The Phillipian

i'm in the stirrups
- anonymous (he/him)

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Add/Drop Process Sees "Record Amount of Success" This Year

CADE RUTKOSKE

At the beginning of each term at Andover, a special period known as "Add/Drop" allows students to change their courses by making requests through the Office of the Dean of Studies. Although certain cases allow for students to drop classes past the deadline, class schedules are usually set for the remainder of the term following the end of the Add/Drop period.

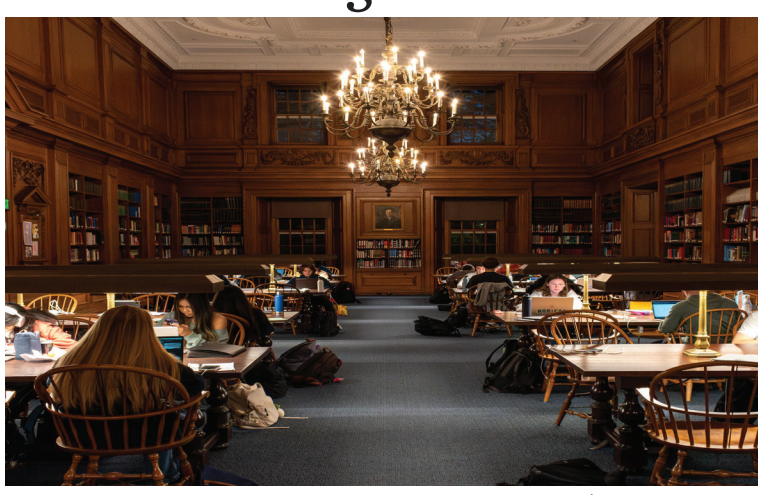
Kenneth Shows, Associate Director of College Counseling and Associate Dean for Scheduling, provided information on changes made in recent years to the scheduling and Add/Drop processes. He noted that consistent efforts have been made to improve the program.

"The core of the Add/Drop process has remained the same during my time in scheduling, though we try to make small improvements every year. We've been able to consistently offer pre-term Add/Drop over the last few years, which I believe is an improvement because it allows a greater number of students to start the term in their final schedules. We have asked students to attend a day of class in the term before requesting changes, which has lowered the overall number of requests, and particularly lowered the number of re-requests," wrote Shows in an email to *The Phillipian*.

The Add/Drop process has seen a record amount of success this year in placing students into their desired classes. Of the over 6,100 academic class enrollments this Winter Term, the Office of the Dean of Studies received only a few hundred requests for changes, according to Catherine Tousignant, Instructor in English.

Continued on A5, Column 1

Campus Reacts to OWHL's Increased Enforcement of Rules During Fall Finals Week



PHOTOGRAPHER/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Since the Fall Term, Silent has experienced an increase in occupancy, resulting in one of the rule changes.

NIKI TAVAKOLI AND JEANNE KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET

During Fall Term Finals Week, the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) more strongly enforced two rules, closing the basement study rooms temporarily and enforcing a policy prohibiting students from reserving seats in the Garver Room (Silent). The stronger rules were a direct response to food and broken glass that had been left in a study room and the overflow of students reserving seats in Silent, which caused others unable to find a spot in the space.

Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL, noted that no rules had changed. Instead, the library is implementing directives listed on the OWHL's website more strongly than before.

"I just want to emphasize that they're not changes, it's stronger enforcement... and the reason we did them is because the behavior was a little out of control during Finals week. It was very disrespectful, not only to the library team who were scrubbing [study room] floors and vacuuming, and it was disrespectful to the cleaning crew. If 37 seats [in Silent] are being reserved and not used, I have a duty to provide equal access."

Torres Hoven also highlighted how the OWHL had relaxed their rules over the years to better align with how students want to use the space. Despite the campus space having evolved as a place for socializing, Torres

Continued on A5, Column 1

Andover to Acapella: Kevin Olusola '06 Shares His Journey

LILY LIU & JONATHAN OH

Kevin Olusola '06, also known as K.O., is an American singer-songwriter and the beatboxer of the a capella group Pentatonix. The group recently performed at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade; they have numerous accomplishments, including having released 11 albums, selling over two million records, and having over two billion views on YouTube.

Olusola joined Andover as a new Upper before attending Yale University for his undergraduate studies. During his time at Andover, Olusola participated in many musical programs including singing for the Yorkies, Andover's all-male a capella group. Olusola discussed his journey into becoming a part of Pentatonix after graduating from Andover and finding opportunities to combine his love of cello and beatboxing.

"I was studying music because I absolutely loved it. Never thought I was going to make it a career, but... certain things happened in my path that led me here. In my Senior Spring Semester at Yale, I had a video that went viral of me playing cello and beatboxing at the same time, and my bandmates found me from that video," said Olusola. "I got an opportunity to join what was being formed as Pentatonix for the TV show 'The Sing-Off,' and we won. Since then, we've had this really beautiful, illustrious career with multi-platinum albums and three Grammys."

Olusola highlighted the evolution of Pentatonix's goals throughout their career from a newly formed group to one of

Continued on A6, Column 1

Frank Tipton Provides Informative Introduction to the Israel-Palestine Conflict

A. LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Frank Tipton taught students the extensive historical context behind the Israel-Palestine conflict. Most students felt his content was introductory and effective.

JACQUELINE GORDON & WILLIAM GE

Members of the Andover community came together in the Cochran Chapel to receive a brief introduction to the history of the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict. Entitled "Israel-Palestine 101," the lecture was presented by Frank Tipton, an educator in Middle Eastern studies and former Phillips Academy Instructor in History and Cluster Dean. Tipton provided fundamental historical context about the conflict while refuting beliefs of anti-Arab sentiments and antisemitism.

Throughout the presentation, Tipton utilized an array of poems, maps, documents, and speeches to provide an overview of both perspectives of the conflict throughout its history. Tipton also highlighted how misguided assumptions and personal biases may further inhibit open conversations to better understand the topic.

"The glorification of violence is not helpful. Prejudice, dehumanization, and hate [are] not helpful. Offering some kind of comparison that offers some implicit value judgment to the pain one person has as opposed to the pain that someone else has is not helpful. Pain is pain," said Tipton.

Tipton continued, "Indifference is also not helpful. I don't mean that we need to be thinking about Israel and Palestine 24/7. I do mean that when our paths cross those who are involved in the conflict, when our circumstances find ourselves in discourse, indifference sends a very powerful and negative message... Let's build hope. Let's come together and build hope... When we think about how we keep moving, when we think about how we continue to learn, when we think about how we continue to support, we will continue to think about how we build hope."

Dr. Merrilee Mardon, Deputy Head of School and one of the event organizers, described the process behind arranging the lecture. Mardon emphasized the involvement of student groups and thoughtfulness behind the planning of the event.

"The planning process involved many adults and students. On the student side — Nor and Ryan, and the boards of the MSA [Muslim Student Association], JSU [Jewish Student Union] and SWANA [South West Asian/North African Society] — were essential partners. [It] required us to pay attention to the evolving war in Gaza, to events on college campuses and in communities throughout the world, and — most importantly — to the experiences and needs of our students. We felt a great responsibility to the community to find and provide resources that would provide reliable and comprehensive information," wrote Mardon in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Nafi Diagne '26 noted that while the presentation successful-

Continued on A5, Column 4

Max Berkenblit '24 Presents Curriculum Teaching Women's Gender and Sexuality

PRISHA SHIVANI & SELENE XU

Starting off the 2023-2024 year of Brace Student Fellow Presentations, Max Berkenblit '24 proposed an introductory-level curriculum that teaches women's gender and sexuality studies on December 4 in Abbot Hall.

Titled "An Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: A Series of Teach-Ins," the proposal consisted of four lessons that focused on community, empathy, and understanding. Berkenblit worked with specific themes, or "pillars" for his course, and emphasized the messaging he hoped to leave the attendees with.

"[Empathy, acceptance, and understanding] ended up being the pillars that informed my course, and these ended up being the qualities that I wanted to impart on students. At the end of the day, I care more about if a student can question a source, than if they know all the gender terminology. If they question a source and act with empathy, then they can work to understand another person's pronouns or gender," said Berkenblit.

Berkenblit also highlighted the prevalence of gender and land rights. Berkenblit explained how the different lessons within his presentation highlighted different themes, and in particular, one of the lessons focused on the legacies of colonialism.

"For the first lesson, I want to ground the course in the context of decolonization and have students recognize where they are, both physically on Phillips Academy's land and also where they stand on the American landscape of privilege and power. Lesson two is about gender, and it's what I like to call the base layer of the cake of women's gender and sexuality studies. Lesson three focuses on intersectional feminism, particularly examining students' connotations of it. Lesson four is about sexuality, which has to go with a lot of the other [lessons]," said Berkenblit.

Before the event, Berkenblit shared his thoughts on the process of starting his work on the presentation and the final product. Berkenblit discussed how his idea initially formed, what inspired him to think of creating his curriculum, and why such a curriculum is essential to Andover students specifically.

"I was sitting in a cafe, looking at the State of the Academy [SOTA] data from last year, and I saw a kind of concerning trend of a lot of students identifying the word 'feminist' with the Oxford English Definition, but they didn't identify with the word feminist themselves. [They are] supporting feminism without wanting the name attached. That kind of got me thinking on why that was happening, and the implicit bias many students may hold without realizing it," said Berkenblit.

Brigitte Leschhorn, Instructor in English, served as Berkenblit's faculty advisor through the process of the presentation. She

Continued on A5, Column 4

L. DE BOER/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Outlining four lessons within the curriculum, Berkenbilt emphasized the importance of community, empathy, and understanding.

Commentary, A2
More Than a Number
Grace Kim '27 urges students to redefine their worth beyond grades, fostering a holistic sense of "mattering" through the reclamation of personal identites.

Eighth Page, A8
Drugs and Stuff
You think it's bad now? See what students during prohibition went through

Sports, B1
Boys Hockey
Boys Hockey won its first two games of the season beating Pomfret 4-2 and Thayer 5-4.

Arts, B6
A Mix of Both
Ethan Liu '26 explores the disciplines of both photography and music in his artistic journey at Andover.

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Editorial

'Tis the Damn Season

Early-round college application results are released in mid-December for most universities. Entering this forthcoming stretch of acceptances and rejections, many Seniors are overwhelmed, anxious, and perhaps even excited to hear back from where they sent their applications weeks ago. With this heightened apprehension, it's safe to say now is a tense season on campus.

To the Class of 2024 and prospective college applicants of the class of 2025, the message that the college application process does not sum up your value as an individual is hackneyed but wise. Though the college process aspires to thoroughly review each applicant, this is simply not practical with the volume of applications each institution receives. Colleges do not know you personally and they reasonably cannot. They do not know what kind of person you are on the daily. They do not know all the highs, lows, and personal growth in your life. The things that you personally value is not what's always displayed as an application. Colleges see many important aspects of your application, but that does not necessarily equate to colleges seeing important parts of your true self. Admitting the college process to be what it is, we can acknowledge that this process does not define our successes in life nor does it define us as people.

As for the interpersonal aspect of college season, it is imperative for everyone – freshmen to seniors – to know that college is an individual, deeply personal process. It should never be gossip material for others to whisper about. Just as other topics are sensitive, each student's college process is too, though this fact is often not regarded as such due to its prevalence on campus. We know that Andover is an inherently competitive school, but that should not come at the expense of respect for our peers' boundaries, especially when it comes to the subject of college.

When speaking about college, please consider the comfort of the one applying for college. The college admissions process is challenging in ways those outside cannot appreciate. As such, those who aren't applying to college encroach on a Senior's right to determine when and if they are ready to delve into topics regarding the emotionally charged time that is college application season. If a Senior does decide to talk about their college application experience, allow them to dictate how and when they do so. Despite having the best intentions, comments like, 'Oh, you'll get in,' can heighten anxiety and add extra pressure when receiving decision letters. Of course, what the Senior is comfortable with is case-by-case for each relationship, but typically, just being an active listener is enough.

While we talk about how to comfort the part of campus applying, the best and more long-term solution is to reframe college in a different light. College decisions, although they provide some sort of acceptance or rejection, are by no means a reflection of anyone's worth. We must make an active effort to avoid making comparisons or judgments about anybody based on their college decisions. The hard work, character, and achievements cannot simply be condensed or diminished to a single decision.

Applying for college is a inevitable experience for Andover students and has always been notorious for its emotional strain and potential for toxicity. Though there is a lot out of the control of Seniors, we can all control how we act towards each other. Prioritizing mutual respect for yourself and others is a great place to start.

So, here's to a season of kindness, understanding, and a future filled with endless possibilities. Good luck, Class of 2024 and prospective applicants of the Class of 2025—may your journeys be as unique and extraordinary as each one of you.

An Ode to Gratitude

MICHEAL KAWOOYA

C. BARBIE / THE PHILLIPIAN

This past Fall Break, my family and I sat around the table for Thanksgiving dinner, as we'd done many years before. Like muscle memory we went through the motions of sitting in our self-assigned seats, blessed the meal with a prayer, and then shared what we were each thankful for. In my moment of silent consideration, I reflected on everything I was fortunate and grateful to have. Perhaps it's my myopic point of view, but oftentimes at Andover, I get consumed by my problems and neglect to think about the things I'm lucky to have. In a world with catastrophes everyday, I believe it's important to never take for granted even the simple privileges in life.

To start, I'm thankful I'm in good health, physically and mentally, and recognize the systemic advantages that entails. I'm thankful to have a roof over my head, especially one that is more than enough for four people. I'm thankful for my curly 4c hair, and my average height. I'm thankful for my deep, brown skin, not a shade too dark, or light. I'm thankful for my round eyes, friendly smile, and vibrant laugh. I'm thankful for the ability to see my beauty, beyond the layer of teenage insecurity that sometimes makes that impossible.

I'm thankful my gender allows me to roam the streets without fear of being catcalled, and I'm thankful to live in a country where constitutionally, marriage is rooted in love, rather than procreation. I'm thankful those around me taught me that religion is a vessel to welcome others, rather than shut them out. I'm thankful that, while not entirely perfect, my citizenship to the United States ensures a level of safety that many in the world are not afforded right now. I'm thankful I can afford luxuries like a new iPhone, and I'm very grateful I have the privilege to boycott purchasing a new iPhone, to avoid contributing to the cobalt-motivated, Silent Holocaust in Congo.

I'm thankful my parents supported my passions throughout my youth, from karate to piano, and musical theater. I'm thankful for little things like my Spotify account, and having the means to Doordash if I want to. I'm thankful my parents taught me that the way to people's hearts is through a smile, to never doubt my self-worth, and the priceless value of education,

I'm thankful that by some stroke of luck, I was admitted to the fourth best (should be first, but nevertheless) high school in the U.S. — where I have the ability to learn beyond what I thought was possible. I'm thankful I became aware of Andover during my eighth grade year just in time to apply, because it is likely that there are thousands of qualified students who don't know about Phillips Academy. I'm thankful I could take up videography, bagpipes, or squash if I wanted to.

I'm thankful Andover brought me to find my closest friends on Earth, all of which I likely would've never met otherwise. My second family, who save me a seat in Paresky Commons, and pool money to buy me an overpriced ice cream cake for my birthday. I'm thankful I can be assured that these friendships will stand the test of college, adulthood, and time, making Andover a lifelong experience, rather than four years.

As this moment came to a close, I heard my voice saying, "I'm thankful for everything," that wasn't because I was too tongue-tied to respond. Rather, I didn't want to try and sum up everything I'm fortunate for in a few words, because that wouldn't be nearly enough. 650 words in *The Phillipian* isn't enough. Furthermore, moving forward, I want to recall the things I said I was thankful for this past Thanksgiving and reiterate my gratitude, every single day.

SOFIA HATZIGIANNIS / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Perhaps it's my myopic point-of-view, but oftentimes at Andover, I get consumed by my problems and neglect to think about the things I'm lucky to have.

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

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CORRECTIONS:

The News article "Breaking Barriers: Ally Kim '24 Aims to Redefine Disability Stigma in Andover and Beyond" by Saketh Lingisetty and Jenna Liang credited the wrong authors.

