The Phillipian

just ordered my halloween costume!

VOL. CXLVII, No. 22 | Veritas Super Omnia | OCTOBER 18, 2024

Several Clubs Prohibited from Representing Andover in Off-Campus Events

K. MA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Competition clubs such as Andover Rocketry Club and DECA (above) face new restrictions for attending off-campus competitions, enforced on a case-by-case basis.

STAFF REPORT

Various clubs are no longer permitted to represent Andover at off-campus events that interfere with class. The restriction is enforced on a case-by-case basis, as some clubs who compete in off-campus competitions are currently still permitted to run.

Clubs currently prohibited include the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) and Phillips Academy Speech and Debate (PASD), while the Andover Rocketry Club is now representing a separate non-profit entity called Brickyard Collaborative instead of Andover at competitions.

According to Evelyn Kung ’26, Co-President of PASD, the decision that the club would no longer exist was relayed to the board in early October through their club advisor who met with Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, and Christopher Capano, Director of the Student Activities Office. Kung stated that the restriction did not seem open for discussion and reflected on the potential causes of the decision.

“I really feel that [PASD] and DECA are two pretty academic clubs that almost every other high school in the nation has. To shut those down [is] a pretty big move on the school because debate and DECA are almost sports in a way. People spend their entire lives training for this and going to competitions. For some people, debate is a pathway to college and other opportunities, so to shut these clubs down is a big deal,” said Kung.

Melinda Wu ’25, Co-President of DECA, spoke about how her club was informed about the change regarding off-campus competitions last spring when the team attempted to get permission to attend state competitions from March 7 to March 9 over Spring Break. DECA ultimately qualified for the International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California. Because they would’ve missed three days of school, the club was prohibited from attending under the school’s name. However, association with a school name is required for competition entry, and thus, the club could not compete.

This year, Wu said that when DECA went straight to Capano to ask if attending regionals competitions for states was a possibility, they were given an explicit no. She attributed the club’s frustrations to a lack of standardization.

“Zero standardization on what office we had to go through, which turned out to be the Learning in the World [Office]. There was also no standardization on what type of faculty we could recruit [as club advisors] for each competition. Turnaround for getting it processed was told to be a month. We had three weeks, and they refused to process it,” said Wu.

Jayda Lu ’26, a board member of PASD, explained that the club had dedicated many hours of preparation for the Georgetown Fall Invitation online tournament the weekend of October 11, but was notified that their participation in this competition wouldn’t be possible. Soon after, Lu recalled that their ClubHub account was removed.

“It’s honestly pretty unfair because lots of clubs [are formed] on competitions and are competition-based... Unless they give us some other alternative, it feels like they’re shutting down more doors for me, which is not why I came to Andover,” said Lu.

Esty acknowledged the lack of a streamlined response, “It’s a work in progress. It’s not as though there’s some fully formed policy that we’re keeping secret. It’s not like that at all. We’re wrapping our arms around clubs at Phillips Academy, and it’s a process. We’ll get there.”

Capano explained that the school has not removed approval or support for clubs that compete off-campus. Instead, the administration decided that students cannot be excused from classes to participate in such opportunities under the school’s name unless they are directly connected to an academic program, such as a specific academic department. Coincidingly, Esty also noted that it is problematic for faculty club advisors to miss their aca-

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David Lowry Calls for More Than a Land Acknowledgement in Talk Hosted by Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archeology

K. MA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

In commemoration of Indigenous Peoples’ Day, David Lowry spoke on the importance of returning Indigenous lands to their original owners.

CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & TAYLA STEMPSON

On Indigenous Peoples’ Day, the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archeology hosted a talk by David Lowry, a member of the Lumbee Tribe and an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Southern Maine. His discussion centered on settler colonialism, the Land Back movement, and the importance of returning Indigenous lands to their original owners.

In an interview with *The Phillipian*, Lowry urged students to grapple with Indigenous history in the current era, not just the past. He expressed his hopes for Andover students not to shy away from uncomfortable situations.

“You have to make Native and Indigenous peoples part of today. They can’t merely be part of events/politics/wars in the past. Every experience that you all at PA have with your local and national community ought to be attached to work to reverse the realities that allow you to live comfortably outside of relationships with Native and Indigenous peoples,” wrote Lowry in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Andover does not currently have special programming for Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Expressing frustration with this limited recognition, Sam Clare ’25 noted how Ando-

Continued on A4, Column 1

Sykes Shifts From Walk-In to Appointment-Based Care

DYLAN SIEGEL & SOPHIA TOLOKH

Starting October 10, the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center shifted from a walk-in-based care model to an appointment-based model with self-scheduled appointments through the online portal Medicat. Intended to reduce wait times and provide a more structured healthcare system, Amy Patel, Dean of Health and Wellness and Chief Medical Officer, announced the change in a schoolwide email on October 8.

According to Patel, since Sykes first began using the Medicat portal ten years ago, they had been planning to integrate Medicat more thoroughly into their system. Patel described the benefits of this new system for organization and evaluating appointment times.

“We’re starting it very simple by giving a couple of different options. We’ve looked at what students typically come in for when they’re triaged to see a nurse versus when they’re triaged to see a nurse practitioner, assistant, or physician... Rather than having the nurse see them first and then having the second person see them, we’ll make that appointment directly,” said Patel. “This is [also] going to help us to better accurately assess how much time [appointments are] taking so that students can also have a clearer expectation.”

Appointments are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., seven days a week. Students select one of three categories describing the reason for their visit and the system automatically matches them with the appropriate healthcare provider. Students can still receive care without an appointment in

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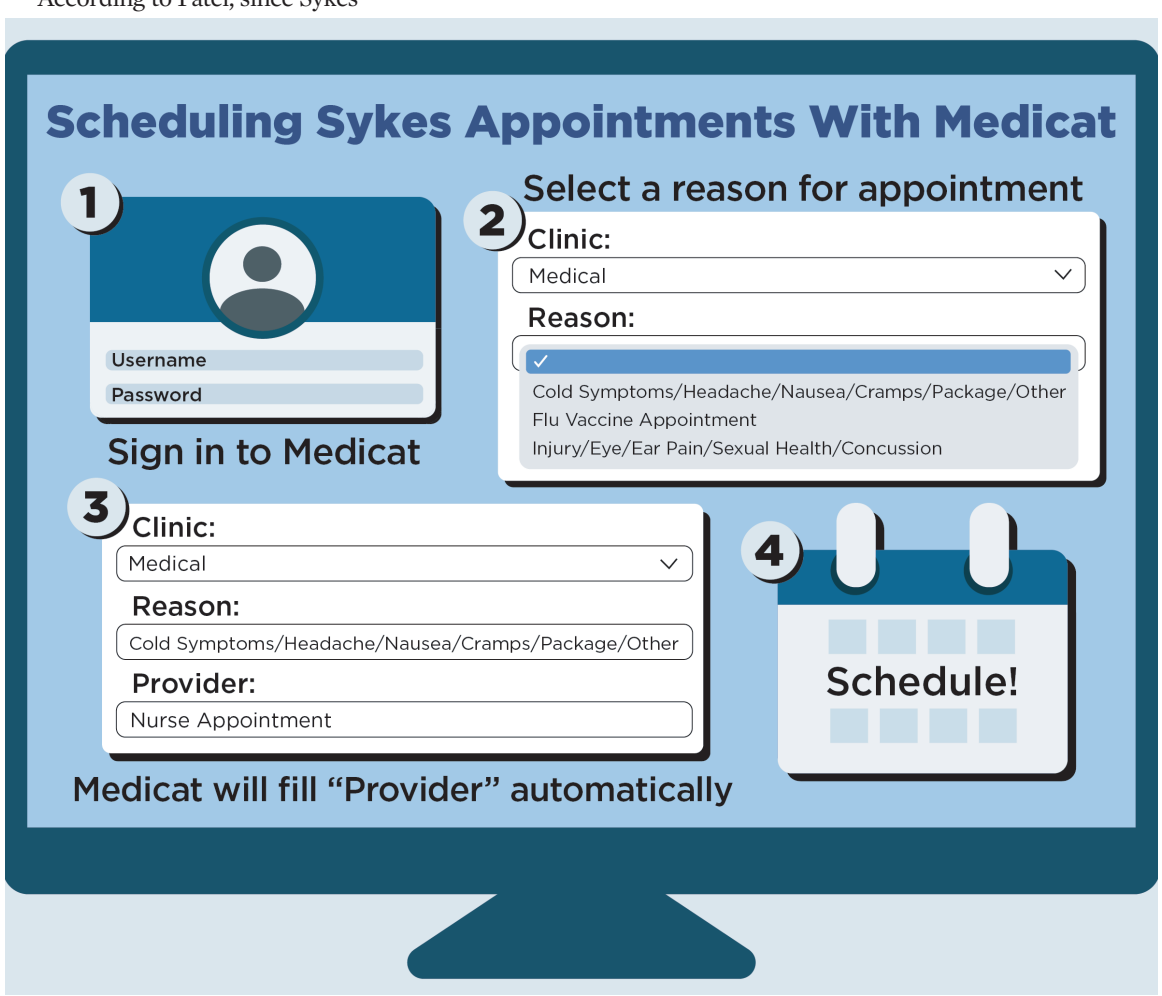

A. ZHU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

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Editorial

"Hello, my name is..."

From our first moments at Andover until our very last, we hear about how we will make "life-long friends." And while that is no doubt true, finding our place on Andover's campus, navigating our way around countless relationships with different groups, and deciding who we spend our time with can be difficult to juggle. As new students, it can feel intimidating or overwhelming to be tasked with discovering and forming connections when we feel as if we've been thrust into a sea of unfamiliar faces. For returning students, oftentimes it can be easy to latch onto the first people we meet and then limit ourselves from continuing to meet and befriend new people. So how might we find ways to continue stretching ourselves? Look no further than Paresky Commons, the next Weekender event that sparks your interest, or your typical every day routine at Andover. These moments are all around us, if only we dare to embrace them.

The first step is perhaps to normalize both reaching out and being rejected when it comes to new friendships. Just the sound of this may make us feel distressed and uneasy, but that is precisely why we must engage in them more. Oftentimes, we fall into the comfort of our established friend groups, and while this kind of support system is important, it can also indirectly discourage us from meeting someone new. Although interactions with new people may be awkward at first, they're good opportunities for us to branch out past our usual circles and get to know other community members better. There's a chance we will make a new best friend, but regardless of the outcome, a five-minute conversation will only help us connect further with the people whom we share this campus with. Despite any initial reservations we may have in taking the first step, this is a stakes, a leap of faith, that is worth taking. At the end of the day, fear is not conquered by avoidance — it is overcome through repeated exposure and action.

Furthermore, if we can establish etiquette for handling these situations such that even if we were rejected, we would not feel absolutely crushed, then the possibility of cultivating a new environment of proactive interpersonal bonding becomes even more plausible. These are basic, but crucial, courtesies like respecting people's personal space, their time, their mood, and their personality. At Andover, our days are often filled with socializing and constant human interaction, and while that can be gratifying, it can also be draining at the same time for introverts or those with a limited social battery. Part of normalizing rejection comes in the form of recognizing when people simply would like some alone time, whether it's because they've had a tiring day, want to study, or just prefer to be by themselves for a while. Let us give each other the benefit of the doubt and refrain from assuming malicious intent when we are met with a "no" and, at the same time, also actively make efforts to embody an open mindset and talk to new people.

Though we may feel that opportunities for us to expand beyond our closest friends are rare, our daily lives already offer countless openings to seize upon. From off-campus mall trips to Friday night movies in the library to club meetings and school-sponsored speaker series, all of these contexts provide us with the chance to step out of our comfort zone. In many cases, we subconsciously restrain ourselves to only the company of our closest friends while failing to realize that these very events are invitations for us to break free of our self-imposed barriers and spend time with someone new. These are the exact moments when we can embrace the initial discomfort, the unfamiliarity, the unpredictability. We become acquainted with people in so many different spaces, from the classroom to the dormitory to the Borden Memorial Gym; don't be afraid to let these friendships blur and grow beyond the well-defined boxes that we constructed them in.

We are all only at Andover for a limited amount of time. There are people here who we may never see again, whose paths we only cross at this one instant. Cherish it. Be forgiving; look beyond first impressions from Junior year and give one another a second chance. Throughout our years here, we will grow as people, and so will those around us. Friendships change, evolve, drift apart, conjure up seemingly out of thin air, remain the same. But the one thing that remains constant is our place in this community, our potential to make a home here away from home. So make the most of it. Start a conversation with the person standing next to you in line at Paresky, sit down with your History group partner that you've always really enjoyed working with but never really got to know outside of class, roast S'mores with the friend of a friend you think is really nice at Susie's on a Friday evening. These are the moments that we will look back upon with fondness in the years to come, the beginnings of the friendships we will hold close to our hearts even long after we leave Andover.

This Editorial represents the views of The Phillipian, *vol. CXLVII.*

Exploring Materialism in South Korea

MELODY OH

S. VIRMANI / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Recently, I came across a 2021 Pew Research Center report, "What Makes Life Meaningful? Views From 17 Advanced Economies." The poll surveyed citizens from 17 different countries across the world and asked them what category they value the most in making life meaningful. While most of the countries responded with "family," only South Korea put "material well-being" as the primary source of meaningful life. As a Korean, I could not comprehend this. Although I've seen a sense of materialism growing in Korea, I also knew that Korean societies are often family-centered and driven by the romance of camaraderie and reaching out to others. There is even something called "jeong," which is the concept of an affection and care that people automatically possess for others. This is the type of love that compels a restaurant owner to give students a complementary extra bowl of rice so that they can "grow better" or a passerby to take time out of their day to comfort a dejected person sitting on a bench. The poll conflicted with my perception of Korea and made me wonder why these affectionate people would have prioritized material well-being over other categories such as family, friends, or health.

My curiosity to explain the results of the poll led me to look back on Korea's history. The main population of Korea currently consists of my grandparents' and my parents' generations, both of which have lived through a major tragedy in modern Korean history: my grandparents' generation witnessed the horrors of the Korean War through their own eyes, and my parents' generation bore the severe aftermath of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) crisis. During the Korean War, most Korean citizens suffered from hunger as villages were destroyed and lives were threatened. In the IMF financial crisis of the 1990s, many Korean companies went bankrupt, leaving companies no choice but to fire the majority of the employees overnight. As a result, countless Korean families struggled to afford their living costs and had to be separated to live in the houses of distant relatives who could only take a couple family members each. During both of these tragedies, families couldn't feed themselves or even live together due to the lack of resources and money. These traumas persist in the form of materialism in Korea. It's not that Koreans prefer money over everything. It's that their own lived experiences and the worries passed down through generations subconsciously compel them to idealize security and practicality.

ANNABELLE LANGHORST/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Despite the negative labels attributed to materialism, its prevalence among Koreans may speak to a common protective instinct to ensure happiness, safety, and monetary freedom for those they care about. Not only does money promise food, clothing, and shelter for families, but it also allows families to support their children's education in hopes that the children will lead more successful lives than their parents. Since Korea has long been exposed to the system of meritocracy from the civil service exam policies, Korean parents often feel the responsibility to provide as much help as they can muster for their children's education, which statistically could lead to higher-paying jobs and more affluent lives in Korea. As awkward as this may seem to American culture, the zealous dedication of Korean parents is their practical approach to expressing love to their families, an attempt to guarantee that their children will suffer less in their lives and be required to make fewer sacrifices because of financial difficulties.

As awkward as this may seem to American culture, the zealous dedication of Korean parents is their practical approach to expressing love to their families, an attempt to guarantee that their children will suffer less in their lives and be required to make fewer sacrifices because of financial difficulties.

Once I understood the historical background of South Korea, their prioritization of "material well-being" didn't seem so acquisitive anymore. Patterns among certain populations have many causes behind their formation, and the environment or circumstance often forces people to behave in a certain way. At the end of the day, we aren't that different: we all just want to love and protect our families.

Melody Oh is a Lower from Frisco, Tex. Contact the author at yoh27@andover.edu.

