's core values. As a school devoted to educating youth from every quarter, Andover should not stand idly by in the face of anti-semitism and violence.

We also believe that Dr. Kington's words at All School Meeting, and future plans to use ASM to engage with students, are flawed and insignificant. Unlike an official statement, ASM does not reach the majority of faculty, families, or alumni. It is important to educate and make the school's stance clear to not just students, but our entire community. To the Jewish faculty, know that in these times we grieve with you and that you are always welcome to join current students at Friday Shabbat.

To restate, it is not in anger but in sorrow that we recognize, through the school's silence, Andover is not supporting its Jewish community. In your first letter to the Andover community Dr. Kington, you wrote, “I will try to learn from all of you. [And] With your help, I will try to learn from my mistakes.” We ask Dr. Kington that you learn now, amend the new policy, and make a statement.

We call now for a statement of support to our wounded community. We call not for

the school to take a side on the geo-political issue of Israel and Palestine, but for a condemnation of Hamas and rising anti-semitism around the globe. We call for an end to this false notion of neutrality.

Signed by:
Mason Spahn '24, Sinan Muratoglu '24, Sam Baum '23, Jackson Hersom '27, Hank Ferguson '25, Sebastian Vermut '27, Theodore Berman '25, Max Herbison '25, Ellah Kotlarsky '27, Layla Shmuylovich '26, Sima Schmuylovich '21, Yury Shmuylovich '90 P '19, '21, '26, Irina Shmuylovich P '19, '21, '26, Ethan Weinstein '23, Gavin Spencer '26, and Bryce Shufro '22

Halloween: A Universal Cultural Phenomena



Creepy-looking pumpkins, black cats, fake blood and candies — that’s right, Halloween! Other than Christmas, Halloween has always been my favorite western festival to celebrate. The usual spookiness combined with the opportunity to scare people without getting reproached by angry parents is what makes Halloween epic for me. If you are also a fan and already thinking of what to wear, then this is for you: keep reading and learn more about the cultural (and fun) aspect and myths of Halloween! Hopefully, by the end of the article, you’ll love it, too.

To understand why Halloween fascinates me so much, let’s return to its long, storied, and multicultural history: this holiday traces its root all the way back to Samhain, a celebration held by the Celtic Pagans. Samhain (pronounced sow-in) marks the end of the Celtic New Year, signifying the winter soon to come, according to the Boston Public Library’s article, “The Origins and Practices of: Samhain, Día de los Muertos, and All Saints Day.” Traditionally, winter is related to death in Paganism, and Samhain was the day when the boundary between the dead and the living became easily breachable, allowing the spirits of the dead to visit the living world. The Pagans would put photographs of their deceased relatives and bake Samhain bread so the spirits do not leave hungry. Some families would take a walk in nature and form a circle and share

stories of their deceased loved ones. Many of the rituals are still carried down today to the Wiccans (modern pagans) and people continue to celebrate Samhain as their ancestors did a long time ago.

In central and southern Mexico, people have their own — and unique — way of celebrating the dead. “Día de los Muertos” or “Day of the Dead” as translated in English, is entirely different from Halloween, which is commonly celebrated in European countries. La Día de Los Muertos is a bright and hopeful celebration that usually has little elements of dark and spookiness involved. As mourning is considered disrespectful in the culture, the day is spent not on the loss of a loved one, but is instead focused on the joy and happiness of life. Calaveras (skulls) and calacas (skeletons) are common decorations for the festival, along with flowers, candles and pan de muerto (bread of the dead). Families also set up altars to put pictures of their deceased relatives. For those who celebrate La Día de Los Muertos, it is only through celebrating life can one honor the dead.

And there’s more! On of that, most Christian church goers would hasten to add that All Saints Day could not be ignored as another way of honoring the dead. As the name suggests, it is a day to worship all the saints of the church. For Catholics, it is a day to honor the spiritual connection between Heaven and Earth, while to the Methodists, it is also about showing God the gratitude of everyday life. Sometimes certain figures of Christian history are celebrated too.

Despite the many differences resulting from cultural and religious beliefs, all of the three festivals are united in their celebration of life and death, a renewal of memory of the past and looking ahead into the future. Across cultures, we seem drawn to remembrance, and that’s a unique facet of Halloween.

But is Halloween losing its original meaning due to commercialization and pop culture influences? A good place to start is to think about what we often associ-

ate Halloween within a 21st century context. Arguably, a large part about the holiday is about dressing up, and I’ve been well informed by a variety of people on this topic: Aurora and Maleficent from the Disney film Maleficent, mean girls is just another popular choice, and still some people choose the slightly more old-fashioned vampires or wizards. Many of these ideas often come from books, movies, TV shows and YouTube videos that we’ve watched, as social media and different ways of sharing information shape the way we think and behave. A hundred years ago, it was hard to picture children running in the street wearing fluffy white dresses because Disney was not popular then, and going even further back in time, a person in modern-day stylish hot pink barbie costume would be — at best — considered a weirdo.

This anachronism was not the only disconnection when it comes to Halloween. Incongruity is another one where it operates not on a time difference, but spatially. A group of children in colorful clothes singing and dancing could be judged as offensive and disrespected when carried in a church, although it would have been fitting on the streets of Mexico. Same day, but different places. Connecting with nature might have been a favorite way to celebrate the Wiccans, but hardly thought of by most teenagers in the U.S. who own a cell phone. In both cases, the geographical and spatial distance between those three cultures (and I am sure many more) are distinct. And as the melting pot of cultures, religions and background America is, it is hard to reconcile those different styles and ways of celebrating “Halloween.”

However, the anachronism and incongruity might not be entirely a bad thing. I like to think of how every day we are simultaneously living and creating history, just like with every new bestselling horror book of Stephen King there might be a new inspiration for Halloween pranks. It is through those art forms and the interpretations, re-evaluations and transformation of



CAM MARNOTO / THE PHILLIPIAN

those art forms that the present is being morphed with the history, and the history integrated into the presents. It seems exciting to me that the trendy fashion and social norms are constantly changing when it comes to Halloween. In our own way, we are talking to a past that expands beyond a single culture: we are “reimagining” ancient celebrations and turning it into something of our own, with distinctive marks of our own time, own background, cultures and beliefs.

In addition, the incongruity is perhaps more of an opportunity than a “problem.” At an intentionally diverse place like Andover, everyone is free to celebrate whichever holidays as they are most comfortable with. It is truly a celebration of all races, identities and religions. And I would say that in an effort to make sure no one feels incongruous or out of place, the ancient traditions of “Halloween” are not lost but added with a new meaning—that everyone belongs.

At this point, if you have read this far, I certainly hope you have learned some new things and possibly came up with a better idea for your Halloween costume. Because ultimately, Halloween should be about having fun. As the clock ticks to Abbotween, I encourage you to make your holiday one that is funny, quirky and silly. This could be a chance for you to be who you wanted to be, while ironically in the costume of someone else. Don’t be afraid of trying out new things and exploring new territories, or asking how your friend from another country celebrates Halloween. Who knows, maybe together you will come up with the spookiest multicultural decorations for your dorm!

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Tests: Scarier Than Any Ghost



It’s the spooky season, but it’s not ghosts or witches that keep Andover students up at night: it’s finals. Midterms feel like yesterday, and it’s hard to believe we’re going into yet another week of rapid-fire procrastinating, studying, and testing. I still remember the burn of my heart in my chest, beating to the tick of the clock on testing day. I remember the sweat dripping down my face, my pencil slipping out of my palm, scribbling one last answer as I watched the students around me calmly rise. Oftentimes, I feel like the only one with this test-taking anxiety, and I catch myself wondering why it seems like some people are better at test-taking than others. I have found an answer: select students are just better at handling the stress of tests, which seem to be designed to prioritize speed and accuracy above all else.

Every student feels nervous when taking a test, but some students get more nervous than others. Even when I know the material, because



SOFIA HATZIGIANNIS / THE PHILLIPIAN

Tests do not define your intelligence — no number, letter, or percentage does.

of my test-taking anxiety, I freeze at a difficult question or forget everything I’ve learned as soon as the timer starts. At times, nervous test-takers like me can feel inadequate and unintelligent compared to their naturally confident peers. In a school where there is already a level of competition when it comes to grades and scores, seeing a peer furiously writing while I can’t find words can make me feel even more stressed in the moment.

Comparing myself to others is stressful, but it’s important to realize that some students take longer to test, whether they have a learning disability or not. The time it takes to answer a question in math, science, or language class can vary from person to person. At the beginning of the year, my math teacher kindly emphasized that speed does not measure mathematical ability. He even showed us a video debunking the idea of a “math person,” and fighting the stigma that comes with being a slow problem solver. But, in the subject of test-taking, this seems to be forgotten.

According to Jo Boaler, a Stanford Graduate School of Education professor and mathematician, deep under-

standing is far more important than speed in mathematics. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics agrees, as they say, “timed tests cause math anxiety.” Taking a math test, and studying for a math test, does help students reinforce the subjects they’ve learned in class. But timing the test adds a level of anxiety to the process and punishes slow problem solvers for being slow. It also penalizes students who are thorough; if one student shows all their work for a problem, which can take quite some time, while another student solves the same problem in their head, the answers could be the same, but the outcome of the test could be very different. The first student did not finish the

Tests, especially standardized ones, conform to the old strategy of putting children into boxes.

test in time, while the second received full marks. Schools are increasingly learning that individualizing education is necessary to achieve the best outcome for every student. Tests, especially standardized ones, conform to the old strategy of putting children into boxes. In this case, the “fast” and “accurate” boxes are valued, while the “thorough” and “slow” ones are not. Now I admit, tests are evolving with the times. Take-home tests can greatly decrease the stress of a timed test, and the process of finding an answer is becoming just as important as finding the answer itself. But, in the field of testing, there is still a long way to go.

Test-taking is a skill. It may not be fun, and some struggle with it more than others, but learning how to take a test, and taking tests, is useful. Tests do not define your intelligence — no number, letter, or percentage does. So, as we leave the skeletons and vampires behind, let’s take this knowledge with us. Hopefully, then, tests won’t be so scary.

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Alumni Speakers Talk About Life Pursuits Beyond Andover

Continued from A1, Column 5

pretending to be a story can just further divide people,” said Saji.

The current Regional Managing Director for Latin America at The Nature Conservancy and creator of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Caballero explained how Andover equipped her with the skills necessary for her work today.

“Andover structures and gives you the tools, the capacity to analyze, to synthesize, to write, to think in a very different way. I feel that all my studies afterwards just flowed so much because of this incredible training I had at Andover. Andover was a decisive force in my life, no question, and it was a real privilege [to attend],” said Caballero.

Finbury’s many preservation projects include the rehabilitation of Essex House and the rehabilitation of McKean Memorial Hall. As a scholar of architectural history, Finbury encouraged students to learn about the history of Andover and appreciate the beauty of Andover’s campus.

“I would like Andover students to know their story a little better, know their buildings a little better. We have some fine buildings that very famous architects [designed], and I bet most of those students on this campus have no idea... I think if Andover students invest that time [to know] where they’re learning, then wherever they go in life, they’ll invest that time in their communities and become more aware about where they live,” said Finbury.

Finbury continued, “I’d also like to make sure that the students on this campus find their place, a beautiful place that they like to walk to, or they like to spend time in, because beautiful places are really important. Beauty is really important.”