The Phillipian *regrets these errors.*

DEFINING SELF-WORTH

C. SHEN / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

The Art of Mattering

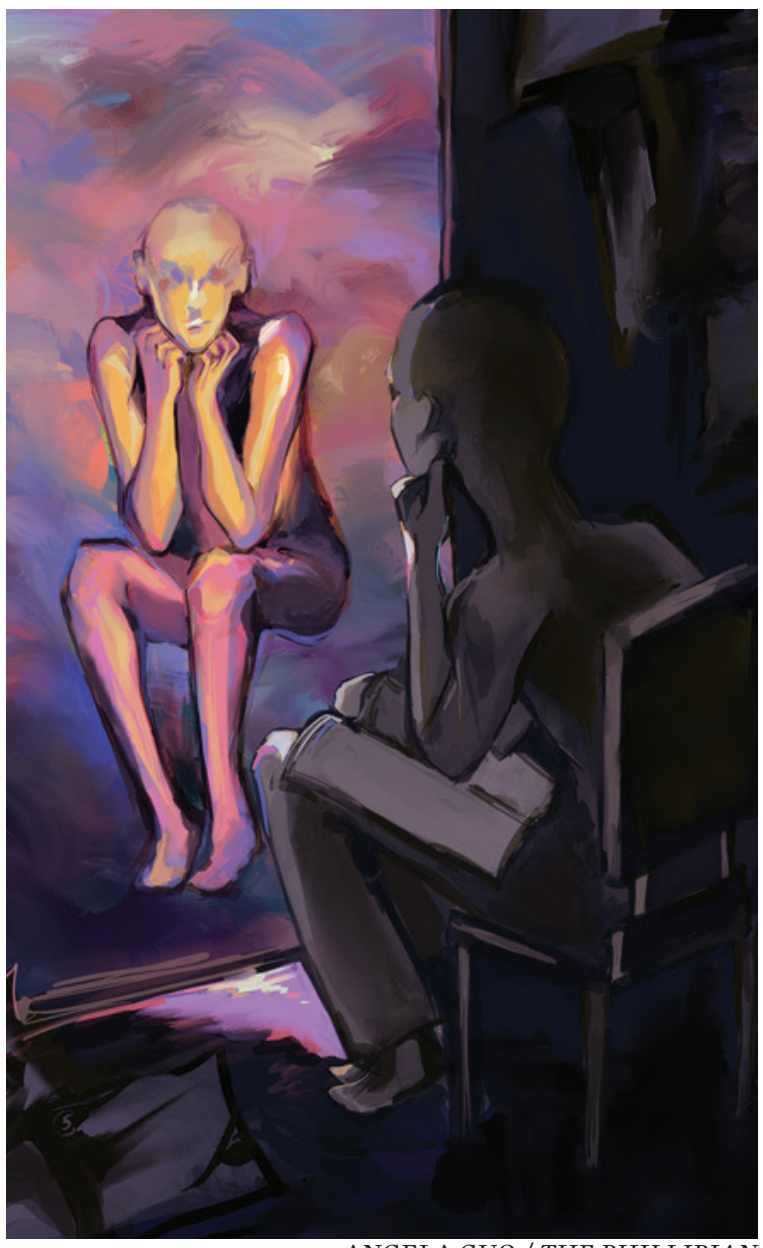
GRACE KIM

J. CARMONA / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Many people at Andover are familiar with issues such as anxiety, imposter syndrome, and burnout. It is a phenomenon that is generally unavoidable and in most cases attributed to the stress of school. However, I would argue that these symptoms point to a bigger problem: students don't feel like they matter. According to Isaac Prilleltensky, professor at the University of Miami and co-author of How People Matter, to matter means to feel valued and to feel like you add value. Despite the simplicity of the definition, new research by Gordon Flett and his colleagues at York University shows a close relationship between one's sense of mattering and the general mental well-being of the person. The researchers state that people who feel like they do not matter are at a higher risk of "self-harm tendencies and inability or unwillingness to engage in self-care." But, how do students regain that sense of "mattering" that we as humans innately crave? It boils down to the act of identifying who you are as a person, outside of simply a number on a transcript.

At Andover, it is no secret that your grades tend to mean a lot to you — it might even seem to define your worth as a person. But in most cases, your grades fluctuate. In fact it is more common that you don't always get that six you wanted. In tying our identities so close to our grades we, as students, start to evaluate ourselves by how close we are to becoming the perfect student: exceptional grades, consistent work, and diverse extracurriculars. Thus when we fail to reach these unattainable expectations, we begin to perceive the failure as an evaluation of our general worth. So, to truly establish a sense of "mattering" at this school, the most important step is to identify who you are when you are not a student. You must realize that you are multifaceted and complex, and even if you do not excel in one part of your identity there are so many other aspects that you are succeeding in. By building a holistic identity you are able to develop and unwavering self assurance and confidence in yourself independent from external validation. While the student identity is defined with harsh, rigid boundaries that separates the "succeeding" from the "failing" with clear-cut numbers, your personal identity doesn't have to be judged so brutally. When you begin to see yourself as a person made up of multiple moving parts, you realize the equal importance of every component of your life. You realize that grades, good or bad, are not indicative of your value as a human being. You are so much more.

By enhancing your personal identity and identifying your strengths aside from academics, you find unique ways to contribute to the community, adding "value" to the Andover campus. This will not only help validate your sense of worth, but it will also allow you to sustain a healthy method to boost your self-esteem. To identify such strengths, think of moments when you did something you enjoyed and received positive feedback. Was it when you crocheted something for your friend? Or when you planned an awesome party for your friend's birthday? Whatever it is, once you have identified your personal strengths, work on developing that aspect of yourself. If you want to pursue crocheting as your strength, make a club where fellow crocheters can enjoy a relaxing time doing the craft they love. Or perhaps start a community service where community members can learn how to crochet. Using your strengths to add value to the community that you live in will help you feel confidence your worth and allow you to enjoy your time doing it. Don't get me wrong, there will definitely be times when you feel unqualified or unworthy. These negative feelings will always find a way to creep into your life. But by having a strong sense of who you are as a person and other ways to affirm your importance, you can push past those hard moments and realize that those are simply a part of your identity, not your defining factor.



ANGELA GUO / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

There are many societal pressures constantly dictating the standards we should hold ourselves to, but it is important to step back and remind yourself that the only person who can determine your worth is yourself. In other words, you are the only one who is in control of what you believe makes you feel worthy. So I encourage you to take some time to explore what makes you genuinely feel good about yourself and start to build an identity focused more on that pleasure. By solidifying your personal identity, you are able to stand firm within yourself despite the judgment and hardships you may face.

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

The Search for Perfection: Six-Planets in Harmony

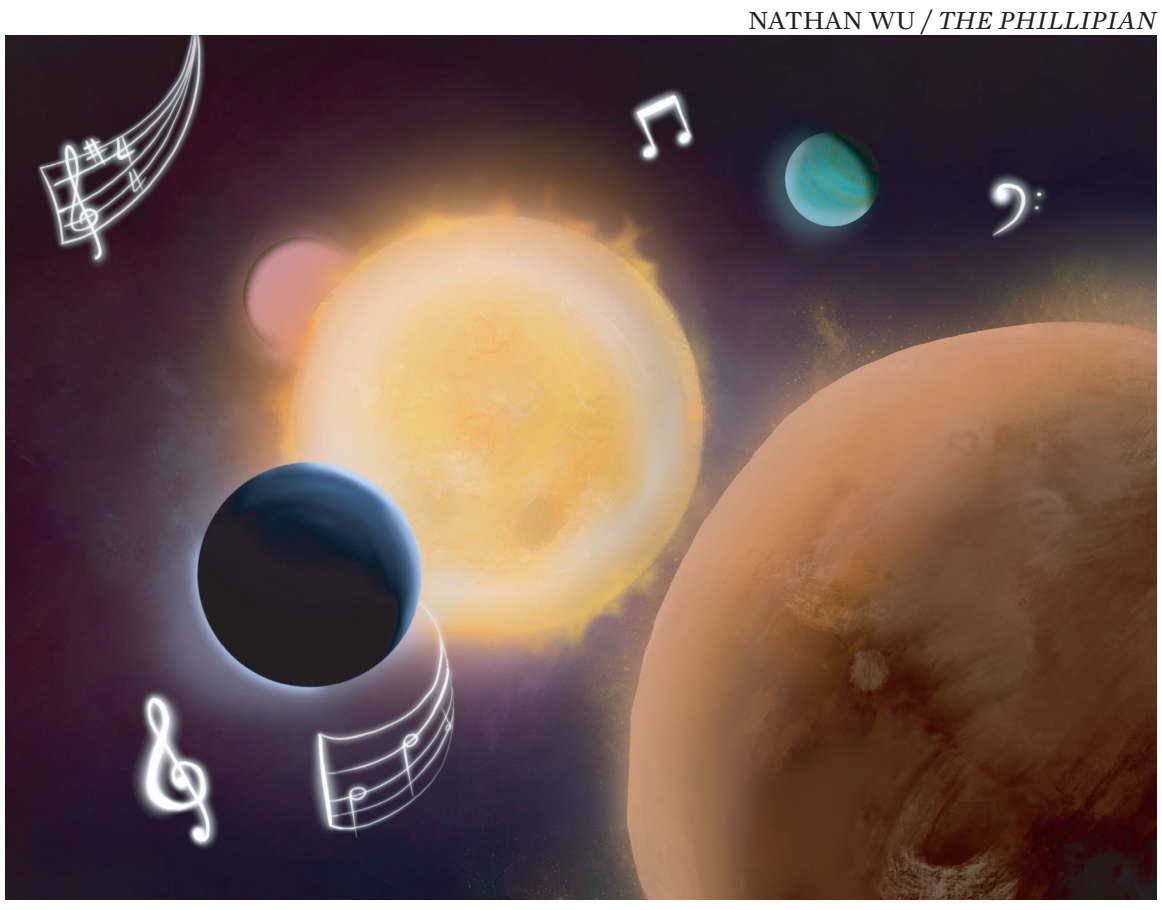
CLEO XU

COURTESY OF CLEO XU

Many of you probably have had the opportunity of listening to a truly spectacular symphony orchestra: when each instrument is in tone, the high notes of the flutes dancing on the top, the vibrations of each strings coming off of the violins, the low humming of the low brass—everything is in perfect harmony. Who would have thought that such an orchestra is currently playing on stage just a 100 light years away? A mere neighboring distance in astronomical terms, this grand show orchestrated by the universe has never been observed before—indeed, only about 1% of planetary systems could have performed this amazing ode to nature, embodying all ideals which humans continue to strive for, a culmination of perfection.

The discovery was first made in 2020 through the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). Two planets, each about two to three times the size of Earth, were found to orbit an orange star cataloged as HD 110067 in resonance. Although an interesting phenomena in itself, it was nothing unprecedented. Scientists have found seven earth-like planets orbiting in "near" resonance before, HD 110067 had only proven itself to be a more precise group of musicians, with the innermost planet making three orbits in the time that its neighbor would make two. There was no time for further investigation as the target soon disappeared after a month of the initial discovery, and it wasn't until when another Satellite—Characterising Exoplanet Satellite (Cheops)--came into play that the scientist realized they were onto something special.

NATHAN WU / *THE PHILLIPIAN*



A third planet was soon found, and amazingly—it falls into the same 3:2 orbit ratios as the first two planets. The astronomers did not stop there. A quest of unveiling the universe was at hand, and with it, the first chance to prove the ingenuity of design—a proof of perfection that was lacking for centuries. A theory was called for, and without further ado, predictions and calculations were made. With a stroke of luck, when leading scientist on the project Rafael Luque requested the data from Cheops, they found it was a perfect match. Not just two, or three, but in fact all six planets are in resonance with an orbiting ratio of 3/2—3/2—3/2—4/3—4/3. Although the planets themselves do not reside in the habitable zone, with an orbiting period ranging from 9 to 55 days—they are too hot for life to form—it is reasonable to expect a seventh planet on the way which may be in the right condition to support life.

One could not help but draw an analogy: the human effort to achieve perfection, and the universe's ease at producing six planets in resonance. The former must seem quite futile, minute, even ridiculous compared to the latter. What are we but mere stardust? Mere particles, quarks and electrons in this infinitely large universe? Yet we strive for perfection. We have been striving for perfection since the start of time—as far as anyone can remember, and that almost stubborn pursuit and passion has not dwindled if not increased. We know perfection to be impossible, we know perfection among the stars—imagine all six planets in resonance—to be close to impossible, yet we continue to believe, to hope that maybe, just maybe, the universe would prove us right: perfection cannot be achieved, but can be observed.

HD110067 is in a sense more "perfect" than our world, yet none of the planets are in habitable zone—no life is found and no evidence to support there will be any in the near future. This perhaps suggests that the foundation of life is not perfection, but rather the lack of it—the imperfection. Life itself is messy, disorganized and unable to be contained within the rigid frame of expectations. Life itself could be said as another name for imperfection, and the search for perfection is really but a search of something outside ourselves—something larger than ourselves. Maybe the lesson of all this was that learning to know the universe is not so different from learning to know our own existence and multitudes, the more we know of the former, the more we know the latter.

Gottfried Leibniz believed that we lived in the "best of all possible world;" Arthur Schopenhauer believed that we lived in the "worst of all possible world." Clearly, our world is not in perfect resonance: there is war, sickness, and poverty. But I would argue it is also not the worst: the proof being that we are given the intelligence to wonder, the technology to explore and a free ticket to listen to the best orchestra performance in the neighborhood.

Cleo Xu is a Lower from Beijing, China. Contact the author at kxu26@andover.edu.

No One Owes You Information on Their Love Life

KEREN SONG

L. MECHEGIA / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Taylor Swift is dating Travis Kelce, it seems — or are they?

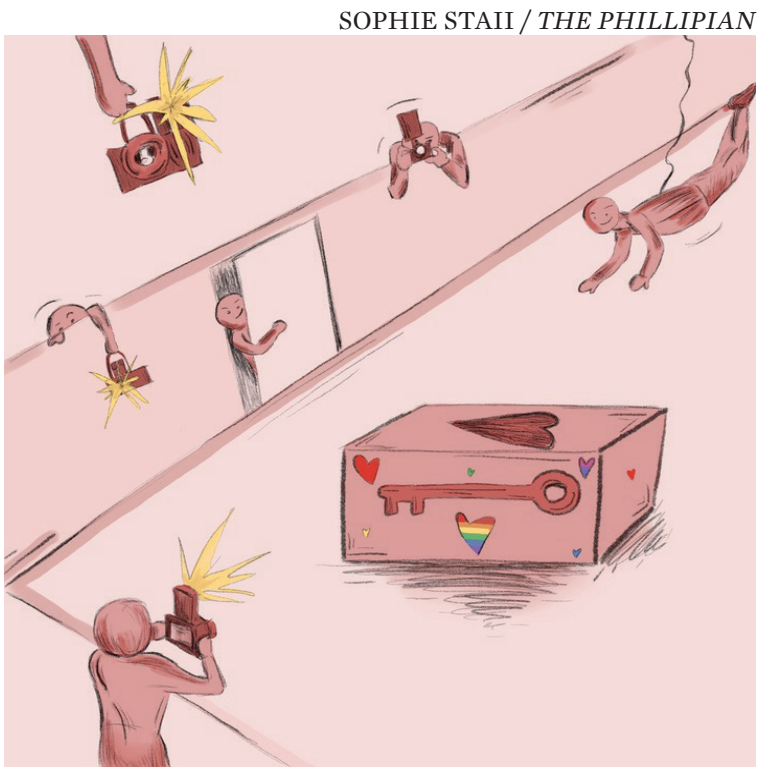
I am a huge Swiftie, so my social media pages are always flooded with updates on the iconic pop star. Recently, Travis Kelce, a football player for the Kansas City Chiefs, has been making headlines worldwide for his rumored relationship with the international star, Taylor Swift.

Firstly, let's ask ourselves: do we even have the right to care about their love lives? The most common answer is yes, we can care because we popularize their antics, and they earn money — that's how being famous works. They asked for the lives they live right now. Although these remarks are the sad reality many in the modern world face every day, no one is entitled to information on anyone's love life, and to think otherwise is a dangerous thought that fosters heteronormativity.

"It's because we care" can no longer be justification for demanding information on others' love lives.

Travis Kelce is a football player. Taylor Swift is a singer. However, these days, everyone expects the two to show fans more sweet interactions which are not obligatory parts of their careers. Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift sharing a sweet embrace in a bar is not relevant to football or pop songs. Yet, comment sections under media that feature either of them are flooded with questions like "Is Travis a rebound?" or "Are they going to get married?" In extreme cases, one can spot intrusive comments such as "I thought Taylor Swift would finally date a woman!"

SOPHIE STAII / *THE PHILLIPIAN*



This curiosity over others' love lives is not an isolated phenomenon that occurs only in Hollywood or to superstars, though. The rude comments under videos of Swift and Kelce resemble the questions we as Andover students hear on our campus: "I thought Mr. ___ was gay!" or "There's no way she's married!" or "Who's dating who?" or "Wait, wait, wait, I missed that part! Who asked who out to what?" It is easy to slip into the mindset that the Andover community is a bubble that does not suffer similar problems to those that plague the glamorous Hollywood scene of the West Coast or the petty comment sections of Instagram. However, the curiosity over others' love lives is relevant in all our lives — every single one of us Andover students.

From flirting to dating to breakups to marriages to divorces, romance yields dynamic to a story. The push and pull, the connection between individuals, the fights and make-ups, and the scandalous aspect of romance provide any narrative with vigor to fuel the plot. Unsurprisingly, romantic books fly off the shelves. Romantic films fill the theaters. Romance interests people. It captivates us.

Above all, romance makes us want to know more — especially concerning people we say we care about. This is where it gets dangerous. We say we care about our favorite celebrities, and so we ask, "Is Taylor Swift still dating ___?" in the comment sections. This kind of unhealthy "fan behavior" of craving information on celebrities' love lives fuels the paparazzi industry. Obsessive fans consume paparazzi photos with ravenous enthusiasm. They make videos that micro-analyze every bit of the background in the photo to speculate on the celebrity's relationship status. This is a clear invasion of privacy, especially because taking those photos often entails stalking and trespassing. At this point, those fans don't care about the celebrity, regardless of what they may say. Instead, the fans are obsessing; if you care about someone, you don't put them in danger.

