

## Classes Disrupted by Asbestos Discovery in Basement of Samuel Phillips Hall

NIKI TAVAKOLI  
& KRISTEN MA

Classes have not met in the basement of Samuel Phillips Hall (Sam Phil) since February 6. While cleaning up flood damage caused by the campus-wide power outage two weeks prior, the Office of Physical Plant (OPP) detected asbestos in the basement of Sam Phil, resulting in the displacement of several classes in various campus locations. For the time being, tarps and bright yellow caution tape are blocking all entry to the basement, though classes on the first and second floors have resumed. It is still unclear when the Sam Phil basement will reopen.

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring, silicate minerals that can cause lung diseases and cancers through ingestive exposure. After the discovery of asbestos in the floor tiles, OPP immediately began the removal process. Joe Lobo, Director of Facilities at OPP,

reassured the campus community that the material, as it was before being disturbed, did not pose a health risk.

"Asbestos can only be harmful with exposure if it is pulverized and/or airborne for a long period of time. Asbestos is not dangerous to humans if in solid form or good shape. Because it was in floor tiles that just became loose from the floor, it is not considered a danger to anyone in the space or throughout the building," wrote Lobo in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Clearing asbestos requires containing, removing, and sealing the material, a process that is often both time and labor-intensive. The flooding cleanup also involved the replacement of the flooring in the basement; the tiles being removed contained asbestos, necessitating specialized cleanup techniques. Marcelle Doheny, Instructor in History and Social Sciences, elaborated on

*Continued on A5, Column 4*



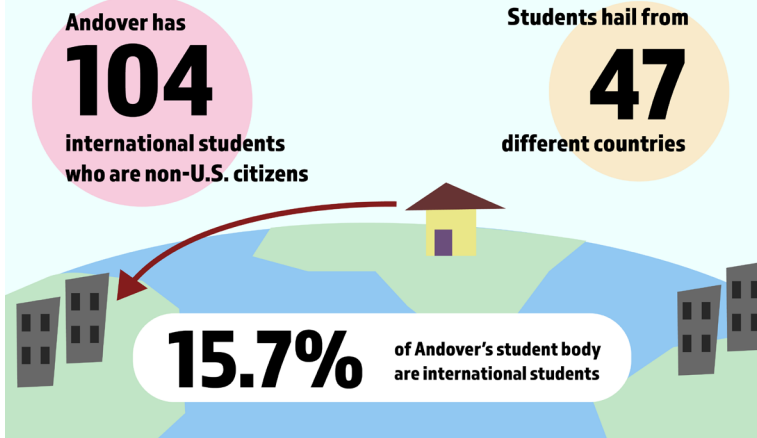
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Sam Phil Basement closed off due to the presence of asbestos.

## International Students Affected by Trump Administration's Impending Travel Policies

### DID YOU KNOW...

(Andover's International Student Population)



C.WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

CADE RUTKOSKE

Andover has hosted two mandatory meetings for international students this week in response to the Trump Administration's review of policies for Student Visa holders. The meetings were held as anxiety and speculation grew amongst international students about what was to come.

Every international student at Andover has an F-1 Student Visa. To obtain one, Andover administers an I-20 to each international student, a verification that allows them to go to a U.S. embassy in their home country and apply for a Student Visa. According to Nisa Khairunnisa '25, a senior from Indonesia, the most recent meeting for international students ensured that all students understood this process.

"Last Saturday, we had a meeting for all the visa-owning students," said Khairunnisa. "In that meeting, [the

school administration] emphasized the necessity of getting every single one of our documents in order. Our F1 must have a travel signature at all times, that is valid, and [we must] make sure that [we are] updating [our] passport information. What I think will happen is that this [presidential] administration will be much more critical of discrepancies in documents, so I think everybody needs to just be hyper-aware of having all their documents in order."

Trump's Executive Order raised concerns particularly because the "60-day" review period that Trump instated in his Executive Order ends during Spring Break (see sidebar.) Despite this, Gina Finocchiaro, International Student Coordinator, reiterated that every student has full autonomy over their Spring Break plans.

"The international students that are here at Andover, who are students in good standing and good status, are

### Executive Order In Detail

On January 20, President Trump issued Executive Order 14161 titled "Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats." The Trump Administration intends to publish a report "within 60 days of the date of this order," or March 21, 2025, just a few days before Andover students return from Spring Break. The report intends to identify "countries throughout the world for which vetting and screening information is so deficient as to warrant a partial or full suspension on the admission of nationals from those countries." In 2016, President Trump issued Executive Order 13780, suspending travel for 90 days from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, as reported by CNN.

currently here on valid F-1 visas that are in status that will not terminate or expire before they graduate. Students have every right to go home. They have every right to go home and come back," said Finocchiaro.

For many students, the process of acquiring an F-1 Visa is arduous. Finocchiaro further detailed this system and explained some of the challenges that students often face.

"If you need a visa, [you] need to go have an appointment at a consulate. Sometimes students can't get an appointment for months, so we try to start that process early in the summer. If you are from a country where you have to

*Continued on A5, Column 1*

## Breaking Barriers: TEDxPhillipsAcademy 2025 Showcase Student Voices

KRISSY ZHU &  
NICCOLO LEE-SUK

The annual TEDxPhillipsAcademy was held on February 14 in Kemper Auditorium. The Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) hosted the event, centering around the theme of "Breaking Barriers." Six student presenters spoke on a variety of important topics, including fast fashion and nuclear fusion.

Angela Guo '27 was the first speaker of the event and shared her experiences with running, describing how the sport helped break barriers within her family. Guo shared personal stories of overcoming adversity and mentioned her hopes to inspire audience members, even if they participate in other sports.

"Not everyone runs, but also some people do have other sports so they can maybe see a bit of themselves in that team building, or that overcoming

mental or societal barriers, and finding unification within stuff like that. I feel like it was more so just to get people to learn more about the topic [running], and the incredible stuff that it's doing, but also to think a little bit more about the small communities that you might not really think about in your lives, and how they can contribute to something greater," said Guo.

One of the attendees of the event, Ibu Hada '25, reflected upon the eye-opening speeches and how they allowed her to reflect upon her personal background in Japan. Hada highlighted her connection with Guo's speech.

"[Angela] was talking about how running broke the barriers of physical limits and also mental limits. Her speech resonated with me because I experienced cross country and indoor track, and it was my second sport ever in my life. As it was a completely new thing for me, I didn't expect how it turned out. Sometimes I felt physically and mentally chal-

lenged throughout practice. With those memories, I felt like her talk resonated with me in a way that when we are mentally challenged, that can connect to overcoming challenges and then gaining more and more mental energy," said Hada.

Alberto Agudo PG '25, another presenter, centered around redefining queer allyship. He spoke about his experiences in the Catholic church back in Spain, and how to build allyship with others, providing a safe community for everyone. He commented on how the TEDx program was the perfect stage for him to share his experiences.

"When I came across the TEDx program, I had long wanted to give a public speech about queer experiences inside the Catholic Church back in Spain. I had never been given an opportunity to give a speech. When the TEDx program came, I was like, 'This is my shot,' and I just took it. It was way before wanting the TEDx program. I saw the TEDx talk as a stage where I could just speak about my ideas," said Agudo.

Elise Zhang '26, another presenter, spoke about fast fashion. Her speech introduced listeners to a more faceted view of the topic, including both the harms and benefits of the fast fashion phenomenon. Zhang emphasized how she was able to learn much more about herself and her topic throughout the process of researching.

"I've learned things about the topic and myself. I've obviously learned so much about the topic by researching it so in-depth and I've discovered a lot of things that I would want to do in the future with this topic, because I don't just want to end by giving the speech. I want to actually help with

*Continued on A5, Column 1*

## Brace Fellow Maddie Redmond '25 Sheds Light on Black Women in Rap



PHOTOGRAPHER/THE PHILLIPIAN

Maddie Redmond '25 shared insights into Black women in the Rap industry.

JENNA LIANG &  
FELIX BRET

Maddie Redmond '25 started her Brace Fellow Presentation on February 17, entitled "From Roxanne to Nicki: Uncovering Feminism, Empowerment, and Identity in Female Rap Music," with a rap of her own; the opening line was "My name is MBreezy and I'm on the beat." She then traced the genre's evolution and analyzed its role in shaping feminist discourse.

A central theme in Redmond's presentation was the sexual identity and liberation of Black women. She explored the long-standing presence of sexual themes in rap music, emphasizing that female rappers have incorporated explicit lyrics ever since the genre's beginning, using their music as a form of empower-

ment rather than provocation.

"One of the most interesting things I found was how sexually explicit some female rap songs are. I found that female rap, and rap as a whole, has been sexually explicit since the introduction of the genre in the music industry. A lot of female rappers get a lot of hate for how vulgar the lyrics can be, which is something that female rappers have been doing since they first got in the game," said Redmond.