Maya Clark ’26 expressed her admiration for each of the three

ASM speakers. In particular, she noted Saji’s speech and discussed the importance of his work.

“I’m very into climate change, so I think the first speaker was cool... The second speaker, I thought it was amazing that she really wanted to reuse the old campus that she loved so much and turn it into something that could still be used today... The third guy I personally loved, I’m a big fan of everything he’s done and I’ve watched all his shows. I think all the characters and all the stories he writes are really important because they advocate for social justice while being entertaining to watch,” said Clark.

Caballero pointed to the growing need for drastic action within global structures. She called for students to envision impact on a larger scale, emphasizing the value of the current moment.

“My request to young people who have the privilege of this amazing education is to really understand to what degree we are all part of perpetuating these same systems, and the same approaches, and this comfort zone in which we operate...that we’re just tweaking systems when we need wholesale transformation... We have to make hard choices, as individuals, as society, as companies, and the time is now... It is now because we need to align the finance, and the policies, and the markets in ways that have never been done before. If we all think that we can just ‘adjust’ and do a project here or a little nudge there...we’re not really going to be able to change the trajectory of some of these trends that are so concerning. So I am sanguine, I am hopeful, I do believe that we can [create change]. But I also think that we can only really do it if we wake up to how deeply embedded we are in all these systems, and mindsets, and beliefs that impede us [from] really being able and willing to undertake the kinds of transformations and disruptions that are needed,” said Caballero.

Clogged Dorm Drains Prompt Announcement from OPP and House Counselors

Continued from A1, Column 2

not to, which makes sense. But when there is that involvement, it changes a lot of student life,” said Daley.

A Complement House Counselor in America House, Joshua Mann also commented how many Andover community members experienced different disposal procedures across the globe prior. He mentioned that discussions to consolidate expectations and roles for these methods could ease the issue.

“I know that depending on where you come from, different countries around the world have different disposal rules and laws and conventions, so maybe we need to recognize that. Typically, the U.S. is more permissive in what to dispose of. Maybe we just need to do a better job of just putting signs up. It wouldn’t have been the thing I thought of having to do, but there’s a problem, and it’s a pretty easy thing just to put some signs

up, because then we’d be able to see if that could work,” said Mr. Mann.

Maria Martinez, a House Counselor in Double Brick, also emphasized the importance of talking about the best ways to take care of the Andover campus. She noted that having conversations can often be effective ways to understand the beliefs and knowledge each student holds, as well as segue into addressing the issue of disposal from the ground up.

“As house counselors, we assume that...everybody knows how to get rid of certain things, and that’s not the case all the time. I think we need to start imagining... if students [don’t] know what to do with certain materials. For us, it’s logical because we are adults, but we need to find spaces for conversation with students to find out which are the things that they are not sure how to get rid of...and guide them, in that regard,” said Dr. Martinez.

Alumni Offer New Perspectives in Visits to Diverse Array of Classes

CADE RUTKOSKE & MARIAM SAGHIRASHVILI

Over the course of the past week, many Andover classes welcomed alumni back into the classroom to share their personal experiences and valuable advice with students. Composed of the recently awarded 2023 Andover Alumni Award of Distinction recipients: Paula Caballero ’80, Elaine Finbury ’68, P’99, and Peter Saji ’96, returning alumni engaged in biology, economics, and Spanish classes, allowing students opportunities to ask questions and engage in conversations.

Jennifer Savino, Director of Alumni Engagement, noted the interaction between alumni and programs on campus throughout the year, pointing towards several opportunities for alumni to interact and connect with current Andover students and activities. She highlighted the efforts in coordinating ways for alumni to interact with students in varied aspects of Andover life.

“These annual programs include Volunteer Summit in September, The Andover Alumni Award of Distinction presented at All-School Meeting in October, Board of Trustees, Andover Development Board, and Veterans Day in November... There is an effort to maximize alumni visits to campus in order to connect the widest reach of students and... we appreciate the flexibility of campus partners, including instructors, to take advantage of these unique opportunities to enhance classroom experiences with alumni visitors,” wrote Jennifer Savino in an email to The Phillipian.

Keith Robinson, Department Chair of Biology, has hosted alumni in his classes several times, and invited Caballero, a key contributor to the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to his Biology 501 class. Robinson commented on the unique angle that visitors bring to the class and the chance for students to learn from them.

“It’s a valuable program and obviously all the people we’re bringing in are accomplished in their fields and have done really great interesting things, and I think in general our students benefit from hearing from people who’ve gone here and who’ve gone on to do great interesting things because it’s inspiring... [The Office of Alumni Engagement] do a really good job at matching the interest and the expertise of the alum with the class. Sometimes it’s a little bit of extra work on the teacher’s side to arrange the schedule and make it happen, but I think it’s a huge benefit to the students and us,” said Robinson.

In her visits to classes, Caballero presented students with a three step model for success which she summarized into three main points of equal importance: maintaining long-term vision, building up economic, social, and environmental capital, and Andover’s motto: non sibi. Caballero reflected on her own experience in Andover classes as a student.

“Andover gave me everything I needed for success. The school teaches you to ask the right questions, it fosters a deep understanding of various subjects and encourages a strong decision-making process, and really just teaches you to work hard for your dreams,” said Caballero.

The microeconomics elective also welcomed an alumni visit. Eddie Lou ’24, a student in the class, emphasized how the perspectives that were offered complemented learning in the class and at Andover.

“[Caballero] came to my microeconomics class and talked

to us about her work for the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She was very inspirational in her resilience to defy the odds for a cause she believed in, [and expressed] that having a solid belief in what you do is crucial for creating meaningful change. I would definitely like to see more alumni visits in the future,” wrote Lou in an email to The Phillipian.

While Christopher Savino ’24, who invited Finbury to his Spanish class, didn’t personally connect with the topics that Finbury discussed in class, he described the benefit of listening to experiences from a graduated student.

“It was a great opportunity to have [Finbury] in our Spanish class. She talked about her career in architecture and architectural preservation. Although I’m not particularly interested in architecture myself, it was fascinating to hear about the history of our campus and how alums use their Andover education for the betterment of the world,” said Christopher Savino.

Andover’s alumni network stretches across the globe and includes countless individuals and experiences that embody Andover’s core values. Jennifer Savino highlighted the benefits of drawing upon Andover’s alumni network, connecting current students to graduates and strengthening the Andover family.

“Connecting alumni and students across the decades expands the Andover universe and the Andover family. This benefit is mutual and demonstrates that there are evolving experiences as an Andover student and that there are consistent threads of academic rigor and kindness across generations of Abbot and Andover students,” wrote Jennifer Savino in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Filipino-American History Month Celebration Promotes the Importance of Students Engaging in Filipino History

Continued from A1, Column 5

to continue to learn more...so learning more about your own personal story, your family history, how that’s connected to other histories that’s really powerful, and finding your location in all of this,” said Alcicid.

Magdalena Mercado ’26, an organizer of the event, spoke on how she considered the event to be an important milestone in Filipino representation at Andover and commented on the importance of such celebration in the future as well.

“I feel like a lot of it connected to me personally...bridging Filipino communities through that and talking about what steps we could take as a Filipino community. This event just kind of being the first of many towards representation, recognition, and unity for Southeast Asians and the Filipino community in general. [These events are] not only me as a Filipino identifying student, but other Filipino identifying students at Andover and just being able to bring these sorts of events, many of first for the Filipino community,” said Mercado.

Mercado continued by noting how she felt the event was successful in appreciating and bringing together the Filipino community on campus.

“I’m happy, while it was small, it was big for the Filipino community, considering how meager the amount of Filipino students are here at Andover. The Filipino student body is very small, and I’m just happy that a group came out to support their heritage,” said Mercado.

Similarly, Christian Estrada ’27, a Filipino-American student, shared how the event

gave him a sense of the Filipino community at Andover. Estrada also described how he resonated greatly with the speakers, who spoke about cultural connections within the Filipino community.

“I felt a great sense of belonging, and I felt like I could connect with this group of people very well. They spoke a lot about the connections and networks between us, as a cultural group, and that resonated with me. Although the Filipino turnup was not very large, I was able to meet other students and converse with them at a deep level... [The event] gave me a sense of the Filipino community. It was a very family-oriented event and it made me feel at home,” said Estrada.

Showing Kindness Through Making Blankets: Bink-A-Thon Participants Share Experiences With Program

Continued from A1, Column 5

blankets are really important for kids to keep them warm, so I wanted to help. Especially for anyone interested in helping kids particularly, this would be the perfect service. If they wanted to do indirect service, and if they weren’t comfortable interacting with kids, this would be the perfect way” wrote Sydney in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Dylan Siegel ’26, another student attendee, appreciated the presence of organized and knowledgeable staff during the event. Siegel also detailed possible ways the Bink-A-Thon could be changed to maximize Andover’s contributions to the non-profit organization.

“It was just a great environment to be in. I felt like I was with a lot of people when we were having a great impact, and it was overall a fun event to go to. I learned a lot about organization and what [Binky Patrol’s] mission was. I wonder if they could do it a little more often to produce

more blankets that way. I also think they could expand to be able to make other items too, so not only blankets but maybe they could work to make other items. That’s just an idea, expanding their repertoire,” said Siegel.

The success of the Bink-A-Thon heavily depends on Andover community members. Douty emphasized the program’s ability to help provide for children in need, encouraging more students to attend future events.

“Our community already has a deep footing with this charity, which has carried on for several years. I noticed it’s been a struggle getting our community to step up and participate. Otherwise, Binky Patrol is a worthy charity that benefits so many children in [Intensive Care Units], foster care, family disasters, [and] violence... They provide all the materials; all they need from us are our giving hearts and hands to pull it together for them,” said Douty.



Douty urged students to participate in future Bink-A-Thon events.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY LILY LIU & ANNA TSVETKOV

War and Conflict: Israeli Forces Enter Gaza Strip While Responses Ripple Global

On Saturday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced in a televised news conference that Israel's forces had entered the Gaza strip. The Israel-Hamas War commenced three weeks ago when Hamas launched a surprise attack on October 7, killing at least 1,400 people and kidnapping hundreds of others, causing the highest number of Jewish deaths since the Holocaust. Israel retaliated with airstrikes, many of which struck within safe zones near hospitals in Gaza, leading to weeks of turmoil. The "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees" estimates that, as of October 31, nearly 672,000 Palestinians are sheltering in schools and other facilities, reaching four times their capacity. On October 30, "CNN" reported the Palestinian death toll, as recorded by the Gaza Ministry of Health, has surpassed 8,300 and consists mostly of women and children. According to the "New York Times," as Israel gradually increases its ground forces in the Gaza strip, many families of Israeli hostages in Gaza have demanded that the Israeli government take measures to ensure the safety of the approximately 200 hundred kidnapped and missing Israelis in any operation in Gaza. According to "CNN," many fear the eruption of a full-scale war in Gaza and responses have rippled through the world, with Pro-Palestinian protesters taking to the streets to call for a cease-fire in major cities including London, Istanbul, New York, Baghdad and Rome. In a report by the "Anti-Defamation League," antisemitic incidents in light of the war have surged over 388 percent in comparison to last year. A similar report by "The Council on American-Islamic Relations" recorded 774 requests for help and reports of bias incidents from Muslims in the U.S. from October 7 to October 24, a 182% increase over the same period in 2022.

