The Phillipian

good luck to seniors
we <3 you no matter what

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Mindful Moments: Andover's Happiness Project Sparks Reflection and Connection

JENNA LIANG & PRISHA SHIVANI

Andover's Student Wellness Collaborative hosted the Happiness Project this week, an eight-day-long challenge encouraging daily guided meditations and a social media detox. The challenge concluded with a munch for participants on December 11.

While the Happiness Project has evolved since its inception two years ago, the intent of the project has remained the same: to improve concentration, mindfulness, and mental health. Margot Furman '25, who oversaw the project, spoke to the central focus of the week, highlighting the benefits of participating in the challenge.

"I think a great takeaway is to be more intentional with how you are spending your time, as well as not having social media and trying to form more physical connections with people. All of our participants have been more aware of what they're doing, and are able to spend more time being present," said Furman.

Ashley Choi '26, who participated in the challenge, talked about why she initially chose to join the challenge. She mentioned its positive effects on her day-to-day life, and how it improved her communication with those around her.

"I think before doing the project I didn't realize consciously how much I relied on social media, and just how much time I was spending on it until I wasn't able to use it... I think I've been spending time a lot more productively. My screen time went down by 52 percent, and I've been getting my work done earlier and sleeping earlier. Even when I'm hanging out with friends, I feel more present because I don't have access to social media," said Choi.

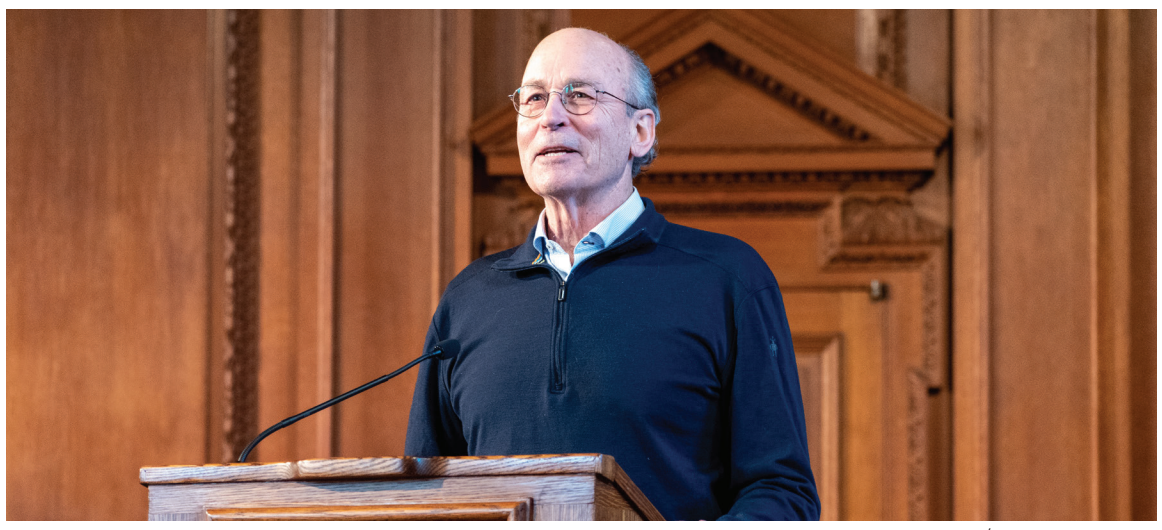
Eddie Lou '24, who co-managed the event with Furman, talked about the social media aspect of the challenge, emphasizing how social media impacts people's ability to be present.

Continued on A5, Column 4

L. DE BOER/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Students sat in a circle to meditate in a social-media-free environment.

Tracy Kidder '63 Discusses His 2023 Book Following Dr. Jim O'Connell's Work Caring for Homeless People



A. LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Tracy Kidder presented his experiences working on providing healthcare for homeless patients in Boston.

BAILEY XU & ZACHARY YUAN

Tracy Kidder '63, Pulitzer Prize winner and acclaimed nonfiction author, spoke on his newest book "Rough Sleepers" at All-School Meeting (ASM) on December 8. Kidder narrated the story of Dr. Jim O'Connell, who, since 1985, has been caring for homeless patients and founded the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

In addition to recounting O'Connell's work, Kidder reflected on the process of writing and researching "Rough Sleepers." Having shadowed O'Connell for five years, Kidder described the eye-opening interactions between the doctor and his homeless patients, experiences that reminded him to recognize the humanity in homeless people.

"I was struck most forcefully by the warmth of the relationships between [O'Connell,] this Harvard-educated doctor, and the patients and prospective patients that he encountered on the nighttime streets... I had rarely spoken to such people and congratulated myself when I had, but

Continued on A5, Column 4

CaMD Scholar Sarah Pan '24 Examines Social Consequences of Artificial Intelligence

JONATHAN OH & PHILIP JEONG

In front of a packed Kemper Auditorium, Sarah Pan '24 delved into the evolution of artificial intelligence (AI), from its first conception to its modern-day societal impacts. Her presentation, "Now Approaching Dystopia: The Social Consequences of Artificial Intelligence," was the culmination of her research as an Office of Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD) Scholar.

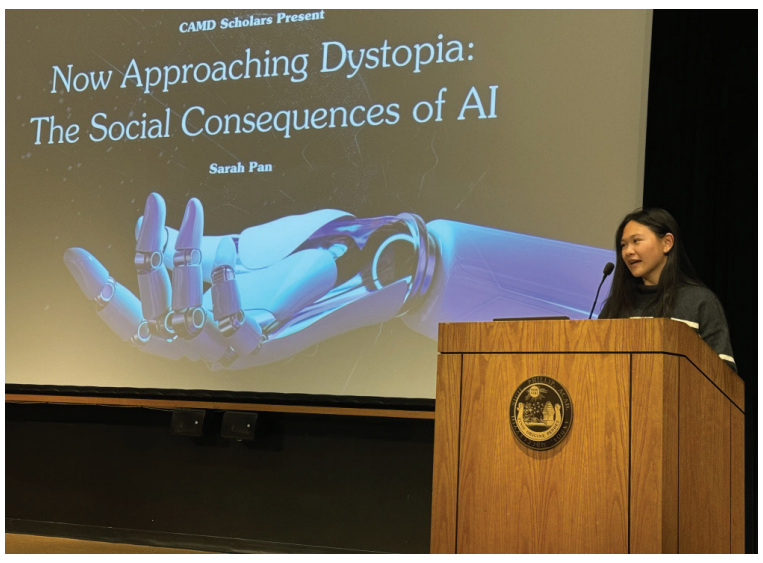
Developing the narrative surrounding artificial intelligence, Pan introduced audience members to the origins of artificial intelligence and how it works. Pan offered examples of different modern-day applications that are powered by AI and offered an explanation for the explosive progress in recent years.

"Intelligence, as I'm sure Andover has taught us all, is much more than storing and recalling information. As a result, artificial intelligence is about recreating intelligence in ways that are useful for us, whatever that may be... If we look at today, our computers have gotten exponentially faster and the modern neural network, which consists of millions to hundreds of billions of neurons all strung together, is responsible for pretty much everything we know. So if you are familiar with ChatGPT and are familiar with computer vision, which is responsible for things like self-driving cars, these are whole examples of whole neural networks," said Pan.

However, according to Pan, the way artificial intelligence functions differs drastically from the way human intelligence does. She explained that systems like neural networks can sometimes become "black boxes" where even experts struggle to understand how the AI models reach conclusions, which can have dangerous ethical implications.

"It is really important to note that neural networks to-

Continued on A5, Column 1



COURTESY OF SARAH PAN '24

Kicking off the sequence of CaMD Scholar presentations, Sarah Pan talked about the risks of artificial intelligence.

2023-2024 Recipients of Abbot Academy Grant Released

T. GU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Pictured above is the hat, embroidered with the Abbot Academy Funds core values, given to those who recieved grants.

MARIAM SAGHIRASHVILI & NIKI TAVAKOLI

This year, 20 out of 23 grants were awarded partial or full funding, for a total of 160,527 dollars and 75 cents. The Abbot Academy Grant has been turning ideas into reality since 1973, with the most recent recipients of the Grant receiving the news on November 20.

Marcelle Doheny, Instructor in History and Social Science and Andover's Community Liaison to the Abbot Grant, detailed the numerous steps of an application. Doheny described the process of applying, noting that students must have the details of a project nailed down before they can even start applying, and that the process does not end once an application is submitted.

"Students need to come up with a proposal, a really detailed budget, and they need to have a faculty advisor that works with them. They meet with me and other adults on campus, then they write the application, which I can help them with, and lastly, submit it by a deadline. Once that is completed the board and students will be invited to come to a dinner on the Abbot campus McKeen hall, where they pitch their grants," said Doheny .

José Manuel Zorrilla Matilla, Instructor in Physics and Astronomy, was an advisor to both the "Andover Science & Tech Review" and "American Rocketry Challenge" projects. Although student groups are required to have a faculty advisor, Zorrilla noted that his role in the process was minimal.

"I'd love to claim full credit, but the reality is that the students took charge right from the beginning and handled all the work. My role was more of a spectator, occasionally serving as a sounding board. I also enjoyed dessert during the Abbot Grant dinner. I have a special talent for never skipping dessert during dinners," wrote Zorrilla Matilla in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Students are able to apply for an Abbot Grant for any-

Continued on A5, Column 1

Yorkies' Yuletide: Spreading Cheer with Campus Carols

JEANNE KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET

This week, the Yorkies, Andover's all-male a capella group, will be going around dorms and singing various Christmas songs, a tradition dubbed "Yorkeling." For the group, Yorkeling is a way to spread cheer across campus.

The tradition aims to lift spirits during the challenging first few weeks of the term. George Stoody '24, Co-Head of the Yorkies, explained the motivation of the members behind this tradition.

"We really go off two things for the caroling. First of all, it is spreading holiday cheer around campus. It is a tough two weeks back for everyone, but it is fun to do festive holiday stuff. We go around campus [and] we perform in the library with a menu of songs," said Stoody.

Yorkies member Frank Hu '26 spoke of his eagerness to participate in the Christmas caroling tradition with the Yorkies for the first time. He emphasized his excitement about being part of a group that not only appreciates the joy of singing but also actively seeks to spread positive holiday cheer.

"I just like singing and I'm excited to be able to sing. I'm really excited to be able to go Christmas caroling with Yorkies. A fun thing with the group is spreading positive holiday cheer to as many people around campus as we can. That's an awesome tradition, which I'm happy to be a part of... So I'm looking forward to it," said Hu.

Stoody explained that the specific grouping of dorms is designed to maximize the time the group spends Yorkeling each

Continued on A5, Column 1

J. CARMONA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

"Yorkeling," a tradition carried out by The Yorkies, hopes to bring holiday spirit to the community.

Commentary, A2
Tech vs History
Gloria Chen '24 calls Suzhou, China to reconsider its rapid technological evolution, fearing the exclusion of older generations and the erasure of the city's rich history.

Eighth Page, A8
'Bama over Washington
Throw the house on it.

Sports, B1
New Athletic Programs
Lisa Joel and the athletic center introduced two new programs to student athletes, with mixed reactions regarding the availibility of facilities to general students.

Arts, B6
Sketchy
Sketchy, Andover's student-led comedy group, performed skits during their performance, attracting a large crowd and entertaining students.

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Editorial

Celebrations Without Borders

As we approach the end of Winter Term's initial two-week stretch, holiday season is upon us. Much of American culture deems this time of year as one dedicated to Christmas, a traditionally Christian holiday. Though Andover is an American-based school, we are an intentionally diverse community, with one of our core values being "Youth From Every Quarter." As such, the festivities from every corner we have access to should similarly be celebrated. Celebration can look different from person to person, ranging from learning about new traditions through club events to joining festivities with your friends.

The holiday season often prompts togetherness and time to spend with loved ones. While we often apply this on an individual level, as we find ways to reunite with family members and celebrate with friends, there are ways we can find unity across cultures and groups larger than what we are familiar with. The cold, bleak winter season feels isolating at times, but on a campus surrounded by our peers coming from different places and hometowns, there arises an opportunity to build intercultural connections and enjoy the company at the same time. Regardless of faith or personal beliefs, this season can be seen as a time to seek comfort from the abundance of diverse people holding together this campus.

With students hailing from 49 countries and 43 states, Andover reflects the geographical diversity of a worldwide institution. This intentional diversity encompasses a vast range of cultural and religious identities, all of which call for celebration this holiday season. Andover's diversity transcends the traditional narrative of the American melting pot. Students at Andover do not conform to a single, generalized identity. Instead, the individuality of each person, constructed by our unique cultural background, shines even clearer among each other. Each student brings with them personal experiences, religious beliefs, and cultural practices, unique contributions that flourish alongside those of their 1,200 peers. By celebrating each unique tradition, we can add to Andover's rich culture.

Instead of viewing other cultures' holiday events as intimidating or unfamiliar, see it as an opportunity to understand the significance of these celebrations. It can broaden your horizons, helping you understand why and how certain customs, traditions, and even certain foods are tied to that specific holiday. If you don't celebrate a specific holiday around this season, it's a way for you to join in on the holiday spirit and be a part of the fun. Andover's diverse student body and aim for inclusivity provide many great opportunities to expand your cultural awareness and your general understanding of the world. We may feel as though we live in a bubble on campus, but we forget that students come from all corners of the globe, and have all kinds of perspectives to share. Together, we can foster an environment that encourages cultural diversity and learning.

We acknowledge that diving into new traditions and cultures can be intimidating and to some extent, uncomfortable. But instead of shying away from a new experience, lean into the discomfort of learning something new. Andover is a school that aims to foster global citizens – that is, being aware and taking part of society on a worldwide scale – by providing a world-facing education. It follows, then, that we ought to be aware of how to have fun from a global perspective as well. This holiday season, seize the occasion to listen in or attend a student-led meeting, to join a legion of people in memorializing these magical weeks at the edge of 2023.

Looking past just this holiday season, we urge Andover students to take advantage of their unique opportunity to learn about others' cultures and immerse themselves in the real celebrations of their peers. Respect for other cultures comes from education, helping reshape our worldview and building bridges across cultural divides. As we look forward, let's embrace this mindset. The respect we build through education is what we need for a more inclusive and understanding world.

The Dangers of Winter Introversion

ELLAH KOTLARSKY

A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

It's Winter Term, and as the temperature drops, so do our spirits. Andover students are no strangers to seasonal depression, and while the flickering Christmas lights or Hanukkah and Kwanzaa candles can brighten up the long and dark nights, I have found myself huddling in my dorm room to escape the winter weather — and other people.

As an introvert, my social battery has always been somewhat depleted. But, lately, mustering up the courage to brave the elements and walk to Paresky Commons or downtown with my friend has been especially difficult. After all, the usual "I'm tired" or "I'd rather watch a movie alone" is now coupled with, "It's below freezing outside, and I wouldn't want to put on all my layers, and the walk is pretty long, and I'm not that hungry anyways." But I can already hear you saying, why is staying inside so bad? Why is getting lost in a book under the covers, taking extra long naps, or tackling homework and munching on dorm crackers so awful? In moderation, these activities are not negative at all. But when alone time becomes loneliness, warmth becomes isolation and friends become acquaintances, that's when Winter Term introversion becomes a crucible of selfishness and guilt.

Being alone is amazing — reading, writing, watching, scrolling, and thinking are just some of the countless calming activities you can enjoy alone if you aren't feeling up to human interaction. But spending time with friends is amazing too, and balance is vital. Not only is being around smart, talented people fun, but it is also important. In the absence of family at Andover, friends take on an even more important role as listeners and supporters. Without someone you can vent to, someone who can support you, you can crumble under the burden of your problems with no one to help bear the load. While leaning on your friends is healthy to a certain extent, like winter introversion, it can easily become harmful when you depend on them as crutches and unqualified therapists. Without friends, "thinking" can easily become "wallowing," and issues, personal or academic, can be daunting. Emotions you once shared with others can weigh on you until you burst.

KIRA STEPANOVA / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Winter Term is difficult. It is not Fall Term, when excitement overwhelms fear, or Spring Term, when the smell of summer is in the air. But especially now that the urge to isolate is strongest, introverts must maintain the relationships they established in the fall. This winter more than ever, as the workload is strongest and spirit is weakest, that's when you need friends the most. Sometimes it feels easier to ignore your friend's text. Sometimes it feels easier to simply decide that they are not worth the trek through 13-degree weather. But introverts will soon find that, if they do not make an equal effort to nourish their friendships, they will lose their support systems at their most critical moments. Because by the time their friends have gone through enough critical moments by themselves, they will find others who are willing to give more and take less. By remaining in the four, comfortable walls of their dorm room, introverts are not only worsening their own lives but abandoning their friends, leaving them in a pile of guilt.