Redmond continued, "Rapping about sex and sexuality also negates negative stereotypes that Black women have been faced with because of slavery. The sexual identity of Black women has long been misconstrued just to appease white men's abuse and ex-

*Continued on A5, Column 1*

Commentary, A2

### The Phillipian Stereotype

In "The Fallacy of the 'Phillips' Stereotype," Jeannie Kang '28 navigates the root of Andover's prestige.

Eighth Page, A8

### Doing Asbestos We Can

phlooding phiasco

Sports, B1

### SLAM: Spirit Leaders of Andover Madness

SLAM is among many of Andover's life sports. Yet, its uniqueness lies in its status as a dance group, regularly performing at Boys and Girls Basketball games.

Arts, B6

### Casino Night Fashion

Read about the variety of creative outfits showcased at last weekend's Casino Night, with students dressing up in vintage fedoras to blazers to fit the Great Gatsby theme.

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Editorial

Breaking the Ice

It's 8:24 a.m. on Monday, and you just left your dorm. You want to pick up a bagel from Paresky Commons to fill your empty stomach for the next hour and fifteen minutes and you need to print out your history essay for the first period. Speed walking with your paper in one hand and your bagel in the other, your foot slips, the world spins, and all of a sudden, you're on the ground. You realize you just slipped on a patch of black ice; your bagel is ruined and your paper is on the ground, soaked by the white snow. Disoriented, your first thought is, "Did anyone see me?"

On Monday, many students faced this situation. As students prepared to leave the warmth of their dorms and homes, they were met by sheets of pure ice blanketing the paths, several feet thick in some areas. A downpour on Sunday, followed by freezing midnight temperatures, had turned campus into a treacherous landscape. Battling bitter, howling winds, students skidded and hobbled across the ice to class, careful not to slip and fall.

Amid the stresses of penultimate week, the added inconvenience and potential risk of injury of navigating these icy conditions may have brought frustration. Whether it's braving the slippery ice while still half-asleep, or trudging back to the dorm at sunset with salt-stained pants, just the thought of venturing out of our houses and dorms in the winter — often considered the most depressing term of the year — can fill us with dread. Moreover, with countless tasks swamping our daily schedules, it is easy to overlook our surroundings and become absorbed

in the seemingly never-ending deluge of work. At Andover, we are constantly rushing; to our next class, next meeting, next game. Yet we neglect the year-round delights of nature: the leaves' changing colors, the icicles glimmering on the edges of branches, the flowers blooming across every corner of campus.

But the thick ice coating the paths forces a slower, deliberate pace, pulling us out of our heads and into our bodies. We gain an unexpected gift: a chance to notice the afternoon sun catching the frost on the trees, the snow settling on old brick buildings, and the way our breath forms delicate clouds in the winter air. We become grounded in the present moment. Stepping outside, phone tucked away, we feel the crunch of ice and salt beneath our shoes and, for a moment, allow ourselves to exist beyond deadlines and notifications.

The ice may be frustrating and annoying; however, its presence allows us to notice how disconnected we are from our surroundings and each other. Andover is renowned for providing exceptional resources and education to its students and we should make the most of our experiences here. So be in the present, embrace the cold. Go sledding in the Knoll. Build a snowman with your friends. Help each other up on the paths. Winter can bring unexpected moments of community — it's up to us to break the ice.

*This Editorial represents the opinions of The Phillipian, vol. CXLVIII.*

Our Space Future:

The Dual Impacts of Starlink and Satellite Technology

SIMBA XIONG



Developed and launched by Elon Musk and SpaceX in 2015, Starlink is a constellation of low earth orbit (LEO) satellites that increases interconnection speeds. The pioneering satellite technology has the potential to enhance world connectivity by digitally connecting rural areas with developed cities to foster economic development, media connection, and education. However, despite the benefits of Starlink's technology, some experts believe without proper regulation, such technologies could be exploited to worsen pre-existing problems such as: poverty, inequalities, and international tensions. In order to prevent such detrimental effects, it is crucial for satellite technologies such as Starlink to be regulated.

The introduction of Starlink to underserved areas has already resulted in exceptional improvements. One noteworthy success was Starlink's connection services in the Amazon rainforest. Before the introduction of satellites, the Marubo tribe barely had any connection with the outside world; it would take days or weeks for outsiders to reach their village, let alone any form of technology. However, with the introduction of Starlink, tribes in this remote region now have unlimited access to the global network, providing them with tools

for communication, entertainment, and education. Starlink has also proven to be especially helpful in the aftermath of natural disasters, allowing citizens who are stranded, trapped, and cut off from communications to connect with friends and family and reach government workers for help. In 2022, Hurricane Ian severely damaged part of Florida's infrastructure, such as power stations and power lines, displacing millions of people. Since traditional telecommunications were down, the government quickly deployed Starlink, allowing LEO satellite networks to be deployed in areas with no connection, connecting 45,000 Floridians in the first 60 hours. Similarly, when Hurricane Helene hit Western North Carolina in 2024, Starlink provided internet access to hard-hit mountain towns within the first few days, providing vital connections to isolated communities who needed food, water, and rescue.

Despite their potential to transform our world, the deployment of privately owned technologies like Starlink poses significant global threats due to their effectiveness when applied to the military. In 2022, after Russia invaded Ukraine, Starlink terminals were sent to Ukraine to help with communications. The kits gave Ukraine an upper hand in communication and strategy. One such improvement was the enhancement of drone precision and targeting which improved coordination between soldiers, allowing Ukrainian soldiers to communicate in warzones where combat has blocked cell-phone signals. But when viewed from the military perspective, enhancement in Ukrainian technology would lead to more Russian casualties. After Ukraine's successful drone coordination and improved intelligence acquisition, Musk later decided in 2022 to restrict Ukrainian access



ANNABELLE LANGHORST/THE PHILLIPIAN

to these satellites in Russia-controlled Crimea. He feared that Starlink might be used as "war machines" rather than as methods for communication. Prolonging warfare through bloodshed would contradict Starlink's founding mission to aid civilians and promote peace through connectivity. Beyond the context of military use, Starlink could also exacerbate economic inequality by disproportionately benefiting wealthier nations, leaving

Despite their potential to transform our world, the deployment of privately owned technologies like Starlink poses significant global threats due to their effectiveness when applied to the military.

economically disadvantaged areas further behind. Starlink's high cost imposes significant limitations on underdeveloped nations. In sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, the initial cost of a Starlink satellite dish is approximately \$600. While not

terribly expensive from the perspective of a nation like the U.S., this pricing is unaffordable for most households in underdeveloped countries such as Nigeria, where the average household monthly income is around \$63, and according to NGO Space in Africa, there are less than 30,000 subscribers in Nigeria while the U.S. has millions. As in the end of 2024, only eight countries in Africa received Starlink aid, and Starlink was even blocked in approval in countries like Congo. In contrast to Nigeria, one of many impoverished African nations, the Amazon's Marubo are unique in that they are one of the few surviving primitive tribes in the world, receiving the attention of reporters and government subsidies. Even though the Marubo tribe also lived in poverty, their role as one of the last remaining tribes stood out compared to the rest, intriguing many people to help. They even caught the attention of American entrepreneur Allyson Reneau, who funded the tribe's Starlink terminals. The drastic difference in economic viability illustrates a broader trend: Without strategies to address affordability, Starlink risks furthering the economic disparities.

Starlink epitomizes the duality of privately owned technology. It offers solutions to critical global challenges, from bridging digital divides to aiding disaster response, but also posing risks, including military inequality, geopolitical tensions, and the aggravation of inequality. To ensure that technologies like Starlink serve humanity fairly, nations must collaborate to ensure strict and fair regulations of new technology. Governments should adopt policies (such as the Outer Space Treaty of 1966 which emphasizes an equal, responsible, and weapon-free space environment) that promote affordability to users and transparency toward the world. To address affordability, it is possible to subsidize costs based on income and geographical location, such as the Lifeline program in the U.S. where there are strict regulations and criteria to make sure that subsidies only apply to those truly in need; and to promote transparency, nations and governments should collect feedback from rural and underserved communities and share it globally to prevent exploitation in everything from warfare to addressing poverty.

It is vital that space law evolves and keeps up with constantly improving technology to ensure that innovation does not come at the cost of long-term sustainability. By combining responsible governance with equitable access for all, LEO satellites could be the transformative factor to bridge nations and build a world founded on sustainability and genuine collaboration.

