



'twas a time

Andover Alumnus Leo Ullman '57 Recounts Holocaust Story at ASM



A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Leo Ullman '57 inspired students with his experience in the Holocaust.

CADE RUTKOSKE & AYAAN HASHAM

Andover Alumnus Leo Ullman '57 recounted the harrowing tale of his experience hiding from the Nazis as they invaded the Netherlands at last Friday's All-School Meeting (ASM).

Ullman spent the majority of his time on stage describing his life throughout the Holocaust. He depicted his memories of the scenes in Amsterdam: ports bustling with people trying to escape, frequent Nazi raids, and the lack of food.

"We all had to wear Jewish stars, which had to be sewn on your clothes for anybody from six on. We had to hand in a form with everything that we owned of any value up to and including gold teeth. We were not allowed to have telephones. We were not allowed to use public transportation.

We were not allowed to have bicycles or cars or motorcycles. We could not use restaurants, we could not use public parks. Life became difficult, but we were alive," said Ullman.

Gracie Aziabor '26 recalled that her reaction to the story was somber. She said that hearing the story of a Holocaust survivor in person made her understand the history on a more emotional level than reading the stories in textbooks.

"I will say I did feel a lot of sadness, especially when he was talking about what his parents had to go through. I was also in shock. I feel like when you learn about the Holocaust in school, you learn about the gravity of the situation, you learn how serious it was, but coming from more of a first-

Continued on A5, Column 1

The Power of One: MLK Day-On Advocate Brian Gittens '89 Shares Legacy of Social Change

LILY LIU

35 years ago, on Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day January 16, 1989, Brian Gittens '89 braved the freezing cold to stand on the steps of Samuel Phillips Hall, equipped with posters and a speaker playing King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Gittens protested on the steps for ten hours, calling for a change from Andover's policy of holding classes on MLK Day.

The protest gathered support from students and faculty members throughout the day, pushing for Andover to honor the day and recognize its history. Gittens described his personal experience and Andover's foundational values as motivation that inspired the protest for recognition of MLK Day.

"Although Martin Luther King Day was recognized as a national holiday, it wasn't recognized as such at Andover... We would have [All-School Meetings], but it just seemed that, [for] a place that touted 'Youth From Every Quarter,' this commitment to diversity, it seemed to fall short in that regard. As a student of color, I felt unsupported, and one day, [in] the way that you protest non-violently [like] Dr. King and in the way I was taught... I decid-

ed that that's what I was going to do. I had some posters, and I can't say it was totally thought through, but I knew I had to do something," said Gittens.

Though Gittens started as the sole protester on the steps, his actions inspired other community members to join the cause, with over 200 people singing and reciting speeches by the end of the day. He emphasized the power that a singular person can have in starting a wave of action that can grow to create change.

"I didn't do it for them: I did it for me. But, I was fortunate that not only students, but even some faculty members, supported [the protest] and brought their classes there... It shows the power of conviction, and like I said, I didn't know what to expect out of [the protest], but hopefully it [invited] others to follow the moral compass and conviction because [even if] I just sat out there by myself and that had been it, I would have felt like I'd done the right thing and look at myself in the mirror and felt a sense of purpose and conviction as a result. In terms of worldview, it really does demonstrate that [protests] can work, [and] that you can im-

Continued on A5, Column 1



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Pictured above is Brian Gittens '89 in a 2015 ASM.

Thursday-Friday Classes Canceled Following Campus-Wide Sickness

STAFF REPORT

Approximately 40 percent of the student body has been diagnosed with influenza or flu-like illness as of January 24. Responding to unprecedented amounts of sickness on campus, all classes have been canceled and extracurricular activities have been modified for the next two days, according to an email sent by Head of School Dr. Raynard Kington. As of January 25, classes and sports are set to resume on Monday.

To minimize the spreading of influenza and Covid-19, both Thursday and Friday served as student sick days. All Varsity-level interscholastic competitions, as well as all Junior Varsity and LIFE sports practices, have been canceled, with the exception of Girls Varsity Hockey's game at Cushing. Paresky Commons hours have been altered to follow a weekend brunch and dinner schedule.

Due to the sudden influx of infections, the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center has reached maximum capacity, resulting in students being sent back to their dormitories or, for those who live within a four-hour radius, home. Dr. Amy Patel, Chief Medical Officer and Dean of Health and Wellness, described the measures taken to accommodate the increase of sick students on campus.

"Since Monday morning, the number of students presenting with illness has been very high. We expanded operations into areas of the building such as the classrooms, added cots to increase bed space, and adjusted triage and communication systems to ensure that all students could be cared for. The wait time to be seen did increase, as the number of students presenting to the Wellness Center for the last [three] days was much higher than normal, and the Sykes Wellness team appreciates how patient and supportive our students have been



A. TSAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Sykes has experienced an extreme influx of inhabitants in less than a week's time.

throughout the week and to each other," wrote Patel in an email to *The Phillipian*.


Following the class cancellations, teachers were permitted to assign the equivalent of a regular homework assignment due Thursday and Friday, but were not allowed to make up 75-minute classes with an equivalent amount of independent work. Aviva Halani, Instructor in Math, Statistics, and Computer Science, agreed with the decision to cancel classes, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing health. However, she noted the challenges of losing a 75-minute block of learning.

"It makes sense with half of the students having flu-like symptoms, even if they're not ill enough to be staying in Sykes, people are sick and I think we need to remember that we're human first, students second. On the other hand... in some of the courses, it's already tight in terms of the amount of class time that we have and the content that we need to cover... I am concerned for my [Math] 590 class, AP Calculus BC. It's a course that's already really, really full. It is hard to complete all of the content as it is and to lose the 75-minute block, it's a big deal," said Halani.

Keri Lambert, Instructor in History and Head Coach of Indoor Track and Field (PATF), commented on the importance of prioritizing the health of Andover and the wider community. The Track and Field meet was one of 13 sporting events cancelled on Wednesday.

"Although it's disappointing to have to limit learning and competing opportunities, this was the right decision. Over the course of the last 24 hours I heard from over two dozen PATF teammates that they are sick (and therefore couldn't compete), and I worry that number may still be on the rise. More than 300 students from four different schools were going to be at Wednesday's meet, so exposing all of those people (plus coaches, fans, officials, and others) to our campus germs just wouldn't have been fair, especially considering how much PATF emphasizes health/wellness and the importance of getting enough sleep, fueling and hydrating, and listening to and respecting your body," wrote Lambert in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Continued on A5, Column 4



Video: 37 Questions with Dr. Raynard Kington

Head of School Dr. Raynard Kington takes *The Phillipian* through Phelps House and answers 37 questions. Kington talks about his favorite dish to cook, shares the best advice he's ever received, offers insight into when Head of School Day is, and more.

Scan the QR code or visit our YouTube channel (*The Phillipian*) to watch the video.

Looking to 2050: New Learning Steering Committee Envisions the Future of Andover

BAILEY XU

Andover's student body was recently informed of the new Learning Steering Committee (LSC), a committee of faculty members dedicated to long-term planning for the next 30 years. On January 15, all students were asked to complete a survey for the LSC that included three questions: What is new and meaningful at Andover, what have we stopped doing, and what has endured?

Co-chaired by Dr. Merilee Mardon, Deputy Head of School and Instructor in History and Social Science, and Carmen Muñoz-Fernández, Instructor in Spanish, the LSC is composed of seven faculty members and three ex-officio members. Over the next two years, the LSC will aim to develop a vision and action plan for the future at Andover.

In the "Andover Magazine," Head of School Dr. Raynard Kington wrote a letter that emphasized the importance of this initiative in light of various societal and educational changes. He expressed how the LSC would partially focus on ensuring that stu-

dents are well-prepared to navigate the world.

"Over the past decade, we have seen dramatic shifts in the education landscape. Rapidly changing technology and globalization greatly influence how we teach and the way that knowledge is generated and consumed. Coming out of the pandemic, we also continue to grapple with mental health as a factor in students' social-emotional development and their ability to learn to their full potential. With these factors in mind, what are the skills students will need to make a difference in a world that is more complicated than ever?" wrote Dr. Kington.

Beginning in the 1880s, Andover has engaged in a long-term planning process every 20 to 30 years to reevaluate its current state and assess its future. Over the years, these initiatives have resulted in changes like the removal of Latin as a mandatory subject in the mid-1900s and, more recently, the establishment of a need-blind admission policy.

The LSC is one of three committees that currently constitute the Roadmap initiative, according to Dianne

Domenech-Burgos, Chief of Staff and Assistant Head of School for Strategic Planning. In addition to the LSC, there is an Operations Working Committee, composed mostly of administrators, and a Finance Committee, composed of both administrators and trustees. The Co-Chairs of each committee meet with Kington and Amy Falls '89, President of the Board of Trustees, on a monthly basis.

While the LSC is a faculty-based organization, Domenech-Burgos shared that it will be seeking contributions from everyone in the Andover community, including students. She emphasized the importance of input from all sources when imagining the future of the school.

"The Learning Steering Committee is going to be soliciting information from all faculty, all staff, administrators and students so we can make Andover the best it could be, not just now, but way into the future," said Domenech-Burgos.

Looking forward, Kington described plans to source input from the broader Andover community.

"We have begun to grapple with questions around

Commentary, A2

EnROADS

Andrew Morgan '24 endorses EnROADS, an MIT climate simulation fostering neutral collaboration between capitalists and activists amid current division.

Eighth Page, A8

Signing Out

To our readers, thank you. It has been an honor.

Sports, B1

Canceled Games

On Wednesday, all sporting events were canceled, due to the campus epidemic, except Girls Hockey's game against Cushing.

Arts, B6

"Bassment" Dance

Andover Edition hosted the "Bassment" dance this past weekend, featuring a blackout theme and DJ mixer, creating a unique party atmosphere.

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Last Words

Reflections from the departing members of The Phillipian, Vol. CXLVI.

“The newsroom has provided me with one of the best communities during my time at Andover, and I’m so thankful to everyone who has made my The Phillipian journey so memorable. I’m so excited to see how the paper will change in the next few years, but I know there is one thing that will never change — Arts is the best section, forever and always.” – A. Rhee

“In my Pumpkin Spice article from ages ago I sound really mean but I promise I’ve NEVER made fun of somebody for being basic. It was just convenient to say that I did. I’ve wanted to clarify that forever. Anyway <3 you Tina Julia Leilani Jonathan = Cmmtry!!!!” – A. Lee

“DRINK WATER!” – T. Zeng

“Who knew being obsessed with the difference between “your” and “you’re” and “it’s” and “its” would get me this far? I will always remember lounging around the fairy-light-strung newsroom at 10pm on a Wednesday, eating chocolate hummus and enjoying some relaxing lofi. Thank you, everyone. You were (almost) worth those two hours every Monday night.” – D. Swanson Blaker

“The Phillipian was an amazing experience, but if I were to give an incoming Andover student advice, it would be to relax and take your time at Andover to discover your interests and who you are. Your grades do not matter: be the best human you can be and help others when you can. You may not see the benefits of Andover immediately, but I promise you that Andover will allow you to become someone that you never fathomed prior to your matriculation here.” – N. Essaid

“The Eighth Page and The Phillipian have been cornerstones of my Andover experience. Few aspects of my time here have been as special, as rewarding or as constant. Like many, my Andover and Phillipian careers began almost simultaneously—I wrote my first Week’s Top Headline in September 2020. In the years since, it’s been exciting to learn from peers, to try new things and to push boundaries—I think it’s safe to say Nicky and I have been innovative. Thank you, CXLVI.” – E. Thornton

“i love jungkook” – A. Cai

“Very nice people!!” – B. Chica-Herrera

“There are times when life can feel overwhelming, and the deck is constantly stacked against you. It’s really hard to feel this way, this kind of overwhelming pressure to perform and persevere. But I think that The Phillipian has taught me the importance of surrounding yourself with people that want you to succeed, that believe in you even when you don’t believe in yourself. I have faith in my peers, in my writers, and the people around me, because I know that they support me when I need it, and I support them when they need it as well. It’s a kind of mutualism, rare and wholesome.” – L. Garrett

“Thank you The Phillipian for all the memories in the studio, on the field, or in Tang connecting with students through photography - this newspaper has united me with the student body in ways that no other space on campus could ever do. I will be forever grateful for everyone that makes this publication possible.” – C. Barbie

“Where else can you find an excuse to stroll into off-limit places. And, by the way, there is nothing ironic about admitting that every Monday evening, the Phillipian became the extent of my social life for that day. Photo-boy signing out.” – A. Chinn

“I started taking photos of my friends back during their lockdown practices freshman year. The

Phillipian was the reason I continued taking photos across campus, and it is why I enjoy photography as much as I do today. Thank you to Mac who told me to send in my first photos to the paper, and thank you to Carolyn, Andrew, and the rest of the photo team, Alex, Molly, and Albert, for going through these 4 amazing years with me.” – R. Nasserzadeh

“Even though I haven’t been part of The Phillipian for long, I have absolutely loved my time spent with the Photo section. Big thank you to my editors, fellow associates, and friends -- I have learned so much from you all!!” – M. MacKinnon

“Thank you to my past Editors for tolerating my articles, thank you to my writers for not blocking my number, and a special thank you to the hockey team for never responding to an interview request. SPORTS ON TOP!!!” – M. Kathika

“Many like to compare my career with The Phillipian to that of Derrick Rose. While yes, my success and commitment with the paper was inconsistent throughout my time on The Phillipian, I like to think that in my prime, there was nothing that could stop me. While ultimately, I ended my career getting a little carried by my teammates (thanks Nabilah), I still know that I belong in the record books.” – T. Marnoto

“Still have no idea how journalism works.” – K. Chen

“Thank you CXLVI for your talent, creativity, and energy. It was an honor to work with you all. Kevin, please get some sleep. Long live Video :)” – A. Zhou

“So long Stupubs and most importantly my favorite finance bros and girls that run my newspaper world. MO MONEY MO PROBLEMS!!!

- Notorious a.j.a.h.l.a” – A. Jefferson

“Long Live Business” – M. Ma

“to um: thank you guys, i could not have done it without you, you guys are everything to me. i love you guys forever and ever. to cxlvi: thank you for consistently showing up and slaying, the paper made great strides forwards and it was all thanks to you guys. to the phillipian: thank you for showing me what i can achieve and becoming something i love and cherish. you are forever ingrained in my soul and passions.” – V. Zhang

“Passion for prose, free Wednesday snacks, all my amazing peers, or Stockholm Syndrome - so many things add to my love for this paper. It was a great place to be for me and for many more in the future I trust” – J. Ji

“The Phillipian has become a part of my life more than I could’ve ever imagined. This paper grabbed me by the heart and surrounded me with the most loving, supportive, and talented people. To CXLV, CXLVI, and especially UM, thank you for showing me what the paper could be. To CXLVII, take this paper and run with it. Allow yourself to get carried away by the magic of the newsroom. It’s yours now.” – K. Wang

“In the newsroom, friends become family, projects become passions, and words become wisdom. Thank you CXLVI for shaping who I’ve become. This was an experience like none other, and through it all, I’ve met some of the most talented and selfless people. I’ll miss you all.” – P. Tran

“The Phillipian has been the most invaluable experience of my life. I have loved every moment spent in the newsroom. Here, I found mentors, motivated peers, and lifelong friends. Being part of this paper has defined my high school experience, and I will miss it dearly.” – S. Hassanein.

Taking Responsibility for the Food We Waste

MELODY OH



Back at home, my family would often go to a grocery store to restock our fridge. We would pick fruits, vegetables, snacks, meat, and some packaged side dishes and put them in our cart. When we returned, we would take out the expired groceries that were neglected in the corner of the fridge, and sometimes we would realize that we bought an item that we already had. I always pitied how we had to throw away the mushy berries and the rotten leftover foods in a to-go box, but similar situations always happened in a matter of a couple of weeks.

I’m sure I’m not the only one who experiences this dilemma — every time I walk on a street, I notice trash cans overflowing with plates of half-eaten food and half-filled cups. Even in Paresky Commons, I notice countless plates on the conveyor belt that still have food and trays of vegetables at the bar that are left untouched.

As shown by a report from the

US Department of Agriculture, 44 million people experience hunger and food insecurity in the United States of America. Ironically, according to the FDA, about 133 billion pounds and 161 billion dollars worth of food are wasted every year in the U.S. This is because more foods are supplied to economically comfortable areas, for there is more infrastructure available for selling, more customers who can buy the products, and a higher possibility that the foods will be sold for a higher price. To me, it seems weird and unfair how there is such an overflow of food when I always hear news about people dying from starvation. Redistribution of food is necessary in our current society. To do so, we should consider adopting South Korea’s waste system... with a twist. Nonetheless, the mindset change to enable action starts here, in our own Andover community.

One way to solve the problem may be enforcing people to use a special type of bag for throwing away food waste and charging extra fees for buying the trash bag. I experienced this system when I lived in South Korea, where we had to recycle trash based on its specific type, including food waste. It was cumbersome, and yet we had to be less wasteful to save our own money. The same system could be applied here as well. Although South Koreans use the fees collected to fund the cost of waste disposal, we may use it to fund the transportation for the redistribution of food since



we already pay the fees for waste disposal. It may sound unreasonable or unfair to say that we need to pay extra money for what we throw away and to distribute food to others. From an individualistic standpoint, it may seem true that we don’t need to take responsibility for how unfortunate and

COURTESY OF MELODY OH

hungry others are. However, if we view hunger issues as a societal problem, where society is pushing us to meet the rapid inflations and the continuously diverging wealth gap, it is obvious that we should treat this issue with consciousness and sincerity.

We don’t need to wait for the

higher authorities to start the whole movement. On a smaller scale, we can catalyze changes within Andover, perhaps conducting surveys to gather information about menus students want and trying to incorporate those menus into the daily meals. This way we can analyze what foods students are actually going to get, and reduce unnecessary food waste. With the funds saved from removing less desired menus, our school may be able to use it for good purposes, such as helping socioeconomically disadvantaged communities near Andover. Ultimately, food waste is a mindset where we simply throw things away if it no longer serves us value. We can not hope to reduce food waste on a larger scale if we do not learn the importance of doing so within our own lives, within our own small bubbles. We must desire to change, first, and only then can we implement some of the ideas that I have presented in this article.

We as a community must communicate and cooperate to bring forth change, whether it is using a special type of bag or surveying students for menus. The food we waste is a solvable crisis; it’s just that we need to endure a little inconvenience and take action to solve the problem.

Melody Oh is a Junior from Irvine, Calif. Contactv the author at yoh27@andover.edu.