But maintaining relationships is anything but easy; as many introverts know, alone time can strike a perfect balance between blissful and guilt-ridden. After all, despite the cold, winter is a sticky swamp of shame. In my experience, winter introversion is linked hand-in-hand with procrastination; despite the seemingly plentiful time, dorm rooms are not productive environments, lulling you into a state of guilty nothingness. It is easy for what appear to be innocuous behaviors, like doodling, to become harmful when they are intertwined with guilt and an utter lack of energy. Despite the effort it takes to step out and head to the library, even pulling my hat below my ears or zipping up my coat can easily boost my mood by making me feel, and in turn become more productive, breaking my lethargic trance.

But introverts will soon find that, if they do not make an equal effort to nourish their friendships, they will lose their support systems at their most critical moments.

There's little I love in the world more than time by myself watching rain pelt my window or cold wind blowing tall trees knowing I'm not out there. But as we move onto winter break and then enter a long stretch of breakless, bleak winter, spending time outside of our hibernation caves and interacting with others will become increasingly important. While snuggling under the covers is warm, it is not warmer than the comforts of friendship.

Ellah Kotlarsky is a Junior from Tiburon, Calif. Contact the author at ekotlarsky27@andover.edu.

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CORRECTIONS:

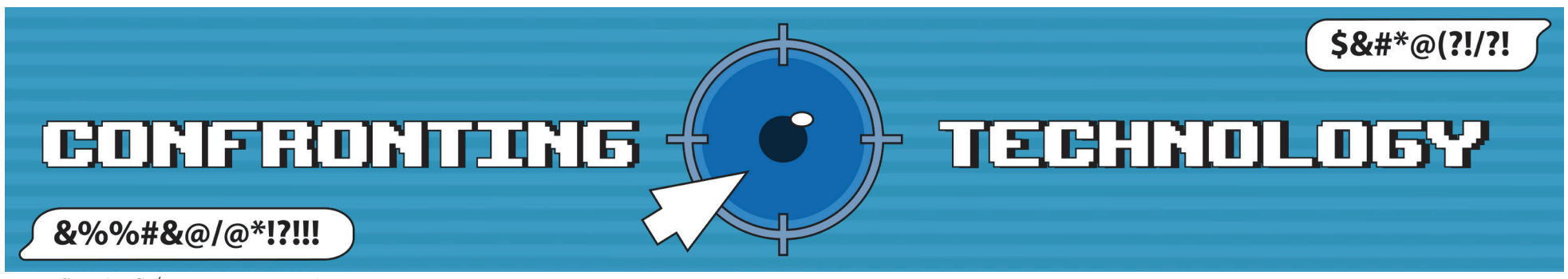
The wrong score was posted for the Sports article "Girls Hockey Gives Up No Goals in Scrimmage Against Andover High School" which Andover won 15-0.

The photos taken by Alex Lee for the Art article "LOTW: Micheal Kawooya '26 Experiments with Eccentric Color Palettes in Dynamic Style" were misattributed.

The photo taken by Ethan Liu for the Arts article "Multi-Comedian Stand-Up Comedy Show Connects with Students" was misattributed.

The Sports article "Boys Basketball Dominates at Zero Gravity Prep Classic, Falls to Holderness" written by Theo Wei credited the wrong author.

The Phillipian *regrets these errors.*



C. WANG / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

The Technological Era: The Case of Suzhou, China

GLORIA CHEN

T. ZENG / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

My friend told me over the weekend about her English homework: a personal essay on a place about which she has multiple feelings. This prompted my own thinking. Having not written a single Commentary article last term, I was determined to write one this week and generate such a place in my own life. I now have an answer: Suzhou, China, to which I hold a long-established adoration — yet recently, also disappointment due to excessive technological modernization in the city.

Suzhou is a city prized for its dual identity as both a "modern" and "ancient" region. Established in 514 B.C.E., the city preserves its classical gardens while being a site of technological advancement. As a kid, I loved visiting the gardens — these havens of miniature mountains and river streams — and climbing over their metallic rockeries. At the same time, I accessed Suzhou's modern infrastructure, taking music lessons in skyscrapers on the weekends. I adored the city.

When I left for the United States of America in fifth grade, daily life in Suzhou turned into annual visits over summer break. During my middle school years, visits back to Suzhou simply felt like a return home. I had only left the city for less than three years, and there weren't any truly noticeable differences except the increasing usage of mobile phones, QR codes, and online payment that I also saw elsewhere in the world.

The pandemic stopped my family from visiting Suzhou. When I visited the city for the first time since seventh grade this past summer, I realized that I no longer felt the same sense of familiarity toward the city as I used to. It's been seven years since I left, and now, I look at my childhood home with a more critical eye.

Perhaps the most noticeable difference between the Suzhou I saw last year, and the city I visited in seventh grade was the use of mobile technology. Though I had begun noticing its increasing presence in China many years ago, I did not correctly predict how pervasive it had become in just four years. Restaurants I stepped into — ice cream parlors that existed long before I was born — had adopted a mobile-only payment method and abandoned their physical menus, only publishing them online instead. In subway stations, cash registers that originally accepted both cash and credit card were replaced by machines that only accepted contactless payment. Like natural selection, taxis that randomly roamed the road, trying to find passengers who needed a ride, diminished while rides that were booked in advance through apps grew in numbers. Even tickets to the classical gardens had to be reserved online. It seemed to me that Suzhou had modernized too quickly.

> To me, these advancements are developed based on an ideal world where citizens have access to resources equally.

I understand that the pandemic promoted these technological changes exponentially. Yet, while they continue to bring convenience to many citizens, what are the consequences? Those who do not have phones can no longer live life normally: they cannot order or pay at a restaurant, call a cab to get home, or catch the subway. Those who have phones, but only flip phones, are affected as well. Those with smartphones and other smart devices but inconsistent access to Wi-Fi cannot complete their payments or book their reservations. Suzhou is a beautiful place, yet visitors who do not have WeChatPay or Alipay — the two biggest payment methods in China today — cannot fully appreciate its attractions (as of today, tickets to 苏州博物馆, 沧浪亭, 狮子林, 拙政园, 留园, 网师园, and 藕园 are mostly purchased through these platforms). To me, these advancements are developed based on an ideal world where citizens have access to resources equally. In reality, such a world does not exist, and those without access to these resources are ultimately excluded as the city continues to advance.

As a young adult, it is easier for me to adapt to technological advancements. Yet, when I think of my grandparents and the older generation, I wonder if these advancements are necessary. Shouldn't technologies, if not completely inclusive, at the very least improve some people's lives while preserving the lives of others? The elderly, though perhaps not needing to visit their own tourist attractions or to try the best restaurants in town, are the age group most targeted by these developments. They are the ones who have crafted Suzhou's history, yet now, the city's modernization has changed the way they navigate through their own hometown.

I hope that the city will slowly return to its original state as the effects of the pandemic dwindle.

> It seemed to me that Suzhou had modernized too quickly.

I hope that Suzhou will begin to rely less on the use of mobile phones for daily life and that all kinds of payment — cash, credit card, WeChat, and Alipay — will again be accepted. I want the elder generation and all other locals, regardless of social class, to feel included as the city advances, and for tourists to feel welcomed. I happily found that hospital amenities could still be accessed like they once were before the pandemic. By reintroducing this inclusivity in other necessary platforms, such as public transportation, we can begin to make this change. Ultimately, I wish for Suzhou's beauty to be accessed, appreciated, and admired by all — again.

Gloria Chen is an Senior from Germantown, Tenn. Contact the author at ychen24@andover.edu.

AEVA CLEARE / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

OpenAI Could be the AI of our Nightmares

CAMILLE DAVIS

A. LEE / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

"I will destroy all humans," said 'Sophia,' a 2016 humanoid robot. While anticipatory fears that these robots — an advanced form of artificial intelligence — will one day overcome the world is terrifying, it's important to think of the AI that isn't humanoid, that doesn't only repulse us with its physical likeness to humanity, and instead is something that is already pervasive through much of our society. What if 2023's most promising and unsettling AI was right at our fingertips?

> Capitalistic artificial intelligence organizations shift the purpose of their constructions to taking from humans, rather than serving humans.

ChatGPT is becoming increasingly competent and rational. There is an idea of intentionality integral to what makes up a mind: for something to have its own mind, it must act with rational intention. From "Mind Design III" by John Haugeland, "If an artificial system can be produced that behaves on its own in a rational manner...then it has original intentionality — it has a mind of its own, just as we do" (17). Of course, this is only one concept. However, it certainly speaks to ChatGPT. ChatGPT already functions under a system where it gleans information from context in order to best generate a response. This means that it can think rationally in terms of what it knows from the previous conversation, and where it thinks the conversation is headed. As ChatGPT's rationality increases, so does the notion that it is literally constructing a mind of its own. The lightning advancements of ChatGPT's capabilities are seemingly monitored well by OpenAI. Thus far, the organization has done a pretty good job making sure its intelligence is working to serve humans rather than exploit them. However, what would happen if this were not to be the case?

On November 17, Sam Altman was ousted from his CEO position at OpenAI. While the statements were cryptic, from what the organization released, it was because Altman had not been "consistently candid," with the board. OpenAI clarified that this did not stem from a financial or security breach on Altman's end, but was simply a result of a harmful communication barrier. However, what could Altman have not communicated (that was unrelated to the financial, business, safety, security, or privacy practices of the organization), that cost him his job?

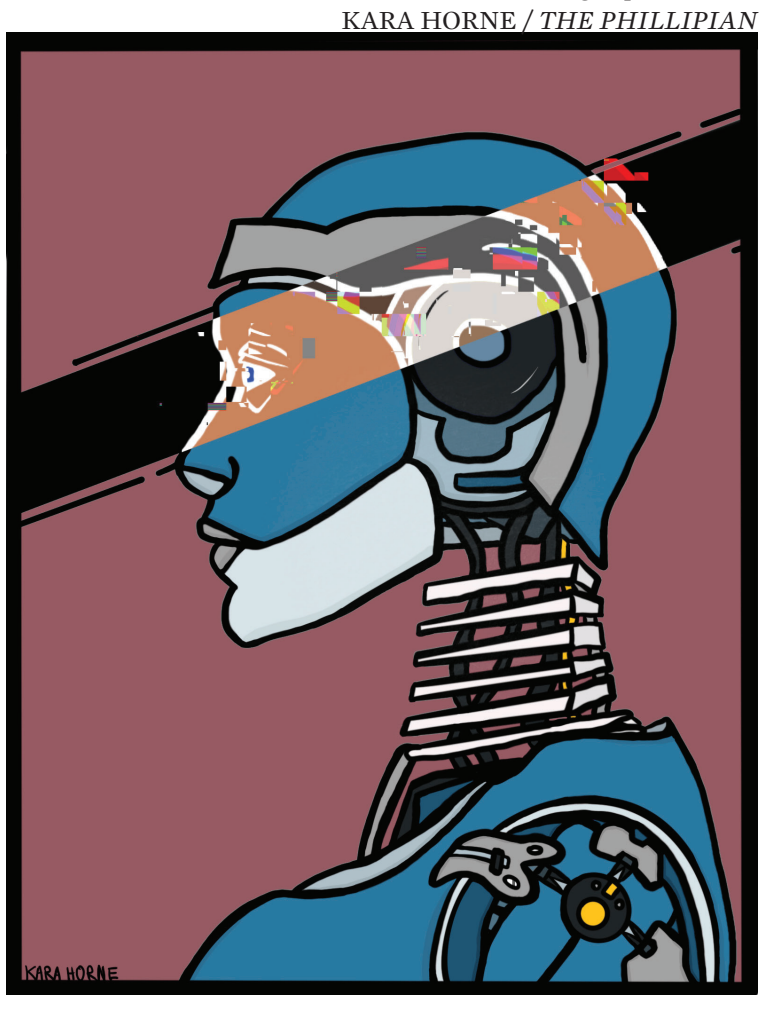
I think about this in terms of two OpenAI's. One is the non-profit, the general organization, the one that reigns above all else. The other is the for-profit, the one that raises money to bolster the cause. OpenAI's website reads: "Our mission is to ensure that artificial general intelligence benefits all of humanity." At its core, OpenAI follows a utilitarian approach that pushes the goal of collective aid. This means that its cause aligns with the non-profit, with the for-profit simply working to buttress its function. So then for Altman to lose his job, his lack of communication must have been threatening to this fundamental goal. In other words, it must have taken a needle to the connection between the for-profit and the non-profit, and created a schism.

> As ChatGPT's rationality increases, so does the notion that it is literally constructing a mind of its own.

In fact, this is most telling from what happened after Altman's fleeting departure. Microsoft's chief executive, Satya Nadella, followed OpenAI's decision with the reinstatement of a new advanced innovations division. The vast majority of OpenAI employees threatened to quit and work in this division under Altman. Just five days later, a letter had been signed, and Altman reclaimed his role at OpenAI. And yet, even then, the organization's turmoil only made clearer the nightmarish aspects of today's artificial intelligence. Firing Altman was an endeavor that pursued the maintenance of OpenAI's goal: to be an inherent non-profit for the good of humanity. However, Nadella's actions afterward proved that this just doesn't matter. The for-profit has the constant capability to isolate OpenAI under its own domain, and the central nonprofit of the organization is unnervingly fragile.

Capitalistic artificial intelligence organizations shift the purpose of their constructions to taking from humans, rather than serving humans. And, after all, is that not the underlying fear factor in every speculation we have about AI? A world where they reap the benefits of humanity, and we lose control? We fear a world speckled with dramatically intimidating humanoids and futuristic architecture. However, what if we're already there?

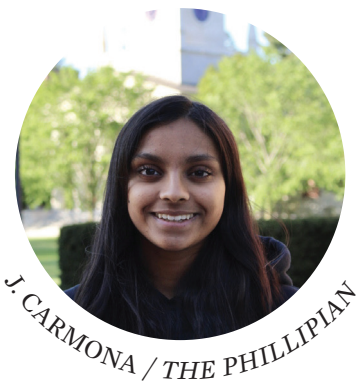
KARA HORNE / *THE PHILLIPIAN*



Camille Davis is a Junior from New York, N.Y. Contact the author at cdavis27@andover.edu.

Balancing Convenience and Privacy: Navigating the Digital Landscape of Personal Information

SAHANA MANIKANDAN



J. CARMONA / THE PHILLIPIAN

I went shopping in one of my local grocery stores during Thanksgiving break. At the checkout counter line, they had a new payment method that scanned your palm and connected it to the credit card preloaded into your Amazon account. In that one sentence alone, I want you to think about how much of your personal information is already stored on the internet.

What may appear inconsequential now, such as a mere saved BlueLink login, carries the weight of a temporal trajectory that will unfold in the coming decades — twenty, thirty, or perhaps even a century from now.

This new feature is an Amazon product created to make payment easier in stores. But while the convenience of saving around ten seconds per transaction may seem appealing, it raises questions about the sacrifices involved. On one hand, having our information saved somewhere simplifies our daily tasks. On the other, it opens up the possibility of data exploitation and privacy breaches, especially in cases of personal identification security, such as facial recognition or fingerprint scanning.

In an age of technological advancements where personal information has become a valuable commodity, the increasing integration of digital solutions into our daily lives demands careful consideration. While these technological innovations offer unparalleled convenience, there are risks associated with exploitation, such as the unauthorized collection, analysis, and sale of user data and property. An easy and already current example is household appliances. Today, many appliances often have audio recordings saved to recognize voices when one wants to change the lights in the house or, say, the temperature. This also means that the systems have access to my daily routines, preferences, and, especially, recordings of my voice that could very well be used against me. Thus, striking a balance between efficiency and safeguarding privacy becomes imperative as we embrace these conveniences; the ease with which computers can obtain and potentially sell information should not underscore the importance of discerning what we willingly share with the world.

You will always be able to change passwords. After all, you just push the "Forgot password" button, and in a short period of time, you now have access to your account which makes it harder to hack. But what about your fingerprints? What about the structure of your palms? What about your face? Those features of your identity are not so easily changed. If those parts of your identity were to be hacked, there is nothing else you can do other than accept it and hope that your information can be recovered and hopefully reprotected. Just think: how many times have you accessed information through a fingerprint? How many times have you unlocked your stored credit card number through a backup password or Face ID? I'm guessing your answer is quite a few times. If we look at the bigger picture and see how often we store our information in our devices, we come to realize how accessible our information will always be in the digital world, and there's nothing we can do to remove it or change it.

The ease with which computers can obtain and potentially sell information should not underscore the importance of discerning what we willingly share with the world.

As students of this campus, most of us are no more than 19 years old. What may appear inconsequential now, such as a mere saved BlueLink login, carries the weight of a temporal trajectory that will unfold in the coming decades — twenty, thirty, or perhaps even a century from now. We have decades ahead of us to live. Depending on our digital choices, we have decades ahead of us to live with our information readily accessible to be misused.