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**CORRECTIONS:**  
The Sports Nordic Skiing article title was incorrect, it should have been "All-Gender Nordic Skiing Dominates on Friday; on Wednesday, Hosts Its First Home Meet in Over Twenty Years."  
The scores for the Sports article "Boys Basketball Continues With Dominance Over Thayer, Bradford Christian, and Austin Prep" were incorrect. The correct scores are: Andover-Thayer (71-60), Andover-Bradford (94-50), and Andover-Austin Prep (74-53).



# The Death of USAID and the Future for American Humanitarian Aid

## TIGER JING



**O**n his first day in office, President Donald Trump issued an executive order implementing a 90-day freeze on foreign assistance, effectively halting most U.S. foreign aid programs. Over the following weeks, the Trump administration took unexpected measures to shut down the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Recent projections claim that only 200 out of the agency's 10,200 workers will be retained. USAID, created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, is an organization that deals with global healthcare, humanitarian assistance, and economic growth to advance U.S. foreign policy interests in developing nations. It operates in over 130 countries, partnering with 4,000 organizations and operated with a budget of \$40 billion. The agency also plays a role in promoting democracy, as it has supported 60 elections worldwide. The recent Trump Admin actions have thrown the humanitarian aid world upside down. The United States contrib-

utes about four out of every ten dollars committed to humanitarian relief in crises. With the freezing of USAID, thousands of aid organizations lost funding overnight, thousands of USAID employees were placed on administrative leave, and hundreds of thousands of refugees lost access to critical aid.

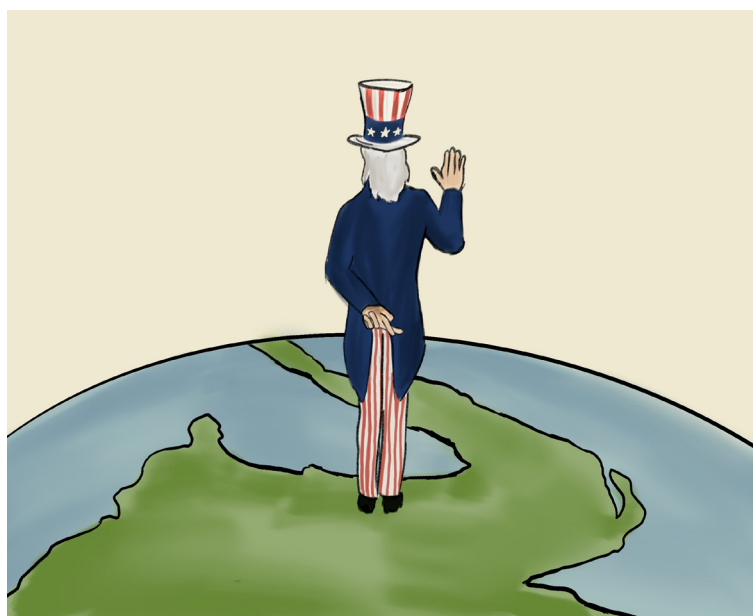
This abrupt decision to dismantle USAID came after the USAID's financial transparency came into question. Critics, including Elon Musk, have accused it of corruption and challenged its uses of capital. Musk described USAID as a "criminal organization" that "must die." Others have branded it an unregulated, partisan tool of the Democratic Party.

However, Daphne McCurdy, the Agency's former Deputy Assistant Administrator, argues that USAID's budget was closely reviewed and approved by both parties in Congress. McCurdy stated that "over 80 percent of USAID funding is earmarked by Congress in bipartisan bills, leaving very little flexibility

Thousands of aid organizations lost funding overnight, thousands of USAID employees were placed on administrative leave, and hundreds of thousands of refugees lost access to critical aid.

as to how the money is spent.” She further explained that “the process to determine exactly where money goes after it is appropriated involves extensive coordination and ultimate approval from the State Department and the White House Office of Management and Budget, in addition to extensive consultations with Congress.”

Yet, there is limited evidence to substantiate some of the recent accusations against USAID. And while these debates are happening, the global humanitarian aid community has been plunged into uncertainty. Mark Goldberg, from the podcast *Global Dispatches*, says, “HIV patients have been turned away from clinics that provided antiretrovirals as part of the hugely successful President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program.” Public health programs, like those credited with helping end polio and smallpox epidemics and an acclaimed HIV/AIDS program that saved more than 20 million lives in Africa, have stopped. When funding is cut, even for a short period, the ramifications can be disastrous. For instance, Sasha Chanoff of RefugeePoint highlighted that “in 2015 a massive reduction in aid in the Middle East led to nearly a million Syrians and other refugees risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean to get into Europe. To this day refugees are losing their lives on those and other deadly routes when they don’t have hope where they are.”

NATHAN WU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

The key now is to channel aid strategically, using it as an incentive to reinforce Pax Americana. A carrot-and-stick approach should be implemented by the U.S. government to ensure compliance with its strategic imperatives: nations that align with American objectives receive financial support, while those that resist may face funding cuts, tariffs, or sanctions.

Rather than eliminating USAID funding altogether, I believe the key is to increase accountability and bipartisan agreement on the means and ends of US humanitarian assistance. It's unlikely that USAID will survive this onslaught, but my hope is that one or more organizations rise from its ashes and operate with greater transparency, efficiency, and alignment with U.S. strategic interests. For instance, it's probably not in U.S. tax payers best

interests to fund musical in Ireland. Rather, American capital should be used to purchase loyalty from geopolitical swing states. Americas could build hospitals in Kenya in return for its support in key multilateral organization votes. A restructured system would ensure that aid serves both humanitarian purposes and America's long-term geopolitical goals, maximizing the return on US taxpayers' hard-earned investment.

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# The Cultural Erosion of India

**VEDANT BAJAJ**



India has undergone many changes since gaining independence from the British in 1947. One example is the growing influence of Westernization, which has weakened the country's nationalism. As a result, the rich culture and traditions that have defined India for millennia have slowly eroded, transforming into their Western counterparts.

One of the most noticeable shifts has been in the Indian food industry. It has always been dominated by family-owned businesses that mainly served Indian food, thus Indian cuisine remained the standard choice for most people. Furthermore, for most of its history, India's trade revolved around spices, such as cumin, turmeric, and chilies, which is why classic Indian cuisine famously contains an abundance of spice and flavor. However, in recent years, the popularity of Western foods has surged in India, leading to a shift in dietary habits. Take pizza, for example, a food entirely unknown in India until the 1990s, it is now a staple for many and is served by large corporate chains like Domino's, which surfaced around the same time. Un-

like traditional family-run restaurants, these chains care less about maintaining the authenticity of Indian food and more about profitability. Moreover, the spiciness that once characterized traditional Indian food has now been lessened by restaurants that cater to younger generations and international tourists.

Another example is the prominence of traditional attire in Indian fashion. At home, at school, and in the workplace, I remember everyone would wear clothes native to and unique to India, crafted and perfected by their ancestors. Moreover, each region in India has its distinct style and materials for clothes because of the rich array of textiles found across India, such as silk, cotton, and wool, and the different techniques used to make clothing. In the past decades, however, Western fashion has stormed the scene, leading to a shift in dressing habits, especially among younger generations. Take jeans, for example: once uncommon in India, they are now worn by a significant amount of the populace, largely promoted by global fast fashion brands like H&M and Zara. These mass-produced clothes of the West prioritize trends overshadowing

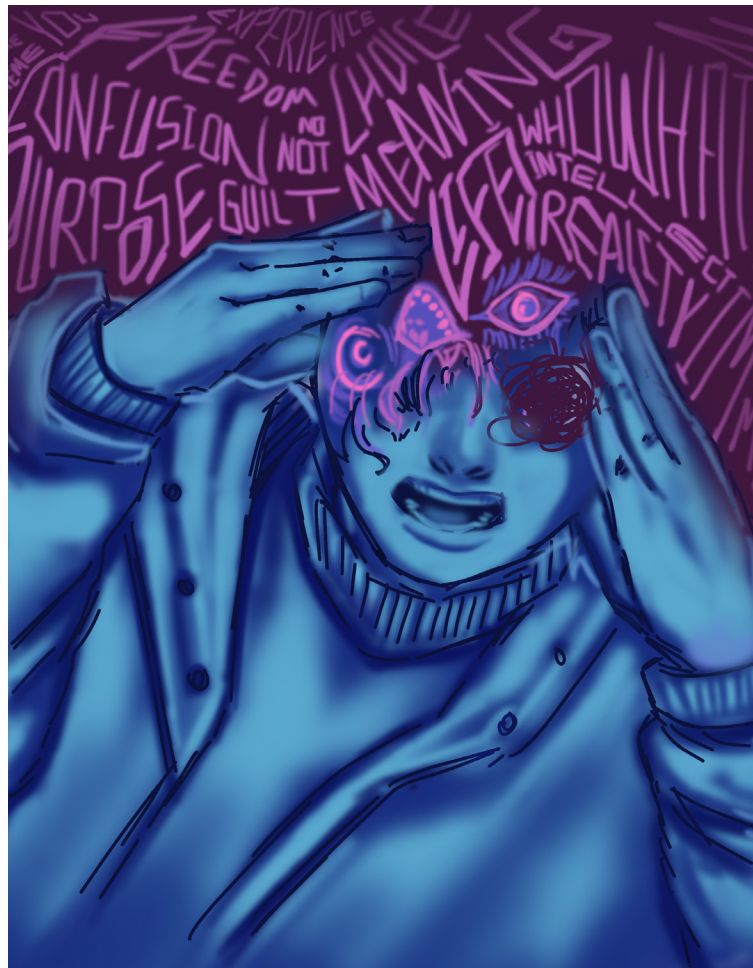
Unlike traditional family-run restaurants, these chains care less about maintaining the authenticity of Indian food and more about profitability.

cultural significance and local craftsmanship. Many younger Indians now view traditional clothing as outdated or embarrassing, reserving it only for special occasions or wearing it at the urging of their elders. As a result, the common reality of traditional Indian clothing has diminished, eroding a key visual marker of

Now, despite living in India all their lives and being surrounded by Indian languages, some younger individuals may not even be able to speak the language of their community; instead, they only speak English.