CLAIRE WANG / THE PHILLIPIAN

The Truth Behind Stopping Procrastination

ZOË GILBERTSON



COURTESY OF ZOË GILBERTSON

Many of us are familiar with the universal experience of nervously approaching your mom on a Sunday evening after dinner because you need a poster board for your third-grade project. Of course, it happened to be due the following morning. For me, that request was accompanied by my mother scolding me on how I must be more responsible, and that waiting until the last minute “doesn’t cut it.” While my nine-year-old self knew I had two weeks to complete this project, I told myself I could do it in a single night, and I eventually did.

But it wasn’t easy. Due to the tears and exhaustion that came with that experience, I told myself that I would never wait until the last minute to complete a project again, and I relied on my mother to hold me accountable. As I grew older and gained more responsibility, finding the motivation to complete every task became harder and overwhelming.

In recent years, when the workload became more than just

a project here and there, juggling multiple classes created the opportunity for a greater sense of agency. Which subjects should I prioritize? What about extracurriculars and sports? How will I manage all of this? Whether it is writing an English essay, studying for a test, or something else entirely, it seems much easier and less mentally taxing to focus on something that you are comfortable with. This familiar habit is called procrastination. After attending Andover for five months, I’ve quickly come to the understanding that success here is dependent on efficiently managing every responsibility. However, the very overwhelming workload, club commitments, and sports contribute to anxiety and inevitably lead to procrastination. In order to defeat this beast of a habit, we must address the emotions tied to procrastination.

In my experience, anxiety also arises when I feel that I am not being productive. So when procrastinating, I fill that time with completing something that may not be relevant, such as organizing my room. I do this to ignore the stress that accumulates when I am hyper-aware of the task that must be completed. A large aspect of this thought process is the subconscious pressure to always succeed. Whether that pressure comes from yourself, your parents, or even the competition of peers, the idea of failure haunts us. We will do anything to put off the opportunity for uncertainty in our work, as the outcome may be less than what was hoped for. Despite knowing the harm of hyper-fixing



SOPHIE STAI / THE PHILLIPIAN

on irrelevant tasks instead of the necessary ones, we still go back to this custom. I mean, we have always been able to get the original task done...eventually.

While we all are well aware of its effect, it is crucial to understand why we procrastinate in order to defeat it. Dr. Tim Pynchyl, professor and member of the Procrastination Research Group at Carleton University, explains that we don’t procrastinate because of issues in managing our time or schedule, but because of the negative emotions tied to these tasks. Emotions you experience when doing something “in your comfort zone” are usually positive, hence why it seems much easier to start it right away. For example, if you enjoy drawing and you have a portfolio due, you will likely start it immediately because you are comfortable with the skills you are about to utilize. If you don’t see yourself as a strong writer, then the emotions associated with writing an essay will be negative. You might

be anxious, frustrated, and filled with self-doubt. I know I would want to push those emotions off as long as possible. So I procrastinate. A similar experience also applies to starting something for the first time, such as trying a new sport or joining a club. Due to the uncertainty of newness, we find it much easier to put them off and tell ourselves: “Maybe I’ll try this next term.” The fear of experiencing these insecure states is what drives us away from even taking the first steps.

To combat procrastination, it is crucial to change your mindset, as it is often a result of having a lack of faith in ourselves. Though at times it feels like you may only be good at one thing, or you are still struggling to find what you are good at, the reality is we have to start somewhere in order to begin feeling more confident in our capabilities. By changing our mindsets, our horizons expand majorly, allowing ourselves to go into the task with a positive attitude.

And yes, stopping procrastination is not easy. But we must face the truth that no one is responsible for ending this habit for us. We are responsible for making sure that we turn in our work on time or make it to our sports commitments. That doesn’t mean I can’t help you start, though. Here are a few things that have worked for me: breaking up the task into small, more manageable steps. Whether it is re-reading a chapter or merely opening up a new document, that first step becomes digestible. Suddenly, studying for a test or writing an essay is not so bad when it’s broken into chunks. This not only reduces the negative emotions that come with starting a difficult task but also relieves some of the stress of being “unproductive.” Blocking out a time in your day when you know you are the most productive can be helpful to ensure that you are not leaving anything until the last minute. For allotting specific work time in your schedule to be most effective, it is important to be in a space where you feel motivated to study. For some people, working alone is ideal, to limit distractions. Working with peers is also an incredible way to stay motivated. Sometimes, all it takes is someone to give you a little push and hold you accountable — and there are plenty of people around campus who would be happy to ensure that you don’t go looking for a poster board at 9:00 p.m. on a Sunday.

Zoe Gilbertson is a Junior from San Francisco, Calif. Contact the author at zgilbertson27@andover.edu.

Hobbies Are Becoming Commitments

ELLAH KOTLARSKY



A. LEE / THE PHILLIPIAN

For as long as I can remember, I’ve been hungry for stories, recited dutifully by my parents until I could finally read. After plenty of fairy tales (and a few chapter books!) I was confident I could write on my own, scribbling adventures in the corners of my schoolwork or regurgitating rehashes of the media I’d consumed onto the page. Reading and writing was always my “thing.” It was my main interest, and my go-to for ice-breakers: “Hi, I’m Ellah, I’m from California, and I like to read and write.” But since coming to Andover, it’s been harder and harder to maintain that part of my identity; how do I justify being a reader if the last book I read was a month ago? How can I explain to people that I like to write if I groan about typing up a paper?

For me, these musings are a common occurrence; here, schoolwork takes center stage, and while there are plenty of opportunities to explore our interests, sometimes clubs and sports can feel like their own form of work. When the sweet relief of free time finally



ANH VU / THE PHILLIPIAN

comes, instead of expanding my literary horizons or letting my imagination run wild, I often find myself scrolling mindlessly on my phone. When I plop into bed after a day of straining my brain, I can feel too exhausted for a stimulating hobby, opting for something mindless instead. Andover’s rigorous lifestyle makes it hard to maintain my hobbies, or, even worse, turns them into fluff for college application. The passions that once defined me are now evaporating slowly, turning into obligations themselves rather than sources of joy and self-care — and it’s up to us, day by day, club by club, to change our mindsets.

Fostering an environment where guiltless, passion-driven fun is encouraged is the whole goal of clubs. They are

a sort of accountability measure, a way to be sure you are pursuing your hobbies instead of procrastinating on your dreams in addition to providing a shared space for book lovers, or artists, or athletes. But clubs can start to feel like a laundry list of commitments if we refuse to take a step back and decide why we are doing them. It sounds obvious, but we must frame our hobbies as fun and exciting, and I fear that sometimes clubs can turn them into extra classes, or a personal attempt to prove to yourself — and others — that you are who you say you are. Yes, I’m a math person because I joined the math club. I am a scientist because I joined the biology club. I write for *The Phillipian*. I do book clubs. That makes me a writer... Right? Only af-

Fostering an environment where guiltless, passion-driven fun is encouraged is the whole goal of clubs.

ter I put down the phone and work to rekindle my passions, a process that I take one book or even article at a time, will I be ready to rejoin a community of others who share my love for words. In my opinion, the cure for passions that become items to check off some list, or hobbies that turn into identities we must starkly defend, lies inside each and every one of us; clubs are wonderful resources, but it’s up to us to use them properly.

At Andover, clubs are plentiful and varied in commitment; some never meet, while others gather weekly. Being a part of one club, or many, can define an Andover student; I remember touring Andover, jaw-dropped as tour guides introduced themselves by their names and clubs. I’ve been to club meetings, and they are what they decide to be, from formal debates to casual munches or discussions. Clubs can be a perfect example of guilt-free, pure fun — or they can be events that you drag your feet to, depending on how you perceive them.

Finding a place where you can practice your hobby in an uncompetitive manner just feels good; when I finally do sit down and write a story, or read a book, I am so much better for it. It’s easy to feel inadequate

while caught up in the webs of technology, or social media; it’s impossible to deny that scrolling is fun, but, for me, it’s a guilty, sticky sort of fun. Doing things that you truly enjoy, things that may not be “productive” or even school-related but are still stimulating and creative, is real fun: it’s stress-free pleasure. I think mindset is the key to reclaiming this joy.

Personally, I am going to take back my hobbies by reframing activities like reading or writing as activities that I “get to do” with my free time as opposed to assignments that I “have to do.” Instead of focusing on the identity of being a “reader” or a “writer,” I will begin to rediscover the actions of reading and writing themselves. Finally, I am going to pause clubs until I know I’m going for the right reasons.

Andover can feel like a crucible of commitments, clubs, and classes. It can feel like watching your classmates each stamped with a specific “brand,” and feeling like you’re lying to everyone else, to yourself, with every icebreaker. As a school, it is our job to transform our interests from checklists that prove we are who we say we are, into personal hobbies — for our own sake. That all starts with redefining our club culture.

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

The EnROADS Forward

ANDREW MORGAN



The United States hasn't been so divided since the Vietnam War. Name a subject—politics, education, science, healthcare, economics, foreign relations—and people will argue to the point of fury, insisting their view alone is legitimate. Past cultures have survived such polarizations...but ours is facing extinction because of climate change, and we have to find solutions, fast. But where? And how, if we can't even talk to one another without anger?

For many young people, the future feels bleak. But last year, while running my Massachusetts youth climate lobby, I encountered an MIT policy simulation model that provided a large flash of hope. My generation, so familiar with Instagram and TikTok, is skeptical that a tech product could "bring people together" in a truly constructive way...but a few weeks working with EnROADS (Energy Rapid Overview and Decision-Support) told a different story. Its effectiveness begins with an intuitive interface and breakneck speed: users can change a wide range of input factors and get new results within milliseconds. But more importantly, as MIT professor John Sterman, who spearheaded EnROAD's development as co-director of MIT's Sloan Sustainability Initiative, emphasized in an email, EnROADS is based "on the best available science and

evidence about climate change, the energy system, and the economy." It's scientific rigor is key since Dr. Sterman notes that "a great interface for a poor quality model is dangerous, [since] it could enable people to learn incorrect and harmful lessons more effectively than ever before." Fortunately, EnROADS remains a leader in climate-scenario "gaming out"; since its release in 2019, the program has been used at workshops attended by more than 330,000 people in an astounding 163 countries.

I came across EnROADS in 2023 while presenting a workshop at the Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition's summit dedicated to raising awareness about global warming and how it can be reduced. We used EnROADS (which was developed jointly with the D.C. non-profit Climate Interactive) because it allows participants to easily change and calculate the effects of 18 possible climate solutions—planting trees, a carbon tax, electric automobiles,

and so on. By moving graphical sliders in the EnROADS dashboard one invokes thousands of scientifically verified equations that spit out actionable results, allowing the user to determine which paths are viable, which excel, and which are essentially "performative."

Romance and politics have no place in EnROAD's universe; it allows companies to create a vision, and find a way forward, out of a very dark forest.

Dr. Sterman compares the program to a flight simulator. "You can't learn to fly a new jetliner by watching someone else; to learn, one must be at the controls," he has said in an MIT news release. "People don't change deeply em-

KARA HORNE / THE PHILLIPIAN



bedded beliefs and behaviors just because somebody tells them that what they're doing is harmful and there are better options. People have to learn for themselves." And with EnROADS they do, because the program is fun to "play" with, gives immediate results, and invites further refinement—Sterman encourages users to critique the program and suggest new variables as if it were an open-source program. Although EnROADS can be customized—through workshops and industry-specific parameters—to suit a company's specific needs, it's more "process" than "product"; EnROADS encourages users to look for answers more than efficiencies, to consider the social as well as the business bottom line.

And that's important, because as Dr. Sterman has said, "There's a fundamental alignment between a healthy environment, a healthy society, and a healthy economy... Unfortunately, a lot of businesses

Let's unite, learn, and forge actionable solutions together. Together, we can make a real impact on the future of our planet.

still see the issue as a trade-off—if we focus on the environment, it will hurt our bottom line; if we improve working conditions, it will raise our labor costs. That turns out not to be true in many, many cases. But how can we help people understand that fundamental alignment? That's where simulation models can play a big role... How do you take action? How do you break the idea that if you take action to be more sustainable it will hurt your business, when in fact it's almost always the other way around?"

The bank HSBC discovered as much when the company ran

an EnROADS simulation for senior managers to brainstorm implementation of its sustainability goals. Vice President Andrew Greenspan concluded that EnROADS led employees to feel "more hopeful, less overwhelmed" about climate change—just the sort of reaction that Dr. Sterman and his co-creators hoped for because hope often leads to action. Romance and politics have no place in EnROAD's universe; it allows companies to create a vision, and find a way forward, out of a very dark forest.

I saw that while working with EnROADS as a progressive, climate-change-oriented student. But I saw something more—a tool that embodies possibility, not apocalypse. I love the current emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and community through social responsibility...but it often seemed paired with anger, shaming, and resentment, as if business executives and investors were inhuman, amoral, always wrong. We shouldn't throw the baby out with the bathwater; instead, we should consider business people as potential allies in the battle against climate change. EnROADS is a neutral tool that capitalists and environmental activists can wield against a common enemy, and create actionable solutions for an intractable, life-threatening problem.

If you're ready to turn the tide against climate change and be part of a transformative journey, join me in my EnROADS game on February 11 at Kemper Auditorium. Let's unite, learn, and forge actionable solutions together. Together, we can make a real impact on the future of our planet. #ActOnClimate #EnROADstoChange

Andrew Morgan is a Senior from East Setauket, N.Y. Contact the author at amorgan@andover.edu.

The Republican Primary is Meaningless

SHLOAK SHAH



The 2024 Republican presidential primary and the candidates running in it have garnered much publicity and ridicule over the last couple of months. In the last couple of weeks, Donald Trump made headlines by winning 51 percent of the vote in the Iowa caucuses and then 55 percent in New Hampshire, decisively beating his closest challengers, Ron DeSantis (who has since dropped out of the race) and Nikki Haley. The race for the Republican nomination has proven to be anything but competitive — yet media and public opinion alike persist in entertaining the possibility of a strong primary challenge for Donald Trump. In reality, the former president has practically already won his party's nomination. The contest up to today has been rendered meaningless by Trump's strong support in the Republican base, the GOP's reliance on the former president, and the weaknesses of his primary challengers.

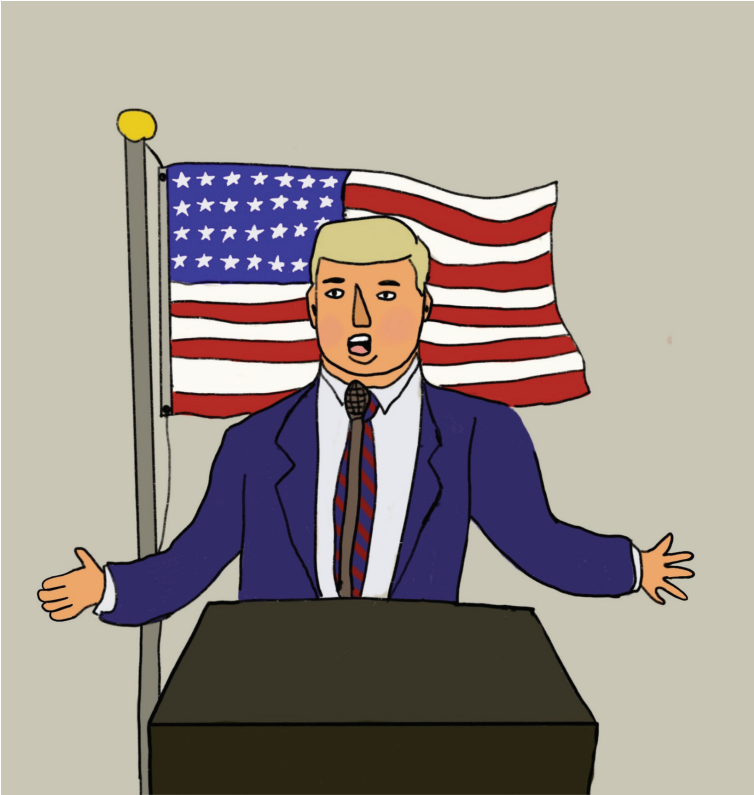
Donald Trump has consistently led the nationwide field of challengers since his campaign was announced in November 2022. Trump won a majority of the vote in Iowa and New Hampshire, and he is nationally polling at over two-thirds of Republican support. Florida Governor DeSantis and former South Carolina Governor Haley, who also served as the Trump Administration's ambassador to the United Nations, had much ex-

citement around them as potentially more palatable alternative candidates for moderate voters, but Trump's lead within the GOP has remained insurmountable. Despite this supposed appeal — and numerous endorsements — both fell short of even a quarter of the vote in Iowa, causing DeSantis to endorse Trump. Patrick McHenry, a Republican from North Carolina in the House of Representatives, described Trump's relationship with the average Republican voter as one of "complete connection." Trump "touched the nerve of [Representative McHenry's] conservative base like no person in [his] lifetime." The former president's outward disregard for the political establishment, his embrace of more radical conservative elements, and his unconventional demeanor have made him irreplaceably popular among the conservatives who voted him into office, at least 9 percent of them former Obama voters unlikely to have been swayed by other Republicans. Donald Trump may be unpopular among Democrats, Independents, and a small number of Republicans — but not unpopular enough to overshadow his devotion from most of the Republican base in their primary contest.

Additionally, Trump's support hardly ends with individual Republican voters. The Congressional GOP has shown strong support for and dependence on the former president, even in light of his attempts to overturn his 2020 electoral defeat on January 6 and beyond. All told, only ten House and seven Senate Republicans voted to impeach him after the January 6 insurrection, despite Republican leadership admitting there was "no question" regarding the former president's responsibility. Furthermore, 40 percent of pre-Trump Congressional Republicans have either left the GOP or been defeated, including all but two of the ten House Re-

The GOP's infatuation with Donald Trump and his brand of isolationist conservatism is strategically benefiting dangerous countries and harming Americans at home.

publicans who voted to impeach Trump in 2021. The Republican party's composition and policy have changed dramatically from what they represented before 2016, and it would be very difficult for GOP lawmakers to move beyond Donald Trump, especially because Republicans have come to rely on the former president for fundraising. The Republican National Committee has only 9.1 million dollars in cash on hand — roughly one-seventh of what they had going into the 2020 election year, and so little that they had to decline requests for funds in 2023's Virginia races (which they lost) — whereas Trump's individual cash on hand is likely to exceed the 38 million dollars he reported last quarter. For reference, President Biden's reelection campaign has 117 million dollars currently in its "war chest." With the demotion and retirement of Representative Kevin McCarthy, a top GOP fundraiser, this problem is only set to worsen. This sounds like good news for Democrats — and, in the short term, it is — but we are already seeing the nationwide consequences of a Republican Party dependent on and dominated by Donald Trump. The GOP-led House, to whom loyalty to Trump has become the most important credential, is on track to be the least productive since the Great Depression. The GOP's infatuation with Donald Trump and his brand of isolationist conservatism is strategically benefiting dangerous countries and harming Americans at



BELLA SHMUYLOVICH / THE PHILLIPIAN

home, whether it's by deliberately undermining the voting rights of racial minorities, restricting the rights of trans kids, dismantling reproductive rights despite the clear national and medical consensus, or doggedly ignoring America's real problems while raging for attention about "Hunter Biden" this or "book ban" that.