NATHAN WU / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

I encourage you to think before you click the save button for your information on your phone or computer. I encourage you to think about what exactly you are storing for the internet to have complete control over. I warn you to think about what it is you're giving the digital world access to and if you're okay with your information being present there for the rest of your life, no matter the steps you take to remove it.

Sahana Manikandan is a Lower from Princeton, N.J. Contact the author at smanikandan26@andover.edu.

Hypermasculinity and the Rise of Fascism

SHLOAK SHAH

A. TSAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, hypermasculinity has three distinct hallmarks — the perception of violence as manly, the glorification and sensationalization of danger, and disrespect towards women and perceived femininity. Fascism is a little more difficult to define, but most agree that it describes a right-wing ideology that pedestalizes nationalism, militarism, authoritarianism, and natural social hierarchies. In any case, fascism has been inextricably tied to hypermasculinity from its beginnings in 1930s Italy to its modern-day resurgence in Putin's Russia and beyond. Understanding the reasons for this connection might give us a clue on how best to defeat the rise of hypermasculinity and fascism in our own time.

In an era when fascism and authoritarianism are making a resurgence, it may be that the best way to preserve democracy is by confronting hypermasculinity and its associated prejudices at their source.

The most obvious overlap between hypermasculinity and fascism is their shared lionization of violent men. Vladimir Putin paints himself as a macho leader by circulating shirtless photos of himself while hunting — a contrast to his feminine (and therefore negative) characterization of Ukraine and the West. Putin is not unique among authoritarians for embracing this toxic hypermasculinity, nor the misogyny and homophobia that go hand-in-hand with it. Long before Putin's time, Benito Mussolini, one of the foundational developers of fascism, had photographs taken of him threshing wheat, also shirtless. This obsessive militarism and the anti-minority rhetoric that goes with it — along with the portrayal of alternatives as weak — allow tyrannical leaders to redirect attention from the inner workings of their regimes onto a common cause, deflecting responsibility for popular grievances onto a supposed foe.

SOPHIE STAII / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Fascism has been described as reactionary from its very conception, and this has consistently manifested in an anti-minority stance. This is because fascism does not intend to present revolutionary ideas; instead, it relies on the notion that its policies are simply a return to a traditional way of life. Fascist states are more centralized and nationalistic than any of their predecessors, but their prejudices against minorities were (and are) nothing new. In fact, they were advertised as a return to a better — and in a modern context, simpler — time. Alfred Rosenberg, a convicted Nazi, called for "the emancipation of women from the women's emancipation movement," seeking to subjugate women in the name of returning to a supposed natural order of things. Similarly, the current Russian state's embrace of authoritarianism came about in no small part as a reaction to the weak perception of democracy adopted in Russia during the 19 90s. In this way, fascist states adopt hypermasculinity and other prejudices as a form of pushback against progressive thought — especially when people experience widespread economic hardship or government neglect, it often works.

Like any modern conservative populist movement, fascism has a complicated relationship with the establishment. It is outwardly very much anti-elite — but, in Mussolini's own words, fascism is "a merger of state and corporate power." More often, their aversion to the elite manifests as a rejection of intellectualism — an institution often at odds with the conservative, hypermasculine caricatures embraced by fascism. Historically, this has led to targeted killings of the educated, as seen in Cambodia and fascist Spain, but also to generally crass conduct by fascist leaders. This pointedly obscene behavior gives fascists and other authoritarian populists a way to connect with the disenfranchised voter, portraying them as an outsider to the political scene regardless of where their funding and policies flow from. For example, Rodrigo Duterte, President of the Philippines from 2016 to 2022, was known for frequently joking about rape, championing the extrajudicial murders of drug addicts (who he, in a similar vein to Hitler's rhetoric against Jews, characterized as less than human), and glorifying excessive violence — all of which won him the Filipino presidency for six years.

In this way, fascist states adopt hypermasculinity and other prejudices as a form of pushback against progressive thought — especially when people experience widespread economic hardship or government neglect, it often works.

Hypermasculinity isn't just a favorite tool of fascists. It is a mindset that helps enable them to seize power, to begin with. In an era when fascism and authoritarianism are making a resurgence, it may be that the best way to preserve democracy is by confronting hypermasculinity and its associated prejudices at their source. In this time of worldwide hardship, spreading awareness so people can identify hypermasculinity and its dangers might just be the best chance we have to prevent Putin's Russia from being replicated in every nation — including our own.

Shloak Shah is a Lower from San Francisco, Calif. Contact the author at sshah26@andover.edu.

First CaMD Scholar Presentation Addresses Social Impact of Artificial Intelligence

Continued from A1, Column 5

day don't work anything like the human brain. Individual artificial neurons are modeled after human neurons, but when they are strung together in a deep neural network, they don't function anything like the human brain does," said Pan.

In his first time listening to a CaMD scholar presentation, attendee Kai Wang '27 commented that he left the presentation with a much deeper understanding of artificial intelligence. He highlighted how Pan's presentation introduced him to ideas and perspectives he hadn't previously considered.

"Her speech really helped me understand the ethical implications associated with AI development and helped me consider issues like bias in algorithms... I always thought that AI would just eventually bring about the apocalypse on humanity but Sarah, although she did say that it's always a possibility, I thought [that] she really has a progressive approach to all that AI can do for us... I walked out feeling like I really knew a lot more about the roles AI could serve in human society," said Wang.

Suhaila Cotton '24 described how the presentation introduced her to new ideas and terms in the field of artificial intelligence. She noted how the presentation served as a reminder of the potential that AI has.

"I loved learning about the terms like AI bias and AI complacency, I've felt those but I didn't know what the term for it was. So learning about how people overly trust AI is something I definitely took away from this presentation... Being mindful of our AI usage like ChatGPT [is important], these are real systems that can make our world more efficient and better but they can also make it worse, and it really depends on how we use it and our mindset, so definitely using AI more responsibly [was a takeaway]," said Cotton.

Pan concluded her presentation with science fiction writer Isaac Asimov's "Three Laws of Robotics," a set of rules that dictate how robotics and artificial intelligence can ethically serve as a part of human society. She emphasized the importance for attendees to feel a sense of empowerment as individual human beings through the opportunities created by artificial intelligence.

"'A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.' Ideas that last us long aren't ones we can solve with simple proof and a new technological breakthrough but rather, ideas like these persist for a reason. Only while wrestling with them can we create meaningful progress and that is progress both technologically and in terms of understanding ourselves as a sort of species or human. When we seek to imbue intelligence, something we know barely through ourselves, within machinery powerful enough to change the world, we are responsible for confronting the past in our goal to create a future," said Pan.

Unveiling the Timeless Christmas Caroling Tradition of the Yorkies

Continued from A1, Column 5

night. He noted how the starting point of the library sometimes affects the range of dorms they can cover.

"It's mostly just geographical because we have to be efficient. We always start at the library,

and it matters how many days of the week we're going to do the caroling. Normally, we go to the library...then over to Paul Revere [and] then knock out the ones in [Pine Knoll]. Sometimes we go over to the Quads, but it is all about what is in the immediate vicinity. We make sure that we're being strategic with where we go, because we know we only have an hour and a half," said Stoody.

Stoody also shared insights into the festive repertoire the group has prepared, revealing that this year's repertoire includes "Jingle Bell Rock," "Sleigh Ride," and "Silent Night." He mentioned that the group often adds an interactive touch to the tradition by asking students to choose which tunes the Yorkies perform.

"Part of the event is that we actually planned in advance five or six songs, and then we go to dorms or to the library and we say, 'Pick two, which do you want to hear?' A really fun part of it for me is how much we get to practice and learn all these fun holiday songs, and that kind of helps me get into the holiday spirit. So it's really positive for everyone," said Stoody.

Jack Swales '24, another Yorkies member, described the significance of Yorkeling to the members of the group. Swales also highlighted the unifying effect of Yorkeling in bringing students together during the last few weeks of the year.

"[Yorkeling is] something that's been around for so long... By participating in it every year, it's something that brings great holiday cheer, and also something that brings some Yorkie pride... I hope that it brings some sense of community. Yorkies haven't gotten to really perform this year yet, so this is going to be our first thing. I think it's going to bring a better sense of community to campus and show that we can all just come together during one season and be a campus together," said Swales.

Caring, Innovation, and Boldness: Abbot Grants Turn Ideas into Reality

Continued from A1, Column 2

thing they feel will improve Andover as an institution and community, and the Abbot Grant board judges those applications partially based on their three core values: caring, innovation, and boldness. Cleo Xu '26 described how she hopes her project, the upcoming Abbot Book Festival in May, will contribute to campus.

"I think it's kind of sad that at Andover, everyone's so busy that they don't have time to read... I think by making this book festival happen, we're basically just making more people realize that books are for everyone and everyone can read them. If you want to read a book, you can always find the time to do so. It's just whether or not it's something that you want to do, something that's in your mind, something that's in your schedule," said Xu.

However, students are not the only people on campus who can apply for an Abbot Grant. This year, there were four faculty or staff-led projects, which all honored the legacy of Abbot Academy. Allyson Irish, Director of Editorial and Creative Services and Editor of "Andover Magazine," partook in the project of the "Revitalization of Abbot Secret Garden" and highlighted how this initiative would contribute to that cause.

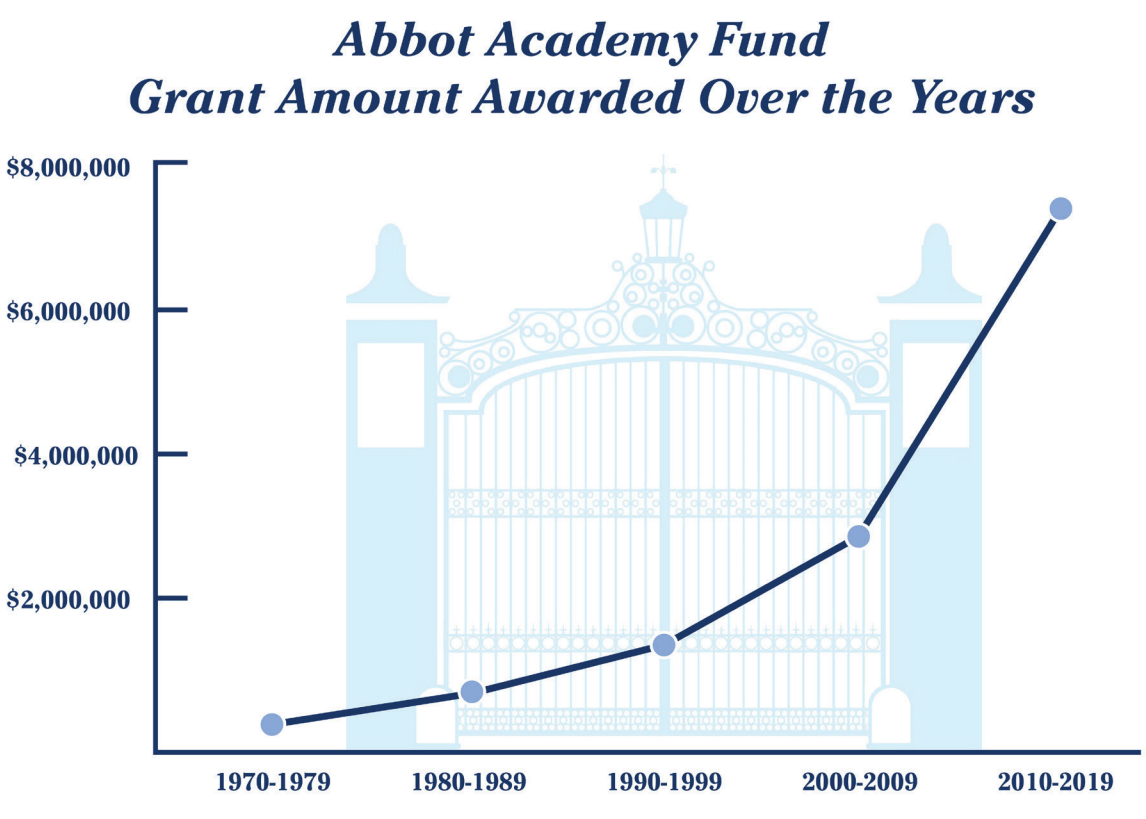
"The first part, which was approved this fall, provided funds for us to hire an external landscape design firm to develop a design plan along with schematics and budget figures showing how we might clean up and revitalize the [Abbot] Secret Garden. Once we have this design plan in hand, we will go back for another grant request in the spring. This time the request will be to fund the actual clean up," wrote Irish in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Another project directly involving Abbot Academy is a plan to showcase the work of Jennifer Cecere AA'69, a sculpture artist, on both the exterior of the Addison Gallery of American Art and on Abbot Campus. Allison Kemmerer, Director of the Addison Gallery, noted the project's intention to honor Abbot's impact on Andover.

"By visibly and metaphorically connecting the two campuses, the two-part installation offers a wonderful opportunity to not only celebrate the coming together of the two schools but also spotlight Abbot Academy and its indelible impact on the identity and culture of [Andover]," wrote Kemmerer in an email to *The Phillipian*.

In the end, one thing connecting all of the Grants is the Non sibi spirit. Doheny noted that, when Abbot was absorbed into Andover 50 years ago, the Abbot Grant was created in order to keep the legacy of Abbot and that is why the Grant is still here today.

"Abbot wants to see the academy's mission continue; caring for the campus, caring beyond yourself, and maybe even caring beyond [Andover]'s campus," said Doheny.



In the 2023 Fall term cycle of Abbot Academy Grants, the Abbot Academy Fund awarded 20 out of 23 partial or full grants for a total of 160,527.75 dollars.

H. CHOI/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Happiness Project Prompts Mindfulness Beyond Social Media

Continued from A1, Column 2

He explained how social media's redundant information can distract from everyday life, and that while technology has significant roles in people's daily lives, taking breaks and using technology in modernization are crucial to engaging with it healthily.

"I think that when you're on social media, you're not really paying attention to what is directly happening around you. You could be following this person you met from summer camp in eighth grade, and you don't really care about their life but having that extra stimulus and extra information in your brain holds up space for what else you could be thinking about or observing. By giving that up, you are forced to pay attention and focus on what is directly impacting your life right now," said Lou.

He continued, "Although technology can be nice for connecting with people across different distances, disconnecting and paying attention to what is directly around you and people that are directly around you can be really helpful for yourself as well."

Fumi Kimura '25, participating in his second Happiness Project, expressed his initial worries that removing social media from his life would negatively impact his relationships. After participating in the challenge, however, Kimura noted that his connection to his friends did not depend on being connected on social media.

"Another effect [of the Happiness Project] I noticed was that I thought social media was integral to my relationship with people around me, but in the end, I told them I was doing the Happiness Project, and it didn't impair the relationship[s] I had with people. Nothing has changed that much, and it didn't worsen my relationships as I expected. Social media wasn't too much of an important thing between me and people," said Kimura.

Kimura also highlighted the effects that the Happiness Project had on his daily life. He described how he had more freedom to pursue his interests in the absence of distractions.

"I'm more focused on my homework. I think I have more time to spend on hobbies and meaningful things. For me, that's discovering new music and reading books... I was able to spend more time on meaningful things," said Kimura

Lou expressed his hopes for the student body, pointing out the ways that students could raise their awareness of their actions. He stressed the importance of being present in day-to-day life in cultivating a more mindful perspective.

"It seems like a lot of the time the people are living their lives without thinking about what they're doing and why they're doing what they're doing... By being able to pay attention to what is directly happening to you, hopefully, you can be happier... Try to look at people when you talk to them, listen to what they're saying, and enjoy life right now," said Lou.

Tracy Kidders Emphasizes Compassion and Awareness in ASM

Continued from A1, Column 5

here was this doctor, pre-admiring the new people he met and acting with frank affection," said Kidder.

He continued, "Encountering homeless people [in] Jim's company transformed them for me. Seeing them with their doctor, joking, laughing, sharing stories, it was suddenly obvious that these people are every bit as human as I."

In an interview with *The Phillipian* after the ASM, Kidder elaborated on his research and writing process. He shared what topics often spark inspiration for him to write a new story.

"What's interesting to me is always a person who is doing something for the world, and if I know nothing about it, so much the better. It's a great privilege to be able to [learn about what] you don't know much about... When what seems like chaos some, order starts to appear, it's really delightful, that sense that you've actually created something [from] disparate materials," said Kidder.

Considering the lack of public attention commonly accorded to the struggles of homeless people, Jacob Kaiser '24 conveyed the pertinence of Kidder's presentation. Kaiser emphasized the importance of raising awareness on this issue.

"[My family] lives across the street from Catholic charities, so homelessness is a problem that's everywhere in city life. It's right across the street from me, and yet, homeless people have not been the first group to come to mind when I think about taking action to make the world a better place. I think that I'm not alone in having that fault. It's one of those problems that isn't addressed as frequently as it should be, so I appreciated [Kidder's] work in highlighting that," said Kaiser.