Natural Disaster: Category 5 Storm Hurricane Otis Tears Across Mexico

On October 25, Mexico's Pacific Coast was struck by a category five storm, Hurricane Otis, breaking regional records for its strength and the speed of its intensification according to "NASA." Hurricane Otis

made landfall near the resort city of Acapulco around 1 a.m. local time. According to the "New York Times," Otis had dissipated as it moved inland on Wednesday afternoon, but its residue is expected to continue to pour down on areas in Guerrero and Morelos. The storm, which grew at a rate of 110 miles per hour in 24 hours, surpassed the standard definition of rapid growth (35 miles per hour in 24 hours). Intense winds knocked out the local internet and cellular service in Acapulco and some other parts in Mexico. During a morning conference following Otis' landfall, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico noted that the hurricane heavily impacted Guerrero. As of October 30, "CNN" reports that the hurricane's death toll stands at 45 with at least 47 people missing. The Mexican government's preliminary assessment estimates that Hurricane Otis reached 220,035 homes and projects a \$3.4 billion recovery plan with tax breaks and financial assistance for affected families.

Health: Covid-19 Booster Shot Rates Decline While Covid-19 Remains a Threat

According to a survey presented on Thursday to scientific advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, few Americans have received the latest vaccines against the latest coronavirus. As of October 14, just over 7 percent of adults and 2 percent of children had received the shot. A survey of nearly 15,000 people revealed that only 1 in 5 people aged 75 or older had been vaccinated, along with around 15 percent of those ages 65 to 74, even those who are still at risk of severe illness. In a report done by "Our World in Data," more than 1,200 people continue to die from Covid-19 each week with more than 13,000 hospitalizations. According to the "New York Times," though most people should be able to get vaccines at no cost through private health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare Government programs also make the vaccines available for free to children and adults who are uninsured.

Economy: Slowdown in Inflation Prompts Rise in United States GDP Growth

This past Thursday, the United States Commerce

Department reported that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the United States of America grew at a 4.9 percent annualized rate from July through September. The growth rate of a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a crucial indicator of the country's economic health and expansion. Taking into factor a nation's consumption, investment, government spending, and net exports, the GDP represents the percentage increase in the value of goods produced within a nation across a certain period of time. The growth of the United States' GDP far exceeded forecasts and was the strongest showing since 2021. According to the "New York Times," the acceleration was made possible by increased consumer spending prompted by slowing inflation rates, as well as government defense spending and residential investments.

Politics: House Republicans Elect Mike Johnson as Speaker Following Tumult

This past Wednesday, House Republicans unanimously voted to elect Rep. Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House of Representatives. The election followed a turbulent three weeks in the House as Republicans scrambled to find a nominee following the House's 216 to 210 vote on October 3 to remove Republican Kevin McCarthy from his position as the previous House's Speaker. Johnson, an unlikely candidate in the start of October, had climbed to the top of people's nomination by this past Tuesday night, holding support from the majority of the conference. Succeeding Kevin McCarthy and previous nominees Steve Scalise, Jim Jordan, Tom Emmer, who failed to pass the vote threshold, Johnson was the chamber's 5th choice. Johnson, 51, previously served as the Chairman of the Conservative Republican Study Committee and as a member of former President Donald Trump's impeachment defense team. According to "US News," Johnson has become the most inexperienced Speaker in the House's recent history, left with many major issues in need of addressing including topics on funding packages to Israel and Ukraine and humanitarian assistance in Gaza. According to "CNN," Johnson plans to pursue an "aggressive schedule," pulling the House out of its recent weeks of turmoil and returning to the GOP agenda.

Learning in the World 2023-2024 Programs Announced

PHILIP JEONG & STELLA SEONG

With the announcement of the 2023-2024 Learning in the World (LITW) programs, Andover students are offered the opportunity to travel abroad this spring and summer break. LITW incorporates both faculty-led programs and affiliate programs that are organized through partner organizations. As stated by the 2022-2023 LITW Task Force and Advisory Board, selected programs are chosen with the initiative to "[prepare] young students for engaged global citizenship through intercultural, place-based, and world-facing experiential learning opportunities."

Mark Cutler, Director of LITW and Instructor in Spanish, explained the program selection process and the factors that are considered when planning. Cutler also noted that the programs can be proposed and driven by both faculty and students.

"If it is faculty-led, the faculty come to me with an idea, we workshop it, and then I take those to a committee that re-

views the proposals. It is based on student interest as well; some of the programs we have developed...were presented to me by students. [For] the affiliate programs, generally, that is what comes across my feed in terms of the conferences I go to to learn about different opportunities, but [it is] also people who reach out to establish a partnership," said Cutler.

Cutler continued by describing the organization and preparation process for the programs.

"There's a committee that approves proposals and there's a lot of...development opportunities for faculty who are leading programs, where they work with other program leaders to develop a sense of how to run a program. Risk management is one of the big things that goes into it: how to not only mitigate risks but also how to deal with emergent issues, crises, health scares, [and] incidents. Students have winter break to prepare for their programs, get some things in order like visas [and] packing list items," said Cutler.

One of many programs featured this year in the LITW curriculum, the Akwaaba Ghana Adventure, allows students to

explore the nature, culture, history, and people of Ghana. Led by Lionel Amanfu, Instructor in Mathematics, the program offers a rich insight into the country of Ghana.

"[Students will] get to go to three interesting locations in Ghana. Our first stop is in Kumasi. There, [students] will experience the rich culture of the Ghanaian people; we get to visit the Ashanti Kingdom Palace, called the [Manhyia] palace. From there, we'll travel further south to Cape Coast, where the castles were [that the] slaves were kept [in], [there are] two locations. One is Elmina [and] one is called Cape Coast Castle," said Amanfu.

Amanfu continued, "From there, we'll go to a place called the Kakum National Park, where they will go through the wildlife and forestry to a huge place in Ghana. There's an interesting [seven] canopy walkway, which is, I think, one of the few in the world... From there, we'll move on to the third city, which is Accra, the capital of Ghana, where they get to experience modern Ghana. We'll visit the first president Museum, [Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum], and then get

a chance to also go through the town of Accra... We'll end up at the Ghana National Museum, which has all the artifacts from ancient Ghana."

Last spring break, members of the Phillips Academy Bands and Jazz Bands traveled abroad to Portugal as a part of LITW, performing music while exploring new cultures. Anny Wang '26 described her experience in Portugal along with her takeaways from the program.

"We not only got to experience different food, architecture, and culture, but we also actually got to speak to local students that are our age. Surprisingly, I found that we share a lot of hobbies in common which I did not expect since we live on different continents. We also shared our interest in music, and when they saw us play, I felt the connection between people from different worlds. It was a very heartwarming experience, and aside from that, I got to know so many more people from the band...on a deeper level," said Wang.

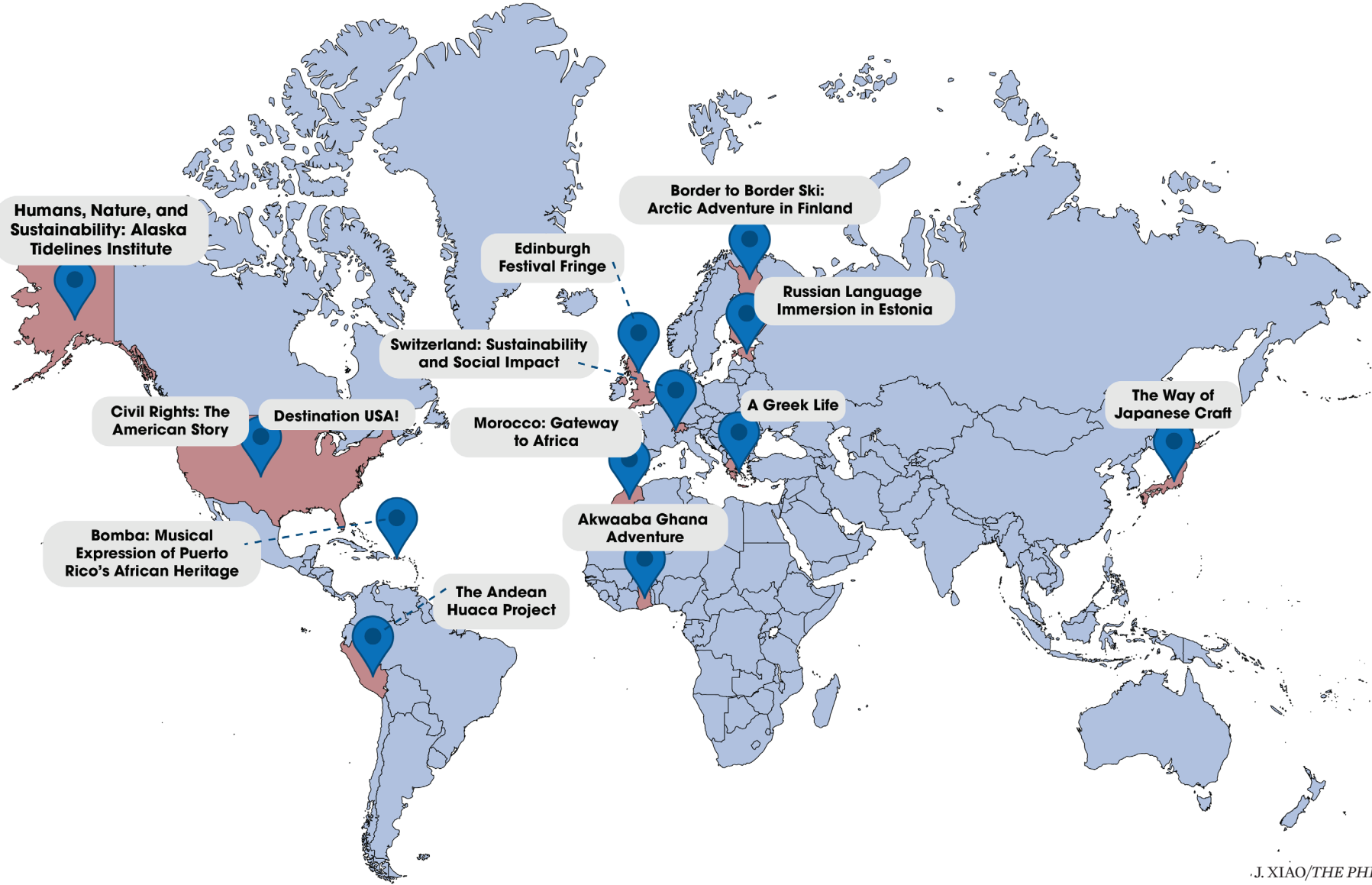
As the applications for the 2023-2024 programs have opened, students have been expressing their interest in applying to LITW. Christian Estrada

'27 detailed the appeal of LITW and his wishes to apply in his coming years at Andover.

"It's very rare for a secondary school to have these sorts of opportunities and I feel like I [can] expand my horizons as a global citizen [through LITW]. Especially in our world...[empathy] towards people from around the world who geographically and culturally have different experiences comes from having a larger set of experiences, and in order to get those larger [sets] of experiences, you need to go outside of the spaces that you're comfortable in and hear from different perspectives, [and] Learning In the World is a way that students can get out of their comfort zone," said Estrada.