The culture of obsession, disguised under the good name of "fan behavior," paints an unfair target on a vulnerable group as well. LGBTQ+ celebrities are thrown in peril because of this cultural fixation on love lives. They are outed before they are ready, a blurry photo of a dinner date suddenly overwhelming their inboxes with death threats, the whines of inconsolable teenagers, and angry notes from betrayed fans. These celebrities find themselves outed and at the mercy of the world overnight, without any warning. No one should be forced to come out before they are ready. It is a right, and a duty for others to respect this right. We care about celebrities, so we are in no way entitled to information that they do not wish to reveal. Their choice to be a public figure does not excuse our invasion of their rights. They are, after all, human.

Picture all the middle school truth-or-dares we had to live through — "Who's your crush?" We acted, and some of us still do, as if our friends owed us their love lives or the lack thereof. We were entitled to know, supposedly, because we cared.

However, the pressure to reveal our "crushes" or "who we found the most attractive" was beyond an annoyance to many of us, especially to those of us who are not straight. If it was a game among girls, the questions were automatically tuned to a heteronormative point of view; "Who are the hottest guys at school — top three?" or "Which guy would you date?" were common questions. For my friends and I who were closeted all through middle school, these questions would make us sweat, lie, and toil through having to react to the follow-up laughter or comments appropriately. High school is still a time when people are trying to figure their sexualities, or the lack thereof, out. The culture at Andover and many other high schools that pressure information on each other's love lives out of people hurts our friends, especially those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community.

"It's because we care" can no longer be justification for demanding information on others' love lives. If you care about someone, you should not put them in dangerous situations for something as trivial as a crush; no speculations, unwelcome questions, demands, threats, or negotiations should be made. As a community, especially one so tight-knit as Andover's, we should make an effort to move away from the prevalent culture of acting entitled to someone else's love life. They don't have to tell you, and you don't need to know.

The culture at Andover and many other high schools that pressure information on each other's love lives out of people hurts our friends, especially those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community.

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In Defense of Tradition

LUKE FERNANDEZ-SUAREZ

A. LEE / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

In a day and age where the next best thing is the rage, and the old gadget or gizmo is thrown out without the slightest care, it is easy to disregard the old and the great. As a history buff and lover of all things antiquated, I recently felt that this new attitude has impacted the great architecture that we have in our school. We have the unique and great honor to be surrounded by possibly one of the most beautiful campuses in the northeast. Our perfectly manicured Great Lawn, and our stoic bell tower not only inspires visitors, but also reminds us of the gift we have given to be here. The reason why I consider them beautiful is because they are architectural anomalies in an age where steel skyscrapers and concrete jungles are a norm. Too often I walk down in such cities as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, or Stanford and not be able to tell the difference between them. Andover's old buildings are distinctly "New Englandly." One of the main reasons I actually accepted my Big Blue invitation was because of the gorgeous architecture we have here on campus.

My main concern, however, is that we are letting these pristine and gorgeous testaments to our institution decay. These buildings are a beneficial addition to our campus, providing beauty and awe to both students and faculty. Therefore, we must strive to preserve Andover's architecture so that it can be restored in the future and so that we students can, for many years to come, appreciate their beauty in our day to day lives. Therefore, they must remain not only in order to be restored but also students must be in contact with them in their day to day lives.

As of late, the school has been building new facilities with a rather "modern" spin. Some of these new additions, I think, fit rather nicely. It makes sense after all to have a science building in the newest style, or perhaps a new sports facility with a more open air feel. However, with the announcement that the music building will also be built in this new, sleek futuristic style, I began to grow worried. What will happen to our beloved Graves Hall? For all of its faults and acoustic shortfalls, it has been here standing for more than a century. What role shall this quaint, tired building serve now? As an administrative building? That is an insult to its original purpose.

There is no Andover, no Abbot, without the brick and stone buildings, the banging clock tower, and the canopies of ancient trees.

A similar argument, in my eyes, can be made with Borden. With the arrival of the Pan Athletic Center the Borden Memorial Gym in which thousands of hopeful athletes have trained and tried their luck will be used less and less. These buildings, day by day, are becoming less and less part of the everyday lives of students. Inanimate structures do not matter by themselves. Without the people that inhabit it, these buildings become empty. Who is going to care about a place they have no memories in? Without any formal academic use, the students will forget about these structure's importance and let it decay. My fear is that one day, someone will look at these old buildings, these historical landmarks, and decide to tear them down.

Most worryingly, I feel that the part of campus that is in the most danger is Abbot. Situated in the frontiers of our campus, anyone who walks by it can easily make out the love and care the architects and countless students have felt for this great quad. The way in which each of those fabulous and ornate buildings are ordered, by the choice of brick are great examples of the passion our forebears had for our institutions..

Unfortunately, it has now, as of late, grown difficult to ignore the paint chipping, nor the uneven warping of wood.

What I am advocating for is not to tear down these historic buildings, or turn them into something that is unrecognizable, but rather restore them and to use them in the everyday activities on campus, so that future students like us can admire their history and beauty. The recent Alumni Award of Distinction winner, Elaine B. Finbury inspired me deeply. As she correctly recognized what makes us different from any other school in the country is our name and our age. There is no Andover, no Abbot, without the brick and stone buildings, the banging clock tower, and the canopies of ancient trees. Don't get me wrong, modern architecture is gorgeous in its alright but is there the need for it here? If we were to give up repairing these monuments of our history, of our tradition, we will forget who we are.

AEVA CLEAR / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

My main concern, however, is that we are letting these pristine and gorgeous testaments to our institution decay.

Man at times, must leave the feelings and worries of the moment, and take in the beauty around them. Sure, Graves' person might feel cramped, and Bulfinch perhaps too hot, but it is home. It would be a grand shame if we were to tear it down.

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The Challenges of Add/Drop Week: Balancing Student Requests Versus Maintaining Class Capacity

Continued from A1, Column 2

However, according to Shows, the recent Fall Term saw the greatest success in fulfilling requests over the past five years.

"We had fewer change requests from new students to start the term, fewer level changes, and we were able to fulfill more than 80 percent of Add/Drop requests, the highest proportion of any term in my tenure," wrote Shows.

Shows continued, "Winter Term has not been quite as successful as fall. The proportion of requests fulfilled is lower, but still well within our normal expectations. We expect to fulfill more than two-thirds of all requests for the term. We have fewer Senior electives than we hoped at the beginning of the year, but even despite those issues I'd say it's been a good term."

Despite the efforts to maximize the efficiency and success of the Add/Drop period, limited course space prevents some students from making their desired schedule changes. For example, Gracie Aziabor '26 was unable to add a class that she requested for Winter Term, and she believes that the process favors those who act first.

"I was planning on adding a computer science class, but it just never got put into my schedule. I was considering going to the Dean of Studies Office to add [it] in, but something I've talked about with a bunch of people is that the classes fill up so quickly... I think it's one of those unfortunate things that people have to deal with because it's like the early bird gets the worm in a sense," said Aziabor.

Rather than meeting every student's demands, the Add/Drop process must also take into account class capacity, according to Shows. He advised students to be intentional and flexible in requesting courses.

A. TSAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Pictured above is where completed Add/Drop slips are handed in, placed outside of the Dean of Students.

"At PA, we have chosen to value breadth of offering over meeting demand for individual courses. For example, we offer dozens of senior English electives each term but only 15 seats in each. This means students have an exciting variety of courses from which to choose, but it also means they have to plan carefully and not assume they will get their first choice for a given elective," wrote Shows.

Shows continued, "I think students are most often disappointed when they make that assumption and don't think carefully about their alternative. It also means our system generally rewards students who plan their scheduling as carefully as possible. For example, if a student is prioritizing an elective that meets in fourth period, they probably shouldn't request other classes that also meet in fourth."

Christian Graziano '25 highlighted how the Add/Drop period gave the chance for flexibility even after the course request period. He appreciated the efforts made to accommodate students.

"I've enjoyed it. I think it gives you an opportunity to feel out your class, and to make sure if it's something you want to pursue for the [rest] of the term. I feel like it's been a successful process every time I've wanted to do it, so it's been a good experience for me," said Graziano.

Unveiling Introdutory Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Curriculum

Continued from A1, Column 5

reflected on the process of working with Berkenblit, and how it allowed her to examine the rhetoric of different words through the lens of a student.

"I think that a lot of different rhetoric over the years has been used, and the history of that rhetoric of the different words has been a very interesting component to learn about because it has to be discussed within the lessons themselves. Getting to know about Max's own research around terms like intersexuality and feminism was a really important component of me seeing it from the lens of a student rather than from the lens of someone who has worked with those terms in a more professional capacity," said Leschhorn.

Tasnia Begum '26, another attendee, commented on how students who are familiar with gender studies are more likely to participate in intensive gender studies at Andover. Begum continued by remarking that the introduction of a curriculum would then alleviate certain unawareness surrounding the subject.

"I appreciated what someone said about how a lot of people don't want to try to learn things for the first time. For example for a lot of students in the PASC, it's not their first time learning about sustainability or doing things regarding sustainability. People who have done it previously will do it at Andover. Same for gender studies, you're not going to learn about gender studies more intensively unless you have done it before," said Begum.

With the unique format of his presentation as an introduction of the curriculum, Berkenblit showed how Brace presentations have limitless possibilities. He expressed his hopes for students to use the resources and opportunities that they are provided with at Andover, especially in the Brace Center.

"I hope that people see that Brace presentations can be anything that you make of them. Historically they've been a research paper on one topic, but All-Gender Housing was actually passed at Andover because of a Brace presentation. I hope that going forward students can see that there are a lot of opportunities for them to pursue their interests...and that they should utilize resources from the Brace Center," said Berkenblit.

'Israel-Palestine 101': Unpacking the Conflict and Informing the Community

Continued from A1, Column 5

ly provided a wide overview of the conflict given the time constraints, there could have been more space for further questions and connections between past and present.

"[Tipton] did a pretty good job of being conscious of both sides: affected people's feelings and pain. It would have been a bit more helpful to know some of the in-betweens of the conflict, like the tensions that built up and how the people felt. He went over big details. There were definitely some points omitted in between, [and] some undertones in certain spaces. The presentation wasn't completely impartial, but if you know nothing about it, it gives some big starting points to learn from and know the context of what's going on," said Diagne.

Myca Bishop '25 highlighted how the presentation's "wormhole" breaks, opportunities for students to ask clarifying questions, were helpful in allowing students to discuss the content of the presentation. Bishop also commented on how the presentation emphasized the importance of empathy and compassion in the conversations about the Israel-Palestine conflict, and to be wary of misinformation and untrustworthy sources.

"The 'wormholes' that were in between the different segments were important. It's something we don't really have during our regular [All-School Meetings] or class meetings and it definitely helped engage everyone in attendance, because you could at least speak to your peers about what they thought about what was being presented. I think what [students] took away is the need to be compassionate and have empathy, especially when there are so many people affected by the conflict, and always to be critical of sources because of how information is spread either on social media or through different news outlets. Always just take whatever is being presented to you with a grain of salt and always make sure that your sources are credible," said Bishop.

Similarly, Isa Matloff '24 commented on how the presentation provided a good basis for students who had little to no background information about the conflict prior to the presentation. In particular, Matloff described her surprise at students' lack of knowledge about the topic at hand, and voiced hopes that students would continue to look for information and have conversations respectfully about the conflict.

"Overall, I really appreciated the presentation as a whole: it was really great for students with zero basic knowledge. Something that sort of shocked me, as someone who has grown up with a lot of this information and been in spaces discussing this conflict and information, is just how little people know. It's a little bit of a culture shock and I think one of the main moments tonight where I saw that was[when] Mr. Tipton mentioned that the entire area of the Levant, which is this part of the Middle East, is about the size of New Jersey. Going into it with Mr. Tipton's four main goals talking about how we can offer basic respect and how we can offer some basic levels of human decency was a really important way to frame it... I'm really hoping people will continue to look for information and continue to look for good information," said Matloff.

Students Respond to Rule Changes and Enforcements Following Fall Term Happenings

Continued from A1, Column 2

Hoven emphasized the necessity for a certain baseline of boundaries and regulations.

"There are so many rules that we have taken away over the years. There used to be no food at all. During [Finals Week] all the library was quiet. So we have actually pulled back on a lot of rules because we recognize that this is a social space, too. I think we're trying to do kind of a mediation... We've really tried to give students their own autonomy and space here, but we can't let this place become infested or unsafe, in the case of the broken glass, and have unequal access to the space," said Torres Hoven.

In response to the state of the basement study room, Sam Clare '25 pointed out the patterns of mishandling and lack of awareness towards community spaces over the years. Clare draws attention to greater awareness of the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep campus in good condition.

"There's a lot of mistreatment of spaces on campus in general, so it doesn't shock me at all that people mistreat the basement study spaces. It's something that bothers me a lot. I think a lot of Andover students forget that when we leave messes behind, they don't magically disappear. People clean up after [us]. Cleaning crews come through and clean up," said Clare.

Gentry Thatcher '27 acknowledged how the closing of basement study rooms disadvantaged several students who respected the cleanliness of the premises. The basement rooms are popular workplaces for group projects, and blocking them during a time as stressful as Finals Week resulted in fewer collaborative spaces.

"I think shutting [the basement study rooms] down is fine because of the stuff that was on the floor, but I think during Finals Week is a tough time to do it," said Thatcher. "I would say maybe it would have made more sense to shut down that specific room because that was what needed to be cleaned. I think it was a space that needed to be utilized for final projects... because if you were working on a project they shut off a space that a lot of people needed to use."

Kelvin Ma '27 added that Silent and the library basement are not the only study spaces on campus. Ma listed many other spaces on campus, such as the Addison Art Gallery, Pan Athletic Center, George Washington Hall, and Snyder Center, that students could use as well, and noted that there was room for people to be more creative with where they worked.

"I think that people using Silent might be a problem, but if everyone kind of scatters across campus to find their own place that they can work with, that would be a much easier solution than [putting] any rules on the people in the basement or Silent," said Ma.

Andover Prepares for MLK Day with Student-Led Workshop Proposals

BAILEY XU & JAY JUNG

In preparation for Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Day), students were allowed to propose an MLK Day workshop that explored topics relating to justice, identity, and social issues. Led by students, faculty, and external guests, these workshops will be open to Uppers, Seniors, and Post-Graduates on MLK Day after All-School Meeting (ASM).

With all applications due on December 3, the Community and Multicultural Development Office (CaMD) aims to announce this year's workshop offerings by the end of this week, according to Charlotte Esty, Coordinator of CaMD. Throughout the application process, all applicants received guidance from a CaMD point person when writing their proposals. Esty described the key qualities that the CaMD team looks for in workshop proposals.

"Preliminary research is really important, the very basic [things]: factual accuracy, connection to [diversity, equity, and inclusion and justice]. More broadly, we look for a diversity of topics as we go through. We'll try and make sure that we have representation from each of our affinity groups and culture clubs, and that there's a good balance in our offerings so that everyone can feel like they have something that's for them, that they're excited about, and so they can see themselves represented within what we're putting together in that curriculum," said Esty.

Esty noted a significant increase in the submitted workshop applications over the last few years. According to Esty, CaMD received over 30 workshop applications this year. She attributed this trend to the pandemic and other major social changes that have taken place in recent years.

"There's been a big boom in the number of applications that we've been getting... Within the past three years, following the racial reckoning in 2020, following Covid[-19] where people are holed up and isolated, there's just been this resurgence of [people] getting involved in activism. There's [also] a sense of pride, I feel, connected to both of these kinds of projects. It's been really exciting to see students supporting one another, really showing up for all these events," said Esty.

Having helped facilitate a workshop on environmental justice for the past two years, Suhaila Cotton '24, Co-President of the Black Student Union (BSU), enjoyed how MLK Day workshops allow students to pursue topics important to them. Cotton shared her workshop proposal for the upcoming MLK Day.

"The purpose of these workshops is to give students a chance to talk about something that's important to them and to be able to teach that to others. Also, because the civil rights movement is so broad and vast, it's impacted all movements and all social forms of life in the U.S. and even abroad. I really like the workshops because it gives us all a chance to use our perspectives and unique backgrounds to teach people about [something we care about]," said Cotton.

Cotton continued, "This year, I'm working with BSU. We're hoping to run a [workshop taking] a generational look at the Black movement. We're going to be talking about the history of civil rights through the perspective of the adults and the youth who led it, and also the new generation of Black leaders, so current leaders. Then [there's] a discussion on what our place is in this fight."

Another applicant this year, Brandon Fu '25 hopes to continue the workshop on jazz history that he facilitated last year with Jacob Kaiser '24 and Zoe Yu '23. He emphasized how MLK Day workshops serve as an opportunity to educate his peers on specific aspects of Black history.

"Generally, the learning element and having [MLK Day] be a day on is very useful, not only to our conceptual understanding of who Martin Luther King Jr. was and how he has so deeply impacted the nation, but also general learning as well. I know a lot of people didn't know the intricacies of jazz music, and I know there [are] people saying that it's just wrong notes that sound slightly right, but it was cool to change minds, turn some heads and really educate some people on the music that I love, [and] that Jacob loves," said Fu.

Tulah Jefferson '24, Co-President of Curly Hair Club and Senior Coordinator for the Afro Latinx American Society (AfLatAm) Mentoring Program, held a workshop last year on the history of Black hair along with other students. Addressing the misconception that applicants must be closely involved with CaMD, Jefferson encouraged all students to apply.

