

Faculty and Students Dress Up for Solar Eclipse Demonstration at All-School Meeting

JONATHAN OH & CADE RUTKOSKE

Three celestial bodies descended to last Friday's All-School Meeting (ASM) as Caroline Odden and José Manuel Zorrilla Matilla, Instructors in Physics, presented on solar eclipses in preparation for the eclipse on April 8. On stage, Odden used Stephanie Curci, Instructor in English, Winston-Hughes Wall '25, and Yasmine Tazi '24, dressed up as the Moon, the Sun, and the Earth, respectively, to demonstrate the planetary configuration during a solar eclipse.

During the ASM, Zorrilla asked questions to the student body, passing around a microphone for students to respond. Maya Rogers '25 pointed out how the audience engagement made the ASM significantly more enjoyable and entertaining.

"I thought it was just going to be a boring lecture about physics and things I wouldn't understand, but it was something that we could all understand. It was especially funny because we had people who dressed up, [and] think the audience engagement was good. [Dr.] Zorrilla asked questions and

had people move the moon," said Rogers.

Rogers also pointed out that the ASM was made even more exciting by Head of School Raynard Kington's declaration of Head of School Day (HOSD). Although it was partially expected, she still noted how the moment of announcement was filled with energy.

"They planned out the Head of School Day almost perfectly. Someone asked the question about 'will we have time to watch the eclipse?' and then Dr. Kington went up. I think that was very funny. I think it was expected... there are always rumors before... but it was still a nice surprise," said Rogers.

David O'Niell '26 described how this particular ASM was informative yet also quick to the point and entertaining. He talked about how the interactive elements of the faculty and the student body helping explain the ideas shared in the ASM made it more engaging and fun to watch.

"[The ASM] was pretty cool, I liked the costumes, and it was

Continued on A5, Column 1



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY SMUGMUG
Serafina Shin-von Nordenflycht '25 gazes up at the solar eclipse on HOSD.

Head of School Dr. Raynard Kington Announces 33rd Head of School Day



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY
Head of School Raynard Kington donned his 'A' top hat at All-School Meeting to announce Head of School Day 2024.

BAILEY XU

Cheers erupted in the Cochran Chapel during Friday's All-School Meeting (ASM) as Head of School Dr. Raynard Kington announced April 8 as Andover's 33rd Head of School Day (HOSD). Following ASM, an email was sent out to the Andover community detailing the logistics for the upcoming three-day weekend.

In the past, HOSD has been announced the evening before in Paresky Commons as a surprise to the Andover community. With the total solar eclipse's occurrence on Monday, however, Kington decided to announce HOSD two days in advance this year.

"Because of the eclipse, I thought it made sense to announce [it] on Friday at All-

School Meeting so that those who wanted to travel to see the eclipse would have more time," wrote Kington in an email to *The Phillipian*.

In keeping with tradition, Kington's announcement was accompanied by a symbolic prop: a blue top hat decorated with a bold white letter "A." Kington described the inspiration behind selecting this prop, which he customized himself.

"I knew that prior [Heads of Schools] had used various sports equipment (field hockey stick and squash racket as I recall!) to announce Head of School Day, and I think I saw the blue hat in an online hat catalogue (I am a fan of hats but try not to buy too many since I end up never wearing them as often as I thought I would) and decided to buy it, attach an Andover 'A' and used that as my prop!" wrote Kington.

Although this year's HOSD announcement deviated from

tradition, Simi Gandhi '24 appreciated the timing. She expressed how the ASM, in which Dr. José Manuel Zorrilla Matilla, Instructor in Physics, and Caroline Odden, Dean of Studies, presented on Monday's solar eclipse, enhanced her excitement toward the announcement.

"Having the ASM be about the eclipse... created an additional layer of excitement. I've just been used to having HOSD announced the night before, and while it is exciting, I think the whole presentation about the eclipse [built] up the suspense and momentum to make it really exciting," said Gandhi.

Analisa Sevilla, Teaching Fellow in Spanish, also hoped to travel on Monday to observe the solar eclipse. As she had al-

Continued on A5, Column 4

Chelsea Hu '24's "How to Find Your Balance" Wins Top Prize in New York Times Competition

LUCAS BERNARDETE & ALLEGRA LEE

Chelsea Hu '24's essay, "How to Find Your Balance," was one of 11 winning essays published by the New York Times for The Learning Network's new "How To" Informational Writing Contest for Teenagers. In her essay, Hu touched on finding balance through the lens of dance, drawing inspiration from Judith Wombwell, founding Director of DeadFall Dance, and her teachings on how to "find your central axis."



I. PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN
Chelsea Hu '24 took inspiration from the use of balance in dance to formulate her essay.

Hu described her thoughts while piecing together the idea for this essay. She intended to provide useful advice for students at an academically rigorous school like Andover, where balance is especially important.

"I was thinking how I could build up my 'How To' essay, and I thought I would write something that was actually serviceable to peoples' lives, and provide some advice that I thought was actionable. So I think something I struggle with [at Andover], perhaps a lot of students here struggle with, is finding balance in their lives. Whether it's balance between

their academic lives and individual lives, or balance in other facets. I thought I would write about balance, because it was just something that seemed to be relevant to people, and I also want to find a sort of innovative approach to it, because I think there's lots of work about balance, so I thought dance would be a cool metaphor for it," said Hu.

Additionally, Hu shared the importance of balance as a Senior at Andover, when it is easy to overextend oneself. She aimed to explore how balance supports achieving goals in life, and how balance is possible for an Andover student.

"Finding balance is a very important part of my Andover experience. Now that I'm a Senior I can definitely speak to the importance of balance. It's really easy to overexert yourself here, I think in most places really, but just in terms of finding balance I think that's what allows us to sustain all of our ambitions, and every project, every assignment, is just something else on our plate that we have to balance. Being able to find balance and juggle the different things that we have to do with what we want to do—that's pretty important to the student experience," said Hu.

Wombwell's dance lessons were an enduring motif in Hu's essay, with many of her quotes being connected to the challenges of daily life. Wombwell elaborated on the idea of physical balance while dancing and how it teaches one how to balance different aspects of our lives.

Continued on A5, Column 4

Fireside Chat With Psychologist Dr. Jenny Wang Promotes Mental Health Awareness



COURTESY OF ACTIVE MINDS PA
Dr. Jenny Wang answered anonymous questions about Mental Health in Kemper Auditorium.

CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & JEANNE KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET

Over virtual fire, Dr. Jenny Wang led a fireside chat with student leaders Eddie Lou '24, Ozochi Onunaku '25, and Alice He '25 on mental health and wellness. Students had the opportunity to submit questions anonymously for Wang concerning mental health in the context of the Andover community.

Wang touched upon the meaning of educational success and the pressure experienced by students to get into a top college. She acknowledged the importance of academics and emphasized how friendships and communities are crucial to building a healthy environment.

"At the end of the day, students will likely get into a school coming out of Phillips Academy. And, at that point, when you look back, will you have wanted your time at Phillips Academy to be once filled with anxiety, fear, and panic? Or will you want to

look back on it as a place that brings fun memories, a lot of friendships and connections?" said Wang.

Lou shared how toxic productivity was preventing students at Andover from having a positive point of view in regards to academics.

"The core question that we talked about during the chat was about the culture of toxic productivity, especially at this school. As students, we need to help mitigate that ourselves by taking a more positive, performance-focused approach. Talking to our friends, just any other peers, especially when they're mentioning how they are sacrificing their wellness for academic success," said Lou.

Lou proceeded to highlight the value of discussions with guest speakers that provide the community with an external point of view. He explained that the informal setting of the event encouraged a meaningful dia-

Continued on A5, Column 1

Commentary, A2
College Jitters

Hluma Mangcu '26 speaks about the stress of college and how the prospect of being admitted prevents students from enjoying their high school years.

Eighth Page, A8
Phull Totality

Sports, B1
Girls Tennis Victorious

Girls Tennis dominated against both Nobles and Austin Prep, securing their first win of the season.

Arts, B6
Artist in Residence Tour

Artist in Residence Alex Harris '67 led a tour of the Addison Gallery's exhibition, "A Long Arc: Photography and the American South since 1845."

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Editorial

Clubbed Out: Striking the Balance

Student clubs are one of the largest parts of life and engagement at Andover. From the screaming students and maze-like rows of stands, posters, and sign-up sheets during Club Rally to the endless emails that flood student inboxes on the weekly, Andover’s club culture is both vibrant and expansive, providing a space for students of any and all interests to explore their passions. With “Youth from Every Quarter” bestowing Andover with a diverse student body that flaunts a dazzling array of talents and skills, including musical, academic, athletic, artistic, and areas beyond these categories entirely, the Andover club scene is similarly host to a colorful collection of specialties: literary magazines like *The Courant*, cultural groups like the Hispanic Culture Club, Asian Performing Arts Club (APAC) and other dance teams, speech and debate organizations such as the Philomathean Society, and even clubs like the Dinosaur Club. In addition to the 100 plus clubs already existing on campus, countless new ones are constantly being created with each passing year, pioneered by groups of students who see it as a way to carve out a dedicated environment for something they care about. However, at the same time, innumerable other ones are silently sliding into the abyss. Whether it be due to inactivity from graduating Seniors who had a unique vision or slowly diminishing engagement through the years, the list of clubs that may only be alive in name is also only getting longer and longer. To that end, we would like to remind everyone of a saying that may seem trite, but whose message remains golden nonetheless: quality over quantity.

At Andover, it is easy to become swept up in the ocean that is old clubs, new clubs, and clubs yet-to-exist. While we certainly excel in the quantity department, there is perhaps more that could be done to ensure that our clubs are meeting similar standards when it comes to quality. Not always, but oftentimes, the two fall into a tradeoff relationship (think about this in terms of your life, too): when we have more of something, it is harder to preserve the value or individuality of each one. On campus, this manifests in multiple clubs having the same general focus, thus making it difficult for each one to find their differentiating factor that sets them apart from the rest to attract a unique audience. In this scenario, there are typically only two outcomes — one of them trumps the rest, or all of them fail to maintain consistent membership — neither

of which are particularly favorable. To prevent such circumstances from becoming a pattern amongst Andover club culture, perhaps stricter guidelines for creating new clubs is something worth considering. For student leaders aspiring to create a new club, having such a policy to double-check that the club truly has a highlight or differentiating factor that will spearhead it towards success before the club is officially established might help prevent unsatisfactory turnout later on. And for all students, stricter club creation guidelines would minimize the likelihood of five different clubs all doing very similar activities, therefore reducing confusion and the possibility of being overwhelmed by number of options available.

But quality over quantity applies on a personal basis, too. It is inevitable that club participation at Andover carries the undertones of preparing for the college applications that loom over us and though it is impossible to magically remove our subconscious desires to craft the “perfect” college application and have one more item to add to our resumes, we can take note of the fact that pursuing projects and clubs that truly excite us ultimately leads to a more fulfilling club experience. As students, we shouldn’t treat clubs as checklists to complete for college. Instead, we can cherish them as on-campus spaces to experiment and take risks without the pressure of the classroom. Admittedly, it can feel as if we are falling behind when we notice our close friends and peers climbing the administrative ladders of what seem to be countless clubs. At times, it may be tempting to throw ourselves into as many board applications as possible, or start a new club to instantly obtain a founder or co-president position. Once again, we must acknowledge that the power of participating in clubs is to ignite the spark of joy and learning within you. Rather than hunting for titles, we can choose to attend clubs to develop our skills in certain fields. Should a board application fall through, we can rest assured that the time we spent in the club was not “wasted.” Rather, that we gained skills and made connections that are meaningful to us in the long run. If we spend our time engaging with things we love and building skills we care about, the time we invest is valuable nonetheless.

This editorial, written by Managing Editors of The Phillipian, vol. CXLVII, represents the views of the Board.

The Andover Effect: What Happened to Our Individuality?

HLUMA MANGCU



COURTESY OF PANET

As spring unfolds and the college admissions process comes to an end, it becomes clear how competitive Andover students are. My friends and I have spent far too much time stalking our favorite Seniors’ Instagram bios trying to figure out what colleges they will be going to, then subsequently searching for the acceptance and graduation rates of those schools. We don’t do this with the intent of being judgemental or overcritical, but out of an innate desire to compare ourselves with others. The truth is, we are so intimidated by the possibility of not getting into our dream schools, and the pressure from our peers, our parents, and especially ourselves, obstructs our ability to appreciate our short lived time at Andover.

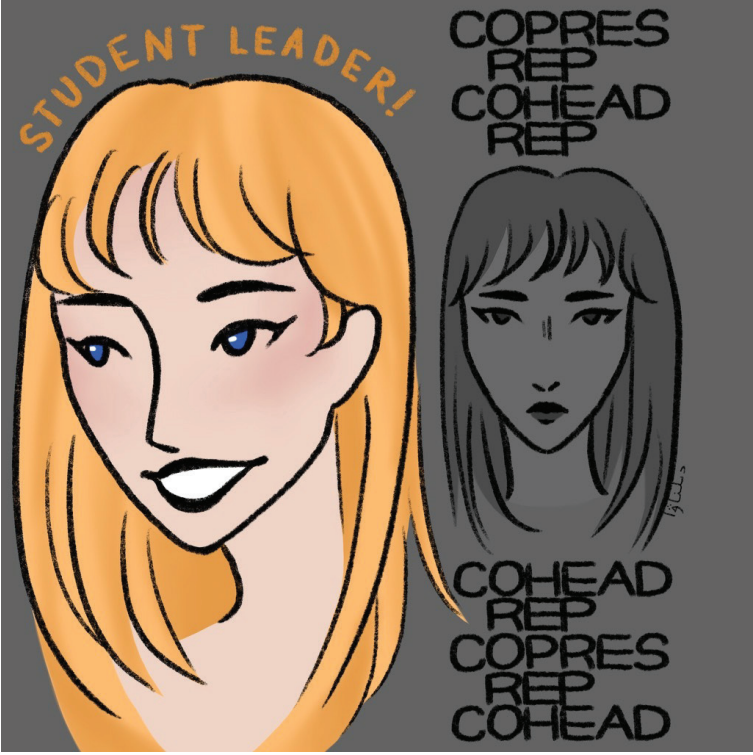
From my very first week at Andover, I knew that for the next four years, my life would be dedicated to getting into a top-ten university. For the past two years of my Andover career, I have observed that a lot of Andover students desire to fit into this perfect mold we have

created of what colleges want us to be. It often feels like our futures are doomed if we are not tri-varsity athletes, on the boards of a million clubs, have 6.0 GPAs, and have too many internships and volunteer hours to count. For this reason, we often find ourselves applying for board positions or even running for leadership positions such as prefect or cluster representative, even if we do not care about them. I believe that to an extent we have become robots who crave validation and are not passionate about any of our commitments.

When we create an environment where we are so concerned with filling up our resumes rather than fulfilling our passions, Andover students begin to ignore the things they genuinely want and even need to do. A lot of us end up disregarding activities that we genuinely love because we have deemed them unimpressive. We are so consumed by this need to be the perfect student that we give no value to ensuring that we are happy or that we are properly taking advantage of our time at this school. So, then, the question becomes: Is it really worth it?

College is not heaven, nor is it a direct gateway to all of your hopes and dreams.