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CORRECTIONS:

Our Nuclear Way Forward

SHLOAK SHAH

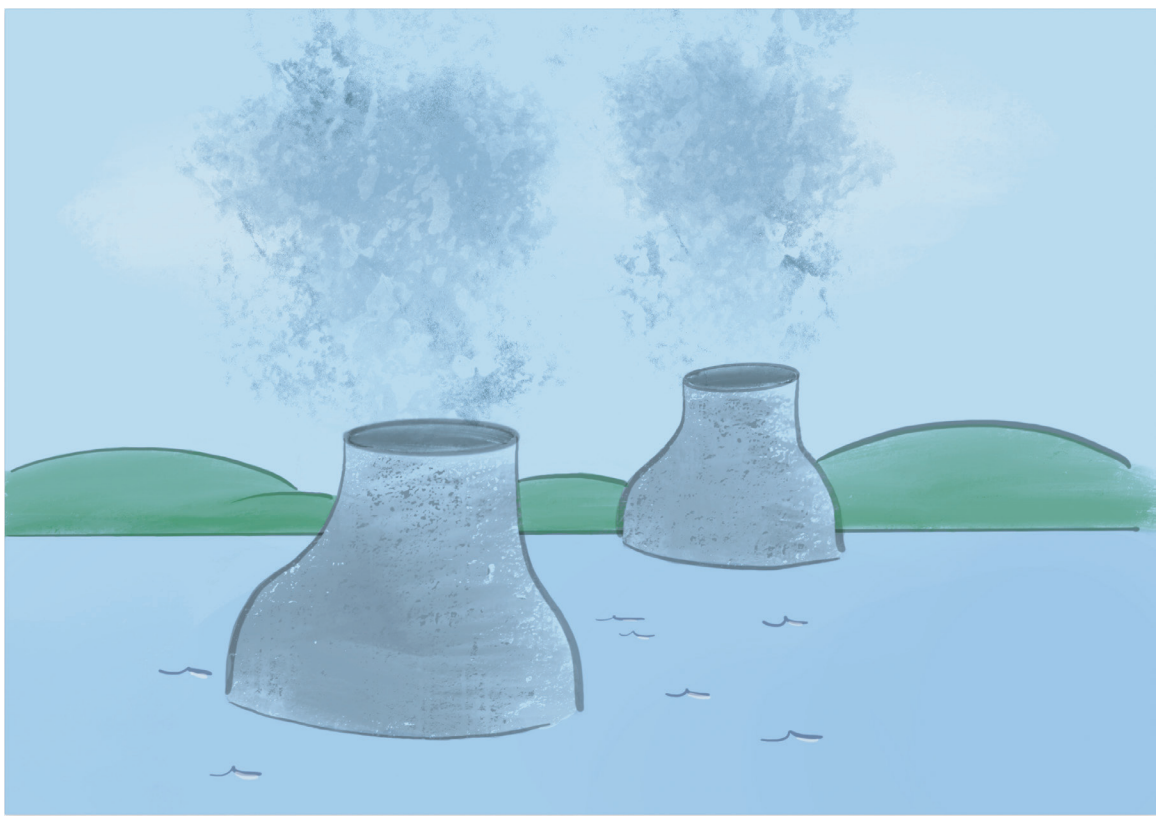
A. TSAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

For decades, the United States of America has lagged behind our peers and targets in the essential transition away from fossil fuels. Once an early leader in renewable and nuclear energy, America's energy practices are currently unsustainable for supporting our communities into the future. Despite this, the growth of American nuclear power has slowed in recent decades, and institutions like Andover continue to invest in fossil fuels. To protect our planet, people, and national security, America must follow in France's footsteps in dramatically expanding our policies, communities, and ideas toward nuclear power.

Firstly — and most importantly, given the significance of the climate crisis to our planet's health — nuclear power provides clean energy. Nuclear energy is one of our only options to reduce our carbon footprint at the levels needed to meaningfully combat climate change, and it's one of the cleanest ones. Contrary to popular belief, nuclear power emits slightly less lifetime greenhouse gasses than renewable sources, such as wind and solar power, and hundreds of times less than fossil fuels. There's also room for nuclear power's efficiency to grow as investment into advanced nuclear fusion technology matures. Existing nuclear power also fills a significant gap in the capability of renewable energy, as solar power, wind power, hydropower, and geothermal energy are all limited by location and conditions, whereas nuclear power plants can be built anywhere in the nation. Thus, the versatility of nuclear energy makes it a necessary complement to other clean energy technologies, and a clear superior to the fossil fuels currently dominating America's energy mix.

Thus, the versatility of nuclear energy makes it a necessary complement to other clean energy technologies, and a clear superior to the fossil fuels currently dominating America's energy mix.

Nuclear is also one of the world's safest power sources. Though high-profile nuclear accidents have shaped public opinion to focus on the perceived dangers of nuclear power, it has actually claimed only slightly more lives than comparable clean energy sources and is orders of magnitude less deadly than fossil fuels (when accounting for deaths caused by air pollution as well as accidents). Coal ash, a common byproduct of coal power plants, is a more radioactive pollutant than nuclear waste. Today's American nuclear energy is even safer than these historical statistics suggest, because — devastating though they are — nuclear accidents are most often the result of less mature nuclear programs. We've learned from our technical mistakes to the point that the U.S. Navy and many foreign nations like France trust nuclear power with their greatest energy demands, so it's past time the American domestic market and public opinion caught up in recognizing the safety of nuclear power.



AMY OKU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Finally, prioritizing nuclear power is simply the practical choice for America's future. One of nuclear power's greatest advantages is that it can operate regardless of the location of natural resources or climate conditions. This guarantees that American nuclear power can remain within the United States, whereas alternative forms of energy are often imported to the nation. Not only can this employ skilled American workers; it also provides an important national security advantage where safeguarding state-of-the-art (and, in the wrong hands, extremely dangerous) technology is concerned. Keeping energy domestic also allows America to reduce its strategic dependence on potentially hostile nations — namely the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a group of (largely undemocratic) oil-exporting nations that have been known to deliberately drive up energy costs to American consumers. In an era where nations are seeking to challenge America's global positioning, energy production, and technology must remain in the hands of American workers and away from hostile regimes — nuclear power is a sure way to accomplish that.

Today, the climate crisis is an existential threat to the United States and the world. All the while, energy production continues to claim far too many lives and our reliance on foreign energy producers is becoming more and more of a strategic liability. Nuclear power is the clearest option to address these threats, and it's a technology with abundant unexplored potential. Americans ranging from government lobbyists to high schoolers must open our minds (and push our communities to do the same) in working towards something we have been all too eager to ignore: our nuclear way forward.

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

Politics and Misinformation Are Not Helping as Hurricane Recovery Begins

AARON BAI

A. LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Hurricane Milton, the ninth hurricane of the 2024 season, became the second-most intense tropical cyclone ever recorded over the Gulf of Mexico as it passed through Florida this week. With winds reaching 185 mph, the Category 5 storm came only two weeks after Hurricane Helene battered through the state, forcing an evacuation of some two million people. As the storm finally dissipates, at least 23 people are revealed to have been killed, with preliminary damage estimates reaching over 30 billion dollars. Over one million Floridians remain without power, and about one in three gas stations across the state remained closed Saturday. The focus has now turned to recovery efforts centered around restoring power, clearing debris, and assisting victims in the wake of the storm.

As families weep over their losses and attempt to recover, the bickering of politicians up in Washington is not helping. Current vice president and presidential candidate Kamala Harris called CNN on Wednesday to bash former president and current opponent Donald Trump over his comments about the latest storms.

"It is dangerous, it is unconscionable, frankly," Harris told CNN's Dana Bash, "that anyone who considers themselves a leader would mislead desperate people... The last thing that they deserve is to have a so-called leader make them more afraid than they already are."

SACI VEGSO / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Her comments come as Trump, in the previous week, repeatedly attacked Harris and the Biden administration's response to Hurricane Helene, claiming that it was "going even worse" than Katrina.

As families remain stranded and flooding continues in many areas throughout Florida, the last thing people need is more hatred and discord.

"There's nobody that's handled a hurricane or storm worse than what they're doing right now," Trump said at a rally in Michigan last week. "Kamala spent all her FEMA money, billions of dollars, on housing for illegal migrants." Many Republican lawmakers echoed his claims. This is despite disaster relief funds being completely separate from other grant programs administered by FEMA.

Such comments by such visible political leaders are at best irresponsible and at worst dangerous. As families remain stranded and flooding continues in many areas throughout Florida, hatred is the last thing people need. Trump's comment only serves to create even more division in an already deeply divided country, eroding trust in the government right as people need it most. The goal of his message is clear — immigration has become one of the most major issues on voter's minds as the presidential election looms, and by connecting almost anything to the border crisis, which he has labeled as one of the Biden administration's greatest failures, he hopes to gain votes amongst the electorate, however few. In an election forecast to be very tight, those few votes may decide the victor. But should one be allowed to say anything they want to in order to win over people, even if their claims are false and damaging? In a moment of crisis where people are dying, the answer should be a resounding no.

Harris's response is part of a wider campaign from the Biden administration to criticize the rampant misinformation surrounding the hurricane. "The last few weeks there's been a reckless, irresponsible, and relentless promotion of disinformation and outright lies that are disturbing people," Biden said in a press conference. He has further continued his vocal criticism of former President Trump, saying that although he wasn't "singularly to blame" for the rise in false claims, he was "leading the onslaught of lies" and had "the biggest mouth." "Get a life, man," he said when asked if he had spoken to Trump directly.

Though such misinformation, especially by a presidential candidate, is certainly a problem, this tit-for-tat blame game that Biden is participating in will only succeed in sowing further discord along party lines. In a time when unity in the wake of the crisis is key to a successful recovery, his comments aren't exactly helpful either. There is, however, not much he can do otherwise: he can't back down or remain silent — that would make him look weak. And so the escalating rhetoric continues.

Trump's comments aren't even the most outrageous. Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene from Georgia posted on the social media platform X that, "Yes they can control the weather. It's ridiculous for anyone to lie and say it can't be done." That was followed by a post further elaborating upon her first one. "Everyone keeps asking, 'who is they?' Well some of them are listed on NOAA, as well as most of the ways weather can be modified... did they ask you if you agreed to our weather being modified?" The fact that these comments come from someone who has the power to actively vote on bills in Congress is appalling, and demonstrates the poor path our country is following.

Responses to Greene came swiftly. "News Flash, humans cannot create or control hurricanes. Anyone who thinks they can, needs to have their head examined," said fellow Republican Representative Carlos Gimenez in a X post. "I think enough has already been said. I ignore her," said Representative Don Bacon. "She thinks we have no impact on the climate but somehow control the weather," scoffed another House Republican.

As lawmakers and others with immense power continue to squabble verbally in Washington, physical fights are breaking out in the Tampa Bay Area as residents wait in long lines at the few gas stations that are open. "They were fighting, like fist fighting," said Jones, a security guard. "One girl hit another girl with her car, they were really fighting for gas." It is highly unlikely that the comments from Trump or Harris have helped alleviate any of the emotion down in Florida's flooded streets, if not adding fuel to the fire.

Aaron Bai is a Lower from Hong Kong. Contact the author at abai27@andover.edu.

Faculty and Students Clash Over New Restrictions for Competition Clubs

Continued from A1, Column 5

demic programming if they attend off-campus competitions.

"The Philomathean Society (Philo) will still debate because they only debate on weekends. Model UN can still do their thing, and there are a couple other clubs that can still debate without any issues or compete without any issues because they're not going to miss school. A couple of the clubs that the school has decided they wouldn't excuse you for, if they make it beyond the first round, they would have to miss school. The school wasn't okay with that, so you can't miss classes or other commitments for competitions," said Capano.

Esty explained that attendance in off-campus competitions unrelated to the school is still permitted through Dean's excuses, which allow students to miss up to five days of school a year.

"But our students still compete and they can all individually, not representing Phillips Academy and not using Phillips Academy funds, compete at fencing and equestrian and whatever else they're doing. We had a former world chess champion. We know students are doing that and they can submit for Dean's Excuses up to five days a year; it says in the Blue Book. It doesn't mean you automatically get five, but if you were competing in the World Chess Championship, we're not gonna keep students away from opportunities like that," said Esty.

Co-President of Andover Rocketry Club, Ishaan Padmawar '26, recalled that when his club tried to attend Nationals last year, they were allowed to attend only if they paid for the competition fee themselves and if they did not represent Andover in their name, logo, or brand.

"At competitions, Rocketry Club doesn't represent Andover at all. That's why we have two names. We have Big Blue Boom Crew, and then we have Andover Rocketry Club. At competitions, we don't use the Andover name," said Padmawar.

According to an email from Kara Heintz, Coordinator in the Dean of Students Office, on October 2, students are no longer allowed to apply for Abbot Academy Grants to establish new clubs or for the purpose of attending off campus competitions. Esty explained how clubs can receive funding from the Office of Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD), academic departments, or the Office of Student Activities to ensure equity and access for the student body: "We want things to go through a process so that all students and all their interests have an equal chance of getting supported through the school."

In contrast, Lu mentioned how PASD, a club established in 2018, did not have an endowment, which created "equity issues because in the long term, the older clubs with the money are the ones...[often] founded by white men."

Capano urged students to reach out to his office with detailed and reasonable budgets, even those that exceed the preferred one hundred dollar range. He prompted students to consider what is truly necessary for a specific club to operate, contrasting wants for food to needs for supplies, such as yarn for Yarn Club or board games for Board Game Club.

"In general, we try to support clubs when we can. What we tell them is to not expect more than 100 dollars a year, but it's not an automatic amount because a lot of clubs operate and don't need any money. To give each club 100 dollars that they don't spend and take that money back doesn't seem to make sense. If your club needs funds, you can ask us for funds and if we can help you with that, we will. What we say is if you're hosting something that the whole school is going to attend, the Student Activities will try to help support that," said Capano.

Esty ended with a message to the student body, "You're not the only one who's confused. I hear you on the confusion front. But I think it will be good to not have confusion. That's the goal. Hard, messy, sometimes painful, but I think if we get to a point of clarity, everybody can feel good about it."

Editor's Note: Ishaan Padmawar '26 is a Photo Associate Editor for *The Phillipian*.

Lowry Examines Andover's Relationship With Indigenous People

Continued from A1, Column 2

ver's land acknowledgment is only the first step in increasing student awareness.

"I was interested in Dr. Lowry's talk about land, especially because I know that PA has a land acknowledgment. What does it mean to have a land acknowledgment when we don't necessarily do anything else? Saying 'we know we're on stolen land' but not doing anything about it... We actually need to go a lot farther, beyond simple conversations and land acknowledgments, to, like he mentioned, our endowments. We have so much money. What are we doing with that?" said Clare.

Clare pointed out how, unlike Andover's Martin Luther King Jr. "Day-On," students weren't prompted to learn about Indigenous Peoples' Day. They mentioned that such a "Day-On" could serve as a framework for future development.

"Many students were able to go through the day without thinking about Indigenous Peoples' Day because their teachers, coaches, and friends didn't bring it up. Andover needs to be intentional about saying, 'No, you have to think about this because it's important.' This is the land we're on right now, and we wouldn't have this school without Indigenous land. A day is not even enough, but we need to start with that — making students aware that this is important," said Clare.

During the talk, Lowry emphasized the impact of American History on current Native American groups. Bryan Bu '26, who attended the discussion as part of his English class on the suppression of Indigenous sovereignty, underscored how Lowry used real-life examples to make the themes of the lecture more understandable and relatable.

"I really appreciated how the speaker used real-life examples to explain the points made in the lecture. It made the ideas we read about in the novel feel more relevant... When you hear about a real person losing their home, it hits harder than reading about a fictional character. You start to realize that these aren't just stories, and they happen to people today," said Bu.

As the event gave both students and faculty the opportunity to ask questions to the speaker, Willy Park '26 shared that the discussion allowed him to approach themes from his History 300 course differently. Park highlighted the importance of events focusing on Native Americans, calling for further efforts from Andover to educate the community about Indigenous issues.

"A positive impact these talks can have is that people who attended these meetings, although it may not be a huge part of campus, can be really inspired to inform other people about what happened here and what their takeaway was. Our speaker, David Lowry, gave an idea to maybe come up with a seminar so that more people can be educated about this. If we were to actually adopt those suggestions, it could have a much bigger impact," said Park.

Lowry discussed how events like Indigenous Peoples' Day are meant to bring attention to the lack of involvement of Native Americans in institutions that occupy their land.