India's rich cultural heritage.

India is home to 22 official languages, around 19,500 total dialects, and the oldest language in the world, Tamil. Though 41 percent of India's population speaks Hindi, languages and dialects vary greatly by region, reflecting the myriad of identities within India and highlighting the many vibrant heritages both shared between and unique to each of these communities. This diversity is increasingly at risk due to the rise of English; younger generations prefer to speak English rather than their native tongues. There has been a growing obsession and belief that being fluent in English shows status and knowledge. Now, despite living in India all their lives and being surrounded by Indian languages, some younger individuals may not even be

NISA KHAIRUNNISA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

able to speak the language of their community; instead, they only speak English. This is highly detrimental because language is tied to cultural identity and heritage, and in a country where there are so many languages, each tied to a rich and unique culture, the loss would mean losing a piece of the community itself. With the rise of English, India is losing its linguistic diversity, putting many languages at risk of extinction — which is irreversible.

The strong national and cultural identity that was prevalent in India is now facing a test in the wake of British rule. Westernization has now asserted itself in every aspect of Indian culture, posing an imminent threat to the

country. If India hopes to preserve its distinctive and irreplaceable culture, it must not let Westernization overshadow its identity.

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# The Fallacy of the “Phillips” Glory

JEANNIE KANG



The “Phillips” of high schools is the Gucci of the fashion industry, the caviar of the dishes on a menu – a rarity of high quality. The name conjures the image of prodigies discussing philosophy over dinner tables, walls in the athletic building slouching from too many accolades, and students borrowing piles of books from the library. The name “Phillips” acts like an adjective that describes the towns of Andover and Exeter; a word that transforms a mediocre town into glory everyone chases after. In spite of the prestige, doubt inevitably arises. What truly lies beneath the veil of glory over the two Phillipses?

Since I matriculated at Phillips Academy last August, people have commented on how “intelligent” I must be to attend the alleged “best” high school in the United States. My Korean friends sent direct messages on Instagram, expecting me to answer the seven wonders of the world (or perhaps the eighth: how does Phillips admission work?). The “Phillips Academy” sticker on my laptop cover served as an impenetrable shield; the Big Blue hoodie acted as armor. Bypassers peeked curiously at the blue merch, looking into my face and back down as though judging whether I looked smart enough for the school. Frankly, each time such glimpses hit me, I felt special, as though my attendance at the niche-ranked second-best high school in the United States transformed me into a George Bush or a John Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. However, after several months of exploring Andover beneath the blindingly shiny surface, I realized that the name-brand of Andover truly is merely a name-brand.

However, matriculation does not prove any other facets of an individual. What matters more is how one utilizes resources and works towards their passions.

Phillips Academy’s average annual admissions rate stands at nine percent, one of the lowest among private high schools in this country. Applicants pour their souls into their applications to prove their competence: writing essays on their “unique” journeys, submitting extracurricular activities, and providing athletic highlight videos. Diverging from expressing ourselves, all applicants desperately aim to prove that they trump the 91 percent of other applicants. Puppy-eyed applicants, including my past self, expected Phillips Academy to be an Olympus crowded with geniuses in all fields, athletes with the highest

honors, and angels with warm hearts. Even though many students at Phillips Academy do own commendable hearts and exceptional brains, I often ponder whether these characteristics are exclusive to the highly ranked boarding schools. The Bronx High School Of Science, a public school in New York City, is the top school in debate according to the National Speech and Debate Association. Boston Latin School, another public school in Boston, is ranked first among high schools in Massachusetts by the US News. Likewise, though the Phillipses have more zeros in a bank account to fund their students, the prestige of the school is irrelevant to the capacities of the students.

This fallacy applies to colleges and high schools: attending an Ivy League or one of the top ten boarding schools does not necessarily mean you are more intelligent than students in community colleges or public high schools.

Judging and defining students’ capacities by the Niche ranking of the school destroys our genuine evaluation of others. First impressions play a significant role in our view of others; likewise, quick assumptions about individuals based on their educational institutions hinder our capacity to sincerely engage with others. This fallacy applies to colleges and high schools: attending an Ivy League or one of the top ten boarding schools does

not necessarily mean you are more intelligent than students in community colleges or public high schools. Perhaps one’s acceptance and matriculation may prove that one was passionate enough about your education to apply for a resourceful school with a top-notch education. Alternatively, it may suggest that the students were raised in a privileged background with enough wealth and connections to consider applying to such institutions. However, matriculation does not prove any other facets of an individual. What matters more is how one utilizes resources and works towards their passions. Independently volunteering for a neighborhood’s elderly home due to the lack of community engagement opportunities in school or creating a debate team in a public high school for the first time expresses one’s capacity to construct opportunities for one’s passion, disregarding the socioeconomic and mental boundaries that may suppress us. The question must be “How did you utilize the given resources?” rather than “What educational institution do you attend now?”

Numerous Phillips Academy and Phillips Exeter students enjoy assuming that they can easily beat teams from public high schools in competitions. It is now time for the two Phillipses to admit that we are not our Niche rankings. Rather, we should actively listen and understand people before making flimsy assumptions.



MIA WALKER/THE PHILLIPIAN

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rania Ali-Svedsäter ’26’s article and rebuttal to Thiago Jollon ’27 provides an insight into foreign policy and the potential limitations of neutrality, I find several issues with the way that political neutrality is defined and Ali-Svedsäter seems to neglect the fact that the Swedish government directly colluded with Nazi Germany and as Jollon said, isn’t very neutral.

My primary issue with Ali-Svedsäter’s paper is that it defines neutrality as “a nation’s indifference to world affairs around them.” However, this could not be further than the truth. Neutrality is in reality not a utopian ideal of not caring about the world’s affairs, but rather attempting to stay out of them

and directly profit off a situation. To this definition, Sweden has been “neutral” as it has not been directly involved in any conflict since the Napoleonic Wars, as Ali-Svedäter has said. My definition of neutrality and Ali-Svedsäter’s however do both agree that Sweden’s state policy has been based more on pragmatic rather than ideological goals. Through their attempts to remain outside of the larger war, the Swedish government, as Jollon has already iterated, were intermeshed with their foreign policy, making Sweden collaborative in Nazi Germany’s actions, breaking Ali-Svedsäter’s concept of neutrality while maintaining the generally agreed definition as they

were not militarily involved in the conflict.

Secondly, I find the overlooking of Sweden’s role in the Holocaust profusely upsetting. Although the Swedish government did come up with or engage in the policy of ethnically cleansing the Jewish people, and did rescue nearly the entirety of Denmark’s Jewish population, they were fully aware of the Holocaust in Europe. It is important to note however, that the rescue of Danish Jews only happened in 1943, when Sweden could tell that the war was going to end in the Allies’ favor. However, this does not obfuscate the fact that Sweden forced over 21,000 of its own population to undergo forced steriliza-

tions, an act which took inspiration from Nazi Germany’s own actions. Although Sweden obviously was not a national socialist state and were just immoral actions, as Ali-Svedsäter says in her letter to the editor, they should not be overlooked in the greater picture.

Thirdly, I disagree with Ali-Svedsäter’s view that there was no conspiracy in Swedish collaboration with Nazi Germany. I generally agree that Sweden mostly collaborated for the sake of not being invaded but they could have likely made the job harder on Nazi Germany by resisting pressure to launder Jewish money confiscated during the Holocaust and could have likely refused

the large-scale transport of Swedish minerals and German troops through their territory.

Signed by Felix Bret ’27



# International Students Speak on Their Minds

Continued from A1, Column 5

get a new visa every year, you know that part of your summer is to go get an appointment and start the process again,” said Finocchiario.