Students can go to <https://www.andover.edu/learning/litw> to learn about the various programs and initiate an official application by clicking 'take action.' December 4 is the deadline for faculty-led program applications and expressions of interest for affiliate programs.

2023-2024 Learning in the World Programs



Changes and Origins of Halloween Traditions on Campus

Continued from A1, Column 1

elucidating the expectations regarding costumes is always a big deal, especially in terms of cultural appropriation. It's a fun event and I think a lot of Andover students know what they're doing, but for those that are new, it's always good to have a refresher," said Fu.

Aya Murata, Assistant Dean of Students and Residential Life, spoke on how Abbotween was started to create a fun on-campus trick-or-treating experience that wasn't invasive to the trick-or-treating experience in the town of Andover and introduce students who may not be familiar to Abbot campus.

"We [realized] hardly any students who don't live in Abbot ever go down to Abbot, so it could be this nice way of introducing PA students to the Abbot campus. Since then, minor adjustments have been made, such as moving Abbotween to a weekend to prevent late-night trick-or-treating calamities," said Murata.

Murata also touched on another Halloween event, the Halloween Dance, which has changed more significantly through the years, the most prominent being its change from a charity/fundraising event to a free event.

"For years, each cluster would have a charity event that they would sponsor for the whole school over the course of the year, so during the time I was Cluster Dean, [the dance] was our charity fundraiser between Flagstaff and Pine Knoll so [it would] cost two or three dollars [to get in], and the Cluster Councils would decide where that money would go to," said Murata.

Focusing on smaller traditions at Andover, Capano discussed the different activities students and dorms took part in during the week of Halloween. Additionally, Capano mentioned that the Office of Student Activities is flexible with what happens on Halloween at Andover.

"I know some kids just love getting dressed up and wearing costumes... Some dorms do pumpkin carving. Another tradition, it's not for students, but because there are so many faculty students on campus, they do a Halloween party and parade through [Paresky] Commons [on October 31]. Around dinner time, they'll get in their costumes and they'll walk around [Paresky] Commons so all the students get to see them. [Halloween] comes down to [that] some people love Halloween and some don't really care. [It depends on] what students want to do. If the students figure out a new tradition they want to try [and] we can pull it off, we'll give it a shot," said Capano.

Substance Education Week: Students in Medicine and YES+ Present Consent Under the Influence Talk

PRISHA SHIVANI

Students in Medicine (SIM) and Youth Educators for Sex Positivity (YES+) collaborated to present a talk on the topic of Consent Under the Influence. This presentation was given on October 26 during Substance Education Week, a series of events intended to increase knowledge about substance use, risk factors, and more.

Dr. Amy Patel, Dean of Health and Wellness and Chief Medical Officer, explained the importance of Substance Education Week on campus. Patel also noted the importance of student action and initiative in the execution of the programming.

"Substance Education Week is a student-led event from the Student Wellness Collaborative, with Students in Medicine taking a lead role in planning and implementing the programming centered around education about substances, effects, and campus culture. It is critical that students play a role in developing campus culture, and it was exciting to hear from so many students who are interested in partnering with each other and with adults," said Patel in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Jade Shi '25, a member of both SIM and YES+, spoke on the purpose that the Consent Under the Influence Talk served. She specified the content which was discussed during the talk, and how it was interactive and open for students attending.

"[The talk] aimed to give students a better understanding of if you can give consent under the influence and how to be safe. We gave a definition of what consent is, then we ran through different questions people may have. For example, what level of intoxication can you be at to provide consent. We also ran through different scenarios. It was a good learning opportunity," said Shi.

Jay Jung '26, one of the attendees of the talk, expressed how it was very important to him that the talk was student-led. He added that due to the student led nature of the talk, it provided a free space for students to ask questions and have open honest conversations.


"The advantage to having the meeting [be student led] is that the students who are attending the conversation are that we are a lot more open to each other. That's really needed when we are doing a consent talk. You should ask whatever question you have. Because it was really open and free and just fun, I think that helped a lot. We shouldn't be hesitant to ask questions in those situations," said Jung.

EV Heck '25, a board member of YES+, explained why presenting this information is important in a high school setting. Heck elaborated that the presentation is also helpful for those who are not educated in substance abuse and all that it entails.

"Substances are widespread in every high school. Discussing consent is important because when people are not educated [about] substances, they don't know what is wrong or right, and what rights they have, so there's a lot more room for dangerous situations to happen, especially taking advantage of people under the influence. We made this presentation to address that, especially for people who aren't used to taking substances and having sexual relations so they have something to guide them," said Heck.

Shi noted that the talk is especially relevant now with larger school-wide events and dances incoming. She argued that since substance use is almost inevitable, it's essential to teach students precautions and measures to take prior to consuming substances.

"At high schools and colleges, there's obviously going to be substances on campus. Also with the Halloween Dance approaching and other bigger school activities, I think it's important for students to know how to protect themselves, stay safe, and to know [the] risks when using substances," said Shi.



A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Students in Medicine (SIM) and Youth Educators for Sex Positivity (YES+) aimed to educate others about consent under the influence.



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PHANTASMIL, AREN 'T WE?

Dean Esty's List of BANNED Costumes

Staff Report


- 1) Spartans — only if you are an older man accompanying a young boy on his journey to manhood
- 2) Priest — too Christocentric, must stay away from faculty children
- 3) Any white man from history — probably racist
- 4) Witch — upholds notion of female hysteria
- 5) Sexy maid/nurse — disrespects sex workers
- 6) Creeper — too seductive
- 7) Black rhino — we’ve heard that joke
- 8) Anything from Clash Royale — you know which troops we are referring to
- 9) Anything promoting successful male athlete — will make Ms. Joel very mad
- 10) Anything from Minecraft — ableist (if you don’t get it, call your doctor)
- 11) Presidential candidate — really? In 2023?

Week’s Top Headlines

- *Congratulations to Garrett Holman ’24 on Making All-American (This Achievement Doesn’t Seem to Be Getting Very Much Attention...)*
- *Breaking: Andover Affirmations at Heart of Culture Wars After Inflammatory Comments on “Most-Hated Team on Campus”*
- *Free-Thinking Student Realizes Andover Is Insane-Asylum After Watching Shutter Island (He Might Be Onto Something)*
- *PACS Officer Deemed Greater Threat to Drug Use Than DEA and ATF After Numerous Apprehensions Last Weekend*
- *Student Complains About Consequences of Decision to Apply to College*
- *8th Page to Take Fundraising Trip to Guyana*
- *Math Teacher Decides To Take Week Off Teaching*
- *8th Page Staff Reportedly Fails Only Three Days Into the Challenge*
- *Halloween Dance Said to Be “Wack as Frick, Yo”*
- *8th Page Becomes First Section to Hire Campus Disappointment as Staff Writer*
- *8th Page Staff Writer Does Not Get That Above Joke Is About Him*

Review of the Halloween Dance

Theo Sfikas



Our nights started by getting alcohol from our favorite Andover High student (definitely not a day student). Once we collected our substance of choice, we journeyed to the best drinking spots on campus: the Sanctuary, Dr. Kington's front lawn, and Dean Washburn's basement. For the next hour, we gulped down an obscene amount of alcohol until we lost our ability to walk. We decided that it was the best time to crawl across campus into places like George Washington Hall or The Den, dressed in our culturally-sensitive Halloween costumes. By then, 8:30 p.m. had come, and we attempted to enter the dance but, before we reached the entrance, we saw a Phillips Academy Campus Safety (PACS) officer. We freaked out and bear-crawled away, trying to not cause suspicion to ourselves. We then proceeded to hunker down in Susie's for the rest of the night, avoiding any eye contact with adults.

We prayed that the alcohol would wear off before sign-in, but the time had already come. So we gathered up the courage to stumble back to our dorms and face our house counselor. We lied to ourselves, believing that we would be good, and tried our best to walk up to the house counselor without falling over. We avoided eye contact as we talked, slurring every other word. Our breath reeked of alcohol. We tried to walk off, convinced that the talk went great, but in seconds we were greeted by our favorite PACS officers and dragged into a van. None of us can remember exactly what happened after this, but I'm sure those dudes took great care of us. Yet another amazing Saturday night on campus, can't wait to do it all again next week.

Although we didn't make it to the dance, it sounded like a well-planned event that occurred.



B.SHMUYLOVICH/THE PHILLIPIAN

“This candidate listed ‘munching box’ as his #1 Common App activity. Full ride for this stud.”

“Sure, I guess we could use a bit of spice.”

“This guy’s pretty ferda..we like that.”

“You say nepotism, I say strategic investment.”

“Nah, he’s too smart. We don’t want no nerds here.”

“Why is her only extracurricular an OnlyFans link?”

“But can he row?”

“Good heavens, she’s hot.”

“Starting on JV Lacrosse is no easy endeavor. It demonstrates grit, integrity, and commitment.”

“Holy cow, this guy’s nice at Clash of Clans.”

“Absolute slayer over here. Get him in.”

“He’s definitely gonna get one of our frats suspended.”

“I feel like this is the type of applicant you can have a beer with.”

“Haha he got a 4 in music last spring. Probably mobbed the lawn a bit too much. So chill!”

OVERHEARD
IN COLLEGE
ADMISSIONS



The Phillippian

SPORTS

cattywampus

November 3, 2023

Field Hockey Loses First Game of Season to Noble and Greenough After Dominating Deerfield

DAVID SIAHAAN

SATURDAY		
Andover		4
Deerfield		1
WEDNESDAY		
Andover		1
Nobles		2

Despite having a flawless 13-0 record moving into its game against Noble and Greenough School (Nobles), Andover Field Hockey (13-1) lost its undefeated streak on Wednesday in a heartbreaking match. Prior to the game on Wednesday, Andover ended its weekend strong with a win against Deerfield away on Saturday.



G.BATCHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN
Kimberly Duplessis '27 plays her first season with Andover Field Hockey.

According to Maren Boyle '26, the team had a slow start on Saturday due to Deerfield's intensity. However, it was able to regroup during halftime and ultimately win the game.

"I thought that we had a bit of a slower start because Deerfield has been the most aggressive team we've played so far. We recovered during halftime, and our passing improved a lot, allowing us to win the game," said Boyle.

The game was in a deadlock going into the second half, and a crucial moment was needed to break the tie. Boyle highlighted the critical penalty stroke that led to a goal and a boost in team spirit during the game.

Boyle said, "In a pivotal part of the game, we were in our attacking circle and earned a penalty stroke, which led to a score that shifted the momentum and gave us some confidence. A penalty stroke is basically a free shot. A player must line up the ball on this



G.BATCHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ava Murphy '24 is committed to Liberty University for Field Hockey.

dot which is eight yards from the net. It is awarded for an intentional foul inside the circle."

Corrine Spade '27 also stated that the penalty stroke, scored by Captain Shea Freda '24, was a big confidence booster for Andover. She added that the coach's halftime talk was vital in altering the team's morale.

"When Freda scored her penalty stroke, it was a big momentum shifter. In the first half of the Deerfield game [things weren't] going our way. [Head] Coach [Kate Dolan] gave us a talk, and Shea's penalty stroke was incredibly important in shifting the momentum," said Spade.

Despite a great effort by the entire team, Field Hockey fell short on Wednesday. Spade talked about the intensity and aggressiveness between the two teams.