"Indigenous Peoples' Day should make students at Andover ask why Indigenous peoples aren't with you everyday. It is that simple. Andover's leader should be Native American. You, as students, should have access to well-paid Native American faculty. You should be taught everything at Andover within the conditions of Native American knowledge," wrote Lowry in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Students' Opinions Differ on New Sykes Appointment System

Continued from A1, Column 5

urgent cases; in non-emergency situations, however, students may be asked to return at another time if Sykes is full.

Students expressed a range of opinions on the appointment-based system. Arthur Constant '25 said he supports the change, pointing out that it would help students get the help they need without longer wait times.

"It's going to be a great change for everyone. [Before], if you had an emergency, you ran the risk of getting there and not having anyone to help you. Now that there are appointments, if I need something that I know I can make an appointment for, I'll probably do that because I don't want to wait in line. If I have an emergency, I know that I will not have to wait in line because there are no people there in the waiting room," said Constant.

Anastasia Paul '26, on the other hand, expressed frustration with this change. Paul recalled a recent experience of being turned away from Sykes for not having an appointment, emphasizing the need for a guarantee that students can walk into Sykes and receive the care that they need to feel better.

"When I am sick, I do not want to be making an appointment. I want to go to a place that's going to give me help [at] that given moment. For example, I was feeling sick, and I feel like I have a cold, and a bunch of my friends are sick, and I just wanted to come get a check up before my gym class. I wasn't able to get it, [however], because I had to make an appointment. But, they are pretty booked, and if I have a fever and am feeling ill, I don't want to be waiting for an appointment for hours in my dorm. I just want to go to a place that is going to guarantee me care like I would if I was at home," said Paul.

Some students have already integrated the appointment-based model into their regular routine. Phillip Molina '28 shared that he has already scheduled monthly appointments with Sykes about his allergies.

"Once a month, I get driven off campus, 20 minutes away, to do an allergy shot for my pollen allergies. So, as a student who schedules his appointments, I find it super helpful to know that it's not just a walk-in and that I can make sure I will get to something on time with Sykes' assistance. From my standpoint, it's a great recourse," said Molina.

Through switching to this appointment-based model, Patel voiced her hopes that students will be better prepared to take initiative and prioritize their health. She invited students to provide feedback on potential improvements for future refinements and adjustments to the system.

"My hope is that this is actually a switch that people think is enhancing their experience, helping to reduce wait time, and something we can continue to refine. I'm always eager for student feedback too, so if there's an opportunity to get feedback, we want that. My hope is that it also helps students to not just have their health be an afterthought, but it can [help] them schedule in a time when they're thinking about taking care of their health and that they can have that protected time with their healthcare provider on campus," said Patel.

Andover Political Union Invites Representative Tram Nguyen to Encourage Political Discourse on Campus

AUDREY GOTHA & PHILIP JEONG

In collaboration with Lead-Her and the Southeast Asian Society, the Andover Political Union (APU) invited Massachusetts Representative Tram Nguyen of the 18th Essex District as this week's guest in their speaker series. With the upcoming 2024 United States presidential election, APU aims to invite representatives from across the political spectrum, with Representative Tram Nguyen speaking for the Democratic Party.

Derek Curtis, the student support and event programming librarian for the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library, explained APU's decision to invite Nguyen. He recalled ways that Nguyen has interacted with the Andover community in the past and listed some of the opportunities students would gain through the talk.

"In general, [the] APU has recognized that politics are more contentious, and we need to explicitly work on bringing people together to talk about difficult issues in a way that reinforces the norm of respecting each other and engaging in good faith conversation. If we repress a certain level of disagreement, that's not healthy for our democracy. It's not healthy for our community. If you're afraid to say what you think about a topic, that's probably not a good place for a community to be if people feel like they can't speak their minds. That seems to be an increasing feature of politics in general, and they wanted to counteract that by creating events in which people could go about engaging in this type of dialogue," said Curtis.

He continued, "The main goal is that they hear someone talking about why they're in politics, why they think politics is important, and some of their political views. It's an opportunity to learn more about what it means to be in politics, but also to talk to someone who you may agree or disagree with, and to give them some of your questions, your tough and challenging questions, and hear someone in real time respond to them. That itself generates the sort of political discourse that we're hoping, [and] that the school's hoping students engage in."

Nisa Khairunnisa '25, a board member of APU, discussed the effects that Nguyen's talk would hopefully have on the Andover community. She emphasized the importance of engaging with local politicians and having a greater political awareness.

"The issue with a lot of young voters nowadays is that they don't pay attention to what's happening, and because Tram's a state representative for Andover specifically [so] she's definitely involved with the decisions in our surroundings, It's important to bring in people like her to show that politics is not just something that you see on TV. It's not just something you see in the news. It's something that is affecting you personally, and the decisions that they make for the town are affecting you. That's why you should pay attention," said Khairunnisa.

Arriving in the U.S. as a political refugee, Nguyen explained that diversity is critical in politics. Nguyen also emphasized the importance of encouraging youth to participate in political discourse and elaborated on the value of listening to a range of opinions.

"We need to be better at meeting people where they're at and making sure that they understand that the government can work for them. When we talk about representation or diversity, it's [because it] benefits everyone when we have more people at the table. Right now, in the legislature, the average age is probably 50 or 60. We don't have many millennials, and that's a problem. How do we get young people to be engaged when they don't connect with elected officials that they see? We need to do a better job of just bringing in these communities that do not feel as though they are represented in their respective governments," said Nguyen.

"When we work on bills, it requires a lot of communication and a lot of collaboration. It requires a lot of hard conversations," Nguyen continued. "The one thing that we learned is that when you advocate for voices that are often not heard, that is when you learn the most. Something to keep in mind, too, is that I love to have people in the room who disagree with me because they bring a new perspective that I may not have. You actually learn more from people you disagree with than the people you agree with, which is why I continue to say that the Massachusetts legislature functions very differently from Congress. All the fighting that you see at the federal level is not happening here. Frankly, it might be because we have a supermajority, but we work with Republicans very closely."

K. MA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

As part of APU's speaker series, Representative Tram Nguyen spoke on the importance of diversity and particpation in politics in the OWHL.

Katherine Browder '26, a board member of APU, highlighted APU's commitment to respectful discourse and how she hoped inviting speakers of different opinions, like Nguyen, would inspire this behavior.

"We want to encourage people from all different sides of the political spectrum to engage in conversation and debate their opinions in a respectful way. We're having speakers come in to talk and getting them from both sides of the political spectrum... This week, we have a speaker, the Democratic representative, come in to speak. We're having people share different opinions and discuss in a respectful speech," said Browder.

10 Questions With Rachel Conley

REPORTING BY CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & ADELYNE LIU

Rachel Conley is a new Chemistry Teaching Fellow, House Counselor in Day House, and Assistant Coach for Girls JV1 Soccer this 2024-2025 school year. Conley recently graduated with a Bachelor's in Behavioral Neuroscience from the University of San Diego (USD). With aspirations to pursue pediatric medicine, Conley is focused on using her teaching role to develop her communication and leadership skills, while also building strong relationships with students. In her spare time, Conley loves to run, go on hikes, wind down with hot yoga, and ski at highway speeds.

E. LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

What initially drew you to teaching at Andover?

My best friend went to school here [before] she graduated in 2020... She didn't get a graduation because of Covid[-19], but she had an incredible experience. [When] we were skiing together in Colorado, I [said to] her, "I love to teach, and I want to explore this more," and she [said], "You have to look into the teaching fellowship program at Phillips Academy." At my previous school, the University of San Diego, I was a Teaching Assistant (TA) for three different chemistry labs and a neuroscience class. I loved being a TA, and I had an incredible experience mentoring students: being a support system for them, not only inside the classroom, but also outside the classroom. I wanted to grow my teaching abilities and learn how to communicate higher-level information to students who were younger than me and see how much I could also learn from them and help them in their own journeys. I will be applying to medical school in June, and so this was a great opportunity for me to do what I love, which is teaching.

What has your experience been like being a House Counselor? How's the transition from living as a student to now being a House Counselor?

Coming from college, where I lived with my best friends in a house on the beach, living in a dorm with 36 girls has been a big transition. I love working with adolescents, and I have this ability to mentor. I can be there for them, and I love seeing them in the hallways. I live in a very student-facing apartment: I open my door, and I see students everywhere... I've learned a lot, and I've been able to get really close to many of the girls in the dorm. I would say I love being on duty on the weekends because I'm able to talk to them more. I've been told a couple times that sometimes when you're on duty, you have this opportunity to get a lot of work done, and in my case, every single time I've been on duty, I've constantly been talking to students, hanging out with them, never on my computer, and it's just awesome to be able to be present and there for them. I feel almost like a big sister in a way, but again, someone that has to set very firm boundaries and teach them how to live as a collective.

In college, you studied behavioral neuroscience. What was the most fascinating part of your research?

I saw a lot of traumatic brain injuries, and that sparked my interest in wanting to pursue neuroscience... I saw how important medicine was and how important it was for patient support that catered to their needs. My research with rats that I did for three years focused on spatial tendencies, and how they perceive the world. What was really fascinating about my research was I didn't know how similar the rat brain was to the human brain. It was cool for me to have opportunities to do different surgeries on rats, to be able to slice out pieces of their brain, be able to look at them as an image, see where different neurons are firing, and to say it simplistically, [see] how their ability to see the world is almost kind of similar to humans' ability to see the world.

What drew you to medicine specifically?

I was born with a heart condition when I was younger, and I spent a lot of time dealing with that. [I had spent] a lot of time in the hospital trying to figure out what was wrong with me. I had heart surgery. I had heart monitors that I'd wear for months. That paved my way into seeing this thing as cool because I wanted to be able to instill hope in kids just like my doctor instilled hope in me. I went to children's hospitals in Boston when I was a kid a lot, and being in that environment just made me wanna give back and help people. This is the best way for me to do that justice... I find science fascinating and the ability to create a medical plan that's catered to someone individually to get them better, which is what my doctor did for me, which saved my life and allowed me to participate in sports and be healthy. That's what I want to do for kids in the future.

What advice would you give to students looking to pursue a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)?

Something that's important and often overlooked is finding your passion. It's easy to [follow] the narrative of "You should do this, you need this many hours, you have to do it this way to get to medical school." That is all not true. If you follow your passion, you do what's right and you love what you do, then you will figure it out. That's for any field. But specifically for medicine, it is a long road. I am not even in medical school yet, and it is a long road... It's important to keep a work-life balance. Finding time to spend with friends, finding time to be by yourself, finding time to do things that bring you joy is so important. Sometimes when you are grinding those science classes, it's hard to find that time, but if you don't find that time, then your mental health will suffer. My best advice is find your passion, do a lot of different things to be able to figure out your passion. Once you find that, the rest will fall into place.

You were the Panhellenic President of Kappa Kappa Gamma. How was your experience being in a sorority and taking on that role?

Panhellenic is the governing body of the National Panhellenic Council, so we oversaw the sororities at my university. I worked with the presidents and all the sororities to do different things for the community. I focused a lot on safety, a lot on sexual assault, [and] drug and alcohol abuse, like Narcan training. I got every sorority Narcan trained... [and] I ran all of the recruitment for sororities. We focused a lot on values-based recruitment, so we encouraged sororities and required them to do different trainings that would allow them to ask questions to girls about themselves and their family life, what their passions are, different activities they're involved in, to really get to know them rather than asking superficial questions. I had an amazing executive board of eight girls that are all my best friends still, and we collaborated. I learned how to work as a team. I learned how making mistakes was okay, and that there was so much to learn from making mistakes... This leadership role of sorority was really centered in philanthropy giving back and helping the community.

Do you have a favorite book right now?

I don't have a book right now because I'm doing the MCAT, but Toni Morrison['s] "Beloved" is my favorite book. She's an incredible author. She has this eloquent and beautiful way to write stories that show a lot of lessons that should be taught and heard. She uses storytelling in such a powerful way, and it gives light into hard and difficult topics. She uses the power of storytelling to light up worlds for people to not necessarily always be able to relate to, but at least get to learn from it. "Beloved" is centered around slavery. The book talks about different ways that people think about slavery and shines light on the Black experience and how non-Black folk are not going to understand that experience. It's an incredible read... I read it in 11th grade, and it changed my life.

Do you have a memorable or go-to song?

This is such a throwback, but I love the Black Eyed Peas. I love the song "Meet Me Halfway." I play music every class when students are walking in, at least, I try to. On the first day of school for both my sections, I played "Meet Me Halfway" and I had students that were dancing. It's such a good song. I listened to the Black Eyed Peas a ton when I was a kid with my family and that song signifies a huge transition in life for me from Senior year of high school to Freshman year of college. It brings me back. It's fun to listen to it with my students too.

You said you like shopping. If you could pick one brand to shop from for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Patagonia.

Could you share a fun fact about yourself?

I have been clocked at 65 [mph] ski racing. I don't know if I'll ski out here, but since I live in Vail, Colorado, I ski race [at] home. I've been skiing since I was two years old. [I] grew up skiing at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire... I ski race for Vail Ski [and Snowboard] Academy.

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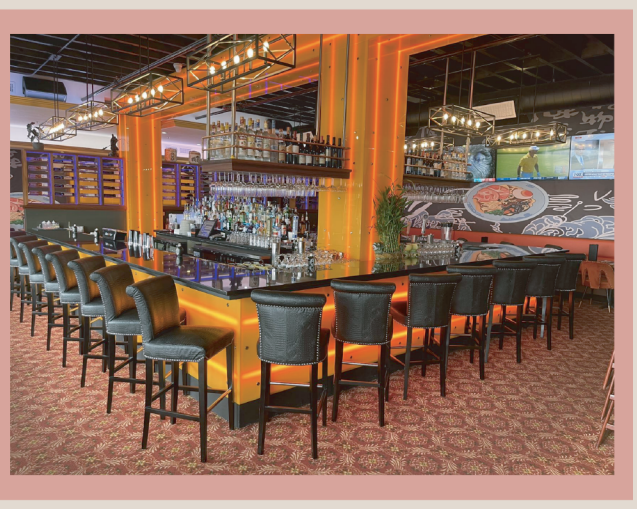

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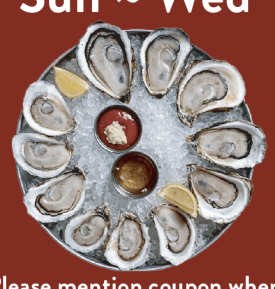

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Massachusetts Archaeology Society Lecturer Meg Wilkes Provides Insight Into Archaeological Management and Consultation at the Peabody

SAKETH LINGISETTY & ELIZABETH SCHARF

Meg Wilkes, archaeologist and coordinator of the National Park Service (NPS)'s Northeast Archaeological Resources Program (NARP), presented a lecture on inventory management and NARP's archaeological projects. Hosted by the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology on October 15, the talk served as the second meeting of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society (MAS) Northeast Winter Chapter.

Wilkes opened the lecture by explaining the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), a federal policy that requires archaeologists and law enforcement to better protect archaeological resources on public and tribal lands. She spoke on the policy's dual purpose of teaching the public to appreciate archaeological resources while also protecting them from illegal activity.

"The second part of the ARPA is we need to increase public awareness of the archeological resources that we actually have in the parks so that they invest in and protect those resources. That's part of our whole public education and engagement programming that we support with the parks. So we're always in this dual world, [where] I can't share [too much], but let's do this great program and bring the public in," said Wilkes.

In an interview with *The Phillipian*, Wilkes connected the importance of involving Native people in archaeological research to combat Eurocentric approaches. She described how she seeks to engage all Indigenous communities in her projects.

"Across the nation, anyone who has lived here over time has a story to tell. But if it's only this Western-trained thought process that's telling the stories, and importantly, looking for the information, [we need] a more diverse group of population... We [also] engage descendant communities, so African-American communities, or Asian-American communities. We consult with tribal partners, all of the tribes with ancestral lands within Park Service properties," Wilkes said.

Ryan Wheeler, Director of the Peabody, related the lecture to his encounter with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), a similar policy that encouraged museums and institutions to establish bonds with Native communities.

"I've been an archaeologist for a long time now. I went to graduate school [in] 1990, which was the year that the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act went into effect. That required institutions like [the Peabody] to inventory their holdings and contact Indigenous communities... Going into the profession 34 years ago, I was [asking], 'What will this law really mean for this field that I am now joining?'" said Wheeler.