When we look back on our high school experiences, we will regret the fact that we dedicated so much of our time to things that we didn’t care about. At the



DILNAWA KIZGHIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

end of the day some of us will go to schools with a 3 percent acceptance rate and others will go to a school with an 80 percent acceptance rate. In the end, though, we should not try to quantify our worth in such a way. College is not heaven, nor is it a direct gateway to all of your hopes and dreams. Rather than letting it become our lives, we should instead acknowledge that it is simply one part of our lives and should be treated as such. I think it is fair to say that most of us came to this school to find ourselves and be able to carve out our own paths. Our paths are meant to be unique and embraced. Just the same, the colleges that we look for should cater to our respective desires, regardless of national ranking. There is no college

that will fit one mold of the “perfect Andover student” because there is no such thing. In trying to create this singular mold, we lose our individuality and completely disregard the dreams and aspirations of the people we once were.

This widespread mindset of fitting into the Andover mold is simply the norm. No individual at this school can single-handedly fix the system in which our campus culture has become so deeply rooted. However, what I think we can do is stop putting on a front and prioritize the things that will make our time at Andover worthwhile. All that time you spend sitting in a club board meeting for a club that you hate but “looks good on college apps” is time that you could be spending doing your fa-

vorite niche hobby like knitting. The time that you spend on a pre-college program that you applied for because you felt like your summer wasn’t going to be productive enough, is time that you could be spending earning money at a job that you want or can learn practical skills from.

We are so consumed by this need to be the perfect student that we give no value to ensuring that we are happy or that we are properly taking advantage of our time at this school.

Yes, there are positives to the competitive and determined spirits of Andover students. As we go through life, we will be beyond disciplined and very hard-workers. All I am saying is that we do not always need to be so hard on ourselves because one day, we will end up at whatever university we are meant to be. As of now, we need to motivate ourselves to cherish the short time we have at this one-of-a-kind institution as well as the short time we have with each other.

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CORRECTIONS:

The photo taken by Leena Rustum in the Sports Article “Coach Chris Powers Ignites Mental Fortitude for the Upcoming Season” was misattributed.

The Phillipian regrets these errors.

Navigating

Reality

C. WANG / THE PHILLIPIAN

A North Star in the Infinite Cosmos

GRACE KIM



Prospection plays a large role in living a healthy life by giving meaning to each of our daily actions. For example, the act of skipping your daily iced coffee wouldn't hold significance unless you anticipated using the money you saved. However, starting from the Covid-19 pandemic that devastated the world to the current growing prevalence of artificial intelligence (AI), all illusions of predictability have shattered, and we are now struck in the face by the horrifying truth: our future is never guaranteed. This realization has caused the world, subconsciously or not, to endure a state of grieving over the losses of our hopes and purposes. Because no matter what you do, the world inevitably finds a way to obstruct all of your plans. That job you wanted? There has just been a new AI that has been developed that can do it for the companies. You want kids? Well, we are not sure if global warming will even let our Earth be habitable for that long. The world has lost its anchor, and we have spent the past few years floating along

with the current of the cosmos. However, we can not simply let Fate take the reins of our future and dictate what will happen to us. In letting ourselves become the ones to define our own beings by practicing existentialist principles, we must restore control over our own lives. Before discussing how to find our life's purpose, we must first understand what the nature of our existence entails. For the point of my article, I will use the definition from the philosophical movement: existentialism — our existence precedes our essence. According to Jean-Paul Sartre, a French philosopher and playwright, "the first principle of existentialism means first, that man exists, turns up, appears on the scene, and only afterwards, defines himself." Man is essentially nothing and his totality must be gained through modifying the nothingness that he is initially given. Of course, that does not mean that aspects of our existence do not affect our lives. However, humans retain the ability to rise above these physical qualities and carve out the life they want through their choices and decisions. Our desires and passions are what shape our lives more so than the pre-existing qualities. Human nature is undefinable because we start off with nothing and build ourselves up after. Thus, every human being is given the ability to shape their purpose in life. Once we have established that we are in control of our lives, how

exactly do we go about choosing a purpose for ourselves? Well, first, we must accept the instability and ambiguity of being human. There will always be risks and responsibilities that come with striving after a goal. However, just because our existence is obscure does not mean that we cannot try and find meaning within the vagueness. In "Being and Nothingness," Sartre tries to provide a definition for the uncertainty stating, "The notion of ambiguity must not be confused with that of absurdity. To declare that existence is absurd is to deny that it can be given a meaning; to say that it is ambiguous is to assert that

its meaning is never fixed." This means that the opaque nature of our existence is the very basis of our ability to exert freedom over our existence. Therefore, instead of perceiving the unpredictability as a threat to your state of being, think of it as an enforcer of your freedom. Unfortunately, because we claim that our existence is explicated by its nothingness, we are faced with the burden of constant choices. This absence of a concrete self places the responsibility of our life on us — constructing it so that our ability to give meaning to our life determines the nature of our existence. To overcome this, we have to realize that this anxiety of choice is not directed towards yourself, but the predicament that the external world may not allow you to follow through with the goal that you have chosen to define yourself as. However, existentialism puts you as the center of your world, to yourself you are the embodiment of freedom. Therefore, the source of possibilities and options is not from the realm that you are in but from yourself. Thus, if you choose, you are able to pursue it in reality. But, how can we define what we want to be? You must model your life after what kind of person you want to be when stripped

of all your physical possessions. Oftentimes, people try and determine who they want to be by setting physical goals, such as setting a job or certain college as your defining purpose for life. However, those aims depend solely on whether the physical world around you allows you to have it. Sartre coined this concept as "bad faith" which is explained as the act of defining oneself with physical properties such as your job, race, or economic class. One must realize that their situations must not transcend their fundamental societal role: to be human. And that because we are human we are both nothing and everything — a void with the power of infinite possibilities. To get out of such bad faith, you have to realize what your existence and your identity are when completely removed from the material projections that you associate with yourself. Even though the concept of taking on the responsibility of creating your own purpose may seem like a daunting task, it is an essential one. Human beings are such complex creatures, driven by the greater purpose that without it, we simply cannot strive. Unfortunately, the world's evolving and changing nature continually hinders our pursuit of a reason or our life. This has caused a need to find it from your internal world, where only you can alter it if you wish. Thus, we must all try and help identify our values to create our most meaningful life and find our story.

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Conditioned Perception

RANIA ALI-SVEDSATER



Our perception defines the reality around us. Life is an accumulation of the things we perceive and respond to, whether that be via sense of tastes, smell, hearing, or through mental interpretations. Alas, what if someone were to tell you that these responses can be unreliable? Consequently, what if our perceptions of such things were falsified, or rather, conditioned? Do our behaviors and responses affect these perceptions? Modern science proves that these responses are stimulated by something other than innate neural rhythms and are rather conditioned — they are influenced by human experience. If our perception is continuously conditioned, we restrict ourselves from the complexities of life. Ivan Pavlov introduced the concept of classical conditioning in 1897. In essence, the theory aligned human behavior with neural stimuli and responses. According to a series of experiments completed by Pavlov, our responses are manipulated by the presence of certain stimuli. Pavlov illustrated this through experimentation with dogs, and their responses to neutral stimuli. In traditional science, neutral stimuli do not drastically affect human

behavior. Nevertheless, the dogs salivated at the mere sound of a bell, even when no food was present. Pavlov used this salivation as an indicator of their responses, which had been conditioned to react to this specific stimulus. Thus, the responses were manipulated by something other than inherent physiology. Rather, they were beguiled by their experience. Ultimately, the effects of classical conditioning can extend onto human emotions, health, and behavior. Just as the dogs correlated food with the ringing of a bell, we may correlate certain sounds with a similar entity, depending on the experiences we have. The responses of the dogs heightened their experience as well as their emotions, their positive emotions caused them to rejoice at the sound of the bell, and in their viewpoint, their perceived reality was changed for the better. Thus, the question arises: if classical conditioning influences such crucial components of behavioral responses, can it not influence perception as well? Perception is defined by our view of reality around us from visceral or visible standpoints. If perception is affected or altered by human behavior in any way, then yes, it can be influenced. Our perceptions are dictated by our response to various stimuli and, therefore, craft the reality around us that our mind wills to perceive. These responses alter the parameters and effects of behavior. During the moment that the bell was rung, Pavlov's dogs altered their perception of their reality, as their response to the sound caused their behavior to change. Suddenly, they perceived the world around them in a positive light due to the misconceived presence of food. Alternatively, if they had correlated the bell ringing with

an unpleasant concept, their perception would become negative. Their association of the bell with food incriminated the validity of their perception — reality was now unfairly perceived as it was dictated by their behavior and personal views. In this way, there is a key link between behavior and perception. It may be more drastically claimed that our perceived reality is constantly invalidated at the cause of our own internal conditioning. Take a stray cat approaching two people in the street. The cat proceeds to bunt their head against each person and purrs whilst doing so. One person has had a negative experience with cats, and this experience has conditioned their behavior to perceive the cat as a threat. Alternatively, the other person does not have any similar negative experiences, and inversely appreciates the actions of the cat, identifying it as affectionate. Whilst the second person is indifferent, and

possibly pleased, the first person may recoil from the cat, leading them to become frustrated. Due to their projected frustration, they have caused another negative experience for themselves. Their conditioned behavior has evoked a chain of responses that have ultimately conditioned their perception of reality in this circumstance as well. Nevertheless, why should perception matter, if constantly altered? Alas, perception is the foundation of existence that humans abide by. Pavlov highlighted the impact of personal experience to condition behavior to certain stimuli, and as we encounter all such stimuli in our day-to-day lives, this impact can be extended to affect our ultimate perception as well. Without perception, one would not be able to encounter the world whether through the senses or through the mind. One could not eat, drink, sleep, love, smell, or even imagine without perception. This is also the case

for human behavior. Thus, the potential link between them is frightening; it infers that the cause of conditioned perception is determined by all humans individually. It makes us question: what if behavior did not influence perception? Would we perceive the world in a better way, that exceeds the intense, all-consuming reality that our behavior burdens upon ourselves? If perception is conditioned, we do not have the power to craft our own reality. We cannot properly indulge in life, for we are restricted to a singular path determined by personal behavior. In the example above with the cat, both people were faulted by their own conditioning which restricted their ultimate experiences during their encounter with the cat. This conditioning caused them to perceive life in a one-dimensional way, rather than experiencing all of its intricacies and complexities relative to the circumstance. One person is restricted to fear, whereas another is restricted to pleasure. Rather than using only one emotion to provoke their behavior, they should seek an overlap of both emotions or associations. The intersection of all potential responses in a given circumstance provides balance, evident in the example proposing an overlap of fear and pleasure, necessary for survival and enjoyment. Conditioning one's perception is a restriction of life itself. One should discard the mental onslaught of one-sided experience when encountering new things, yet also learn from multiple variations of experiences that may generate different responses.

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SOPHIE STAI / THE PHILLIPIAN

10 Questions with Sarah Hassanein

REPORTING BY SAKETH LINGISETTY & SELENE XU

Sarah Hassanein '24 was the Editor in Chief (EIC) for The Phillipian, Vol. CXLVI. Writing for The Phillipian was her first experience with journalism; Hassanein would go on to become a staff writer and study at the School of the New York Times over the summer before her Lower Year. Before becoming EIC, Hassanein was a member of the Varsity Diving team and a Day Student Mentor. In retirement from The Phillipian, she uses her time to play piano and spend time with her friends.

What drew you to *The Phillipian*?

I decided to join The Phillipian because it was the only club running on campus [during Covid-19]. I started writing for the Arts section and I...wrote a few articles for the News section. I think I started maybe the third or fourth week of my Freshman Year, and then I kept writing every single weekend just because I liked it. I had no idea what Upper Management was. I didn't know what Editor in Chief was. I was purely writing to do something and connect with the community on campus. I remember just being so proud. I think it was in January or February [when] I finally got my [first] solo article, and it was a movie review of the top ten best Netflix movies, and so I remember watching all these movies that weekend so I could rank them. I was just so happy to be writing this article, and so proud of myself. I think that's why I've really enjoyed it because I had something at Andover that was my own.

What did you do while studying at the School of the New York Times?

[The School] was in Washington DC and it was taught by a New York Times journalist... While I was there, we got opportunities to interview people on the streets in DC and we actually went into DC directly after Roe v. Wade was overturned at the Supreme Court. So, we went to that protest and interviewed people on both sides of the issue, and I think that was really the first moment that I was like, 'Wow, I can make an impact on people's lives,' and reporting on live events in front of me. I was really interested in and being in that environment at the Supreme Court and that was intriguing to me.

What other commitments do you have at Andover? How do you balance them with being Editor in Chief or just Upper Management in general?

I had a bunch of commitments last year, but [this year] I didn't really do that much because of Editor in Chief. I've always played piano for the past seven or eight years, [but] I had to drop that [when I was] Editor in Chief and now I'm getting back into it. I have my Senior recital this spring, and I'm playing Swan Lake, which is a really big piece... I'm just getting back into doing that sort of stuff and...hanging out with my friends now and enjoying all those aspects of Andover and being on campus.



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

If you could have dinner with one famous person, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Jackie Kennedy Onassis, because I think she was a really powerful woman in different ways. I've also always been interested in fashion, I just took fashion history this Winter Term. I love seeing political figures like Jackie O., being first lady and how she interrupted the fashion game through her power. It'd be really interesting to sit down with her and talk about her life. She had lived a really interesting life and a very privileged life, so I would love to interview her about that.

Could you tell us your favorite experience this year as Editor in Chief?

I've interviewed really cool people, but I have to say my favorite experience was [being] in the Newsroom, just hanging out with my fellow editors and UM members. Specifically, I have to shout out Vera [Zhang '24]. She was just really incredible this whole

year. We used to sing ABBA songs together in the Newsroom, especially when it was late and the paper was getting in late, and she was always such a bright positive light and became one of my closest friends, so anytime with her in the Newsroom was always a good time. We loved to sing and goof around, and I love Vera.

What were the main obstacles that you faced as Editor in Chief?

One of the main things that I wasn't expecting about Editor in Chief was that a lot of people have a lot of different opinions, and you're going to get a lot of emails about people expressing their opinions. Dealing with that in a constructive way, not taking it too personally, and understanding that it's a comment on the paper and not necessarily something I personally am doing. Those were all really good learning moments for me: [learning] how to take those comments to make the paper better instead of sitting around feeling bad about it. Those are moments where I really grew as a

person and I had to dig in deep to find the confidence and all of that to keep going and continue making the paper better.

What do you think is the greatest thing you've gained or that you've learned at Andover, or the school in general?

It doesn't really matter what you do. [What matters is] how you treat the people around you. *The Phillipian* is great and all, but if you aren't a kind person at the end of the day, if you aren't bringing positivity and helping and supporting the people around you, if you aren't being a good daughter, if you aren't being a good friend, if you're not being a good teammate, those things are going to live on much longer than any of the work you do at Andover. That's what I really learned throughout these past four years, is just to be a good person, support your friends. Be a good daughter, [and] remember the things that are important in life... It's good to keep that perspective and remember [to] just first, be a good person.

What is your favorite article that you wrote or that you read?

I wrote this [article on how] a faculty member, Tom McGraw, had passed away and I interviewed all these people for the article and it was really great... We did a big spread of all these quotes because he had impacted so many people at Andover, and I really, really liked learning about Tom's life. That was a moment where I realized *The Phillipian* is much bigger than me. We're writing articles... that are going to live in the archives forever, and to be able to hear how people talked about this teacher who impacted so many of his students and was such an incredible person, that was really, really heartwarming to me... Getting that perspective [that] at the end of the day, how you treat people is what's going to last much longer than the work you do.