Lastly, Trump isn't exactly facing difficult opponents. DeSantis, who narrowly beat Haley for second place in Iowa, has fumbled the political momentum he had last year and endorsed Trump's campaign just last Sunday. Haley similarly recently had the opportunity to position herself as a more moderate alternative to Trump, but her campaign's indecisiveness, refusal to acknowledge racism's role in American history, and failure to identify slavery as the cause of the Civil War seem to reveal few functional differences between the two. Neither candidate has earnestly presented himself as a moderate and the GOP of today has little room for anything other than Trump-ism,

leaving the two to compete for voters who are already dedicated to Trump.

For some reason or other, this primary race is being framed as a competitive one — despite all the evidence to the contrary. One can debate endlessly about who and what is behind this idea (and who makes money from selling tense stories predicated upon it), but it's indisputable that this fiasco distracts from the GOP's looming problems. Republicans have underperformed polls, predictions, and trends in almost every election since the overturning of Roe v. Wade, and the party line is against American public opinion in their opposition to reproductive rights, the Affordable Care Act, and President Biden's climate change and infrastructure initiatives. The GOP has a lot of work to do if it wants to remain viable, and a meaningless, exaggerated primary contest isn't it.

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

Holocaust Survivor Leo Ullman Inspires Andover Students

Continued from A1, Column 2

hand perspective, it feels completely different. It feels like a much more individual story, which I think is why it strikes the listener or the audience more because you're connecting with a person on a much deeper level compared to just reading about how many people suffered," said Aziabor.

One student, Michael Williamson '25, recalled how he found inspiration in Ullman's story, highlighting the success Ullman found later in his life.

"I found a lot of beauty within his story. I thought that it was really cool that he was able to make it through such a dark time and then be able to come to the United States [of America] with his family and then be able to attend amaz-

ing schools and do extremely well in all pursuits in his life. I think that his determination to not only challenge his mind but also work on his body was very fascinating: 145-plus triathlons and three ironmans were extremely impressive," said Williamson.

Nate Bechard '24 noted how valuable it was to see Ullman's perspective on Holocaust education.

Having spent part of his childhood living in Germany, Bechard shared how he was taught about the Holocaust while in elementary school.

"While living in Germany, everything about the Holocaust was really serious. They would take fifth graders to the Auschwitz memorial to teach the kids from a young age about how bad it was. The German flag, you know when you walk around America you see American flags outside

everywhere, there was not a single German flag to be seen: they were very self-conscious about their national pride even to this day," said Bechard.

Aziabor also touched on how Ullman sharing his story was motivational. She commemorated him for deciding to speak about his past and to continue sharing his family's legacy.

"There's a lot of power in speaking about the experience you've had in your life. He lived through something that was very traumatic and painful. And I think that although it would be completely understandable if he didn't want to talk about it, I find it really admirable and inspiring that he came to talk and teach all of these students about what he experienced because I think it's like reclaiming the story for yourself, which I think is pretty cool," said Aziabor.

Learning Steering Committee Aims to Shape the Next 30 Years

academics, student life, and finances. This winter and spring, we will hold a series of open forums to hear from the campus community and will follow with outreach to alumni and families," wrote Kingston in the "Andover Magazine."

According to Domenech-Burgos, though the LSC has not yet established an action plan or concrete objectives, it has begun to develop a vision of Andover in 2050 by identifying current needs and limitations.

"We don't have any goals yet, but I'll tell you where we hope to go. We started with the faculty in June, and we asked them the same three questions that students [got] asked in advising on Tuesday.

That was the basis to get us thinking about, what is it that [Andover] could look like?" said Domenech-Burgos.

Domenech-Burgos continued, "Since then, we've identified, 'Why now? What's going on in this day and age that is pushing us to think about what could and should be different?' We identified issues that are pushing us to think about why, and now we're looking at how we can solve these issues. Some of that has to do with what we want Phillips Academy to look like and some of it has to do with 'What are the needs of our students and our employees? And how can we meet those needs?'"

Student and Faculty Share Similar Sentiments Regarding Decision to Cancel Classes

Continued from A1, Column 5

Mathew Liu '27, a student who has been in Sykes since Monday, recounted how the increase in cases caused students who were initially in Sykes to be relocated to accommodate newly infected students. Liu appreciated the decision to cancel classes, noting the difficulties sick students may be facing.

"[Sykes is] handling it pretty well, [having] Thursday and Friday off, that's pretty smart. I'm lucky that I don't have a lot of symptoms, but I hear... some

people are suffering pretty badly right now," said Liu.

In addition to the 40 percent of students who were diagnosed at Sykes, Eddie Lou '24 pointed to the possibility of under-reporting and agreed that the class cancellations were the best preventative measure.

"I'm sure that they've thought about it, and since it was a decision by the Head of School and the Assistant Head of School and the Medical Director that they thought through, I just trust their judgment. The fact that it's at least 40 percent of the student body,

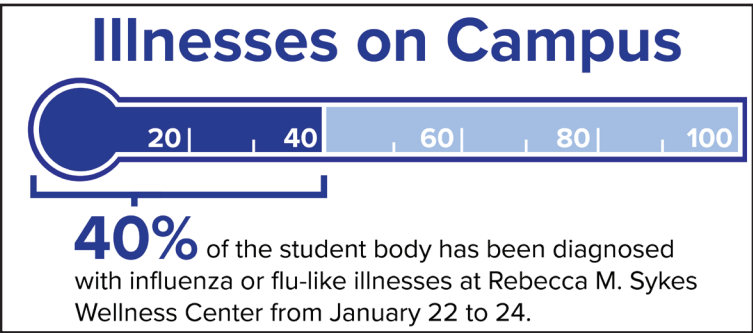
that's only the amount that checked in at Sykes, so there's got to be more, so with that many people sick I think it's best to just give everybody the time they need to either recover or just to get some rest anyways," said Lou.

Describing her reaction to the news when it was announced, Tara Wei '25 noted how the cancellation of school will prevent further spreading of Covid-19 and the flu, as well as be a well-needed period of relaxation for students.

"I was so excited and relieved because everyone on campus

was sick and I think that this is a great prevention measure. Especially with last weekend and the big gatherings, the flu

was spreading around. Half the people I know have it, and so I think this will keep the community safe," said Wei.



J. XIAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Braving the Storm: Snow Days at Andover

NIKI TAVAKOLI & GUETTY MOITA

Throughout the history of Andover, snow days have been a rarity. This has sparked quiet disagreement on campus about how to properly handle outside conditions, given that Andover is a school in New England with both boarding and day students.

There is not one particular

policy for calling a school day off due to snow. Instead, a cross-divisional team takes many factors into account when deciding whether or not to call a snow day. Mark Leonard, Director of Campus Safety, described the process for deciding whether a snow day would happen, detailing how sports and campus conditions play a factor.

"Whenever we see something like [a storm] in the forecast, we have a group of people

including myself, the Director of Facilities, the Human Resources Director, the Dean of Students [and Residential Life], the Dean of Studies, and others, and [we] talk about what impacts the storms [would] have on campus, and certainly how that would affect students and their ability to get around campus safely... If there are sports teams traveling, we'll discuss if we need to cancel those games... [and] one of the big factors that goes into [keeping campus open] is the Grounds Crew's ability to clear the campus and keep people safe," said Leonard.

However, throughout the years, there have rarely been snow days. John Bird, Instructor in English, noted that snow days are quite a surprise at Andover. He commented on how administrators are less inclined to cancel school for the day, especially with the existence of Head of School Day in Winter Term.

"When I started here, there was a real kind of deep-seated idea that we wouldn't have snow days, like the idea of a snow day was treated with a certain delusion. We're in New England, so this is what we have to put up with. I think the only real snow day I can remember was about 12 years ago... Unlike

public schools, we don't get back [snow] days. So if we close, or have a few snow days in a row, public schools can make that up in June, but we're never going to do that. So I feel there's a real reluctance on the school's part to have a snow day in that case," said Bird.

Although a snow day can interfere with classes and sports schedules, Iz Ruiz '25 spoke on how insisting on keeping the school open can put a particular burden on the day students who have to commute to campus. Ruiz explained that roads are often in poor condition during snow storms, which can place day students who don't want to miss class in dangerous situations.

"I was driving to school and it had just snowed and it was super icy. I was also rushing to school to get there on time for class, and I swerved in the road... My brother was like, 'Pull over, don't go this fast, I would rather be late than have something happen.' At times, it literally can be life-threatening... I think a snow day should count. I feel like the disparity between day students and boarders is something that makes me not want to take a snow day, I try to avoid it just because there's this disadvan-

tage between me not coming to school because of the conditions outside but these borders still get to," said Ruiz.

Introduced during the pandemic, Zoom has been proposed as an alternative to in-person classes during snow storms. However, Bird expressed that Zoom classes might place another burden on the students.

"If we get hit with a blizzard, the kids in dorms are going to have to shovel. They still have to get to [Paresky] Commons for food, everything becomes more complicated. [Zoom classes] feels like, 'Why give us all one more thing to do?' Just take the day off," said Bird.

However, despite the debate surrounding snow days, Michael Williamson '25 expressed his enjoyment of playing in the snow.

"I live in sunny Santa Monica, California. Being from southern California, we do not get many of the elements whatsoever... I'm fascinated by the snow because it's something that I haven't really seen often. Building a snowman is something that's pretty high up for me, as well as just walking. It's a winterous splendor I don't get to see very often, so I'm just cherishing that," said Williamson.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Andover is no stranger to heavy snow falls, as shown by the archived picture above.

TEDxPhillipsAcademyAndover Returns: A Glimpse into Past Events and Upcoming Talk

PRISHA SHIVANI & PHILIP JEONG

Established 11 years ago, the TEDxPhillipsAcademy-Andover series has offered the opportunity for Andover community members to speak publicly about topics of their choice. Over the years that it has been run, the series has welcomed former Head of School John Palfrey, former Reverend Anne Gardner, as well as over 40 student speakers, with some speeches reaching tens to hundreds of thousands views on the TEDx Talks Youtube Channel.

Despite a pause during Covid-19, the TEDx event will return on April 27. The upcoming program is a result of the collaborative effort involving the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL), the OWHL Student Advisory Board, and dedicated faculty and staff, including Derek Curtis, Programming and Digital Content Producer and OWHL librarian, and Eric Denby, Instructor in History.

An acronym for "Technology, Entertainment, and Design," TEDx distinguishes itself from TED talks, the "x" symbolizing its independence. According to TEDx, these events were initiated "in the spirit of TED's overall mission to research and

discover 'ideas worth spreading.'" Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL and a co-organizer of the TEDx events, shared insights into the strict guidelines involved in TEDx Talks.

"Basically, the difference between a TED talk and a TEDx talk, which is what we're doing, is organized by the community. We pick a theme, we pick the participants, we have to follow TEDx rules, and I think that's what's going to trick people up. There are these lines, and TEDx has a bunch of rules, so I've sat in quite a bit of webinars where I'm tested to make sure I'm following the rules. But it really is up to us to do it and follow their guidelines. They are very strict, the lettering has to be a certain way, there has to be a red carpet, [and] three cameras facing certain directions, it's very intricate and interesting. Even though a TEDx is community organized, they have to follow all these guidelines," said Torres Hoven.

In the 2021 TEDx event at Andover, Elizabeth Zhang '22 delivered a talk entitled "Are you good enough for America," highlighting the parallels between modern-day immigration and the Chinese Exclusion Act. Zhang elaborated on what inspired her to give the talk.

"In the past the papers that

I've spent a lot of time writing for humanity classes didn't really go anywhere except for the teacher. After the teacher handed back the paper it would sort of sit in my Google Drive. Nothing happened to those ideas. In History 300, after I spent an ungodly amount of time writing and researching, I really wanted to be able to do something with this work. My task for that was transforming that into a TED talk," said Zhang.

The theme of the upcoming TEDx talk, "The New Normal: Youth Voices in a Fractured Age," aims to spotlight the perspectives of the younger generation, serving to connect the younger generation's experiences to today's dynamic society. Curtis, also a co-organizer of the TEDx events, detailed the societal nuances that underlie the chosen theme.

"We realized fairly early on that what we wanted to do was to find a theme that emphasized where young people are today, where teenagers are today, in what feels like a quickly changing world. It's not our mother's world. It's not our father's world. It's not anybody's world. Linger things, but still a very new space, and if you think about any particular kind of field out there, any aspect of life, it all feels like things are kind of becoming like we're in

a very new moment... We're a new generation, and this theme would allow a lot of different students to come together with their own ideas around that," said Curtis.

Towards the end of this term, applications will be sent out to students interested in becoming speakers for the event. Curtis encouraged students to apply to give a speech and community members to attend, emphasizing the talks as an opportunity to illuminate pertinent topics in society.

"I want young people to have this opportunity to present

their ideas, and I want people to show up and see how vital, how much is going on here, that students are doing really good work and they have ideas about a whole range of issues that we should be listening to. I genuinely believe that... You're going to hear some teens talking about things that really matter to them, that are important, and it's about supporting them, learning from them, engaging. It's another kind of way in which people can start a conversation about issues," said Curtis.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Pictured above is the group of students who participated in the TedX series in 2018

Reflections of Purpose: A Journey from Protest to Leadership in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Continued from A1, Column 2

pact change if you stand your ground,” said Gittens.

In the years following Gittens’ protest, MLK Day at Andover has come to be celebrated as a “day on,” featuring educational programming including speakers and community-led workshops. Despite its success, Gittens noted that the initial reaction to his protest was mixed and highlighted AFlatAm as a place of encouragement and

support.

“If you go back to old articles, you had editorials denouncing the day, and family members, some supportive, some not, but I think it was successful because it created this conversation... I remember AFlatAm throughout my time there. That was a tremendous support system for us to have students who look like you and understood you, [who] came from some of the same places that you did because I believe that representation matters,” said Gittens.

After Gittens graduated from Andover and received his Bach-

elor’s in Communication Studies, Master’s in Public Administration Policy, and Doctorate in Higher Education Administration, he found a career in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), working with higher education and academic medicine institutions in strategic diversity and inclusion.

“I often say I didn’t pursue [DEI work] as a career. It sort of found me, starting at Andover, with the protests and just wanting to have a level of equity with regard to how people are treated, and then pushing organizations to do the same,” said

Gittens.

Being at Andover and having seen the world beyond, Gittens encouraged students to recognize the privilege and opportunity Andover affords for learning, growing, and forming connections. He urged students to take advantage of Andover as a chance to develop skills to create change.

“One of the things that was told to me, and you don’t have an appreciation for it until you get out to the real world, is that Andover is a wonderful training ground for the future leaders, and we have a tremendous

amount of privilege as a result. For me in particular, while socioeconomically not privileged at all, just being in that space and place and the network and connections, there’s an amount of privilege. I think that with that privilege, it becomes a tremendous responsibility to lead, to give back, and to make changes because you’re in a unique position to do so. [Andover is] a great training ground for education, great training ground for public mobility, and networks, [so] use those tools for social good,” said Gittens.

10 Questions with Jenna Corsi

REPORTING BY SAKETH LINGISETTY & CHRISTIAN ESTRADA

Jenna Corsi works in the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center as the new nutritionist and registered dietitian. Corsi owns an online private practice, Jenna Corsi Nutrition, and also hosts a podcast called Grace Over Guilt, a personal mantra which relates to her Christianity. She enjoys hiking, traveling, surfing, and supporting her clients in their dieting and food intake.



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

What does nutrition mean to you?

When I think of nutrition, I don’t think of just food. I think of how we nourish ourselves... Obviously, we want to make sure it’s balanced, but it also is how else [we are] nourishing ourselves, like through social media or through who we’re surrounding ourselves with or the self-care activities that we’re doing. Again, yes, the center is food, but we can do that in different ways that support... [both] our mental well-being and physical well-being.

What do you most enjoy about being a nutritionist?

I think the main thing is that I get to help people and communicate with individuals and meet them where they are...and then help them see the steps forward and guide them forward rather than just me telling them what to do. I like to get to know different personalities and people and how I can communicate better. I like to support people, help people. I love that [nutrition] can be so fun... It doesn’t have to be this stagnant, boring thing. It can be really fun whether it’s cooking a meal or it could be talking about it in a relaxed, fun way.

What were the challenges you had as a dietitian?

For the past four years, I worked at an eating disorder clinic in Hawaii called “Ai Pono,” and I was their intensive outpatient dietitian. Throughout these years, I’ve learned so much about eating disorders both from my coworkers, different psychologists, and therapists, and learning how to counsel those with eating disorders and how to support them best. I just think that there needs to be more awareness around eating disorders, the severity of them, how dangerous they can be, and how disordered eating can lead to eating disorders. That’s why I say it is very serious. My goal as a dietitian is to prevent disordered eating and to do my best to support those who have challenges with their nutrition or with the thoughts in their head around food or their body and to support them with that.

Who or what inspired you to become a nutritionist?

I took a gap year between high school and college, and I volunteered in Costa Rica. During that time, I volunteered at a school and lived with a host family... When I went back to school, I thought I wanted to study social work. I thought I wanted to support people in that way.

But then I realized I grew up around food in a big Italian family, so [my life has always] been centered around that. I realized I could help people and have it be focused on nutrition or food. That combination was perfect for me because I could do the two things that I’m passionate about: helping people, and food.

What advice would you give Andover students for keeping a balanced diet?

I think a balanced plate is obviously important. But what’s sometimes more important than that is how you think about food and how you feel about food and if you’re stressed about eating food or certain foods. Making sure your mental health around food is a positive one and [also] the foods that you’re eating, making sure it’s balanced.

You have a carb[ohydrate] and a fat and a protein and some veggies and some color... Also having fun with food and eating cookies when you go out with your friends or whatever. Just keeping things balanced in that way.

What’s your favorite Paresky Commons food?