Emphasizing the importance of consultation in archaeology, Wheeler detailed prominent interactions between archaeologists and tribal communities. He noted the gradual increase in consulting Indigenous people in archaeological projects throughout his career.

"There aren't any examples of archaeology today that don't involve tribal communities. Each of these examples that Dr. Wilkes had for these parks all had consultation. In some cases, they had tribal members who were participating in the projects. When I became an archaeologist and went to graduate school, that was unheard of. That did not happen. Tribal folks and archaeologists were not talking anymore, they didn't do projects together. Archaeologists didn't ask tribes generally what they thought about projects that they were doing... it's amazing to have been part of this field in that transitional period," said Wheeler.

Wilkes considered how archaeology can empower people to discover and recognize the history of Native land occupation. She hopes that the public can utilize technology to not only invest in archaeological projects, but to also understand the histories of tribal and descendant communities.

"We have such a rich history of occupation [of] people who lived in North America in our lands, and there's a lot of really interesting history out there. There's also a lot of very difficult history out there. We need to work... with everyone that we can [who has] vested interest in the areas and lands that we're working in, with our tribal communities and other people who have lived and impacted those landscapes. [Also, we need] to work really hard to understand each other and work together to recognize the history of occupation in our country," said Wilkes.

A. TSAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

In her lecture, Meg Wilkes, archaeologist, spoke on the importance of consultation in archaeology and archaeology's interactions with tribal communities.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY CLAIRE BANCROFT & KRISTEN MA

Politics: Electoral Fraud Allegations Shakes Presidential Election in Mozambique

Following Mozambique's October 9 presidential election, oppositional candidates have accused the ruling party Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (Frelimo) of electoral fraud. According to "The New York Times," Daniel Francisco Chapo, Frelimo's candidate, faces allegations of identity fraud, secret vote counting, and rigging, supported by audio recordings of a poll worker claiming officials manipulated ballots in his favor. Born after the country's war of independence from Portugal, Chapo is viewed by some as distanced from Frelimo's historical corruption. However, according to "Radio France Internationale," two of the four opposition candidates — including independent Venâncio Mondlane — allege fraud. Mondlane recently called for a nationwide strike on October 21 to protest Frelimo's control.

With Frelimo projected to extend its 49-year rule, official election results are expected on October 24, reports "Reuters."

War and Conflict: The American Government Urges Putin to Refrain From Using Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently indicated that Russia might contemplate using nuclear weapons in its conflict with Ukraine, prompting a swift response from the United States of America, as reported by "BBC News." U.S. intelligence now estimates a 50 percent likelihood that Putin could deploy tactical nuclear weapons if Ukrainian forces encircle 30,000 Russian troops in Kherson, according to "AP News." In response to the estimate, President Joe Biden directly warned Putin about the "catastrophic consequences" of employing nuclear weapons. Biden also directed national security advisor Jake Sullivan to communicate with Russian officials, outlining potential U.S. responses to Russian mobilization of nuclear weapons. In an attempt to ensure future safety, NATO, whose nuclear deterrence is dependent upon the U.S. and U.K.'s nuclear forces, has conducted recent tests in nuclear defense to ensure the organization can respond to potential threats, reports "AP News."

Climate: Hurricane Milton Ravages Through Florida, 17 Confirmed Deaths

Hurricane Milton descended onto Florida's west coast as a category three storm on October 9, causing the death of at least 17 individuals and prompting extensive rescue efforts across the state according to "CNN." With over one million residents without power and more than 2,100 gas stations reporting shortages according to "CBS News," officials are scrambling to provide relief as ongoing floods exacerbate the crisis. Scientists from the World Weather Attribution Research Collaboration suggested that climate change intensified Milton's impact, increasing rainfall by 20 percent and wind speeds by ten percent compared to similar storms in a pre-industrial world. This has resulted in significantly higher property damage estimates, with researchers noting that even a small rise in wind speed can lead to catastrophic effects as reported by "The New York Times." According to "NPR," President Biden surveyed the damage in a visit to Florida last Sunday, announcing 612 million dollars of new funding to reinforce Florida's electric grid.

Economy: Germany's Economy Predicted to Shrink for a Second Year

The gross domestic product in Germany is projected to decline by 0.2 percent this year, following the second consecutive shrink after 2023, according to "AP News." Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Robert Habeck attributed this downturn to structural issues, including a lack of investment and a skilled labor shortage. As Germany heads into a challenging election year, ongoing political infighting has impeded decisive action, leaving the ruling coalition's popularity in decline, as reported by "Politico." Opposition leaders warn that without significant reforms, the country risks falling into a prolonged economic downturn, highlighting the urgent need for a unified and proactive economic strategy.

Culture: Liam Payne, Former One Direction Member, Dead at 31

Liam Payne's death was confirmed by local police last Wednesday, after the singer suffered "extremely serious injuries" from falling from his third-floor hotel balcony in Buenos Aires, according to "USA Today." Alberto Crescenti, director of the state's emergency medical system, stated that investigations into the cause of death and an autopsy were underway. "AP News" reported that Payne's ascent to stardom began in 2010, when he auditioned for U.K. reality show "The X-Factor," where he was put in a band with Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Niall Horan, and Louis Tomlinson. Dubbed "One Direction," the band quickly became a global sensation. After the group went on indefinite hiatus in 2015, Payne pursued an independent career in music, releasing multiple hit singles. According to "Reuters," Payne had posted a video the morning of the fall detailing his time in Buenos Aires, telling viewers that "it's a beautiful day in Argentina."

Payne is survived by his 7-year-old son, Bear.

Kitchen 101: A Sushi Rolling Experience

REPORTING SARAH BROWN & JENNA LIANG

Green bamboo roll-up mats, chopsticks, wasabi, ginger, and soy sauce decorated a row of stations in Susie's for a Paresky Commons event titled "Kitchen 101: Sushi Rolling Class" on October 10. Students learned about the ingredients of sushi and the process of constructing their own rolls during the lesson, after which students were able to take their culinary creations home.

Denzel Dickson '26

"I really wanted to go because it was a unique experience [that] I don't think I would get at any point in my life. I don't have direct connections with any cultures involved in sushi rolling, so I don't know if I would ever be given an opportunity like that anytime soon... I learned the uniqueness of sushi. It was really cool to see a food that I'm now so commonly used to and how it's made and the components behind it... I wish I could learn a little bit more about the culture during it as well. I was only learning how to roll it and that was the whole point, but I was also looking forward to a sort of culture discussion and introduction."

Anoushka Pandey '28

"I was eating dinner at [Paresky] Commons with my friend, and we saw the sign to sign up. It sounded really fun, so we decided to give it a try. I'd never really made sushi before, so the whole thing was a learning process. I learned that there's a special kind of seaweed, a special mat to roll it on, and a unique way to roll it. [My friend] is gluten-free, and one of the items there, the imitation crab, had gluten, so doing a better job of separating allergens could help. But overall, it was extremely well planned. I would love to maybe make crepes or have a fun brunch activity [in the future]."

Alessandra Woo '27

"I signed up once for this event last year, and it was pretty fun... I learned how to roll sushi and perfect making it, and it tasted pretty good. They could give us more ingredients. Honestly, they did give us enough, but I just wanted more... Sushi is easy [to make], so I hope to see more easy, good food to cook that isn't just sushi."

J. GORDON/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Phreak Injuries

Ask The 8th Page,

PA's Spiciest Dating Hotline

By Matthew Wei

Q: I have this crush on a girl in my English class, and I desperately need advice.

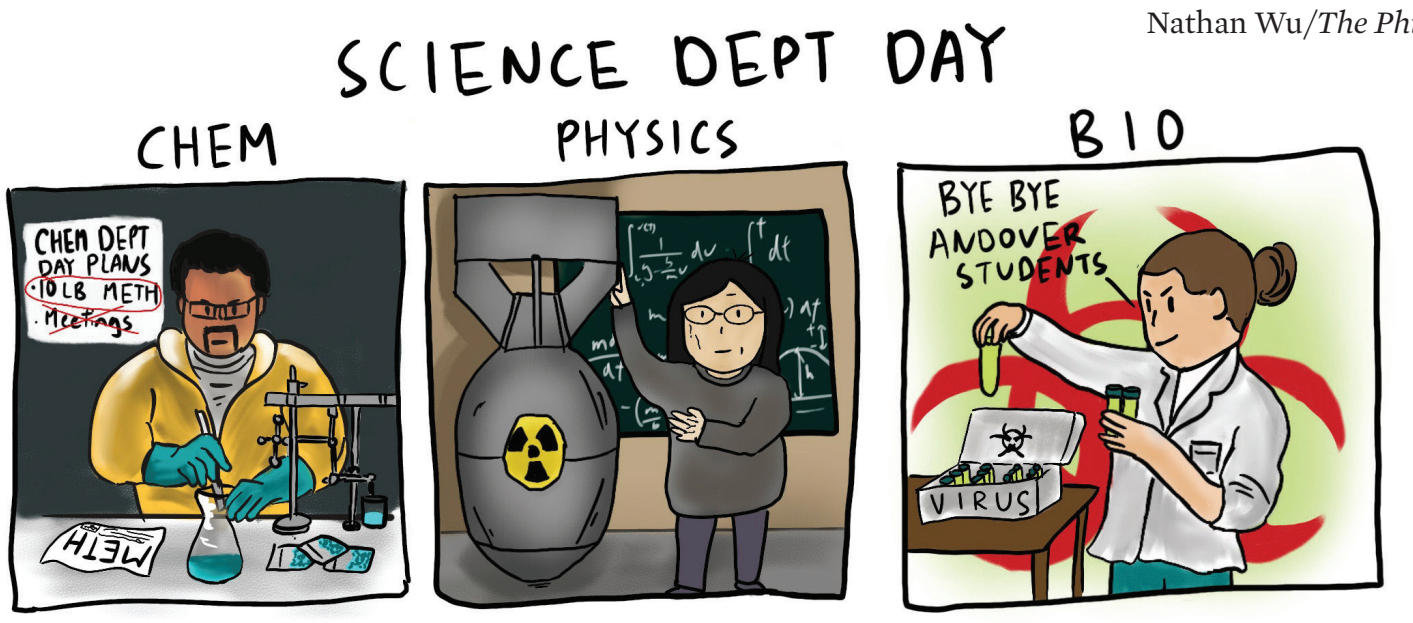
A: Dear Anonymous Reader,

First, really get to know them before you meet. You know, their hobbies, their pets, their dad's job, where they live… most people would call this stalking. I call it a head start. Now, you might be wondering if they're into you. Some common signs are: being in the same room, winking at you with both eyes, and angrily glancing in your direction (She's mad you aren't sitting with her). My personal favorite one is, "Are you my History 300 homework? Cuz I wanna do you all night." When texting, you don't want to seem too needy. Set a timer for an hour so you can respond at exactly the right time. Now, ask them out. I prefer to do this over text, so they can't see me cry, but I've found that calling and hanging up immediately is also effective. Don't worry, the worst that they could say is no besides "I didn't think you were into women." However, if they say yes, then you're going to go on a date soon. In our modern time, women have become more independent. This is why you should make her hold the umbrella, make her pay the bill, and let her make the first move. After the date, when you walk to the halfway point between both of your dorms, stand there for 10 seconds, look at your feet, and say "Umm, so yea, uhhh..." What now? Why not another pickup line? My second-favorite one is "Are you a beaver? Cuz DAM!" If you're still single after reading this, it's completely your fault.

Week's Top Headlines

- *Sentence Added to PA Land Acknowledgment to Make up for Lack of Programming on Indigenous People's Day*
- *Appearance of Northern Lights Inspires Various Exonians to Howl Into the Sky to Obey Their Red King*
- *After Recent Events, It Appears That Straight Down Is the True One Direction*
- *Hockey Player Stowed Away on NASA Rocket Furious After Discovering Destination Was Europa, Not Uranus*
- *Dean Hospitalized After Being Discovered in the Sanctuary Passed Out, Cause of Injury: "White Guilt"*
- *Have We Given up on the Class of 2025? Students Curious after College Counseling Office Shifts Attention to Lower Classman*

Nathan Wu/*The Phillipian*



OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"There's the bastard."

"Who wins in a fight: Moo Deng or my Math Teacher?"

"Whoever said boys' friendships can't be deep clearly hasn't seen what you and I get up to."

"You look like you were formula fed."

"I'm not a virgin. I just practice pre-conception abortions."
- Charles Vest

"Nerd on Nerd Crime."

By Gentry Thatcher

This Friday, the bubble boys and their big plastic balls returned to our beloved campus. Here are the different ways students got injured:

- Broken legs (tried to hit the Ronaldo "SUI" in the ball)
- Assassinated by a horde of angry soccer sweats
- Asphyxiation (student's BO filled the bubble)
- Plunged into Hell (asked a Freshman if they like his big ball(s))
- Broken heart
- Fell from sky (his friend's "chopsticks" were not able to catch him on the landing)
- Floated into space (XC Runner)
- Car accident - rolled onto Main Street
- Popped (not the bubble)
- Starvation (could not get out)
- Ate a Chipotle burrito before playing
- Hit-sticked to death by Senior

The Phillipian
SPORTS

midterms hitting me like a truck fr

Volume CXLVII | Number 22

October 18, 2024

Girls Volleyball Beats St. Paul's in Straight Sets, Falls to Exeter

HAOYU ZHANG

FRIDAY 10/11	
Andover	3
St. Paul's	0
WEDNESDAY 10/16	
Andover	0
Exeter	3

Girls Volleyball had a commanding performance against St. Paul's last Friday, showcasing strong communication, strategic play, and control of the game's pace. However, it faced a tough defeat on Wednesday against Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter).

Zoë Gilbertson '27 described the Exeter game positively. She noted that although the team made some mistakes and unforced errors, it played well.

"We did them out, and overall, the team played pretty well as we did in the past. We've struggled a little bit with serve-receive, but this game, we pulled it together more. We should have served better, so that was definitely where St. Paul's had many of their points. Part of why the sets were closer was because there's a lot of unforced errors on our side, but overall, I thought it was pretty good," said Gilbertson.

L.RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Ashley Schuman '27 prepares to serve the ball.

Selene Xu '27 had similar remarks about the team's performance. She believed that Andover was the stronger team overall, but acknowledged that it struggled with their serves throughout the match, a crucial factor that ultimately impacted their ability to maintain momentum.

"The game overall went pretty well. It's just that we had fourteen missed serves, but we still won. That tells us we are the better team, but it's all under our control. We should tone down on mistakes on serves, and things under our control so we can play even better. Most of the time it's also good that we were on our level and not down to their level. I would just say that we did very well on teamwork and our energy levels," said Xu.

Despite the 3-0 sweep and overall outstanding showing, the team faced a daunting ten-point deficit during the second set. Gilbertson credited a large part of their impressive comeback to Kate Rodgers '26 and Kaliah Fortune '26, who showcased remarkable composure under pressure.

"It was the second set, and we were down by ten, which was bad because there were a lot of unforced errors on our part. But then Kate Rodgers, went on an eight-point run. That won us the game. I thought Kaliah Fortune had a really good serve and was just playing super smart as a setter, and Selene Xu, both of our setters. They were playing smart and making good decisions to run the offense," said Gilbertson.

After the game against St. Paul's, Gilbertson shared that the team shifted their focus and prepared for their next challenge. They were set to face their historic rivals, Exeter, on Wednesday.

"During practice, we were focusing on looking for where the holes in their defense are because we know that they'll do the same for us. Hitting balls down the line deep, looking for tips, but also being ready for when they do that to us because they are very strategic and just an overall strong team," said Gilbertson.

Unfortunately, the team lost 0-3. However, Ashley Schuman '27 added that each set was relatively close, an area of optimism.

"It was pretty good. We had a lot of energy swings that contributed to the score, but otherwise, we played great and had some really strong moments. Gracie Aziabor '26 came in and played really well, especially filling in for [Co-Captian] Saraya Angbazo '25, who is hurt right now. She had some really good blocks and swings that shifted our moment at some point and just getting some balls down in the court," said Schuman.

Girls Volleyball will travel away to take on Northfield Mount Hermon this Saturday.