What advice would you give to aspiring journalists or *Phillipian* writers?

Start writing. It doesn't matter if it's bad or good. I remember when I wrote my first article, my co-writer, who was a Lower at the time, I was a Freshman, they would just tell me to write. I was so scared to write my first [para]graph and I didn't know what I was doing, but they were just like, 'Write it, just start writing.' That's really important. If you start writing, you'll get better and it doesn't matter how bad you are. There's Associate [Editors] and Editors to edit [articles]... Write and love what you're doing. If you don't like it, then don't do it.

If you could do one thing differently at Andover, what would it be and why?

I'm one of those people [who] do not live with regret, so I would absolutely do nothing different. I truly, truly believe that everything happens for a reason, like God has a plan for my life, and I'm going to trust the path, and I don't have any regrets. I wouldn't do anything different. Everything's a learning opportunity. Everything has several silver linings, and [for] the path for the next four years, the path for the rest of my life, I'm just going to keep working hard and doing what I love and it'll all figure itself out. The past four years at Andover, I've learned so much, and I'll bring that into my next chapter in this life.

Students Reflect on ‘Fireside Chat’ Panel

Continued from A1, Column 5

logue while maintaining a sense of depth and expertise.

“These chats with speakers offer an opportunity for students, faculty, and community members to ask questions and have an expert who knows what they’re talking about to answer them. It does this in a more relaxed and casual environment while still having some sort of conversation depth of knowledge vibe to it,” said Lou.

Wang noted the significance of purpose in maintaining a sense of self, describing it as both a motivator and a stabilizing influence during times of adversity. While acknowledging the inevitability of negative circumstances and unforeseen challenges, Wang emphasized the power individuals hold over their reactions to such situations.

“Purpose is important for mental health because it is a driver and a grounding force in the midst of very uncertain times or very difficult times of our lives. We cannot control negative circumstances, bad strokes of luck in our lives, but we can control our response to that. Sometimes purpose is a way in which we’re able to ground our response, in spite of what life throws at us,” said Wang.

In addition to highlighting the importance of mental health conversations, Wang went over different types of restorative tools and how students can use them effectively. Alina Chen ’27 explained that the event allowed students to reflect on their own habits and make better choices for their well being.

“I asked [Dr. Wang] how we can avoid unhealthy de-stressors like scrolling on your phone for hours to try to de-stress versus taking a good walk or having

a really intimate conversation with your friends. She talked about differentiating between distractive and restorative rest. I think that was really helpful because there is a very fine line between that for me,” said Chen.

Chen continued, expressing her gratitude to Wang for making the conversation comfortable. She explained that it was inspiring to have a speaker with a similar background to her.

“I felt really proud to see somebody with a similar background and similar interests as me up there. Growing up, I did not feel super represented in the media and in the careers I wanted to pursue, so that was great. I feel like she also gives us a very comforting presence, so the entire event just felt like a very safe place to be,” said Chen.

Teachers and Students Alike Rejoice and Relax on HOSD Day

Continued from A1, Column 5

ready planned for HOSD in her teaching schedule, Sevilla did not view it as a major disruption to her curriculum.

“I’m excited for HOSD and that it’s falling on the same day as the eclipse so I can drive up to New Hampshire to see it in person... [Since] we planned our syllabus to account for HOSD, when we knew we weren’t going to have classes, it just shifts things, [and] it’s not too bad for me,” said Sevilla.

Mayari Burt ’27 emphasized HOSD as a useful break from the

stress of Andover’s daily schedule. She described her plans for her first HOSD at Andover.

“I’m really happy about [HOSD]. I really needed this mental health day. I know we just got back, but I’m already beginning to feel the pressure of the end of the year, and with all the snow and the erratic weather, the winter blues are back. I think this is the perfect way to break them... I’m definitely going to [have] a lot of fun with sleeping and spending time with friends, and [getting] prepared for the next week,” said Burt.

Hu Takes Inspiration From Study of Dance for Winning NYT Essay

Continued from A1, Column 3

“The study of dance continually tackles the elements of how to balance in many complex ways. There are also dance moves that teach students to fall and recover, in other words, [be] comfortable taking risks and being off balance because they can come back to their center using momentum. One element in balance is developing a strong foundation of technical control which then allows students to soar. Think about what foundational habits as a person can both ground you and enable you to soar,” wrote Wombwell in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Hu also touched on a sense of pride for her overall contribution to the contest and the submission itself. Hu highlighted how while this was the first of such NYT contests she had participated in, she was eager to

expand to other forms of writing and continue her contest submission journey.

“I’ve always wanted to try my hand at one of the New York Times student contests. In all honesty, I had no intention of writing a ‘How To’ essay, I just found the contest, [and] thought it’d be a really cool opportunity to try and turn something in. I would say I definitely have plans to continue writing, in different capacities as well. I’m very [interested] in critical writing, which sort of follows naturally from my passion [for] debate. The ‘How To’ was a really cool opportunity because it’s something sort of outside of my ballpark, and it was really cool to just learn about informational writing, but I think going forward, I definitely want to also branch out [and] try editorial writing, just more argumentative writing as a whole,” said Hu.

Taking in the Sun: Andover Community Enjoys Historic Solar Eclipse

Continued from A1, Column 2

short and to the point while being informative, which I appreciated. I mean obviously, the Head of School Day announcement got the crowd going, but I thought the talk about the eclipse was very informative. It introduced some information that I hadn’t known before, and since the eclipse is a pretty rare event, I think it was good to get to know a little more about it before it came out,” said O’Neill.

Aside from the science behind the eclipse, Zorrilla made a point to encourage students to watch it instead of going about their day-to-day lives. He highlighted the rarity of solar eclipses, and how seeing one was possibly a once in a lifetime experience.

“If you were to wait for the next eclipse that was to be like this one, you would have to wait until the year 2079. By then, you should all have graduated. But past that, the reason I think you should watch [the eclipse] is because they actually [help us] make connections. It gives you a sense of scale and it gives you a sense of how far things are, allowing us to feel closer as a community,” said Zorrilla.

Philip Jeong ’27 also noted the different ways the eclipse brings people together, drawing from both his and his peers’ experiences. Jeong, who was unaware of the looming eclipse, highlighted the effectiveness of the ASM in informing students. As a student who was inspired to watch it, he encouraged other students to appreciate the rare moment.

“[Since] the solar eclipse is a global event, all sorts of people can

witness it, transcending the language, province, and cultural borders that would normally separate people. I also think this eclipse encourages travel because a lot of my friends are traveling to see the eclipse... Just like the speaker mentioned, this eclipse is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and to be alive in such a period where we can witness this astronomical event is such a blessing. I think students should take advantage of that,” said Jeong.

He continued, “I think this event will be remembered as a time of connecting with friends in a low-stress environment, especially because it’s Head of School day. I feel like in 50 years when I watch a solar eclipse like this again, I’ll remember the friends that I watched it with.”

Solar Eclipse Brings Students Together on the Lawn

Turn to A7 for student reactions to the astrological event!



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HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY
JENNA LIANG & GUETTY MOITA

Conflict: School Shooting In Finland Leads to Heightened Awareness of Bullying

On April 2 in Vantaa, Finland, a 12-year old boy opened fire on his classmates, killing one and injuring two others. The suspect has not been legally charged due to his young age but was put into custody of social services. Incidents of bullying have not only been seen in Finland — reports of bullying have increased in other countries in Europe and around the world. Finland remains one of the least gun-regulated countries in Europe, but concerns have been raised after the 12-year old student was able to obtain the firearm. In an interview with “The New York Times,” Katri Kalske, a deputy mayor of education in Vantaa, stated that they “have done a lot of things to make [bullying in schools] better,” but unfortunately the situation has failed to improve.

Climate: EPA gives 20 Billion Dollars in “Green Bank” Grants to Combat Climate Change

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has given 20 billion dollars in “Green Bank” grants to promote clean energy initiatives and transition to renewable energy sources and reduce carbon emissions. President Joe Biden has strongly advocated for such environmental initiatives. This move by the EPA also supports his administration’s dedication to combating climate change. Additionally, Vice President Kamala Harris describes the movement to be “the largest in-

vestment in financing for community-based climate projects in our nation’s history,” according to “The New York Times.” This investment by the EPA displays an important jump towards fighting climate change and building a sustainable future.

Culture: Vistara Airline Operations Disrupted by Worker Protests

Vistara, a top airline in India, experienced disruptions when crew members protested against the airline’s merger with Air India. According to the “BBC,” the company struggled to operate after employees dissented with mass sick leave and demanded better work-life balance, causing multiple flight cancellations and delays. Recently, pilots working for airline industries have faced challenges due to laborious work schedules. Vinod Kannan, CEO of Vistara, allegedly apologized to pilots in a meeting on Wednesday, and promised more attention towards balanced schedules. “BBC” reports that Vistara is now continuing flight cancellations until the end of this month to provide a “pilot buffer” to restore stability.

Natural Disaster: Taiwan Struck by Largest Earthquake since 1999

On April 3, Taiwan suffered a 7.4 magnitude earthquake, which left nine dead and 930 injured. The heaviest impact was in Hualien county on the east coast of the island and near the epicenter. The disaster caused 15 buildings to partially collapse and a major highway within Hual-

ien suffered landslides and partial damage. Due to its location on the Pacific ring of fire, Taiwan has dealt with many fatal earthquakes, one of the largest being in 1999 which killed nearly 2,500. However, due to updated building codes and inspections since then, damages have been mitigated. According to “The New York Times,” Hualien will deal with hundreds of more aftershocks.

Politics: Trump Considers Robert F. Kennedy as a Running Mate

Throughout Former President Donald Trump’s efforts for a second presidential term, a major question for his administration has been to find a potential Vice President. “The New York Times” reports that Trump has recently weighed the possibility of choosing Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as his running mate. Robert F. Kennedy Jr, also known as RFK Jr., is the nephew of former President John F. Kennedy. RFK Jr. is presently running in the 2024 presidency as an independent candidate and does not currently wish to serve either presidential candidate. While a merger between Kennedy Jr. and Trump is unlikely, the larger question to identify a running mate is still left unanswered. Trump has until the Republican National Convention on July 15 to choose a potential candidate, but many have been left wondering if securing a running mate earlier in the election process would increase fundraising and alleviate the financial burden left by his criminal hearings.

Bright Futures Ahead: Student Reactions to the Solar Eclipse

REPORTING BY BAILEY XU & MARIAM SAGHIRASHVILI

David Siahaan ’27

“The eclipse was great. This is the most people I’ve ever seen on the Great Lawn at once. I really liked how everyone was playing soccer, or spikeball, or throwing a frisbee. It was just a really great time when everyone in the community got together... [The All-School Meeting (ASM)] was very informative. I was able to see the eclipse in 2017, but getting to know more about eclipses and the lovely presentation with the Sun, Moon, and the Earth was really informative and well-thought-out.”

Anni Juusela ’24

“We have some blankets and my friends and I are just spending some time together on the lawn. We had the glasses on, that’s very important, and it was very cool to see the eclipse. I think this was the first eclipse that I actually tried to come and see outside. There [were] a lot of people on the lawn, so there was a great atmosphere. I’m so glad that the weather is so good today, so we could see the sky clearly.”



COURTESY OF ISHAAN PADMAWAR



COURTESY OF ISHAAN PADMAWAR

David Xie ’25

“I thought it was memorable because events like this don’t happen very often. It’s so cool how, without the eclipse glasses, it seems like you can’t see anything when you’re just looking at the sky. [The changes] in the sky aren’t that noticeable without the glasses. It’s cool to see the sky with the eclipse, it looks different than it usually does with the darkening in the middle of the day... All of my friends went out on the lawn and it was really cool to experience [the eclipse] together.”

Jasjit Hargun ’27

“I came [to campus] from home [because] I’m a day student. We mostly looked at the sun while doing homework at the library. I don’t live that far away and this eclipse isn’t that common. We also had a telescope set up outside the [Paresky Commons] steps and it was cool to look through them and see the sun magnified. [It wasn’t] that different, but it was still cool. This is my first good solar eclipse [viewing], I saw a really partial one a few months ago.”



COURTESY OF JAMES XIAO



COURTESY OF JAMES XIAO

Jayda Lu ’26

“We went to Jackman, Maine, about a 20-minute drive from Quebec... The eclipse quite literally looks like something that you might see in a movie. If I didn’t know it was a solar eclipse, I would have thought it was a world-ending event because it’s so different from what you normally see in the sky. When there is totality, I can look straight up into the sun, and it’s as if there’s almost a black hole up there... It was definitely worth the 17-hour drive, even though we got back at 2:00 a.m. It’s unlike any other natural event and I was so grateful to have the opportunity.”

Wendi Zheng ’24

“All my friends sat around and tried to do homework, when in reality we couldn’t really [focus well]. We were on the lawn, and there were a lot of people. We all brought the glasses from ASM and passed them around because we didn’t have enough, but we ended up all being able to see the solar eclipse anyway. The eclipse was a lot cooler than I expected, mainly because I wasn’t expecting to be able to see much, but the sky actually dimmed. It’s also nice to see it on the Great Lawn. Everyone was looking up at the same time and I felt very connected with the Andover community.”

PHALLOUT: ECLIPSE

Leaked GAP: Student Gone Wild on HOSD

Kate Rodgers

Dear Deans Committee,

I would like to sincerely apologize for my abuse of the extra time that was graciously given to me on Head of School Day. I have started to reflect on my actions of highly organizing a Den heist with my best friend Jeff Jr.

First, I would like to explain the situation from my perspective. Jeff Jr. and I had been planning this event since Fall Term after seeing the Den honey buns price skyrocket. Therefore, we felt the need to make a statement against this insane Kingtenomics. After seeing the Den faculty stampede out of the building with their retina-protecting glasses, we knew it was time to make our move. We ran in and stole the beloved monkey-bread and acai-blueberry brookside. While walking out of the side door with all of our snacks, we were unfortunately intersected by Dr. Kington. I watched in horror as Jeff Jr. sold and fessed up. I attempted to flee the scene, but the surveillance footage was promptly sent to the deans. I will never forgive Jeff Jr. and I now know my campus opps.