She continued, “It seems like one of the things it may do is make it harder for students to get a visa. [Trump] has [also] closed a number of embassies and consulates, as he’s been reducing the number of federal employees. It’s going to make it more difficult to get an appointment because there are fewer places to get one.”

Even though some international students hold dual citizenship, deciding on which passport to enter the country comes down to the F-1 Visa. David Porto ’26, who has both Brazilian and European citizenship, stated that he wished his Visa was under his European citizenship instead of his Brazilian.

[My friend] lives in Chile and I live in Brazil. So, we were both talking about, ‘Oh, are we going to be able to come back into the U.S.?’ I have dual citizenship, and he does, too. We were talking [about], ‘Which passport do I have to show to get a better chance of getting into the U.S.?’ I have my visa so I was thinking, ‘I have to show the Brazilian one.’ I wish I could show the European one because maybe they’ll be nicer to me,” said Porto.

He continued, “I’m going back with my girlfriend to Brazil. She’s an American and I’m Brazilian. There’s a little

bit of a fear that when we do reach the U.S. again to go back to school, that she’s going to be able to go through the border and I’m not. But it’s not a big interruption, it’s more like a fear. I’m not super-duper scared but there’s still always the risk that they’re not going to let me in.”

For Michelle Onyeka ’27, a student from Mozambique who holds both Canadian and Mozambican citizenship, the risk of travel bans was less of a concern; however, unable to obtain a visa, her single-citizenship Mozambican parents have been barred from visiting either Canada or the U.S.

“It’s really rough. The only thing that would make me feel better is going back home, but I can’t. There are other international students, but all of the ones that I’m friends with, they all have had the chance to go back home this past year. Sometimes I feel like there’s no one I can really talk to, just because they’re all covered in terms of going home,” said Onyeka.

She continued, “My parents were going to try and get a visa again, [for] when I come back in 11th grade. But they’re kind of against coming now.”

Denys Tereschenko ’26, a student from Ukraine, explained how getting a visa was challenging due to the consulate closures.

“There are no working embassies in Ukraine, I don’t think, for any country right now. All embassies work primarily through other countries. I had to go to Poland. I had to strategize to fit in the time. I had to find the embassy, and then I had to deliver my passport, which was also a

challenge,” said Tereschenko.

Some international students noted their unfamiliarity with American politics and form of government has only been exacerbated by the confusion and uncertainty resulting from Trump’s Executive Order.

“Right now, it’s like I’m getting lost. [There’s] so much information that I feel like, especially as someone who’s not American, I’ve been getting lost in all the executive orders... I’m not sure whether it’s my failure to follow everything, but I feel like it’s just naturally very hard to follow,” said Tereschenko.

The uncertainty surrounding the Executive Order and what’s to come has been a source of worry for many students. Aquita Winslow, Dean of CaMD, has collaborated extensively with International Student Coordinator Finocchiario in order to provide support and safe spaces for Andover students.

“The international student coordinator in connection with the CaMD Office is supporting students in all appropriate ways. The international student coordinator makes sure that all students have up-to-date visa information, and, as with all Andover students, we do our best to support our international students with diligence and with care,” wrote Winslow in an email to *The Phillipian*.

# TEDxPhillipsAcademy Demonstrates the Importance of Putting Yourself Out There

Continued from A1, Column 3

efforts, supporting fast fashion and supporting fast fashion workers. That’s something that I would want to do looking forward. In terms of personal growth, I’ve learned a lot about compromising, because this is such a sensitive topic that if I don’t compromise, then people aren’t going to receive it as well,” said Zhang.

Maya Tomlinson ’28, another attendee, enjoyed listening to all the speeches and supporting the presenters. She reflected on how the speakers’ personal anecdotes helped to broaden her perspective and deepen her un-

derstanding of certain topics.

“My main takeaway is that it is important to put yourself out there and you shouldn’t be scared to be who you are, you shouldn’t be afraid to do something new, and that you can do anything you want. I feel like I have a lot more empathy for people because their stories have a lot of emotional impacts so they gave me a deeper perspective on life,” said Tomlinson.

Camille Torres Hoven, the Director of the OWHL, organized the event and helped advise the student presenters throughout the process. She felt the event this year was a success and commented on how the students were able to overcome challenges during the process to

get to the final product.

“The presenters [were] so awesome this year. When they got off that stage, they were excited. They worked so hard and it came together and the audience supported them. That’s always the highlight. Along the way, there’s a lot of good stuff too, but there’s always lows like people get stuck in the middle of their speech, their speeches are too long and they have to cut them. There [were] a lot of ups and downs, but overall [it was] really good. I really enjoyed our Friday nights,” said Torres Hoven.

*Editor’s Note: Angela Guo is an Illustration Editor for The Phillipian*

# Asbestos Damages Artifacts in Classrooms

Continued from A1, Column 2

the cleaning operations and the uncertainty of when teaching can resume in basement classrooms.

“You have to make sure there is no mold, which involves so many steps... it’s complicated because water creates so many issues, and they have to be really careful with mold and make sure that everything is clean, dried, and treated. We don’t know for sure when we will move back, we’re hoping next week. But once you start cleaning old buildings, you might find other things that need work, so I don’t think the timeline is set,” said Doheny.

Classes have been moved to various buildings throughout campus, including the Gelb Science Center and the Elson Art Center (Elson). For Sarah Samoluk ’26, whose History and Russian classes have been affected, class activities and learning has not been significantly affected. However, Samoluk shared how it felt to learn in a different setting than usual.

“It is a little unsettling, just because you get so used to being in a classroom for a certain subject and once you step into that space, that’s your focus. To be in Elson, which is primarily for the visual arts, for that to be now where you are learning Russian and History, it doesn’t have the same feel to our previous classrooms,” said Samoluk.

Some challenges have also arisen from the fact that students are learning subjects in spaces not intended to teach them. Vedant Bajaj ’28, whose history class was relocated to Elson, spoke on challenges the class faced while taking a test in an art studio.

“We had an in-class write, and the art room in Elson seriously disrupted how our nor-

mal tests would go, because of two reasons. First, the tables in Elson are very different from the tables in Sam Phil in that they are not smooth. Writing on the paper was super difficult because the table had a very weird texture. Secondly... we were all very packed next to each other. We didn’t have enough space and also we could see each other’s papers,” said Bajaj.

Additionally, due to the flooding, the asbestos discovery, and the subsequent removal process, many materials and artifacts in basement classrooms may have been damaged. Samoluk shared how some items in her teachers’ classrooms were affected.

“There were some artifacts, like personal collection items, that [my history teacher] had in the basement, and so those things were top priority for him [to get out]. But I can’t imagine how much damage there probably is down there. I know that they had ripped up the floors and everything, but just thinking about my Russian classroom too, there are so many materials in there that we use as a class and have been there for many years. I don’t think anyone was really expecting it to be flooding, so I’m sure those items are no longer in their previous state,” said Samoluk.

Faculty and students conveyed appreciation toward OPP. Christopher Jones, Instructor and Head of the History and Social Sciences Department, expressed gratitude for OPP’s communication and work toward attenuating the issue.

“The head of OPP, Joe LoBuono, has kept us informed with daily updates. His team has been doing a fantastic job getting the basement back in working condition again. We are so appreciative of the effort of OPP to handle this unexpected situation,” said Jones.

# Redmond Cultivated a Celebration of Culture

Continued from A1, Column 5

ploitation during slavery and their stereotypes that have lasted till today. By rapping about sex and their sexuality, rappers like Sexyy Red and Megan Thee Stallion and even older rappers like Salt-N-Pepa have all worked towards negating these negative stereotypes.”

Redmond’s presentation particularly resonated with the audience, who enjoyed that the presentation shed further light on African-American women’s independent style in the rapping industry. Jaylen Daley ’25 recounted that the presentation even pushed some people to tears.

“It wasn’t just interesting to listen to the history but also because she played the songs. The vibe of the whole room really resonated and connected with the songs, we were singing them ourselves, it really contributed to the common solidarity. You had people who you never saw crying, crying. It really added to the factor that we’re all here for each other and it really added to that through the rawness and truths she was exposing in her presentation,” said Daley.

Casey Smith, Instructor in Art and Redmond’s faculty advisor for the presentation, noted the importance of Redmond’s topics, claiming that by addressing these themes openly, Redmond proposed the celebration of culture, sexuality, and identity within the genre. Smith reflected on how

the presentation expanded his own understanding of rap music, introducing him to artists and songs from his own life that he had previously overlooked.