Boys Cross Country Outpaces Three Schools for Victory, Sets Course Record

MATHEW LIU

Boys Cross Country won in its first home meet of the season against St. Paul's, Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep), and Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH). In a stand-out performance, Co-Captain Tam Gavenas '25 beat the Andover all-time course record with a time of 15:00. Four Andover runners followed closely behind, dominating the leaderboard with five of the top six times.

Recalling the meet, Nathan Neu '26 commented on the supportive atmosphere from spectators and Drumline's performance on the race field. Out of 120 runners, Andover competitors were the biggest group with 40 runners.

"It was really nice. The school had Drumline come out and play for us. During the races, I was really hyped and there were a lot of people who came out to cheer. I'd say more so than in past years, other than a Family Weekend. When we do have Family Weekend, there will definitely be a ton of people watching, so I'm excited for that," said Neu.

Charlie Gillick '27, who earned a personal record (PR), beating his previous time by 42 seconds, secured a spot on the course's top 100 times of all time. Gillick attributed his success to one of his teammates, Luke Williamson '25, whose consistent pace helped lead Gillick throughout the race.

"A lot of the time I run with Luke Williamson. He's a bit faster than me, but he's extremely consistent. I do better when I can stick with someone, so I try to stay on his shoulder as long as I possibly can," said Gillick.

Gillick credited a part of his success to the team's workouts from the previous week. The team focused on finishing the course strongly, which has been one of the team's weaknesses in previous races.

"Leading up to the race, the coach adjusted the workouts. One was in the [Cochran Bird] Sanctuary, and then we went to the Great Lawn to practice finishing, which really helped during the race. One weakness of the team is running hills. We aren't the best at them, so hill repeats might be in our future. [Head] Coach [Patrick Rielly] knows this, and I wouldn't be surprised if that's our workout [in future practices]," said Gillick.

Neu echoed this, noting that hill training is crucial to capitalize on for home course meets due to the steep hills on the infamous "Heartbreak Hill." Neu commented on the team's advantages during home meets where they can optimize certain racing paths to gain an edge over opposing teams.

"[Heartbreak Hill] definitely wears out everyone else, but we train on the hill, so we're more used to it. I'll say another big strength is that we all know the tangents here, which help us take the inside lines, the shortest distance you can go," said Neu.

Theodore Frangakis '27, who has PRed every race this season, credited his most recent success to teammate Michael Williamson '25 and re-emphasized the importance of finishing the races well. Frangakis noted how a benefit of racing with teammates is being able to push each other to better heights.

Frangakis said, "Our strength is working together and finishing together. We always make sure to push ourselves to the very end. Shoutout to Michael Williamson, he pushed me to the end. I couldn't have gotten my PR without him, but we worked together as a team and that's one of our strongest points."

Neu also highlighted the importance of including various workouts in the training regimen, citing a new plyometric workout as one of his reasons for success. He added that the change was recent, but that improvement in performance is already apparent.

E.LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Tam Gavenas '25 has been running during his entire time at Andover.

"One thing we worked on is improving our speed going up hills with hill sprints and doing things like plyometrics. Supplementing plyometrics, we obviously weren't doing it that much because our main focus is distance running, improving our aerobic systems," said Neu.

The team will host Exeter, St. Paul's, and Deerfield for Family Weekend on October 26.

Boys Water Polo Suffer Two Close Losses

EMMA HONG

FRIDAY 10/11	
Andover	10
Choate	12
WEDNESDAY 10/16	
Andover	14
Suffield Academy	15

This past Saturday and Wednesday, Water Polo played Choate and Suffield Academy, falling short in both games.

Jeffery Lim '27 commented on how the team usually finds the rhythm of the game toward the end, and how its play missed key opportunities early on. However, he recognized the team's streak at the end of its game against Choate.

"Our team always shines the most at the end of games and even this time around we had a little moment where it all clicked near the end, there are always times when we could benefit from that more but don't get the chance to. In the fourth quarter on Saturday, I'd say is when we were able to get some efficient ball movement going," said Lim.

Despite the lack of athletic finesse from Choate's side, Simba Xiong '28 noted that the opponent's defensive strategies were fruitful. Although Andover was beginning to improve in coordination towards the end, the team was unable to make a comeback in either of the games.

"Right now we're working a lot on defense, especially one on one defense because in the game the situation I noticed a lot was that some of Choate's swimmers, though quite slow, had really solid, strategic defense, which set up some situations we couldn't come back from," said Xiong.

Xiong added to his previous point, noting the team's steady improvements in teamwork and speed and its shortcomings in terms of strategy and defense.

"Our strengths were definitely that our team's swimming skills were really good, much faster than Choate overall, but I'd say we need to improve on our passing because compared to Choate we weren't very efficient. Also in terms of strategy, Choate's offense near our goal would make opportunities for them [and] our opponents would score continually that way. But we didn't have as much strategic planning going into the game, which put us at disadvantage," said Xiong.

Lim shared similar sentiments, noting the team's athleticism. Although falling short in tight games, Lim emphasized the team's perseverance and composure, while noting areas of improvement for Andover.

Lim said, "Strength-wise the team definitely excels in individual skills but we work on communication and teamwork and that really showed during our games... We lost both games so we weren't really happy about that but we tried to keep it together and play through... [We will work on] more teamwork skills and practices, that'll just help us get better at communicating."

On Wednesday Andover faced an unfortunately close game, losing 14-15. Co-Captain Zach Godsey '25 credited Oliver Stabach '26 and Daniel Seong '25 for their remarkable performances, particularly on the offensive side.

"Oliver Stabach put in a lot of effort. He's a very consistent player and he has a lot of speed which can really be used to advantage, so I thought he had a really great game overall. Daniel Seong also had some great goals," said Godsey.

Xiong also spotlighted new players who had moved up from last year's Junior Varsity team. Xiong credited the newer players for stepping up during a tough match.

"From our JV team, some of the new players scored, which was unexpected and surprising in a good way. We were proud of that too. We also tried to make a comeback near the end of the game and although we didn't succeed I'm still proud of us for trying all the way to the end," said Xiong.

Boys Water Polo will play St. John's Prep on Wednesday.

BOYSSOCCER

Co-Captain Jack Alexander '25 Aims to Create a Lasting Community

ALEX DIMNAKU

Co-Captain Jack Alexander '25, goalkeeper for Boys Soccer, holds his team to a high standard. With a strong emphasis on accountability, he fosters a kind and welcoming community. Alexander's vision for the team extends beyond simply reaching playoffs. He hopes that his teammates internalize the importance of having fun, building good habits, and fostering bonds this fall that carry on well beyond the season.

His brother motivated him to start playing in the first place.

"I started playing soccer when I was about five or six. My older brother played, and I looked up to him a lot when I was a kid, so I followed in his footsteps and joined a local league. From there, I met coaches who pushed me to improve, and I kept playing for better teams until I eventually got to Andover," said Alexander.

Alexander spoke on how he thrives under the pressure of crucial moments in tight games. He shared how the feeling that comes with making big saves is irreplicable.

"As a goalkeeper, I love the responsibility, especially in tight games. In this position, you can

H.ZHONG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

go many games where you don't touch the ball until one very important moment, which brings a lot of pressure, but, the feeling of having to make a big save with everything on the line is something you can't replicate," said Alexander.

On the field, Alexander is recognized for both his impressive physical ability and his knowledge of the game. Micheal Staii '27 noted Alexander's soccer IQ, highlighting his ability to make smart passes and have correct positioning in the goal.

"Jack is very athletic and has great footwork and overall technique. He has a really strong foundation of skills in the sport. Beyond just physical skill though, he's an extremely smart player. He's good at finding the right pass and knowing where to be when defending the goal, which is necessary in such a crucial position," said Staii.

Alexander strives to balance maintaining a fun team atmosphere while also upholding the team's high expectations. He emphasizes the importance of promptness, proper rest, and good nutrition to his teammates.

"I want them to understand the importance of having fun, but also holding themselves to a standard. Whether it's getting to practice early or taking care of things like sleep and nutrition, I hope they take that seriously while enjoying their time here," said Alexander.

Andrew Rodrigues '27 mentioned how Alexander commands the field. According to Rodrigues, his presence is felt tremendously by the entire field.

"He's really good at almost everything, but I'd say his biggest strength is communication. As a goalkeeper, he commands the field, and you can hear him all the way from the top of the field. He wants the team to win because he knows our potential and really believes in us and that is evident in the way he talks to and treats us. He wants everyone to stay focused and give 100 percent effort in everything, whether it's at practice or during games," said Rodrigues.

Alexander assumes a similar character even off the field, providing a familiar face for each of his teammates.

"One of Jack's main values is making a brotherhood, and that means off the field too. Off the field, he's always saying hi to everyone and looks out for the team. He cares about everyone which is valuable. He really helps bring us together as a community and he often organizes team lunches and dinners," said Staii.

Looking to the future, Alexander hopes to move on to the postseason. Moreover, Alexander acknowledged that the close relationships formed throughout the fall will allow him to stay connected with players long after his Andover career comes to a close.

"This season, we have many goals even aside from making the postseason. We're building something special in terms of team dynamic. I plan to stay connected with these guys even after the season, maybe even after high school. It's more than just winning: everyone is enjoying themselves, and it shows in how we play," said Alexander.

Co-Captain Spencer Madge '25 Raises Standard for Boys Soccer, One Pass at a Time

ETHAN LY

In his fourth year on the team, Boys Soccer Co-Captain Spencer Madge '25 has formed his unique leadership style by taking inspiration from the line of co-captains before him and playing to his own strengths. Through his experience and commitment to the game, Madge sets a high standard for the rest of the team.

Madge shared how his leadership style has been heavily influenced by past teammates. Specifically, he has tried to replicate the leadership of Zane Matraji '24, co-captain last year, by being a positive presence in practices and games, and providing motivational speeches.

Madge said, "Zane Matraji from last year, I was pretty close with him, so I would talk with him a lot. [I heard what] he had to say about being Captain and what he did. There was a lot of nonverbal stuff and just seeing how [the 2023-2024 Captains] acted in practice, how they acted in games, the speeches they gave. I saw that they were always leading by example, so that was a big thing that I am trying to keep as part of [the team] culture."

Matteo Damian '28 commented on Madge's impressive work ethic. He emphasized Madge's willingness to give his full effort in games and practice, driving the team to perform to the best of its ability.

"He tries to be perfect in everything he does, which is really good for setting an example. Me and other kids on the team have all taken that to heart and really pushed ourselves to achieve the standard that he demands and the other Captains and [Head] Coach [Joe Donnelly] demands," said Damian.

He continued, "His work ethic is probably 110 percent in scrimmages, shooting drills, and even things like passing. He's always challenging himself, passing really hard or sprinting and doing the most he can do. Whatever he does is 100 percent or more."

Kai Myles '27 shared how Madge's leadership is evident in his punctuality on and off the field. He noted that whether it's a meal or a game, Madge shows up prepared, holding the rest of his teammates to the same level.

Myles said, "Off the field, whenever it comes to team dinners, team lunches, team brunches, team breakfasts, he's always the one to organize it. He was always the one to have that final say, that final decision in everything. He would always make sure he's there on time. He's always holding people accountable for being here on time, on the pitch on time, being ready to go, being ready to play."

Myles continued, "He doesn't engage in any hypocrisy. He definitely leads by example."

Madge described his style of play as unique to his teammates, with his strength being passing. He acknowledged that his teammates possess other strengths — such as defense, scoring, and strength — and noted the importance of a diverse range of abilities.

"Passing is probably the strongest part of my game. [That differs] from some of my teammates. For some of my teammates, their best attributes are scoring, their speed, their dribbling, or their strength and defense. But in a way, it's good that we all have different strengths because that means our strengths can complement each other," said Madge.

Myles praised Madge's ability to take on many roles as Co-Captain. Myles noted Madge's balance between being able to focus at the right times, while also creating a lighthearted environment through humor.

"He's the Captain who has been here for the longest. He's been here for four years and he's had the most experience with different teams and how different ups and downs affect the different teams... He knows how to keep the team together. He knows what to do in the right moments: whether to have some fun, have a little joking, or whether it's time to get serious, or [if] there's time for [the team] to encourage somebody to step up. He provides that mature figure we need on the team or one of the many mature figures we need in the team that has helped us throughout the season," said Myles.

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Madge is committed to playing soccer at Carnegie Mellon University.

Boys Soccer Co-Captain Sebastian Mejia-Rivera '25 Creates Winning Environment Through Positivity and Hard Tackles

THIAGO JOLLON

After arriving at Andover last year as a new Upper from rival school Taft, Boys Soccer Co-Captain Sebastian Mejia-Rivera '25 quickly became the heart of the defense. This season, he has taken the Captain armband and assumed a new role as a leader on the team with playoff aspirations.

Mejia-Rivera, known affectionately by teammates as "Seba," detailed his soccer journey, discussing how he began playing soccer in the baseball-mad Dominican Republic (DR). He added that he struggled in other sports, especially those that used his hands.

"In the DR, the most popular sport is baseball. I tried playing baseball when I was younger but was really bad. I eventually figured out that I couldn't use my hands in sports. I tried playing basketball, baseball, and tennis. One of the only sports that I was half decent at was soccer. I kind of stuck that out. I enjoyed it a lot, and through recess in school, I started playing the game. I loved it. I joined a club and kept going from there. It just became a big part of my life, but it's always been something that I've enjoyed," said Mejia-Rivera.

H.ZHONG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Mejia-Rivera categorized his play simply. He's a tough-tackling, ball-moving center-back who uses his game intelligence to adapt to situations. When he scores a goal or makes a good play, he is not afraid to show his emotions. Seba[stian Mejia-Rivera's] passion for defending is clear in his words and his play style.

Mejia-Rivera said, "As a center-back, I'm a defender, first of all. It's not that I can't attack, but it's a weaker part of my game. But my favorite part of the game is being able to defend. It's a great feeling when you get a one-on-one against a winger or a striker, and you just make a great slide tackle, and then your teammates and the parents cheer for you. It's a great feeling, just making good tackles. That's my thing. When you just make a good, good slide tackle, that's what I like the most."

Teammate Sunny Yu '28 agreed, calling Mejia-Rivera an integral part of the team all over campus, not just on the sports fields. His ability to hype the team before games, bring the team together, and rally the players during tough moments has made him a key figure.

"As a player, he's an unbelievable defender. He's the backbone of our team. As a teammate, Seba is a great teammate on and off the field. He's a great friend and person off the field especially. As a captain, he's a great leader. He gives really motivational pregame and halftime speeches. He's a great leader on the field. He's very vocal, but he doesn't blame us for our mistakes. Seba also introduced all the Freshmen to the team on the first day of preseason and made us all feel welcome even though we're Freshmen and new to the school," Yu said.

Ethan Brown '27, another newcomer to the team, summed up his Co-Captain by emphasizing that beyond Mejia-Rivera's soccer skills, what stands out most is his friendliness and supportiveness, both of which played a crucial role in helping him improve throughout the season.

"He's a very good Captain, a very good player, and a very good teammate. He's always inspiring, always leading, and always giving insightful comments. He's really a good guy, and I hope that beyond Andover he has a good [soccer] career in college. Ultimately, he's helped me become a better player and be incorporated into the team," said Brown.

After a great exodus of Seniors last year, Boys Soccer was counted out by many in New England. Mejia-Rivera talks about how that has motivated the team and how they've adapted to change.

Mejia-Rivera said, "We lost all of our Seniors, and we only got two recruits this year, so a lot of people didn't think that we were going to be as good as we had been. We've surpassed many expectations and are in the hunt for the playoffs. And we've beaten some really good teams. The leadership is a part of that. That carries along the idea that we're not a very experienced team. Some of the guys on the team may make mistakes; they kind of get on themselves. An important aspect of not just my leadership, but the leadership from the other Seniors has to be very positive."

Sebastian Mejia-Rivera will continue playing soccer at Babson College.

New Boys Soccer Head Coach Joe Donnelly Brings Knowledge, Experience, and Camaraderie

ALLISTAIR FITZ-GRUBER & AVIAD AWA

In his first year as Head Coach, Joe Donnelly has swiftly taken charge and led Boys Varsity Soccer to a strong 5-3-2 start. Donnelly comes to Andover with a wealth of knowledge from a career as a soccer player himself and a coach at various schools. As the coach, Donnelly emphasizes family and hopes to build a team that cares for each other through thick and thin.