It’s the fries sometimes. The stir fry is good, but the tofu kimchi noodle bowl is probably my favorite thing so far. I [also] like it when they have homemade banana bread or muffins and things like that. Those are really yummy. I love kimchi. I learned to love kimchi when I was living in Hawaii. But I just love [it], especially in the winter, [it’s] so comforting and just really delicious.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love to travel. My boyfriend knows that I’m just like, “Where’s the next trip we could go to?” I also like to spend time with my family and friends, and I like to get outside whether that’s hiking or when I was in Hawaii surfing. I love to surf. I want to learn how to surf... Hawaii is the best place to surf or to learn how to surf. And [I enjoy] just kind of anything outdoors. I love being in nature... [Additionally, I also enjoy] hanging out with friends and family.

How has the transition to the New England area from Hawaii been for you?

It’s been okay. I grew up here, so... I’m used to this weather. I’m used to the cold, but when you live in

Hawaii and you don’t experience winters [and you] get used to that, it’s like, “Oh my goodness...” And sometimes I enjoy [the cold], but sometimes I totally love and miss Hawaii. I’m excited to go back. I’m going back during the March break, which will be nice and fun... If someone were to live in Hawaii their whole life and then come here, that would be a huge shock... But for me, it’s been really enjoyable just because my family is all here.

Could you tell us a bit more about the business you owned as a private dietician?

I started Jenna Corsi Nutrition LLC in 2020, and it’s been an online private practice so I can see and meet with people all over, which has been awesome during Covid[-19] especially. I’ve continued it [and] I’ve seen clients one-on-one in a group setting. I had a separate group coaching program called Grace Over Guilt. Then that’s where I was like, let’s name the podcast Grace Over Guilt. I [also] created a course called Reclaim Your Health [that is] focusing on improving your relationship with food and your body and improving your health through nutrition but not in a stressful way. I’ve continued to do that, and I still have clients in my private practice that I see at night after I work. I’m having that be a little side thing that I’m doing, which is great because again, I love supporting people. That’s why I became a dietitian to support their nutrition.

What are your main takeaways from hosting your podcast Grace Over Guilt?

I started that right in 2021 [because] I saw a lot of people who were feeling guilty around food, they felt bad in their bodies. They just weren’t feeling positive around food and with their body, so I talk to my clients and now students a lot about giving yourself grace and understanding that it’s not gonna be perfect. It doesn’t need to be perfect. [I talk about] giving yourself grace over guilt and focusing on forgiveness and focusing on understanding and being compassionate towards yourself and giving yourself that self-care and self-love that we all deserve... I have a lot of people who say “I love listening to it” and [ask] “When’s the next episode coming out?” I put a little break on it as I started this new job, but I plan to get back into it soon because it’s just great. It’s such a great way to get a good out there and to connect with people and to get this positive message about food and their bodies out there.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY ANNA TSVETKOV & LUCAS BENARDETE

War/Conflict: Israel-Hamas War Death Toll Surpasses 30,000 — Relatives of Gaza Hostages Storm Israeli Parliament Session

As the Israel-Hamas War rages on, families and relatives of the over 250 people kidnapped and held hostage after Hamas attacks since October 7 stormed a committee of the Knesset, the Israeli governing body. According to Reuters, protestors demanded the Israeli government to reach an agreement for the release of hostages held by Hamas, chanting slogans such as “You will not sit here while they die there.” and “Release them now, now, now!” United Nations Secretary Antonio Guterres “repeated his call for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages,” according to a press release from the United Nations’ Political and Peacebuilding Affairs office.

Health: Surge in Covid-19 Cases this Winter Should Not Concern Majority Population

Rumors circulated that the United States of America is experiencing its second largest Covid-19 surge with the novel JN. 1 Covid-19 variant since the Omicron spike in Winter 2021 to 2022. However, almost four years after the pandemic began, the decrease of Covid-19 surveillance and testing is making it difficult for scientists to definitively determine Covid-19 rates. According to an article from the Washington Post, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) nationwide examination of wastewater shows Covid-19 levels exceeding last winter’s, but with far fewer of the infected seriously ill. Yet according to John Brownstein, who directs the Computational Epidemiology Lab at Boston

Children’s Hospital, experts are weary of declaring the second-largest surge. “We just need to be careful about extrapolating these results to numbers that could create fear and anxiety,” he says. Despite the virus’ increased rates, Dr. Ashish Jha, Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health and the Biden Administration’s former Covid-19 response coordinator, says in a Times article that “the straight facts are: [Covid-19] is not gone, it’s not irrelevant, but it’s not the risk it was four years ago, or even two years ago ...It’s totally reasonable for people to go back to living their lives.” As we enter 2024, experts anticipate further relaxation of Covid-19 guidance.

Politics: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Drops Out of Presidential Race As Questions About Trump’s Mental State Loom

On January 20, Florida Governor and Candidate for the 2024 Republican Presidential Nomination Ronald DeSantis dropped out of the race for the Republican nomination following a 30-point defeat in the Iowa Republican Caucus. According to the Associated Press, when dropping out, DeSantis threw his support and endorsement behind former President Donald Trump — who previously referred to the Governor as “Ron Desanctamounious” along with other names. As the contenders for the Republican Presidential Nomination narrow to just two candidates, Nikki Haley, the former Governor of South Carolina, and Trump’s opposition in the race, has raised concerns regarding Trump’s mental state after he, 77, repeatedly mistook Haley for Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi during a rally in New Hampshire on January 19. The Associated Press reported Haley’s comments on the confusion, where she said

that “[t]hey’re saying [Trump] got confused, that he was talking about something else, he’s talking about Nancy Pelosi.” Throughout her campaign, Haley has also advocated for “mental competency tests” for older politicians such as Presidents Trump and Joe Biden, who share an average age of 77.

Climate: The European Union Ban on Advertisement of Misleading Environmental Terms

On January 17, the European Parliament (MEPs) voted to pass a directive that would ban the usage of misleading environmental terms. According to The Guardian, the directive aims to increase informed purchases and enhance trustworthy labels by banning phrases like “environmentally friendly,” “natural,” or “eco” without proof. Moving forward, the MEP also declares that only sustainability labels based on official certification schemes or established by public authorities will be allowed in the European Union. Many are eager to examine the impact this will have on marketing and the daily lives of Europeans. In a statement from the European Parliament, Parliament’s rapporteur Biljana Borzan says “People will be able to choose products that are... sustainable thanks to reliable labels and advertisements. Most importantly, companies can no longer... say that something is sustainable without explaining how. This is a big win for all of us.” Currently, the directive is awaiting final approval from the council, after which it will be published in the Official Journal, supplying member states with 24 months to render it national law.

Looking Ahead: Black History Month and Black Arts Weekend

JONATHAN OH & JENNA LIANG

Following the recent Martin Luther King Jr. Day and with the upcoming Black History Month in February, the Office of Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD) and different Black student associations have been busy preparing events to celebrate Black history and culture. In particular, newly established club African Student Association (ASA) looks towards incorporating awareness for specifically African culture and identity in both their meetings throughout the year and in the events being held during Black History Month.

Describing the ways in which CaMD supports and provides safe spaces for Black students through various clubs and affinities, Aquita Winslow, Dean of CaMD, spoke on how the group assists these groups with their events as Black History Month nears. Winslow also mentioned CaMD’s contribution to the upcoming Black Arts Weekend, detailing the mutual relationship between the Black Student organizations and CaMD.

“There are several clubs supporting Black and African American students and African students and Caribbean students [like] AfLatAm, one of our major clubs that’s been at the school for over 50 years, the Black Student Union [BSU], the Caribbean Club, there are several clubs that are specific just to African students. They hold regular meetings and as a part of those meetings, they plan different types of events. What’s going to happen during Black History Month is the groups supporting Black students are meeting and making the [event] agenda... They’ve already decided they are going to do a dance, that’s in

the books, but they’re still in the process of planning and organizing [the other events]... What CaMD is doing is we have author Chris Cooper coming to speak, and that’s CaMD’s contribution to the Black Arts weekend,” said Winslow.

Correspondingly, Tisha Nhaule ’25, Co-President of ASA, detailed the plans that ASA and other clubs and affinities that support Black students have for the upcoming Black Arts Weekend during Black History Month.

“Black History Month means a lot to us as a club which is why we’re participating and organizing the programming, but as a new club, we have to shout out BSU and AfLatAm who were really the brains of this operation and have been for the past years. It would not have happened without BSU and AfLatAm especially because the student leaders have really made such a big effort to create this space and maintain this space on campus. We’re going to do Afro-wave which is a little dance workshop, and thinking about how Afro-wave is going to play into the events that the BSU and AfLatAm are planning, it truly feels like our identity as a club very much stems from AfLatAm and BSU. If there wasn’t that setup before, it would’ve been way harder for us to hit the ground,” said Nhaule.

Wambui Nyiha ’25, Co-President of the ASA, stressed the core values of the club. She also described how she hopes that the ASA creates a space on campus where Africans can come together and further explore their identity and culture with other students that share similar experiences.

“The main goal of [ASA] is to help other Africans on campus to build a space where they can go to find people that look like them or share a similar cultural identity to



Students in ASA meet in CaMD and share their experiences with one another.

COURTESY OF WAMBUI NYIHA

them. We just share things about our identity, and despite Africa being one continent, there are so many different aspects about each country and it’s just so interesting to see everyone coming from different parts and just sharing a little bit about their cultures and finding common similarities and differences within each other,” said Nyiha.

According to Nana Efua Damptey ’27, her experience as a Black student at Andover has differed greatly from her experiences at her previous school, appreciating the diversity of the community. Damptey continued by noting how CaMD affinities and clubs have eased the process of finding a community of students with similar experiences.

“Coming from a school with mostly white students, I was one

of four Black kids in my entire grade. I was honestly surprised by how much diversity there was, in a good way... it was way better than I anticipated. All the clubs [and] initiatives were really welcoming and made me like this school even more... Being able to be part of clubs and going to CaMD are all [experiences] I really appreciate about this school. Having a community makes being at this school way easier,” said Damptey.

Ozochi Onunaku ’25 similarly spoke on how the school has supported Black students in providing spaces to explore Black identity and Black history on campus. Onunaku also described his excitement for the ASA, hoping that the club will further encourage community building and education on African students and identity.

“As a Black student at Phillips Academy, I feel like this school has been really supportive and provided a space for a lot of programming that is historical and educational about Black Americans in general, such as the diversity of Black Americans, the struggles that Black Americans have faced historically, and the successes of Black Americans across all generations... I hope to see the ASA give us an African perspective on Black history because I feel like... now that we have a student group such as the ASA that has a uniquely African side to it... it would be interesting to see [the different] African successes, African hardships, and all that sort,” said Onunaku.

Books, PJs, and Warm Cookies: OWHL Hosts First PJ Reading Party

JULIAN TAY & EMMA GREENHUT

Students brought along their books and pajamas for a night of reading and discussion as a part of the inaugural PJ Reading Party, hosted by the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL). The event, taking place on January 21, was planned by the OWHL Student Advisory Board, alongside Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL. Aiming to foster community engagement and peer discussions, the event featured free reading and warm cookies in the Freeman Room from 8:00 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.

Speaking on the organization of the event, Ayush Gupta ’26, member of the OWHL Student Advisory Board, discussed how the OWHL was able to create a book-loving community on campus, and how events such as the PJ Reading Night can foster reading and connection with other readers. Gupta continued by describing how the event promoted a different kind of reading through conversations about books students chose, listening to audiobooks, and enjoying the food provided.

“[The OWHL Student Advisory Board] hosts a number of events throughout the entire year. This is one of them, and we try to interact with the community and share a love for books... I really think that the celebration of books is real-

ly important to give back to the OWHL staff and their love for the library as well... It’s really great to have people in one place and people supporting each other. We’re chit-chatting, we’re having discussions about books, and we’re just building a great environment. That is what it’s all about... In the classroom, we are forced to read a certain thing, but here we build a love for reading as you can read anything you want to read and no one is stopping you,” said Gupta.

Similarly, Torres Hoven expressed her appreciation for the OWHL Student Advisory Board and their efforts in planning interactive events that engage the student community in the OWHL, which she oversees. Torres Hoven also noted how reading does not have to be a huge time commitment and encouraged students to find the time to read in small, fun amounts, which she hoped to achieve through the event.

“I love the board, they bring so much energy and so much joy, and they have so many great ideas that I wouldn’t have thought of... I think encouraging reading doesn’t mean finishing a book cover to cover, and it doesn’t mean that you have to stop everything, you can just hang out with friends and read a little bit and talk about it. It doesn’t have to be something that sucks all of your time, because it can also be a social fun thing too. I think that [the PJ Reading Party is] encouraging reading and thinking about reading it differently too,” said Torres Hoven.

Additionally, Chloe Song ’26, member of the OWHL Student Advisory Board, expressed how the PJ party served as a way for students to recognize the resources at the OWHL, such as its extensive book collection.

“We all know that the OWHL is a place of socializing, everyone comes here to hang out with friends, but I feel that there are a lot of underutilized and untapped resources at the library that I feel students are not aware [of]... [One such resource is] the books and I think that at this pajama party, we are offering a relaxed atmosphere for students to enjoy the many books that the OWHL has to offer. So we were thinking that, if we have a pajama party... and people are hanging out and enjoying books, we could reignite a love for reading in a genuine and pure way,” said Song.

Likewise, Henry Zimmerman ’27, shared how he hoped that the PJ Reading Party offered students an opportunity to find joy even in the winter months. Zimmerman also spoke on how the OWHL Student Advisory Board was looking to not only help students rediscover some of the OWHL’s resources but to also help students find joy in reading.

“The job of the OWHL [Student] Advisory Board is to integrate the OWHL with students’ lives in a helpful way so that the OWHL’s resources can be used by the student body... We know how tough the winter is and we were hoping to bring back some of the

childhood joy that comes from wearing pajamas and reading in a comfortable space,” said Zimmerman.

Eventgoer Maddie Soong ’27, spoke about how they enjoyed the PJ party due to the casual nature of the event. Soong was also thrilled to have a reason to read books because they normally don’t have enough time, as a consequence of the busy nature of Andover.

“[The PJ Reading Party] was really good because I feel that we don’t really get to set a lot of time aside for reading because it feels non-essential, so we just push it to the side in favor of other things, but having a specific set time to sit down and read is really great... [The PJ Reading Party was] very chill and I’m glad to have time to read my books,” said Soong.



Olivia Isacson ’26 sits in a windowsill, enjoying the refreshments and a book.

A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

THE EIGHTH PAGE

Eighth Page Editors to Headline ASM: Read Bios Below

Dear campus community,

I am incredibly excited and thrilled to announce the All-School Meeting speech of Ned Thornton '24. Ned had an incredible impact on the community during his time spent as an Andover student. During his time here, Ned has been deemed the "class enigma." Honestly, it is an incredible accomplishment, considering the competition he faced for the award. Ned's time spent at Andover consisted of many nights spent at the Addison Gallery of American Art (he totally hung out with his friend there) and writing for Nicky Essaid '24's Eighth Page.



As Ned's boss, I can confidently say no one ever sent emails, got coffee, or massaged my feet as well as he did. Ned was the single greatest Associate I ever had the pleasure of mentoring. Ned would often cry on my shoulder as he would not know what to write. I would often help him in these instances. If I can thank Ned for anything, it would be his ability to show kindness to people as I have never considered helping those less fortunate. However, after seeing Ned's optimistic outlook on life, I have decided to respect those who do their own laundry and dishes. Thanks to Ned's background, I have decided to log some hours at the local soup kitchen.

I have seen a lot in my time, but I have never seen someone fight for the title of WASP. Ned is definitely a first: his dad doesn't even work in New York, doesn't go to the Hamptons, and has never been to Gstaad. These are qualities I usually search for in a friend, but with Ned, I made an exception. I decided to allow the less fortunate to reap the benefits of my lifestyle.

One might say, "Nicky, why are you bringing this up?" but I would respond with, "Why didn't he get with anyone in the Hamptons?" or "Why didn't he get with anyone in Arizona?" Now, if you were reading this with Ned nearby, I'm sure his huge nose would smell it out, and he would quickly come up with an excuse for his petulance, but let me make this certain: Ned is unable to pull a girl. Now, I'm sure as you read this, you might say, "Nicky, you are too harsh," but I would respond with, "It's not my fault Ned's girl hit me up to throw a party."

Andover was blessed to have someone like Ned walk its halls. Never in its past has someone with the mental capacity of DJ Pauly D and the physical attractiveness of Danny DeVito roamed these grounds.

Through all the drama of Ned's time at Andover, future students can learn a couple of things; don't lie about how pure you are, don't let your roommate throw a party with your girl, and don't mislead your roommate into thinking he is living with someone who doesn't masturbate as much as they do.

Sincerely,
Nicky Essaid



Dear campus community,

I'm honored to host Nicky Essaid '24 (?) for this week's All-School Meeting. From the excitement of sports betting to the nuances of ongoing conflicts in the Holy Land, Nicky will be discussing a range of interesting and relevant topics from his own personal life. Nicky, as you will learn, is not your average Greenwichian: he is from the Hood — Old Greenwich. Between having dyslexia and only owning one house, Nicky has had to overcome a lot. But it was from those mean, tree-lined streets where Nicky gained some of his most important attributes, including his ADHD diagnosis, skiing skills, and a deep admiration for

Bernie Madoff.

Nicky was actually an avid hockey player before he arrived at Andover. Today, of course, Nicky's proudest achievements include his near-total lack of exercise — his heart rate hasn't surpassed 60 beats per minute since 2020 (during the week, that is). Nicky's feet, as a result, are perfectly smooth — not a callus in sight. The reasons for Nicky's athletic inactivity are varied, but I don't think any coaches recommend any sort of bingeing — nightly DoorDash included. Regardless, Nicky is certainly well-traveled. He has been to not one but two eiffel towers: one in Paris, and one at a kids' day camp in Connecticut. He has also spent time in Ukraine (briefly, for legal reasons).