Spade said, "[There] wasn't anything particularly wrong, we were just stopped a lot. We came in with intensity, but we didn't play our best, and unfortunately, that cost us the

game."

Autumn Christian '27 noted that there were no major mistakes during the game. She found that the team simply struggled to adjust to Nobles' style of play.

"Nobles was a good team and it was a good game. I don't think something went wrong, we just needed to adjust. They were a good team to play against, and we just played. We didn't make any big mistakes. We just played field hockey," said Christian.

Despite the tough loss, Andover is looking to bounce back for the first time this season.

Spade said, "Even though I would have liked to go undefeated this season, we knew that it might happen and that it's part of the sport. We definitely don't want to lose again, and we know that the rest of our games will be better."

Christian highlighted that the team's playstyle and chemistry have grown immensely throughout the season.

"The team has grown together in [terms of play]," said

Christian. "We have become much more in sync knowing where and when to pass the ball and to whom. Allowing a nice cycle throughout the game."

The team is going into its last two games with intensity and composure as they look forward to the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council championships. According to Boyle, Andover is not going to underestimate any team and is working even harder than before.

Boyle said, "We like to believe that we can win, but we aren't underestimating any team. We are going to work even harder moving into the playoff season."

Andover Field Hockey will Cushing at home on Saturday.

Girls Varsity Soccer Displays Resilience With Two Comeback Draws

AARON HUANG

SATURDAY		
Andover		2
Deerfield		2
WEDNESDAY		
Andover		3
Nobles		3

On Saturday, Andover Girls Soccer (7-5-3) rallied back from two goals down to end in a tie against Deerfield. An intense game against Nobles and Greenough (Nobles) on Wednesday followed a similar result, with Andover coming back after trailing from three goals down.

According to Murathime Daisley '26, Deerfield's physicality proved difficult for Andover to deal with. Adapting to the quick pace of their opponent proved to be something that the team struggled with in the initial stages of the game.

"We weren't used to [Deerfield's] style of play. We are a very fast and quick technical team, but they were very physical, and we weren't getting a lot of calls that we wanted. And we were not as physical as they were, so it started off slow and the energy a little low at the beginning," said Daisley.

Head Coach Lisa Joel highlighted Kendall Toth '24 and Co-Captain Jazzy Cormier '24 as two players who worked to keep the game close. Resilience and mental toughness proved to have an



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN
Hannah Jordan PG'24 fights off a Nobles opponent.

impact on the team, preventing two losses as the season comes to a close.

Joel said, "Kendall Toth always brings a focus to compete, and that focus resulted in a header goal late in the second half inside the box... Senior [Co-]Captain Jazzy Cormier ripped a beautiful shot to the upper ninety [corner of the goal] beyond the outstretched hands of [the] Deerfield goalie. Ultimately, the team did not string minutes or passes together and came up short. The focus is on being locked-in for our final games in the season for the first to last whistle," said Joel.

Although the result was disappointing, Daisley thought that the team worked hard.

Daisley said, "It was a tough

day. We had some trouble with the referees as well, not making as many calls as we would have [liked], but then when we got that first goal by Kendall, our energy was back up. I think that we had high energy, [and] we [were] very competitive... We definitely were working hard. I think we gave it our all and maybe we just need to play more to our physical strengths next game."

According to Keaghan Murphy '27, the team had many opportunities to score during Wednesday's game against Nobles. Though she believed that the team showed the effort, it lacked the ability to finish.

"It was a good, high-intensity, aggressive game. We moved the ball throughout the midfield and creat-

ed many chances in the final third. Even though we didn't find any goals in the first half, we were definitely constantly knocking on their door, hungry for anything that could get us on the scoreboard," said Murphy.

Murphy highlighted Wylie Roossien '26, whose hat-trick played a pivotal role in the team's comeback on Wednesday. Within the final minutes of the second half, Roossien's influence reinstilled confidence in each member of the team.

"Wylie definitely stood out because of her three amazing goals that were all scored within the final 15 minutes of the game. She stayed positive like everyone else on the field and sideline, and she kept the atmosphere positive and helped keep us determined," said Murphy.

Although the team has improvements to be made, Murphy emphasized the team's strong mentality and persistence. With the season

coming to an end, Murphy hopes the team can find extra motivation in order to be successful in the final games.

Murphy said, "Communication on markings can still be a bit better, but there definitely was way more improvement in comparison to the start of the season. I believe we all held our heads high during the game, coming back from three goals down in the last fifteen minutes. We persevered to find the three goals that ended the game in a tie."

Girls Soccer will play against Lawrence Academy at home this Friday.



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Wylie Roossien '26 scored a hat-trick in the last 15 minutes of the game against Nobles.

BOYSWATERPOLO

Captain Jonathan Ji '24:
From Training in Shanghai to Andover Captaincy

LILY WILLIAMSON

Andover Water Polo Captain Jonathan Ji '24 takes on a large role this year: the sole captain of a 15-player team. Ji's water polo journey began roughly six years ago, when he first came to Eaglebrook School looking to play a fall sport. Since then, he has led his water polo journey with humility and discipline. Growing up in China, Ji was a year-round swimmer. After being introduced to water polo at his middle school, Ji pursued the sport further. In eighth grade, Ji captained the Varsity Water Polo team at Eaglebrook and spent that summer practicing extensively with his teammates back in Shanghai. "I played with some club teams in Shanghai with some of my other Eaglebrook class-

mates over the summer to get better. And I remember that summer was a pretty big summer for me in terms of water polo or athletics in general," said Ji. While water polo was not a popular sport in Shanghai, Ji found a group of local and international players to train with. He would visit the Shanghai Olympic facility every Friday and play with adults who had different fitness and abilities than him, challenging him to become a better water polo player. "They were the best girls [water polo] team in China for high school, and I remember playing with them. They [were] really physical and they helped me improve... We would play in the diving well with expats... I just remember playing with fully grown Canadian men as a 14 year or 15 years old kid. It was a huge size disadvantage, but it was

really good. I really stand by the fact that you get better by practicing and playing people that far out-class you," said Ji. Oliver Stabach '26 emphasized Ji's supportive nature. Whether it is offering advice, walking through drills, or explaining plays, Ji always prioritizes diligence and composure. "When I'm defending him in practice, or going up against him, he gives me a lot of pointers and a lot of tips... He wants us to work hard in practice. He reminds us to play like how we play in practice. If the other team is being physical, [he reminds the team] to not give in to their physicalities and just play how we normally play," said Stabach. Zach Godsey '25 credited Ji for being transparent and receptive when a new idea is introduced. "He's really big on being open to new things and coachability, and often he will give other players pointers in games. He's a big advocate for being open to new things," said Ji. According to Sean Niu '25, Ji had to assume a major responsibility after the departure of last year's Captains Marek Deveau '23, Marcel Montemayor '23, and Trey Wolfe '23. Ji has also continued to foster a collaborative environment, organizing team meals to spend time together. "Jonathan had to fill in some pretty big shoes because we went from having three Captains last year to only having one now. He's been doing a great job. He's been very affirmative, and very supportive, and mainly leads us in the warm-up. Usually, he catches



M.MACKINNON/THE PHILLIPIAN

up with us during that time or he brings us together with team dinners," said Niu. Ji noted that the transition of having three Captains to having one Captain took some adjusting, especially with balancing his responsibilities outside of water polo. However, his Upperclassmen teammates have reminded him of their support and shared responsibility for the team. Ji said, "Frankly, it's pretty difficult. I'm more than just a water polo player on campus... I'm not always at my 100 percent and that's when you rely on your Co-Captains... But the Senior presence and the leadership from several Uppers on the team make up for that. You don't really need a leadership position or a specific title to lead the team." According to Jason Kokones '25, Ji has grown

into his role as captain as the season progressed. Kokones reflected on an early pre-season ritual, and compared it to Ji's more recent games. "I remember on the first day in pre-season, we were making fun of him because we always do a 'Blue on Two' [as a cheer] and his 'Blue on Two' was absolutely horrendous. This was the beginning of the season. Now, towards the end of the season, his 'Blue on Two' is so loud. It's very animated. He's pouring his soul into it, and we all can see that, we all hear it," said Kokones.

Editor's Note: Jonathan Ji '24 is a Managing Editor for The Phillipian.

E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Head Coach Howie Kalter '07 Leads Team
With Emphasis on Upholding Work Ethic

ORLA NAUGHTON

Water Polo Head Coach Howie Kalter '07 started his journey at Andover as a student in 2004, then again as a teaching fellow in 2014. He played water polo throughout his time at Andover and went on to play at the college level at Bucknell University. He is now back at the school coaching for his second season. Sean Niu '25 noted Kalter's unique and engaging coaching style. As a former high-level player, Kalter is able to set an outstanding example for the team at practice. "He's still young, and he's still in shape, so he's able to hop in the water and show us some cool stuff... He's able to show us firsthand cool moves or plays we can run in the water," said Niu. Jeffery Lim '27 highlighted Kalter's dedication to the team. His commitment to improving the team's skills is evident in the high standards he holds the team to. "He puts all his energy towards us, and making us into better players and better teammates. He really never gives up on us and is a great coach in that aspect. One of the parts we love about him is that you know, sometimes we might not play



E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

how he wants us to play, but those are the times where he really steps up and goes 'Hey, this is not our kind of water polo,' and saying that our water polo is much better than this. So those are the times where he puts it all in on the table and sees what we can do and trusts us to do that," said Lim. In practice, Kalter prepares players for in-game moments

through game-like scenarios as opposed to pre-set drills. He focuses on quick thinking to help players improve decision-making under pressure. "I want my athletes to be students of the game. I design practices to encourage players to think in the moment and make the right decisions instead of prescribing set plays. I find this makes more dynamic and suc-

cessful athletes," wrote Kalter in an email to *The Phillipian*. According to Lim, Kalter values the importance of consistency and drive in practice. Lim emphasized the value Kalter puts on having a strong work ethic on both sides of the coach-player relationship. "One of the things [Kalter] says is how you practice is how you play. He takes that really seriously and we take that really seriously. If we give the hard work that he asks of us, then he's going to deliver and we're going to deliver to winning more games," said Lim. Once an Andover student himself, Kalter also understands the challenges students sometimes face physically and mentally. Niu recognized Kalter's open mind in situations where players might be struggling inside and outside the sport. "I feel like Coach Kalter's been really understanding, partially because he's been there and done that. He's really understanding when we tell him that we have other commitments, such as our Seniors with college [applications] and tests. And he's really accommodating for that. He's also really, really keen on making sure his players are healthy, so he prioritizes stretching... He's overall a great support both physically and

mentally," Niu said. Kalter shared that he approaches situations where the team dynamic seems to be off in practices or in games by addressing what may be going on outside of the pool. "The most effective way that I have handled this is by checking in with the team. Often, when practice isn't going well, there is something going on outside the pool that is distracting the team," wrote Kalter. As the season is coming to a close, Kalter applauds the progress players have made as individuals and the progress the team has made as a whole. Kalter shared his hope for the team to display this improvement in the last games of the season. "My goal every year is for the team to play their best water polo at the end of the season. I want to coach a team that is constantly focused on improving on an individual and group level. For this season, we have two games left. It would be great to see the team execute on a high level during those two games," wrote Kalter.