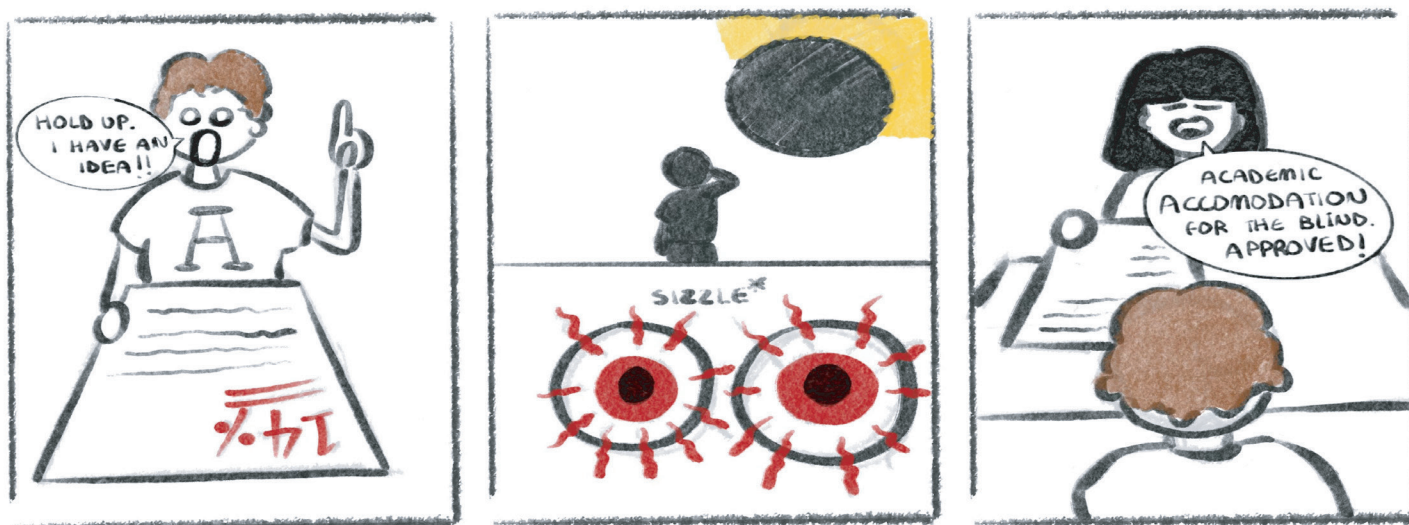
I understand that my actions come with consequences and I am willing to wholeheartedly attempt to change my character. I will happily work in the Den weekly to restore my relationship with faculty and give back to the community. I will also provide an extra hand in the Den; I will ridicule students who attempt turning off the lights in hopes of an impromptu Den dance, periodically camp out in front of the bathroom to insure there will be no inexcusable behavior, and make myself hourly smoothies so my peasant classmates have to wait in long, brutal lines.

Ready for growth (but not accountability),

Troy Jackson

Week's Top Headlines

- *Student Goes on Medical Leave After Looking at Eclipse, Unfortunately Cannot Take Math Test*
- *Andover Recognizes Women, Hurray!*
- *Eighth Page Holds Highest Dean Approval Rate Amongst Andover Humor Groups*
- *Paper Bag Sales Up 300 Percent Following State-Wide Rainstorm*
- *Government Miscommunication Causes Sanctuary to Get “Kissingered”*
- *Moby Dick to Get Sequel Based on Andover Crew Team*

NATHAN WU/*THE PHILLIPPIAN*

The Truth of the Eclipse at Andover

Piper Lasater

Things have been different since the eclipse this past Monday. Although chaos was expected, members of Phillips Academy have noticed some particularly unusual activity among students. Beneath the frantic awe felt by most students experimenting with the perplexing glasses, certain students had other plans for the eclipse than just watching the moon pass over the sun. Andover has had a long history with secret societies, and it only makes sense that this rare event would have many spiritual implications for such groups.

Students in Hale reported howling coming from the Sanctuary around the eclipse. Investigators traced the Sanctuary grounds, revealing a plethora of scraps from what appears to be makeshift furry tails. When questioned about the origin of said materials, the Guardians of the Makerspace claimed they permitted the use of Makerspace materials for fursuits. This meeting in the Sanctuary was believed to be part of the Andover furry communities' roleplay as wolves howling at the moon. The school recently found the discarded wolf ears in a dumpster by Sibera, suggesting connections to a certain team.

Another report details remnants of candle wax and rose petals found in the Morse basement, along with empty beer cans and 55 mg Zyn pouches. Such evidence led investigators to assume the notorious society was performing a ritual during the eclipse. With assistance from a Greek teacher, we could decipher the writing carved into a nearby pong table. The engraving was a prayer to Dionysus, Greek god of wine and pleasure, and detailed the students' hopes for Dionysus to help put an end to the miserable "dry" period Phillips Academy has been experiencing. Did their prayer work? I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

“Doordash is coming early... my boy Johnathanial is on the way”

“Night lawning is soooooo gritty”

“You watched Oppenheimer. I watched *Freakyheimer* (we are not the same).”

“Have you even read the Blue Book?”

“Is Blue Key Head a kind of furry?”

“Omg the new teacher
is so Wattpad”

“Hop off for a sec I gotta eclipse
during the eclipse”

"You guys doing work or playing tummy sticks?"



The Phillipian SPORTS

Volume CXLVII | Number 8

no chick-fil-a sauce?

April 12, 2024

Softball Falls in First Official Game of Season

MADDIE SHIN

WEDNESDAY 4/10	
Andover	3
Nobles	0

After a long week of canceled games due to weather, Girls Softball played its first home opener game against Noble and Greenough (Nobles), ultimately falling.

Going into Wednesday's game, the team had only played during its preseason and one scrimmage. Co-Captain Maris Moody '24 shared that despite the loss, given the circumstances, the team performed well.

"[Nobles] won, but it was a good game, with all things considered. And by that I mean we have a pretty spaced-out schedule, so we haven't played a game since our scrimmage last week against a pretty interesting team. They weren't very good, but we hadn't played a game in a week, and then before that, we only played in Florida. So our schedule's been pretty spaced out," said Moody.

Ashley Schuman '27 recog-

nized the importance of critical moments in the game, mentioning opportunities both on offense and defense. Despite some setbacks, she praises her team's ability to rebound and make impactful plays.

"There are always going to be crucial moments in every game. We had some base runners in scoring position while at bat, and we had some important baserunners on while in the field. Not every play went our way today, but we did a great job of bouncing back and making some really great plays all around," wrote Schuman in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Myla Mexico '27 highlighted the team's ability to bring up the energy and keep a consistent effort throughout games. She also noted the importance of feedback from coaches and each other.

"Everyone knows how to pick each other up and makes sure everyone is doing their best. Also taking feedback well to help people improve to make the team even better," wrote Mexico in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Although Andover was not able to accomplish home runs, Moody points out that the team was still able to execute some impressive hits that created movement along the field.

Moody commended teammates Ava Davey '25, Co-Cap-

tain Emerson Buckley '25, and Gaby Potter '27 for their hitting. Although the team wasn't able to put any points on the scoreboard, it was still able to hit and move runners.

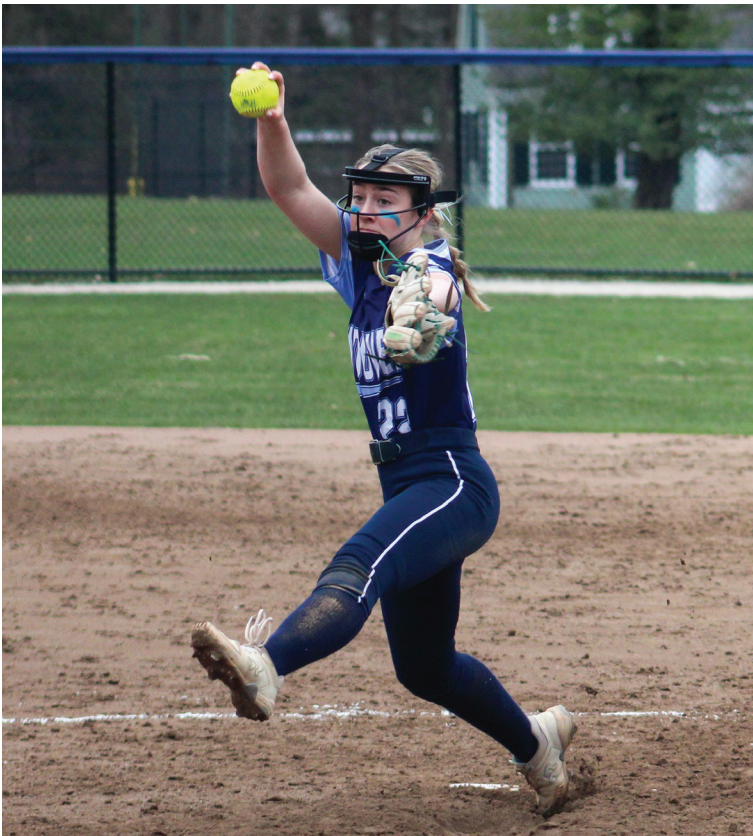
"I would say people like Ava Davey, Gaby Porter, Emerson Buckley all strung together these hits so that we could move runners and get around the bases, just we couldn't unfortunately get anyone across home plate and we couldn't score," said Moody.

Schuman highlighted the team's communication and support skills. She shared that everyone takes feedback well and is always looking to do better.

"We communicate well. Everyone knows how to pick others up when their down, we know how to listen to each other while on the field, we take feedback very well always looking to improve and of course there are always things that we can improve on, but I think we played a tough game today and this game will only help us further into the season," Schuman wrote in an email to *The Phillipian*.

According to Moody, the atmosphere of the event was high with such a big home crowd and walk up music. Looking ahead, the team expects improvements specifically in its offense.

"We had plenty of fans come to watch this game. We also do walk up songs and music in be-



L.RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ashley Schuman sends the ball flying towards home plate.

tween to keep things lively, but it wasn't really necessary with such a big crowd. And then going into our Friday, Saturday games this week, I think that we have big things to expect from us, especially off of our bats. Offensively,

we're going to have to do a lot better than we did today. Not that we did bad necessarily, but I just think that we have bigger things that we can do," said Moody.

Boys Tennis is Victorious for Their First Two Home Games

THEO WEI

FRIDAY 4/5	
Andover	7
Brunswick	0
SATURDAY 4/6	
Andover	6
Taft	1

This past Friday, Andover Boys Tennis had a shutout against Brunswick. On Saturday, the team played against Taft, securing its second win.



C.CHENG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Boys Tennis huddles up after taking the doubles point.

Varsity B player Julian Tay '26 had swung for the Brunswick game and talked about how the team was initially intimidated by Brunswick as they were supposedly a top team in New England. However, the team maintained confidence and a strong, yet supportive mentality throughout the matchup.

Tay said, "I would say 50 percent was a mental game. If you had a strong mind, you'd won 50 percent of your battle. So we encouraged each other before the game. We had a team huddle before the game... Everyone was feeling a bit nervous before the match, but because it was the first week into the season, we felt that we should just play our best...and see how far we could get and we eventually came out winning."

Chase Burke '25 talked about how the team had prepared for this matchup throughout the week by previously sweeping BB&N last Wednesday and sweeping Brunswick on Friday as well. Burke further talked about the mentality going into the game by saying how they lost last year by being unprepared and too confident.

Burke had said, "We've been practicing the last few weeks. We have been playing a lot of challenge matches to set our lineup... So, by Saturday we were all pretty prepared, we'd been playing a lot. We were all mentally ready and physically ready... But I think this year we did a much better job of just staying focused and staying present and it showed in the results."

Ben Shin '26 talked about how the team supported one another throughout the matches to secure the win during or before each player's match. Even though Burke lost to his opponent on Saturday, Shin talked about how the team supported him throughout the game and even after the game to let him know that it was not a big deal.

Shin had said, "During Chase's matches and in general, we'll yell 'let's go somebody' or 'you got this' just when either they won a point or they maybe were in a little bit of a swamp. When people weren't playing they'll come by the courts and cheer on, especially [Co-Captain] Kevin Niu '25] who is a big cheerer. He's very passionate and uplifts

everyone. A really great teammate. He's just always there to support. He's there when you need some cheering."

Burke added onto Shin's point by talking about how the team had supported one another throughout the season so far. Burke talked about how eating meals together had also brought the team together.

Burke said, "Everyone did a really good job of cheering each other on. Whether you're winning or losing. Tennis in high school is a team sport, and everyone knows that, so if you're winning one match, it's not the end of the world, and if you're losing a match, it's not the end of the world. So we did a good job of uplifting each other. In doubles, I know my partner, at least, and I did a good job of staying positive when the other one made a mistake, and I think, just keeping a positive attitude and supporting each other is very important... But while the match was going on, we only had four courts indoors, so we had our five and six singles players cheering everyone on."

He continued, "I know doubles is really important, it's easy to get down on your opponent, but, we all did a good job of being supportive and supporting each other and, lifting each other up when, when it seemed hard to do so."

Shin also talked about how he loved the team environment. Knowing [Jacob] Pletka '27] and Burke for a while through playing together or against each other through

outside tournaments, Shin emphasized how he had grown closer to them. Shin also talked about how close the team had grown from the offseason and how each player encouraged one another to do well.

Shin had said, "We were just very close this year. Our chemistry was good. I've known Jacob for a while. We played junior tournaments together. So we already had a pretty strong friendship. With Chase, we've played a lot of outside of school tournaments too, together. We all just enjoyed being around each other. So, I think that helps with the team spirit."

Finally, Burke talked about how excited he was for this season and the future of the Boys Tennis team as most of the team were Uppers or younger. Burke also talked about how excited he was since he believed that the team this year was a special group of dedicated players.

Burke had said, "I think we had like a good group of people who were all willing to make tennis a priority this Spring and are going to work hard and do what it takes for the team... So we've got a promising future, we kept working hard, and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the few years that I have left."

Boys Tennis will play again at home against St. Paul's on Wednesday.

Baseball Team Faces Setback Against Dexter in Season's First Road Challenge

MADDY LEHMAN

FRIDAY 4/5	
Andover	1
Dexter	4

Andover Baseball suffered a loss against Dexter Southfield in its second game of the season. Despite the team's defensive prowess, Andover fell short on overturning the bases into runs.

Mikah Krystrofolski '27 credited Ariel Miranda '24 and Co-Captain Luke Gallo '25 for their offensive per-

formances. Miranda began the offensive approach with a double and Gallo followed by scoring a run, which boosted team morale.

"Luke Gallo and Ariel Miranda really stood out today. Ariel led us off with a double down the line, which really got the momentum going. Luke had a [run batted in] (RBI) single up the middle, which helped out crucially," said Mikah Krystrofolski.

Mikah Krystrofolski continued, describing an offensive play made by Cam Willems '24, which helped the team push through an initial standstill and continue building confidence throughout the game.

He continued, "Cam Willems had a single over the shortstop's head and then he came around to score, which really helped out and got the train moving. He broke the ice. That helped out with the team morale as well as the overall spirit in the dugout."

The team's struggle was primarily with in-game situations, noted Mikah Krystrofolski. He highlighted that Andover was able to get a lot of runners on base, but had a hard time following through to score runs. Krystrofolski hopes that future practices can focus more on practicing offensive strategies.

"The team as a whole in the past couple of years has

struggled with situational hitting. I think going forward, finding a new mindset of how to approach an at bat with runners on base would be very helpful," said Mikah Krystrofolski.

Marek Krystrofolski '25 shared similar sentiments, noting that the team came short when the bases were loaded and mainly struggled to convert runners into points.

"The atmosphere was fine, we just didn't produce in the moments that we had to. We did well in the game, but just when it counted, we came up short. We left a lot of runners in scoring position," said Marek Krystrofolski.

Despite the offensive weaknesses, Krystrofolski highlighted the team's cohesive in-field defense, which was a strength throughout the game, something the team hopes to maintain in future games.

"We worked on being really smooth in the infield and not making many mistakes, and I think that translated well into the game... Sometimes we can get a little sidetracked which affects our gameplay," said Marek Krystrofolski.

Andover Baseball will play Belmont Hill this Friday.

GIRLSWATERPOLO

Co-Captain Mia Wonacott '24: Grounding Girls Water Polo With Openness and Experience

ANYA BUDZINSKI

Girls Water Polo Co-Captain Mia Wonacott '24 began her water polo career when she came to Andover as a new Lower. Searching for a spring sport and with a background in swimming, Wonacott was drawn to water polo for its similarities to swimming. As a Co-Captain, she now creates an inclusive team environment for Girls Water Polo, prioritizing feedback and support.

As a leader, Wonacott strives to create a welcoming environment on the team. She reflected on her first year playing water polo and strives to excite her teammates to get into the pool every day.