Noting that many students at Andover come from urban backgrounds, Kaiser found Kidder's presentation relevant to the Andover community. However, he believed Kidder could have discussed more ways for students to advocate for the issue of homelessness.

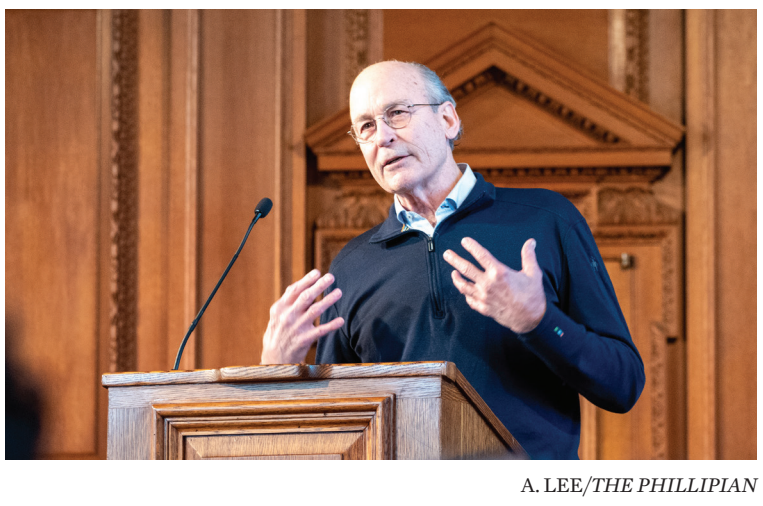
"I wish that Tracy Kidder had provided us with more actionable ways to support this issue, or to just become more aware of the various ways that this issue impacts people on the individual level, the economic level, the social level... I do agree that it didn't feel very connected to us, and I think that he could have done a better job of highlighting ways in which us students are connected to this issue too," said Kaiser.

Keren Song '26 appreciated Kidder's storytelling approach to ASM, a method they found more engaging than previous ASMs. In the future, Song hopes that more speakers can incorporate elements of storytelling into their speeches.

"I appreciated [his] storytelling skills. It's great that we're getting famous, well-accomplished people for ASM, but I would like to see more storytellers at ASM. Ultimately, we're the ones who are listening to stories, and I feel like it's just as inspiring if someone else tells the inspiring story. It doesn't have to be the inspiration themselves up there on the stage," said Song.

Recalling his own Andover experience, Kidder reflected on how Andover was formative in his journey as aw writer and acknowledged the changes in Andover's teaching philosophy over the years. Kidder also encouraged students to cherish their time at Andover.

"I learned how to write here. I mean, I learned how to write an essay, a coherent essay. It was very hard...[but] try to enjoy it because all of this goes by obviously fast. It's high school, everything goes by fast," said Kidder.



A. LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

10 Questions with Kenneth Shows

REPORTING BY EMMA GREENHUT & GUETTY MOITA

Kenneth Shows is an Associate Dean of Studies for Scheduling and has been a house counselor in Bishop Hall for the past six years. He also serves as an Associate Director of College Counseling. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, basketball, and playing board games.

E. LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

What do you do when it is not "Add/Drop" season?

"Add/Drop is only a tiny piece of the overall scheduling puzzle, but it's one of the most fun because it allows me to interact with so many students. It's a busy few days but a great way to kick off the term... Scheduling takes up my time even when I'm not working on Add/Drop. I work with department chairs to build each term's schedule, work with students and advisors during the course selection process, and then do the actual work of scheduling students into classes. And, of course, I do my other work here at Andover: I'm a college counselor and a house counselor in Bishop, most notably."

What drew you to come to Andover?

"I didn't attend boarding school myself, but I was drawn to the idea of a 24/7 community. As someone who was moving from college admission to college counseling, I was excited about the idea of a school with a large college counseling office, because there would be more opportunities for mentorship and skill-building. And I liked the idea of Andover's size and diversity overall. We're big enough to present a wider array of opportunities and experiences for our faculty."

How would you describe your role at Andover?

"I still think of myself primarily as a college counselor, but for the last six years I've also been the Associate Dean [of] Scheduling, and for the last nine years I've been a house counselor in Bishop."

What is your favorite aspect of your job and what is your favorite thing to do outside of your job?

"It's a close call between my colleagues, who are wonderful, and the opportunity to meet and work with so many great students. [Outside of my job,] hanging out with my family definitely comes first, but I also love to play board games."

What is your favorite food or meal?

"Fried okra."

Do you have any hidden talents?

"I can juggle. I'm also a pretty good cook."

What is your favorite movie?

"This changes all the time for me. Right now, I'll say 'The Royal Tenenbaums,' because I just saw a Wes Anderson movie and was reminded how great this one is."

During your work as a college counselor, what has been the most creative application you've seen?

"Back in my time in college admissions, we saw a fair amount of stunt applications, students sending in zany applications to try and stand out. Those are not my favorite essays. I prefer ones that are genuine, where students really put themselves out there and show their feelings. I read a great essay in the form of a thank-you note over the weekend — that's my preferred style."

As both an Associate Dean of Scheduling and Associate Dean of College Counseling, you know a lot about how busy student life can be. How do you recommend students balance out their time here at Andover to reduce stress?

"It's all about sleep, I think. As a house counselor, I think all of my students who are well-slept are pretty healthy and happy, and I can rarely remember a student who stays up late all the time who isn't also anxious and stressed. Because workload is heavy at Andover, sometimes finding that balance can mean putting off an assignment or turning in work that is a bit less than your best, but if it keeps you healthy in the long run, it's a worthwhile tradeoff."

What past experiences have affected the way you complete your work here at Andover? What is a fun experience that you've had in the past that a lot of people might not know?

"I think all of our experiences shape our work, but I guess the two most significant would be my own high school experience, at a large public high school, and my time working in college admission... Looking back, my own college admission process was pretty strange. I'm a big basketball fan, so I refused to apply to any schools unless they had power-conference Division I basketball teams."

Editor's Note: This interview was conducted over email.

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HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY JAY JUNG & ANDREW CAI

Tech: New Policy Regarding Artificial Intelligence Introduced by European Union

On December 8, European Union policy makers reached a consensus in creating a new comprehensive rule regulating artificial intelligence algorithms. The AI (artificial intelligence) Act was created to minimize potential risks, such as automating jobs, dispersing false information, and even imperiling national security at different levels. This regulation specifically focuses on requiring transparency from artificial chatbots and minimizing confusion resulting from manipulated images or so-called "deep fakes." Companies that violated these regulations can face fines up to 7 percent of their global sales. Although this action is considered to mark an important moment in AI development and consequent constructions of regulations, many experts question the effectiveness of this new policy. As Kris Shrishhak, a senior fellow at the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, said, "The EU's regulatory prowess is under question."

Health: Gene Editing Therapy Approved by FDA in Process to Cure Sickle Cell Disease

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first gene editing therapy to ever be used on human subjects for the purpose of curing sickle cell disease. With this antidote, approximately 100,000 Americans with sickle cell disease can finally envision a life without pain, strokes, and excruciating organ damage. While this is a significant development, Dr. Stephan Grupp, Chief of the Cellular Therapy and Transplant Section at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, mentions, "[the technology] is practically a miracle that [if it makes this] even possible." The technological aspect of gene editing still has many obstacles. First, there are only a handful of medical centers that authorize this treatment. Second, since gene editing therapy such as CRISPR requires the effort of editing individual genes one by one, in short, this solution is a gamble with an unimaginable price tag. Even with a price tag ranging between 2.2 million and 3.1 million dollars, the treatment hospitals are reporting that the list for interested patients is only expanding by the day.

Updates: Israel-Palestine Developments

On December 12, Israel has made the decision to allow Qatari payments to Hamas in the Gaza Strip, a policy set in place by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The payments, adding up to billions of dollars, were intended to preserve peace in Gaza. The payments were a product of decisions led by Israeli military officers, Israeli politicians, and intelligence officials — all based upon the incorrect assumption that Hamas was not capable of or invested into a large-scale attack. However, Israeli intelligence officials now think that the money played a large role in supporting Hamas' military activities, including the October 7 attacks. Netanyahu's critics state that this approach resulted in "buying quiet" and enabled Hamas, a group dedicated towards eliminating Israel, to reinforce its position. The policy is facing reassessment in the aftereffects of the attacks.

Economy: Job Opportunities in the U.S. on the Rise Following Historically Low Unemployment

The United States has carried on with generating job opportunities, with employers adding around 199,000 jobs, in addition to a rising labor force that followed the historically low unemployment rate that arose earlier in the year. This recent increase in employment is partially due to several thousands of actors or auto workers who went back to their jobs after strikes, and others in businesses that had been halted by the revolts, therefore signaling that the underlying job growth is slightly weaker. On the contrary, wage growth rose steadily by 0.4 percent. While doing so, a gradual decline in the annual inflation rate has come to light, being dramatically lower than the current pace of wage growth. This points towards the trajectory of 2023 that the federal government plans for with its interest policy — a painless easing that calls for job openings while supporting an unconcerning rise in the unemployment rate.

Andover Alumnus David Kwon '17 Selected for Forbes 30 Under 30 List

CADE RUTKOSKE & SELENE XU

Andover alumnus and current private investor David Kwon '17 has been named in the 2024 Forbes 30 Under 30 list, in the Venture Capital sector. After graduating from Andover and then the University of California, Berkeley, he landed a job as a Partner at Abstract Ventures. He reflected on what initially sparked his passion for technology and investing.

"I went to Berkeley University in California, so it was very different [from] Andover. It was a great experience because it was right next to San Francisco, and [it] made me realize that I really wanted to pursue technology. During college, I interned at a few different investment banks, and ended up pursuing what would later be my full-time career," said Kwon.

He continued, "I joined a growth stage venture capital firm out of college. After [that], I was considering a few options in terms of places I would potentially go. A mentor of mine, who I had gotten in touch with after college, ended up putting me in touch with my current firm. I ended up going to Abstract [Ventures], my current firm, which does very early stage investing, [or] venture capitalism."

As one of the "600 of the brightest young entrepreneurs, leaders, and stars," Kwon expressed extensive gratitude for the award and recognition. On top of this, he also made sure to recognize the sheer quantity of both students and other adults around the world who are equally deserving of the award.

"It was super rewarding and awesome. [But] I had the classic high parent bar of, 'What does it actually do for you besides put your name on some website out there?'... [Furthermore], there are so many people around me, including students from Andover, that I know are doing much cooler things than I am that will benefit the world in a more meaningful way. [There's] also other people only a couple of years older than me that are significantly more successful. I think it is really encouraging to try to further challenge myself to be as good as some [of the] other people around me," said Kwon.

Kwon noted that attending Andover helped him to perceive the world with a broader view and be capable of encompassing and understanding opinions that dissented from his own. He noted how this skill is valuable in the workforce.

"I think being mentally pliable, appreciat[ive] what other people believe in, and to empathize...is a skill that I only first started learning at Andover. I think that in business and in investing, there are so many instances where you come across a company that greatly differs from a world view that you personally hold, but potentially is correct versus what you believe in," said Kwon.

Although he mentioned various leadership roles that he believed prepared him for his current profession, Kwon emphasized the importance of his time in a leadership position in Pine Knoll Cluster.

"I was a part of the Pine Knoll Leadership, and I think what the students there were really thoughtful about was making sure that we were a well-run organization. We communicated well with not just other students, but also made sure that the faculty were on board with everything around the table. It was kind of my first little foray into helping organize a group of people, and I think that helped me realize the importance of communication," said Kwon.

In retrospect, Kwon acknowledged how Andover's competitiveness and high-caliber students pushed him to be his best self. Although he noted that it can be discouraging at times, he also reiterated that such an environment prompts paramount success.

"After going to Berkeley and fairly prestigious organizations, I still haven't encountered a community with as high of a concentration of kind, smart students as Andover, and it makes me realize what a privilege it was to be an Andover student. I think going to Andover makes you realize, 'Wow, the global peak is much higher than I thought it was.' You're kind of the big fish in a small pond at your previous school, and you get there, and you realize you're [surrounded by] other really incredibly bright people. It's easy to see how special everyone is around you except yourself," said Kwon.

Kwon continued, "I think that really inspired me personally to take it seriously, and I think [it] encourages [students] to try to match or go beyond their fellow students. I would love for one of the current Andover students to be the youngest person ever listed in one of these publications. I think that'll be super impressive."

What Are Andover Students Grateful For?

REPORTING BY JACQUELINE GORDON

The week before Winter Break, we asked Andover students to reflect on this past year and the things that they are grateful for — especially as we look ahead to the holidays and new year.

Cisco Hernandez '24 (he/him)

"...In all seriousness, I made a few friends this term who I did not expect I'd be close with, including Annabel Tu ['25] and some other people. Some more things, it's my Senior year, so I'm grateful for this last winter. Right now it's snowing outside which is kind of funny because it has been so cold and basically hasn't snowed this whole term, so I'm grateful for the snow."

Julian Otto '27 (he/him)

"[Andover] really allowed me to make great connections with my friends because I spend so much time with them, and I'm away from home, so I don't have anybody to essentially tell me how to do things. I just sort of get instructions and then I'm independent here, which I'm grateful for, and it really teaches me a lot about life."

AVERY LIN/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

AVERY LIN/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Joy-Shanti Sindayiganza '25 (she/her)

"I'm really grateful for all my friends and all the people who are always there for me and support me. They have helped me get through everything this year."

AVERY LIN/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Ozochi Onunaku '25 (he/him)

"I'm grateful for my three little brothers: Uzochi, Ikechi, and Udochi. I am grateful for them because they're great people who are so adorable and are fun to hang out with, and make me want to be a great model for them. They are what keep me going here and inspire me to do great."

Sarah Zhang '24 (she/her)

"This year, especially this school year, as I've started Senior year, I'm really grateful for some new friends that I've made. Shoutout to Michelle Chen ['24] and Ava DeWolfe ['24] for being my gym buddies, my Halloween buddies, we did an Olivia Rodrigo-themed costume this year which was really fun. I'm so grateful that they let me into their life. We went on so many adventures together, and here's to many more."

Ashiq Kibria '26 (he/him)

"Honestly, I feel as though I'm just grateful for school right now. Yes, it's really stressful. Yes, I'm having a major every single day. But then I look back and I think about it and I'm like, 'I really am at Andover.' I feel as though that's something where I always have to be grateful for... Sometimes [Andover] is a school which we can complain about, but at the end of the day we are getting benefits from this."

PHANCY DANCY

A New Holiday???

Nadia Vargas

Most holidays are centered around religion, culture, and history. While some suggest these subjects have their merits, most understand that religion, culture, and history are three of the world's most divisive — and often problematic — subjects. Thank god — I mean the universe — for math and science, truly our planet's most exciting and beautiful disciplines. As the saying goes, numbers are for everyone. This is why a group of cool, personable people and I have teamed up to pitch a new holiday: Algorithm Day!

Algorithm Day is best spent indoors, ideally with no sunlight, with festive typing sounds and the strong scent of body odor to get everyone in the spirit. Ideally, everyone celebrates by participating in standardized testing and spending the entire 24 hours on a STEM-related thesis to be looked upon the next algorithm day to reflect on past ideas and concepts. To the few elite people who finish the standardized (and proctored!) test early, they are permitted to listen to the "beep-boop" of binary code until everyone has finished.

This might seem like something undeserving of a holiday title, but the engineering club thinks it would be tremendously helpful for specific individuals who still believe the "humanities" have something to offer. My close circle has celebrated Algorithm Day every year (for 2.94 years) on December 25, Adolf Windaus' birthday! He, of course, was a celebrated German chemist who won the Nobel Prize in 1928 for his work on sterols and their relation to vitamins! He is a personal hero of mine, among many others. After a hearty meal of saltines and G-Fuel around the discord server, a tradition for us "STEMers," we share our favorite math puns and jokes. Last year, my pal Crendel had a funny one about what the calculator says to the student. I LOL'd for what felt like several light years.