BOYS WATERPOLO

2

© JONATHAN JI '24

SHANGHAI, CN

13

JASON KOKONES '25

ANDOVER, MA

9

JEFFERY LIM '27

SEOUL, KR

16

DANIEL SEONG '25

WYCKOFF, NJ

5

BRANDON XU '26

SIMPSONVILLE, SC

8

ANDREW CHINN '24

JAKARTA, ID

1

JAMES HERLIHY '24

ANDOVER, MA

6

ASHTON MA '24

AVON, CT

4

RAPHAEL SIBUET '24

DUBAI, UAE

12

BEN ZHOU '25

LARKSPUR, CA

11

ZACHARY GODSEY '25

HONOLULU, HI

10

SAMUEL LEE '24

SCOTTSDALE, AZ

14

SEAN NIU '25

NEWPORT BEACH, CA

7

OLIVER STABACH '26

GLASTONURY, CT

15

ETHAN ZHU '26

DHAHRAN, SA

MANAGERS:

DANIEL MAIR '24

KINGSTON, JM

ADZ MORALES '25

NOKOMIS, FL

ARIANA ZHAO '25

NORTH ANDOVER, MA

A.ZHU/THE PHILLIPIAN



WE ARE ALLIANCE SPORTS.



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AND GROW
SPORTS
TEAMS.



OMAHA STORM CHASERS

The Omaha Storm Chasers are a Minor League Baseball team in the International League and the Triple-A affiliate of the Kansas City Royals. They are located in Omaha, Nebraska.

RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS

The Richmond Flying Squirrels are a Minor League Baseball team based in Richmond, Virginia. The team, which is a part of the Eastern League, is the Double-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants.



MONTGOMERY BISCUITS

The Montgomery Biscuits are a Minor League Baseball team based in Montgomery, Alabama. They are the Double-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays and play in the Southern League.

UNION OMAHA

Union Omaha is an American professional soccer team playing in the USL League One based in Omaha, Nebraska. The team debuted in 2020 and won the League One championship in 2021.



Andover Boys Soccer Salvages Lead Against Deerfield, Takes Second Loss of Season to Worcester

MADDIE SHIN AND LIZ WODARSKI

SATURDAY	
Andover	4
Deerfield	2
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	0
Worcester	2

On Saturday, Andover Boys Soccer (8-2-2) traveled to Deerfield and were up 3-0 at halftime. The team went into the second half and were met with two goals from a vengeful Deerfield team. Shortly after, Co-Captain Ellis Denby '24 scored his third goal of the day, silencing Deerfield's efforts to surge ahead of Andover. On Wednesday, Boys Soccer took on Worcester Academy (Worcester) at



M.MACKINNON/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Ellis Denby '24 recently announced his commitment to Tufts University.

home, resulting in its second loss of the season. According to Kai Myles '27, Andover's Co-Captains led the way in all different parts of the field against Deerfield. In an email to *The Phillipian*, Myles wrote, "Denby scored a hat trick and won us the game with his goals. [Co-Captain] Zane Matraji '24] used his creativeness to create many chances for us yesterday. [Co-Captain] Garret Holman '24] commanded the back line as per usual making it hard for teams to get by, and [Co-Captain] Alex Torrens '24] made sure that it wasn't easy for midfielders to get by applying constant pressure." Myles continued by sharing how the atmosphere of the team shifted after Deerfield scored two goals in a row. The goals motivated the team through the game to secure the win. Myles wrote, "I think at the beginning of the game there was barely an atmosphere due to our dominance in the first half being up by 3 goals to 0. But we came into the second half a bit shut down



M.MACKINNON/THE PHILLIPIAN

Marc Nelson '25 dribbles past a Worcester opponent.

and Deerfield came back and scored two. It was extremely tense at that point in time as we did not want to lose [nor] draw that game. Obviously we secured it with a last minute goal from Ellis, which killed their hopes, but we shouldn't have made it that close for sure." Co-Captain Alex Torrens '24 noted that in the game against Worcester, regardless of the result, the defense stood its ground. Although there were some unlucky circumstances that led to goals, Andover's backline was its strong point. "We did [a] pretty good job defensively throughout the game. One goal was just a mistake in the middle that then somehow found its way in the net. But we kept up defensively pretty well. Their second goal just came towards the end when we tried pushing up and putting more

players forward. It left us a bit exposed, but I [wouldn't] really hold that against them," said Torrens. In preparation for the game, Torrens described the process of thoroughly analyzing the opposing team's tactics through film. The team identified weaknesses and practiced according to those observations in preparation for Wednesday's game. "[Head Coach Edwin Escobar] showed us some film of the opponents and we identified that in the press they left the opposing side open so we tried working on quick switches to the other side as well. We knew they're big and physical so we also did some practice [with] one-on-one drills, trying to turn with a man on your back. I think in terms of the game, we didn't necessarily execute what we practiced too much. That's what Coach told us at

halftime, at halftime he was saying how he didn't think everything we did was translating exactly. I think we did a much better job in the second half," said Torrens.

Andover Boys Soccer will play away against Kimball Union Academy (KUA) on Saturday.

Girls Cross Country "Hurries Back" With Victory at NMH

EVAN CURTIN

Despite the rocky and unpredictable terrain at Northfield Mount Hermon's (NMH) course, Girls Cross Country dominated against NMH, Deerfield, Choate, and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) this Saturday. The team had four runners place in the top ten, with Emma Hagstrom '25 coming in first, Storrie Kulynych-Irvin '24 coming in second, Anya Budzinski '26 coming in third, and Tara Menon '26 coming in sixth. Faced with a course full of technical trails and rolling hills, Andover went into the meet with a strategy to tack-

le the terrain. Because of its difficulty, runners primarily focused on challenging themselves, rather than striding for personal records (PR). Menon said, "We went to the race knowing that it was going to be a tough course and that we...[needed to use] a lot of strategy. [We knew] to use the second, third mile to pass people and to keep the first mile a lot more comfortable... This wasn't a race that we were going to PR on, but it was a race to push ourselves on." Edy Leach '25 noted that before the race, Head Coach Patrick Rielly emphasized the difficulty of NMH's course. With the obstacles, the course added another layer of depth to the race, challenging every

runner. "We were told by our coach, Coach Reilly, that the course was going to be a 'mud and blood' one. So I think a lot of people were anxious... In the end, I think everybody enjoyed the course. They either thought it was beautiful or really challenging and not really in the mindset to admire the beauty," said Leach. Chloe Song '26 explained how Coach Keri Lambert's words of encouragement resonated with teammates, despite her maternity leave. Song recalled Captain Patricia Tran '24 reminding teammates of Lambert's saying to "hurry back." Song said, "[We] were all standing on the starting line and from behind us, Patricia

was like, 'Coach Lambert just said [to] hurry back'... And my mind went back to last year at NMH where [Lambert was] here with us. And it brought me back to that exact moment and I was like, 'She is here with us.' And so it really helped me push through the race and think 'hurry' back." Leach noted areas of improvement for the upcoming Andover/Exeter meet, such as pacing the final leg of the race well. She stressed the importance of pushing through the races, especially as the team nears the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Championships (Interschols). Leach said, "I personally could improve on pushing through the third mile only

because that is the hardest mile, especially on that course. That was the hardest mile. And I think just for [the] future, gaining a stronger mentality just to finish the last mile of the race... We have pretty good third mile finishes, but I think we can definitely be stronger."

Andover Girls Cross Country will race at home against Exeter on Saturday.

Football Faces Difficult Loss to Deerfield

MICHAEL WILLIAMSON

SATURDAY	
Andover	19
Deerfield	45

Andover Football (1-5) faced some challenging competition this week, followed by unfortunate injuries that took a toll on the team. Quarterback Adam Landry PG'24 was out and injured, with Jackson Slack '26 taking his place against a dominating Deerfield team. Going into the game, wide receiver and Co-Captain Joe Carrara '24 highlighted the team's highly competitive yet lively energy. Carrara high-

lighted the camaraderie between Deerfield and Andover. "Andover [and] Deerfield is always a good matchup. We always love playing them. It's always a great game and it's exciting. We got there a couple of hours early, walked down to the field, [and] everyone was locked in. Unfortunately, the game didn't go as we had hoped, but it's always fun to play Deerfield," said Carrara. Although the team did not take the win over Deerfield, Landry praised Slack, an IMG Academy transfer, who entered the game as the starting quarterback. Despite his injury, Landry was excited to see Slack fulfill his roles well. Landry said, "We started off the game rough and Jackson didn't...start but he kept his head high and he went in the game in the middle of the first quarter and he started

doing the right things. He was throwing the right balls. He eventually ended up with two touchdowns... To be thrown in that situation is pretty tough, but he lived up to his expectations and he had a really good game." Carrara highlighted the electric plays made by line-backers Janiel Herrera PG'24 and Nate Rosner PG'24. Carrara emphasized Andover's energetic defense despite the changes to the offensive lineup. "A couple of times the defense came up big. I know Nate Rosner, post-grad line-backer had a big interception before the half and I know Janiel Herrera, another post-grad line-backer had at least one forced fumble, maybe two, and he made a bunch of good plays on defense," said Carrara. From the sidelines, Landry

pointed out areas where the team needs to sharpen up, particularly with maintaining a balanced score before the second half and improving its early quarter plays. Landry said, "In our first quarters, we've had slow starts. We make a winnable game very difficult for ourselves by getting down on the scoreboard early. It's also been difficult for us to dust that off when we've been down by a couple of touchdowns before [the] first half is over. Most times, however, we have been able to fight back in the second half and not give up." With its last game underway before Andover/Exeter Weekend, the team is preparing diligently to play Suffield Academy. According to running back Logan Cove '24, Andover is studying film and developing a plan to counter-

act Suffield's offensive and defensive line. "We're going day by day looking at Suffield's defense and breaking it down, finding [its] weak points, and finding very specific plays that are going to work in our favor... which I think is going to be huge for us and I think we're going to have a lot of success going into the weekend," said Cove. Andover Football will play its final home game on Saturday against Suffield Academy.

Boys Water Polo Shows Improvement Despite Losses Against Deerfield and Exeter

ORLA NAUGHTON

SATURDAY	
Andover	9
Deerfield	12
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	7
Exeter	21

In a close game, Boys Water Polo (3-11) lost to Deerfield for the second time this season on Saturday. On Wednesday, the team fell against Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) after coming up short earlier in the

season. According to Jeffery Lim '27, Andover's battle against Deerfield saw strides of improvement from the last time that the teams faced each other. Even though both results weren't the desired outcome, it was an intense and competitive game. Lim said, "Overall, we played much better than the last time we played them. The scores didn't go our way, but we knew that we got better... It was really a back-and-forth game, us scoring, them scoring and then we fell behind a few points and came back up. Then they scored a few more and that's really how the game ended." After playing Deerfield earlier in the season, the team focused on targeting areas where it struggled in its prior game. Because of this, Lim noted that the team was able to carry out

plays more accurately to yield better results. "We knew how Deerfield's offense works since we've played them before, so we as a team did a really good job stopping their offense and playing better defense most of the time," said Lim. After the game against Deerfield on Saturday, Andover was able to take what it learned and implement it into the game against Exeter on Wednesday. Sean Niu '25 shared that by cleaning those skills up, the team was able to have some strong plays. "Deerfield, their offense was basically centered around these plays called ball-side drives, and we were really good at shutting them down today when Exeter ran those same drives," said Niu. Despite the loss, Niu highlighted two defenders, Ashton Ma '24 and Andrew Chinn '24

for their impressive performances in the pool. "I feel like we just didn't play good Andover water polo that game, and they ended up getting the best of us. However, that doesn't mean that nobody did things that were good. We had our Seniors, Ashton Ma and Andrew Chinn both playing pretty good defense. Ashton Ma was being really great, making a really big impact in the water," said Niu. Zach Godsey '25 applauded the team for its execution of skills that it's been working on throughout the season. Andover was able to build a strong foundation for team fluidity and connection during the game. Godsey said, "We've been trying to implement some movement into our offense, some drives and stuff like that, some options to score that are not just the center. I think

we were moving well today, I think we can still work on moving more in coordination, that would be stronger." As the season is coming to a close, Niu reflected on the achievements the team has had. He emphasized the team's ability to get better together, and that it, along with Head Coach Howie Kalter '07, are proud of how far they have come this season. Niu said, "I definitely feel like every single player individually has improved to some extent. I think that our coach has acknowledged that as well and is also really glad that we've improved not only as individual players but also as a team."