"Make sure you're passionate about something, and if you're really eager for someone to learn about something, you should definitely apply... People think that only people super involved in CaMD can participate in an MLK workshop, but it's open to anyone, so if you have something about your culture that you want to share, I think [MLK day] is a great time and a great platform to do that," said Jefferson.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & ZACHARY YUAN

Economy: Eurozone Inflation Falls More Than Expected to Two-Year Low

The eurozone is a currency union composed of 20 member states of the European Union that use the euro as their primary currency. According to the "Wall Street Journal," inflation across the eurozone has fallen to an annual rate of 2.4 percent from the October rate of 2.9 percent, bringing about the lowest inflation rate in the eurozone since July 2021. Economists polled by "Reuters" had predicted a 2.7 percent rate, with the unexpected decline raising speculations about potential interest-rate cuts happening sooner than anticipated. Further, the decline comes amid growing concerns about the strength of national economies. The Europe Central Bank, which has been in a cycle of raising rates, is now under increased pressure to reconsider its approach as economic growth across the eurozone weakens.

War: Intensified Conflict in Gaza Sparks Humanitarian Concerns

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has intensified, leading to significant humanitarian concerns in Gaza. According to "Associated Press News," the Gaza Health Ministry announced that 15,899 people had been killed in Gaza since October 7, with 70 percent of the dead comprised of women and children. According to "Reuters," Israel's military operations have resulted in numerous casualties and forced civilians to flee for safety. The collapse of a week-long truce has led to renewed bombardment of Gaza, particularly in Khan Younis in the south. According to "The New York Times," the United States of America announced an additional 21 million dollars in humanitarian assistance to help Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Culture: Shane MacGowan, Pioneering Voice of Celtic Punk, Dies at 65

Shane MacGowan, the iconic lead singer of the Anglo-Irish Celtic punk band The Pogues, passed away at 65 to pneumonia following a battle with a severe brain swelling condition. Known for his influential role in blending traditional Irish music with punk rock, MacGowan was born in Pembury, England, and became renowned for his unique musical style with The Pogues which played a pivotal role in bridging traditional and contemporary sounds. According to "The Washington Post," MacGowan's work extended beyond music, as his poetic lyricism and exploration of the Irish experience in his music made him a cultural icon. His contributions to music and culture have profoundly impacted Celtic punk and beyond.

Health: U.S. Life Expectancy Rises With Pandemic Recovery Following Two Years of Significant Decline

According to a report by the CDC, the United States of America life expectancy, measured as how long a baby born in a particular year is expected to live, rose in the past year by 1.1 years from 76.4 to 77.5 years. The increase comes after a 2.4 year decrease driven primarily by the Covid-19 pandemic, placing life expectancy at over a two-decade low. Despite the increase, the life expectancy in the past year remains below that of pre-pandemic levels in 2019, which had an average life expectancy of 78.8 years. According to "NBC News," the U.S. life expectancy trails significantly behind comparable countries. While many nations saw their life expectancy decrease in 2020 due to the pandemic, they experienced increases in 2021 while life expectancy in the U.S. continued to decrease, enlarging the already existing gap between the U.S. and other countries. Steven Woolf, director emeritus of the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University cited decreases in cancer, heart disease, homicide, and car accidents as contributors to the rise while noting continued overdose deaths and an increase in malnutrition, dementia, and poverty as major factors dragging life expectancy downwards.

Politics: Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger Dies at 100

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger passed away on November 29, 2023, at age 100. Having played a critical role in shaping the U.S. during the Cold War and beyond, Kissinger's controversial legacy included praise for his handling of foreign relations and criticism for his handling of American values and human rights. Born in Fürth, Germany, Kissinger's work included his handling of U.S. relations with China, Russia, and the Middle East. Considered by the "New York Times" to be the most powerful secretary of state in the post-World War II era, Kissinger advised 12 presidents from John F. Kennedy to Joe Biden. His work included leading the first major nuclear arms control between the U.S. and the Soviet Union at the height of their tensions and sharing the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for his negotiation in ending American involvement in the Vietnam War. However, according to "CNN," Kissinger has been at the center of controversy for his authorization of U.S. military operations in Cambodia, East Timor, and Pakistan, each of which led to widespread destruction and immense civilian death that continues to impact the regions to this day.

Andover Alumni Kevin Olusola '06 Inspires Through Journey with Award-Winning A Capella Group Pentatonix

Continued from A1, Column 2

the most successful groups in a capella.

"In the beginning, our focus was trying to see how we can make the most innovative music that we could with our vocals. For all intents and purposes, we wanted to be a pop group that people knew out into the mainstream. I think we [accomplished] that. Now things have changed," he said. "The goal is 'how do we go into other verticals of the music industry that are exciting to us outside of putting out albums and touring... to make the Pentatonix magic have a more widespread reach?'" said Olusola.

This past February, Pentatonix were honored as the first a capella group to join the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Olusola highlighted the achievement as part of the group's efforts in creating songs with touches of musicality and creativity that make Pentatonix unique.

"The Hollywood Star was such an unreal experience and opportunity because we still feel like we're very young in our career... I think things have really changed. We went from just purely doing a capella to now we're actually interested in how [we] add instrumentation in a tasteful way that still elevates what people love about Pentatonix, which is our iconic vocals and our iconic harmonies," said Olusola.

Though Olusola has gone on to become a part of one of the most well-known vocal groups of all time, he thinks back on his days at Andover as a critical part in helping him develop and understand his identity before applying it to music.

"I came in as a new Upper. Those were the formative years that truly made me into who I am and formed my idea of how I show up to challenges and obstacles...because if you really want to be the best that you can be, you don't only bolster your strengths; you really bolster your weaknesses, and Andover gave me an opportunity to have the grit and the tenacity to desire that... I think that Andover gave me an opportunity to really realize the uniqueness that I have in music and pair it with all the other skills that I learned to really give myself a fighting chance to be the best that I can be every single day," said Olusola.

COURTESY OF THE TODAY SHOW

Kevin Olusola '06 specializes in simoultaneously beat-boxing and playing the cello, a talent which became a viral video and started his career with Pentatonix.

Evan Curtin '25, Co-Head of campus a cappella groups Yorkies and Keynotes, described how Olusola and his accomplishments with Pentatonix serve as an inspiration to a cappella singers at Andover, and how Olusola's legacy opened his eyes to the diverse talents that each student has.

"I can really see the talent it takes to be not only a beatboxer but a part of the a cappella group [with] the blend and the harmony, and I think that's required to create a beautiful piece and so I would say that would be my connection with Kevin. It's really cool that he went to Andover and we get to share that piece of history. It really makes you wonder how much talent is at this school. It's so inspiring, like there are so many other Kevins in the world, and... it really makes you think at this school kids aren't just doing their classes and getting good grades, they're actively doing other things like dancing, singing, or playing a sport," said Curtin.

Olusola elaborated on Andover's culture as one that challenges and helps students realize their potential. Reflecting on what he would have liked to know when he was a student at Andover, Olusola advised students to remember that everything they do is part of their personal journey of growth.

"I really miss the nurturing community that pairs nurture with development. What I mean by that is that the teachers will love you and challenge you to be at your best... That's why you're at Andover. That's why you got admitted: because they see the world in you and they want to prepare you to be leaders of your generation. To have Mr. [Peter] Cirelli or at the time, my orchestra teacher, Mr. Thomas, they really challenged me musically, but it's because they say 'I can see something in you that you're not seeing,'" said Olusola.

Olusola continued, "If I could tell an Andover student anything [it would be] that Andover, as beautiful as it is, it's the start of a journey, and it doesn't start and end there. For example, college admissions and all these other things that I'm not going to say are not important, they're important, but it's just the beginning of the journey."

MIT Postdoctoral Associate Kevin Mills Explores Ethics of Moral Guardrails in Generative AI

TIANYI GU & WILLIAM GE

Students and faculty packed the Tang Institute to listen to Kevin Mills' newest installment of the speaker series on the impacts of artificial intelligence (AI). While previous presentations focused on the intersection of AI and education, last Wednesday's discussion turned to the topic of "moral guardrails" in generative AI with a talk by Kevin Mills, a postdoctoral associate in the Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing (SERC) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Reflecting on his own experience growing up and experimenting with technology, Mills highlighted the inaccessibility for regular individuals to develop generative AI models, which separates the models from previous technologies that were open for users to understand and create. He explained that, due to the immense amounts of computing power and training data needed, creating a technology like ChatGPT is nearly impossible for smaller companies or individuals.

"I grew up in the '90s, and I've always been a tech-y guy. The technical platforms that I interacted with were always open, and I think it's a good thing that they were. I could poke around under the hood. I could learn how to do things on my computer. And what struck me about AI, at least in its current iteration and in foreseeable iterations, is that it's not open in the same way because the comput[ing] power that's involved and the data required to train everything is no longer something people have access to," said Mills.

Mills continued, "It's a technology that potentially is only ever going to be usable on the terms of the big companies who corner the markets, and I was just thinking about the implications of that and how it differed from all the technologies I was used to that were very open. And, it just struck me that there are potentially problems here."

The presentation dove into the ethics of "moral guardrails," which are features implemented by developers that make it difficult or impossible to use the technology in ways that the developers consider to be immoral. One example is censoring by ChatGPT. While there are many reasons to deploy moral guardrails, Mills investigated the possibility that such guardrails limit people from using technologies in ways they should morally be able to.

"In AI, it's a very small number of companies [that control it], and by the virtue of the technology itself, we're going to be using it on [those companies'] terms. I'm worried that given this broader push that's going on in CS [computer science] education and culture more broadly where we are asking developers to take responsibility, and again sometimes with good reason, that we are more likely to see similar guardrails emerge for these platforms where these companies are dictating the terms on which this transformative technology can be used," Mills said.

Jaylen Daley '25 attended Mills' presentation with the hope of gaining insight into another perspective regarding the ethics of generative AI. While his initial interactions with generative AI reinforced many of his concerns and fears, Daley mentioned that he found the discussion on moral guardrails to be informative, helping him reflect on his own position on the development of such technologies.

"There's a lot of AI and technology innovation going on, and the ethics of it is something that is really important and interesting to me. I've seen [posts] online of artists being particularly concerned about its uses, and at the same time, I think it's very difficult to stop the development of technology. I was hoping to get some clarity and see ways forward that this technology could be used right," said Daley.

Daley continued, "After ChatGPT came out, that's sort of like, 'I can actually look at this, even if there are grammatical errors or it gives me the wrong information, can this still be useful? Is this still something that we can develop and make good with?' So in regards to the ethical capabilities, I think it really depends on the AI being developed. It's really hard to make guidelines for how to appropriately use that and give the rights back to the people for whatever they [want to do] within those systems, but at the same time I think there can be a lot that can be streamlined by the development of these AIs."

Arden Berg '24, an attendee who took the Ethics and Technology elective offered at Andover this past fall, highlighted the importance of learning more about generative AIs and becoming familiar with using them in the appropriate contexts. He encouraged other students to take advantage of the special opportunity offered by the Tang Institute speaker series to learn from experts in the field.

"Most students who are using [generative AIs] are just using them. It would be good for them to understand [them] more so that they can see their values, their uses, their pitfalls, and also the value of them in conjunction with learning. Not overusing it and still getting the value of your Andover education while using these learning models when appropriate... People should go to these kinds of talks because this is one of the greatest things that Andover does for us. It's incredible and not an opportunity that a lot of high schoolers get," said Berg.

10 Questions with Dean Jill Meyer

REPORTING BY SAKETH LINGISETTY & ANNA TSVETKOV

Jill Meyer '09 is an Instructor in Biology and Cluster Dean of Pine Knoll for the 2023-2024 school year. As an Andover alum, Meyer is also Assistant Coach for Girls Water Polo. In her freetime, she enjoys hiking the mountains of New Hampshire and cooking.

Why did you decide to enroll in Andover for your high school?

I actually did not want to come to Andover at first. I had a smaller boarding school that I was dead set on and thought I was going to go to, and then my parents really wanted me to look at a variety of schools and see a big school in addition to a small school. So we came up to look at Andover and I was convinced that this was not going to be something I was interested in at all, [but] I loved it. I got here and loved the campus. I had a great interview with someone who is no longer in the admission office but we walked around campus for my interview and she sort of showed me all over the place, and I immediately was like, 'This is it, I wanna come here.'"

During your time as an Andover student, what parts of your high school did you most cherish or value?

The things that I really loved the most were my connections with my teachers. So, I was always someone who tried to get to know my teachers in and out of the classroom. I would stick around after class to chat, I was someone who would ask how their weekend was when I got to class. A lot of my teachers back then are now my colleagues so it's nice to kind of have that connection. So I spoke to them throughout college when I decided to be a biology major. I went back [to] Mr. [Keith] Robinson ['96] who is now one of my colleagues in the Biology department and then when I decided to come back to Andover I was talking with Mr. [Brian] Faulk ['00], who was my chemistry teacher when I was a Lower, and then [later] became one of my mentors and colleagues in the Chem[istry] department.

Why did you decide to come back to Andover as a teacher?

It was sort of an accident of timing. I was dead set on being a pediatrician, I really wanted to be a doctor, but I knew I wanted to take a gap year so I was looking at things that I could do for one year. At that time the Andover teaching fellow program was a clear one-year commitment, you couldn't stay longer if you wanted to, so it felt like a nice sort of tidy, safe, fun option for that year, and my sister was a Senior at Andover at the time so it felt like a nice opportunity to come back and connect with her and be on campus at the same time she was here. So, I applied to be a teaching fellow in Biology and Chemistry and got hired by the Chemistry department.

E. LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

What is one of your most memorable experiences as Head Coach of Girls Water Polo?

My favorite moment as a coach, I am now the assistant coach, but as the head coach, I had a tough record. We did not win a lot of games and we had lost maybe eight or nine consecutive games. We drove down to Suffield [Academy], which is a really long drive, it was a Wednesday. It's a little bit hard to gear yourself up for this big drive to a game where you're not sure if you're gonna win and it feels like a really big time commitment. We got there and we were playing and it was like our best game of the season. We were going back and forth in goals and we wound up winning that game in the last two minutes and that was my one win as a head coach. That was my favorite time, no matter the outcome, which was mostly losing, they were always excited to get on the bus, excited to get in the pool, excited to come to practice, and you would never guess that this is a group of kids that had only won one out of their last 20 games because they were so positive and it was just a great season despite our record.

What led you towards biology?

I really wanted to be a doctor, that was kind of what I was marching towards my whole life and I was drawn to it because I love science. I love thinking about how things work, why things work, what happens when things don't work the way that they are supposed to. That really fits well with biology. There's so much information that you have to figure out what do I need to pay attention to, what are the pieces that are important here, and how does that interact with the bigger system. I feel like in bio[logy] you can always zoom in further or zoom out, and just depending on your level of interest in either biochemistry or on a more macro scale like evolution and ecology there's something for everyone in bio[logy].

What drew you to becoming a Cluster Dean and what do you enjoy most?

I really admired my Cluster Deans as a student. They seemed very level-headed, they were able to really foster a lot of community spirit. I love the cluster system because it seems like one of the only things at Andover that's just for community building and fun. [The cluster system] seems like a nice way to intentionally carve out smaller communities. So, the commitment that they make to making sure that kids feel like they have a place where they feel they belong and an adult who knows them, that they are part of a larger community outside of their dorm but smaller than the whole school.

In your opinion, how has the Andover community changed since your time in high school?

It's a more supportive community for sure, I remember not having a great idea always of how I was doing my classes and then getting my midterm report, seeing my grades, and feeling like I was set off on my own to figure things out by the time final grades rolled around. I don't remember having as many conversations with my advisor that I have with my advisees now about study skills or spaces to go to get extra help. It felt more like occasional check-ins versus these regular intentional conversations about how people are doing and how their classes are going and things beyond the classroom too. So I think there is more adult-student interaction and more support for students along the way, not just at midterm and end of term.

How does your experience as a former student of the school influence the way you approach your current roles at Andover?

It helps me keep in mind that students are so much more than they are in the classroom. They are more than just biology students, or math students, or water polo players. A lot of them are in other sports or music groups or different clubs. It helps me keep perspective that in a perfect world everyone is zeroed in on what I care about but in reality they are big multidimensional people and the way that I intersect with them is just one tiny component of their Andover experience so I try to keep that in my mind that this is just one facet of their Andover life. Even though it is a big part of mine it might not be the most important to them.

How have you been able to balance your responsibilities as a coach, biology teacher, and Cluster Dean?

It's really hard and it's okay to not have it perfect all the time. Sometimes the test is not going to get graded and the class has been really patient and forgiving with me when I say, "I will have your test done for the next period," and it turns into the period after that. It's okay to not be perfect or have everything balanced perfectly, I certainly don't. There are nights when we eat mac and cheese for dinner and there are no vegetables on the table. I have two small kids so I'm balancing that too. But just recognizing you are a work in progress and it's okay to make mistakes and for things to not be perfect on the inside or outside.

What hobbies do you enjoy in your freetime?

I don't have a lot of freetime. But what I used to love to do is hiking and cooking, so there are 48 peaks in New Hampshire that are above 4,000 feet and I set out to hike all those, and I finished that in 2021 right at the start of Covid[-19]. Then I love cooking, I follow all The New York Times chefs on Instagram and I love trying to make their recipes and not judge myself too much if it doesn't turn out like the images.

PHALLIC JOKE. HAHA.