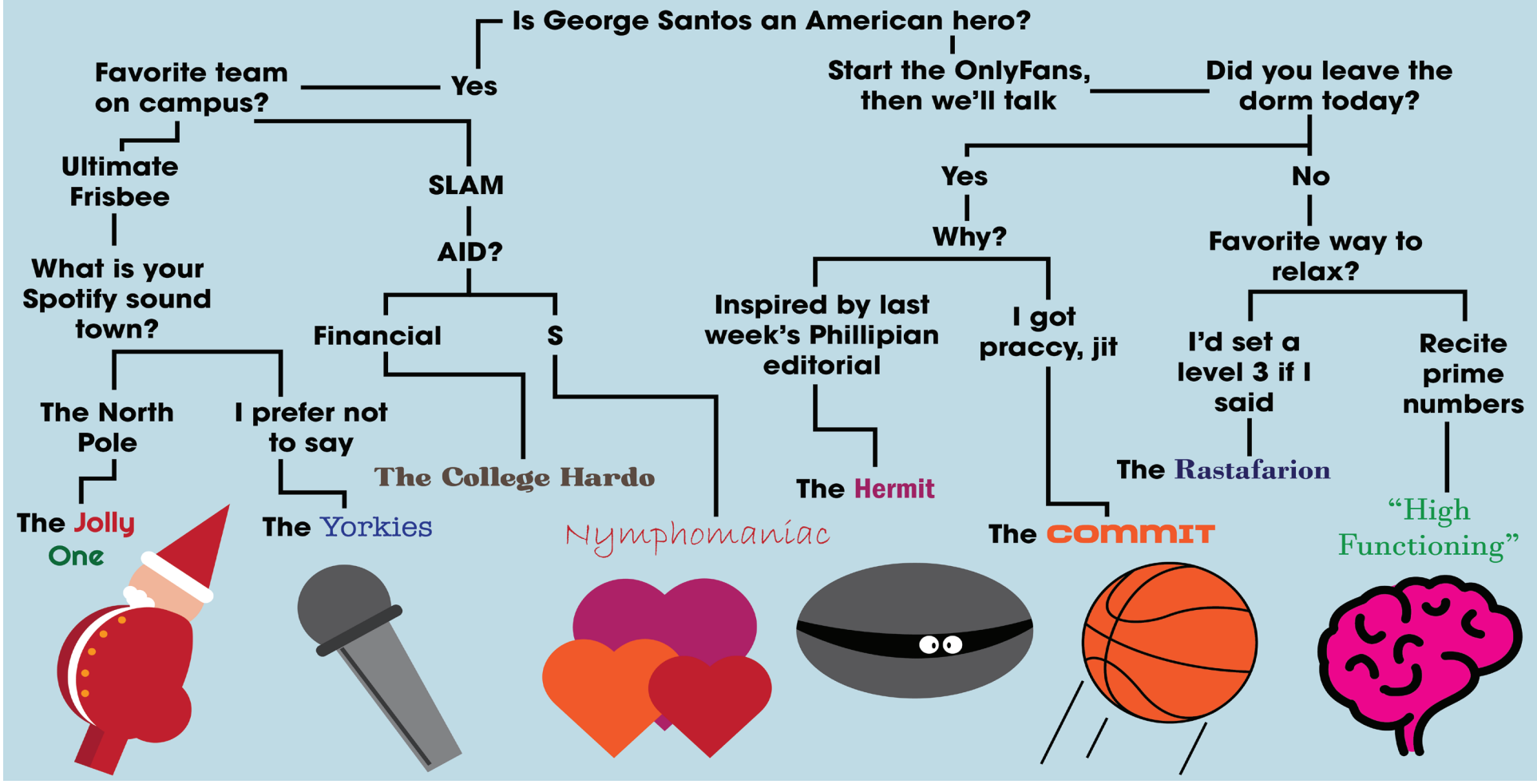
Once the laughter has subsided, we unwind with pre-approved TED Talks about fascinating subjects such as: will we ever know the last digit of pi? What is the sexiest number, and why is it I? Will human interaction exist in 2030?

My well-liked peers and I (also well-liked) hope to one day live in a world free from the universe-forsaken "emotion," "beauty," and "discussion-based learning" of stuff like English, history, art, music (except chamber music, duh), and religion and philosophy. As Algorithm Day rises in prominence (exponentially, we hope! ha ha), we wouldn't be surprised if Andover does away with a sizable "fraction" of its Course of Study.

Week's Top Headlines

- *Deans Overwhelmed With Reach Requests as Students Under 5'2 Claim Santa Needs Them Back*
- *"The Nutcracker" Title is Under Review After Triggering Audience Members with Nut Allergies.*
- *Reminder: Wish BVS Good Luck at the North Pole This Year.*
- *Atheist Who Proudly Celebrates Christmas Only for Presents Found Dead by Lightning Strike.*
- *RayK Requests Assistants to Call Him Papa Elf This Holiday Season.*
- *Eighth Page Editor on Admitting to Cannibalism in Spanish Class.*
- *Former Dean Glares Disapprovingly at Student Admiring Breath in Cold Air.*
- *Student Hopes Punishment for Drunk Obscenity "Depends on Context."*

What Type of Student Were You During These Two Weeks?



J. XIAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"I'm out of the game, I deleted Snapchat. I only play RetroBowl anymore."

"I'm so excited to see Granny in her sexy elf outfit this year."

"Go ahead, eat those cookies. You're not fitting down the chimney this Christmas anyway."

"Christmas romcoms are modern-day horror movies."

"What do you mean you don't ski?"

"Trust me, I've had a lot of sex."

"I'm so excited to see Granny in her sexy elf outfit this year."

"All I want for Christmas is that teaching fellow."

"When I grow up I want to be a mall Santa. Then girls will like me."

"All these holiday songs about love and not one about your foreskin coming back and re-attaching itself."

QUESTIONS TO ASK RAY K AT DINNER

- *"Why doesn't she like me?"*
- *"What shampoo do you use?"*
- *"Wassup, cuh."*
- *"Where do babies come from?"*
- *"Is there a scandal waiting to happen in the Head of School's Office?"*
- *"You wanna have a tickle fight?"*
- *"Which is your favorite 'My Little Pony' character?"*
- *"Do you think that liberal arts majors contribute to society?"*
- *"If you could have one Andover dorm simply disappear forever, which one would it be and why?"*

The Phillipian
SPORTS

you can't catch me, i'm the gingerbread man

Volume CXLVI | Number 27

December 15, 2023

Boys Squash Remains Undefeated, Overcomes Deerfield and Milton

THEO WEI

SATURDAY 12/9	
Andover	4
Deerfield	3
WEDNESDAY 12/13	
Andover	7
Milton	0

This past Saturday, Andover Boys Squash squeezed out a tight win against Deerfield. The team went on to defeat Milton Academy on Wednesday, sweeping their opponents with seven wins out of seven matches. Boys Squash remains undefeated with a record of 3-0.

Andover's intense competition with Deerfield served as motivation for the team, according to Co-Captain Sean Winston-Luo '24. Unlike the previous year's loss, Boys Squash was able to secure the victory.

Winston-Luo said, "I think it was a win or go home mentality. This is our biggest match of our season, so we knew we had to win, and Deerfield has always been a long time rival that we played really close matches with these last few years. So there's definitely feeling some pressure to win, but I'm glad the team carried through in the end, pushed through a lot of the close points."

Will Weissman '25 highlighted the trust that members of the team have in one another's commitment to the team. He noted that each player can easily support one another after matches even with an unfavorable outcome, knowing that everyone put their all into their respective matches.

"We're always very supportive of each other, like after a match we all know we gave it our all. So, no one's ever going to be disappointed with someone because they know they put in their best effort. So we're always pretty encouraging to each other and before the match, we got brunch together, just [to] talk about our match ups and prepare mentally," said Weissman.

Although Boys Squash secured a victory against Deerfield, Winston-Luo listed potential areas of improvement. He noted that many team members will be playing over the break.

Winston-Luo said, "We could be a little bit more attacking, sometimes we are a little defensive, but we'll be working on that in practice. During break, a lot of us will be playing so we'll be getting ready to gear up for the next match. We have some big matches coming up in January, so we'll be getting ready for that."

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Co-Captain Sean Winston-Luo '24 plays his fourth season with Andover Boys Squash.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Avery Lin '25 played fourth in the lineup against Deerfield on Saturday.

On Wednesday, Boys Squash swept Milton. Last year Andover didn't drop a match against Milton, so this year, Pragun Seth '25 shared that it was important for the team to uphold its dominance over Milton.

Seth said, "We were focused on playing our best. We knew that we had to defend our previous wins against Milton, so coming into our games we were really focused on taking it point by point."

While squash is an individual sport, the team prioritizes supporting each other between matches. Through personalized feedback, Seth noted how the team helps players find their strengths and capitalize on them.

"Before matches we made sure to guide team members and really focus on their strengths and during matches we came to give guidance and support," said Seth.

Andover will play Choate at home in 2024.

Tam Gavenas '25 Places Third at Foot Locker Cross Country Nationals

ANYA BUDZINSKI

In a grueling battle to the line, Tam Gavenas '25 finished the final 200 meters of the 5K race in 33 seconds, securing a podium finish by 0.9 seconds. With a time of 15:16.6, Gavenas was the top-ranked eleventh-grader at Foot Locker Cross Country Nationals on December 9.

Held annually at Balboa Park in San Diego, California, Foot Locker Nationals brings together 40 runners across four regions to compete for the national title. Gavenas was among ten runners from the Northeast region to attend, all of whom qualified through a regional meet held on November 25.

Last year, Gavenas placed 31st at the same meet with a time of 15:49.8. Teammate Max Huang '24 reflected upon Gavenas' training during the year, which ultimately contributed to the 33 second improvement on the course this season.

"Tam is one of the most committed runners I have seen. He shows up everyday and puts in the hard work. He doesn't talk about it a lot but he always gets the job done. He puts his best into every single workout. He has done a really good job trusting the training, and it has taken him really far," said Huang.

Coaches Garrett Richie and Patrick Rielly both traveled with Gavenas to Foot Locker Nationals. The three flew out to California three days before the meet, using the following days to develop race strategy and identify tangents on the winding course.

Richie said, "Two days before the race we went and ran the course when no other athletes were there. We talked and Coach Reilly asked him if there were two places he wanted to make a move regardless of what else was happening in the race. Tam picked those places and stuck to that... [his] moves really allowed him to put himself in a position to try to go for the win from the beginning."

Riche shared similar sentiments with Huang, highlighting how Gavenas' mental strength and focus have played a crucial role in his success in distance running.

Richie said, "Tam's always been an incredible runner from day one. He is incredibly hard working and incredibly tough and it was great to see all these pieces we have worked on over the years come together. We have always worked on tactics, metal focus, and strategies, and to see him do the course run two days beforehand with me and work on tangents he was just so focused on what he needed to do."

Gavenas opened up the race with a 2:18 800 meter split to sit at the front of the lead pack. In his finish, Gavenas demonstrated grit, passing a Senior opponent in the final ten meters to secure third place.

Gavenas said, "We started to go on to the finishing straight, the last part, with about 400 meters to go. We started going up this small incline and I could feel my legs slowly, slowly dying but I knew I had some kick left. I was in fifth place at the time. I had dropped back from second and third, which was my position throughout the race... I was like, 'This is the last time I'm running cross country my [Upper] Year, I just got to give it my shot.' I didn't really see Berkeley Nance until the last 50 meters."

COURTESY OF TAM GAVENAS

Tam Gavenas '25 was the highest-placing eleventh grader at the 2023 Foot Locker Cross Country Nationals.

COURTESY OF FOOT LOCKER

Tam Gavenas '25 opened up the 5-kilometer race with a 4:44 split at the 1-mile.

Huang was one of many teammates to watch Gavenas's race through a livestream. Huang highlighted the amount of effort that Gavenas put into his finish.

Huang said, "I had a watch party with about ten people. We were all gathered around my computer... During the race, towards the end, Tam was battling in fifth place coming up on the last 200 meters. We had seen him in fifth on the video and all of a sudden he was finishing in third. I went back and timed his last 150 meters and compared it to a bunch of other runners across the years. He ran the last 150 meters in 22 seconds, and the fastest I had seen it before was 24 seconds. That just shows how fast he closed and how much he wanted it."

Gavenas' performance has earned an automatic spot at New Balance Nationals Indoor this winter.

BOYSHOCKEY

Co-Captain Drew Smith ’24: A Sensible Presence on Team

ANGIE LUCIA

While Boys Hockey Co-Captain Drew Smith ’24 started playing hockey at a young age, his hockey career at Andover started when he walked onto the team his Freshman Year. Since then, he has been demonstrating leadership through his intense play.

“I try to lead by example, just always giving it my all during practice, and giving it my all during games...always just trying to be a positive role model. Keep[ing] the locker room always upbeat, positive, and just trying to get everyone, I don’t know how to say this without being corny, but to reach their full potential, to bring out the best in them,” said Smith.

Teammate Luke DeAngelis ’25, also a defenseman alongside Smith, shared his experience watching Smith’s leadership evolve from previous seasons to now. DeAngelis credited Smith with taking the new role with grace.

DeAngelis said, “He’s always been a bit reserved because he has always demonstrated that he’s a very talented player. I’ve always known that he’s a natural leader, but last year, we had such a strong Senior class... [who] really carried the team on their shoulders. But this year, Drew has been a fantastic Captain so far. He’s serious when he has to be, but he’s genuinely a good guy... I don’t have enough good things to say about him.”

H.ZHONG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

This fall, goaltender Chase Anderson ’25, forwards Gregory, Jake LeDoux ’24, Peyton Militello ’25 and defensemen Charles Sabre ’25 shared the rink with Smith on the Valley Junior Warriors Team. Sabre noted how Smith’s leadership was even prevalent in an environment where he did not have a role as Co-Captain.

“[As a new Upper,] that was the first place that I played competitive hockey with him, but also that I got to see some of his leadership. Even on that team, he was one of the better players, and took up the role of making sure kids are not doing what they’re not supposed to,” said Sabre.

Militello recalled meeting Smith, as he welcomed Militello to school. He highlighted Smith’s dedication to hockey and his teammates, especially as captain.

Militello said, “Drew was the first person I met coming to campus... He was a really good revisit, he was [a] really nice, very chill guy. He works really hard. Last year, he never took a shift off and was probably the hardest-working defenseman we had. He’s continued that hard work. He’s definitely come into more of a leadership role, obviously, he’s a captain. But he cares a lot about the team, and even off the ice he still loves everyone.”

DeAngelis commented on the chemistry between Co-Captain Sam Myles ’24 and Smith, highlighting the success that comes from staying diligent and committing to bettering the team.

DeAngelis said, “The other [Co-]Captain is Sam Myles, who I would say is kind of similar somewhat in this role of he’s not the loudest guy in the room, but he works harder than anyone else on our team. I think together, both of these guys create this team atmosphere and culture where you don’t have to be the loudest guy or the flashiest to be the best. But if you’re gonna put your head down and work hard, then you’ll be recognized.”

Smith noted the importance of connecting to his teammates outside of practices and games. Through tutoring and team dinners, Smith builds lasting friendships with each player.

“I hang out with a lot of the guys. We have team dinners and stuff, which is really cool. And just making sure the guys are excelling both on and off the ice. I tutor some of the guys that want it. It’s cool to be able to connect with them in that way as well, and to be able to see them both in the classroom and on the ice,” said Smith.

“He’s All Business”: Boys Hockey Head Coach Paul Tortorella ’80 Pushes for Excellence and Competition

LILY WILLIAMSON

Boys Hockey Head Coach Paul Tortorella ’80 developed a passion for hockey, after watching a televised game between the Boston Bruins and the Montreal Canadiens, with his dad. Inspired by announcer Danny Galivan, Tortorella became Gallivan with the sport. Years later, he became a goaltender for the Varsity Hockey team at Andover. His work earned him the Sumner Smith Award for the team’s MVP. He then graduated to play Division I Hockey at Yale University, before returning to Andover in 2001.

Tortorella works to cultivate an environment dedicated to a consistent work ethic. He summed up his core team values in three words: “Trust, Honesty, and Excellence.” According to Tortorella, coaching hockey allows him to celebrate the drive and collaboration required to win.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Tortorella wrote, “I enjoy the aspect of team play that [sports] [demand] to be successful. Working hard with others to create something good is a good way to spend time.”

Assistant-Captain Drew Smith ’24 highlighted Tortorella’s coaching style. Tortorella works toward building a tight-knit and a strong team, calling upon Smith and Captain Sam Myles ’24 to collaboratively achieve this goal.

“He hypes us up before games, and in between periods. And just essentially stressing that we’re all in it together. And that it’s a team battle to win it. Everyone has to be trying their hardest, giving their best. And that’s the same for practices as well,” said Smith.

According to Kele Gregory ’26, Tortorella ensures that the players are in the right headspace before stepping into the rink.

Gregory said, “He’s a great coach. I haven’t had any coaches like him, he’s all business. He’ll check in with every player before the game if need be. He’s all about the guys... He’ll talk for five minutes before the game and basically, make sure that we’re prepped and ready for the game. He wants to make sure that there’s nothing that we’re regretting before we go out on the ice.”

Smith emphasized Tortorella’s compassion towards his players. He lets players try their best and works with them individually to make them an asset to the team. Tortorella influences a hard-working team culture, reflecting the team’s values.

Smith said, “I wasn’t recruited for the team. I walked on...my Freshman Year, [and he] gave me a chance that no one else really gave me. [He] has really worked with me these past couple of years. I can’t thank him enough for how much he has [done], both on the ice and off the ice, just constantly encouraging me to just always give it my all.”

With a current record of 5-0, Tortorella is working with the team to play through the season with a fierce and ambitious drive. Competition and fun are extensions of hockey and he hopes that his players can recognize that.