Despite being new to Andover, Donnelly described his optimism for coaching the team. He hopes to start fast with his program, especially with his limited time with them.

"The hardest thing is always to just get up to speed as fast as possible with the culture and the time of the school. It's a very fast paced place, it moves fast, so I'm trying to hit the ground running. That's always the biggest hurdle especially when taking over such a successful program," said Donnelly.

In addition to coaching, Donnelly has spent countless hours on the field, having played since he was five years old. He described how he found his love for soccer from his local team, The New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League (NASL).

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"I grew up in New Jersey about 20 minutes from Giants Stadium, and back then, Pelé was playing for the New York Cosmos. I started following the game there, and I've been playing soccer ever since," said Donnelly.

Donnelly focuses heavily on his player's development. His main goal in coaching is to ensure that his players have the chance to flourish, using drills that will imitate situations within the game. In order to have successful competitions, he believes that each player needs to practice with the same effort they exert in the game and understand the reasoning behind different tactics.

"I say being able to find a player and put him in a position where they can be successful, they can find success on the field, and to give them the ability to develop and grow at the pace that they're capable of growing at. I try to do that with all my drills. I tell my players to try and find the game in the drill and to try to find the drill in the game so that they're always thinking of why is it applicable for me to do this thing and then how can I use that when it comes to game time?" said Donnelly.

Donnelly continued, "I'm a really big Carlo Ancelotti fan who's currently at Real Madrid, but he was the coach of [Association Football] Milan and a player from [Association Football] Milan. I like to make sure that the teams are defensively sound and compacted, taking away much space for other teams to move in the game. I really like for my players to understand the tactics of the game and the rationales behind it."

Donnelly also focuses attention on developing players beyond those solely on the varsity roster. He also believes that it is important to work with players from all levels of play, working with each team's coaches to help grow players.

"The coaches that we have on JV1, JV2, and JV3 are all outstanding, so that helps in terms of development. I have gone down and watched some [Junior Varsity Teams] games when I can, because I want to make sure that I still get eyes on those kids," said Donnelly.

Matteo Damian '28 commented on the motivation Donnelly brought to the team and how Donnelly's practices help prepare members of the team for success.

"Coach Donnelly gives the team energy to play and practice. I would definitely say he's really smart and good at what he does. It's the way he gets down to the specifics and how he helps you improve," Damian said.

Starting striker Kai Myles '27 echoed this, sharing how Donnelly inspires the team and pushes them to be their best. Donnelly's encouragement of each player and their unique abilities has helped strengthen the team.

"[Donnelly] said you have to have confidence in yourself to do everything you can. Even if other people don't believe in you, you have to have confidence. He's helped me believe that I am the best version of myself and that I have to put all my effort into becoming the best version of myself. He has helped me gain the confidence that when I'm out there, I'm the best on that field," said Myles.

Donnelly described the central word for Boys Varsity Soccer's culture and his hopes for what the team is about to build out on the field after a season together.

"Family. Families don't always get along, but they always have to care for each other. And we find a way to help each other through all the hard stuff," said Donnelly.

BOYS SOCCER

	1 (C) JACK ALEXANDER '25, CATSKILL, NY		5 (C) SEBASTIAN MEJIA-RIVERA '25, SANTO DOMINGO, DO		10 (C) SPENCER MADGE '25, WELLESLEY, MA
25 ETHAN BROWN '27, SAINT ANDREW, JM	12 JONATHAN BU '26, ELLICOTT CITY, MD	4 DAVID BURT '28, NONTHANBURI, BANGKOK, TH	6 MATTEO DAMIAN '28, ANDOVER, MA	19 PAUL GICHANA '25, HAVERHILL, MA	21 AARON HUANG '25, ANDOVER, MA
13 AVERELL HUNT '25, CONCORD, MA	11 ALEX LEE '25, ANDOVER, MA	15 KEEGAN MARKGRAF '25, WHITEFISH BAY, WI	17 LUCA MASTERS '25, ANDOVER, MA	16 MICHAEL MECHEGIA '25, ANDOVER, MA	3 ALEXANDER MITARACHI '25, NORTH CAMBRIDGE, MA
9 KAI MYLES '27, KINGSTON, JM	7 MARC NELSON '25, JACKSON, NJ	2 ELIJAH ROBINSON '25, DORCHESTER, MA	18 ANDREW RODRIGUES '27, FAIR HAVEN, NJ	30 JEFF SHEN '26, VANCOUVER, BC,CA	24 MICHAEL STAII '27, ANDOVER, MA
22 EDRIAN VARGAS '27, METHUEN, MA	8 LOUIS-THOMAS VINCENT '25, SAINT-BRUNO-DE-MONTARVILLE, QC,CA	27 BRANDON WALTON '28, TOTOWA, NJ	14 EVERETT WOO '25, LEXINGTON, MA	23 ANTHONY YANG '25, CHARLOTTE, NC	26 SUNNY YU '28, SHANGHAI, CN

MANAGERS: SAMUEL FRANGAKIS '27, NORTH ANDOVER, MA; WILLIAM LENNON '25, POQUOSON, VA

Boys Soccer Dominates St. Paul's, but Falls to High Mowing

ALEJANDRA LASALA BERGARECHE

FRIDAY 10/11	
Andover	3
St. Paul's	0
WEDNESDAY 10/16	
Andover	1
High Mowing	5

On Friday, Boys Soccer secured a shutout at home against St. Paul's. The following Wednesday, the team faced High Mowing at home. Despite great efforts, Andover fell behind its opponent in the second half, ending with a 1-5 loss. Regardless, the loss to High Mowing does not impact the team's rank in the league nor its playoff standing.

In the game against St. Paul's, Kai Myles '27 described the team's strong play despite having several absent players. Myles shared how the team kept a high energy and focus throughout most of the game, continuing to put defensive pressure on their opponents even after scoring their first goal.

"Against St. Paul's, although we walked in missing a few players, we still all lived up to what we had to do. Everybody was definitely focused on the game and making sure our win streak continues. We did this by making sure that we dealt with St. Paul's the same way we dealt with Pingree and Choate. We tried to bring the same energy that we brought against them. Our players definitely stepped up," said Myles.

Alex Mitarachi '25 noted how ball movement was a key characteristic of Andover's success in the game. Mitarachi emphasized how they were able to capitalize on St. Paul's defensive weaknesses by strategizing together as a team and pulling coordinated plays.

"We were able to move the ball really well, and since they weren't that strong and they weren't pressing us that well, we were able to piece them together and break them down defensively, get an across, and finish them off," said Mitarachi

After each goal, the team kept its focus on simply scoring the next one. Myles commented on how this mentality and energy lasted the entire game, ultimately resulting in a three goal win over St. Paul's.

"The energy lasted throughout the game from the beginning to the end. After we scored that first goal, we kept on going and kept on pushing until we got the second and the third. Even after that, we kept on pushing and pushing. We couldn't get the fourth, but it was still a great game by everybody," said Myles.

L. RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Alex Lee '25 shoots across the field.

Everett Woo '25 underlined Mitarachi's significant impact on the field with his dribbling and field awareness. Additionally, Mitarachi was an encouraging presence both on and off the field, consistently pushing teammates to put in maximum effort.

"I'd like to highlight Alexander Mitarachi. I thought he played really well overall. Specifically, his dribbling and distribution of the ball was key during the game. He also cheered us on a lot," said Woo.

The team's winning streak came to an end after facing High Mowing on Wednesday. Mitarachi stressed how the lack of communication between the players on the field led to a buildup of mistakes, though he also recognized the opponent's strong performance.

"The first goal came off of a miscommunication between our center back and the goalie. A couple of other goals were just individual brilliance from the other team and we couldn't really do anything against that. Nevertheless, a lot of the goals could have been avoided and we were dribbling too much in the final part and we should have shot more," said Mitarachi.

Myles shared how the team had a strong turnaround from defense to counter-attacks against High Mowing. He noted how this was one of their first attempts at including that as a part of their defense, highlighting it as the next area the team will work towards improving.

"In the next practices, we will probably focus a lot on clearing the ball and a lot on our defensive shape, especially when it comes to counter-attacks. Our defense and who we send up makes sure that we have enough players available whenever we lose the ball and we get hit on the counter-attack. That's what's happened in the games recently, we have the ball and we get hit on the counter-attack. This is the first game where a team actually pounced on it, and of course, it's just an area we need to work on," said Myles.

Woo noted how in spite of offensive shutdowns from High Mowing, the team kept up their optimism. He hopes that the team can continue to carry its energy and positivity into its games for the remainder of the season.

"Everyone was really positive even when we went down and they scored goals. The bench was really positive, uplifting the people on the field with good energy. That's the energy we need throughout the season. It's easy to have energy when we win, but when we lose and the team comes together and still cheers us on, that's really great," said Woo.

Boys Soccer will play at Northfield Mount Hermon this Saturday.

Football: Camaraderie Comes First, Then the Wins

JACOB JONES

FRIDAY 10/11	
Andover	13
Cheshire	15

On a Friday morning, starting with an unusual 11:00 a.m. kickoff time, Football suffered a close loss to Cheshire Academy (Cheshire). Despite the loss, the team continues holding its head high and looks with optimism to its next few games.

Jake Saalfrank PG'25 noted how, despite the team's loss and unimproved record, the team had a lot of momentum coming out of the loss with a clear improvement in team mentality. Saalfrank noted the promise their performance had indicating the potential for future wins.

"It can be tough to stay motivated when we are 0-4, but even though we lost, we still played a great game. That was our first full, complete four quarters of playing together and playing how we know we can, so that just gives us hope showing us that good things will happen. We're just looking forward to playing like that again, and hopefully having a different outcome," said Saalfrank.

Reflecting upon his own role within the game, Denzil Pierre PG'25 noted the emphasis on staying within each moment and working simply on his own task at hand. He spoke on the importance of playing his role on the field and how, together, that can help defeat the team on the other side of the field.

"I was trying to play more together and just focus on doing my job, not trying to do too much and just execute whenever the ball is in my hands. I don't think it matters the competition of who we play or the level of competition and who has what offers. Being confident, knowing what we're doing, going out there and executing, being physical, and just wanting to win [is what matters]," said Pierre.

Despite the rough outcome of the game, older players were able to keep the team united with a positive mindset and investing into the

M. STOUT/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Football readies to kick off the game.

team. Saalfrank highlighted offensive lineman Billy Brown PG'25 for his leadership and energy.

"Billy, the big o-lineman is a guy that I go against every day at practice. He really brings that energy every day. He's fully bought in, he does all his homework outside of football, watching film, and studying the playbook. We get better every practice and he just loves the game and is a great kid. He is probably one of the best teammates, cares about us and the coaches," said Saalfrank.

Andover fell behind by only two points and Pierre partly attributed the closeness of the game to Andover's "home-court advantage." Pierre noted how the crowd at home kept the team motivated.

"The crowd definitely helps us when we are down on the scoreboard throughout the game because the energy from our Blue Key [Heads] and the rest of the people in the stands help us stay locked in for each drive. Even though we haven't given them much to cheer for, they are always there to support us, and we will definitely give them something to cheer for in our upcoming games," said Pierre.

Keeping his focus on the future, quarterback Nate Parker '26 talked about how the team has been preparing for its next matchup on Saturday. He is optimistic that if the team plays together, Football could be looking at its first win.

"We are working on getting better at the small things. Realizing that small details matter and that little details such as missed steps can really affect the outcome of a play. Just watching a lot of film, being confident, and building that confidence will let us play competitively with anybody in this conference so it won't matter who we go up against. The coaches have emphasized the idea of playing to [the] whistle and being intentional with everything we do," said Parker.

Football travels to Brunswick on Saturday.

Girls Soccer Earns First Shutout Against St. Paul's Then Ties Governor's, Maintaining Undefeated Streak at Home

AARON HUANG

FRIDAY 10/11	
Andover	3
St. Paul's	0
WEDNESDAY 10/16	
Andover	3
Governor's	3

Girls Soccer dominated against St. Paul's, earning its first clean sweep of the season. Governor's proved to be a more challenging opponent, yet Girls Soccer still maintained its undefeated streak at home and came out with a tie.

Murathime Daisley '26 noted that playing on Graves Hall Field, the team's main practice site, proved to be a crucial advantage against St. Paul's. She spoke on the team's knowledge of the field and how Andover was able to gain a competitive edge.

"We worked on finishing in the final third a lot, which proved to be good because we finished much more than we do normally. We were playing on Graves, which is our practice field, and we know that field very well, and all of its imperfections. We were able to play very comfortably. We were playing how we would in practice, and our practices are pretty intense. We were just having fun, which was what helped us win," said Daisley.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Head Coach Lisa Joel described the victory against St. Paul's as a strong defensive effort. She highlighted defender Lilliana Keim '25 as a pivotal threat that could not be contained.

Coach Joel wrote, "The 3-0 win over St. Paul's stood out as one of our best eighty minute efforts to date and led to our first shutout of the season. Three different players found the back of the net — [Co-]Captain Hayden Fischer ['25], [Co-]Captain Emily Mara ['25] and Upper Wylie Roossien ['26]. The back line of [Co-]Captain Ava Davey ['25], Keaghan Murphy ['27], Lily Keim ['25], Emily Decker ['26] and newcomer Nina Oswanski ['28] as well as Lower

A. TSAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Keaghan Murphy '27 controls the ball on the field.

[goal]keeper Jackie Dill ['27] proved to be the difference makers in holding the St. Paul's offense to few dangerous offensive opportunities. Of particular note was Senior back Lily Keim's play attacking out of the back — a continuous threat that St. Paul's struggled to defend."

Wednesday's game on Smoyer Field resulted in a tie. The team was down 3-1 at half-time, but entered the second half ready to fight back with renewed energy, determined to turn the game around. Girls Soccer was able to score two goals and give up none in the remaining 40 minutes. While not exactly what the team had hoped for, the game, particularly the second half, demonstrated Andover's resilience, according to Daisley.

Daisley said, "Governor's, they were a good team. Their main strength was that they had a very talented striker. We were down 3-1 in the first half, so I'm proud that we were able to get back in the second half, but it wasn't necessarily the desired result."

Daisley continued, "Our whole team, even the people who were on the bench, all contributed to the comeback, because we could have made a decision when we were down to just check out of that game, but we just kept high energy. It was a group effort that helped us come back, not just one player."

Daisley believes that the team will work on improving the consistency of play throughout the whole 80 minutes, specifically entering the game with strong momentum and maintaining it.

"Our Coach sometimes says that we're a second half team, and what she means is when we're down in the second half, that's the catalyst for us to start locking in. But just making sure that we're not just starting with high energy, but also maintaining that and keeping that consistent throughout the whole game [is important]," said Daisley.

The team looks forward to traveling to and facing Northfield Mount Hermon on Saturday.

Girls' Cross Country Snatches Victory Against St. Paul's and Austin Prep

ERIC CHANG

FRIDAY 10/11	
Andover	26
St. Paul's	29
FRIDAY 10/11	
Andover	19
Austin Prep	40

Girls Cross Country had an exciting meet on Friday afternoon, beating St. Paul's by three points and Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep) by 21 points on its home course. The high-energy, supportive environment pushed athletes to give their absolute best, resulting in various personal records (PRs). Zoe von Eckartsberg '26 led the pack, coming in first place overall, with Chloe Song '26 finishing close behind in third place.

Instead of the usual Saturday meet, the team competed on Friday afternoon due to the special Wednesday schedule on Friday. Tasha Bohorad '26 highlighted that despite this change, the team was able to handle their races impressively with focus and determination.

"The meet went really well overall, and we had a bunch

E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

Anya Budzinski '26, Chloe Song '26, and Zoe von Eckartsberg '26 pace themselves throughout the race.

of PRs. We're not used to having meets or workouts on Fridays, but everyone handled the quick turnaround after classes like pros. I could see that some people were a bit nervous, but they were focused as we lined up. Cross country is one of the most supportive sports out there, and you could see that yesterday with every team. Everyone congratulated both teammates and opponents," said Bohorad.

Furthermore, Bohorad emphasized the importance of mental preparation. Despite how difficult it is to remain entirely concentrated throughout the duration of a race, the team implemented meditation techniques to help them stay in a clear headspace.