Wonacott said, “For the newer players coming in, especially because a lot of them are just swimmers, and so swimming is a very non-physical, non-contact sport, and water polo is the opposite of that. So, it can be a little daunting at first because there are so many rules to learn, and it’s very different. I just want to make a team environment that’s super fun and a good time. I want to make sure that even the newer players are excited to learn and excited to



M.MACKINNON/THE PHILLIPIAN

play and not be scared to ask questions and reach out because I know that I would have wanted that when I was learning the sport as well.”

Sophia You '26 emphasized Wonacott’s hands-on approach to leading. Despite battling an injury, You shared that Wonacott still shows up to every team event to cheer on and give feedback to her teammates.

“I think Mia leads the team by example. She’s always in the water first. She’s always show-

ing and demonstrating to us how to do the moves. Before each meet, she’s always there to tell us that it’s okay no matter what happens as long as we do our best and try new things. Right now Mia’s injured, so she’s not playing with the team, but she still comes to every single practice and is there on the sidelines to cheer us on and help with our technique and coach us,” said You.

Sofia Hatzigiannis '26 highlighted Wonacott’s reliability

and support. On the water, the team can always depend on her skills, and off the water she provides personalized feedback for her teammates.

Hatzigiannis said, “She’s one of the best players on the team, and being part of the team you have to support other people and help them grow as well. She’s given me a lot of personal feedback on how to pass better or what to do in certain situations, like if someone’s defending me or how to play a certain move on offense. She definitely is a key part of the team. She’s part of the starting lineup, and if you need, for example, in a game, if you quickly need to pass to someone or you need to depend on someone to get something done, she’s definitely the person for that.”

You highlighted Wonacott’s ability to keep the team settled in stressful situations. Prior to games, she helps prepare the team physically and mentally.

“Before games, Mia always helps set up a team breakfast, and then at the breakfast, she just talks to everyone, makes sure everybody’s not too nervous. And then on the way, on the bus ride there, she’s very supportive, and if you need to talk to her, she’s there. And then right before the game, she just

tells everybody not to worry, and she tells everybody a couple key points for us to remember. So, she just kind of helps us stay grounded and make sure that we have fun and that we’re not too nervous,” said You.

Wonacott shared that a large part of why she’s stuck with Water Polo has been because of the people — specifically her Co-Captain Molly MacKinnon '24. She noted that her goal is to show her teammates the parts of water polo that make her love it so much.

“The people are a huge aspect of why I keep coming back. [With] my Co-Captain Molly, we joined swim together. We came in as new Lower together, and now we’re Co-Captains, and we’ve grown a lot as people, and so I really enjoy playing with her. My teammates are just so fun to be around, and like I said before, people coming in and the Seniors that have left, everybody was just super nice, super fun, and welcoming especially when I was new to the sport. Now that people are new and I’m one of the more experienced players, just being able to have open arms [and] letting them experience what I really enjoy about water polo,” said Wonacott.

Girls Water Polo Co-Captain Molly MacKinnon’s '24’s Positivity Creates Inclusive and Communicative Atmosphere

KATE RODGERS

Water Polo Co-Captain Molly MacKinnon '24 creates a team that fosters inclusivity among both its returning and new players. She is an outgoing teammate whose personal experiences and knowledgeability better the team.

MacKinnon started playing her Lower Year after many years of competitive swimming. She immediately fell in love with the supportive and fun team. MacKinnon noted how the positive environment allowed her to feel comfortable with asking questions and improving.

MacKinnon said, “I started playing water polo my [Lower Year] at Andover, because I was a new Lower. I grew up swimming competitively but never really played any other sports, so I was super excited about joining the water polo team... We are such a close knit group and when I got to the team without playing before, the team and... [Head] Coach [Jill] Meyer [’09] made me feel so welcome and made the team really fun to be on. The supportive and encouraging [environment] gave me the courage to make mistakes and ask questions to get better and learn more about the sport.”

As a Co-Captain, MacKinnon makes noteworthy efforts to provide a community for every single player on her team. Ariana Zhao '25 mentioned MacKinnon’s strong water polo skills

and her admirable ability to bring inclusivity onto the team.

“She’s a great player, and she is really good at water polo. She brings a lot of inclusivity into our team, especially within some of the returners who have been playing for a couple of years and also some of the newer people who maybe have never played before. She really makes sure to include everyone and that is a very admirable trait she has,” said Zhao.

Leading by example through hard work and being able to utilize her coach’s feedback is vital to MacKinnon’s leadership. MacKinnon discussed how she is determined to always have a positive attitude in hopes that she creates an environment conducive to learning for the newer players.

Mackinnon said, “I have more experience than a lot of kids who are playing on the team this year, so I try to share my knowledge of the sport whenever I can. I lead by example by working really hard in practice, taking Coach’s feedback, and giving feedback to other players on the team, especially those who ask questions and are actively looking to improve their skills. I also try to have a positive attitude, both during practice and during games because when you’re playing against more experienced teams with a newer group of athletes it can be a little bit difficult to keep a positive mindset.”

After three years of playing and putting in significant



M.MACKINNON/THE PHILLIPIAN

amounts of work during the summers, Mackinnon’s skills are evident. Mira Patodia '26 highlighted how MacKinnon has helped the team learn the sport and strengthen its skills.

Patodia said, “Her leadership is a great help on the team. She has a lot more experience in comparison to a lot of the people on the team. This is her third year, and she has put her work in during the summers as well. With that experience she’s been able to help the team, [help] the newer players learn the sport, and also help fellow returners strengthen their skills.”

During games and practices MacKinnon brings a good mindset and helps her teammates do the same. Zhao recognized how

MacKinnon reminds them to remain positive in team huddles and team meetings.

Zhao said, “One of her greatest values is how positive she can be in practices or during games. Sometimes, if people are a bit frustrated or confused, she always reminds us to stay positive and that happens when we are in games. She’ll say a lot of positive things in our team huddles outside of the pool and during team meetings.”

MacKinnon manages to stay calm when faced with physicality. As a Co-Captain, she understands that her actions influence her teammates to follow in her footsteps. She mentioned how she tries to be in the moment and not dwell on mistakes.

Mackinnon said, “I try to keep a ‘goldfish brain,’ [as] my coach likes to call it. [If] I make a mistake, I try to forget about it and move on to the next play and stay in the moment... I play one of the positions where you get ‘roughed up’ the most... There is a lot of aggressiveness and physicality that maybe shouldn’t be allowed in the game but is part of the sport because the referee can’t see it. So, keeping my composure in my position is really important because I know other people on the team see me as a leader and if I keep a level head then hopefully they will too.”

With many returning players and some enthusiastic newcomers, MacKinnon is enthused to embark on the rest of the season. She mentioned how she wants her team to focus on communication and improve its awareness in the pool.

“We have a ton of strong returning players, and we have a couple of newcomers this year who are bringing lots of enthusiastic energy to the team. It’s refreshing to have them because of their excitement to learn the sport... A lot of us are swimmers so we are used to just diving in the pool and having us ‘go, go, go,’ but in water polo you have to be a lot more aware of what is going on... Communication is key because if you tell them something they are a lot more likely to do it. It’s easier to avoid miscommunications and frustrations when you are really making efforts to communicate,” said MacKinnon.

Head Girls Water Polo Coach Jill Meyer '09 is a Face of Support for Girls Water Polo

ORLA NAUGHTON

Beginning her water polo journey as a student at Andover, Girls Water Polo Head Coach Jill Meyer '09 played throughout her years at Andover and returned to the sport as a coach when she became a teaching fellow in 2013. Now, as head coach, she leads the team with a supportive and inclusive mindset.

Meyer described the importance of feedback, mutual learning, and group efforts. Through collaboration with the players and Coach Howie Kalter '07, the Water Polo team is able to learn from one another’s strengths.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Meyer wrote, “[I] like to facilitate opportunities for students to lead. For example, if we are going to have a team meeting, I like to share goals and intentions and then let Captains and players guide

the conversation. I really enjoy having a co-coach to work with and create space for us to let our own talents shine. Coach Kalter has a tremendous understanding of the game and I hope that I am contributing by helping to create the culture where our players trust one another and can anticipate how their teammates will act as a result of knowing one another well.”

At Andover, Girls Water Polo is a sport that welcomes players of all levels. Sophia You '26 highlighted Meyer’s willingness to help newcomers and veteran players alike with their training.

“She really takes the time to help the people who are completely new to the game, and she also takes time to train people in specific skills that they want to work on. For example, when the season started, she took a lot of time to work with the goalies separately to build up those skills through them, [which] helped

to build up the team overall by focusing on that one group,” said You.

When players face moments of struggle, Meyer remains a guiding figure for members of the team to turn to for support. By working with them to identify their emotions and look at the problem from different perspectives, Meyer prevents players from tearing themselves down and viewing things as solely good or bad.

Meyer wrote, “I try to maintain an open line of dialogue with each of the players. If someone seems off, I am comfortable pulling them aside and saying ‘Hey, what’s up.’ I try to emphasize that they need to measure themselves against themselves — comparison is the thief of joy. I encourage them to use their last performance as a metric against which to measure their growth. What did you do this game that you couldn’t last time? What would you like to focus on for the next game?”



E.LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Meyer believes in the magic of little steps building on each other to achieve greater outcomes. To Sahana Manikandan '26, Meyer’s consistent emphasis on the small benchmarks in practices and games is something that assists the team in its pursuit of success.

“She emphasizes always having a goal in mind, and she’s a firm believer [that] you’ll get the best results

in your game or even just a practice by having one small goal in mind that you plan on achieving... So that you could add those goals together and hopefully at the end of the season be where you want to be personally,” said Manikandan.

Overall, Meyer hopes the members of the team place much more value in their experiences as water polo players than a number on the scoreboard.

Meyer wrote, “I hope that they will come away from the season with a strong sense of belonging and responsibility to one another. Working on a team is an incredibly special and dynamic experience. It’s growing and learning as a player and also as a teammate. I hope that they will work hard and be proud of their improvement and skills, no matter the outcome of a given game.”

7

C

MOLLY MACKINNON '24

DANIEL ISLAND, SC

11

C

MIA WONACOTT '24

BETHESDA, MD

1A

SAISHA BHOSLE '27

WINDHAM, NH

15

ADDISON DENG '26

SHANGHAI, CN

13

SOPHIA YOU '26

NAPERVILLE, IL

1

ISA MATLOFF '24

LOS ANGELES, CA

3

ADZ MORALES '25

NOKOMIS, FL

9

MIRA PATODIA '26

BELMONT, MA

12

ARIANA ZHAO '25

NORTH ANDOVER, MA

6

SARAH SAMOLUK '26

ANDOVER, MA

5

EVIE OOSTING '24

HAVERHILL, MA

14

SAHANA MANIKANDAN '26

PRINCETON, NJ

4

AIMEE QI '27

SHARON, MA

10

EMILY RYAN '25

RUMSON, NJ

18

SOFIA HATZIGIANNIS '26

NORTH ANDOVER, MA

16

ALICE ZHA '25

MONTREAL, QC

8

MELINDA WU '25

CHERRY HILL, NJ

MANAGERS:

ZACH GODSEY '25

HONOLULU, HI

JAMES HERLIHY '24

ANDOVER, MA

ASHTON MA '24

AVON, CT

Water Polo Falls to Greenwich and Deerfield, Battling Many Injuries on the Team

MAYA ROGERS

SATURDAY 4/6	
Andover	7
Deerfield	12
SATURDAY 4/6	
Andover	17
Greenwich	24

Waterpolo faced its second two losses of the season last Saturday in a doubleheader against Greenwich Academy (Greenwich) and Deerfield. With the majority of Girls Water Polo being new to the team, the focus going into the games was getting everyone adjusted. Alice Zha '25 shared

that, although it is impossible to predict how a game is going to play out, preparing for different plays is critical. “Because we’re mostly all new on the team, just going over everything in practice you just get familiarized with everything in the play. It’s not 100 percent the same every time but at least you’re familiar with what’s gonna happen,” said Zha. Adz Morales '25 commended Molly MacKinnon '24 and Addison Deng '26 on their impressive play. According to Morales, MacKinnon was strong on both offense and defense, and Deng had firsts in the hole. “The individuals that stood out during the Greenwich and Deerfield game were Molly MacKinnon [who] had 12 goals one game, she was an offensive weapon, strong on defense, and went crazy. And Addison, who is a Lower, [and she] just began playing in hole and crushed it, she even got

her first goal from hole, and she went crazy,” said Morales. Zha noted how much of a difference maintaining a positive outlook makes during a hard game. She shared that the large score margin led the team to rely on its own spirit for motivation. Zha said, “It doesn’t sound important, but really keeping high spirits was really important. Especially how we were losing so much in the beginning. It was really important for us to just keep pushing and we never gave up even though we were so behind. That was pretty important for the team to just keep it up. Every score was just ‘yes!’” With a large portion of its players out due to injury this week, the team did their best given the circumstances. Ariana Zhao '25 noted that a silver lining was that many of the new players were able to get valuable in-game experience.

Zhao said, “We’ve worked the most of last week around nine players at practices. For the games on Saturday, we were missing three out of our seven starters, which is a lot. Some of our key players, who have been on the team or played for years, were out because of injuries, so we had to work past that. A lot of new people got experience playing in the game and just learning more. I’m really proud of how we did. I think we did very well despite all of the challenges. And, I think we overcame them by focusing on what we can do, focusing on what we had worked on, and supporting each other because I think we played super well.” Looking forward, Zhao shared the team’s plans to work on communication. While it is already improving, Zhao noted that communication will help the team work better in the water.

“Something that the team will work on in the upcoming week is strengthening our communication. Although it’s gotten a lot better, I think something our team can work on is better communicating with each other during the game. Yelling if you’re open, if you’re driving, all that kind of stuff, so as to help your teammates... know where you are and work together a little bit better. Communication is something that we’ll work on a lot,” said Zhao. Waterpolo will play Choate and Sacred Heart on Saturday.