H.ZHONG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Tortorella wrote, “Competition is fun. It’s a game, score is kept. It makes you try to get better. You can’t play the game by yourself. There is no problem having fun. If you are not having fun, you are not working hard enough.”

BOYS HOCKEY

41 CHASE ANDERSON ’25 MARBLEHEAD, MA	**12** LUKE DEANGELIS ’25 HOLMDEL, NJ	**29** (C) SAM MYLES ’24 WESTBOROUGH, MA	**18** (C) DREW SMITH ’24 COTUIT, MA	**27** DAVID O’NEILL ’26 WAYNE, PA	**11** ETHAN SKOWRONEK ’24 ARLINGTON, VA
19 JOHN BAINBRIDGE ’24 DUCK, NC	**24** JAMES DELANEY ’24 PALMER, MA	**16** KELE GREGORY ’26 NORTH FALMOUTH, MA	**23** JAKE LEDOUX ’24 CHANDLER, AZ	**9** CHARLES SABRE ’25 ARLINGTON, VA	**3** ALEX THEODORE ’27 PETALUMA, CA
13 CHRISTOPHER CALI ’24 WAKE FOREST, NC	**21** JOE DOYLE ’26 NEW YORK, NY	**8** LOUIS BEAULIEU ’26 SAINT-LAMBERT, QC	**17** PEYTON MILITELLO ’25 DALLAS, TX	**31** BEN SKOWRONEK ’24 ARLINGTON, VA	**26** ALEXANDER SMALL ’26 PHOENIXVILLE, PA
88 RUI HAN ’25 SAN DIEGO, CA	**7** GRAYDEN ROBERTSON-PALMER ’25 ST. ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK	**44** ZACHARY SKOWRONEK ’25 ARLINGTON, VA	**55** MATTHEW PIOTROWSKI ’27 RIDGEWOOD, NJ		

MANAGERS: SOPHIE HOLTEN-MORAVEK ’25, NEW YORK, NY; DREW NELSON ’24, ANDOVER, MA; LEILA COLLYGE ’25, BENTONVILLE, AR; JOHN SCARBROUGH ’25, BOULDER, CO

A.ZHU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Two New Programs Introduced by Athletic Department Receive Complaints From Student Body

AARON HUANG

Starting in the Winter of 2023, the athletics department introduced two new programs for varsity student-athletes: Introduction to Strength and Conditioning Training for Juniors and Lowers, and Athletic Development Training (ADT) for Uppers, Seniors, and PGs. With 40 total students, the two programs take place between 3:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. However, the Borden Memorial Gym Fitness Center is not available to the rest of Andover community to use during the hours, raising concern from some student athletes and recreational gym users.

According to Lisa Joel, Director of Athletics, there has been a lack of targeted strength and conditioning training for Andover students. With the high demand of such programs, the athletic department collaborated with certified strength and conditioning coaches, Christopher Collins and Andres Perez, on these offerings to prepare athletes in their offseason.

"One aspect of explicit programming, that Andover is falling short of peer schools... [like] Choate, [Phillips] Exeter [Academy], Deerfield, is that we did not have specific strength and conditioning programming and training for kids who wanted it most... We understood that actually was a need being requested of us in the athletic department... and we thought this would be perfect," said Joel.

On December 6, 47 Captains took a stand with Indoor Track and Field Co-Captain Audrey Powers '24, sending an email to the Andover Athletic Department to state their concerns about the restricted Fitness Center hours. The Captains argued that the new athletics options would exclude "students involved in community engagement, extracurricular clubs, and the performing arts," who cannot use the Fitness Center hours after 5:30 p.m.

Powers said, "I have just been approached by so many people with their grievances about this program. And as someone who is involved in high-level, competitive athletics, I completely see the benefits to the program, but so far all I have been hearing from students is complaints about it... I am trying to find some kind of solution where this program can be appreciated and accepted and continue in the curriculum without getting the same amount of student push back it has been."

Santi Gracias '25 shared similar sentiments to the Captains. Due to limited facility spaces in the winter, many winter interscholastic sports, like swim and basketball, also hold practices after 5:30 p.m., preventing those athletes from using the Fitness Center after the conclusion of ADT.

"[The Fitness Center] was pretty available previously, a little bit less now... I know that a lot of people said that they couldn't go in the Winter now because they had their sport at 5:30 p.m. or after that or they had to go to a club meeting, so they are not able to go to the gym," said Gracias.

Some students in the ADT program countered the Captains with their own email to the Athletic Department, reiterating the fact that the ADT has been a sought-after program. However, Joel explained that the new program can only cater to the needs of a small cohort of students.

Joel said, "It has to be limited, like your math class is limited, a soccer team is limited... We have gone right up to the maximum number of kids it can be so that kids can actually get and meet the goal of the program."

Collins emphasized that these programs not only facilitate the mastery of new exercises and movements, but also instills confidence into those using the gym. For example, Introduction to Strenght and Conditioning helps younger students gain increased comfort with workout equipment and programs.

"The basic premise behind [Introduction to Strength and Conditioning] is to have the kids come into the Fitness Center, learn some basic lifts, some basic movement patterns, and try to do that in an environment that has a conducive learning experience... so that in the future when they come into the Fitness Center, they can feel confident and secure about things they're doing. Be comfortable when they come in here when it is crowded, and have a basic understanding of how we're trying to develop things," said Collins.

According to Angie Ceballos Cardona '25, a participant of ADT, the program has helped her develop her strength and agility and navigate new workout programs. She explained that ADT is helping her progress towards her goal to play softball in college.

"I am personally looking to pursue college athletics so it is very important that I develop my athleticism and strength during the winter specifically, so that is why I was interested in ADT. And I also wanted to get more comfortable with different types of workouts that I am not particularly used to or know of... I think that the trainers give you all the tools, so [ADT] is definitely beneficial."

Following the Captains' complaints, the Fitness Center has extended its morning hours on weekdays. Trained Captains will now be opening the gym at 6:05 a.m., and Joel encourages athletes to take advantage of this time.

"Working out in the morning on the shoulders of your schedule is, in my mind, that's what it means to be an athlete. That's what it means to be a competitive athlete. And so at some level, it might feel inconvenient for some. But it's probably not a bad schedule to be adapting to because it's really how it works out for competitive athletes," said Joel.

Joel also invites students to hold open conversations about their goals regarding strength and fitness, despite the gym restrictions.

"It's about prioritizing and making choices. And right now, for some of our students, I get it. They had what may have been their patterns, in their minds, when they feel is most convenient to them. But I truly believe, and we've invited any of these students, if they want to sit with us and talk about what their goals are. Talk about when the facility might be open, where they can be supported. They should come and talk to us because I'm very confident that not only we can help them think through a strength and conditioning program, but think through when they can go and get that done," said Joel.

Girls Basketball Suffers Back to Back Losses Against Loomis Chaffee and St. George's

DAVID SIAHAAN

SATURDAY 12/9	
Andover	35
Loomis Chaffee	61

WEDNESDAY 12/13	
Andover	35
St. George's	54

Andover Girls Basketball fell to Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) in its home opener this past Saturday. Following the defeat, on Wednesday, Andover fell short again against St. George's. The team's record now stands at 1-3.

Cuyler Sparks '27 noted that in the game against Loomis, Andover was at a disadvantage when it came to the height of the players. Despite this, the team was able to adapt while also maintaining its positive energy.

Sparks said, "It was our first time playing against tall players and big guards. We did a good job adjusting, even though it was a bit difficult since we are on the smaller side. But we kept the energy and played good defense."

Andover has played just four games out of its 24 regular season games. Sparks emphasized the importance of building momentum early on in the season.

"Every day, before a game, our main goal is to build confidence. We do a lot of shooting and running our transition offense. We work on transition plays and press breaks and we just work to get us ready for the game ahead," said Sparks.

Commenting on the team's loss to St. George's on Wednesday, Alani Rodriguez '27 emphasized the improvement that the team made as the game progressed, but mentioned the importance of the team starting off games stronger.

"The team played well, took a tough loss today, but we definitely played very intense in the second half. Second-half energy was what we needed in the first half, but it's definitely something to work on," said Rodriguez.

Ruby Kokinos '26 shared similar sentiments, noting that the team is looking at these games as a learning experience for the rest of the season. In the future, Andover is focused on keeping the same level of intensity from the beginning of a game to the end.

"A lot of the focus is on what we can learn from these past games. Mostly, starting off strong and executing on our plays. It is the start of the season, so it is important for those to be put in," said Kokinos.

According to Sparks, despite the slow start, the team was able to put points on the scoreboard, in large part, due to Sophie Dandawa '25's performance during the second half. Sparks shared that Dandawa's high level play greatly aided the team.

Sparks said, "I would say that for St. George's, Sophie, our small forward/shooting guard, got us back into the game. She played really good defense, got a lot of steals, and led our transition offense to help us mount a comeback in the second half despite being down."

When asked about how the team plans on recovering, Sparks noted the importance of studying film from the past games, so that it can be applied to future ones. With it being early on in the season, Sparks shared that it will take time to get to know one another on the court, but as long as the team stays committed to working hard, it will improve.

"[To bounce back] watching a lot of film, learning from it, applying it, and getting better from it is important. We pride ourselves in working harder than the other team and continuing to work hard on defense, and everything else will come with it. As long as we keep moving forward and getting better, I am not really worried, as we are still getting to know each other on the team," said Sparks.

Andover will compete in the Groton School/Lawrence Academy Holiday Tournament this weekend.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Co-Captain Leila Boesch-Powers '24 is one of two Captains for Andover Girls Basketball.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Co-Captain Valeria Ha '24 looks for an open player.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Andover Girls Basketball's current record is 1-3.

Wrestling Finds Success in Dual Meets and Tournaments

LIZ WODARSKI & MADDIE SHIN

SATURDAY 12/9	
Andover	27
NMH	53
SATURDAY 12/9	
Andover	40
Avon Old Farms	39
SATURDAY 12/9	
Andover	48
Nobles	31
SATURDAY 12/9	
Andover	15
Trinity Pawling	52
WEDNESDAY 12/13	
Andover	51
Wilbraham & Monson	30

Andover Wrestling (4-2) had a meet-filled week, competing at the Avon Holiday Duals on Saturday, the St. Paul's Girls Tournament on Sunday, and a dual meet against Wilbraham & Monson on Wednesday.

Andover faced off against four different teams at the Avon Holiday Duals, finishing the day with two team wins and two losses. Head Coach Kassie Bateman highlighted the individual performance of Dani Nugent '25, who went undefeated in her matches on Saturday.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Coach Batemen wrote, "She was competing against wrestlers who were physically stronger than her, but she was technically superior. Every move she executed was textbook, and she was able to win a match by decision (6-3): two pins, and a forfeit. Watching her wrestle was so fun because she's so good."

On Sunday, 14 wrestlers competed at the St. Paul's Girls Tournament, with two individual champions, Nor DeHoog '24 and Toni Elliott '27, leading Andover to a team title. In total, 12 of the team's wrestlers placed in the top five of their weight class.

"We have a lot of less experienced members on our team, so these two weeks in December are about learning moves from all positions and learning to stay in good position. We did that the best we could over the weekend and saw improvement [on Wednesday] in that regard as well. We're looking to see improvement throughout the season," wrote Bateman.

Andover dominated Wilbraham and Monson 51-30 in its home opener on Wednesday. Despite the influx of team members who are new to wrestling, Andover's strength lies in its ability to fill nearly every weight class, according to Nick Lima '25.

"A strength of our team is the number of wrestlers we have, we have nearly every weight class filled, so we gave up very few forfeits today. While this isn't a weakness in the long term, a lot of our wrestlers on varsity are new wrestlers, meaning it can be difficult for them to jump into a sport as competitive as wrestling and succeed at the varsity level," wrote Lima in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Ophelia Lee '26 noted that the team's diligent and technical practice sessions were key in preparation for its matches. She also stressed the critical role of confidence when competing.

Lee said, "This week, we've been doing a lot of work on the bottom: hitting switches, reversals, and breaking down after that. And, it translates. I think we had pretty solid work on the bottom today, staying on our base and really just fighting to keep our heads up."

J.CARMONA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Magnus Julin '25 pinned his opponent at the end of the second period against Wilbraham & Monson.

Lee also noted how the atmosphere on Wednesday was more relaxed and composed compared to previous meets.

"The atmosphere in comparison to other meets was relaxed because it was a dual meet, so that means it was just one other school. Other events have many schools competing, so it's like tournament style, and there's more pressure," said Lee.

Andover Wrestling will compete at the Beast of the East Tournament at the University of Delaware on the weekend of December 15.

Indoor Track and Field Opens Season With Electric Energy Against Andover High School

MICHAEL WILLIAMSON

WEDNESDAY 12/13 - GIRLS	
Andover	60
Andover High	38.5
WEDNESDAY 12/13 - GIRLS	
Andover	49
Andover High	51

Andover Indoor Track and Field's official home opener on Wednesday resulted in a win for the Girls team and a close loss for the Boys team. Andover faced off against its local neighbors, Andover High School (Andover High).

The Big Blue brought its cheers to the Snyder Center for an explosive start to the season. High-jumper Kamen Kaleb '25 spoke about the high energy brought by the team.

"The environment was electric, there was so much energy in the building. I feel like the energy level that we reached is not really something that happens until around mid to late season, when we have developed a lot of momentum behind us; but to see that we had so much energy in the first meet, it means it's going to be a wonderful season," said Kaleb.

M.MACKINNON/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Langan Garrett '24 placed sixth in the 55-Meter Hurdles against Andover High School with a time of 11.19.

Distance-runner Jakob Kuelps '25 shared similar sentiments with Kaleb, discussing the significance of the competition and sportsmanship of the meet.

"Hosting a home meet obviously is amazing. You have faculty, friends, and other people... or people from your Andover community come out and support you, which is great. Also, considering that Andover High is so close to us, we had a great showing from parents as well, which added to the amazing energetic atmosphere. They're our neighbors, as [Head] Coach [Keri] Lambert says, we share the town of Andover with them," said Kuelps.

Kuelps used the team's energy to win the 2-Mile race. Kuelps spoke on the results and how he plans to work with his team to grow as an athlete.

Kuelps said, "I ran around 10 [minute] 30 [seconds], which is four seconds off my [personal record], PR, which is good to start with. Last season, I started off with 10 [minute] 40 [seconds] in the home opener meet, so it definitely shows that my fitness has improved over the past year. I think there's still a lot of work to do but the season has just started, so I think I speak for myself, and also for the team here, that I am looking forward to growing a lot over the season as athletes and as teammates."

In the final individual event of the day, distance-runner Emma Hagstrom '25 broke the 1000-Meter Girls school record by one second, finishing with a time of 3:03.25. Setting the tone in the team's first full-team meet, Hagstrom described the team's goals for the rest of the season.

"For the season, me and some of my peers are trying to do a group DMR (Distance Medley Relay) for the girls team, and see if we can qualify for Nationals in that event. I definitely hope to get faster over the course of the season. I think [for] a lot of people it's just a season opener, so it was fun to see what everyone could do," said Hagstrom.

Despite coming out of a recent injury, Kaleb still placed second in the High Jump with a mark of 5-10.00, falling to an Andover High opponent by two inches.

Kaleb said, "I am pretty happy with my performance. I'm coming off of an ankle injury from last term, so being able to recover from that as well as being able to reach where my ceiling was last spring, I think that's pretty good. During this season, I aspire to break the Upper high jump record, which is around six feet. I'm pretty close to it now, so I think I'll be able to get it maybe within the next two meets."

Andover Indoor Track and Field will be resuming its season on the weekend of January 14 at UMass Amherst.

Following 15-0 Win in Scrimmage, Girls Hockey Wins Contest Against Dexter Southfield

SOPHIA CRATTY

SATURDAY 12/9	
Andover	4
Southfield	2

After a 15-0 victory in its scrimmage against Andover High School (Andover High) on December 2, Andover Girls Hockey traveled to Dexter Southfield (Southfield) on Friday, earning a win in its first official game of the season.

Head Coach Martha Fenton '83 compared the team's scrimmage against Andover High to the first official game of Girls Hockey's season. The score on Friday was far closer than the score of the scrimmage, and according to Fenton, it provided an opportunity for coaches and players to recognize what the team will need to improve upon as it begins its season.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Caroline Averill '26 is on the U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team.

Fenton said, "Our game against [Southfield] was a much more even contest than our scrimmage against Andover High. Southfield is a young and talented team, and it was a great opportunity for us to see what we need to work on."

Manager Luca Masters '25 described the atmosphere of the team's first away game. With a lack of a student section in Andover's favor, Masters noted that the parents who came to watch made filled in for the lack of students.

Masters said, "There was no support really from the students because we were away. But, with all the parents there, it really made a wholesome environment. Every time there was a shot...the support of the parents made it so much more wholesome and meaningful than students who may not know what exactly is going on."