Letters from Campus Fiends During Probation

January 21, 1920

Dearest Archibald,

I hope this letter finds you well, although I sit at my desk, quill in hand, with tears flowing down my face. I hope it's a rumor. The newest amendment to the great Constitution of our supposedly "free country" has left me with a terrible headache — and an empty decanter. My ability to study, fornicate, and attend my Whig Revivalist Club meetings has been severely limited. My Abbot girl, Agnes, had a bit of a syphilis scare after visiting the Colonies for Thanksgiving, and I packed my last Warzyn G. Harding out of sheer fright. She's a very independent woman, and knows nearly half the alphabet. Alas, it was but a scare! Perhaps Chauncey or Edward can ride into town and make another purchase. Until then, I'm afraid my mitts will be aflutter with fervent desire. Please, dear Archibald, do wire me when you're next in town. Perhaps float me a few Zyndenburgs!

Until Our Next Rendezvous,

Silas P. Dillydally

February 3, 1920

Dearest Archibald,

I hope you've got wood on the fire and smoked herring in your icebox. I'm afraid my longings have gotten worse. Without my nightly port (a post-homework tradition here at the Academy), I can hardly sleep. In the old days, before this rabble-rousing temperance movement, I'd deplete the decanter in a few swigs and sleep like a baby. Without my luncheon pints, I can hardly sit through Arithmetic 20, much less my Phrenology Seminar.

With the last of my cheer,

Silas P. Dillydally

February 20, 1920

Dearest Archibald,

I hope you've got plenty of women and wine down there at Choate. Hooray! I apologize for my unbridled passion, but I've simply got to celebrate this latest achievement: my hands no longer shake, my pockets are stuffed and I've no longer got that rotten headache. A few friends and I have gotten quite chummy with a few Italians. Sissy-leans, they're called. (From what I gather, this is the name of people from an awfully impoverished island.) Boy, do they know their way around a brandy distillery! By this, of course, I mean the plugged sink in the maintenance shed by the ball field. Tony and Luigi don't attend the Academy, of course, but they're happy to share their stash for a hefty sum. Daddy's holding company has been doing awfully well (stocks are up, up, up! as they say), but even my supple allowance doesn't seem to cover the cost. Antony and Luigi are fine fellows, of course, and assure me their interest rates won't bear negative consequences. Anyway, I thought I'd let you know of this grand resolution. In the meantime, I'm off to the maintenance shed. I urge you to locate some Connecticut Sissy-leans; they're great fun.

Warmed by great relief and homemade beveragino,

Silas P. Dillydally

March 1, 1920

Archibald,

No time for greetings. It's gone horribly awry. I'm afraid I've fallen in with the wrong crowd. Please wire me some rescue funds. I'll be staying at the Village Inn until this "blows over," as they say.

Frightened,

Silas P. Dillydally

Post Script: Cut ties with those Connecticut Sissy-leans as soon as possible.

Week's Top Headlines

- *Academy Participates in Sex Toy Drive to Fuel Holiday Cheer*
- *Cluster Dean Feels Left Out After Seeing "Large Group" Reach Request*
- *Boys Varsity Hockey Team Under Fire for Peeing in Shampoo Bottles and Leaving Them in the Shower for an Unsuspecting JV Victim (If You Don't Think This is Real, It Probably Happened to You)*
- *New Form of Discrimination Arises From Release of Spotify Wrapped — Worse Than Racism?*
- *Andover Police Raid Rockwell After Entire CVS Lotion and Tissue Supply Stolen*
- *Lower Boy Still Missing After Saying "Taylor Swift is Mid" During EBI*
- *House Counselor Faces Uncertain Re-election Odds After Dorm Chat Leak Reveals He's "A Total Narc"*
- *Crew Team Haircut Begs Age-Old Question: "What's Wrong With These Guys?"*
- *Campus Degenerate Acts Normally Despite Three-Year "Nicotine Bender"*

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"I could sell you on the black market for more than the clothes you're wearing."

"It's 4K!... I've run one!"

"All I'm saying is I would accept any invite to a private island."

"Do you have Coke?" "It's that type of Tuesday?" "Brotha... Coca-Cola."

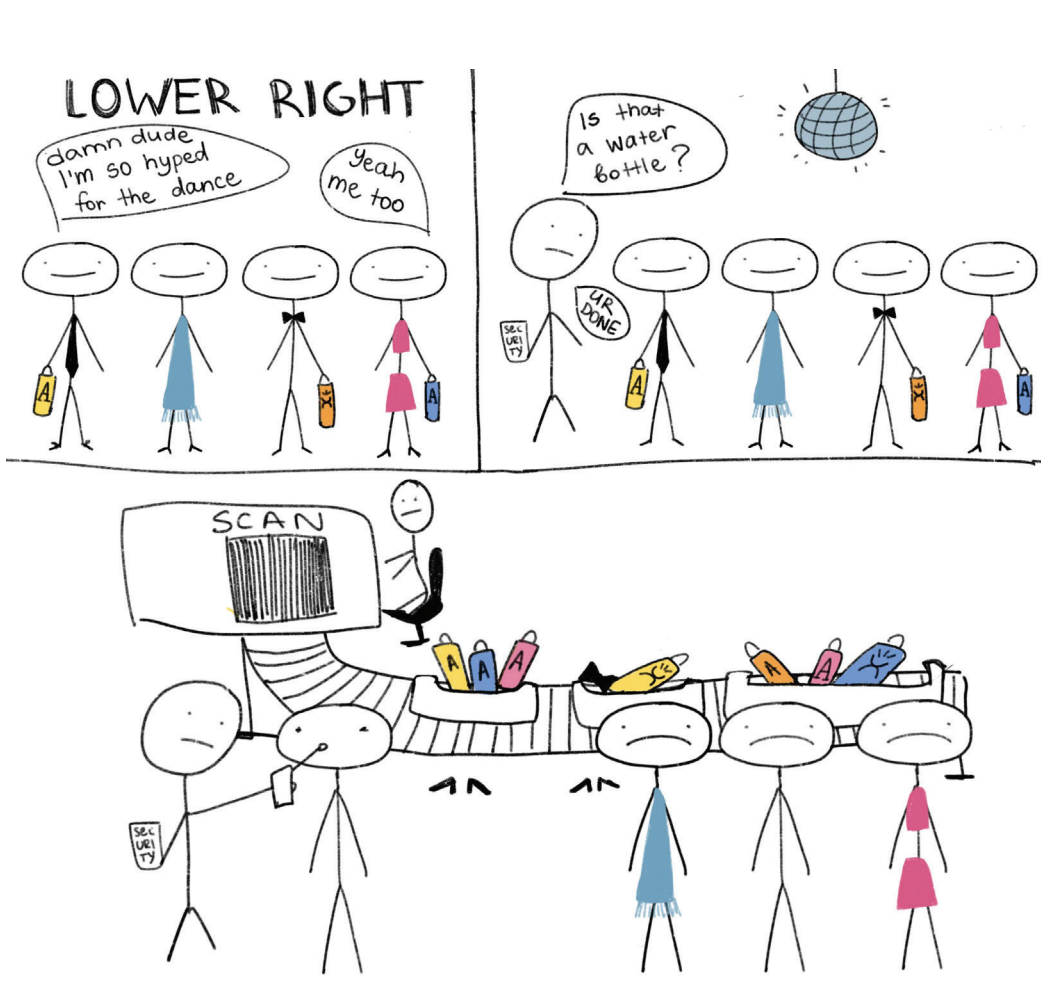
"The elites don't want you to know, but there is an unlimited supply of food on the Paresky Commons conveyor belt."

"I'm sure if you tell Drake you're in his top 1 percent of listeners he'll give you a Birkin."

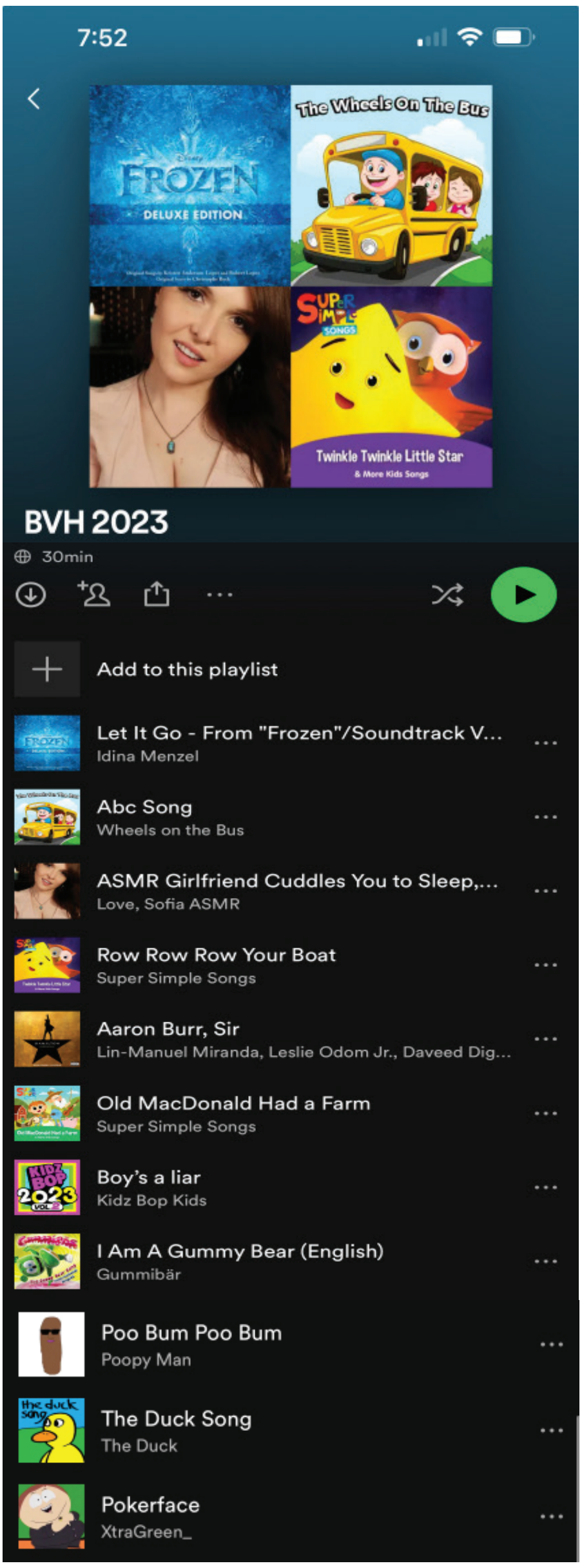
"Don't you DARE disrespect anime..."

"I never rip nic when I'm sober. Good thing I'm never sober."

"Did you hear 'rizz' is the word of the year? I was actually the inspiration. The muse, if you will."



KIRA STEPANOVA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*



The Phillipian
SPORTS

bro is staring at the wall

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Boys Hockey Dominates Season-Opening Games with 13 Goals

AARON HUANG

SATURDAY	
Andover	4
Pomfret	2
SUNDAY	
Andover	4
Proctor	2
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	5
Thayer	4

Andover Boys Hockey (3-0-0) opened its season undefeated across all three games, totalling 13 goals.

Over the weekend, Andover hosted Pomfret School and Proctor Academy (Proctor) for the Andover Jamboree, dominating both schools. Nearing the end of Wednesday's game against Thayer, with points already on the board for both teams, Andover used a penalty kill to score two shorthanded goals. Although Thayer countered with two more, Andover maintained the lead until the end.

Before the Jamboree, the team focused on building a solid hockey system in its practices. Benjamin Skowronek '24 emphasized the importance of each individual player knowing their duties on the ice.

Skowronek said, "It is really important to know what everyone is going to be doing, especially in the defensive zone and offensive zone. So in the practices leading up, we were working really hard on making sure we were on the same page and knowing what system we should play."

Co-Captain Drew Smith '24 highlighted strengths in all positions on the ice in the Jamboree. According to Smith, Co-Captain Sam Myles '24 served as a powerhouse on the offensive line, scoring half of the team's goals over the weekend.

"We played really well both offensively and defensively. Our forwards did a really good job working the puck in the offensive zone and getting some goals, like our [Co]-Captain Sam Myles had four goals this weekend, so that was cool. Also with the guys who are new to prep hockey, new to the team this year, all of them played really well, both the forwards and defensemen, and our goalies played phenomenal," said Smith.

Skowronek highlighted the team's improvement with its finishing compared to the previous season.

"Everyone did what they were supposed to do. We didn't have anyone make any really bad mistakes and everyone was playing very well and our passing was very good. We also did really well finishing...eight goals in two games, which is a good amount. Which is a big step up from last year because we had trouble scoring last year, and it is great to see us succeed in that part of the game," said Skowronek.

A.CHINN/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Peyton Militello '25 is a forward for Andover Boys Hockey.

According to Peyton Militello '25, Wednesday's game against Thayer was highly competitive.

"We were pretty resilient, there were a couple times where we didn't have as much energy as we probably should have, but we kept battling and got back in the game and through those stretches, everyone knew we had to bring the energy up and everyone worked together to do that," said Militello.

Looking ahead, Militello shared that the team will work on maintaining its energy throughout the games. He also noted how Thayer capitalized on gaps in Andover's defense, which revealed another area of improvement for the team.

Militello said, "[We'll] probably [improve] just playing strong the whole three periods. We sometimes slow down a little bit, for a few stretches, and for each of the games. So we are going to work on that...also they [Thayer] were a really skilled team so we had to be very careful positionally, which sometimes we weren't defensively, so they got us into a little bit of trouble, so that could also be something we work on moving forward."

Andover Boys Hockey will host Brewster Academy on Friday and New Hampton School on Saturday.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Dartmouth-commit Grayden Robertson-Palmer '25 made his Andover Boys Hockey debut on Saturday against Pomfret.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Ethan Skowronek '24 scored one goal against Pomfret on Saturday.

Girls Squash Dominates Milton in Season Opener

LILY WILLIAMSON & KATE RODGERS

SATURDAY	
Andover	6
Milton	1

Andover Girls Squash (1-0) kickstarted its season on Saturday with a win over Milton, the team that finished at the top of the Independent School League last season with a 14-2 record.

With Head Coach Shaun Duffy taking over the program for the first time, Andover had to adapt to new leadership. Co-Captain Migyu Kim '25 described working alongside Duffy to prepare the team for its season.

Kim said, "It's our first season with our new coach, and he's definitely been really good in helping us do basic drills and working on things, so that everyone can feel confident about their foundation and prepare for the season."

Selene Xu '27 detailed the practices leading up to the matches, which included technical skill work and scrimmages. On Thursday, teammates faced off against one another to determine their placement on the team.

"In practice, it was more of getting our shot to the back, where we did rotating rails and stuff, which helps with making your shots better. Also, the competitive matches for the ladder helped on Thursday, because that got us into the mindset of actually competing rather than just training and doing skills stuff," said Xu.

The season opener was fueled by the energy and excitement coming from the crowd and players. In the team's only loss of the day, Kim, Andover's number one seed fell short by just two points in her fifth match. Evelyn Kung '26 recalled Kim's dynamic match.

Kung said, "Our Captain, Migyu, had a really great match. It went to five games, and it was pretty long. She was the last one playing so all the boys squash team, all the parents were watching her."

According to Kim, Duffy is implementing new strategies off the court, like video analysis and journaling, to help the team reflect on its matches. Kim noted how these additions will help Andover find success.

"Our new coach is going to use the video footage so that we can watch our matches and do some match analysis of things we can work on and things we did well. We've also been trying to use journaling to reflect a bit more on our own games. It's in the very beginning stages because we are in the beginning of the season but making sure we are using all of our resources to help us learn more about our games and things to improve," said Kim.

Girls Squash will reflect upon the Milton matches to prepare for its upcoming tournament, noted Kung.

Kung said, "While the win helped with team spirit, it also showed us where we need to practice and what some of our weak spots are. We'll definitely use what we learned from our success this weekend so we can do more at Groton next weekend."

L.RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Ellie Israelov '25 won her match against Milton on Saturday.

Andover Girls Squash will compete away at the Groton Invitational on Saturday.

Three Andover Students Headed to International Ice Hockey Federation World Women's U-18 Championship

DAVID SIAHAAN

Three Andover students were chosen to represent Team USA for the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Women's Under-18 (U-18) Championship: Molly Boyle '25, Caroline Averill '26, and Maggie Averill '27. The players will be in Zug, Switzerland, from January 6 to January 14 to compete in the World Championship.

30 players gathered from October 29 to October 31 in Blaine, Minnesota for the U-18 Women's National Team Selection Camp. Among ten defenders, Averill '27 was chosen in the final eight. She noted that her age did not factor into the selection process; rather, it was the game of hockey that motivated her to face any challenges.

"I have played this game my whole life. [My age] doesn't change the way I play my game. I just play my game and do my best. It doesn't matter how old any of the other players are," said Averill '27.

Averill '27 commented on her chemistry with her sister, Averill '26, who was selected as one of the Forwards on the team. Averill '26 noted her excitement sharing the ice in the World Championship with her sister.

"It is definitely fun playing at the highest level, and playing with her is the best part... We have spent most of our lives working and training together, so it is a great honor to go to the tournament together," said Averill '26.

Averill '27 shared similar sentiments, noting that playing with her sister has been a key part of her experience.

"We know each other, and she is the smartest hockey player I know. I know that she always has my back, no matter what happens in the tournament or what we go through, which is a really great feeling. The experience with her has been surreal and amazing," said Averill '27.