“She shared a lot of things that I think would stand out, [and] challenging the vulgarity of certain lyrics is something that some people think should be censored and kept private. [Through] talking about it, she celebrates a certain lifestyle, a certain culture, a certain sexuality, [and] a certain identity... I was not familiar with all of the rap songs that Maddie went through and the entire scope of the genre, so she has shared a lot of information about music that was in my own lifetime, growing up, that I was just not aware of,” said Smith.

Overall, the presentation was seen as relevant due to recent events in the musical industry. Blake Herndon ’25 felt that Redmond ended the presentation in a memorable way, playing a recent clip of Jaylah Ji’mya Hickmon (Doechii) winning a Grammy for best rap album on February 2.

“The moment where she played Doechii winning a Grammy was absolutely memorable, it was a good way of ending the presentation, it was really good. I didn’t realize how much social justice was embedded into female rap. I learned so much. It makes me want to explore more and add more female rap to my playlists,” said Herndon.



Students gathered around a game table, stacking chips at the lively Casino Night. I. PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

# Dr. Subra Suresh Speaks on Using Nature’s Knowledge in Today’s Technology

**NIKI TAVAKOLI & CHRISTIAN ESTRADA**

Subra Suresh, former Director of the National Science Foundation and Dean of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), examined the potential of “co-intelligence,” combining human, artificial, and nature’s intelligence, in Falls Music Center on February 19. Noting that nature has evolved to become efficient and intelligent, Suresh discussed how researchers can combine technology with nature’s methodologies.

During the Q&A segment, Suresh emphasized the importance of supporting and funding scientific research. Suresh noted how the potential benefits of scientific pursuits in today’s age are even greater.

“Science has delivered a lot for society, all the time, and there is yet to be so many things to be discovered. With all the tools that we have, there is a possibility for even greater scientific achievements for societal benefit and economic benefit for the country than we’ve had in the last 75 years,” said Suresh.

Prior to his talk, Suresh shared a meal with members of the Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC). Lisa

de Boer ’26, Co-Coordinator of the PASC, related the talk to science’s reduced role in current policy.

“[Suresh] was talking about how important it is for the scientific community to communicate effectively to different audiences. For example, when you’re talking to another scientist, when you’re talking to another policy maker, [or] when you’re talking to a general person in society, you need to present your results very differently, because different people have different interests in science. I thought that was very relevant especially to our times now because we see science taking a back seat in policymaking, which I’m not very

happy about. It’s also relevant in global cooperation,” said de Boer.

Subra presented specific examples from his own research in his presentation, explaining how he mimicked nature to advance science. Kaya Mangani ’27 appreciated his presentation style, in which he explained the importance of biomimicry.

“I really liked his use of examples, especially when he talked about his own research. For example, when he talked about the pollen paper part. It was very interesting and demonstrated his deep knowledge of the subject. I liked how he started by explaining something in nature and then

showed how it could be applied to technology,” said Mangani.

Nate Cook ’25 was drawn to the talk due to his interest in AI and how nature influences technological advancements. He reflected on how simple observation of one’s surroundings can lead to groundbreaking discoveries, a lesson applicable beyond just scientific research.

“A concept that anyone can apply to their lives is learning from your surroundings. You can draw so much from the environments that you participate in. Being observant of the nature of your environment can help you draw many fascinating things,” said Cook.



# 10 Questions with Dale Hurley

REPORTING BY VEDANT BAJAJ & AZUL CABRERA

*Dale Hurley is an Instructor in Mathematics and an Assistant Coach for Water Polo and Crew. He graduated from the Naval Academy where he rowed crew, and after graduating served for seven years. Hurley also rowed for the U.S. National Team where he competed in five Rowing World Championships.*

**How do you think that rowing and mathematics complement each other at all, and have skills from one helped you with the other?**

I would say that in general, because I was an athlete in high school, an athlete in college, and then I continued to compete after college, I always feel like if you're a good athlete, it's because you're focused on what you do. You can turn everything off and focus on what you're doing and do it well. So, the same is true if you're in a classroom. If you can turn everything off and focus on what you're doing in the classroom you can do a lot. So, if you're good at anything because of that focus, and that ability, that should translate to what you're doing in class. It's not necessarily the fun thing that you want to do, but it is the thing that if you practice that skill, then you can turn it on and turn it off whenever you want. So I wouldn't regulate it to just rowing, I would regulate it to any sport or any activity.

**You are a big snow shoveler. Can you talk about this any why you're such a big contributor to helping out the community?**

That all started back when [Abbot Cluster Dean] Taylor Washburn's dad was here. He used to try to get the teams to go out and shovel snow. And the reason why was because [there are] people that have machines to do the walks, but they didn't have enough people to do the walks. So, Mr. Washburn was like 'let's just get the teams out and we'll do the stairs. We can do that, and you guys can go ahead and focus on your thing. You do your job, and we'll help out with this any way we can'. It would turn out to be a really fun thing. I did it initially when he was here and then after he left I just continued doing it. It became a real team bonding thing. It especially works well when the seniors on the rowing team would sort of take over. It takes team effort. It's like a good workout for the guys and the girls, and the more people would show up, the better it got. So, it's always a good time, and it's sort of a fun thing to do.

**What was your favorite part about being in the Navy?**

My favorite part, to this day, I still can see it. When you're out on a ship, they use this thing called darkened ship where they turn all the lights off because you're trying to practice being incognito out on the water. There's no lights anywhere, on any of the ships, so you can't see anything when you look



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

around. But when you look up, you can see the stars. You can see all the stars. You can take your hand and make the smallest hole, and look through it, and you still can't count the number of stars in that hole. There's so many stars out there, and we don't even realize it... It makes you feel so small because you look at it and you're like 'wow, there's a lot going on up there.' I thought that was my favorite part, just doing that. I remember there were times where I'd be on a ship, and I would be looking up at the stars, and I'd see something way over. There's a ship maybe five miles away and there's just a guy that just lights a cigarette outside. And you see the light, because it's that dark. It's amazing.

**How did you discover your passion for mathematics?**

I was always good at math in high school. I had a really good teacher in high school, my public high school, her name was Mrs. Edwards, and she was my pre-calculus and calculus teacher. She was really the driving force

behind me liking math in general. She pushed me really hard. She wasn't easy, but she was very good, and she sort of made me. She knew that I was very competitive, so she would always challenge me by saying that I couldn't do it so I didn't dislike her, in fact I really respected her a lot and she would always say 'I don't know if you can do this.' And then I would say, give me a shot, and she gave me a shot. So yeah, that was pretty much it.

**Rowing is a grueling sport. Has it shaped your mentality in any way about how you go about life?**

I was never a rower when I was in high school. It was basketball, baseball, football, swimming, and water polo even, but I never rowed. When I went to college, I couldn't make the varsity on any of those teams... So when I went to rowing, I just found that it was my thing. They rewarded hard work, and they accepted walk-ins, which was really nice. I feel like, in my mind I still look at it in that context. Any-

body on campus who just wants to try it out should just go for it because you don't really need to have a skill, to do it, you just have to have the desire to go into it. I like things where you can just walk in and do your best and see what happens. You could just take off. I know it sounds like an elitist sport, but it's really not. Most of the guys I was [with] on the US team had never rowed in high school. They were just regular guys that took on rowing because it happened to be something that interested them. So, I like that aspect of it. It's a grueling sport, I think it's a sport that's got a lot of room for people that don't really know what to do, but they want to do something.

**Who has inspired you the most in your life?**

I'd probably say my parents. They were both hardworking people. Neither one of them went to college. They worked really hard their entire life to make it work. I had an older brother, and an older sister who were good mentors for me. And a younger sister who was

actually a great mentor for me as well, but my parents were probably my biggest inspiration.

**How was your experience at the Naval Academy?**

I went to the [Naval] Academy, and the rule is that if you graduate from the Academy, you have to serve five years to repay because you don't pay for school. So it's a free school but you have to do your time in the Navy as an officer. I actually stayed for seven and a half years, mainly because it was a good opportunity. I got really good hands-on training, and it gave me a lot of responsibilities that I probably wouldn't have had if I had just gone into the workforce. I probably would have been an apprentice for a while, doing things, working. When you get out of the Naval Academy, immediately they throw you right in and you just start doing things. Being an officer of a ship and being in charge of divisions and departments and stuff like that. It was quite daunting for somebody who was 22 years old, a kid right out of college to be put in charge of [about] 275 people... I mean there were a lot of benefits, and I got to see the world.

**Being in the Navy and on a boat for extended periods of time, were there any challenges?**

It was not always fun. It made it so even when you were on an aircraft carrier, which was a huge ship, it really feels small, when you're out there in the middle of the Atlantic for a really long time, and everything feels cramped in.

**What led you to becoming a teacher at Andover?**

I was at Blair Academy, and I was teaching and coaching there. Before Blair Academy I was a head coach of [crew] at the Naval Academy, and one of the rowers that we recruited was from Andover. He's actually Taylor Washburn's older brother, Hunter Washburn. I learned about the program through him... I wanted to get my masters, and Andover was going to offer me the job here and also let me take a masters, and support me, so that was what got me here.