"This year, we've focused a lot more on the mental side of running. We practice meditation techniques before races, which helps a lot. We talk about locking in our focus, which doesn't happen every time, but it's something we keep working on together," said Bohorad.

Katerina Kokkotos '25 highlighted von Eckartsberg and Emma Hong '28's notable performances, praising von Eckartsberg's PR and Hong's motivating presence.

"Two individuals that stood out were Zoe von Eckartsburg and Emma Hong. Zoe set a huge PR. She's such a strong person and teammate, and I could not be prouder of her. I'd never run with Emma before, and having her in my sightline the entire race was very motivating. We worked off of each other from the [Cochran Bird] Sanctuary," said Kokkotos.

The team's strength was evident in its unity and teamwork. Sophie Staii '25 shared how she was able to feed off of the energy of multiple of her teammates including Hong and Ela Budzinski '28, demonstrating the team's ability to create collaboration within a seemingly individual sport.

"One of our biggest strengths is feeling the power of the team. I've run races with different teammates each time, and we work off each other's energy. This week, I started with Ela Budzinski but finished with Emma Hong. It really shows the depth of our team and how important it is to work together, even in an individual sport like this," Staii said.

Daisy Lopez '26 mentioned how the team was able to combat the difficult parts of the course by keeping its head up and thinking positively. This allowed the team to focus on pace rather than fixating on the challenges.

"The meet was a beautiful mixture of loud supportive noise and also silence. When we began the first bit of the course, there was cheering and yelling that helped give a good start, and as we entered the Sanctuary, it felt like everything went quiet. On our course, there is a really challenging moment called 'Heartbreak Hill,' and it's a steep hill that challenges every runner. Everyone was really supportive which helped everyone get through that. The energy gave us that time and space to lock in and concentrate on our pace," said Lopez.

The camaraderie and perseverance displayed by the team contributed greatly to its ability to achieve success. Looking forward, Staii acknowledged the team's plan to focus on increasing volume and strong finishes.

"Our next meet will be on [Family] Weekend, so for the next few weeks we will be working on continuing to increase our running time during practice as well as having strong finishes. This will make sure that we are ready against any adversity we face. There are some students who are starting to run six days a week now, so I can definitely expect a lot of PRs, a strong ending to our season," said Staii.

On October 26, the team will compete against Northfield Mount Hermon, Deerfield, Phillips Exeter Academy, and St. Paul's at home.

Field Hockey Extends Undefeated Streak With Back to Back Shutouts

AARON HUANG

FRIDAY 10/11	
Andover	8
St. Paul's	0
WEDNESDAY 10/16	
Andover	2
Middlesex	0

Girls Field Hockey continued its impressive undefeated streak with two more wins, letting only two goals in so far this season. Last Friday, the team defeated St. Paul's in an overwhelming victory. On Wednesday, the team traveled to Middlesex and won in yet another shutout.

In the team's game against St. Paul's, Quiana Bell '26 praised her teammate Molly Driscoll PG'25 for her impressive performance. By scoring four out of the eight team goals, Driscoll solidified the team's position adding immensely to Andover's scoreboard.

"We did a good job of working together to get the ball out of the situations and then using each other for like those back-and-forth passes and shooting. Molly Driscoll had four goals out of our eight goals and they were all rockets into the net... She would be sniping the net like four times in a row," said Bell.

In preparation for the game against St. Paul's, Sienna Glass '27 shared drills that the team had focused on building toward for the game. Focusing primarily on improving play and confidence, Glass highlighted how more focused drills and exercises helped build team members' specific skills.

"We worked on a lot of mini-games, so we were practicing finding pockets and also driving across the circle. We also worked on big balls, which are passes all the way across the field... The drill is very articulate and helps you build confidence," said Glass.

In preparation for their game against Middlesex, Bell noted the team's work on ball movement and creating more touches to set up better positions and pass more efficiently. She also highlighted its efforts to play more as a team and less individually, which turned out to be a factor in the team's victory.

"We're working a lot on moving together and making sure to use each other and not just playing individually. This translated a lot to our games today because it wasn't a game where you could play by yourself," said Bell.

In the team's matchup against Middlesex on Wednesday, Bell praised goalie Ellie Parker '25, who, in the last few minutes of the game, saved three of the opponent's shots and kept Andover on the top of the scoreboard.

"It was 2-0, but there was like a minute left in the game, and [Middlesex was] at the ball in the circle and they [took] three shots and she managed to save every single one. She made a diving save and I feel that really just kept our energy up for the last few minutes of the game," said Bell.

Leading up to its next game, Bell noted the team's plans to improve movement with and without the ball, utilizing all sides of the field. She also shared hopes to transition efficiently from offense to defense and vice versa.

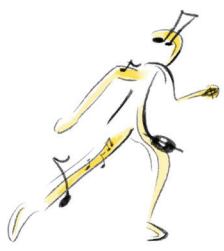
"We are also working on making those touches in the circle because we're missing a lot of those post balls or just we weren't getting a stick where we needed to. [We need] to work as a unit and make sure we're all shifting together, working together to move the ball up the field and getting back on defense," said Bell.

The team will travel to Northfield Mount Hermon on Saturday.

Junior Varsity Hype Songs

Kieran Kolar '28, JV2 Boys Soccer: "Over" by Drake and "On One Tonight" by Gunna

We like to play some old Drake songs like "Over." When we come back from away game[s], we play "On One Tonight" by Gunna when we win one, which has been all of our away games so far. We also listen to some calmer and focused music before the game, so we are ready to play hard and lock in. On the way back, we like to play more upbeat and lively music because it is a way to have fun and think about how we played, but mostly just have fun and wind down after our games.



Henry Zimmerman '27, Boys Cross Country: "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver

On the way home from an away meet on the bus, we play "Take Me Home, Country Roads," and everyone will sing together. It always is the last song before we come back to Andover. It is a really special moment with the whole team on the bus singing, and it really helps us feel at ease and having some form of closure on the meet. It has been a tradition for as long as I have been on the team, and it really helps us bond as a team.

Sean Griggs '26, JV1 Boys Soccer: "Headlines" by Drake

[This song] really gets me going. It's a really hype song and really gets me locked in for the game. I usually listen to it on the bus ride headed to wherever we are playing.

Sean Choi '27, JV Water Polo: Thick of It by KSI

It gets us hyped for the game. The rhythm that correlates with the lyrical genius of KSI helps us lock in to the game. The hype of the new song gives a sense of community that everybody feels comfortable in which boosts our chances in taking the win and brings out our love for the game.

Abby Miller '27, JV Volleyball: "No Hands" by Waka Flocka Flame

It brings really good energy before we play and it just makes it really exciting. Whenever the beat slows down from being very fast, it is fire and a lot of times in games we go on a slower pace we need to and then we pick it up so the song relates to the game in that way.

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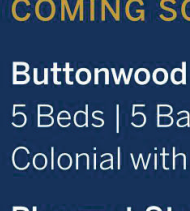

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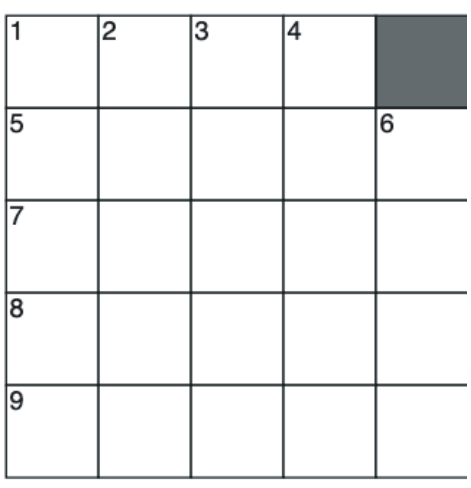
Crossword Corner

BY MAX LANGHORST

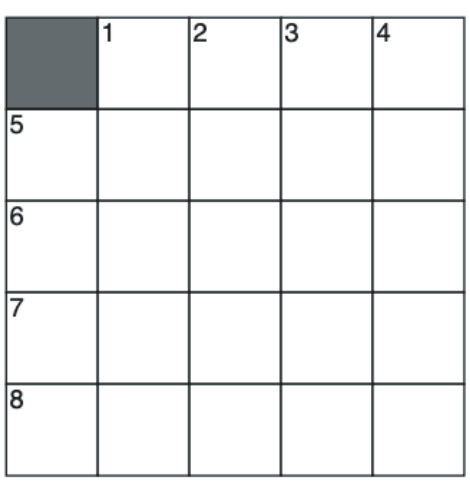


ACROSS

1 Formerly "Facebook"
5 Apply, as pressure
7 Type of spinning, colorful, lit-up ball
8 Side street
9 Shows the way

DOWN

1 Place top three at the olympics
2 Banish
3 Type of coil or car
4 Followed a curve
6 Playthings

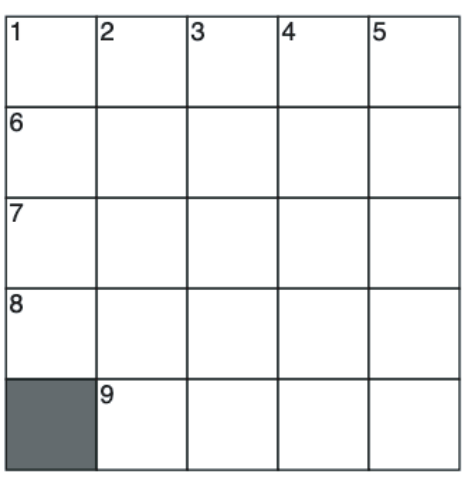


ACROSS

1 Sound for a snake
5 "I'm __ pass on this body I'm John Stockton"
6 Slipped badly
7 Type of cup for a toddler
8 Cute river animal

DOWN

1 Stomp on the gas
2 Clueless
3 Attack from hiding
4 Mythical goat-man
5 Burkina ___

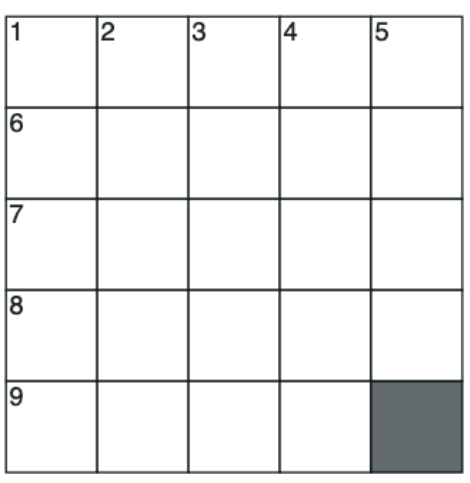


ACROSS

1 Just nick, as a bullet
6 Gives an opinion, as on Yelp
7 Looked-up-to people
8 ~
9 Skin care brand

DOWN

1 Measure of sandpaper coarseness
2 It could be AM or FM
3 Coral island
4 "The Legend of ___" (video game series)
5 Five paragraph ____



ACROSS

1 Lose intentionally
6 Gross household bug
7 Come together
8 Brawl
9 "Over here!", in a quiet space

DOWN

1 Only president to be impeached twice
2 Sharpens, as skills
3 Roads for trains
4 Group of 8
5 Excited cry from a roller coaster

Arts & Leisure
The Phillipian

Dos Mentes Una Visión de la Moda: The Return of Retro in the Fernandez Suarez Twins

ANNA TSVETKOV

Fighting for the return of a preppy style, Luke Fernandez Suarez '25 and John Fernandez Suarez '25 don matching khakis and sweaters. While their roles as twins do not directly influence their stylistic choices, they share a nearly identical style, buying two of everything in a variety of colors. Consequently, they sport identical outfits on countless occasions, and at other times their clothing varies by color. While they used to prefer the comfort of sweatpants and hoodies, the Fernandez Suarez twins now favor suits, to promote their "Andover Retro" aesthetic.

What is your primary source of outfit inspiration?

Luke: "Andover Retro is my inspiration!"
John: "Basically, I am interested in bringing back a preppy style."

How does your occupation as a twin influence your style choices?

John: "I didn't know being a twin was an occupation, it just kind of happens, you know."
Luke: "It really has no effect."

How does your style differ from your twin?

Luke: It doesn't really, to be quite frank, I guess color choices.
John: We buy two of everything, so it limits variation. There are only so many different colors of khaki out there.

How is your style similar?

John: "We buy two of everything."
Luke: "Sometimes, we divide and conquer. I shop for pants, he goes for shirts."

How have you been inspired by each other?

Luke: "I feel like I am looking at a mirror when I gaze into those soulful brown eyes."
John: "I mean the people at Kohl's really have all the credit, all the power to them, keep up the great work guys."

Walk me through your process of getting dressed in the morning.

Luke: "I steam my shirts in the morning. Hot steam and my poor vision is not a good combo. Coffee helps though."
John: "I grab what's clean. If I am lucky, it's a different color than what he has on. If not, so be it. Carpe diem, seize the day, your life's like that, you know. You have to work with what you have."

L.RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*
The Fernandez Suarez twins are known around campus for their preppy and matching outfits.

How has your style changed over time?

John: "I used to be part of the sweatpants community. Although, recently, I have gone my own way."
Luke: "I do miss the hoodies though. They never judged."

Do you repeat clothing items? Why or why not?

Luke: "Do people only wear clothes once? That is news to me. My socks want to die."
John: "I mean, I washed them before re-using, so in a sense, yes."

How do you keep your style creative throughout the week?

John: "My closet giveth and it taketh."
Luke: "Closet Roulette. In all seriousness, I basically wear a similar variation every day."

Describe your favorite outfit that you've worn

Luke: "A suit."
John: "I have to agree to a suit."

What's a staple accessory or item that you can't go without?

John: "A blue shirt. They are very versatile."
Luke: "Indeed."

Are there friends we can ask to speak about your style?

Luke: "No. Let the art speak for itself."
John: "I agree."

Is Brat Officially Dead?

SIENNA RODRIGUEZ

For anyone who has been online this summer, neon green hues, bright black Arial font, and catchy EDM pop beats should immediately remind you of Charli XCX's mega-hit, "brat." Released on June 7 by Atlantic Records, "brat" is Charli XCX's sixth studio album and arguably her career's greatest success. From the viral TikTok dances to the album cover's unique aesthetic, "brat" has gained extreme popularity within the echo chambers of social media, and has encouraged the culture to embrace a "party girl lifestyle" reminiscent of the early 2010s. With the album's trademark over the summer of 2024, there was no surprise when Charli XCX released an entire album of remixes titled "brat and it's completely different but also still brat" on October 11.

The remix album had many attention-grabbing collabs with features from artists such as Lorde, Addison Rae, Troye Sivan, Ariana Grande, and Billie Eilish. More than anything, "brat's" signature pop-centric and colorful style allowed the featured artists to add rambling, introspective verses that revealed their insecurities and troubles. For example, in the "Sympathy Is a Knife" remix, Ariana Grande's verse confronts the toxic social-media culture of tearing down celebrities. Despite the difficulties that come with reimagining an entire album with versatile collaborators, Charli XCX was able to pull it off. However, with the release of "Brat and it's completely different but also still brat," is the era of "brat" starting to come to an end?

One of the many reasons that "brat" became trendy in the first place was because it embraced an edgy, colorful, rave, vibe that seemed to have faded away in recent years. With more and more internet trends revolving around minimalism and muted colors, "brat" felt like a breath of fresh air. While the trend of "brat" was fun to play around with for a summer, it has also seemingly run its course. It's undeniable that the hype around "brat" started to die as fall began, as much of the album's aesthetic and stylistic decisions revolved around summer clubbing culture. With the release of "brat and it's completely different but also still brat," a new chapter is undoubtedly beginning.

Although some believed that the remix album would be repetitive as the title suggests, "brat and it's completely different but also still brat" is able to differentiate itself enough to the point where it has created something new entirely. The main purpose of the original "Brat" was to embrace the unorthodox. This purpose has run its course and transformed both the music industry and pop culture. Therefore, the era of "brat" summer that had to do with being out-of-the-box has come to a close. While many believed that "brat" would completely die out with the end of "brat" Summer, Charli XCX's remix album has managed to revive "brat's" essence.