Angie Ceballos-Cardona Represented the National Dominican Republic Softball Team in the Pan-American Championship

HENRY SNOW

Angie Ceballos-Cardona’s '25 softball journey transcends Andover’s diamond. With 18 teams competing in the Pan American Championship, the continental qualifier for the U-18 World Baseball Softball Confederation World Cup (WBSC), Ceballos-Cardona played for the National Dominican Republic Team. From her roots in the Dominican Republic to her aspirations on the global stage, Ceballos-Cardona’s narrative weaves through the ups and downs of elite competition, the cultural bond of the sport, and the unyielding support of her family. Ceballos-Cardona explained how softball is not only one of her passions, but a sport that is closely tied to her culture, reflecting her Dominican heritage. It has helped her foster deep connections within her family and community, while instilling self-assurance. Ceballos-Cardona said, “I am Dominican, and it is a really big part of who I am. Being Dominican means I am very involved in baseball and softball. I started playing t-ball when I was younger but started playing travel softball five years ago. From there, I found love in the game. It is a part of my culture. I connected with my father through the game, and it has been him and I and my family throughout the years. I really love playing, it gives me a lot of confidence, and it inspires me.” Two years after beginning her club journey, Ceballos-Cardona became a member of the Rip City 18U Gold National Team. She recounted how this transition represented a pivotal moment in her softball journey, enhancing her abilities and challenging her to perform at the highest level. “I have played with Rip City for the past three years. It is my first time being on the 18U Gold National Team. If I were to describe the team, I would say it is very competitive and a team meant to bring a group of girls together with the goal of getting recruited to play in college. Everyone is very

hardworking, resilient and competitive when we are playing other teams and also with each other. We make each other better every single day,” said Ceballos-Cardona. Ceballos-Cardona highlighted her father’s influence on her journey, highlighting the bond they share from their mutual love for softball. “My father has definitely been my biggest supporter. He never misses a game. He practices with me. He has taught me everything I know. He not only has helped me with the physical side of the game but also the mental side of the game. He is always there to reel me back in when I lose my way. We have grown so close because I play softball, so he is now my best friend,” said Ceballos-Cardona. Reflecting on her trip to Colombia with the National Dominican Republic Team, Ceballos-Cardona emphasized that the trip allowed her to reconnect with softball on a mental level, while firing her competitive spirit. “I met amazing people along the way, we played amazing teams from around the world. We have played the best of the best, so going to war with these girls meant a lot to me and taught me a lot. Before coming on this trip to the Pan-American tournament with the Dominican team, I was struggling a bit with the mental side of softball, but on this trip, I felt really healed and inspired by not only my teammates but also my coaches and everyone who was rooting for us back home,” said Ceballos-Cardona. Ceballos-Cardona continued, sharing how the time with the team resonated deeply with her identity and passion for the game. “I am pretty speechless about my experience with the Dominican National Team. They are an amazing group of girls, they are amazing people most of all, but it’s such a talented team. I feel like my energy and passion for the game sometimes is not shared with my teammates. When I came to play with the Dominican National Team, I felt at home and like I was playing alongside girls who had



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

that same energy and passion and understood what it meant to be Dominican, or Hispanic, or Latinx,” said Ceballos-Cardona. Ceballos-Cardona reflected on her most memorable match against Mexico, highlighting their performance. Out of the 18 teams, Mexico landed the Bronze Medal in the Pan-American Championship, highlighting its competitive nature. “My favorite game thus far has been our game against Mexico. Mexico is one of the strongest teams out of all these countries, and they have such a talented and amazing team and they also play with a lot of passion and fire. Overall, it was a really great game and really good to be able to com-

pete against them,” said Ceballos-Cardona. As she navigates the next phase of her athletic career after participating in the biggest international youth softball competition, Ceballos-Cardona commented on her aspirations and opened up on the recruiting process. Ceballos-Cardona said, “I am in the middle of the recruiting process right now. The next step for me is committing to a college for softball. I really want to go to a high academic school, carry over the educational opportunity I have had here at Andover over to a great college that will set me up for a great career. The plan has always been to use softball as an outlet to not only represent myself

but also to pursue a higher education, so that is my main priority right now.” During her time with the team, she learned that dedication to her personal objectives and consistent effort would lead to success and contentment, despite the varied journeys of her fellow teammates. “I have had the pleasure of playing with a challenging group of girls: girls that are going division one in softball and other girls that are committed to very prestigious colleges. I would say that I have learned that everyone’s path is not the same and that is okay. Just because your path doesn’t look like someone else’s doesn’t mean you won’t find triumph and success,” said Ceballos-Cardona.

BOYSVOLLEYBALL

Boys Volleyball Co-Captain Eddie Lou ‘24 Leads With High Energy and Positivity

ALEX DIMNAKU

Boys Volleyball Co-Captain Eddie Lou ‘24 began his volleyball journey in ninth grade. He later became the starting setter on the Varsity team, leading the team to two consecutive New England Preparatory School Athletic School Council (NEPSAC) Championships.

“I started playing volleyball Junior year in Fall Term. I did instructional volleyball. I started because I watched the animated show ‘Haikyuu!!’ during Covid[-19], and I really resonated with the protagonist. So, when I got here, I decided to play,” said Lou.

For Lou, the thing that surprised him the most about the sport was its highly collaborative nature. He highlighted how mutual support between teammates and the ability to depend on each other helped make playing volleyball particularly satisfying.

Lou said, “Volleyball was



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

my first, and really only, team sport that I played that has uniquely given me a chance to build even deeper relationships that I haven’t had with people in other sports. The team aspect of it makes it really satisfying and fun to play because I know that whenever I succeed, my whole team succeeds and vice versa. So, having that individual contribution that builds and works towards a larger goal is really fulfilling.”

Lou noted the similarities

between his role as a setter and as Co-Captain.

“Because I am the team’s setter, I’m already making decisions about how we play offensively and defensively, even before I was the captain. And so becoming captain, my role has very much aligned with my role as setting. At its core, it’s very much a tough love type of leadership. I hold all of my teammates to a pretty strong standard... Whenever I make a mistake, I am always quick to admit to it and move forward. I hope that that helps everybody else choose to do that too,” said Lou.

William Oh ‘26 mentioned how Lou’s positivity and enthusiasm are proof of his strong leadership. Always a source of reassurance and support even while facing challenges, Lou serves as a figure that his teammates can look up to, both as an athlete and as a person.

“Eddie is someone that’s really enthusiastic, someone that’s really caring, and really passionate about the sport.

He leads by example, and he tries to keep everyone uplifted. He’s positive and constantly tries to be as optimistic as possible after [a] point and tries to tell us to keep on moving forward,” said Oh.

Inti Stephenson ‘25 echoed Oh, highlighting Lou’s captainship and competitive spirit.

Stephenson said, “I’d say I appreciate his dependability. He always performs well, and he always plays at his 100.”

As part of his role, Lou leads practices and ensures that they run smoothly, while encouraging the team to stay focused. Oh noted how Lou assists the coaches to organize the practice in ways that most benefit the athletes’ needs.

Oh said, “By doing so, [he] just makes the transition from warm ups to in-game scrimmages a lot more seamless... He is allowed to lead the players a lot more easily, and he empathizes with us because he’s been in our position. And by having someone that’s been in our position, he

knows the struggles as well as what it takes to make the team succeed.”

Always a setter at heart, Lou is particularly aware of the importance of communicating on the court and strategizing with the team, a skill that continues to remain prominent in his role as Co-Captain.

Lou said, “I’m definitely very vocal in regards to everything, serve, receive and offense. Although I can be really intense, at the same time, at the core of it is my job as [a] setter to make the rest of our team look really good. And so that is really about having fun and trying cool, wacky, unpredictable things during the game, just [doing] something entertaining.”

ANDOVER BOYS VOLLEYBALL

<div><div>C</div><div>EDDIE LOU ‘24 ORLANDO, FL</div></div> <div><div>C</div><div>WILLIAM SUH ‘24 NORTHBROOK, IL</div></div>	<div><div>BRIAN CHICA-HERRERA ‘24 ANDOVER, MA</div><div>BRANDON FU ‘25 WESTON, MA</div></div> <div><div>JONATHAN JIN ‘24 HUDSON, OH</div><div>GUILHERME LIMA ‘24 SALVADOR BA, BR</div></div>	<div><div>INTI STEPHENSON ‘25 LAWRENCE, MA</div><div>MAURICE NTORO ‘26 LOWELL, MA</div></div> <div><div>KAI SZANTON ‘26 CHARLOTTE, NC</div><div>MALCOLM TOLBERT ‘26 WALTHAM, MA</div></div>	<div><div>RAYMOND WILLIAMS ‘26 BOSTON, MA</div><div>JEREMY WOODLEY ‘26 LOWELL, MA</div></div> <div><div>OBINNA N. NWANERI ‘24 IOWA CITY, IA</div><div>WILLIAM OH ‘26 SEOUL, KR</div><div>ARTHUR WU ‘25 BEIJING, CN</div></div>	<div>MANAGERS:</div> <div>AVIVA CAI ‘24 WESTON, MA</div> <div>SOPHIE HOLTEN-MORAVEK ‘25 NEW YORK, NY</div> <div>WENDY WANG ‘24 WESTON, MA</div> <div>TINA ZENG ‘24 ATHERTON, CA</div>
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OMAHA STORM CHASERS

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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.



Girls Lacrosse Faces First Loss of the Season to Nobles, Dominates Deerfield

AARON HUANG	
FRIDAY 4/5	
Andover	2
Nobles	13
WEDNESDAY 4/10	
Andover	17
Deerfield	7

On Friday, Girls Lacrosse faced a strong Noble and Greenough (Nobles) team and ultimately took its first loss of the season. However, on Wednesday, Andover was able to bounce back and take a win against Deerfield.

According to Quiana Bell '26, the team worked a lot on defense and communication going into the game against Nobles. Despite Nobles managing to score 13 goals, Bell thought that the defense communicated and performed well, implementing what

they had worked on in practice.

Bell said, "Obviously, we did lose, which wasn't the best, but I feel like the things that we worked on we did execute pretty well. Leading up to the game we worked a lot on our team defense, sliding, communicating on who's going to ball versus double teams or triple teams... And I think, considering how well Nobles' offense worked together, that our defense did a good job executing the things we did practice. Our slides were good, I feel like we were communicating well, and well, I feel like while the score didn't really reflect that, it was definitely like an upgrade to what we have been doing in the past."

Lola Aguirre '26 highlighted the team's high energy throughout the game, even when they were down by many goals. Aguirre pointed out that everyone celebrated and applauded when Charley Drouin '25 scored an amazing behind the back shot.

"We were all very energetic going into the game. We had a team meeting before talking about the types of energy we wanted to bring to the game and how we wanted to present ourselves. So, going into the game we were very energized and we kept that

up even though we were down. For example, in the third quarter when Charley had a BTB (behind the back) shot, we all cheered and congratulated her for that. So, very energetic," said Aguirre.

Bell believed that the team had difficulty transitioning the ball from defense to offense on Saturday and had some preventable turnovers. In addition, Bell thought that the team could work on offball movement on offense, creating space for teammates, and ultimately making better scoring chances.

Bell said, "We had a lot of trouble finishing our plays. We were able to make the plays on defense, pick up the ball, but then we would either make a bad pass and throw it out of bounds or we would just not move the ball fast enough and we would get intercepted... [It] would cause these turnovers and then if we did make it all the way to offense we had trouble breaking through. They played a backer, which is basically when they have a double team always on ball, so I feel like we were doing a lot of ball watching and not being very proactive. We weren't cutting to the ball, we weren't making space. We clogged up the middle and that didn't help us make any goal scor-

ing opportunities."

Although the team did not score a goal until the end of the third quarter, Aguirre noted the team's resilience and determination to score.

"The team... did a very good job keeping our heads up and keep playing because that's something that a lot of teams have trouble with when you're losing by that much and you haven't even made it onto the scoreboard. A lot of teams just quit and we didn't," said Aguirre.

Ellie Parker '25 described the team's performance against Deerfield as a well-rounded victory. She highlighted the team's connection on defense and offense, the strong energy, and the success of the draw team.

Parker said, "We played very controlled, together team defense which built well into our team offense. Our draw team did a great job working together to win the draws which were a key part of the team's success... We worked together super well and supported each other all over the field... The atmosphere was great, especially the sideline energy as we really hyped up everyone after every goal which was super fun. We held our composure really

well. Deerfield was a strong team but we held possession of the ball during key parts of the game, and prevented them from setting up and getting any more chances than they did."

Moving forward, Aguirre says that the team will continue to build its chemistry. In addition, they will study the opposing teams through film and get an understanding of what they should focus on in attack, defense, and teamwork.

"[That's] something that definitely remains in the front of our heads. Just having fun with each other... We have three games in the next week, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, so in order to prepare for that, those games, since they're all different opponents, we're going to look at the films individually, analyze how they play, what set pieces do they have, what is their style of play on attack, how do they play defense, zone, backer, and what shots we could take against their goalie that will have a higher percentage, and we will work to play together," said Aguirre.

Girls Lacrosse will go up against Milton on Friday.

After Eight Days Without a Game, Boys Lacrosse Comes Back to Win at Home Against Proctor

ANYA BUDZINKSI	
WEDNESDAY 4/10	
Andover	3
Proctor	0

After eight days of just practice, Boys Lacrosse played at home against Proctor Academy on Wednesday. Despite being down in the first half, the team came back to take the win.

Despite a slow start start, by the second half, the team got its energy up and was able to string together high quality plays. Logan Cove '24 described how the second half was a crucial turning point for the team in the game.

Cove said, "Coming out of half, we had a big goal scored, and we played the first half of our game a little slow but that big goal was able to set us back in the rhythm get the offense working, get energy to the defense, and we were

able to turn the game around and become pretty dominant in that second half."

Kele Gregory '26 highlighted the team's dedication and bond. He noted that it has been committed in and out of practice and has built a bond that has positively translated on the field.

"The strength of our team this year would be the commitment we are putting in, the dedication to the game and what we are doing on and off the field. So if it is shooting outside of practice, staying after practice, putting in the work, and probably the bond that we all have is like brothers. Just going out every day, having team practice, and trying to prepare ourselves for the games. Whether its in the training room, like stretching out and doing all the right things, keeping everybody in shape. And it all goes well also when our leadership is there, when our captains are stepping up and making sure the team is bonding and putting in the work," said Gregory.

The team made sure to celebrate each of the little victories throughout to keep the excitement

up and everyone engaged in every play. Cove emphasized the high energy atmosphere.

"It was awesome. Everyone was really invested in the game. Everyone really wanted to win. Guys were scoring lots of goals. Not only was the team excited, but had all the fans excited. So it was really awesome to be a part of. I mean even as goals are awesome to celebrate, I think we had everyone celebrating on both sides of the ball, whether that was a simple ground ball, huge save from the goalies or successful clears or big hits. So it was really awesome to be a part of," said Cove.

Looking ahead, Harrison shared the team's goals. He noted the importance put on concentration and strategic ball placement.

"In general, something that we need to work on is intensity, making sure that we're always focusing on practice. It doesn't matter if we're playing the best game in the country or we're playing the worst team in the country making sure that we're focusing on practice... And then offensively, something that has been a focus and continues to be a focus is just flex-



H.ZHONG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Hank Ferguson '25 plays defense against Proctor.

ion. Making sure that we're taking good shots in good areas and that we are able to mix up our shots and play to the goalies weaknesses," said Harrison.

Boys Lacrosse will play away at Austin Prep on Wednesday.

Boys Crew Pulls Ahead to Beat 2023 NEIRA Champions at Season Opener

ROBBY SWAN	
SATURDAY 4/6	
Andover	4:34.4
Salisbury	4:41.2
Deerfield	4:45.1

Boys Crew (1-0) competed in its first race of the season against Deerfield, Salisbury, and Belmont Hill on Saturday. Both Boats 1 (B1) and 3 (B3) finished in first, each finishing over five seconds before the second place finisher. Boats 2 (B2), 4 (B4), and 5 (B5) all came

in second, and Boat 6 (B6) came in third.

According to Sia Gandhi '24, coxswain of B1, the team was anxious going into the race as it was the opening regatta of the season.

"It was our first race of the season, so there were definitely some nerves going into it, but we were able to pull it together and we were happy with the result. But it still is our first race, so there's a lot to learn from it and a lot to improve upon. Overall, this was a pretty good start to the season," said Gandhi.

Gandhi also noted the disadvantageous weather during the week leading up to the race — for two out of the five days of practice, the team could not go on the water. The team worked around this setback, however, and used it as an opportunity to work on their

technique.

Gandhi said, "This past week, the weather hasn't been great, so we had two days where we couldn't go on the water. But other than that, I think we took advantage of the time we did have on the water and outside of the water. We were putting in a lot of work on the ergs, and so that was really important, and I feel like the beginning of the season is really good for building up strength and getting that technical foundation, so that was really our focus this week."