**Do you have a Commons hack or go to food?**

Yes, I do. When they have it out, you know the cinnamon sugar? At the end of the meal, I will go down, and I'll toast a bagel. [I] put butter and cinnamon sugar on it as the last meal. That's my go to.



HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY SOPHIA TOLOKH & AYAAN HASHAM

Religion: Pope Francis Hospitalized for Polymicrobial Infection

88-year-old Pope Francis was admitted to a hospital in Rome last Friday for a severe case of bronchitis and a later found polymicrobial respiratory tract infection reported NPR.org. According to Foxnews.com, he has been hospitalized four times since he was elected in 2013 for various reasons such as knee and abdominal surgeries, as well as a respiratory infection. Several Holy Year events in the Vatican have been canceled due to Pope Francis’ ailments, and his Wednesday public audience is yet to be confirmed, according to Newsweek.com.

Climate: Devastating Kentucky flooding causes numerous deaths, thousands of rescues, and state-wide power outages

Extreme rainfall in Kentucky caused severe flooding on February 13. Within the first 24 hours of the storm, thousands of people

were evacuated, numerous water rescues took place, and entire neighborhoods were devastated, reported NBC News. According to the Courier Journal, 11 people died, 334 federal roads were closed, and 14,672 people lost power by Monday morning. Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear called for a state of emergency and swiftly received financial aid from President Donald Trump in efforts to alleviate the struggles of impacted areas, those being mainly concentrated in southeastern and eastern Kentucky. Cities such as Elkhorn and others in Pike Country still remain without working water and limited usage of other systems, but are persistent in the goal to assemble safe shelters and warming centers to prepare for the 6-8 inches of snow incoming Tuesday night, assures NBC News.

Argentinian President Javier Milei Faces Impeachment Over Crypto Fraud Allegations

Javier Milei, President of Argentina, is facing an impeachment trial after allegations of crypto fraud have surfaced, causing political and financial instability in Argentina. Milei publicly promoted a cryptocurrency coin on X that later plummeted, leading to accusations of financial deception and misconduct according to the BBC. Within hours of the scandal, thousands of investors reported massive losses, igniting protests in Buenos Aires and other major cities. By Monday morning, Argentina’s financial markets reacted negatively with the peso experiencing a sharp decline, and major banking institutions warning of further instability, says the BBC. Lawmaker Leandro Santoro, a member of the opposition, called it an international embarrassment in USA Today, leaving them with no choice but to take action and file for the president’s impeachment.

Technology: Apple Chooses Alibaba for Prospective AI Features to Be

Launched in China

Apple is partnering with Alibaba to advance AI technologies and implement Apple Intelligence in iPhones in China. Reports from the CNN and MSN reflect Apple’s recent struggles in China, as government regulations require AI operators to partner with local companies. To combat declining sales and rising competition, Apple began discussing potential partnerships with domestic companies. They first partnered with Baidu but later switched to Alibaba after dissatisfaction with their AI model according to the IBD. Tencent, Bytedance, and Deepseek were also considered. By working with Alibaba, Apple can now release its “censored” AI in China. According to The Independent, this is expected to positively impact Apple’s sales in its second-largest market after the US. Apple and Alibaba both rose in the stock market over the last few days, with Apple approaching all-time highs.

Conflict: Fear spreads through Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo as armed rebellion contention rises in major cities

After Invading Goma, M23 advanced to South Kivu, plunging the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo into a deep security and humanitarian crisis, states the United Nations of Human Rights. M23, a Congo rebel military group backed by Rwanda, continues to advance, the conflict leaving thousands of families displaced, sick, or dead in the streets. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Congo are rapidly working to set up hospitals, bring refugees back home, hold burials, and prevent disease outbreaks, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

An Andover Valentine’s Day

REPORTING BY CHRISTIAN ESTRADA & SELENE PARK

“It brought up the spirits for students and even the [Paresky] Commons faculty and the teachers as well,” said Blue Key Head Marcela Hernandez ’25, reflecting on this year’s Valentine’s Day event. The Blue Key Heads performed romantic extravaganzas in Commons, which took place in Lower Right during breakfast and lunchtime. Performances featured playful performances such as dances, proposals, and kisses. Students had the chance to purchase kisses or dances as gifts for their peers, with all proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society.



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Blue Key Head Marcela Hernandez ’25 fake proposed to a lucky student.



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Blue Key Head Jaylen Daley ’25 gave an interpretive dance to Nate Cook PG ’25.

Marcela Hernandez ’25, Blue Key Head:

“A special moment was when this kid asked me to help him out by asking a girl to be his valentine, and that was really fun for me to do because I got to initiate it and be a part of it. It was one thing that was part of my Extravaganza-fake proposals with a ring pop. He had also brought in gifts for her and all his friends were super shocked. Everyone was super happy for the new couple so that was fun to watch.”

Aaron Huang ’25:

“There was a lot of commotion going around everywhere. The room was filled with a lot of people. The main attraction would be the interpretive dance by Jaylen Daley, as it was in the center of the room... [My serenade] was a bit different than the others. For other people, [Jaylen] put on a song and then he started to do his dance. Depending on the song or his choreography, it took between like 15 to 30 seconds. He did a lot of acrobatics, like jumps and twirls.”



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Josie Sarno ’26 and Carly Greer ’26 posed for a heartfelt photo.



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Blue Key Head Serafina Shin-vn Nordenflycht ’25 serenaded the crowd.



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Blue Key Head Andrew Massicotte ’25 played the saxophone, adding a soundtrack to Paresky Commons.



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Blue Key Head Marcela Hernandez ’25 spread love with Andover’s mascot, Gunga.



# Poker Phans

Dear Students,

This past Saturday, what was supposed to be a glorious Casino Night full of fun, silly, responsible gambling turned foul, and not just because the drinks served turned out to be cocktails all along.

Around 10:00 p.m., an egregious crime was committed at the event, (not counting the eight-dollar admission price), as a mysterious force struck a once plentiful stash of chips. As students filtered in and out of the main floor, the diligent faculty of the Math Department detected multiple incredibly tall suspicious figures wandering around the floor in suits, which actually turned out to be Boys Basketball. Thrown off the trail, these hyper-aware faculty members failed to notice the real plot occurring right below their noses, as a group of Juniors from Bartlet launched their scheme into action. With the help of disillusioned teaching fellows and Lowers assigned to Paresky Commons clean-up duty, tables filled with chips were flipped while buckets of silverware juice were dumped onto masses of addicted gamblers, causing cases of contact norovirus, while seasoning next Friday's fried cod in the process. Although these villains were caught and kicked out of the Bartlet-Foxcroft gambling ring, around half of the chips were still left unaccounted for. Originally stumped by this mystery, investigators from the Arts and Leisure Section of The Phillipian originally suspected members of the Andover Business Club before coming across incriminating Susie's camera footage, catching multiple Deans in the act of petty theft and funding the new smoothie machine.

## Week's Top Headlines

- *Jehovah's Witnesses Appalled At Andover Co-Prez Sign-Up Sheet Behavior*
- *Icy Paths Are Still Icy*
- *Andover Co-Prez Candidates Pledge To Release The "Gunga Files" If Elected: "The People Deserve To Know What Happened That Day In Dallas"*
- *Kanye Pledges Support To Exeter In Upcoming A/E*
- *First Ever Asbestos-Related STD Treated At Sykes After Students Confess To "Long Night In Sam Phil Basement"*
- *Chair Of The Kennedy Center (Coincidentally Potus) Issues Mandated Synchronized Performance Of All American Orchestras To Play Happy Birthday On June 14, Midnight EST.*
- *Anime Waifu Body Pillow Slips Out of Students Shirt Whilst Playing Class Assassin*

WE WANT YOU



FOR THE 8<sup>th</sup> PAGE

## OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"My GAP mentor made me buy a clear backpack to prove I have nothing to hide."

"I heard A-house used to be called Mexico house."

"Anytime I feel bad I think about how Trump needs to fake laugh at Elon Musk's Jokes."

"I do asbestos I can to make your basement flood."

"All I got from this ASM was that if anything's too hard, just quit!"

"When I grow up I wanna be the guy that plays the free bird solo in the den."

They are calling it Asbestos, some mineral thing that apparently causes lung cancer or something, but we are not dumb. Something is fishy.