ANGELA GUO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Critics who thought that "brat" has begun to be overplayed and drawn out are proven wrong. The creation of "brat and it's completely different but also still brat" is a sentiment to the fact that this sleazy club girl vibe and electric upbeat sound will never truly go out of style. Thanks to the risks that Charli XCX takes as an artist, "brat" is projected to have a long-lasting cultural impact. While "brat and it's completely different but also still brat" could have been used as a simple cash grab, it seems to be much more than that. The remix album serves as a safe haven for collaborating artists, where they can be vulnerable and honest. Their overall performances resonate with "Brat's" raw and extroverted style. Paving the way for new trends that embrace the experimental and defying the soft trends that pop up on our screens each day, "Brat" Summer may have ended, but it seems that "brat" Fall is on the rise.

Arts & Leisure
The Phillipian

Blending Cultures and Comedy: "Nüwa in Fairyland" Explores Asian American Identity on Stage

NINA TORRENS AND DANIEL LIU

Humor, complexity, and Asian American representation: major themes captured student directed play, "Nüwa in Fairyland." This term, Melinda Wu '25 and Wendi Ying '25 chose this show as the subject of their Theatre 901 class. The production follows the high schooler Benji as he explores his Asian American and queer identities as an adoptee. Benji's experiences as an actor in his school's play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," unite modernism with Shakespeare's work to create an intellectual, yet engaging, play. Nüwa in Fairyland first caught co-director Wendi Ying's eye this past summer.

"I did an acting intensive for four weeks over the summer and during that time we did a lot of scene work where we basically just workshopped a certain scene from the play over and over again, over the course of multiple weeks. Naturally it became really repetitive and you kind of got sick of seeing the same scene over and over again. But I remember these two kids doing a scene from "Nüwa in Fairyland" and it was a hit every single time, like people would die laughing no matter how many times we ran it and that was what really got me to read the entire play. I started to find that themes of the play really resonated with me and it made me really want to direct it and do it justice. I also don't see a lot of lead characters in plays that look like me, an Asian American, so finding a play that does a good job of not only representation, but just being such a well-written show on its own is very rare," said Ying.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Melinda Wu '25 (left) and Wendi Ying '25 (right) are directing "Nuwa in Fairyland" as in their Theatre 901 class.

As Asian Americans, Ying and Wu saw a special opportunity to merge their passion for theater with a central part of their identities. While Nüwa in Fairyland has elements that are Shakespearean, it is also clearly trying to subvert the Western fairytale narrative. In this way, the play is exploring the "clash" of Eastern and Western cultures while also touching on the intersection between sexuality, identity, and displacement. Moreover, Ying wanted to explore how this play fit into the portrayal of Asian American identity in the broader media.

"Recently, I've been contemplating the idea of what defines Asian American focused media, whether that's films or literature. We really should start expanding the scope of what we consider that to be because I want audiences to see that an Asian American storyline doesn't need to be confined to solely focusing on the experience of being Asian. There's so much more, you know, and this play encompasses so much humor, complexity, and subplots while also highlighting a less commonly portrayed Asian American experience of being an adoptee. There's just such a range and diversity of experiences that I really want to showcase a full range of it all," said Ying.

The cast features a group of highly motivated students, some who have an extensive background in acting while others are new to the art form. As a long-term participant in theater, Daisy Lopez '26 plays the roles of Mary Ann, a mother, and Titania, a Shakespearean fairy queen. One of her main challenges was balancing these two drastically different yet overlapping parts. She shares how her directors' socratic approaches have helped her step into these roles and really embody her characters.

"Both Wendi and Melinda challenge us to interpret each scene and I really like the way they help us figure what each scene means, even it's difficult for us, they ask us things like 'Oh how would they feel in this moment' or 'Pretend as if this was something you'd see in a nickelodeon show.' It's important to have an open imagination because it's a comedy, so I wanted to make it as funny and magical as possible," said Lopez.

As a newer actor, Sean Pao '26 added how the encouraging environment has allowed him to gain a deeper understanding of acting as an art form. In his role as a gay, transracial adoptee, he had to channel an identity that differs significantly from his own while also learning the basics of acting. By being in a judgment-free zone, he has been able to practice and improve.

"In terms of acting, a lot of that is skill and you develop that through experience. When acting, if you can just let go and not think about what others think about you, and completely embody the character, that's really when my best acting comes out. I do think that if you completely let go and let yourself be free, you can be a really good actor without too much experience," said Pao.

Ying shares how regardless of experience, she sees self-belief as crucial to cultivating actors. The role of a director is double pronged: on one hand they need to guide the actors technically, but on the other hand, they need to support them personally. Especially when working with a cast newer to theater, establishing this balance is crucial. When co-leading the class, Ying places an emphasis on adaptability and empathy.

"We have actors coming in with a range of previous acting experience, and with such a small cast of only five people, no one really has a small role. They're all taking on big characters as well, so I feel like one of my most important jobs has just been to support them and remind everyone that it's within their capabilities," said Ying.

Unmasking the Night: GSA's Masquerade Dance Brings a Fun but Surprisingly Casual Energy

MAGGIE SHU

Intricately designed masks filled Lower Right as the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Masquerade Dance went underway. The room was shrouded in mystery; students from all grades, faces well hidden behind their disguises, danced beneath the dim lights. Laughter mingled with the music as students moved through the room, dancing and popping balloons, enjoying the chance to let loose for the night. Amina Gorman '26 reflected on how the energy improved throughout the night

"I liked the masks and I liked the balloons. The decoration was cool. The music was pretty good, actually. It's better than some dances that don't have any good music... And the energy, I think it got better as the dance went on. At the beginning, there weren't a lot of people there. But towards the end, people started coming up. There was all the moshing that there normally is at dances and stuff. So I think that it ended on a good note," said Gorman.

Although the dance started at 9:00 p.m., the preparation process started much earlier than that. Jorge Sausa '25 shared the challenges the GSA board encountered through the planning process, and the satisfying success that came as a result of their hard work. He felt that the GSA dance symbolized the meaning of what it is like to be a queer person on campus.

"We had to get pushed up a week earlier, which gave us less time to prepare... And thanks to [Christopher] Capano and the student's activities office, we were able to set everything up even after all of these challenges... whatever we can do to kind of get ourselves out there and make the queer students on this campus feel more comfortable will always make me very proud of the work that we do, the work that the board does and the work that you know, these students are doing on campus and even just showing up to our events," said Sausa.

Carter Chen '28 seemed to predict the theme of the dance, coming to school with a masquerade mask in his suitcase. Though the energy of the dance surprised him, he remained able to have fun with some of his friends.

"It was very different from what I thought masquerade was. I thought it would be more traditional in a sense. Instead, it was very energetic. There was a lot of loud music, which was pretty fun. It's just like a traditional party, but everyone was wearing masks, I guess... I actually came a little prepared, in a sense. I brought one of my father's old masquerade masks for school, just in case these occasions might have happened. So I thought I'd dress a little more formally and then play the character, I suppose," said Chen.

Benedict Dwyer '28 enjoyed the process of making an outfit off of inspiration given by GSA. He and his friends appreciated the laid-back energy of the event, stating that it was a relatively good experience for his first dance; however, he was also surprised by the lack of creativity in some of the outfits.

"I scrolled through the Pinterest posted by the GSA for a little bit, and then after that, I got a vague idea for how I wanted to dress, and I just kind of made it work with what was in my closet... I was kind of a bit surprised when I got there because my group was the only people who were really, kind of, dressed up, and everybody else was in shorts and hoodies... it was nice to have a bit more of a laid back energy where it was a slightly smaller crowd that I'm kind of used to. And so I guess it was useful to have there be a bit of breathing room on the side," said Dwyer.

COURTESY OF LAVENDER

The dance offered students an oppurtunity to dress up and meet new peers.

Ava Shu '27 attended the dance with her friends in hopes of finding a safe and fun space to freely express herself. She noted that, while planning outfits, she and her friends expected a Phantom of the Opera theme. Although she had fun, she wished that the dance itself could have been presented as something more than just a fun dance.

"I had a suit with intricate patterns that kind of fit that more classical vibe... last year the GSA ball was more clearly a GSA event. And even though it was non-affinity, I felt like everyone that went kind of brought that safe energy and those vibes with them. But in this case... I guess since it was in the weekend, or especially no one really knew that it was like a GSA event, those who went as queer people and expecting it to be a GSA event versus those who just went there to have fun as a regular dance. I think that kind of shift felt like we were being pushed out of our own space," said Shu.

Arts & Leisure
The Phillipian

If the Shoe Fits, Wear It: Andover Students Stride Through Midterms in Unique Footwear.

ZADIE ROBINSON

Whether you're preparing for an interview, dressing up for an event, or simply walking to class, shoes elevate your outfit. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes; the possibilities are endless. This week, Andover students and faculty described their daily footwear and how they tie into their personal style.

JENNA LIANG '27

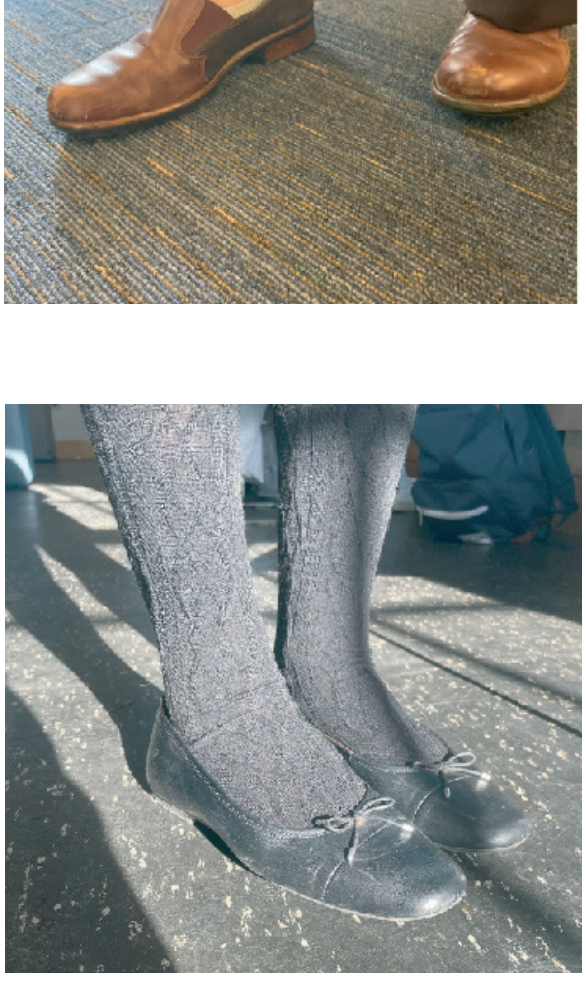
"I have the New Balance 625s in red and silver... They're very comfortable. The streaks of red reflect the dominance in my personality. I love to power through campus in these shoes, because they make me feel confident about myself, and confidence is key... They're very worn. I wear them every day because they are so comfortable. The silver on my shoes remind me that even though these shoes have been through so many hardships, and they've touched so much dirt, the silver still shines through."

DR. PAIGE ROBERTS. (DIRECTOR OF ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.)

"Here I have these shoes that are made by a company called Naot, which I believe is an Israeli company. Usually, when I'm not at work, I wear a lot of hiking clothes, like sneakers and such. So, after the pandemic I felt like my standards had dropped a bit, so I just thought, 'Oh, I have to find some shoes that look somewhat professional.' I'm trying not to buy new clothing, because of the carbon footprint, it's just unnecessary, so I happened to go to this really great used clothing store, and I was shocked that I saw these shoes. And they actually fit! I got them at around 25 percent of the price, so I was very happy with them."

AMANDA WASTLUND '25

"[These are] a pair of black ballet shoes that I bought in Sweden last year. I really like to wear them with skirts... I saw a lot of ballerina shoes on the internet, and I got really inspired. I like to implement both very feminine and very masculine things into my outfits, and kind of mix that, so I think this is a way to implement something very feminine in my outfits."



BODHI BEROUKHIM '25

"Keegan [Markgraf '25] told me about the Puma Palermo's last fall, and I found the blue version online. They fit well with the rest of my style. The only problem is when I wear them with blue jeans they are a slightly different blue, and it looks weird. I like the top view the best because I like the look of a skinny shoe and how the white laces look against the blue shoe. You can't wear them with too baggy jeans because they fall on the floor and get dirty, so I wear them with skinnier gray jeans and nicer clothes."

ANGELINA ZHANG '27

"I'm wearing Crocs that I brought all the way from China... My mom spent an hour picking these out for me as a gift for going to Andover, so I feel close to home wearing them... The reason I picked the shoes is because of the trinkets on the top, I find them really silly, and [they] really connect to my character... I came from a U.S. boarding school, and wearing Crocs was very common. People got all the fancy trinkets to make them really pretty, so then I got really interested in them. I just tried them out last spring, and discovered how comfortable they were, so I decided to join this crowd."

EVIE LAGRANDEUR '26

"I got these shoes at a mall in Japan this summer. It was the first time I had ever been outside of the country, so I was excited to bring back souvenirs to remember it by. They haven't been worn a lot yet, but the design of the shoe is forgiving to wear and tear. They're a neutral color, so I can wear them with a lot of outfits, but I also like that they're not super plain. Shoes are expensive, so I figured I should get ones I can wear a lot."

Song Dynasty: Annual Chinese Karaoke Night

ADEN HWANG

Exploding with cheers and laughter, Kemper Auditorium (Kemper) overflowed with energy on Friday night as students taking Chinese classes performed various songs. This annual Chinese Department event featured versatile performances including beautiful duets, comedic bits, and an interactive "Just Dance" segment. Along with being a creative outlet for students to learn the language, the event has become synonymous with a night of laughter and bonding.

To prepare for this event, Chinese classes rehearsed their songs for the past few weeks. Deviating from a usual schedule, rehearsals, and practices livened up the regular cycle of classes. Jacob Honor '27 described his experience preparing for his performance and how it was a great way to distract himself from typical academics.

"My class performed the song 'Ting Wo Shuo, Xie Xie Ni,' along with a dance. For the past two weeks, we spent some time at the end of class practicing the song and the dance. I really enjoyed the time we spent practicing since it was a good change of pace from typical classes," said Honor.

With a large turnout, the event was extremely interactive and had immense audience engagement. During and between acts, members of the audience were frequently laughed, cheered, and took videos. Even those who were not performing interacted with the songs, such as Frank Hu '26, who attended despite not being involved in a Chinese class. Hu was excited to be involved in any way, through dancing and singing along with the crowd.

"I thought that some of the acts where the audience could participate were really fun. For example, in 'Geng Zhe Wo Zuo Shou,' there were a lot of people dancing along in the crowd, and I thought that was really cool. I was misled because I didn't realize it was a show. I thought I was pulling up to sing, but I think that it was fun either way. I was pleasantly surprised," said Hu.

The event pushed many students to go out of their comfort zone and go up on stage to perform light-hearted and comedic acts. For students who were not used to performing, the event was initially nerve-wracking. However, many students, such as Vincent Giancola '26, eventually found fun in the event through the humorous and supportive environment.

"My favorite moment of the show was probably just going up on the stage and dancing with the other two [Chinese] 520 periods and I really enjoyed being able to cheer for every single class going up there. I think it's pretty embarrassing at first, but then you realize that nobody cares and everyone's just trying to have fun. I also enjoyed watching [Chinese] 220s since I got to watch my friends dance," said Giancola.

For all students regardless of background, the event gave an introduction to both Chinese language and culture. As a student from China, Amelia Ding '28 was excited to use this opportunity to meet new Chinese students and connect. She was also interested to find out more about Chinese musical culture through the performances.

"I decided to attend the event because I am extremely interested in Chinese culture as I am pure Chinese myself. I was excited to be around and meet many people who are able to speak Chinese after being away from home for a while. My friends also told me that it would be really fun," said Ding.

Overall, the atmosphere during karaoke night was extremely upbeat, with performers and audience members alike letting loose and enjoying themselves. Cyrus Law '27 described how the mood at the event was nothing short of explosive, as the screams of audience members cheering on their friends filled the room with excitement. He also added that particular acts garnered even more noise, standing out as favorites of the night.

"The atmosphere was pretty crazy. Everyone was cheering on the performers, and with certain acts, like songs by popular artists or the ones where the audience could participate, everyone got even more excited. The audience was so supportive of all the performers and I think everyone was just having a really good time," said Law.

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