I ask you all to be respectful, for Nicky's sake especially. He is awfully sensitive and somewhat frail (see his CSC Rep speech from May 2023). To that end, please do not mention the Middle East, unless you want an out-of-breath Nicky and a pounding headache. Also, please do not ask Nicky about the events of the evening of January 28, a horrible day for couches and working-class people everywhere. Furthermore, and this is especially important, do not ask Nicky where he goes in the summer. The truth, which he'll go to any end to hide, is that Nicky stays in Greenwich. Yes, you read that right: Nicky's only chances at cooling down during the summer are a bathtub-sized pool and Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,
Ned Thornton

✨

Newsroom Superlatives

✨

 <div>SARAH hasn't seen daylight in a year</div>	 <div>vera gets a high from swearing</div>	 <div>JONATHAN needs Botox for frown lines</div>	 <div>MICHAEL business stands on him.</div>
 <div>Patty Is, in fact, not crabby</div>	 <div>Karen most likely to lie on SOTA</div>	 <div>Langan supreme comic presence</div>	 <div>Commentary QAnon conspiracists</div>
 <div>Molly, Carly, Lydia Sarah's nepo babies</div>	 <div>Tina unites us all</div>	 <div>Kevin uses video skills to make Jacob Elordi TikTok</div>	 <div>AVERY best sex-comic creator</div>

H.CHOI/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ways to Honor Nicky and Ned

- Wear a Barbour jacket
- Be proud Junior Varsity athletes
- Write them into the 2024 ballot
- Respond to texts in two to three business days
- Destigmatize boys wearing flip-flops
- Give a short king a chance
- Listen to more business podcasts
- Support women's suffrage
- Take more baths

Articles We Almost Published

- Transcript of Conversation Between Rockwell Boys
- Want a New Plug? Go to THESE Students!
- Is Gooning in Your House Counselor's Apartment the New Meta?
- Investigative Report: Where Was Each Dean on January 6?
- Flow Chart: Which Academy Scandal Are You?
- Exposé on a Certain Sweater Vest Enthusiast and History Teacher
- Which Married Teachers We Catfished on Grindr
- Insiders Scoop on Nicky's DC Rep Speech (Why He Was Shaking With Nervousness)
- WikiHow on Dating Up (Anecdotal from Nicky and Ned)



The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLVI | Number 30

katty and paren
signing off <3

January 26, 2024

Girls Squash Dominates Exeter Despite Missing Both Co-Captains

MADDIE SHIN

SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	7
Exeter	1

Andover Girls Squash (5-3) played against Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) and ultimately defeated Exeter by a large margin on Saturday. The team hopes this win will be indicative of the result of its Andover/Exeter (A/E) rivalry matches at the end of the season. On Wednesday, as a consequence of the Andover-wide epidemic, with

approximately 40 percent of the student body sick with the flu, Andover's match against St. Paul's was canceled.

In anticipation of its matches on Saturday, Andover Girls Squash attended the Harvard/Yale game at Harvard University on Friday. According to Evelyn Kung '26, the team witnessed impressive performances from collegiate-level athletes, boosting team morale.

"[We] did a team bonding event on Friday when we went to the Harvard/Yale game and I think that kind of helped with team spirit. Also during practices, we focused heavily on hitting straight shots which I think translated into a lot of our matches," said Kung.

Despite both Co-Captain

Migyu Kim '25 and Co-Captain Christina Yen '24 being out on Saturday, the team was still able to claim the win against Exeter.

Kung said, "Our [Co-Captains], Migyu Kim, and Christina Yen weren't playing, [but] they were still really helpful with going out and coaching all of us and encouraging us throughout our matches."

Minnie Kim '27 highlighted the team's excellent mentality on Saturday, and based on performance and effort, the team was ready to win.

In an email to *The Phillippian*, Minnie Kim wrote, "The team focused on having a fighting and winning mindset, and I think that having that aggressiveness helped us. We were able to focus on what we needed to do, and we were able to win."

Minnie Kim mentioned Kung, a player who, despite losing in five sets, showed a tremendous amount of effort and work through stress and pressure.

Minnie Kim wrote, "Although she lost in five, she worked so hard. Even to the last point, she fought for every single thing, and it was amazing. Since it was the last game of the match, everyone was watching, but she was able to play under that pressure."

Saturday matches against Exeter brought high energy to the Snyder Center, not only from the Varsity team but from girls JV1 and JV2. As this A/E rivalry persists every year, Kung mentioned that many of the Seniors from both Andover and Exeter were already familiar with each other.

"The atmosphere of the event was really fun because



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Liz Zhao '24 was one of five members of Andover Girls Squash to win their match in three games.

all three squash teams were playing so it was not just varsity but JV1 and JV2. Also, more of the senior members know the Exeter girls pretty well since they've been playing with them for a long time," said Kung.

According to Kung, Saturday's matches made a few things apparent to Andover that it needed to improve upon. As the season hits its midpoint, Andover looks to integrate a variety of shots into its play.

"A lot of us can get better at using a large variety of shots and not just hitting the same shots again because our opponents started to like to catch up on that and hit more cross courts," said Kung.

Minnie Kim noted the team's values, emphasizing

that everyone is a part of the team and contributes to the team's triumphs and defeats. As squash is a more individualized sport, Minnie Kim clarified how each player is an integral part of the team and how no match, and in turn, no player is more important than the next.

Minnie Kim wrote, "I think that every game that each person on the team played was crucial. No matter what number a player is on the ladder, each match is worth the same amount of points, so every single game is important and matters."

Girls Squash will play Noble and Greenough at home on Wednesday.



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover Girls Squash attended the Harvard/Yale game at Harvard on Friday for team bonding.

Boys Basketball Falls Short in Defense Against Deerfield

AARON HUANG

SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	66
Deerfield	72

Andover Boys Basketball (6-5) displayed determination against Deerfield on Saturday, but ultimately lost the critical game.

Despite offensive delivery, the team fell short on defense, noted Co-Captain Robbie Nyamwaya '24. This game was crucial in determining the Class A New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) standings.

"It was a bit disappointing. It was a pretty big game. It was a conference opponent.

But I think we showed heart and we fought back... We were down by a lot but then we fought back into a tied game and we did take the lead once," said Nyamwaya.

Co-Captain Keenan Sparks '24 also emphasized the team's difficulty with persistence through defensive troubles.

"I don't think our offense was the problem at all. We made a lot of shots and we moved the ball well. I think it was just we struggled on defense and getting stops when we needed to and just rebounds, mainly defensive rebounds. I know that the week before against Tabor [Academy], we had the same issue when we gave up at least 20 offensive rebounds," said Sparks.

Sparks highlighted Xavier Abreu '25 as a standout player whose offensive prowess helped the team stay in the

game. Sparks also credited Nyamwaya for his defense.

Sparks said, "[Abreu] made a lot of shots in the first half. And then Robbie did a good job, I thought he played well. I mean, he didn't make all his shots, but he did a good job on defense and he did a good job on rebounding and he played tough."

The home crowd raised the team's morale, according to Nyamwaya. Faculty also got invested in the game, some even helping out the players. Nyamwaya recalled the advice of Jamal English, Instructor in English.

Nyamwaya said, "The atmosphere was great. A lot of people showed up [for] this Saturday game and they kind of helped us fight back into the game, giving us energy and the crowd cheering when we made shots... Shout out to Mr. English. He gave me some good advice at halftime that

helped me play better and be more effective."

Despite its three-game losing streak, the team remains optimistic for its upcoming games. Sparks noted the team's goal to focus on the remaining regular season games.

"The energy has been really good. Obviously, losing is not fun, but I think the next practice [after the game] on Monday was good and [we are] just focusing on the next games because there [are] still a lot of games left. We still have ten Class-A games left, there's still a lot of games left," said Sparks.

Even without school in the upcoming days, the team will continue to hold practices, according to Hunter Peabody '27. Peabody highlighted multiple areas where the team could sharpen its game.

"We are going to work on moving the ball and kicking

it out for transition layups. We will also work on spacing across the perimeter for open kick out threes as well as shot creation. We have to work on boxing out and hitting a man as well as push-denying the wings and corner while playing off-ball defense," said Peabody.

Andover Boys Basketball will play away at Tilton School on Wednesday.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Rashad McCormick PG'24 goes up for a dunk.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Robbie Nyamwaya '24 fends off a Deerfield opponent.

WRESTLING

Competition and Compassion: Co-Captain George Ryckman '24 Leads Wrestling Despite Injury

MICHAEL WILLIAMSON

Wrestling Co-Captain George Ryckman '24 began his wrestling career in middle school and has since moved his talents over to the mats at Andover. Although he is currently injured, throughout his captainship, Ryckman has used his knowledge of the sport from nearly five years of experience, and his competitive nature to lead the team at Andover.

From a sibling rivalry-induced activity, to mandatory participation in middle school, to being Co-Captain of the Andover Wrestling, Ryckman's relationship with the sport has certainly developed over the years.

Ryckman said, "I was born into a family of two brothers, so wrestling has just always been a mandatory part of my lifestyle. Whenever it came to any competition, it usually ended in some form of wrestling. My middle school had a team where everybody was mandated to participate in wrestling. I tried it out and then I started wrestling at the varsity level with that team. That brought me here."



JCARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Tasha Bohorad '26 spoke on Ryckman's ability to connect with all wrestlers. She touched on his enthusiasm to help newer wrestlers learn about the sport and his willingness to be a part of drills.

"George is a really present leader of the team. I think it helps that he can drill with anyone. Whenever one of the coaches needs someone to demonstrate a move on, he'll step in. He's really active in par-

ticipating. If you need to learn a move, you can ask him how to do it, and he'll teach you step by step. His form is good, so he is an excellent example for wrestling technique," said Bohorad.

His knowledge of the sport additionally helps in his ability to lead the team. Ethan Principal '24 highlighted how Ryckman uses his experiences in the sport to help other wrestlers.

Principal said, "Last week I had a tough match against a kid

who liked to do leg-riding, and George is very familiar with that kind of situation. I asked him for some help after practice, and he stayed maybe ten to 20 minutes after helping me learn counters and how to do them. From that, I've been trying to implement the strategies he taught me into my more recent matches."

In such a competitive sport, it is important to be led by someone who understands the value of competitiveness. Principal brought up Ryckman's ability to push his teammates to their limit while also generating a positive team culture.

"It takes mental strength as well as physical, but you got to want to win. George knows that, and he's been instilling those principles into newer wrestlers. He has done a great job in creating a team mentality of wanting to win and being willing to put in the work on and off the mat to do that. He genuinely wants us to want to be better. He leaves everything on the mat and will go straight into hyping up the team no matter if he won or lost," said Principal.

Another aspect of Ryckman's leadership is his willingness to help others. Bohorad praised his willingness to help out

wrestlers outside of practice.

Bohorad said, "There's [a] wrestling club a little bit before the season. George and [Co-Captain] Sakina [Cotton '24] lead wrestling club and although they did not have to be there, they let wrestlers have a space to learn new moves before the season. I was interested in learning a particular move [and] I asked George for help, and he ran the move on me and then taught me how to do it. I know he does that for everyone on the team."

Ryckman has big goals for the season and hopes to bring his team with him. He is excited to get over his injury and finish his season on the mat.

Ryckman said, "Currently I'm injured with a deviated septum. It is a little bit tough to say currently what my aspirations are. I do hope to see us wipe [Phillips] Exeter [Academy] again this weekend like we did last time. Most importantly, I want our team to do well, and I hope to see my teammates and friends do well in their [matches]. Mostly, I hope I get to get back on the mat even with this deviated septum and keep wrestling for my last season."

Co-Captain Sakina Cotton '24 Cultivates Newfound Interest into Fiery Passion

KATE RODGERS

Despite only discovering wrestling two years ago, Cotton has forged her path in the wrestling community. Cotton was awarded the J. Richard Lux Award for Most Improved Wrestler in the 2022 to 2023 season, after being crowned Champion at the Girls Division of the New England Championship. Also last season, Cotton placed third at the 2023 National Prep Wrestling Championships.

After joining Andover Wrestling in her Lower Year, Cotton discovered a community within the sport that fueled her self-confidence.

"When starting, one of the things I loved about the sport was just the confidence it gave in myself, my body, and my mental toughness. That Lower year when we all came together for the first time after Covid[-19] and just building from that is why I have no regrets trying out the sport," said Cotton.

Cotton noted the importance of resilience and camaraderie when persisting through challenges within the sport. She recalled moments of doubt that she overcame with the support of her team and her

drive.

"Those hardships of just starting out and losing matches and resulting in questions like, 'What did I do wrong?' or 'I'm not going to get better.' However, I got through those because of the team I started out with. Their support made me grow stronger, and I realized you are not going to improve if you keep thinking that... It's really important to work harder and use the anger and determination from hardships to actually work on improving, and fix things instead of sitting in despair," said Cotton.

Through consistency and dedication, Cotton has become an exemplary teammate, according to Tasha Bohorad '26.

Bohorad said, "She's a great teammate. You see her working in practice. She starts early and leaves late, which really demonstrates her commitment to the sport. She is always working hard on her shots and trying to improve. She knows what she's doing and it sets the standard for the rest of the team."

Cotton prioritizes showing up for her teammates, especially after a challenging match. She highlighted the importance of demonstrating immediate support, and also being considerate.

"Being invested in everyone's matches and giving fist



COURTESY OF HECTOR MEMBRENO-CANALES

bumps or cheering people on is big. That helped remind me that we are all working towards progress. Everyone is going to be disappointed in themselves after a loss, so I've learned how valuable it is to give some of my teammates space because they are going to be in their heads. But afterwards, I like to let them know that I'm there for them and always watching and supporting," said Cotton.

Bella Shmuylovich '26 noted Cotton's habit of providing support and individualized feedback after every match and practice.

"At the end where we do our debrief of practice, she will talk about hard work and what we will do to be better as a team. Especially after a game, she will talk about both the things we did well and what we need to improve on," said Shmuylovich.

Bohorad shared similar sentiments to Shmuylovich, emphasizing Cotton's feedback.

"She's fairly concise. Not that she doesn't say a lot, but everything she says really matters. Before meets, she gives individualized advice. For me, she will give things I should

work on and words of encouragement. She is very calm and humble and she does a good job of helping others," said Bohorad.

Cotton works to ensure that each wrestler is committed to themselves and their teammates.

"Me and George [Ryckman '24], my Co-Captain, we try to share with the team our values. It's all about putting in the effort for yourself and for each other because people think wrestling is an individual sport but if you aren't given 100 percent in practice, then someone else, your partner, is not getting 100 percent. That affects a team as a whole, so I think a lot of my leadership is just encouraging people to give their all and think of themselves not as one person, but [as] part of a system," said Cotton.

Beyond Andover, Cotton has extended her wrestling experience to programs in Cambridge and Boston. Cotton joined the Beat the Streets wrestling program and Redline Fight Sports last August, where she wrestles in the adult classes.

Head Coach Kassie Bateman '06 Encourages Community and Discipline

LILY WILLIAMSON

Andover Wrestling Head Coach Kassie Bateman '06 became the first female Head Coach of a New England Prep School in 2019. She was instrumental in organizing and hosting the first-ever All-Girls Prep School Wrestling Tournament. Aside from coaching Andover, Bateman serves as Director of Female Wrestling on the New England Prep School Wrestling Association (NEPSWA) board.

Bateman began her wrestling career at Andover after stumbling upon a wrestling poster in George Washington Hall during her Junior Year. Bateman attended a preseason practice, where she fell in love with the sport. As a three-year Varsity wrestler, she became the first female to place in the Class A League tournament, and at the Girl's National Wrestling Tournament.

Bateman said, "I think that having lived the student-athlete experience at Andover, as a coach I try to be mindful of the various demands that our students have on their time. I always do my best to respect their time, and make the most of the 90 minutes we have to-

gether daily."

After graduating from Dartmouth University, Bateman returned to Andover and has been coaching the team for seven years. Bateman further iterates her love for the sport due to the valuable lessons of perseverance, commitment, and challenge.

"I love wrestling and the life lessons that it teaches you. In wrestling the match is never over until the referee blows the whistle. You can be losing 0-10 and catch your opponent in a bad position and pin them. So you can never give up, because there's always a chance that you can turn things around. That determination and work ethic stays with you," said Bateman.

According to Byron Johnson '25, Bateman first-handedly recognizes the physical demands of wrestling. In the midst of intense practices, she checks in players to ensure that they can handle the more demanding aspects of the sport. She plans these check-ins with fun games in order to energize the team.

Johnson said, "She keeps us motivated and focused, but at the same time, makes sure that we're having fun with the sport. Wrestling is very tough, and it's very physically

demanding. If anyone knows that, that's her... She's making sure that we are physically okay, mentally okay."

Bateman continues to honor the values of hard work, teamwork, and inclusion set by former Head Coach Rich Gorham. According to Tasha Bohorad '26, Bateman instills these values every day in a way that drives wrestlers to support each other.

"Our team is really sportsmanlike. We cheer for everyone on the whole team in exhibition matches, which don't count for points. We're still cheering and making sure that we care about everyone's match, which I think she puts as an example," Bohorad said.

Last Saturday, the team celebrated its annual Senior Night during its last home match. When Bateman began coaching at Andover, she introduced the tradition as a way to celebrate and honor Seniors for their leadership and dedication to the sport.

"We never had the tradition of a 'Senior Night' before, and I thought that was a nice way to recognize our Seniors and their special role on the team, whether they are first-year wrestlers or four-year varsity starters," said Bateman.

As the team reaches mid-sea-



COURTESY OF HECTOR MEMBRENO-CANALES

son, Bateman looks to prepare each wrestler for the upcoming Class A Tournament, Championships, and Nationals. She has personalized the schedule this season to introduce competitive opponents earlier in the season to prepare Andover for the approaching competitions.

Bateman said, "One of my goals for the team is to develop their skills and challenge them at their appropriate level... One way we do this is by adjusting our competition schedule over

the years... This year, I knew some of my wrestlers needed national-level competition earlier in the season, and so we took a few wrestlers down to Delaware for Beast of the East... At the end of the season, if everyone has improved, if we've done our best to help each athlete achieve their goals, I'd call it a successful season."

Bouncing Back With Grit: Andover Wrestling Reflects After Three Losses

SAHI KATHIKA

SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	36
St. Paul's	48

SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	36
Lawrenceville	48

SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	7
NMH	72

Andover Wrestling (8-7) competed against St. Paul's, Lawrenceville, and Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) on Saturday, coming up short against each team. Despite the absence of a significant portion of its regular lineup, the team made a valiant effort, with some members achieving their first varsity



J.CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Last season, Julian Rios '26 placed fourth at the 2023 National Prep Wrestling Championships.

wins. Co-Captain Sakina Cotton '24 faced her longtime rival from NMH, according to teammate Tasha Bohorad '26. Driven by the support and motivation of the team, Cotton ultimately triumphed over her opponent. "She wrestled a girl from NMH named Rowan, who's

a National Prep champ... They've been wrestling with each other for the past year. I saw them wrestle almost exactly a year ago. They went into double or triple overtime last year and Rowan won. They wrestled once this year and Rowan won. And Sakina finally beat Rowan this year in a very intense match. It

just shows that Sakina's been working really hard," said Bohorad. Despite nearly half of the varsity lineup being injured or ill, teammates rose to the occasion, replacing those who couldn't compete, according to Ophelia Lee '26. Lee said, "The strengths were that we persevered

through it, even though a lot of our lineup was gone. A lot of people who hadn't been wrestling much or it was their first year wrestling, got thrown on the varsity lineup, and they still managed to perform well under all that pressure. I think that's definitely a strength." Focused on overcoming its three losses, the team will be working on maintaining a positive attitude and staying calm under pressure, according to Julia Carmona '24. Carmona said, "We'll work on being prepared at every single moment of the match from the moment the whistle blows until somebody gets pinned or the match is over. Because I think a lot of us get caught up in our heads in the actual match, and that has caused some problems for us." Andover Wrestling will host its 11th annual Female Wrestling Tournament on Sunday.