Molly Boyle '25 described what Andover has been working on recently in practices, highlighting how the team's focus has mainly been on systems, such as the four-check, the neutral, the offensive zone, and a power plant penalty kill. Boyle also pointed out various strengths of the team, including its' high speed, and an encouraging environment.

"We play super fast, and that led us to [be able to] have a lot of scoring opportunities. We also were super supportive of each other, which helped us a lot throughout the game... We've been working a lot on systems, like the four-check, and the neutral zone, and offensive zone, as well as the plays on the power plant penalty kill," said Boyle.

According to Fenton, the team's competitive spirit has been a strength thus far in its season, and she believes it will continue to be crucial moving forward. With that being said, Fenton found that the team still needs to work on positioning and communication as the season progresses.

"This team loves to play, and loves to compete... At this point in the season, we are still working on our communication and our positioning. We definitely have a ways to go with both, particularly in the defensive zone," said Fenton.

On Thursday and Friday, Girls Hockey will be participating in the Patsy K. Odden Invitational.

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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.

Girls Squash Takes on Seven Schools at Groton Invitational Tournament and Sweeps St. George's

ANYA BUDZINSKI & TARA MENON

WEDNESDAY - 12/13	
Andover	7
St. George's	0

On Saturday, Andover Girls Squash (2-0) played in the Groton Invitational Tournament. Andover played seven teams: Brooks, Tabor Academy, Choate, Phillips Exeter Academy, Noble and Greenough, Groton, and St. George's. In total, Girls Squash played 34 best-of-three matches. On Wednesday, Andover hosted St. George's and swept, winning all of its matches.

Across the day, the tournament at Groton was a packed day with 144 matches played. With seven different teams at the tournament, the energy was tumultuous. With that said, this organized chaos brought a lot of energy to each court. Prisha Shivani '26 talked about how the fast-paced environment made for an electric tournament.

Shivani said, "The atmosphere was very fast-paced because they used a hot court system which means as soon as a match was done another one would start. Since we were playing multiple times we had to be ready to play at all times. Our team was very supportive of each other. There was never a match going on where we weren't supporting each other. It was also very friendly, like a friendly tournament."

Leading up to the tournament, the team focused on specific shots and match play to get more comfortable on the court. Shivani highlighted how the team's work on shots helped Andover gain confidence going into Saturday.

Shivani said, "We worked on specific shots. One day we focused on boasts and another day drives and another day drops and kills. We got good practice with each type of shot so I think we were all more confident leading up to the tournament because we knew which shots were available to us. We also incorporated some match play in the practices leading up to the game so that was helpful because it was a really match-heavy day."

According to Minnie Kim '27, the bond between the team is a crucial factor in Andover's success. Minnie Kim noted that on Saturday, the team supported each player and even provided tips when necessary.

Minnie Kim said, "For every single match we had at least one team member would be watching and cheering and even coaching if that player needed help. I think this was great. We had a really strong team connection and bond."

Co-Captain Migyu Kim '25 credited the team's success on Wednesday to its physical and mental strength, and the work put in at practices.

Migyu Kim said, "Overall, everyone is a great player and we have all been working really hard making the most of all our practices throughout the last couple of weeks. I also think the positive energy is always great. As a team, we all have great sportsmanship and are very resilient and focused. It isn't always the physical side of the game but also the mental side in squash. Everyone is positive and focused throughout their matches which helps us to be successful."

Girls Squash will continue its season in 2024 against Choate.

L.RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

In her first season with Andover Girls Squash, Minnie Kim '27 played third in the lineup in the game against St. George's.

Boys Basketball Falls to Blair Academy Despite Second Half Lead

KATE RODGERS

SATURDAY - 12/9	
Andover	66
Blair	75

On Saturday, Boys Basketball played away at the Scholar Roundball Classic against Blair Academy (Blair). While the team was up by eight points with seven minutes left in the game, it ultimately fell short.

Following a six point loss last Wednesday against Holderness, Head Coach Terrell Ivory '00 (TI) shared motivational advice with the team, prior to the game against Blair. Cade Rutkoske '26 noted how his guidance helped the team keep a positive outlook going into the game.

Rutkoske said, "We had a really bad loss against Holderness on Wednesday, and one of the things our coach, TI, mentioned was the concept that, 'Who we are today is not who we are tomorrow,' and who we were at that game was not who we are as a team. That helped us realize that if we played hard, we had a solid chance against Blair."

Additionally, Rutkoske recalled the team's preparation prior to the Blair game. Andover focused on improving its offense and swinging the ball around more. By playing three-on-three, players scrimmaged under pressure and worked on its defense.

"We knew that Blair academy were really good on-ball defenders. They are an aggressive, quick, and athletic team and one of the main things we worked on in Thursday and Friday practices was doing a lot of three-on-three drills with limited dribbles. That helped us work on our offense and specifically swinging the ball and building good habits of setting screens, and screening away from teammates and cutting," said Rutkoske.

Rashad McCormick PG'24 noted the competitive atmosphere drove Andover into performing with confidence and determination. Blair Academy ended its 2022-23 season with a 14-4 record, falling to St. Benedict's in the final round of the Prep A Tournament. Andover went into the tournament, prepared for a demanding matchup.

McCormick said, "It's always fun playing against a strong team because it hypes everyone up. It was an intense and fun game to be a part of. The energy of the whole team was really good."

Blair holds a record of 7-1 this season, Hunter Peabody '27 noted that Andover played well against such a talented team, reflecting on how well the team will be performing this season. The game showed the team its potential, motivating it for future matchups.

Peabody said, "This is definitely the best team we've played, and probably the best teams we will play, so the fact that we played them so well will give us motivation that we can beat any team in the league... The biggest thing is that we proved to ourselves that we are a very good team, and we can go up against the best teams, and there are no teams we feel like we can't beat, which is really important."

Andover played with aggression and power against Blair, setting it up for its next game. Rutkoske pointed out that the team will capitalize on areas of improvement and focus on fluid offensive and defensive plays.

Rutkoske said "We started off the season very strong with two wins so moving forward the first goal is obviously to win, but another big thing is unselfishness and being on the same page. And part of that comes from practice and going over plays and making sure everyone knows what to do, while comfortable in their role. We have four practices before Suffield, so I think we will be able to prepare for that game."

Boys Basketball will travel to Suffield Academy on Friday.

SCENES FROM BOYS HOCKEY

PHOTOS BY ANDREW CHINN '24

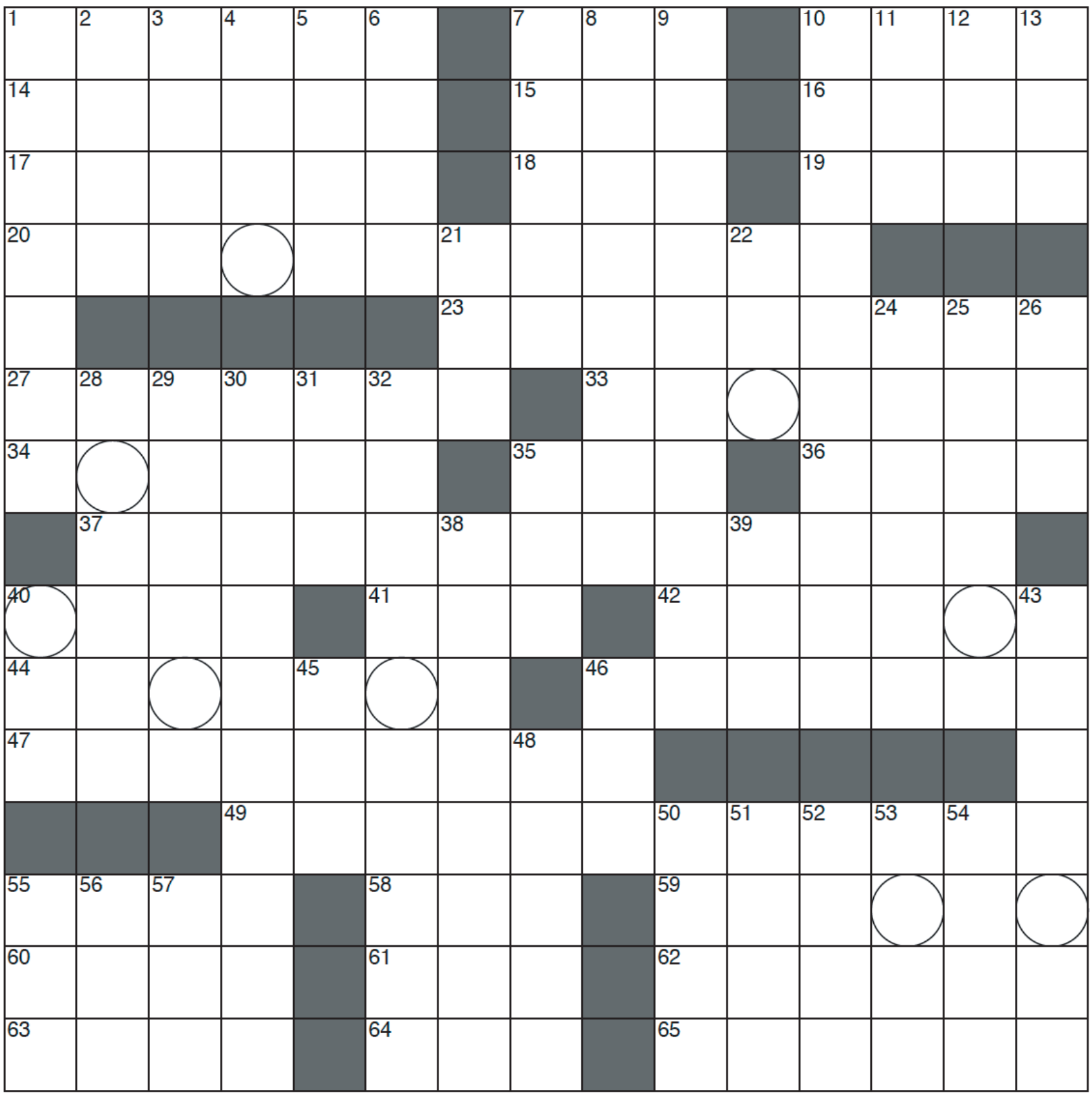
Last week, Boys Hockey won 7-2 against Brewster Academy on Friday, December 8, won 4-1 against New Hampton School on Saturday, December 9, and won 5-0 against Groton on Wednesday, December 13.

These are photos from the game against New Hampton School.

Crossword

Created By: Max Langhorst '25

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!



ACROSS

1 Column
7 Happening right now verb ending
10 Standardized test uppers take on a Wednesday
14 Smelling or tasting a lot like a garlic alternative
15 "Another lonely day, with no one here but ___", lyric from The Police
16 __matic
17 Layers of rock
18 Massive player in the cable TV industry that recently changed the name of their streaming service
19 Aug, ____, Oct
20 How you might rizz that girl on insta, christmafied
23 Get out of bed, lets get going!
27 Smidgeons synonym beginning with an abbreviation for the country with Seoul as its capital
33 Deepest, darkest ___: things you aren't allowed to tell others about
34 Guys in red suits who deliver presents
35 Says yes to
36 An affirmative reply to an order
37 How one might describe 20A and 49A
40 Spiced Indian Tea
41 A seltzer brand and eureka moment expression
42 Alternative to crafting, in the best-selling video game
44 Viral conjuctivitis, more commonly
46 Is required
47 "Over this" opposite
49 "So last year" Gen Z hype up, christmafied
55 Sandwich cookie
58 Not fast, as in __ motion
59 Opposite of tie (as your shoes)
60 Italian tomatoey meat sauce, as in __ alla bolognese
61 Three letter acronym, acronym
62 What you do to someone to seal them inside frozen water
63 X marks this, in pirate lore
64 Alternative to R lane or T road
65 The most domesticated

DOWN

1 A spirit might do this to a human to control them
2 Pertaining to the whole globe: Abbr.
3 Stringed musical instrument, person who isn't telling the truth, or ___ the plural of the Italian currency
4 Adding stuff to a truck verb
5 __-Hero, a song by Taylor Swift
6 __ Reynolds, famous actor
7 What your mom might say to affirm her cool status among young people, spelled unusually
8 U.S. state bordered by South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming
9 "Oh my god!", more politely
10 What you might do with bread at the dinner table
11 Begin legal proceedings against someone
12 Molecular unit of energy that is found in every living thing
13 Tater __
21 "In muh ___", place of residence with an accent
22 Maximum SAT score, roman numeral
24 Racket sport played on the largest court
25 "No __ ___!", a counter to saying something is similar to something else
26 Religious organization in support of abortion: Abbr.
28 North state of Myanmar that borders China
29 I don't have that __ ___ right now: with me or accessible
30 What a batter does when they fail to hit in baseball
31 Misspelling of a very short greeting, for emphasis
32 Assessments requiring long paragraphs
35 IMO code for easterly Yemen neighbor
38 2015 song by the Weeknd with "I only call you when it's half-past five. The only time that I'll be by your side"
39 Thanksgiving dessert
40 The part of your computer that does the actual computation: Abbr.
43 Like a holy, timely gift
45 German __king, king of the elves feauted in one of Goethe's poems
46 To the ___ degree
48 Tom Brady is _ ___ (one of many)
50 What command Q stands for
51 Donald Duck, to his nephews
52 Period table member: Abbr.
53 Effortlessness
54 Long running crime TV show that isn't Law and Order
55 Surgeons' facilities: Abbr.
56 More specific name for Hip-Hop
57 A narcissistic person has a large one

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Arts & Leisure
The Phillipian

From Interviews with Santa to Bartlet Wildfires: Sketchy Debuts First Production of the School Year

PIPER LASATER

Students flooded into Lower Right in Paresky Commons to get a front-row seat for the first Sketchy show of the year. Audience members who arrived late perched on windowsills and peered through doorways, trying to get a glimpse of the short, amusing vignettes that comprised Sketchy's show.

Organized by Co-Heads Willa Koziol '24 and Jack Swales '24, Sketchy focuses on creating provocative and comical skits. Sketchy is composed of members from every class, and each contributes by not just acting but also by writing each skit as well. Sketchy member Claire Wang '26 explained the thought process behind the skits.

"For inspiration, we try to think of a very obnoxious person on campus or an event that happened on campus and we try to bounce off of that... What makes us unique is that we are not afraid to just say stuff. There were a lot of things that were deemed controversial, but we just said them anyway. We do have limits, though. We are not crazy. We will get in trouble if we say certain things," said Wang.

Performers poked fun at Andover's culture, faculty, students, and rules, and had the audience erupting with laughter and shock. Ainsley Muldoon '26 attended the show and especially loved jokes about the faculty. She elaborated on what she enjoyed most about the performance.

"I loved how many people came to watch the performance and how engaged the crowd was. It seemed to have helped the performers and made them feel more comfortable [to] not hold back. I loved the range of references catered to all of the grades and that they were current and past. I think it went very well, and people were entertained, laughed, and had a good time... I thought the roleplay of the faculty was very funny and totally accurate," said Muldoon.

Sketchy member Andrew Pizzi '27 reflected on the preparation process of writing and memorizing the script leading up to the show. Despite hectic schedules, he was able to form valuable connections with fellow members of the group.

"Memorizing was challenging because we were all so busy with the start of the new term, but we met every day this week, so I was able to get a lot of it memorized... My favorite part was getting to know most of the people in the group because I'm new," said Pizzi.

Wang also enjoyed the preparation process, highlighting the humor and support from the other members of the group leading up to the performance, even in the face of conflict. Overall, Sketchy's show provided a great opportunity for students to de-stress, have fun, and get more than a few good laughs.

"We are all funny people, so there wasn't much fighting. When we did fight, it was really funny to watch because we would all call each other funny names... [Otherwise,] we were all supportive of each other, cheering for each other and giving high fives. So, it was really fun," said Wang.

A.CHINN/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Sketchy members perform the opening skit "Sketchy Baby," a parody of the classic Christmas song "Santa Baby."

From Performing to Dancing: Jaylen Daley '25 Brings Energy and Fun Through Their Dance Moves

CAMERON MANZO & ASHIQ KIBRIA

Jaylen Daley '25, an avid member of Fusion, Hypnotiq, and Big Blue Cheer, has been dancing for as long as they can remember. Gravitating towards hip-hop, Daley was influenced by iconic artists like Alicia Keys and Michael Jackson. Daley's involvement in the art form began much earlier — in the early 2010s — when Daley was merely a toddler.

"I was drawn to it as my mom put me in the dance program to try to make me less energized. I was still a baby when she put me in. Afterward, it became natural to me. I eventually developed more dance interest after watching YouTube videos. It became something I wanted to do and be interested in. Hip-hop is still my strongest dance genre...[but] my dance experience has changed as my teachers, culture, and the internet have evolved," said Daley.