Charlie Domina '27, a member of B3, expressed his apprehension when going into the race. Prior to Saturday, the boat lineups were not set in stone, so the team had to acclimate quickly to their boat-mates.

"We hadn't gotten a lot of time

in these lineups before Saturday, for my boat, it was just Friday. We were the other boat that won, the [B3]. [Friday's practice] hadn't felt great, but then on Saturday, at the start, it really just came together, and everyone did great. But with more time and more defined lineups, there will be better results," said Domina.

Dean Burton '26, a rower in B1, expressed his satisfaction with the results of the race, especially considering they were up against Deerfield, a historically strong team.

"Last year, Deerfield was a really good team. They swept NEIRAs, so they won every race. We were really looking to get back at them this year. I'm really proud of the team, [and]w that we managed to stay strong throughout the race and we managed to come off

with a couple wins," said Burton.

Burton mentioned the mentality that Head Coach Taylor Washburn '03 had been instilling in the team. Rather than focusing on the things the team did poorly, he told them to use "tunnel vision" to latch on to the things the team did well and continue that throughout the season.

Burton said, "One thing we worked on was tunnel vision, so you're obviously going to take bad strokes, and you just got to really come back from that and not think about what you did wrong and more of what you're doing right."

Boys Crew will race against Kent at home this Saturday.

Girls Tennis Team Serves Up Success Witth Season-Opening Double Victory

DAVID SIAHAAN	
SATURDAY 4/6	
Andover	5
Nobles	4
WEDNESDAY 4/10	
Andover	9
Austin Prep	0

The reigning Class A NEPSAC champions, Girls Tennis beat both Nobles and Greenough (Nobles)

and Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep) this week. With one loss under its belt going into Saturday, the team won in a hard-fought match against Nobles at home on Saturday. On Wednesday, it swept Austin Prep in all doubles and singles matches.

The match against Nobles was close, with the team securing the win by a singular match. Mercan Draman '26 highlighted the high spirit, energy, and support teammates provided for each other throughout the match.

"We did really well. Two of our doubles won and it was really fun to watch. It was really high energy and the team was cheering each other on. Our singles also did really well and we ended up winning on Saturday," Draman said.

Evelyn Kung '26 commend-

ed teammate Kendra Tomala '26 on her impressive performance. Kung shared that it was a close match that came down to the wire, with the entire team filled with emotion and energy as the two teams fought for the win.

"During the Nobles match, I thought my phenomenally amazing and fantastic teammate, Kendra Tomala had a wonderful match. Her match was superb. It was nail biting. I was standing there and I was about to start crying, cheering, and screaming. She was amazing, and I thought that she was the MVP," said Kung.

Draman shared the importance of the win against Nobles. She noted that this would be one of the three toughest matches of the season so the win was an early test of the team's strength.

"I know that our Nobles team was very strong. Our coach [Deb Chase] said that this was one of the top three teams that we would face this year. I don't know the other teams, but it was a really good win for us," said Draman.

The team competed against Austin Prep on Wednesday, winning all nine matches. According to Kung, despite Austin Prep's different play style, the team was able to make adjustments early and dominate the rest of the match.

Kung said, "We played really well against Austin Prep. They were a weaker team... It was a little bit hard to adjust because they have a different play style. So, we were all a little bit tense at first, but then, after we loosened up, [we] played a lot better."

Looking forward, Girls Tennis looks to focus on strategy in each of their matches. Draman shared that Chase ensures that each person gets individualized advice that most suits their playing style.

"We always talk strategy. One thing our Coach always says [is], 'it depends on each player.' Our Coach is very attentive and knows what each person needs. For example, I need to hit more confidently and consistently, but each person is different," said Draman.

Girls Tennis will play Winsor on Saturday and St. Pauls on Wednesday.

Andover Golf Triumphs Unique Match Play Against Exeter Despite Poor Weather Conditions

TARA MENON

WEDNESDAY 4/10	
Andover	2.5
Exeter	1.5

On Wednesday, Golf (2-0) played against Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) and took home a win. The format was atypical, as players partnered up and played for points in respective categories. The categories experimented with were the “best ball,” “scramble,” and “alternate shot.” In the week leading up to the match, the team had to adapt to some unfortunate weather conditions.

Kevin Zheng ’26 highlighted how, due to unstable weather, the team wasn’t able

to practice outside often as they prepared for the matches on Wednesday. The team was able to shift towards a golf simulator. However, their time on it was limited. While being adaptive, the team made the most of the situation and worked on its short game.

“[The] unpredictable New England weather has halted us [from being] able to play in the field. The weather for the rest of week interrupts our practice once more. While our team is eager to practice, we only have 30-minute slots in the simulator. We all [have] been working on our short-game and our tempo which have greatly improved our consistency,” said Zheng.

Evan DeMayo ’26 highlighted Lucas Lee ’25 and Zheng as they implemented some crucial shots that heavily influenced the score of the game.

“Lucas Lee made some lengthy putts to keep his team



Sebastian Monetmayor ’27 reads his putt for a 30 foot birdie to win a point on the second hole.



The Andover Co-ed Golf Team takes a team photo after taking the victory from Exeter.

COURTESY OF IZZY AN

in contention. Kevin Zheng made a great par save on the

eighth to go one up. I, playing alongside Kevin, parred the ninth to make us finish two up, lending Andover the deciding point.”

According to Zheng, Co-Captains Heyon Choi ’25 and Logan Eskildsen ’24 have created a major impact on the team dynamic, working diligently to bring everyone together for the love of the sport and the school.

Zheng said, “Heyon and Logan have truly stood out, not just as Co-Captains but also as golfers. This season, they are leading the charge in fostering team spirits. For instance, they have been actively organizing group practice before the season starts. Our team has set up a group chat to ensure everyone’s voice is heard... These may seem like small gestures, but they carry significant meaning and remind us that we are united in representing our Big Blue spirit.”

Zheng noted the high stan-

dard that Head Coach Brian Faulk ’00 holds the players to. Zheng shared that this standard motivates the players to perform well and remain undefeated. Looking ahead, the team is hopeful that weather and course conditions will improve.

“We have clinched our second win of the season and are undefeated. The competition in the field remains fierce, and we are eager to keep homing in [on] our skills. Coach Faulk holds [a] high bar for himself and our team. Here is to hoping for warmer weather and better course conditions soon, so we can all go out practice and compete to the fullest.”

Golf looks forward to hosting Holderness at home on Wednesday.

Editor’s Note: Heyon Choi is an Executive Digital Editor for The Phillipian.

The Masters: A Tradition Unlike Any Other

EVAN DEMAYO
& LUCAS LEE

As the azaleas begin to blossom in the Augusta National Golf Club and the pristine fairways are groomed to perfection, the eyes of the golf world are turned to one of the most revered events in the sport: The Masters. The Masters Tournament, one of the four men’s major golf championships in professional golf, is not just a contest — it is a celebration of golf at its best. It captures the spirit of golf through its prideful history and by maintaining its continued excellence.

The Masters is often described as “a tradition unlike any other,” an expression signifying its place in the pantheon of golf’s most esteemed events. Since 1934, this tournament has been held on the grounds of Augusta National Golf Club. Co-designed by Bobby Jones and Alister MacKenzie, The Masters is the only major played each year at the same course. From the iconic Green Jacket worn by the Champion, signaling membership in the exclusive club of Masters Champions, to the Champions Dinner, where the defending Champion hosts the past winners,



KARA HORNE/THE PHILLIPIAN

these customs and rituals have made it to the sporting event it is. Beyond unifying communities, these traditions

pay respect to history, while celebrating the future.

The tournament itself uniquely tests players’ skills

to the highest capacity. With Augusta’s undulating greens, strategically placed bunkers, and the notorious Amen Corner, the course plays a pivotal role in defining the tournament’s outcomes. It demands unparalleled precision, creativity, and mental resilience from its competitors. This course has been a home to the more memorable moments in golf like Jack Nicklaus’s historic sixth victory at the age of 46 and Tiger Woods’s comeback win in 2019.

While The Masters still celebrates its historic traditions, it has been at the forefront of innovation in golf. To provide access to The Masters, drones for aerial visuals and the latest technology are used for international outreach. The Club makes great investments toward elevating the course and its surroundings, promising the highest standards, while respecting the historic parts of the tournament that define it. In recent years, the Club has been working on advancements on many fronts, in 2012 female competitors were invited to provide equitable opportunities and diversify the golf community.

However, The Masters Tournament has been the subject of great debate over its membership and recruit-

ment policies at Augusta National Club. While no one can deny the exclusive nature that abounds potential members and players into classified groups, in recent years, the club has taken strides towards acceptance and inclusivity in adopting members. It aims to rectify the shortcomings of the past and provide a welcoming space for its newcomers among the elite members of the club.

It is safe to say that The Masters Tournament represents the heart and soul of golf. It serves as a bridge between the past and future. The traditions of The Masters, far from mere relics, are the threads that weave the fabric of the golfing community together. It celebrates the sports’ values of respect, integrity, and sportsmanship, all while serving as a foreground for change.

Boys Volleyball Wins Against NMH but Falls to Exeter

MICHAEL WILLIAMSON

SATURDAY 4/6	
Andover	3
NMH	1
WEDNESDAY 4/10	
Andover	2
Exeter	3

On Saturday and Wednesday, Boys Volleyball (2-1) overcame Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) and fell to Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) respectively. On Saturday, the game lasted a total of four sets, with Andover winning three of them. On Wednes-

day, however, Boys Volleyball played a total of five sets, and fell short to Exeter’s three wins.

After the win on Saturday, Inti Stephenson Castro ’25 recognized the key moments that allowed Andover to prevail over NMH.

“We were really on our game [on Saturday]. The first set was a rocky start for us. Everyone was a bit nervous in this set and we are not getting the right touches in with the ball. We ended up losing in the first but by a pretty small margin. Then, our Coach had a great moment talking to the team which exemplified his leadership skills. Following his speech, everyone just popped off... We were able to play composed and shut down their offense,” said Stephenson Castro.

Co-Captain William Suh ’24 praised Brian Chica-Herrera ’24 for his performance against NMH. He spoke on how Chica-Herrera has been able to adjust to the team and has begun making

big plays.

Suh said, “I want to highlight Brian Chica, one of the Seniors on the team. He’s starting to find his rhythm more in terms of his offense. He’s swinging the ball hard and scoring a lot more points. I’m really proud of his development and his increasing confidence. He’s really falling into the rhythm of the rest of the team and making us dangerous.”

In preparation for the game against Exeter, Boys Volleyball was focused on cleaning up the weaker aspects of its game. Stephenson Castro mentioned the team’s main priorities before Wednesday’s game.

“So Exeter apparently does not have a lot of depth in their team. They have a pretty tall middle [blocker] but it doesn’t matter because I’m feeling more than ready to shut him down. I’m the libero so I’m playing to return their hard hits and to be the glue in our defense. We have a fantastic defense

and a strong offense our main game plan for today, against Exeter, is to send free balls that from a messed up play to the weaker points in Exeter’s defense. We feel very confident facing off against Exeter and we are excited to employ our strategy,” said Stephenson Castro.

After the game against Exeter, Chica-Herrera ’24 shared how the team fell short, and where they could have improved. He explained that the game lasted five sets coming down to the wire with an unfortunate ending for Andover.

Chica-Herrera said, “Overall it went pretty well, but in the end we did lose after five sets. In the first set, we steamrolled Exeter which was a great start for us. The second set they adjusted really well and then they dominated us. The third and fourth sets were pretty average with one for them and one for us, and then in the fifth set, we just got stuck in one rotation and didn’t make much

progress out of it, so they ended up taking the win.”

Despite the loss, Suh highlighted how the energy and confidence of the team has allowed it to have a hot start to the season. He noted that the energy on the team has started with the seniors but has quickly been passed on to the lowerclassmen.

“The main strength of our team is... energy. A lot of the new guys bring a lot of passion to the sport. They’re always loud, even if they’re on the bench. I always just bring a positive mood to the games. It’s really great that we are able to have such great energy both on and off the court,” said Suh.

Boys Volleyball is looking forward to facing off against NMH on April 27.

Crossword Corner!

Created by MaxLang

1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
9				

- ACROSS**
- 1 Something a rapper might write
 - 5 Completely deplete, as leftovers
 - 7 Dented things in Commons
 - 8 Cliché
 - 9 Infected spots
- DOWN**
- 1 Goes over 21 in blackjack
 - 2 Space prefix
 - 3 Broadcast again, as an old show
 - 4 Fancy set of rooms, in a hotel
 - 6 Abbreviation with Biden

1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
9				

- ACROSS**
- 1 Word with food or car
 - 5 Singers just higher than tenors
 - 7 Clash of ____
 - 8 Stolen
 - 9 Places to store lawn equipment
- DOWN**
- 1 100% true things
 - 2 Arabic word for God
 - 3 Burned at the ____
 - 4 Fit, as a guy with abs
 - 6 United States identification numbers (abbreviation)

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

- ACROSS**
- 1 "I just can't catch a ____"
 - 6 ____ Judge or ____ Rodgers
 - 7 Most important drum for a marching band
 - 8 With ____, speedily
 - 9 Varieties of brew-able leaves
- DOWN**
- 1 Strike hard
 - 2 Moved towards aggressively
 - 3 Remove, as chalk on a blackboard
 - 4 Biggest artery in the body
 - 5 Things that bend when one jumps

	1	2	3	4
5				
6				
7				
8				

- ACROSS**
- 1 Drinks a small amount, as tea
 - 5 Backpack things that go over your shoulders
 - 6 ____ Reeves
 - 7 ____ peace, something a meditator might be searching for
 - 8 Thing that keeps a house high up
- DOWN**
- 1 Tube inserted in an artery
 - 2 Hailing from location that used to be Persia
 - 3 Section of a comic book page
 - 4 Growth ____
 - 5 Glides on snow

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Dewey Street, North Andover
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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Mia Isacson '26 Celebrates Her Uruguayan Identity and Artistic Passion Through Fashion

CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & ZADIE ROBINSON

Mia Isacson '26 sports black converse, beige cargo pants, and a black statement jacket — a color-coordinated outfit straight out of her color-coded wardrobe. This organized approach allows Isacson to enjoy the process of putting together her outfits each morning, a ritual she cherishes.

“I like having a really organized closet and so everything in my closet is color coded, and all my drawers. The rest of my room can be a complete mess, but my closet has to be color-coded and all my jewelry has to be in spots so I can pick things up very easily. Also, preparing outfits is my favorite part of the day. I love getting ready, and so every night it's going to go to sleep knowing what I'm going to wear the next day,” Isacson explained.

Isacson's style is a vibrant reflection of her personality and cultural background. Her Uruguayan heritage plays a significant role in her fashion choices. Often wearing unique ear pieces and carrying small stones from

Uruguay, her accessories serve as a way to feel closer to her roots.

“I'm Uruguayan... on my mom's side. They wear a lot of heavy jewelry and heavy necklaces. In Uruguay, they wear gauchos... Part of why I got my ears pierced is because I love wearing big earrings, and I feel more in touch with being Uruguayan... My grandma's obsessed because in her area in Uruguay, they're finding amethyst in the ground. It's really common, so she gave me a small stone of amethyst... Also, I feel like I'm a New Yorker, and I like people to know that I'm a New Yorker as soon as they see me. I feel like I dress very 'New Yorker,' and if people don't know I'm from New York as soon as they see me, I'm not doing a good job” said Isacson.