Editor's Note: Julia Carmona is a Commentary Editor for The Phillipian.



J.CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ethan Principal '24 faces a St. Paul's opponent.



J.CARMONA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Sakina Cotton '24 faces NMH opponent, Rowan Macintosh. The two have faced each other three times in the past year.

Girls Hockey Shuts Out St. Mark's, Only Varsity Team to Play Wednesday Due to Widespread Illness

SOPHIA CRATTY

SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	7
St. Mark's	0

WEDNESDAY 1/24	
Andover	5
Cushing	2

On Saturday, Girls Hockey (6-2) hosted St. Mark's and earned a shutout, with six saves from goaltenders Avery Rodeheffer '25 and three from Codi Pickering '27. On Wednesday, Andover Girls Hockey traveled to Cushing and returned with a victory. The team came out strong, with four goals in the first four minutes of the game. Head Coach Martha Fenton '83 reflected on Saturday's game and although the score was disproportionate, with Andover not letting in any goals and scoring seven, Fenton believes St. Mark's put up a strong fight. In an email to *The Phillipian*,

Coach Fenton wrote, "St Mark's was a gritty team who competed right until the end, so it was a great game despite the lopsided score." On Saturday, the team struggled with starting the game strong, but according to Boyle, Andover was able to improve upon this weakness in Wednesday's game. Boyle wrote, "On Saturday, I think that we struggled to come out fast which we really improved on today scoring four goals in the first four minutes. On Saturday, we were able to pick it up and cycle well throughout the offensive zone. This created a lot of space and scoring opportunities which we were able to capitalize on." Girls Hockey was the only team to play its game on Wednesday. Due to 40 percent of the student body diagnosed with influenza or flu-like symptoms, all other sporting events were canceled. According to Co-Captain Molly Boyle '25, the decision of whether Andover would be allowed to play in its game was up to its opponents, Cushing. In an email to *The Phillipian*, Boyle wrote, "We were very grateful and fortunate to be able to be the only Andover team to play today. The decision was up to Cushing and they said it was okay, so we were super excited for that opportunity. Boyle highlighted Sienna Glass '27 as a standout player in the game against Cushing. According to Boyle, Glass was all over the ice, worked incredibly hard, and made some outstanding plays.



M.MACKINNON/THE PHILLIPIAN

Shea Freda '24 was a two-season Co-Captain for Andover Field Hockey.

"Sienna Glass played very well in [Wednesday's] game. She played super hard on the puck and made some very impressive plays in the defensive, offensive, and neutral zone" wrote Boyle. Andover was missing players on Wednesday, which, according to Fenton, was not too much of an issue, as the team has many talented players. Fenton wrote, "We were missing four skaters today, but thankfully we have good depth on this team and the other girls stepped up... I think we were all grateful for the opportunity to play, so if

anything, it made the game all the more meaningful." Andover Girls Hockey will play BB&N on the road on Friday.



M.MACKINNON/THE PHILLIPIAN

Emily Mara '25 is committed to Boston College for soccer.



The Taylor Swift Effect: Turning Swifties Into Football Fans

ANYA BUDZINSKI

Following the first leg of her record-breaking Eras Tour in the U.S., Taylor Swift is on top of the world. After making a 1.04 billion dollar revenue with 4.35 million tickets sold across 60 tour dates, Swift has millions of fans who follow her religiously. Anything she does receives an exorbitant amount of media attention, and her attendance at a National Football League (NFL) game is no exception. While Swift has boosted the NFL's standing in various ways, the media ponders the question: Is Taylor Swift ruining the NFL?

Since Swift was seen on September 24, 2023, at the Kansas City Chiefs game in support of her newest boyfriend, two-time Super Bowl Champion and tight end, Travis Kelce, the NFL has gained millions of new fans. Every week since Swift's first attendance, "Swifties" are tuning in to watch the Chiefs, hoping to get a glimpse of Swift on the screen. The NFL audience, one that is mostly viewed by males, saw a 53 percent and 35 percent increase in female viewers, ages 12 to 17 and 18 to 24, respectively. Moreover, Travis Kelce has experienced a 400 percent increase in sales for his jersey and has seen a rapid increase in commercial production on television and social media platforms since going public with Swift.

122 million dollars should explain the "Taylor Swift Effect." Her presence at NFL games has influenced her fandom, whose ability to boost sales and engagement has been prominent in the last few months. It certainly was a surprise to many that Swift's



HAZEL CAMERON/THE PHILLIPIAN

attendance at NFL games took the already world-acclaimed NFL and made it even more popular. The surge in NFL views has caused a shift in game coverage, diverting the focus from the sport to Taylor Swift. Swifties are enjoying this opening to interact with a new sport — football fans, not so much.

Some football fans have taken to social media accusing Swift of "ruining the

NFL." They feel that too much attention is being diverted away from the game and to Swift, who is just sitting in the stands to support Kelce and the Chiefs. An article from Salve Regina's Mosaic Newspaper complained about Swift's attendance at games taking away from the actual football content:

"[It] has been taken too far and there is too much coverage of Swift. It seems as

though half of the NFL's posts on social media are about Taylor Swift or making small nods to the singer. If I go to watch a highlight reel, I don't need to see Taylor Swift. If someone makes a good defensive tackle, I don't need a reference to one of her songs."

As a Swiftie, I have found myself tuning into football games which I would have previously ignored. I think Taylor Swift and the NFL's

attention to her attendance at games has made football more appealing to so many Swifties like myself. The increase in viewers and purchases has boosted the NFL as a business, while also diversifying its viewers. Swift's appearance on the NFL has made its social media content production appealing to major groups. Though some may disagree with the singer's presence in the NFL, she shares in an interview with "Time Magazine" that she is simply there to watch the game:

"There's a camera, like, a half-mile away, and you don't know where it is, and you have no idea when the camera is putting you in the broadcast, so I don't know if I'm being shown 17 times or once."

Her indifference about the attention she gets during these games reveals why she is there — to support Kelce.

"I'm just there to support Travis," Swift says. "I have no awareness of if I'm being shown too much and pissing off a few dads, Brads, and Chads."

So to answer the question posed by the media: no, I do not think Taylor Swift is ruining the NFL. Some may be dissatisfied with the attention she is receiving, however, Swift has brought positive attention, profitable business, and a diverse selection of audience to the NFL. Overall, the "Taylor Swift effect" has made "sparks fly" for Travis Kelce, the NFL, and its fans. And when the Chiefs take the field for the AFC Championships on Sunday, you can bet the Swifties will be tuning in.

The NFL Playoffs: The Old and the New

MICHAEL WILLIAMSON

Following the end of the second round of the playoffs, four teams remain in the hunt for a Super Bowl title in the National Football League (NFL). While half of the contenders are familiar faces to the playoffs, the Detroit Lions and Baltimore Ravens have made huge jumps from their standings last year.

During Wild Card Weekend, many teams went into their games with something to prove. The Miami Dolphins battled the Kansas City Chiefs, 7-26, in zero degree weather at the Arrowhead Stadium. Both teams were heavily questioned as "playoff caliber" because of the quarterback affair in Miami, where Chiefs defensive end George Karlaftis sacked Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa during an American Football Confederation (AFC) Wild Card game. The Chief's poor passing game was prevalent. Nevertheless, the Chiefs persevered through the cold temperatures and have proven to be worthy of a playoff run after eking out Bills, 27-24, to make it to the AFC Championship.

Next, in the National Football Conference (NFC), history was made when Dan Campbell and the Lions battled Sean McVay and the Rams for a spot in the divisional round to face the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Being a young team carried by the talent of its rookies, the Rams fell to the Lions, granting the Lions their first playoff win in 32 years. Following their historic victory, the Lions furthered their playoff run after a 31-23



GEMMA PARK/THE PHILLIPIAN

win against Tampa Bay. The Lions' playmaking with Dan Campbell at the helm makes them a dangerous underdog going into the NFC Championship.

Meeting the Lions in the Championship is the San Francisco 49ers. The 49ers started their playoff run with a close 24-21 win against the Green Bay Packers. While both teams played well, turnovers plagued the Packers as quarterback Jordan Love threw two interceptions, both caught by cornerback Dre Greenlaw. The excellent pass-and-run defense makes the 49ers a likely opponent to end Detroit's fairytales playoff run. Additionally, second-year quarterback Brock Purdy is

a name to look out for. While he is undoubtedly one of the greatest stories in the NFL, emerging as the last pick in the 2022 NFL Draft and now starting for a team contending for the Super Bowl, many label him as a "system quarterback," doubting his ability to be the man to bring a Super Bowl back to San Francisco.

Lastly, the Baltimore Ravens, ending its regular season with the best record in the league, 13-4-0 overall, took the one seed in the playoff bracket. By doing so, they demolished the hopes of the Houston Texans, ending the potential Rookie of the Year campaign for quarterback C.J. Stroud. In their dominant performance in the division-

al round, the Ravens controlled the ball on the ground rushing for almost 230 yards compared to the Texans' 38 yards. Although the Ravens have been a dominating team in the league, will their lack of playoff experience prevent them from getting a win over the current reigning champions?

The Ravens may seem to have a ticket to the Super Bowl, but that is not the case. Although they have shown an elite running game headed by quarterback Lamar Jackson, the Ravens have fallen short in games against average teams such as the Steelers. However, the Chiefs have a strong history of playing well in the playoffs and are definitely out

of their passing game slump that occurred late in the regular season when Patrick Mahomes' receiver had difficulty catching the ball. In the AFC Championship, the Chiefs will most likely show off their experience with a close win over the Ravens, proving that young talent on a team does not always bode well in high-stake games.

In the NFC Championship, the upcoming playoff run headed by Dan Campbell and Jared Goff will come to an abrupt end in a blowout game against the 49ers. On paper, San Francisco has one of the most star-studded rosters in the league coupled with playoff experience. I believe the 49ers will neutralize the Lions and force quarterback Jared Goff to throw the ball into the 49ers talented secondary. This game will pose as a reality check to the Lions, crediting their great run, but showing that they are not Super Bowl caliber, just yet.

Although the Super Bowl will most likely reintroduce the matchup between San Francisco and Kansas City, I can picture a very close game ending with celebrations in Kansas City. This game will be a battle of the quarterbacks; the legitimacy of Brock Purdy as a top-five quarterback in the league will be tested. Many believe that Purdy cannot perform in difficult games and if that is the case, it is easy to see quarterback Patrick Mahomes leading the Chiefs to a convincing victory, ascending into his fourth time competing for the Lombardi Trophy.



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OMAHA STORM CHASERS

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

RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS

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



MONTGOMERY BISCUITS

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

UNION OMAHA

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



Boys Squash Suffers First Loss of Season Against Hotchkiss

THEO WEI

FRIDAY 1/19	
Andover	7
Nobles	0
SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	6
Hopkins	1
SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	1
Hotchkiss	6

This past weekend, Andover Boys Squash (9-1) had a shut-out against Noble and Greenough (Nobles). During its dual match versus Hotchkiss

kiss and Hopkins, Andover suffered its first loss and came out victorious, respectively. Starting the weekend off with Nobles, Alexander Yang '26 spoke on playing with power and determination regardless of its opponents. Yang said, "I think Nobles is a pretty easy one, but we didn't want to drop any games so I think we were just mentally prepared to play a hard game as we would... I think we were all mentally locked in, ready to play our normal game no matter what." Yang continued to applaud the team for their shout-out. He recalled each player giving their teammates feedback between matches, which helped them secure this victory. "Everyone played pretty well and everyone fought hard and we got the results that we wanted... I think everyone is pretty close to each other because we are such a small team. We would always coach whoever we were refereeing between games and tell them what they weren't doing well enough and how they could improve," said Yang.

Although Andover had an amazing game against Nobles, they suffered a loss to Hotchkiss, 6-1. However, after this game, Andover bounced back to defeat Hopkins 6-1. Co-Captain Christian Graziano '25 reflected on Andover's first loss against Hotchkiss. Hotchkiss ended its last season sixth at the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Championship and ninth at Nationals in the top division. "Hotchkiss was our biggest match of the season, pretty much putting everything we had into it. All the matches building up to it, Hotchkiss was our climax. Especially with Hotchkiss, we knew we were the underdogs by quite a bit, so we were getting ready to go out there and fight. We knew it would be an uphill battle. We prepared for it and we had trained for it leading up to the match," said Graziano. Corey Shen '26 recalled the anticipation to play against Hotchkiss. Despite the loss, Andover prepared to overtake Hopkins with optimism.

Shen said, "For Hotchkiss, we knew this would be one of our toughest matches probably in our Andover careers. We knew that every match would be heavily contested and no match would be a walkover. In the end, I believe we got a bit unlucky with some of the results but [we have] a lot to learn from. For Hopkins, the main challenge was after we lost to Hotchkiss, I think that was a bit demoralizing and so we had to hype each other up and just move on to the next match." Shen elaborated on Andover's shortcomings against Hotchkiss. Shen noted different ways the teams intended to improve their play for Nationals and NEPSAC. Shen stated, "Going into an unfamiliar setting and court, we thought some of our lengths weren't ideal. A lot of the time they were popping off the side wall or bounce out too much or just being too short and we got punished for that. Lengths are just like backcourts, like our rails or crosses. So that is a major focus for the next few weeks and we are

prepping for Nationals and New Englands." Graziano emphasized the major focus of the season, which is getting a high ranking for Nationals. Graziano applauded the team for their unconditional support on Saturday throughout the loss. "Focusing and bouncing back. We have got a really strong team this year and we are trying to clinch the eighth seed at Nationals, so we just have to finish up the year pretty strong... Obviously it is a team sport, we were just all there for each other after a hard loss, the first loss of the season, so we had each other's backs and tried to help each other bounce back," said Graziano.

Andover Boys Squash will play away against Choate, Westminster, and Belmont Hill on Saturday.

Scenes from Andover Boys Hockey vs. Noble and Greenough

Saturday 1/20 - Andover: 0, Noble and Greenough: 1

PHOTOS TAKEN BY ANDREW CHINN



Girls Basketball Wins Big Against Deerfield

ALEX DIMNAKU

SATURDAY 1/20	
Andover	57
Deerfield	26

Girls Basketball (3-7) won in a dominant performance against Deerfield on Saturday. Andover hit six threes in the game, a season-high, while also shooting 70 percent from the free throw line. According to Co-Captain Leila Boesch-Powers '24, the beginning of the game was crucial to the team's success, as teammates placed great

emphasis on starting with strength. She highlighted Co-Captain Valerie Ha '24 for helping the team seize an early advantage. Boesch-Powers said, "As a team, we've been talking about setting the tone of the game early. I would say Valerie's breakaway layup at the very beginning of the game was a great energy booster and set the tone of our game early. Anni Juusela '24 shared a similar sentiment to Boesch-Powers, stressing the importance of establishing good energy at the start of the game. Juusela said, "I think it was a very important thing that we started off the game with such good energy. We went hard from the first minute and that really set the tone for the whole

game. It was a great start and that was a crucial part of the game, I think. Even though we had the lead, we really kept on working hard in each possession, and we had the mindset that every possession matters." According to Head Coach Jennifer Weissbach, teamwork has been crucial for the team in every game this season. For her, the win against Deerfield was a collective effort more than anything else. "Teamwork is everything. We've been working hard this season to build the culture the way we want it to be. Incredibly proud of how the kids have bought into my vision for the program and also bought into each other. I think our win against Deerfield was the epitome of a full-team win. Everyone got playing time, everyone

contributed on the floor, and I think the energy in the gym was special," said Weissbach. Boesch-Powers noted that on the offensive side, finishing was a notable strength, while on the defensive end, the team excelled in stealing the ball and defending the paint. Boesch-Powers said, "We took and made some really good shots and we attacked the basket very well, making some great layups. We also played very tough defense, getting a lot of steals and preventing them from making a lot of shots near the rim." Following the game, Weissbach discussed the team's focus for practices this week. "We are working hard on I would say a couple things, but things we're prioritizing are finding ways to ensure that we

take care of the ball. We need to limit turnovers as much as possible, and the team is working really hard to find ways to get open, find ways to make great passes, and find ways to set up their teammates for success. We're continuing to work on execution. So, knocking down shots, running our plays through, and hitting screens are all things that we've been working on all season and especially the last week," said Weissbach.

Andover Girls Basketball will face Kimball Union Academy at home on Saturday and Brooks away on Wednesday.