The tryouts for Team USA started in March and the team was announced in November. Averill '27 credited individuals who supported her and her sister along this journey. She reflected on her work ethic and commitment to the process.

Averill '27 said, "I have done a lot of things. I work out with my trainer, Charlie Bando, who has been amazing and who has gotten me this far. Our coach is a skills coach, Dan Holland, also [a] Girls Varsity Assistant Coach who has helped me a lot. I also have a skating coach named Alex, who was really helpful. He got [me and my sister's] skating to the very best before tryouts. We were always looking for the next step since the tryouts started last March, and it has been a long process and a lot of work."

Boyle, who was selected as a Defender for Team USA, reflected on her aspirations for the Championship. In an email to *The Phillipian*, Boyle emphasized the importance of physical wellbeing for this level of play.

COURTESY OF MOLLY BOYLE

Molly Boyle '25 will be a defender for the Under-18 Women's National Team.

Boyle wrote, "There are many goals going into the tournament, but we know it is important to focus on one goal at a time, as each goal will lead to the next. It is important to focus on the little details, both on and off the ice. Playing in another country can be a difficult adjustment at first, so sleep, nutrition, and hydration have been made an important factor to focus on. Also, focus[ing] on the team as a whole and put[ting] each other first."

Eight teams, including Team USA, will participate in the tournament. Team USA will face Slovakia, Switzerland, and Sweden in the Preliminary Rounds. Averill '26 identified Canada as the team's fiercest rival due to the storied history, winning Gold seven times since 2008.

Averill '26 said, "Hopefully, we make it far enough to play Canada. It is the most important rivalry in international hockey, and if we make it to elimination play, then we should play them, and it is always an exciting match."

COURTESY OF CAROLINE AVERILL

Caroline Averill '26, pictured above, is on the Under-18 Women's National Team alongside her younger sister, Maggie Averill '27.

COURTESY OF MAGGIE AVERILL

Maggie Averill '27 is the second-youngest player on the Under-18 Women's National team.

Girls Hockey Gives Up No Goals in Scrimmage Against Andover High School

MADDIE SHIN & LIZ WODARSKI

SATURDAY	
Phillips Academy Andover	6
Andover High	1

Andover Girls Hockey (1-0) started the season off with a scrimmage against Andover High School (Andover High). Although the roster is filled with young players, the team was able to form good chemistry in the short number of practices leading up to the scrimmage, helping them secure a win at the beginning of the season.

According to Corinne Spade '27, Andover's defense was vigorous, and the team made sure their goal was protected. Ultimately, the strategy was successful as Andover High was not able to score any goals.

"We had a really strong defense. I don't think they were in our zone much. Our offense [was good] too. We created a lot of offense during the game. Overall, everyone did really good," said Spade.

Shea Freda '24 mentioned the high energy at the scrimmage on Saturday. It was exciting to see how the work on and off the ice thus far in Andover's season translated to a game-like setting. At the scrimmage, Andover was cheering for one another and working to make sure everyone was successful.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Freda wrote, "The atmosphere on the team was really fun. We were all cheering each other on on the bench and getting excited when our teammates made good plays or scored."

Spade highlighted that going into the scrimmage, the team focused on building relationships and getting to know one another. She described the team's chemistry as solid and trusting and emphasized that everyone was excited to play with one another.

"Because it is the beginning of the season, our main focus was just on getting to know each other... The team doesn't know each other yet, and for a team to be good, it matters on team chemistry. So, I really think that what we were working up to before was building the team," said Spade.

Freda stressed that the team is currently getting to know each other as players and individuals. Freda suspects that by continuously playing with one another and learning aspects of each other's game, the team will be successful in its season.

"In the coming weeks, we are just trying to learn each other's strengths and what combinations are going to work best for us. There is definitely still a lot of work to do, but we are a very talented group, so we are really looking forward to seeing how we will develop throughout the start of the season," wrote Freda.

Spade noted that in the upcoming weeks, Girls Hockey will continue to establish relationships among the team and figure out technicalities to prepare for its season.

Spade said, "For the upcoming week we're really working on getting our lines set and our power plays and penalty kills set in stone... This week we're playing Dexter [Southfield], and [Dexter Southfield] is a really good team. We need to be ready to play them, so we're really working on just getting the basics down."

Head Coach Martha Fenton '83 anticipates a good matchup against Dexter Southfield on Friday night. The game will be Andover Girls Hockey's first official game of the season.

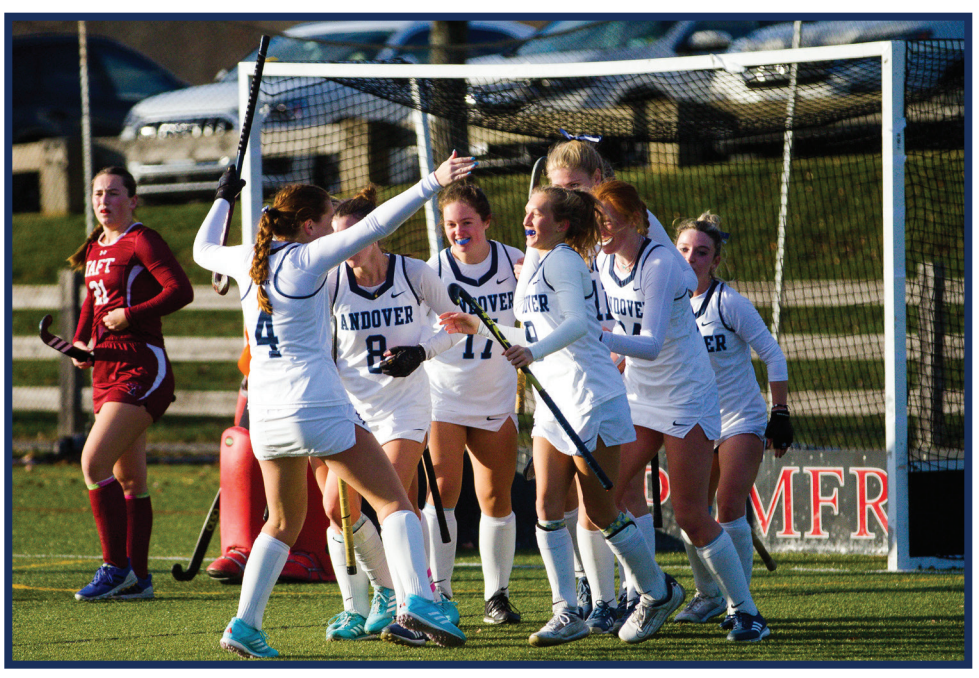
In an email to *The Phillipan* Fenton wrote, "Moving forward we need to work on possession in all three zones. We are a young team, and it will take time to find our rhythm. But, we are looking forward to a great test against Dexter Southfield on Friday night."

Andover Girls Hockey will play Dexter Southfield on Friday.

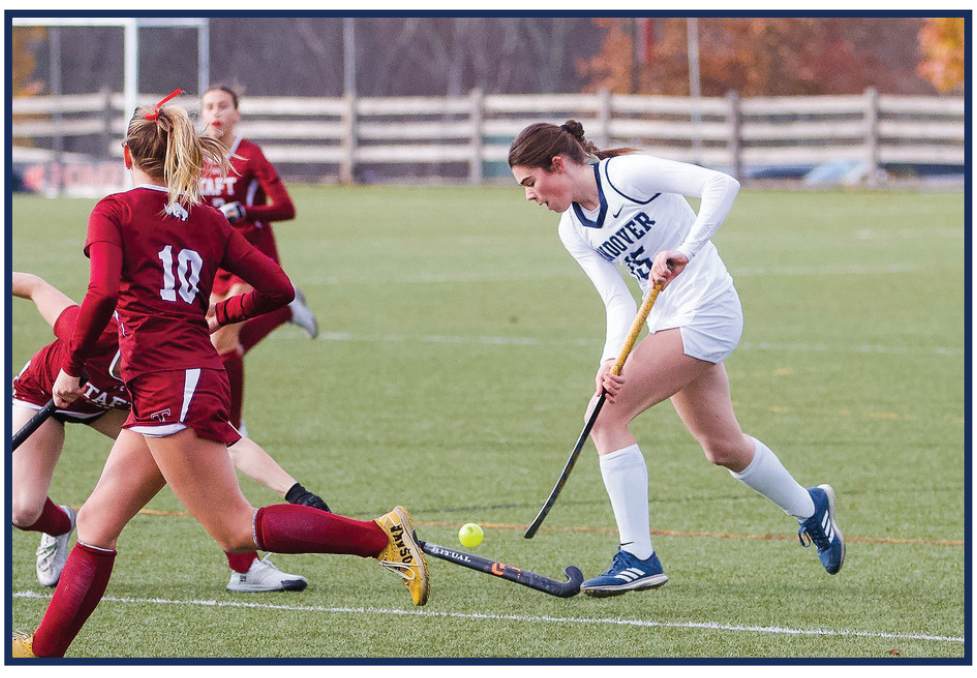
In Case You Missed It:

Field Hockey Finishes as Runner-Up in NEPSAC Championship

Last Fall, Andover Field Hockey entered the 2023 New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Championships as the No. 2 seed with a 15-2 record. Andover won 5-0 against Greenwich Academy in the quarterfinals and 4-1 against Westminster in the semifinals. However, Andover ultimately fell 3-2 to Taft in the finals, ending its championship run with a new record of 97 total goals for the season.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Boys Basketball Dominates at Zero Gravity Prep Classic, Falls to Holderness

ELISE MINOR

SATURDAY	
Andover	78
Greenwich Country	58
SUNDAY	
Andover	73
Millbrook	52
WEDNESDAY	
Andover	56
Holderness	62

This past weekend, Andover Boys Basketball (2-1) opened its season at the Zero Gravity Prep Classic, taking the win against Greenwich Country Day and Millbrook School. On Wednesday, the team fell to Holderness by just six points.

Rashad McCormick PG'24 highlighted how impressive it was to defeat a team as challenging as Millbrook. Millbrook's current record is 3-1, with its only loss being against Andover.

"The win against Millbrook was a very good team, solid win. Everybody contributed from the defense and offensive side. We beat that team by a big margin, and that was a very good thing," said McCormick.

McCormick highlighted Xavier Abreu '25's performance. Despite being heavily guarded, he was able to significantly contribute to the score of the game, according to McCormick.

McCormick said, "He was shooting everything, he was very good that weekend. I think he finished 30 points that game. His shooting was unbelievable. He was getting double-team and face guarded. He fought through the contact and really fought well through it and still contributed."

Cade Rutkoske '26 emphasized the team's hard work in practice and its optimism for the new season. He noted Head Coach Terrell Ivory '00's (TI) investment in the team and his role in building the players' confidence.

"Practices are going really well. Everybody has been going really hard in practice. I think everybody's excited for the upcoming season and our upcoming home games... I mean, we have a lot of talent on that team. TI has said this himself, too, that it's one of the deepest teams or if not the deepest teams talent wise that he's seen in his 12 or something years of coaching here, so he's really excited about the season. And we're all excited about the season of the team and what we can do," said Rutkoske.

McCormick emphasized the team's drive and focus, whether it be in practice or in game.

McCormick said, "In practice, everybody is pretty locked in for the most part, everybody shows up, is attentive to all the plays that we run and other drills. Everybody is starting to learn where different spots on the courts are, run plays from. Everybody's really good, and in the games, everybody's just confident. Everybody's playing with that chip on their shoulders. So I think a lot of people wanna prove that we're a good team this year."

While Andover was up at the end of the first half during Wednesday's game, it ultimately fell to Holderness 56-62. Hunter Peabody '27 noted the team's struggle to play at an intense level during the game.

Peabody said, "We started off pretty slow. We made some good plays [at the beginning], and we ended up winning at the end of the half, but our energy just slowed down, and we stopped playing intense defense, and they came back, and they ended up winning."

Despite the loss, Peabody highlighted the team's impressive offensive play. He mentioned that the team was lacking in terms of defense and morale.

"If we came out with more energy and we played harder defense, that's all we really needed. We looked fine on offense. It was really just the defensive side of the ball and less energy," said Peabody.

Peabody commended the team for its impressive beginning to the season. After losing this past Wednesday by just six points, Andover is hopeful and determined to come back strong.

Peabody said, "We had an amazing first weekend. I mean, we had two 20 point wins, and we were outstanding. Tough loss today, but we're ready to bounce back. But overall, we've looked very good to start the season two and one."

Andover Boys Basketball will compete at the Scholar Roundball Classic against Blair Academy on Saturday.

Write for SPORTS!

Email: scratty25, alucia25, ssnow25

Indoor Track and Field Sends Three Athletes to Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener

MICHAEL WILLIAMSON

Andover Indoor Track and Field officially began its season at Boston University's (BU) world-renowned facility. On Saturday, just three distance runners, Emma Hagstrom '25, Anya Budzinski '26, and Storrie Kulynych-Irvin PG'24, competed at the annual Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener.

Going into the meet, each runner adjusted to the highly competitive environment, racing alongside college athletes. Competing in the 1-Mile, Kulynych-Irvin shared her knowledge of the famous BU indoor track, recalling record-breaking races at the facility.

Kulynych-Irvin said, "I had never raced at BU before, but I've heard of it, and I've known about it for years since it's regarded as the fastest track in the nation, and I'd say it didn't disappoint. We were there early, so we didn't get to see the 5K NCAA records, but right after I finished, I watched some people run sub-four-minute miles, which was really impressive and cool to see."

Competing in the 3000-Meter, Hagstrom's performance was propelled by the surrounding college-level athletes. She spoke about her race plan, which helped her to finish in a time of 10:11.24.

"The atmosphere was definitely intense. There were a lot of runners and a lot of competition throughout the track. I think it definitely gave me something to work aware of and pushed through on Wednesday.

COURTESY OF GARRETT RICHIE

At the Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener, Emma Hagstrom '25 qualified for New Balance Nationals Indoor with her time of 10:11.24 in the 3000-Meter.

"I would say what a main weakness is just that people haven't had a lot of practice yet, which is obviously no one's fault. Besides the weather... it's tough to not have had snow yet and have had no practice [skiing]," said Montogomery.

According to Montgomery, Captain Sage Preston '25 performed well on Wednesday and also ensured that the team felt prepared and supported in its first race. As the only Captain on the team, a significant amount of leadership falls on Preston, and Montgomery believes that she accomplished her duty on Wednesday.

"Sage was the only non-beginner today. Sage did a really, really great job as team Captain and especially being towards. I knew going into the race that it was going to be hard. There can be a lot of girls pushing the pace throughout the race. My goal was just to stick with them for as long as I could and see what I could do during the meet," said Hagstrom.

Hagstrom's performance secured her a place at the 2024 New Balance Nationals Indoor, which will be held in Boston on the weekend of March 7.

"Throughout the race, I tried to respond to the moves of all the other runners. I think it was about the halfway point and a lot of girls started surging and it was hard to pick it up. So I tried to stick with them and keep it up for the last half of the race. It was definitely a challenge, of course, and I was really tired, so I had to work for it, but I'm happy with how I did," said Hagstrom.

Budzinski, who finished the 1-Mile in 5:22.83, noted how her training from the most recent cross country season gave her a significant edge in the early season.

Budzinski said, "It was a solid opener. I wanted to get a faster time, but I'm still working on the transition from cross country. But it was really fun to get out on the track and do a track race with my fitness from cross country. I definitely felt that I had more aerobic strength in the mile than I had before."

Budzinski has big aspirations for the upcoming season. She hopes to use the experience at BU to help her grow in the upcoming meets.

Budzinski said, "For the winter track season, I want

COURTESY OF GARRETT RICHIE

Storrie Kulynych-Irvin PG'24 and Anya Budzinski '26 both competed in the one-mile at the Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener.

to qualify for Nationals. The Nationals meet is a big event in Boston. It's very fun and exciting and there are some pretty hard qualifying standards. I'm definitely working towards faster times and hopefully, we can also bring a relay team, which would be really exciting."

Kulynych-Irvin, who finished the 1-Mile in 5:31.39, shared similar sentiments, expressing her excitement for the indoor track season after a successful cross country season. She is looking forward to seeing growth in the distance group.

"I was just coming out of a season of Cross Country, so that was my only base for this meet. I had a great time on the cross country team this fall and I felt really welcomed into Andover, which was a great experience. I think the core of our distance group will still be in indoor track, and I'm excited to see how we continue to evolve," said Kulynych-Irvin.

Andover Girls Indoor Track and Field will host Andover High School on Wednesday.

Nordic Focuses on Spirit and Experiences in First Unscored Meet of Season

MADDY LEHMAN & ALASTRIONA

All-Gender Nordic Skiing traveled to Holderness and participated in an unscored race on Wednesday. Andover raced against various teams, including Holderness, St. Paul's, Proctor Academy, Dublin, Northfield Mount Hermon, Cardigan, and Putney. Despite the lack of snow and the subsequent lack of practices, Nordic started off the season strong with a successful race.

Lauren Montgomery '25 noted how the team went into the race on Wednesday without having skied yet. Without snow, it hasn't been possible for the team to properly prepare for the race, so this was something the team was

and seeing what the sport is about. Biggest strength was probably just the willingness to get out there and do their best whether it was the first time racing this season or the first time racing at all."

Luke Williamson '25 highlighted the workouts that the team did leading up to the race. While the team was not able to ski, it still worked hard in anticipation of the race, working mainly on muscular endurance and strength.