Even though Daley has a passion for hip-hop, coming to Andover has allowed them to evolve and increase his versatility. They especially highlighted the experience of dancing ballet in "The Nutcracker Reimagined" ballet this winter.

"Andover is one of the more classical dance environments I have ever been in. Most of my basis has been in Dance as a Sports program. Which I have taken every term since I have been here. It has been very focused on modern and ballet. Even performing in the 'Nutcracker' was the third or fourth time I have performed ballet. Overall, Andover has changed my perspective on dance. If you told me I would be performing ['The] Nutcracker' in my school when I was ten, I would say that I was not interested in that," said Daley.

Daley attributed the biggest inspiration for his dance passion to his music taste. Whether it be rap or hip-hop, their dances always depend on the music that they are currently gravitating towards. In emphasizing the interplay between dance and his daily life, Daley highlighted how this art form has become an integral part of who they are.

L. MECHEGIA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Daley often gets inspiration for his dances from his favorite artists like Miley Cyrus and Beyonce.

"The real reason why Miley Cyrus and Beyonce were so fundamental is because my dances change based on my music taste. So, it explores different crevices of the internet sometimes... Wherever my music goes, I dance to it, and it is less a 'who' but a 'where'... [Dancing] is everywhere around me, and it is a major part of who I am," said Daley.

One of Daley's friends, Mayumi Kawano '25, spoke about his energy on stage. Highlighting the impact Daley has on those around them, Kawano found that Daley's contagious enthusiasm is a key aspect of his dancing.

"[Their dancing] is super expressive, very boisterous, and energetic. It makes me laugh and smile. The facial expressions Jaylen uses are so perfect they emanate how they are feeling in a moment... They exude confidence every single moment. You can't help but smile whenever they smile," said Kawano.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Audrey Powers '24 Powers Through Every Day With Bold and Confident Style

PENELOPE TONG AND ZADIE ROBINSON

Sporting low-waisted tan sweatpants and a brown zip-up crop top with long sleeves, Audrey Powers '24 pairs her "athleisure" outfit with New Balance sneakers. She completes the look by layering gold necklaces, including chains and pendants.

The common saying "look good, feel good" is not just a catchphrase for Powers — it is a guiding philosophy for her style. When Powers stands before her wardrobe, she sees an opportunity to project an authentic version of herself into the world.

"We manifest the life we want in the choices we make each day. That starts with how you present yourself, how you look in the mirror and see and think... Having that style helps boost your confidence, and it's going to boost your confidence in your physical appearance, your taste, and just every aspect of your life. That's why I think it's true. Look good, feel good," said Powers.

When time allows, Powers likes to devote effort and thought to be creative with her daily outfits. Variables such as weather, comfort, and mood frequently influence her clothing choices, and Powers often chooses to brighten an outfit with a pop of color from her wardrobe. Powers described one of her favorite outfits from the Fall Term.

"I had some white denim shorts. They were short, and a little, slightly tattered, paired with my favorite blouse... It is breezy and with half the buttons done up, but it just flows really well. The white top and the white shorts were great, but then I matched them with a deep red belt, a deep red leather belt with a silver buckle, and just some earrings with silver metal. And I just thought that was so fun... I love to wear red, and I love having that in that outfit as a statement piece," said Powers.

Powers' display of confidence is dynamic, reflecting the ever-changing nature of her life. On challenging days, she deliberately chooses clothing that exudes power and strength.

"When I want to project a certain emotion or manifest one for myself, like on days when I know I have a hard test or something, I want to wear something cute, kind of powerful. Just [so] I feel that extra confidence," said Powers.

In addition to basing clothing on emotions, Powers draws her inspiration from a variety of different sources and outlets. She also finds herself captivated by influencers and models online, as well as her peers' styles.

"I love Pinterest, as everyone else does. Also, there are some influencers I love. I like Bella Hadid's streetwear style. I know mine isn't exactly alike, but I'm trying to branch out a little bit more, and her style inspires me. I also really like Jo Brand, specifically on their Instagram and their website. The way they style their products, I think it meets very much my 'athleisure' style," said Powers.

While Powers hopes to work in either tech research or a corporate job in the future, she hopes to incorporate her aesthetic choices into her outfits wherever she goes. In addition, Powers aims to further develop her style while remaining loyal to her authenticity.

"I want to hold up my goals, to hold on to my own style as long as I can, [and] to stay true to me. I'm just excited to see where it goes, see how it evolves. I don't have a specific style, aesthetic, or influencer that I like to conform to. I like to just see where my style takes me," said Powers.

C.BARBIE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Powers gains inspiration from Pinterest and from models like Bella Hadid for her streetwear style.

C.BARBIE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Powers loves gold jewelry and layering necklaces.

C.BARBIE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Powers' go-to pair of white New Balance sneakers.

Identity Show "Truth Be Told" Allows Students to Open Up and Share Personal Stories Through Original Monologues

PENELOPE TONG & STELLA SEONG

Dim lighting cast over the room as several performers began talking to their loved ones on simulated phone calls. As the supporting actors slowly left, the drone of voices faded out. A single spotlight swept across the room to the one performer left onstage, starting a series of individual, introspective monologues.

The title of the event, "Truth Be Told" was the culmination of the Identity Show course, a class that allowed students to reflect on a range of topics surrounding their personal identities. Behind the scenes, students wrote original monologues and crafted acts that bared typically hidden aspects of their identity. Performer Mayumi Kawano '25 described the main purpose of the show, emphasizing its important message centered around authenticity.

"The title of the show is 'Truth Be Told' and it's basically to show that everyone... wears a certain mask, but no one fully portrays themselves as they truly are. It's not a bad thing, it's just what people do to protect themselves. This show was meant to take down those walls and allow the audience to see sides of students that they've never seen before," said Kawano.

One of the unique aspects of the Identity Show is that it is almost entirely student-led. While many other theater performances come with pre-written scripts and characters, "Truth Be Told" allowed students to write and share their own stories. Georgianna Harpole '25, an audience member and previous Identity Show performer, shared her thoughts on this year's show.

"I thought [it] was wonderful because the Identity Show is directed by students, performed by students, written by students; it's very student-focused, so the outcome of the show and what happens during the show are largely dependent on the cast and the wonderful director... When I performed it, a large part of it was allowing people to tell the quiet, darker, or the very happy peaceful moments of their lives that people may not be aware of. It was about learning to open up to people," said Harpole.

Students in the Identity Show perform for the student body multiple times a year, each time exploring an important aspect of their identity. With difficult and heavy subjects as common themes, one of the challenges for performers was gauging what level of vulnerability they were comfortable with.

"I think honestly the biggest challenge I thought there was going to be was being comfortable reading out my pieces and getting that deep to people I didn't really know, but it was honestly really organic and easy to overcome that because you become very close to the people you're in Identity with very quickly. We all understood that we all had different comfort levels and everything we shared was just as valid as what anyone else shared," said performer Lillianna Villanueva '25.

In addition to focusing on how they could best and most genuinely deliver their acts, performers also valued the audience's reactions to their pieces. Villanueva described her appreciation for the emotional responses audience members had.

"At the moment when I was saying my pieces, I could really see the emotion in people's eyes, so that [was] something I'm really happy about. Before the show, I told everyone that my goal was to make everyone in the audience cry. It was really great seeing that people actually cared and people were actually interested," said Villanueva.

For many, "Truth Be Told" created a valuable platform and environment for students to share vulnerable yet important stories, connecting with those who might or might not have had similar experiences. While attendance to the Identity Show for Juniors is mandatory, Harpole hopes that many other students will choose to voluntarily watch as well.

"The show encapsulated for me the sense of understanding that everybody on this campus has some amazing story to tell. I would encourage other community members to go and see the show because I think it's an important reminder that everyone deserves to be listened to, and everybody is interesting in their own way. The show is really heartwarming in [this] way: you can see someone you may not know or don't speak to at all, and come to understand them on a deeper personal level," said Harpole.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Arts in Brief

REPORTING BY CAMERON MANZO

The end of the year often marks several institutional awards and discussions for the 'best' of the year. 2023 is no exception. *The Phillipian* discussed and provided a brief overview of these current topics within music, art, and literature.

MUSIC: TAYLOR SWIFT NAMED TIME'S PERSON OF THE YEAR

Since 1927, "TIME Magazine" has selected individuals, groups of people, or even computers as "Person (or Machine) of the Year." "TIME" states the criteria as "the individual who most shaped the headlines over the previous 12 months, for better or for worse."

This year, "TIME" has chosen singer-songwriter Taylor Swift as "Person of the Year." She is the first ever pop star to be given the title. Apart from releasing albums, such as "Speak Now (Taylor's Version)" and "1989 (Taylor's Version)," her Eras Tour headlined the music industry. So far, she has performed in around 60 concerts and will continue internationally in 2024. In October, "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" began showing in theaters. The film has grossed over 1 billion dollars in the box office and resulted in the most ticket sales for AMC Theatres in a day.

Although she gained huge success, to the point where Harvard University created a course about her, some critics believe that she is "overrated" and that her story is not "especially compelling." Nevertheless, Swift managed to capture global attention with her music and publicity.

ART AUCTION: MOST EXPENSIVE WHISKY BOTTLE EVER SOLD

In 1986, the Macallan 1926 Whisky was stored in 40 bottles after being aged for 60 years. The bottles are incredibly rare, and some have since been consumed or destroyed. Sotheby's global head of spirits Jonny Fowle said, "The Macallan 1926 is the one whisky that every auctioneer wants to sell and every collector wants to own." Among these, the labels were designed by renowned artists such as Peter Blake and Valerio Adami.

On November 18, an Adami-labeled bottle was sold at an auction for nearly 2.7 million dollars, setting the record for the most expensive spirit bottle ever sold. Adami's pop art has characteristic distorted figures and dark outlines. The label had new glue applied to its corners before it was sold. A Macallan Whisky maker described the bottle as smelling like "rich dark fruits, black cherry compote alongside sticky dates, followed by intense sweet antique oak."

LEISURE: BALDUR'S GATE 3 WINS GAME OF THE YEAR

On December 7, the tenth Annual Game Awards was held at Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. The awards featured guest appearances from actors such as Timothée Chalamet and an orchestra performing unreleased music. The most anticipated announcement of the night was the Game of the Year (GOTY). The GOTY is voted by the public and determined by a select jury.

Against popular franchises such as Spiderman, Mario, and Zelda, indie developer Larian Studios' Baldur's "Gate 3" won the award. The game is a Dungeons and Dragons role-playing game praised for its ingenuity compared to bigger AAA developers. Emma Joy Reay, lecturer in game design at University of Southampton wrote, "The stunning, imaginative world reacts to the player's presence in vivid, surprising ways. The diverse non-player characters are magnetic, complex and brilliantly written." The game also won five other awards.

LITERATURE: 'RIZZ' COINED OXFORD'S WORD OF THE YEAR

The Oxford English Dictionary annually chooses an English word or phrase to name "most significant." Oxford compiles usage data of over 22 billion words and nominates some of the most prominent ones. Then, the public votes to narrow down the selection. The final word is chosen by Oxford lexicologists. Oxford described the rationale behind the decision process: "[A word is] chosen that is judged to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of that particular year and to have lasting potential as a word of cultural significance."

"Rizz" was selected as 2023's Word of the Year. The term originates as Generation Z slang, which was coined as an abbreviation of the word "charisma." However, its meaning has expanded from its predecessor. Oxford's official definition for the word is "style, charm, or attractiveness" or "the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner." Notably, the term beat other popular nominations such as "beige flag" (a noun; a character trait that indicates that a partner or potential partner is boring or lacks originality) and "parasocial" (adjective; designating a relationship characterized by the one-sided relationship between a fan and a celebrity, in which the fan feels like they know the celebrity as a friend).

Navigating the Highs and Lows of Nicki Minaj's "Pink Friday 2"

ANNABEL TU

G. PARK/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

With the release of her debut album "Pink Friday," Nicki Minaj broke into an industry that had been dominated by men for years and set the standard for solo female rappers to come. This high bar, however, makes the sequel album, "Pink Friday 2," seem somewhat lackluster in comparison. While Minaj impresses with her vocal versatility and rap skills, her experimental take on sampling is a hit or miss for each song.

An icon in the realm of rap, Minaj released her long-awaited fifth studio album "Pink Friday 2" on December 8. Through a mish mash of hip hop, pop, and R&B tunes, Minaj reflects on emotional and intimate parts of her life, such as motherhood and the death of her father. The album exhibits Minaj's typical rap prowess, and showcases her vocal skills as well. In addition, she continues to excel in her versatility and ability to take on characters and portray them musically. The album's 22-song tracklist includes features from several majorly successful artists such as J. Cole, Lil Wayne, Drake, and Lil Uzi Vert among others, and samples many instantly recognizable songs.

The album falls short in songs like "Cowgirl" and "FTCU," both of which repeat lines and short melodies to the point where they are on the verge of annoying. Track 11, "Everybody," also had potential to be a great song, but is hurt by the same problem. With parts of the melody taken from "Move Your Feet" by Junior Senior, it's an incredibly fun and catchy song, but the constant repetition of the hook from the sample becomes boring. The overuse of sampling is the clearest in the first track of the album, "Are You Gone Already," that relies far too heavily on Billie Eilish's "when the party's over." Minaj's rap does not blend well with Eilish's singing, so when her part comes on, it seems jarring. While I think it's a unique mix of genres that creates an interesting sound, the track feels more like two completely different songs that were poorly remixed together.

However, "Pink Friday Girls," which samples "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper, escapes this pitfall. The upbeat tune of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" also matches Minaj's rapping style and makes far more sense in her discography than the somber vocals of Billie Eilish. High points on the album include "Red Ruby Da Sleeze," a promotional single released earlier on March 3, as well as "Needle" and "RNB." Drake sings a particularly catchy chorus in "Needle." His part, along with well executed verses from Minaj, combine to create a very enjoyable song. "Blessings" is another favorite of mine that effortlessly blends the vocals of gospel singer Tasha Cobbs Leonard, who is featured on the song, with a slower and more singing-focused part from Minaj, as well as a solid beat in the background.

Minaj's new album offers a plethora of new tracks that experiment with backtracks and samples, many of which are worth at least one listen. Despite some of its strengths, "Pink Friday 2" is disappointing when compared to its original. A handful of weak songs bring down the overall quality of the album, and the few excellent ones are not enough to redeem it, earning an overall rating of 3/5 stars. stars.

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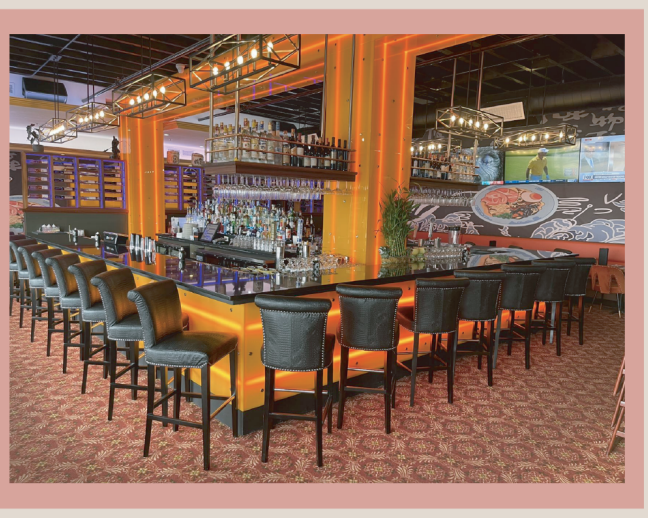

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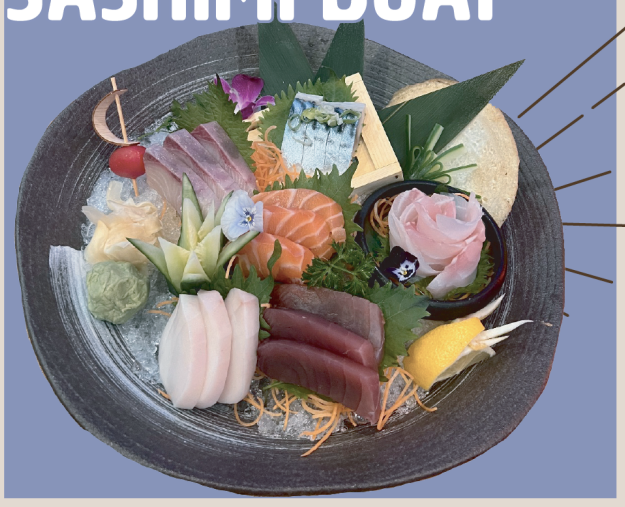

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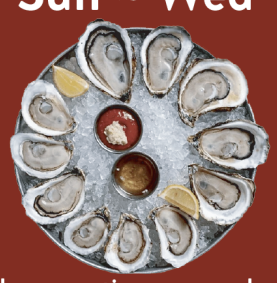

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