Nordic Sees Success at Weston Quad Meet

ANYA BUDZINSKI & TARA MENON

This past Friday night, Andover Nordic competed against Belmont Hill, Rivers, and Middlesex. Despite some challenges, the team had a great experience with many improved performances from the meet prior. Due to limited snowfall, the team has struggled to replicate race day conditions consistently, only managing to do so sporadically. Despite this, the team remained positive. Zoe von Eckartsberg '26 described the atmosphere of the meet as encouraging, with someone always cheering for you at every part of the course. "It was also really nice to see a lot of the parents of our teammates come out. There were about three sets of parents there

on Friday and it was really nice to just have a bigger cheering community," said von Eckartsberg. Von Eckartsberg highlighted the work and determination of teammate Henry Wall '27, who completed his first race on cross-country skis. Von Eckartsberg noted that she was impressed to watch Wall keep up with the crowd, especially considering how difficult and exerting the race was. "It was his first race ever. He just did an amazing job... He looked really strong... He just kept such a good attitude the whole time. I was really impressed by his positivity in a really rough race," said von Eckartsberg. The event presented a mental test for the team, offering it an opportunity for personal growth, not just as athletes but also as individuals. Anna

Korczak '24 highlighted that this meet was especially demanding due to the repetitive nature of the race, along with numerous uphill sections and tight turns. Korczak said, "There was a little bit of a challenge because there's not a ton of snow... Because of that, the actual course that we're racing on is super short... It was 16 times up and down, and eight laps, which is a lot because we were racing a 5K, but the course itself was probably less than a kilometer... We had a handful of people finish a lap before they were supposed to, and a handful of people did a lap or two more than they were supposed to." This week, the team's training will be heavily focused on technique. The team hopes to incorporate double poling in its week of practice, a crucial skill for starting a race off strong. To work on their endurance, the

athletes continue to run longer distances, especially when there isn't much snow. Matt Robinson '27 commented on how the team planned to prepare for the race previously scheduled for Friday. "Leading up to the meet we were working on technique. Since we had a meet on Wednesday, anyone who raced on Wednesday didn't practice on Thursday because of the immediacy of the next race, so we took a rest day. But leading up to it we had worked on technique by using skis but no poles, which makes it a lot slower, but it's better for technique work," said Robinson. Looking ahead, the team aims to focus on enhancing its technique and maximizing their time on skis, considering that the availability of snowy practice conditions is never certain. Korczak emphasized both the team's endurance strengths and

its aspirations to make technical improvements. Korczak said, "Our next meeting is next Friday. We don't have one this Wednesday. Today, we focused on double poling, which is where we all went out into the field in Siberia and just worked for 45 to 50 minutes on upper body double pulling, which is super helpful at the beginning of races and is great for classic races. Then tomorrow and Wednesday, we're going to be doing distance runs to build endurance mostly because there's not going to be much snow between now and Friday."

Andover Nordic will compete against St. Paul's on Wednesday.

Crosswords of the Week!

CREATED BY MAXLANG
PUBLISHED ON [HTTPS://CROSSHARE.ORG/MAXLANG](https://crosshare.org/maxlang)

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

- 1 Rouse from sleep, poetically
- 6 A mission to remember?
- 7 Secretly watch
- 8 "___ when that happens"
- 9 Steal

DOWN

- 1 "___ something I said?"
- 2 Beta precursor
- 3 Inuit canoe
- 4 Fortnite Dance
- 5 ___ of the above

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

ACROSS

- 1 With room to spare
- 6 Radium discoverer
- 7 Camel's South American cousin
- 8 Put into words
- 9 Computer department

DOWN

- 1 Rights org. since 1920
- 2 Prefix with vitamin, task, or player
- 3 Guardians of the Galaxy actor Chris
- 4 Green citrus fruit
- 5 Once around the sun

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
		9		

ACROSS

- 1 Horse-based lance battle
- 6 New York is the big one
- 7 Stone worker
- 8 Make holy
- 9 Everyday article

DOWN

- 1 The lining around the door
- 2 October birthstone
- 3 A state of unhappiness
- 4 Spill over
- 5 On edge, taut

	1	2	3	4
5				
6				
7				
8				

ACROSS

- 1 How many ships Columbus had, according to him
- 5 Flaky rock
- 6 Columbus' ships: The Nina, the ____, and the Santa Maria
- 7 Incite someone at breakfast?
- 8 "Which time?"

DOWN

- 1 Top part of leg
- 2 Mountain chain
- 3 "Rocket Man" singer John
- 4 Actor Connery
- 5 Gush forth

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

ACROSS

- 1 Four-door car style
- 6 Follow, as a rule, with by
- 7 "I understand" alternative
- 8 Chips played before the start of the hand in poker
- 9 "___ Are My Sunshine"

DOWN

- 1 Long, epic story
- 2 Black wood
- 3 "Me too!"
- 4 Wordle word with lots of vowels
- 5 Found in soccer, basketball, and hockey but not football

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				

ACROSS

- 1 Rapper __ Shakur
- 6 American tribe featured in "Killers of the Flower Moon"
- 7 Push away, as a magnet
- 8 Have faith in

DOWN

- 1 ____oise or ____ure
- 2 Person who interacts with an online service
- 3 _____ New Guinea
- 4 Grows older
- 5 Boston hooper, for short

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

- 1 Potato-processing tool
- 6 "Well, ___!"
- 7 Bacon hunks
- 8 Everglades wader
- 9 Thing to drive on

DOWN

- 1 Early ___ (morning person)
- 2 How Far __ __, Moana
- 3 "The Nutcracker" heroine
- 4 Receded, as the tide
- 5 Take a break

		1	2	3	
	4				
5					6
7					
8					
9					

ACROSS

- 1 Help, in morse code
- 4 Type of freshwater fish
- 5 Chevy seen in NASCAR races
- 7 Relative of C major
- 8 Athletic association
- 9 Regain consciousness

DOWN

- 1 "Green Eggs and Ham" character
- 2 Marmalade flavor
- 3 Start to grow
- 4 Walk-on role in a movie, for a celebrity
- 5 Changy math course, for short
- 6 Black and white cookie

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

ACROSS

- 1 Flowers for Valentine's Day
- 6 Outdo
- 7 Stockfish competitor (ask the chess kid)
- 8 Soda bottle size
- 9 Stabby utensil

DOWN

- 1 Something to be done with a die or a ball
- 2 "___ by land...": Paul Revere
- 3 Look after
- 4 2.718 guy and calculus pioneer
- 5 It lights up a fire

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
		9		

ACROSS

- 1 They could be refried
- 6 Skateboarding trick
- 7 "Ich mag" or "Me gusta"
- 8 Work
- 9 Common preposition

DOWN

- 1 Evaporate with heat, as pasta water
- 2 Jazz legend Fitzgerald
- 3 Murder excuse
- 4 Camera brand
- 5 Prophet or Oracle

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SNACKS

NACHOS 15
cheddar + monterey jack, pico de gallo, sour cream, guacamole

TRUFFLE SIDEWINDER FRIES 12
truffle oil, parmesan, parsley

MAC & CHEESE BITES 8
house tomato sauce, parmesan

MEATBALLS (4) 15
beef, pork & veal meatballs, pomodoro sauce, ricotta & basil with sourdough

BURRATA 15
imported prosciutto, toasted garlic, pistachio, balsamic reduction with crostini

TRUFFLE MUSHROOM TOAST 14
wood-fired mushrooms, truffle cheese, chives on sourdough

WINGS | BONE-IN or BONELESS 15
choice of sauce:
plain, buffalo, korean bbq, garlic parmesan

SALADS

HOUSE CAESAR 15
romaine, shaved parmesan, house croutons creamy caesar dressing

ROCKET 15
arugula, tomato, shaved parmesan, lemon vinaigrette

POWER BLEND 16
baby spinach, arugula, quinoa, avocado, shaved carrot, cherry tomato, pistachios, crumbled goat cheese, balsamic vinaigrette

ADD ONS:
GRILLED CHICKEN 8
GRILLED SHRIMP 9

PASTA

BOLOGNESE 19
orechiette with ground beef, pork and veal, creamy tomato sauce, parmesan

MAC & CHEESE 13
spiral pasta with cheddar, monterey jack, parmesan, topped with bread crumbs
add buffalo chicken 5 | add short rib 8

HANDHELDS
served with fries | truffle fries +2

BROOKSY BURGER 19
8oz certified angus beef burger with lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles on a pretzel bun

VEGGIE BURGER 17
spiced sweet potato burger, lettuce, onion, tomato jam on a brioche bun

BUTTERMILK CHICKEN SANDWICH 18
choice of honey mustard or buffalo
lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles on a brioche bun

SHORT RIB MELT 19
house braised short rib, caramelized onion, cheddar, monterey jack on sourdough with beef au-jus

GRILLED CHEESE 13
cheddar, monterey jack, honey pesto on sourdough

KIDS
drink included

CHEESE PIZZA 10 | add pepperoni 2

MAC & CHEESE 10

PASTA WITH MEATBALL 10

CHICKEN TENDERS + FRIES 10

DESSERTS

SMORES PIZZA 10
marshmallow, chocolate chips, crumbled graham cracker

SKILLET COOKIE 10
chocolate chip with vanilla ice cream

SORBET 8
two scoops, rotating flavor

WOOD-FIRED PIZZA

10 inch (4 slices, serves 1-2)
14 inch (8 slices, serves 2-4)
*all pizzas are finished with a dusting of pecorino romano cheese

MARINARA 13/18
tomato sauce, garlic, oregano

CHEESE 14/19
tomato sauce, whole milk mozzarella

MARGHERITA 15/20
tomato sauce, fresh mozzarella, basil

PEPPERONI 16/22
tomato sauce, whole milk mozzarella, cup & char pepperoni

MEATBALL 16/22
tomato sauce, whole milk mozzarella, ricotta, sliced meatballs

RED SAUSAGE 16/22
tomato sauce, mozzarella blend, crumbled sausage, banana peppers

THE MEAT 16/23
tomato sauce, whole milk mozzarella, crumbled sausage, meatball, bacon

WHITE TRUFFLE MUSHROOM 15/20
evoo, mozzarella blend, mushroom, black truffle paste

WHITE SAUSAGE 16/22
garlic oil, mozzarella blend, sausage, mushroom, caramelized onion, spinach

KOREAN BBQ 16/24
kogi bbq sauce, mozzarella blend, braised short rib, sweetie drop peppers, scallions, arugula

CHICKEN & BROCCOLI 16/22
evoo, mozzarella blend, grilled chicken, broccoli rabe

VEGGIE PESTO 16/22
pesto, mozzarella blend, spinach, broccoli, roasted tomato

THE REAL BROOKSY 16/25
garlic oil, mozzarella blend, lemon basil shrimp, roasted tomato, oregano, parsley

TOPPINGS
10 inch toppings +2 | 14 inch toppings +3

CHEESE
extra mozzarella
fresh mozzarella
ricotta

VEGETABLES
mushroom
broccoli rabe
spinach
roasted tomato
roasted red peppers
caramelized onions
banana peppers
sweetie drop peppers
arugula
scallions

PROTEIN
cup & char pepperoni
meatball
crumbled sausage
chicken
braised short rib
bacon
lemon basil shrimp

SAUCES
tomato sauce
pesto
garlic oil
kogi bbq sauce

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REAL CITY SODA
micro-brewed in Boston

COLA 4
DIET COLA 4
PEP-UP (lemon lime) 4
GINGER ALE 4
SHIRLEY TEMPLE 4

LEMONADE 3
UNSWEETENED ICED TEA 3
BLACK RASPBERRY ICED TEA 3
APPLE JUICE 3

A'SICILIANA SODA (lemon or blood orange) 5

SAN PELLEGRINO SPARKLING (17oz) 5

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*consuming raw or undercooked products may increase the risk of food borne illness.

please inform your server if a person in your party has a food allergy.
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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Black Hole Symphony Guides Audience In a Journey Across the Multiverse

ANNABEL TU

A video of the universe lit up the projector screen as a small ensemble played an otherworldly melody, taking the audience on an adventure into a black hole galaxy and back. A narrator acted as a tour guide throughout the listeners’ cosmic journey.

Last Saturday in Cochran Chapel, Multiverse @ Andover hosted the Black Hole Symphony by the Multiverse Concert Series. Composer and conductor David Ibbett used scientific data on black holes, collected by the Harvard Center of Astrophysics, to put together the piece. His team used a unique process called sonification.

Ibbett said, “The music is informed by research. We got six scientists [working] with me, each on a different scene in the music, providing data that gets turned into melodies and harmonies that we experience... [black holes] don’t just suck things in like a vacuum cleaner, they also spin up clouds of gas and spit out plasma, and there’s dust ringing the system... [along with] torus, jets of plasma shooting out into space.”

Ibbett continued, “We can spot [each of these things] with a different signature on a different kind of telescope and put together this picture. I spent a long time just trying to figure out what that big picture was, and then I created sonification. I might take a data set like gamma rays fluctuating over time from Quasar and turn that into a melody, where each day gets a different note depending on how intense the radiation was. And that becomes one scene



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

The Black Hole Symphony works with six scientists and turns their data into melodies.

from the symphony.”

The concert was the product of three years of work from a group of scientists, artists, and musicians. Unlike many showcases, the Black Hole Symphony combined the subjects of science and art into one experience. Athena Zhang ’25, who organized the event, highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the concert.

“This is a novel concept, something that most people haven’t seen before and heard. I want people to take away [the fact] that there are so many new things that people can do, so many concepts that you can do that are interdisciplinary, adding two subjects together into one to create something spectacular,” said Zhang.

The ensemble consisted of an unusual combination of so-

prano, electric guitar, violin, flute, piccolo, and audio backing. The music was paired with visuals from the Boston Museum of Science. Audience member Georgianna Harpole ’25 highlighted the soprano part, sung by Agnes Coakley Cox.

“[The most memorable moment for me was] the singer. There was narration throughout the performance, but when she opened her mouth and began to sing, the whole experience started to align... and [it felt] so much more put together. It began to feel like I was transported, even though the whole time I was listening to and watching, essentially placing myself in the dark in space. Her voice made it all feel so much more real,” said Harpole.

Despite the heart of the symphony being rooted in

hard, scientific data, the music still retained an emotional touch because of the musicians. Guitar player Dan Van Hassel mentioned how he wanted to communicate that sense to the audience.

“I mean, from the guitar-playing perspective... because so much of the music is synthesized and electronic, I’m trying to infuse a lot of the human element into my playing just to make sure it’s not all just data and science, [and] that there’s some humanity there too,” said Van Hassel.

Jaylen Daley ’25 emphasized the surprising yet astounding combination of art and science. He encouraged others to show up to more events like the Black Hole Symphony.

“As soon as I heard the genre shift to Breakcore, I heard an Amen Break in the

background, which is really fundamental to some styles of hardcore EDM... It took me off guard, and it still went really smoothly... Students need to be out here showing up to these events more and more... A lot of people are missing these opportunities to see the arts and sciences on campus, and this event was like a big, great conglomeration of both, so I was happy to experience it for myself,” said Daley.

The concert was educational in many ways, with a narrator speaking to the audience during gaps in the music and sharing information about the universe and black holes. Ibbett shared an additional message he wanted to convey through the experience.

“The joy of being alive in the universe is the main [message]. I mean, they’re black holes, they’re not some story. They’re really out there, and we can learn about them and experience them through science... I want to get across the message that science and music are for everyone, so we can all experience these things. And we can choose to spend our lives in one or the other or both. You don’t have to choose. You can have a life that combines art and science and gives in a way that matches your full personality,” said Ibbett.

Multiverse @ Andover is made possible by the Office of Dean of Studies and a grant from the Abbot Academy Fund, continuing Abbot’s tradition of boldness, innovation, and caring.

Art 505 Students Challenge Traditional Portraiture

ASHIQ KIBRIA AND CAMERON MANZO

Amidst Gelb Gallery’s blank white walls, a large collage of Megan Paulson, Instructor in History, with stretched out 3D Arms pops out from the flat surface. Created from mini photographs of her students, the contrasting faces created a mosaic of Paulson, welcoming all community members into the gallery.

Last Friday, the Art 505 reception showcased artworks of faculty, alumni, and students across campus. Each artwork was accompanied by artist statements that provided a glimpse into the meaning behind each piece. Created

last spring, the pieces served to challenge traditional portraiture, according to Art 505 Instructor Renée Silva.

“The fun of the [portrait] project was to create space and create representation of a wider range of identities on campus outside of the gold-framed portraits we see around campus... We looked at some activist artists who appropriate existing materials to challenge representation in different ways. For example, the photographer Alexander Bell. And, we talked about the impact of what happens when only certain identities get represented and other identities don’t. We also talked about challenging the European lens of portraiture, [which is] head and shoul-

ders,” said Silva.

Reflecting on the gallery’s impact, many students appreciated how it represented Andover’s multifaceted community. Sebastian Cynn ’24 found that it was enriching to see his friends’ artwork, while also gaining insight into the artists whom he may not have known.

“I think [the portraits are] really cool. I think it’s a way to show the community and all of the people within it, and you get to see people in a perspective that you haven’t seen before. And, you get to see people you might not have seen before around campus. It shows you just how vibrant our campus is and how full of life it is, and how many people there are on campus in

so many different ways,” said Cynn.

The huge, centered embrace of Paulson was not only charming for attendees, but also meaningful to Paulson herself. She shared the backstory of the piece and her emotional reaction to seeing it on display.

“I was nervous at first, and I asked if there was a way they could make me up of all of my students. My students make me who I am... I cried, it was so moving for me when I saw the end product. It was amazing and captured teaching for me. The hard work it took for them to create it, and the thoughtfulness when creating the artwork... The large hands show how I feel. I always want to give everyone a big hug all of the time,” said

Paulson.

The reception also proved to be a rich source of inspiration for attending artists, offering fresh perspectives on mediums used, unique concepts, or even 3D elements. Nicha Hasuwannakit ’24, a student currently taking Art 505, expressed this sentiment.

“I am taking inspiration through the incorporation of 3D elements. I already have the general concept for my artwork and have started working on it. I am planning on using multiple media similar to the other artworks in the exhibit. I was thinking of including more texture, through cloth or adding a frame. The artists used certain objects to make the painting feel more alive,” said Hasuwannakit.



COURTESY OF HEYON CHOI

Students in Art 505 made a mosaic of Megan Paulson, Instructor in History, out of small photos of all of her students.



COURTESY OF HEYON CHOI

Aviva Cai ’24 painted the portrait above of Sarah Driscoll, Instructor in English.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Creating Contemporary Choreography: Adele Ciociola '25 Gains Inspiration From Home Studio

MAYARI BURT AND
STELLA SEONG

For Adele Ciociola '25, dance has long been a part of her life. From working rigorously in various studios to being active in Andover's dance program, Ciociola has experimented with a variety of dance styles and often comes up with her own choreography for performances. On campus, she is the Co-Head of Blue Strut (Strut), Andover's jazz dance group, and participates in performances such as the Andover Dance Festival and Grasshopper.

"I started dancing competitively at the age of eight, and I was dancing recreationally since I [was] six. When I first started dancing, I was

at a very jazz-based studio, so it was very fun. [During] Covid-19, I went to a pre-professional studio. The training became a lot more rigorous, and there was greater technical focus. I did more ballet and contemporary. And there, we would go to competitions. We also did a lot of performing, putting on shows, and recording[s]," said Ciociola.

One of the unique aspects of Andover's dance program is the independence and creative freedom available to students. Ciociola shared how she has been partaking in Andover dance groups and performances, and how she has been able to make her own creative choices, such as choreographing her own performances.

"Andover's dance program is a lot more student-direct-

ed. I'm part of Blue Strut... [and] it's been really fun choreographing and picking music and costumes... taking a more active role in my dance pursuit. There are a lot of student-run shows too... Grasshopper was student-run, which was really nice, [as well as the] Andover Dance Festival, which is the updated Dance Open... For that, I'm doing my solo, and I'm also choreographing [a] contemporary group dance... I'm really excited [about] seeing the vision and then getting to work with my friends and other good dancers this year," said Ciociola.