"So we do a lot of running... We do a lot of core, we do a lot of mobility...and jumps to prepare us for this [race]," said Williamson.

Montgomery emphasized that the team this year is almost completely new, and many athletes have never skied before.

"I think it's been tough because we haven't had snow in Andover, so today was a lot of people's first time on skis either ever or for the season... That that made it even more impressive that everyone did so well today and was able to finish the race and stuff like that because everyone was so new," said Montgomery.

All-Gender Nordic Skiing will race again on Wednesday after Winter Break.

Andover Girls Basketball Begins Season With Win and Loss

DAVID SIAHAAN

SATURDAY	
Andover	53
Pomfret	6

WEDNESDAY	
Andover	35
Worcester	53

Andover Girls Basketball (1-1) began their season playing against Pomfret School and Worcester Academy. Away at Pomfret, Andover dominated the court throughout the entire game, convincingly winning 53-6. Andover unfortunately fell short against a strong Worcester team, ending the week with a 1-1 record.

Andover's game against Pomfret was their first game as a team, as many new players joined. However, according to Cuyler Sparks '27, they played well together defensively and transitioned well, leading to a successful game.

Sparks said, "We won 53-6. It was our first game. It is a fairly new team. We have a lot of young players, a lot of new Seniors, and PGs with only one returner starting. Defensively we played really well, and we were able to transition into offense as the game went on as well."

Alani Rodriguez '27, new to the team, praised Anni Juuselo '24 for her exceptional work ethic, emphasizing her strength in executing challenging layups and finishes under the basket, which contributed to her 20-point performance.

"Anni Juselo played really well she had 20 points. She made a lot from under the basket with layups and hard finishes. She was also really good from the free throw line, which was good," said Rodriguez.

Leila Boesch-Powers '24 expressed pride in the team's resilience during their challenging match against Worcester on Wednesday. She believes that by enhancing their strengths and integrating new players, the team has the potential to have a successful season.

"I think that we played very tough against Worcester. Starting from the first minute, everyone was rushing on the court and playing defense and playing like a team and just playing tough and showing Worcester what we could do and that we really wanted the win. I think we left everything on the court, and am very happy with how we played," said Boesch-Powers.

There are many things that Girls Basketball is hoping to improve on going into their next game. Laney Cafua '27 noted that they have been working on offensive plays to gain more confidence at the hoop.

Cafua said, "As a team, we are definitely working on playing fast and playing with aggression. Playing at a high level requires a lot of aggression. I think our team does a great job of this. We are also working on pushing each other as hard as possible in practice, which leads to a great outcome against other teams."

Sparks agreed with Cafua's statement that the team must get more comfortable with their plays on offense. She also added that running the transition offense was the most important thing they are practicing this season.

Sparks said, "We are working on playing offensively. Just running the offense, I think. That is the biggest thing going into the season. Being able to run our transition offense well will be the main thing we will be working on."

Andover Girls Basketball is set for an exciting season with a lineup of difficult opponents. Rodriguez particularly highlighted the anticipation for the Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) game, emphasizing it as the most significant and thrilling match of the year.

"Along with the team, we are really excited to play Exeter, which is our rival school, at the end of the term, and we would love to win two years in a row against them." said Rodriguez.

Boesch-Powers agreed that Exeter was its biggest competitor. She also acknowledged that there is a long road of games before their game against Exeter, but she is still very excited.

Boesch-Powers said, "I have to say Exeter, that game is always electric, especially since it is at home on Senior night. Of course, we still have a lot of competition and games before that game, but I am still very excited."

Andover Girls Basketball plays Loomis Chaffee at home on Saturday.

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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.

All-Gender Wrestling Beats St. Paul's 58-43 in First Match of Season

ANYA BUDZINSKI
& TARA MENON

SATURDAY	
Andover	58
St. Paul's	43

Andover All-Gender Wrestling (1-0-0) opened its season against St. Paul's with a game that had an energetic and supportive atmosphere. Andover emerged victorious, setting a positive tone for its season.

Tasha Bohorad '26 emphasized how the positive environment acted as a motivator for wrestlers and created a supportive team dynamic.

"The atmosphere was great and the vibes were really good. From the start, everyone was super energized. With both teams, we all cheered for each other. When we would win we would cheer and when St. Paul's won, we would cheer them on too which made for a really supportive atmosphere all around," said Bohorad.

In preparation for the meet, the team focused on defending moves that St. Paul's typically uses. Winston Wall '25 discussed the team's efforts to train on these specific techniques leading into the season opener.

"The coaches had told us that a lot of the wrestlers at St. Paul's run a move called the 'front headlock' and then a drag and slide. Before the match, we learned how to do that move and a couple of defenses throughout the move to try and fight against it if it came up in a match. Between the veteran group and the newer wrestlers we worked on this move differently, some of us in a live match setting and others just focusing on how to execute the move," said Wall.

Bohorad highlighted the determination that James Bae '26 demonstrated, noting how he overcame exhaustion to pin his opponent and secure a win. Bae's perseverance not only led to his victory but also provided an inspiring moment for the team.

Bohorad said, "Overall in the meet, I want to shout out James Bae. He was wrestling for the 137 [pound] weight class. His match lasted until the third period. It was really tough and really close throughout. Both guys in the match were really tired but James stayed tough and kept going. He eventually got the pin which was super exciting."

Numerous new wrestlers participated in different weight categories for their inaugural matches. Despite initial intimidation, they managed to overcome their nerves and performed well. Eva Murphy '25 noted that while the team's inexperience posed some challenges, it is progressively gaining experience.

"One of our weaknesses is some of the people in our lineup aren't as experienced. It is the beginning of the season still, and there are many people in the varsity lineup that haven't wrestled before and this was their first match ever. Everyone worked super hard and gave their best, though," said Murphy.

Looking ahead, the team aims to accumulate more experience and focus on emulating live match scenarios in practice. Murphy outlined the team's training approach as they prepare for their upcoming match.

"A lot of the team in practice knows what they are doing and has everything down. But it is really different when you get out onto the mat and it is just you and your opponent. Once we do some more live wrestling we are going to get a better feel for our matches and be able to execute even better than we did today," said Murphy.

Andover will compete at the Avon Holiday Duals on Saturday.

MORE SCENES FROM BOYS HOCKEY VS POMFRET

PHOTOS BY HARLEY ZHONG '26

Louis-Felix Beaulieu '26 (D)

Alexander Small '26 (F)

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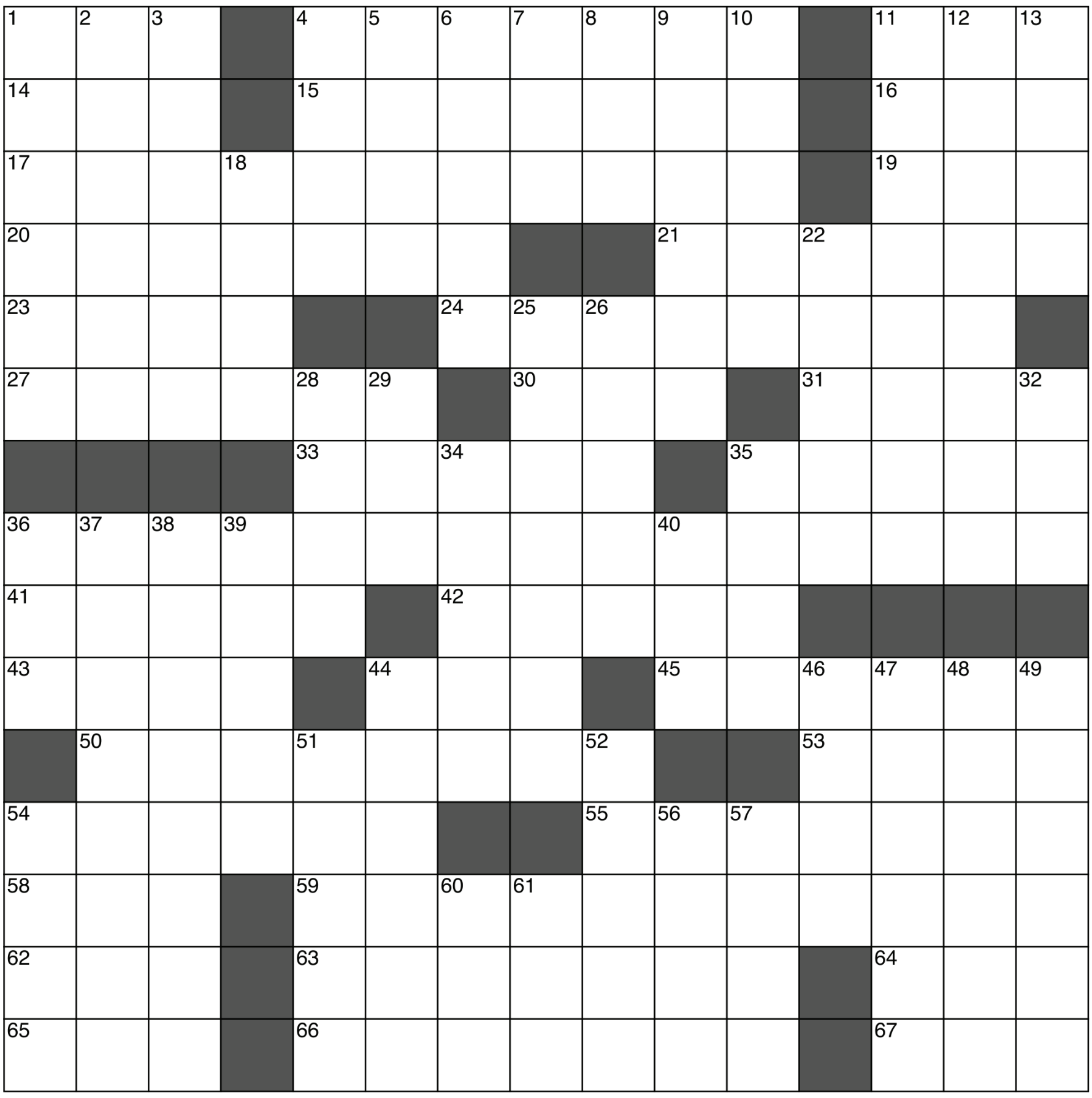
Fishy Business

Once you've completed this crossword, text the word spelled in circled letters from left to right to 9108CROSS6. One winner will be selected to submit a clue of their choice in the next puzzle. Happy Solving!



COURTESY OF MAX LANGHORST

ACROSS

1 "That guy, over there!" pronoun
4 Central piano key
11 Document file format
14 ___ Lovelace, female computer scientist in the early 1800's
15 A beserker on a battlefield is ___ _ ___
16 The first three vowels
17 Things designed to send you down the wrong path, especially in puzzles
19 Saint Pauls: Abbr.
20 A lowly noble whose name is reminescent of the knife mounted to the end of a musket
21 "I am thinking of her!" in text speak
23 ___ Redding, the king of soul
24 China had these rulers until 1912
27 How you might get the money from a gift card
30 Problem, especially in computers: Abbr.
31 "Open the door for the teachers assistant" or "Let the _ _ ___"
33 A multinational healthcare corporation
35 "Send ___ __ boarding school!", what one might say when they're tired of their son
36 "Give a man a fish" alternative
41 Although: Abbr.
42 "_ ___ about you very much", something your mother might say
43 Mediterranean flatbread usually served with hummus or tzatziki
44 Three, Two, ___, go!
45 See 13D
50 "The road" in Italian
53 A singular vowel that comes first in the alphabet
54 An cyclops owl has one ___ ___!
55 Being in the middle
58 ___ Manning, former New York Giants quarterback
59 Really good texas hold em' players
62 A type of camera: Abbr.
63 A romantic meetup that is especially promising, so you need to get there quick!
64 Chess rating system or "Mr. Blue Sky" artist: Abbr.
65 Surname of Popeye's Love Interest (Olive ___)
66 Decides something without evidence, especially about a person
67 Ant-Man's last name

DOWN

1 A protected place where ships can anchor
2 Think up
3 Capital of Spain
4 Someone's apperance or look
5 Within + forward alternative in an email: Abbr.
6 Something you might throw at a board for points + E
7 Don't ___nk and ___ve
8 Computer linking: Abbr.
9 Tasting more like eggs
10 Famous roman ruler, without the double vowel
11 ___ on rye, something you might get a jewish deli
12 Opposite of withdraws
13 With 45 Across, how you could describe 17 Across, 36 Across, and 59 Across.
18 Water spraying device
22 A repeated idea, especially in books
25 Made a scary or dangerous impression
26 Sanskrit word of life force and the name of a yoga clothing company
28 You might yell this word into a cavern and hear it come back to you
29 A soldier is ___ when you can't find him
32 "FIS" is missing something: It has __ _.
34 __ _ _ pickle, a baseball executive having trouble
35 Tilled
36 "Is ___ okay?", something your server might ask you about water
37 An American pharmaceutical company that first mass produced the polio vaccine
38 What you might say to a good female doggo
39 High speed car ___
40 "Three" prefix
44 An alternative to windows and mac made by a sandwich cookie?
46 Des Moines is its capital
47 ___ ___ max, something a gym bro would say about how much they can lift
48 In a quiet, gentle way
49 Something a criminal makes you pay after a kidnapping, for the famous undertale character?
51 Show you appreciate someone in text + chemical acidity measurement + A
52 M1 ___, an American battle tank
54 Kiss, in spanish
56 Our dean of students, misspelled
57 ___ _ is the best letter in scrabble because it can pluralize words
60 Ship speed units
61 .___, a website domain for colleges

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Arts & Leisure
The Phillipian

"The Nutcracker Reimagined": Andover's Twist on Classic Ballet after Five-Year Hiatus

CAMERON MANZO AND JOY-SHANTI SINDAYIGANZA

A large Christmas tree rose from the stage as Tchaikovsky's dramatic orchestral music played in the background, building tension until the grand appearance of the Nutcracker, played by Jaylen Daley '25. The Nutcracker grabbed a sword and clashed with the Mouse King, played by Amanda Dominique-Santos '25, eventually striking the Mouse King down.

With four shows this weekend, the Andover Theatre and Dance Department returned from a five-year hiatus with a rendition of George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker," titled "The Nutcracker Reimagined." Adding an Andover-themed twist, the updated version features a modern-day setting with excerpts from the original "The Nutcracker." Eliza Francis '26, an acrobatics dancer who played as a Harlequin doll, described the reasoning behind the changes to the classic ballet.

"Ms. [Judith] Wombwell [Instructor in Theatre and Dance], her vision was to move it up to present day, so that's why the students in Act I are in [Andover] merch. It's supposed to resemble the average student, who finds these costumes and is suddenly transfixed by the story they can tell. And then we've also expanded styles because we have a wide range of versatility amongst dancers beyond just ballet," said Francis.

The series of performances showcased a 35-person cast of performers, including students, Andover staff, and even some faculty children. Daley described the preparation and performing environment.

"Overall, it was really a rigorous, fast-paced process that everybody was trying to immerse themselves in... My favorite part of the show was always the split kick. At least performing that, any time that I got to jump was really fun. But working with Jacob [Kaiser '24] and Alex [Giarnese '25] in the Russian performance was definitely an exciting trio performance to do. I was really in my element on stage, and I had a great time performing it at practice," said Daley.

The ballet acts came together to deliver a unique and thematically diverse performance. Audience member Dilnawa Kizghin '25 commented on how the show's choreography highlighted specific performers through solos and specialized group acts.

"I really loved the different variety in the performances. It was ballet, but there were a lot of different acts. Some of the ballet performances had a little twist in them, so it was very interesting to watch... My favorite would be the 'dewdrop' performance because one of my best friends was performing a solo. I also really like the costuming because [although] there were a lot of support roles in her solo, they were dressed in all black so she stood out more. I thought that was interesting from a design perspective," said Kizghin.

In addition to the dancers, the set and costume design further immersed the audience in the wintry wonderland of "The Nutcracker Reimagined." Elements like fake snow, whimsical mouse costumes, and huge decorated sleighs heightened the story's vividness and realism. Audience member Jun Fan '24 appreciated this attention to detail.

"I thought that all the different characters that came out of the toys in the box [were] really cool. The tree, the rat, and all the different components of the set were also really cool... I think some of it was humorous. The audience was engaged with what was happening, and then it was also just really good dancing. Everyone was really skilled," said Fan.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Michelle Chen '25 as the Lead Angel Fish.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Tara Wei '25 and Kara Horne '27 as Reed Flutes.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Minh-Khue Doba '24 and Jacob Kaiser '24 as the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier.

Multi-Comedian Stand-Up Comedy Show Connects with Students

CAMERON MANZO AND MAYARI BURT

Laughter erupted from the audience at the mention of Gen Z and their "TikTok and Roblox." A variety of other jokes ensued, from self-deprecating jokes to describing the intricacies of public school bathrooms. The microphone was handed off several times, constantly keeping the show interesting.

The three comedians, who were personally invited to Andover, were Ryan Ellington, Amy Tee, and Jimmy Cash. They typically perform in adult locations; adjusting jokes, often mid-sentence, to a high school audience, was challenging, according to Ellington.

"For us, it was a challenge to adjust our material to work with material that was appropriate for the audience we had tonight. Usually, we're in different scenarios, and we let a little looser. So, it was a nice challenge to see how we could adjust our material for the situation," said Ellington.