As an artsy individual, Isacson finds great joy displaying her interests through her outfits, showcasing aspects of her personality. Her favorite musical artists are evident through her Billie Eilish hoodie and Olivia Rodrigo hoodie, both of which feature meaningful lyrics.

“I really enjoy wearing merchandise. I love it, but it can be

quite pricey, so I don't have a lot of it. I like wearing Billie Eilish hoodies, and I also have Olivia Rodrigo hoodies... I do have a lot of vintage merchandise as well because my mom's best friend gave me a ton of her old stuff from the '90s, and it's really cool. It includes items from girl bands and other cool stuff, and I love wearing it. Additionally, I have a few t-shirts from musicals because I'm a big fan of musicals, so I really enjoy wearing those too. I also like wearing Andover merchandise even when I'm not at Andover, because it shows pride,” said Isacson.

Fashion serves as a powerful tool for Isacson to boost her own self-confidence and express her unique identity. Her journey into the fashion world wasn't merely about following trends, but a shift towards choosing outfits that resonated with her.

She reflected, “As a kid, I wasn't cute or confident. I was super insecure, especially in elementary school. I sort of had a glow-up, and that's when I really got into fashion, when I became more confident in my body and started liking myself. I used to only wear things that looked good on me, but now I don't really care if the clothes suit me. I care more about if they're cute.”

Thrifted, vintage pieces also hold a special place in Isacson's closet. Her approach to fashion is consistent, as she has been an enthusiastic thrifter since she was just 11 years old, amassing a collection of unique finds over the years.

“I've had the same taste in clothes since I was 12 or 11. I was thrifting at 11, you know what I mean? So, I have a lot of pieces from when I was really young. I haven't really changed that much. I've tried to be more sophisticated, but I always re-wear [pieces]. I know a lot of people drastically want to change their



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Mia Isacson '26 has been an avid thrifter since she was 11 years old.



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Isacson's chunky jewelry reflects her Uruguayan heritage.

Artist in Residence Alex Harris'67: The Dichotomy Between Perception and Actuality

ADELE CIOCIOLA & STELLA SEONG

In a guided tour of the journey of photography, Alex Harris '67, the Artist in Residence for the week of April 1, led interested students through the Addison Gallery of American Art's current exhibition, “A Long Arc: Photography and the American South since 1845.” This exhibition was organized by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and focuses on depicting the South's critical role in the development of photography.

One of Harris' photographs, “Thunder Road, Austin Texas,” was on display and featured two police officers, one Black and one white, seemingly engaged in a heated argument. Harris noted how although it initially appears to be a commentary on the historical racial divide of the South, within the context of the exhibit, the photograph instead tells the story of aspiring filmmakers.

“I was fortunate enough to have a curator at the High Museum in Atlanta to give me what's called a ‘Picturing the South’ commission... Ultimately, I decided that I wanted to look at the way that a new generation of young narrative filmmakers were imagining the South. If I could just get on a few of their film sets and could photograph what they were filming. Turns out I spent about two years on about forty different film sets and in the process I described, I chose the pictures I was most interested in, they didn't necessarily reflect the story of that partic-

ular film, but when I put them together, the High Museum ultimately exhibited them. They told another story, a cumulative story, about the South from all those different film sets. It was a story about the imaginations and the dreams of a new generation of filmmakers in the South,” said Harris.

This dichotomy between the perceived story and actual story behind the image was something attendees of the event also found to be notable. Alicia Zhang '24, an Addison Community Ambassador, remarked on how listening to Harris speak about his work opened her eyes to how context can completely change the way art is perceived.

“My favorite part of the event was definitely when he explained the process that went into his photograph ‘Thunder Road.’ It's very interesting to me because he talked about how his photograph is part of another series he did where he went around and took pictures of film sets. It was cool to hear the backstory of the photograph because seeing the photo in the context of the exhibition, you wouldn't know that backstory. If you looked at it, you wouldn't think it was part of a fictional story, you would think it was something that happened in real life. So it was cool to hear the context,” said Zhang.

The acted out scene being perceived as a real life event was the actualization of Harris' intention behind photography. Harris explained that, when he takes a photo, his primary goal is to capture authenticity, and that he views photography as a response to a moment rather



COURTESY OF WENDI YING

Alex Harris's '67 individual photos interact with each other to tell a cumulative story.

than the creation of one.

“What I'm trying to do is immerse myself in the moment. I want to respond in a way that allows me to make what I would call an authentic picture. We all know that we can have very close friends or family we take pictures of, but it doesn't feel like it's that person, it just feels like it's someone showing up with a camera and taking photos... One thing that characterizes this exhibit is that the photographs do feel authentic. It's a broad term but I think I'm looking for a way to render the world in a way that says more than I know. I want a

picture to teach me something. I usually don't go out thinking I want to take a picture of this or that and show this or that. I go out to photograph and then later I will edit my pictures and choose one out of ten or one out of a hundred. Once I put those pictures together, I discover the story that was there rather than seeing the story I set out to find,” said Harris.

The story of “Thunder Road, Austin Texas” served to tell an additional story when placed within the context of the Addison Gallery as a whole. Anthony Woo '24 spoke on how this piece, and the exhibit as

a whole, worked in coordination with the themes of unrest within America's history.

“We have a few photography exhibitions going on right now and most of them are related to America. When we think about the identity of America and the tumultuous times of today we can look at these works for the history. For example there's the Civil Rights wall upstairs with many photos documenting the Civil Rights movement. We also got to see faces and the relationship of landscapes and spaces which was interesting,” said Woo.

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ARTS IN BRIEF

COLLECTED BY PIPER LASATER AND ZACHARY YUAN

Country Music Star Morgan Wallen arrested for reckless endangerment

Country Music Star, Morgan Wallen, was arrested early morning Monday after throwing a chair off of the rooftop of Chief’s Bar in Nashville, Tennessee. The artist had just begun his tour, coming off two shows in Indianapolis, and many fans are now wondering whether their concerts will be canceled. According to the Metro Nashville Police Department, he was arrested on three felony counts of reckless endangerment, misdemeanor, and disorderly conduct. Police had been monitoring the area outside the bar when the chair came flying down three feet in front of them. Witnesses on the scene also said that Wallen had been seen laughing after throwing the chair off the roof. According to FOX News, fans seem to feel a mix between being horrified by his actions and proud of them, with some claiming his erratic behavior further proves his place as a “real rockstar in country music.”

Beyoncé makes history with ‘Cowboy Carter’ hitting No. 1

Beyoncé’s new album, Cowboy Carter, has made her the first Black woman to reach the No. 1 spot on Billboard’s Top Country Charts. The album, which was originally anticipated to be primarily country, surprised fans with a diverse blend of influences spanning from banjos to rap, challenging genre boundaries. According to Billboard, Cowboy Carter stands at 407,000 equivalent album sales in the US, with song “Texas Hold ‘Em” sitting at No. 2. With record-breaking num-

bers, Beyoncé has proved once again her music artistry and fierce ability to crush boundaries in the music industry.

Professor Turns Algae Studies into Music

Dr. Heather O’Leary, a professor at the University of South Florida (USF), has been greatly concerned with water quality and its influence on the natural world. According to NPR, while researching algae blooms in tourist regions and the decrease in coral reefs, she realized she needed a more engaging way to present her data and share her findings with others. Inspiration struck her during a concert put on by the USF’s School of Music. Following the performance, she reached out to composer Paul Reller, who has had extensive experience turning compositions into more creative projects. Together, the two created music that captured the patterns in her data, using different keys and paces to represent when the algae bloomed and died. Since then, a music group at the University called Communicating Research Expansively through Sonification and Community-Engaged Neuroaesthetic Data-literacy Opportunities (CRESCENDO), has begun utilizing similar composition methods in hopes of bringing awareness to environmental problems.

Technician’s Secret Art Display Sparks Controversy

A German museum worker was fired after secretly hanging his own artwork in a gallery. According to CNN, the 51-year-old technician and self-proclaimed freelance artist smuggled his

painting into the Pinakothek der Moderne museum in Munich, Germany on February 26, and hung it on a wall in one of the galleries. The artwork was quickly discovered and removed by security. The man had access to the museum outside of regular opening hours due to his job, allowing him to go in unnoticed and add his work to the exhibition. As part of his termination agreement, the man was immediately fired and banned from the museum. He now also faces investigation for property damage, as his painting was attached to the gallery wall with two screws that caused 100 in damage.

Superman’s First Flight: Historic Comic Fetches 6 Million Dollars at Auction

A 1938 comic featuring Superman’s first appearance sold for 6 million dollars at an auction on April 4. According to CNN, the comic was dubbed the “most important, impactful comic book ever published,” and was originally published 86 years ago for just 10 cents an issue. Out of the 200,000 copies that were first printed, Heritage Auctions stated that only two other unrestored copies in superior condition are known to exist. The comic was in excellent shape despite its age. The comic was written by Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel and introduced Superman as an alien child sent to Earth to escape the destruction of his planet. “Without Superman and Action Comics No. 1, who knows whether there ever would have been a Golden Age of comics — or if the medium would have become what it is today,” Heritage Auctions Vice President Barry Sandoval said in a statement ahead of the sale.

Conan Gray’s Found Heaven Finds Acceptance in Heartbreak Through Beautifully Vulnerable and Universally Relatable Songs

HLUMA MANGCU & ANYA BUDZINSKI

Singer Conan Gray, who first rose to fame on YouTube posting melancholy ballads, released his third studio album “Found Heaven” on April 5. The album delves into themes of love, loss, heartbreak, and the beauty in vulnerability across 13 tracks. According to Rolling Stone, Gray made it a point to go against what was expected of him with the album, instead experimenting with 80s-style power ballads inspired by icons such as David Bowie and A-ha. Although he stuck to his typical mellow rhythms and tones, for the first time, Gray used the album to express real life emotions from a recent heartbreak, rather than hypothetical ones like in his past two albums. The major artistic shift of “Found Heaven” did not go unnoticed, and seems to represent the beginning of a new era for Gray.

The first, and titular track on the album, “Found Heaven” encapsulates a journey from self-doubt to the realization that love can be redeeming. With the lyrics “Don’t be scared little child, of that feeling you’re in love you found Heaven,” Gray seems to be sending a message about how one must accept their own identity in order to fully embrace love from others. The instrumentals in the song feel celestial or omnipotent in a way, which seem to reflect the concepts of Heaven and “God in the sky” repeated throughout the song. This sense of reminiscence does not end with the first track on the album.

Gray’s favorite song on the album is “Alley Rose,” the last song he wrote for the project. In this punk-like song, Gray paints a picture of being left behind by someone you love,



KIRA STEPANOVA/THE PHILLIPIAN

both physically and emotionally. He repeats the lyric, “Oh where did you go alley rose,” both symbolizing a feeling of abandonment while also paying homage to the famous Abbey Road, the street Gray faced heartbreak in his own life. This double entendre portrays a level of maturity in Gray’s work that wasn’t as present in previous pieces. Gray’s first break up, the one that inspired the album, was both eye-opening and painful for him, which showed

through in his music. Interestingly, Gray expresses how he feels like the heartbreak was worth it, because he was able to discover so many facets of himself that he never knew were there before. Although the album is largely about the ups and downs of love, Gray sings about a variety of emotions and concepts on the album. “Bourgeoisieses” strays away from the main theme of the album and focuses on Gray’s childhood economic status

and how it has affected him. The track’s upbeat rhythm stands out from others on the album, and adds diversity in mood and content. The story of the song seems to be from the perspective of his younger self, and intentionally misspells the plural for bourgeoisie, perhaps to poke fun at the rich and the futility of luxury, or joke at a past version of himself who was so concerned with being a member of the upper-class with no knowledge of that it was truly

like. As far as the other tracks on the album, many feature similar themes, making the album blend together a bit too much. Though each song has its own ideas and story, the rhythm and similar moods make it difficult to understand and identify the different stories Gray is trying to convey through his lyrics. On the contrary, the similarities between tracks create a sense of consistency, and the overall theme of loss and appreciation for the pain of past relationships is communicated well through Gray’s high quality lyrics. It is clear that he is passionate and cares about making his songs reflect his emotions, and finds inspiration from many common experiences that allow his listeners to relate to his lyrics and the stories they tell. For example a favorite track of mine is “Forever With Me,” which tells a story of a falling out with someone and the negative feelings towards them following it. The song goes on to express acceptance and gratitude for that person and the experiences they brought to Gray. The song can be applied to a romantic relationship or friendship, making it applicable to many situations and relatable for many. Ultimately, “Found Heaven” covers various different topics, which ensures that all kinds of people can relate to it in some way or another. It feels as though Gray is allowing listeners to come on this journey with him and he deciphers what it truly means to love someone, whether or not they love you back. At the moment, there is no album that is able to capture the essence of a “Found Heaven,” or any sort of spiritual journey the way this album does. For that reason, “Found Heaven” receives a 4/5.



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POTW: Your BKH Audition Song

PENELOPE TONG & SAYA JAMESON

A Blue Key Head audition is never complete without a peppy song. Whether it be a 2010’s classic or an iconic Disney hit, auditioners decked out in blue never fail to lead a rousing sing along. So we asked Andover students, what would you sing?

**CHLOE SONG ’26 -
“YESTERDAY” BY THE
BEATLES**

“This song is probably the most iconic song by The Beatles, and I would like to think that I’m an iconic person... This is like the poster-boy song for all sad and sentimental songs in the world and as you may know, I’m a very sentimental person... The melody is so catchy, and ‘yesterday’ is repeated so many times, so it always gets stuck in my head... [My favorite part of the song] is ‘Yesterday, love was such an easy game to play, now I need a place to hide away.’ Those are fire bars... This is the best song ever, and everyone should go listen.”



**JULIA ROCHA ’25 - “WE WILL ROCK YOU” BY
QUEEN**

“Everyone knows that song, and it even has built-in choreography. Everyone knows the stomp-stomp-clap, and it’s super catchy. You can’t go wrong. Even if you don’t know it, it’s really just three words... The choreography and the energy just draw you in... [My favorite part is] definitely the chorus, but I do know the verses too.”



**PAIGE ZHU ’27 -
“Y.M.C.A” BY VILLAGE
PEOPLE**

“It has such a catchy rhythm to it, and I think everyone knows ‘Y.M.C.A.’ It’s a super easily recognizable song. Everyone can hop on and sing along, and it’s great for crowds... I think would be great for an audition-type setting.”

**KWEZI BESSIIMIRE
’26 - “DRAMA” BY ROY
WOODS (FT. DRAKE)**

“It’s a song about breakups, and I think it would be kind of funny in the context of Blue Key Head auditions... It’s definitely a very famous song... and has a very recognizable melody to it... I like the chorus a lot.”

**RYAN SWALES ’27 - “UNWRITTEN” BY NATASHA
BEDINGFIELD**

“It’s just really catchy and gets everyone singing. Even if they don’t have a great voice, they can still sing it. It’s just a really fun song in general... [I like] when the song goes ‘Reachin’ for something in the distance, so close you can almost taste it’ and then it drops the beat. It gets so hype for everyone, and that’s a major reason I would include it in my audition.”

ALFONSO GONZALEZ ’27 - “CALIFORNIA GURLS” BY KATY PERRY

“One, everyone knows it, so they can sing along, I mean who doesn’t know ‘California Gurls’? I think it’s one of the biggest hits of the century. You could argue even one of the best songs from the past millennia, so definitely that’s the biggest reason. In addition, I mean who wouldn’t want to sing ‘California Gurls’?... It’s really upbeat and gets you moving.”



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