Andover Water Polo will play away against Hopkins for its final game of the season on Saturday.

"Blood and Mud": Boys Cross Country Dominates on Difficult Course

ANYA BUDZINSKI
& TARA MENON

Andover Boys Cross Country took on Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), Choate, Deerfield, and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) on Saturday, edging out Exeter for first place by just two points. Tam Gavenas '25 and Max Huang '24 led the team on NMH's course, sealing the top two individual finishes, respectively. Going into the race, Head Coach Patrick Rielly gave a pep talk to the team, informing them of the difficult terrain of the NMH course. In spite of

the technical course, Andover was confident in its preparation, noted Jakob Kuelps '25 who finished seventh overall. "We were pretty nervous going into the race. Coach Rielly had told us that NMH was the 'blood and mud' course, meaning it is very difficult. We didn't really know what to expect, but we were also confident in the hard work we have put in this season. We were ready to tackle it, even though we knew it would be hard. We were really focused and ready to all do our respective part in the race for the team," said Kuelps. In the week leading up to the race, the team focused on

different fitness strategies as well as recovery. Placing sixteenth, Robert Budzinski '26 noted how these workouts helped with the team's success. Budzinski said, "On Monday, we did a hill workout in the [Cochran Bird] Sanctuary, which is our home course... We ended up doing a full 5K of 5K effort running on hills, which really helped us to prepare for the hilly terrain on the course at NMH. In addition to the 5k pace reps, we did a fast finish which helped us practice finishing fast on tired legs... The rest of the week was really focused on recovery and making sure our legs were really fresh going into the race."

Eighth-place finisher Luke Williamson '25 mentioned previous preparations that had helped the team feel confident on the NMH course, aside from the Sanctuary practices. Other courses had also helped the team to maneuver hills and pace themselves well. Williamson said, "Our team is very strong with the rolling hills because the whole race is like you just got to keep working up the hills. Like there's never an off moment. You get some downhill, but you always go straight back into the uphill, and I feel like we've been ready for that." According to Kuelps, a key factor in the team's victory

was its ability to stay composed when competing against historically-dominant opponents. Kuelps said, "We all had great mental resilience and competed really well with the other teams in the race, especially Exeter, so we could place as high as possible. Our mental strength was what carried us in this race and helped us to get the win."

Andover Boys Cross Country will host Exeter on Saturday.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL VS. ST. PAUL'S

SATURDAY	
Andover	0
Deerfield	3

WEDNESDAY	
Andover	3
St. Paul's	0

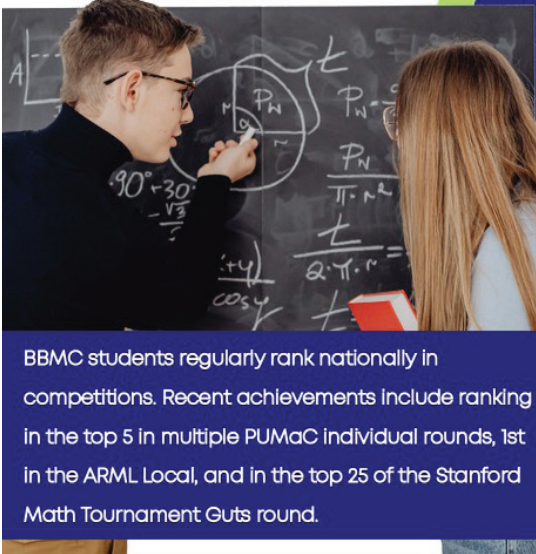


C.BARBIE/THE PHILLIPIAN
Drew Nelson '24 and Saraya Angbazo '25 blocks a St. Paul's outside hitter.



C.BARBIE/THE PHILLIPIAN
After being neck-to-neck with St. Paul's 13-13 in the first set, Kate Rodgers '26 (pictured hitting) helped lead the team to take the first set 25-19 with her serves.

BBMC MATH



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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

GSA Ball 2023 Offers Change of Pace From Crowded Mosh Dances

PENELOPE TONG

Last Friday, Andover’s Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) held their annual ball on Abbot Campus. This year’s theme was Beyoncé Renaissance, and a playlist of accordingly-themed songs filled Davis Hall as students mingled and chatted with each other.

With long and lavish curtains of streamers hung from door frames and glitzy decorations scattered across the walls, the scenery and environment felt new and refreshing. Attendee EV Heck ’25 reflected on the energy in the room.

“Since the event was hosted in Davis Hall, which is fairly far from main campus, the event felt like a fresh take on our regular dances in commons. It felt like everyone who was there wanted to be there, which led to a lot more dancing and less moshing... I would say that the vibe was really energized and like everyone was having a really fun time... The location and theme were a great choice and made this event feel like its own occurrence rather than a copy/paste dance in [Susie’s],” said Heck.

While the event was fairly relaxed and carefree, some students went all-out with their fashion choices. For instance, Karishma Caro Del Castillo ’25 carefully chose their attire to match well with the theme – donning a combination of sequins, patterns, and designs.



Students dance in Davis Hall for the GSA Ball 2023.

J.CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

“People definitely did show up with their sequins, it was a lot of fun. It’s great that they chose a popular icon, because it wasn’t just some theme that only a few people would get...

Beyoncé is obviously very glamorous, and I wanted to embody that the best I could, so I wore black high heel boots, sequined black shorts, a sequined black jacket, and a crop top under-

neath the jacket, and glasses,” said Caro Del Castillo.

Many students found that the event was a safe space to be themselves, as it fostered a supportive and open communi-

ty. Some students were already acquainted, but even those who weren’t were unified under the hospitable event. Zadie Robinson ’26 shared she was able to connect with others easily and comfortably.

“At normal dances, there are people who try to seem cool, and they’re boring, but the people here I all knew, so I kind of had a personal connection with, it was also just a welcoming and accepting community. It was the first dance I saw that wasn’t just composed of different friend groups, but more like one whole, and just a lot of people having fun together. I met a lot of people I didn’t know, and it was very fun to get to do that,” said Robinson.

Students noted their gratitude and appreciation for GSA and the event preparation, but proposed potential ideas. Due to the unusual setting of Abbot Campus to host the ball, Caro Del Castillo suggested ways to amplify the experience of walking the path there, whether that’s further clarity on directions or better decorations.

“I think maybe it might have been fun to have signage leading to Abbot Campus, to get people pumped on their way there. I know not everyone knows where Davis Hall is, so that might’ve been a cool thing. I know glitter’s really bad for the environment, but something lining the path there would have been super-duper cool. Otherwise, I think they did a great job,” said Caro Del Castillo.

Annual Chinese Karaoke Night is a “Love Confession” to Language Learning at Andover

CAMERON MANZO AND LISA DE BOER

Pink balloons lay scattered on the Kemper Auditorium stage as Alex Zhong ’24 strummed chords on his guitar. Gathered onstage, students performed karaoke to “Gao Bai Qi Qiu” (“Love Confession”) by Jay Chou. Audience members sang along, waving their phone flashlights.

Last Friday evening, each Andover Chinese class performed a Chinese song of their choice at their annual karaoke event. Their music choice spanned a wide range of genres, including movie music, pop covers, and traditional songs. Moreover, many classes incorporated choreography, from a synchronized dance to “Xiao Ping Guo” (“Little Apple”) to imitated sword fights. Audience member Julian Otto ’27 commented on high-

lights of the event.

“It was a really fun experience, I’m definitely going to come next year. It was a blast. I saw people putting in a lot of effort, a lot of leadership on stage... My favorite song was ‘Yi Jian Mei’ (‘A Branch of Plum Blossom’), more commonly known as ‘Xue Hua Piao Piao.’ I saw Michael Doherty [’27] really get into the dance, really showing assertiveness on stage. I also really loved Chinese ‘Let It Go,’ because it really got the audience and the crowd involved. It was fantastic,” said Otto.

Hosted by Andover’s Chinese Department and Chinese Language Club, this event was entirely student-run, from tech support to clean-up. Student volunteers who made this karaoke possible included Chinese Club board members Michael Ma ’24, Tina Zeng ’24, Evelyn Kung ’26, and Alyssa

Schoonmaker ’26, as well as EV Heck ’25. Scallion pancakes were also served at the end as per tradition. Chinese teacher Dr. Zhao explained the purpose of the event and how she thought it went.

“To nurture students’ interest in Chinese language and Chinese culture...is probably the overarching goal – it gives students the opportunity to see real-life use of the language instead of just in a textbook... Everyone was so excited about their own performance and their friends’ performances, and everyone was such a good and responsive audience, so that was my favorite part,” said Zhao.

Each Chinese class spent ample time rehearsing for this performance, from learning their songs on instruments to brainstorming class choreography. Michael Doherty ’27, a student from Chinese 100, described

their preparation process.

“We practiced every day after class for 15 minutes, and we practiced the dance [individually] too. One person in our class prepared a video for the performance. In terms of challenges, we didn’t really know how to do the dance or what to do, so we found a video to model after, and it really helped,” said Doherty.

The karaoke show not only encouraged language learning, but also brought students from all across campus together. Seeing what each class came up with was a rewarding part of the experience, according to Isa Matloff ’24.

“It’s so fun to see everyone singing along, dancing to the music, and holding their phones up... I think getting to see what all of the classes come up with, and seeing people in a classroom setting coming together to create art is really awesome,

especially for a language class where you usually might not see something like this. I think [it] is super cool,” said Matloff.

Overall, many students were able to find joy watching the performances. Audience member Julia Rocha ’25 echoed such sentiments.

“This was the first time I’ve gone, and I’d seen pictures and videos of it, but the real thing was just so lively, and had a lot of energy. I didn’t expect it to be so full of life, and so fun for not only the people performing, but the audience as well... I really liked the [song] that went ‘Sorry, I can’t speak Chinese,’ because I can’t speak Chinese, and it truly helped me out. I also really liked the super choreographed ones. The ‘Let It Go’ [performance] was very funny. The choreography was so elaborate... I really would [take Chinese] if I could,” said Rocha.



E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Students in Chinese 320 dance to the Mandarin version of “Let it Go.”