Despite the material being slightly more PG, the comics still found unique ways to make the audience laugh. For example, janitor/comedian Cash asked about janitors at Andover and was told about Commons Bill, who he then praised in future jokes. Audience member Bella Shmuylovich '26 commented on her favorite moment in the show.

"The end, when the jokes were matching up, and they were using the crowd work and incorporated it into their jokes... I liked the jokes about the teenage [audience]... I thought all of them were super creative [and] relatable," said Shmuylovich.

The comedians brought in were all local to the Boston area, each with different stories and jokes, and took turns throughout the night. Tee described this experience of working with the other comedians.

"This is the first time I've worked with Ryan, and I haven't seen Jimmy in a long time. We don't run in the same circles, so for me, that was the fun part, to watch them connect with the audience and listen to their feedback. I thought that was a lot of fun [and] that was memorable for me," said Tee.

The night lasted about an hour and concluded with great applause. Aside from laughs, comic Cash sarcastically noted what students could take away from the show.

"Stay in school," said Cash.

A.CHINN/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Ryan Ellington performs for Andover students in Kemper Auditorium.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes — A Prequel That Doesn't Disappoint

ANNABEL TU

"The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" is an exceptional prequel made successful by a talented cast and well-built setting, but it falls short on its pacing and ability to fully flesh out central characters. A revival of the beloved Hunger Games series, the film debuted in theaters on November 17, 2023, exactly 11 years after the release of the original "Hunger Games" movie. Directed by Francis Lawrence, the director of "Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and "Hunger Games: Mockingjay" parts one and two, the movie is set 64 years before the first Hunger Games film. The movie tells the backstory of Coriolanus Snow (Tom Blyth), a power-hungry Capitol student, and his relationship with Lucy Gray Baird (Rachel Zegler), a tribute from District 12. Snow's romantic feelings for Lucy Gray, however, are complicated by his desperate struggle for recognition amongst Capitol society, as his formerly powerful family's fall from wealth has pushed him to the very margins of the Capitol's elite. As the movie progresses through its three acts, Snow's character is reshaped from a relatively innocent young boy into the cruel and tyrannical ruler the audience knows he becomes.

Zegler stands out for her portrayal of Lucy Gray Baird. In particular, Zegler chose to sing all of her songs live, a decision that adds realistic emotion to each scene and stays true to Lucy Gray's character, who is a member of a musical group called "The Covey Band." A particularly powerful song was "The Old Therebefore/Singing at Snakes," sung during the moment that Lucy Gray wins the Hunger Games. Zegler's singing and acting in this scene, along with the background composition, manifest the transformation of Lucy Gray from tribute to victor. Blyth, in his first major film role, does well in the lead role of Snow. He embodies Snow's charisma but also his hunger for power and control. Viola Davis, who plays Capitol scientist and Head Gamemaker Dr. Gaul, is incredible to watch in her performance as well, and perfectly portrays the cruel mad scientist and sinister evil mentor. Hunter Schafer also perfectly executes her role of Tigris, Snow's gentle and empathetic cousin. Additionally, Jason Schwartzman excelled in his role of Lucky Flickerman. He was strikingly similar to his relative and host Caesar Flickerman in the original trilogy, and added a much needed touch of humor to the otherwise dark and gruesome movie.

"The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" successfully constructs a world reminiscent of the future Panem, yet rooted in a different time period within a nation recovering from a long and bloody war. Through skilled production and costume design, this world is vividly brought to life, using muted colors, dull lighting, and broken architecture to convey the oppression of the districts by the Capitol and the depravity of the Capitol itself. Yet the grandiose nature of buildings and statues in the Capitol also mirror the glamor and imposing architecture of its future version. The world building of the movie is supported by the soundtrack as well. James Newton Howard, who composed the score for the original four movies, returns for the prequel. The instrumental incorporates string orchestra, percussion, brass, and choir-like vocals, and is emotionally impactful and effective in creating tension and drama when needed. In addition, Howard includes several allusions to the original movies. For example, audience members see the origin of "The Hanging Tree," a tune written and sung by Lucy Gray that becomes an iconic song for Katniss and the rebellion later on. Such details connect the two worlds of Katniss and Lucy Gray and remind the audience that they are part of the same world.

CAM MARNOTO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Despite its strengths, "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" feels rushed, especially in the third act, where Snow undergoes the most significant character changes. The fast pacing makes it harder for the audience to understand Snow's loss of innocence and complete switch to evil, especially without having read the book and knowing his inner dialogue. The movie is not short, with a 158-minute run time, but could have benefited from at least an additional half hour. The film could have also been split into two parts, similar to Mockingjay, with one centered on Snow in the Capitol and the other on his time in District 12. This would have allowed more time for the characters to be fully fleshed out, and the inclusion of more plot from the book.

For fans of the "Hunger Games, The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" is well worth watching, and evokes many similar feelings from that of the original movies. The film may leave you wanting a little more, but overall is executed well by the cast and satisfies what's expected from a book-to-movie adaptation.

POTW: Childhood Music for the Holiday Season

REPORTING BY CAMERON MANZO

One of the many joys of the upcoming holiday season is the music. No matter if you are in the mall shopping, going on a road trip with family, or sitting by a cozy fireplace, classic festive songs can always be heard. Here are some favorite holiday tunes of the Andover community.

Diving Coach Belinda Wolf: "O Holy Night" by Adolphe Adam

"My favorite holiday song is 'O Holy Night' because it was my father's favorite song, and we would hear it over the holidays and he would take out a harmonica and he would play it, and then we would all sing."

AEVA CLEARE '26: "I WANT A HIPPOPOTAMUS FOR CHRISTMAS" BY JOHN ROX

"When I was little, I had this CD in this really old portable DVD player...with a bunch of Christmas songs. They were supposedly all from 'The Grinch,' but I don't think so, because 'I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas' was on that track. Either way, that one was my favorite to play. I played it over and over again. It is a kind of childish song; the whole premise of it is 'I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas,' but it's still a good song... I would watch the music video of it, which was this really crazily animated music video of [a] giant hippo getting up to antics during the holiday season. We also [danced] to it in middle school, and that was just a great memory for me."

JONATHAN OH '27: "WHITE CHRISTMAS" COVER BY PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

"I like White Christmas, but there [is] this one version of the song done by the Philadelphia Eagles last year, and I thought that was really cool, because they can actually sing... I like them as a football team, but I like it even better when they do things off the field and I think this was a really good thing that fit the vibe and mood. It's really, really interesting, because it's usually an old song [that] I wouldn't really listen to. But they gave it a twist, and it's interesting to hear all the nuances in the sound. It makes for a really pleasant listening experience. You should go give it a listen."

JULIANA REYES '24: "BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE" BY MICHAEL BUBLÉ AND IDINA MENZEL

"Since it's a duet, I have my favorite memory of all time when this song played out loud and me and my sister just went back and forth in the living room, and we recreated everything. Every lyric, every motion you could think of, we were just going back and forth singing the song out loud... Because of that moment specifically, every time I hear it, I just think of Christmas spirit, being with my family, and I think that just embodies what Christmas is: spending time together and being joyful."

EVIE LAGRANDEUR '26: "EL BURRITO SABANERO" BY MARCO PASTOR ESTELLE

"'El Burrito Sabanero' because it was forced for me to sing my whole childhood in my school and then I embraced it. I think it's a really cute song because it's sung by kids every year for Christmas, and it's about a little donkey going to Bethlehem to see Jesus. Very Catholic school, very Christmas time, and that reminds me of my childhood."

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Capturing Moments and Creating Melodies: Ethan Liu '26's Love for Photography and Jazz

PENELOPE TONG

Ethan Liu '26 has cultivated a passion for both music and photography, navigating the duality of both artistic disciplines. In addition to playing the violin in the Andover Symphony Orchestra, Liu is a saxophonist for various bands, including the Andover Jazz Band and the student-led band Goose and Moose.

Liu's passions have allowed him to express himself and his observations in various ways.

"Both [music and photography] are expressions of what I love. With photography, I try to express the moments of beauty I see in the world. With music, I use it as a more concrete expression of language, where I can show my emotions and say more than what words can," said Liu.

From a young age, Liu grew up surrounded by art. His mother is a traditional Chinese musician, and his father is a painter. These influences laid the foundation for his journey studying the arts. Reflecting on these formative years, Liu particularly highlighted the impact of his father, and how that eventually piqued his interest in photography later.

"Photography is an instant form of art, I feel like. You just press the button, and it captures the moment, or the essence of the moment. When I'm in nature, everything is changing around me at all times. I'm so grateful that I can capture those little things with the camera, and try different angles that will make the photos more interesting. I can highlight the details that I want the audience to feel," said Liu.

Although Liu values the instantaneous nature of photography, he equally respects the thorough preparation that is needed in music performance. As a performer in Grasshopper 2023, Liu fondly reflected on the behind-the-scenes memories with his band, Goose and Moose, emphasizing the collaborative group effort and shared quality time in the days leading up to the show.

"That experience was one of the happiest moments of my time here at Andover. Not just the performance itself, but the practice getting there, spending time with my band, Goose and Moose, rehearsing for our songs, at night or the early mornings. And the day of the performance, dressing up and just putting on a great show with all my friends," said Liu.

Liu also reflected on the process behind his photography, where his approach is more nuanced and less straightforward. Liu has found that photography often relies on being in the right place at the right moment, which means always having the camera on hand. Over the years, Liu has evolved as a photographer by continuously troubleshooting, refining, and experimenting.

A.TSAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Through Liu's musical pursuits, he hopes to inspire others to listen to jazz music and through his photography he hopes to show the beauty of the world.

"For photography, it's a matter of practice. I've taken tens of thousands of photos throughout the years. From the start, just experimenting with what I can, and I learned through experience. Things like what angles might look good, what colors might look good, what lighting might look good, how the light might affect the photos, how to edit the photos and manipulate them, takes time, and a process of over and over again," said Liu.

In the future, Liu wishes to inspire those around him to become involved in the arts. Beyond his performances, Liu plans to create clubs that can share his love for both jazz music and photography with the Andover community.

"In the future [I hope to] maybe inspire others to listen to this type of music, [jazz]. For my photography, I hope to show people the beauty of the world, in all different aspects and angles, from nature to just life in general. At school, I hope to start some clubs, maybe a photography club," said Liu.

LOTW: Micheal Kawooya '26 Experiments with Eccentric Color Palettes in Dynamic Style

PIPER LASATER & ASHIQ KIBRIA

Micheal Kawooya '26 sports a royal blue corduroy jacket over a white tank top, baggy light wash denim jeans, and Nike Air Force sneakers. He elevates his streetwear aesthetic by adding a silver pendant necklace to his outfit. Kawooya shared his process of how he picks out an outfit.

"Most days, I wake up [at] around 7:45 a.m., so I'm definitely rushing to get out the door. However, every night before I go to bed, I pick out an outfit to wear the next day. I don't always end up wearing the outfits I pick out... Depending on my mood, I may wake up and want to wear something different," said Kawooya.

Kawooya likes to express his creativity through his fashion. His style cannot be defined by one conventional aesthetic, but instead is a blend of many. Striving to keep fashion fun, he mixes textures and colors to keep his outfits exciting. Kawooya described how he shifts his outfits across different seasons and days of the week.

"I always check the weather and build an outfit off of that. In the wintertime, I love wearing colorful jackets... I like to dress better on Fridays to celebrate the end of the week," said Kawooya.

As Kawooya grows as a person, so does his style. His fashion sense is influenced by both his environment and the people he meets. In particular, he gains stylistic inspiration from his close friends and social media platforms such as TikTok and Pinterest.

Kawooya said, "Since middle school, I've always liked a lot of streetwear, and recently, I've started to like preppier aesthetics... as well as anything with color. Freshman fall, I would always wear sweater vests, and then I transitioned more towards collared, short-sleeved shirts."

He continued, "I have a pair of beige platform Jordans, which sound terrible on paper, but I love them, and I think they add another texture to my wardrobe."

Kawooya attributes much of his fashion inspiration to his friend Tina Phan '26. Phan has been friends with Kawooya since their Freshman Year and watched his style grow and develop. She describes his style as "eccentric" and "individualistic."

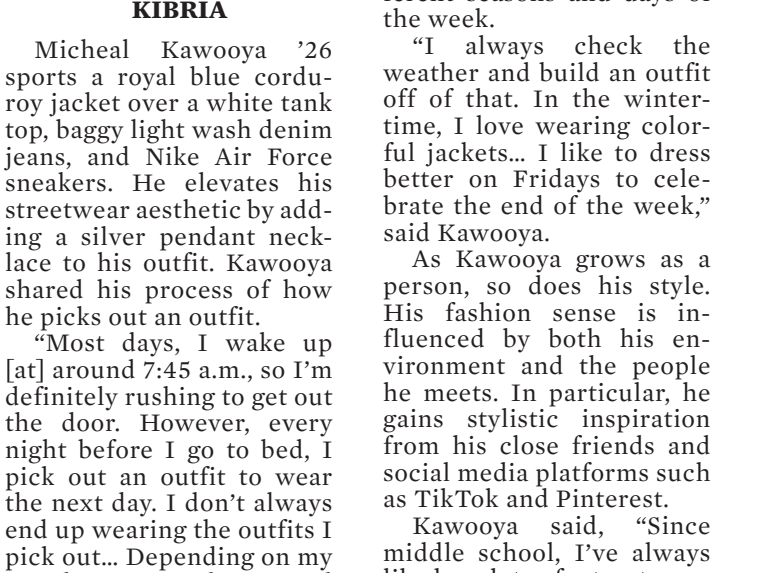
"When it comes to music or pop culture I always feel he is in the known, and his style reflects that. He is very eccentric and I love that. I would say he has become more confident in the clothes that he enjoys. And not just what is considered trendy. He always finds ways to make it his own. In Freshman Year, he was wearing more neutral basics, but now he's incorporating more unique pieces specific to himself," said Phan.

Out of all the clothing stores Kawooya shops from, his favorite is Urban Outfitters. As an avid member of the Urban Points program, Kawooya is always trying to get the best deals on his Urban Outfitters apparel.

"I am the biggest Urban [Outfitters] fan. I am constantly enrolling in their monthly gift card giveaways, I've yet to win one, and I have an alarm on my phone to remind myself to browse the app daily to get points. I have a pair of BDG jeans that are a staple in my wardrobe," said Kawooya.

Expressed by his zest for experimentation and devotion to certain fashion brands, Kawooya's passion for fashion is an important and joyful aspect of his identity. He described how fashion can act both as an outlet for self-expression and as a source of positive energy in an otherwise sometimes negative world.

"Fashion just makes me happy and in a world where it can feel like there's so much negativity and destruction, it's important to focus on the things that make us happy. I want my fashion to continue evolving, maybe completely ditch what I'm doing now, and try something completely new," said Kawooya.



C.BARBIE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Kawooya pairs beige and white sneakers with aged jeans.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Kawooya's favorite store is Urban Outitters and often buys his favorite BDG jeans from there.

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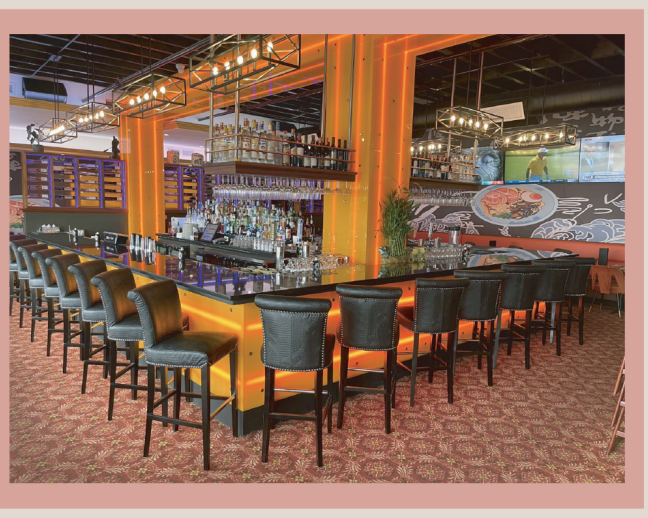

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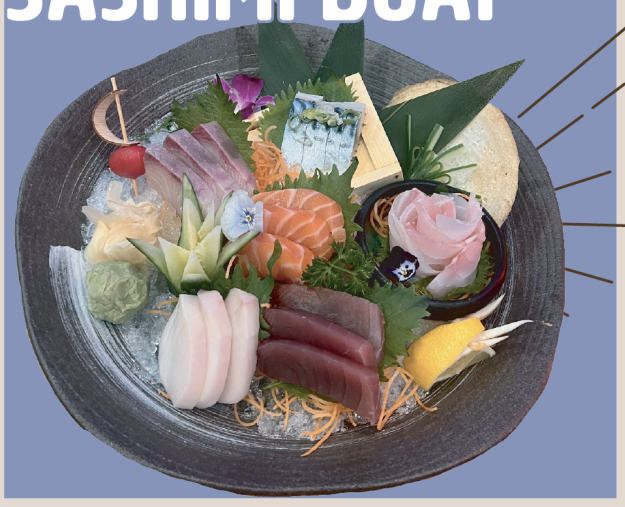

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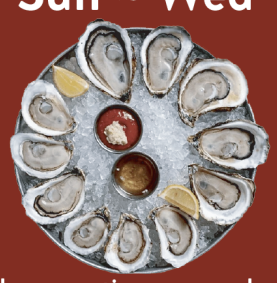

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