In the world of dance, Ciociola draws inspiration from her home studio's owner. She commends the owner's commitment to cultivating a love for dance through daily classes. This environment encourages individuals to push their boundaries, making it an enjoyable and favored space. Reflecting on peers who became professional dancers, Ciociola highlights the studio's unique ability to nurture talent in a joyous atmosphere.

"My biggest inspiration is probably my studio owner at home because running a studio is really hard [because they have to go] there every day [to] teach class and instill a love for dance into these kids, while also making us test our limits... That experience [is] super enjoyable and fun and makes everyone want to keep going back. At my old studio, all the girls in the year above me became professional dancers and are now dancing professionally in college. And I think just to be able to curate talent in that way, while still making it enjoyable and [the studio] your favorite place to be is really amazing," said Ciociola.

Given dance's large role



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Adele Ciociola '25 played Dew Drop in "The Nutcracker" earlier this winter.

in her life, Ciociola plans on bringing dance with her into college and beyond. Although she has no plans of becoming a professional dancer, her passion for the art form continues to inspire her.

"I definitely am not planning on becoming a professional dancer. I think I will dance in college, kind of similarly to how I dance here, through clubs and if there's a sports option. I think it'll always be part of my life. I definitely, even when I'm at

home, [will] go back to my studio and take [a] class. I really enjoy dancing. But when I made the decision to come to Andover, I decided that I wasn't going to be a professional dancer. That's just not the path that I want to put myself on. I think I enjoy it as something that I love to do and it's not something that I want to make a career out of for that reason," said Ciociola.



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Adele Ciociola '25 has a passion for the contemporary genre and is choreographing a contemporary group dance for this year's Dance

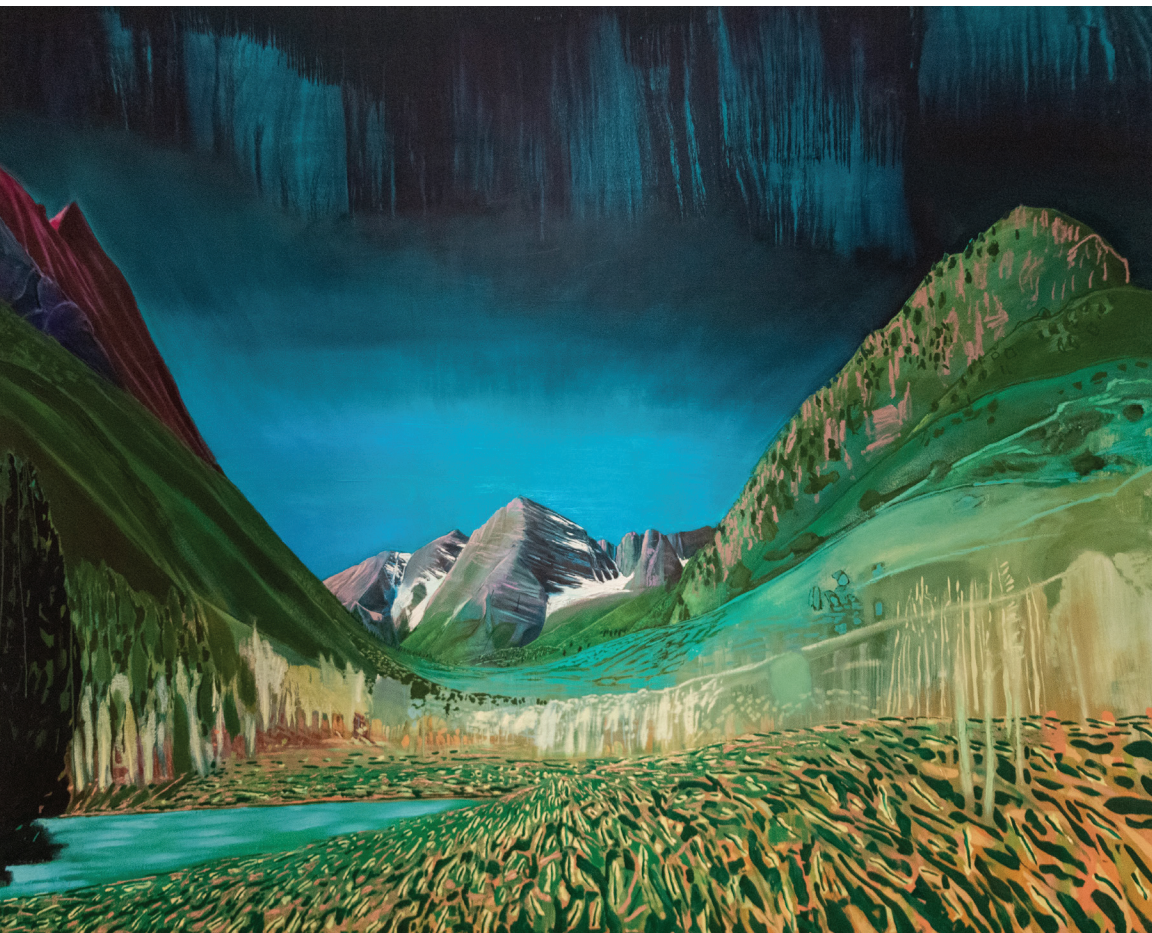
Artist-in-Residence Sue McNally Inspires With Nature and Art in the American West

LILY LIU AND JEANNE
KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET

On display in the Addison Gallery of American Art, a painting of the two peaks of the Elk Mountains in Colorado stretches across the wall. Created by Artist-in-Residence Sue McNally, the 7.5 by 9.5-foot painting "Maroon Bells" has been on display in the Addison Gallery since December 2023 and highlights the intersectionality between nature and art. This past weekend, the Addison hosted a workshop that welcomed community members to dive into McNally's creative process featuring a walk in the Cochran Bird Sanctuary and drawing activities.

The workshop took place within the scope of the Artist-in-Residence program, which welcomes several artists to campus every year for varying durations. Jamie Gibbons, Head of Education at the Addison Gallery, emphasized McNally's ability to find many avenues of engaging with the Andover community and beyond as the Artist-in-Residence.

"The Addison's Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence program started in 1946, and every year we have a couple artists come to campus. Sometimes, they can only come for a couple days, sometimes they come for a week. We're really lucky that Sue has been able to give us a good amount of time... While she is here she is doing a really large number of things, making work over in the artist studio on the Abbot campus, she is meeting with classes, both Phillips Academy classes and classes who come from off-campus, and she is leading public programs for us and so this [is] one of the programs," said Gibbons.



A.TSAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

On display in the Addison, Artist-in-Residence Sally McNally's "Maroon Bells" depicts the colorful Colorado mountains.

While it can be interpreted as abstract, McNally's art combines various references to American landscapes, such as the Coloradan peaks in her featured piece. She shared that her passion for nature and painting went back to her youth, when she already enjoyed being artistically challenged.

"I make art that exists in the landscape realm, I do large-scale landscape paintings and I also do a lot of side projects like drawings and collages and other things. They move into an abstracted realm but they're really landscape objects and images. But I sort of look in deeply

to something and then create an abstract version of it, that I consider to be landscape still," said McNally.

McNally continued, "I've always been an artmaker since I was a child and I never really had any other path in my head besides doing it. I've just always done it since I was young and just kept going my whole life. I find it intellectually satisfying, intellectually challenging, physically challenging, satisfying, and I've always wanted to better myself and create new things."

One main objective of the Artist-in-Residence program is to support contemporary art by inviting both estab-

lished and emerging artists to campus. Elaborating on her motivations for becoming Artist-in-Residence, McNally pointed to her childhood memories at the Addison as part of what drew her to displaying her art and working with the community.

"[The Addison] is an amazing museum, an amazing collection [and] American art collection, and I'm honored to be part of it. This is the first real museum I ever went into as a kid, so it holds a special place to me that way, and I just think that there's been a wonderful amount of interesting artists that have come to this program and been here

over the years and it's great to be part of it... It's great. Everything, the people are great, and I have nothing to say but positive things, my experience has been amazing," said McNally.

McNally's "Maroon Bells" is displayed as a part of the larger exhibition "Free Association New Acquisitions and Context," which examines pieces that have recently been added to the Addison's collection that highlight new artistic narratives across time and media. Gibbons noted McNally's piece as one that builds upon depictions of the American West.

"When you're curating an exhibition, all artwork speaks to each other and the narrative of the exhibition comes from the way the works speak to each other... The Addison has about 25 thousand objects in the collection, and we are always looking at kind of what the strengths are of the collection and then also where we can continue to build, and so Sue's work speaks to the majesty of that work in particular, the majesty of the American West, which is an area in which our collection is really strong," said Gibbons.

In the coming months as her time as Artist-in-Residence comes to a close, McNally discussed her ambitions and excitement to continue creating and displaying art for the Andover community to enjoy.

"I'm hoping that at the end of three months, I have a lot of interesting things to show whoever wants to come look at them. It's a unique opportunity to have this private time away when I make what I want to make unencumbered. In the end, I'm hoping that it'll be exciting for some kids who want to come see, that'll be great," said McNally.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Andover Edition’s Second “Bassment” Dance Gains Huge Success With Trendy Music and Blackout Theme

PENELOPE TONG AND
ZADIE ROBINSON

Andover Edition hosted their second-ever student-run “Bassment” dance last Saturday in Lower Right. Attendees wore all-black, and the monochromatic crowd gathered around a central DJ table, mimicking a boiler room-style party. Alina Chen ’27 reflected on her initial impressions of the dance.

“I loved the advertising. The posters I saw were all eye-catching and interesting to me and drew me in. I like the one on Instagram, their latest post. It spoke to me, and the things I find aesthetic. I feel like the event being student-run helped a lot with that,” said Chen.

The dance was not just a fun social event, but a chance for students to show their creativity by interpreting a broad fashion prompt. Even with the blackout theme, attendees showcased a diverse range of outfits. Andover Edition board member Carolyn Barbie ’24 discussed the idea behind a monochrome theme.

“This one color allowed for a lot of liberty with clothing. I think

a lot of people reached into their closet to find the one black thing in there. Because it’s one color, it allows you to mix a bunch of textures without it being cacophonous, and also I think that since it was known to be a hip hop dance, there was a big emphasis on wearing street style. That was kind of subconscious, but even with street styles, there’s a lot of liberty with experimentation,” said Barbie.

The Bassment dance stood out from typical school dances with its unique and relaxed atmosphere. The dance strayed away from conventional formalities, creating a laid-back environment. Andover Edition board member Allie Encarnacion ’24 articulated her vision for the dance.

“We didn’t hold the theme pretense like Abbot, where it’s absolutely positive that you have to wear a dress or bring someone with you. It’s also really important that it’s completely student-motivated, so even before the dance starts, we want to see everyone have the best time and be safe,” said Encarnacion.

Many students echoed the sentiment that the dance’s simplicity and relaxed atmosphere provided a much-needed break from the daily pressures of life and a time

to just hang out with friends.

“I enjoy these kinds of weekend social events where you can kind of just relieve your stress a little bit and just focus on hanging out with your friends... I’ve been really interested in [Andover Edition] just because I enjoy styling and fashion, and I like their mission of being able to apply your passions to the community. That passion being fashion,” said Chen.

The theme of the dance has even influenced some students outside of the dance scene. Maddie Fletcher ’27 shared a personal style revelation that came about with the blackout theme, allowing her to tap into a new facet of her wardrobe.

“I haven’t worn anything not black since then, I don’t know why, but I ended up wearing this black denim jacket, and the jacket has influenced every outfit since then. I like it. I feel like black clothing is really easy to style and I haven’t broken out any of my black clothes, so once they came out it kind of broke the dam, and now I’m wearing strictly black,” said Fletcher.

Encarnacion and Barbie are currently thinking of holding more dances next term, both as a response to student feedback and



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Maximilian Dabbous ’24 djs in Lower Right of Paresky Commons during the dance.

as a final event for their last year on the Andover Edition.

“Ms. [Stephanie] Cormier, [Student Program Coordinator,] also asked us to potentially, potentially run it again in spring. A lot of people reached out saying that

we have to do it again. It was awesome to receive so much support,” said Encarnacion.

Editor’s Note: Carolyn Barbie’ 24 is a Photo Editor for The Phillipian.

Pianist Bonnie Anderson Performs Diverse Collection for Andover Community

PIPER LASATER AND
ANNABEL TU

Adjunct Piano Instructor Bonnie Anderson performed a piano recital in the Timken Room in Graves Hall this past Sunday. Divided into three sections — Invitation, Flight, and Resolution — the program consisted of pieces that Anderson aptly called “short gems,” all of which were composed by female or living composers. Anderson carefully curated her pieces to create a storyline that reflected the emotions of the music.

“The first section is ‘Invitation,’ and I had three female composers: Clara Schumann, Cécile Chaminade, and Betty Jackson King. And they’re all inviting pieces, mellow, warm, intimate pieces. And then I thought that it would be nice to get some more momentum going. So I named the second section of the concert ‘Flight’... the second piece in the ‘Flight’ section is ‘Troubled Water’ based on the spiritual, ‘Wade in the Water.’ It has a lot of jazzy rhythms, a really fun use of the piano, a lot of pedal with low bass notes, and then the upper register and jumping all around.



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Anderson only performed songs composed by female or living artists.

And then to end the program, I have the ‘Resolution’... I really liked this last piece called ‘At Last.’ It has layers of sound and voicing with the bass, the middle, and then a beautiful melody,” said Anderson.

For audience member Emma Greenhut ’27, the Flight section was particularly memorable. She noted the contrast between

lighter and heavier pieces, as well as the overall bright and cheerful tone of the music.

“I really liked the second third because I thought it was really interesting. It started with that light butterfly piece. It was very ethereal. It was very pretty to listen to, and then it transitioned to a heavier piece, which gave it some contrast. Then it

finished out with that rag-time thing. It was really, really cool,” said Greenhut.

Anderson’s goal for the performance was to create a peaceful and uplifting atmosphere to relax students for midterms, while at the same time wanting to introduce the audience to a wider variety of composers. While organizing the program, she worked to tie together the pieces and composers she had discovered from a variety of places.

“[For] the Clara Schumann [piece], I actually was introduced to at a masterclass that I was giving... The Cécile Chaminade I found in a pianist magazine that comes out of Europe and Betty Jackson King, that came out of the book that I found because I was asked to perform for a Martin Luther King service... The Elena Kats-Chernin I found because of the Portland Symphony playing her piece called ‘Clocks,’” said Anderson.

Audience members noted the collection of diverse pieces. Carol Thistle, resident of the town of Andover, has been attending concerts from the school for years. She appreciated the range of composers and the variety

that it added to the program.

“One of the things that I love is that all of them were by female composers. I was turned on by many new composers I had never heard of... ‘Butterflying’ [which] was so much fun, and I also really liked ‘Troubled Water.’ It was amazing. I enjoyed them all... I also like that the pieces were short; they weren’t that long, so it was almost like a big candy box trying all the different flavors,” said Thistle.

Anderson is an accomplished musician, having played piano in professional chamber, orchestral, and solo settings. As a faculty member in Andover’s music department, she looks forward to the opening of Falls Hall and appreciates the school’s investment in music.

“I’m really excited for the new building... It’s going to be a big chapter, a new big chapter for the faculty and students and the community... I think that it’s really great that here at Andover we have these beautiful grand pianos that students get to rehearse and perform on, and then faculty can rehearse and perform on them. And I think that it’s just incredible the level of artistry and beauty that we can all achieve because the level of

Ariana Grande’s New Album Release “yes, and?” Distracts Public From Unfavorable Personal Decisions

PENELOPE TONG

Whether you caught wind of it in the news, social media, or heard it playing in the background of a small business owner’s reels, Ariana Grande’s new song, “yes, and?” has caused an uproar in the media over its quality and questionable morals. Released on January 12, Grande’s single captured public attention for being her first new production since “positions” three years ago.

“yes, and?” is meant to be a testament of confidence and authenticity, with the title showing a nonchalant attitude towards criticism. In the lyrics, Grande hints at the critique of her affair with Ethan Slater, trying to prove that she is entitled to do what she wants with her life. Unfortunately, the song did not have quite the iconic effect Grande hoped to achieve. Rather, the quality of the music and music video is lacking compared to previous releases.

The song’s introduction is long, plain, and unoriginal. It feels like perhaps it belongs in the background of a Macy’s, as you browse through uninspir-

ing items. The rest of the song is bland, with the only catchy part being the title phrases in the chorus. Grande’s voice sounds airy and her tone is reminiscent of that in “thank u, next.” The only difference between these two singles is the fact that “yes, and?” does not require a lot of vocal gymnastics or mastery of techniques. It stays within the same mezzo-soprano range that seems overly comfortable for Grande. There are no surprises or memorable moments, and it is almost as if Grande used artificial intelligence to find a random tune in her style.

Moreover, the lyrics are straightforward, and the phrase “yes, and?” is spoiled by the messages Grande is trying to convey. As reflected above, the song is meant to be about confidence but comes off as a cover-up for her poor decisions. Back in 2023, Grande divorced her husband, Dalton Gomez, and began seeing Slater, an actor and singer. Unfortunately, Slater was married and had a son at the time, which Grande was well aware of. The affair caused Slater and his wife, Lilly Jay, to split, as he continued to date Grande.

By singing lyrics like “I’m so done with caring/what you think, no, I won’t hide/underneath your own projections/ or change my most authentic life,” Grande expresses her disregard for the impression she gives and the judgment she faces for her actions.

In the music video, Grande attempts to justify her mistakes with actors playing aggravating and obnoxious critics, making her seem wronged and more reasonable for protecting her own interests. However, it is easy to see right through the mask. Apart from that, the questionable quality of the choreography, which features slow sliding movements that do not match the upbeat tempo, results in a poor overall listening experience.

Grande’s large influence, especially among young teens, gives her the responsibility to make good judgments and set positive examples. However, her song “yes, and?” is essentially trying to prove that she doesn’t have to acknowledge this responsibility and can do what she wants in her personal life. While celebrities should be allowed their privacy to an extent, Grande made her own choices and



NATHAN WU/THE PHILLIPIAN

her actions as a homewrecker should not go unnoticed.

Overall, “yes, and?” receives one out of five stars, as it lacks Grande’s usual quality, and is simply a distraction from her poor behavior as she attempts to flee controversy. Perhaps instead of com-

plaining in song form, Grande should take responsibility for the consequences of her actions.



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