E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Students in many classes coordinated outfits to match with the song they performed.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Taylor Swift Reclaims Iconic “1989” Album with Five New Songs “From the Vault”

PIPER LASATER

Taylor Swift recently released her re-recorded version of the album “1989” on October 27, the same date as the original 2014 release. In 2019, Taylor decided to leave her record company, Big Machine Records, and switch to Universal Music Group. However, her original recordings were acquired by Scooter Braun for 300 million dollars. This was extremely unfair to Swift because she had been trying to buy back her own masters herself. In response, she has now re-released “Fearless (Taylor’s Version),” “Red (Taylor’s Version),” “Speak Now (Taylor’s Version),” and “1989 (Taylor’s Version).”

As a treat to fans who have stayed loyal to her through the process, she released a few never-heard-before The Vault tracks alongside the 16 original songs in the album. She also featured “Bad Blood (feat. Kendrick Lamar)” in a subsequent deluxe version of the album.

Growing up with Taylor Swift, her relatable lyrics and music are intertwined with my childhood memories. The re-releases have rekindled the same joy I felt when I first heard these albums. With age, Taylor’s voice has definitely matured, and this evolution is noticeable in the re-released songs, which feature minor production changes, a fuller vocal tone, and a slightly different acoustic quality. But to my knowledge, there haven’t been significant alterations to the lyrics, making it easier for listeners to adapt to this new version of the album.

The first Vault track, titled “Sl*t!,” initially struck me with its explicit title, creating a contrast with the otherwise upbeat feel of the album. My assumptions were mostly correct — it didn’t transition cohesively from the preceding



DILNAWA KIZGHIN/THE PHILLIPIAN

track, “New Romantics,” and failed to match its energy. Although I don’t hate this song, it would have fit better in Taylor’s recent “Midnights” album. While I do appreciate the song’s message of reclaiming the derogatory term, it stands as my least favorite among The Vault songs.

The next Vault track, “Say Don’t Go” had quite the opposite effect and might be my favorite among Taylor’s Vault songs. It maintains the album’s typical tempo, featuring a slow build-up and multi-voice chorus, similar

to “New Romantics,” “How You Get The Girl,” and “Wonderland.” What sets this song apart is the longer build-up and slightly less upbeat tone. It has a bit of a resemblance to the “Midnights” album initially, but it’s far more cohesive than “Sl*t!”

The following two The Vault songs, “Now That We Don’t Talk” and “Suburban Legends” provided an enjoyable listening experience. They were a bit calmer, which resembled one of the original songs, “Clean.” Though my opinion of them is simi-

lar to that of “Sl*t!,” I found these to be lyrically stronger. They could easily fit on her “Midnights” album, however, the beat drops in the chorus aligned them more with the vibe of “1989.”

The final The Vault track, “Is It Over Now?” sounded like a somber take on “Out Of The Woods” with similarities in the intro, chorus, beat, and overall tone. What makes it unique is that it takes jabs at her past boyfriend in ways similar to many old songs. For example, in “All Too Well” on “Red (Taylor’s Version),” Tay-

lor pokes fun at her ex-boyfriend, Jake Gyllenhal. In “Is It Over Now?” she playfully targets her ex, Harry Styles. These references make listeners feel like they are in on an inside joke with Taylor, so I applaud her ability to connect to her audience.

The final bonus song, featured on the deluxe version of “1989 (Taylor’s Version),” is “Bad Blood (feat. Kendrick Lamar).” Initially, I found the song repetitive and annoying, so Kendrick’s rapping verses and voiceovers added a new dimension to the song. It can be hard to adjust to an added artist to an already established song, and I was concerned that “Bad Blood (feat. Kendrick Lamar)” might end up like “Karma (feat. Ice Spice),” a bonus track from “Midnights (The Til Dawn Edition).” Surprisingly, Kendrick and Taylor’s rhythms were much more synchronized in “Bad Blood,” exceeding my expectations. Kendrick’s immediate feature in the beginning, while slightly disappointing as I was fond of the original intro, offered an interesting drop into Kendrick’s verse.

In my opinion, “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” is my favorite among Taylor’s re-releases. The Vault songs were easy to enjoy and added to the overall experience. Taylor’s voice and style have undoubtedly matured over the years, and the re-release of “1989” bears a resemblance to her “Midnights” album and the broader music of this decade. Despite some changes, the impact of her 2014 album hasn’t lost its effect on me; it still provides that same boost of energy and adrenaline. The re-release of albums is bringing fans back through the story of her life told through these albums, and I am genuinely excited to see what she has in store for the future.

Stella Seong ’27 Combines Streetwear and Academia with “Stellar” Accessories

STAFF REPORT

Pairing dark blue jeans with a black and white pin-stripe top, dark gray jacket, and silver jewelry, Stella Seong ’27 accessorizes with a matching bag and shoes which are both black with silver stars. She finished the look with silver sunglasses and a silver star claw clip. Seong explained the inspiration for her many silver star accessories.

“My name is Stella and it means “star” in Latin... I didn’t think of my name and

say, ‘Oh, I should wear a lot of stars.’ But I think I gravitated towards it a lot more. I just think it’s a fun shape and it looks really cool when you put the shape on whatever because it can really go on anything. I have it all over my wardrobe from hair claws to patterns on clothes. The fact that my name means ‘star’ adds a cool little touch to that,” said Seong.

Jess Jeon ’27 gave her opinion on Seong’s style, citing it as a combination of aesthetics.

“I would describe Stella’s style as edgy and Y2K-inspired. She wears a lot of

neutral colors as a base, and will sometimes add a pop of color to her outfits... I love how Stella wears a lot of accessories to elevate her outfits. In general, I really love how she makes many different pieces work well together,” said Jeon.

Seong’s outfits center around low-rise baggy jeans with small details, such as interesting pocket designs, as well as her collection of staple accessories, including watch rings and her favorite purple bag, which contains all her essentials. Jenna Liang ’27 mentioned the aspects of Seong’s outfits that stood out to her.

“Stella’s outfits are all very unique in the sense that she chooses combinations that aren’t normal. Her style is something you would find on a Pinterest page if you searched up something like ‘rockstar.’ I think she’s obsessed with anything to do with... dark purple, which is what makes her outfits stand out. Also, her rings and jewelry in general are so spontaneous,” said Liang.

Seong gains inspiration from social media when it comes to her fashion. On platforms like Pinterest, she will see a photo of a nail color which may spark an idea for a specific outfit. Seong also listed some of her favorite brands and clothing stores.

She continued, “For accessories, I usually go on Etsy. I buy a lot of second-hand stuff on Depop because usually when you go on Pinterest and you see outfit inspo, you’re not going to be able to find that sort of clothing... in stock in a store... secondhand shopping has been very helpful for me.”

In terms of the silhouette of her outfits, Seong leans more towards streetwear. However, she believes that the actual content of the outfits is a mix of grunge and



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Seong finds inspiration for her outfits from social media and classical music.

academia. Seong explained how oftentimes music inspires her aesthetic.

“I play violin, so I listen to some classical music sometimes... When you think of classical music, you usually think of academic style...

[so I would wear] something more formal...[like] a blouse. I listen to a lot of R&B [too]. I sort of correlate that with streetwear,” said Seong.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Inspired by her first name “Stella,” meaning “star” in Latin, Seong wears many star accessories to compliment her outfits.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Brian Zhu '26 Showcases Passion for Music Through the Versatility of the Erhu

PENELOPE TONG

Brian Zhu '26 has been playing musical instruments for over eight years. In addition to playing the violin, Zhu also studies a traditional Chinese instrument, the erhu.

Over the past couple of years, Zhu has been performing in competitions and talent shows, immersing himself in music and demonstrating his dedication to the art. Zhu shared a memory from his first performance.

“My favorite memory was my first performance, in front of the elementary school. It was my first time sharing my music with my friends, and I was very glad that they enjoyed it. I remember not being nervous at all because I was thoroughly enjoying the piece ‘奔驰在千里草原’ (‘Galloping on The Endless Prairies’). It felt like I was free on the vast plains of Mongolia,” wrote Zhu in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Zhu first expressed interest in the erhu when he watched his father play. Zhu began to practice alongside his father, who inspired him to delve deeper into the instrument’s craft.

“My father played it before me, and he’s still play-

ing with me now. So I used to watch him play, and I thought it looked fun, so I wanted to learn with him, and then later it sort of became a competition on who would be better... It’s really fun,” wrote Zhu.

When Zhu plays a piece, he tries to match the emotions and energy with those that the composer intended. Many of the songs played on the erhu depict a story, so Zhu often bases his playing off of the dramatic feelings and messages that come with such plots.

“I’m immersed in the music, so I do my best to either convey the feelings/messages of the composer (grief, heroism, joy... [It] really depends on the piece), mimic the scenery (空山鸟语), or tell the story of the piece (‘**洪湖人民的心愿**,’ which is translated from an aria in a Chinese opera about a female guerilla leader liberating her people),” wrote Zhu.

In the future, Zhu hopes to take advantage of the erhu’s versatility to play in many different types of performances. He intends to use these opportunities to share his passion and talent with others.

“Erhu is a versatile instrument so it’s great for performing in both formal and informal contexts. I’ll be looking to

play in talent shows, community performances, and performances for social events. I always enjoy performing and sharing my music so I’ll be looking for more opportunities to perform,” wrote Zhu.

New to Andover, Zhu performed at his first Andover student recital at the beginning of the school year. Audience member Wooba Song ’26 described how he felt about Zhu’s playing.

“Brian’s performance was very technically skilled and musically intriguing, and I really enjoyed his musicianship. I loved the variety of sounds he was able to portray throughout the different sections of the piece, as well as his ability to switch between fast sections and slower, melodic sections. As a Chinese person, I really appreciate how he is bringing a traditional Chinese instrument to Andover and sharing it with the students,” said Song.

Zhu shared that his love for the instrument also stems from its extensive range of sound, and thus, broad possibilities of repertoire. He described how the erhu can mimic many sounds from the natural world, as well as adapt to existing musical styles.

“Erhu has an earthly sound, compared to the violin, which



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Zhu appreciates the “freedom” and “flexibility” that erhu offers.

has a more ‘heavenly’ sound. It sounds [like] the human voice, which is why I can ‘sing’ on the erhu... It can take on many ethnic musical styles from around China, and the world, and mimic different

sounds like animal sounds, [such as] galloping horses, chirping birds, or human sounds, [such as a] weeping widow. That’s why it’s so fun to play,” wrote Zhu.

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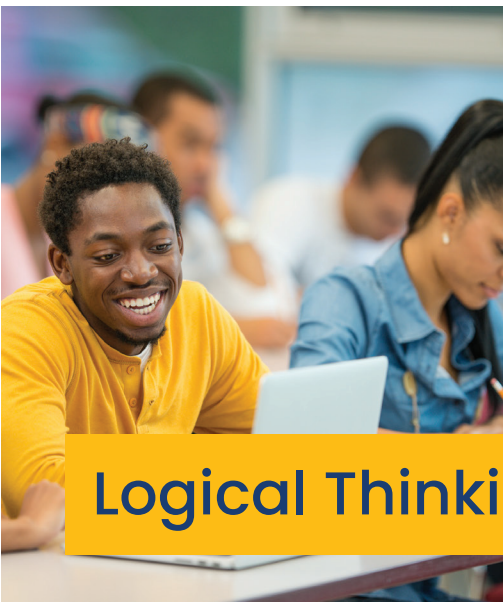
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