After the power outage last week, the basement of Sam Phil was flooded. Conspiracy theories were immediately circulated by disreputable sources like Infowars, The Daily Stormer, and The Exonian. The theorists likened the place to a CIA black site and even said it was "worse than Gitmo," and then they began to talk about the Sam Phil basement. Intrigued by the rumors that this was the biggest basement-related conspiracy theory since Pizzagate, a brave team of Andover cave divers decided to explore the waste. All perished except one (the Sam Phil side door proved to be an early obstacle). This is what Bartholomew Smith '28 found:

-Rebellious PASC members who threw Paresky Commons tartar sauce at paintings in the Addison

-The WMDs that George Bush '64 was looking for

-286 copies of Industrial Society and its Future

-A nuclear bunker stocked solely with Paresky Commons food





# The Phillipian SPORTS

Volume CXLVIII | Number 4

*i might swerve in  
that corner  
wooahhwoah*

February 21, 2025

## SLAM: The Storied Dance Group Bringing Passion and School Spirit to the Court

THIAGO JOLLON

The Spirit Leaders of Andover Madness (SLAM) dance group is a Winter Term life sport that has been around for over 30 years. Founded by Phillips Academy alumni Ashanti (Hosier) Brinson '95 and Angela Brown '96, the group supports the Boys and Girls Basketball teams and also performs at the annual Andover Dance Festival. The team is led by captains Maya Clark '25, Samaria Hammond '25, and Wambui Nyiha '25, who have helped create a positive and uplifting environment for dancers.

Yumi Lai '27 gave an overview of the group and their involvement in basketball games, noting the dancers' audible performances as a hallmark of their style.

Lai said, "We perform a dance style that uses our bodies to create forms and sounds. That includes stomping, clapping and using our voice. We perform at basketball games for both boys varsity and girls varsity. Supporting our basketball teams is really important. We love being there and getting to watch the game on the court... we feel very involved."

Lai continued, highlighting how the dance group is a source of joy for its members, particularly during the dreary winter months. The sport has evolved for its members into what they lovingly refer to as their "SLAMily."

"The environment of our group is always so uplifting, especially during the wintertime, when it's gloomy. Coming to our dance practices after school every day



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

SLAM supports Andover Basketball teams with stomping, clapping, and cheering.

just makes everyone so much happier and is honestly just amazing. If someone has a bad day, we always share how we feel and are just there for each other. It doesn't even feel like a sport that we have to go to every day. Instead, we're just always looking forward to coming to practice to make these connections, which is why we always call each other our SLAMily, which extends beyond just our practices," said Lai.

Maya Clark '25, one of the three SLAM captains, explained the practice format and how it varies depending on upcoming games. She also noted how the team's technical abilities allow for the group to cover multiple routines in each practice.

"We usually practice for about an hour and a half every day of the week. Typically, we start with a stretch. Our stretch is around 15 to 20 minutes. On Mondays, we start with a check-in, where we sit in a circle and say how we're doing to check-in. After that, we usually get right into it. We teach depending on how long the steps are, but we'll probably teach one or two new steps a day. Our team is really good. They're technical, so they pick it up fast. If we're working on a longer halftime [show], we might focus all our time on that. It does depend on the day," said Clark.

The group adapts their steps to match what is occurring on the court. Ashiq Kib-

ria '26 noted that despite the various step routines for offense and defense, the group's goal is the same: to encourage the team and engage the crowd.

"The team does different steps based on what's happening in the game, so depending on whether the team is on offense or defense, they do different steps. There's one step that asks for offense specifically. The steps are used to bring support to and cheer the team on. During timeouts, they're used to encourage the crowd as well. The team helps boost the team's morale and get the crowd into the game. They're similar to the way that Blue Key Heads work as they're able to support all the basketball teams by showing

up to the games and hyping up the crowd," said Kibria.

The group is also a staple at the yearly Andover Dance Festival. During this year's festival, the team performed the song "Sticky" by Tyler the Creator. Lai spoke about the event and highlighted the captain's role in producing the performance.

"We performed to the song 'Sticky.' I love how our choreographers, the captains, make these steps. Hearing the songs together emphasizes the beats of the music, and it's so fun when it all comes together because you hear this group of 15 people all synchronized. It's a unique dance form that you don't see often," said Lai.

Clark continued in the same vein, highlighting the captain's choreography. She also mentioned that the group performed Beyoncé's Homecoming songs to commemorate the seniors on the team.

"We did like a little hip hop part beforehand [before 'Sticky'] and then we went right into normal step. We choreographed it ourselves and we did about a two-minute long performance. People really liked it. Then we did a mash up with Beyoncé's Homecoming song, and for that part that was mostly like a senior focused part of the show, as we try to showcase our seniors towards the end of the season."

SLAM has one more performance for the season, performing at the Girls Basketball's game against Holderness on February 26.

## Andover Boys Swimming & Diving Completes Three-Peat at Easterns

ALEX GODSEY

Last weekend, Andover Boys Swimming & Diving clinched their third straight Easterns Championship (Easterns), showcasing depth, teamwork, and excellence. The team totaled 708.5 points, narrowly edging out Mercersburg Academy while steamrolling the rest of the competition. With standout performances from divers David Frahm '26 and Teddy Berman '25, along with brilliant races from swimmers Pippin Kantakom '25, Oliver Stabach '26, Brian Lee '25, and Tristan Furlow '26, Andover displayed a well-rounded and dominant team effort.

Andover traveled to Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania for the biggest meet of the year, with the team focused, energetic, and united in the lead-up to competition.

"We had a very lively vibe on the bus. Everybody was either resting or playing 'Brawl Stars' together. It was truly a bonding moment between everyone. Personally, I was really nervous before the race and couldn't sleep all night, but Captain Daniel Seong



COURTESY OF KATHERINE FENG

Andover Boys Swimming & Diving wins their 5th Easterns Championship since 2019.

comforted me and gave me motivating advice," said Simba Xiong '28.

Easterns also saw several record-breaking performances. Eric Chang '28 highlighted Kantakom for his new Andover and New England record in the 100-Yard breaststroke.

"Kantakom had some really good swims, in the 100 breaststroke, and set a new school and New England record with a time of 53.91. I remember watching that with the team, we were all really hyped and I almost lost my voice. That was just a really good swim

from him," said Chang.

Cale Barker '28 praised Lee for surpassing his personal record in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 48.74, placing third overall and contributing 27 points to Andover's team score.

"Brian's 100 [yard] Butterfly was incredibly fast, 48 seconds, a best time for him and it was just a second off the record. Brian Lee's butterfly is an art," said Barker.

Tristan Furlow '26 had an impressive race in the 500-Yard Freestyle, finishing in second place with a time of 4:26.12.

"Tristan Furlow did really good in his [500-Yard] Freestyle and scored a lot of points, second overall. He beat a lot of famous, really good swimmers and pulled in second ahead of everyone by quite a bit," said Ian Kim '28.

While Haoyu Zhang '27 is a strong swimmer, his contributions go beyond the pool. With daily vlogs and an enthusiastic spirit, Zhang played a crucial role in Andover's success at Easterns.

"Haoyu gets the best teammate award. He is very committed to our team. Even though Haoyu didn't make finals, he was always there to cheer for our teammates and also record our vlogs. He was

very focused and dedicated to our team," said Xiong.

Theodore Berman '25 described the unique environment and conditions at Easterns, noting the additional preparation needed for the meet.

"We got there at noon, warmed up for a bit and went through our eleven dives. For Easterns, we need eleven, we need six for normal meets. We got lunch, came back, and then the meet started at five. I came back to warm up beforehand... After the round of three dives, there were some preliminary eliminations. We then went to the finals and performed our last three dives," said Berman.

David Frahm '26 placed eleventh with a score of 251.1, and Berman finished nineteenth with a score of 216.2. Berman expressed pride in his and Frahm's performance, especially considering how Berman and Frahm have collectively swan for just four years.

Andover Boys Swimming & Diving will face off at Phillips Exeter Academy this Saturday, February 22.

### All-Gender Wrestling Presents Strong Performances at New England Championships

By Mathew Liu

This past weekend, All-Gender Wrestling traveled to Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) to compete in the New England Championships, where six boys and ten girls represented the team in one of its most competitive meets of the season. Four wrestlers secured New England Championship titles and several others placed well enough to qualify for the National Prep Championships next weekend. Notably, Co-Captain Julian Rios '26 earned his third-consecutive victory in the 113-lbs division; Co-Captain Dani Nugent '25 triumphed in the 138-lbs weight class, her fourth-straight win at the competition. Other than Rios and Nugent, those slated to compete at the National Prep Championships include: Toni Elliott '27, Christian Robinson '28, Brady Haskell '28, Serra Akyali '28, Tasha Bohorad '26, Ophelia Lee '26, Bella Shmuylovich '25, and Eva Murphy '25. Overall, the team finished 12th in the Prep Division and second in the Girls Division.

### THE PHILLIPIAN'S SMUGMUG





# Persistence and Energy: Girls Swimming & Diving at Eastern Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Championship

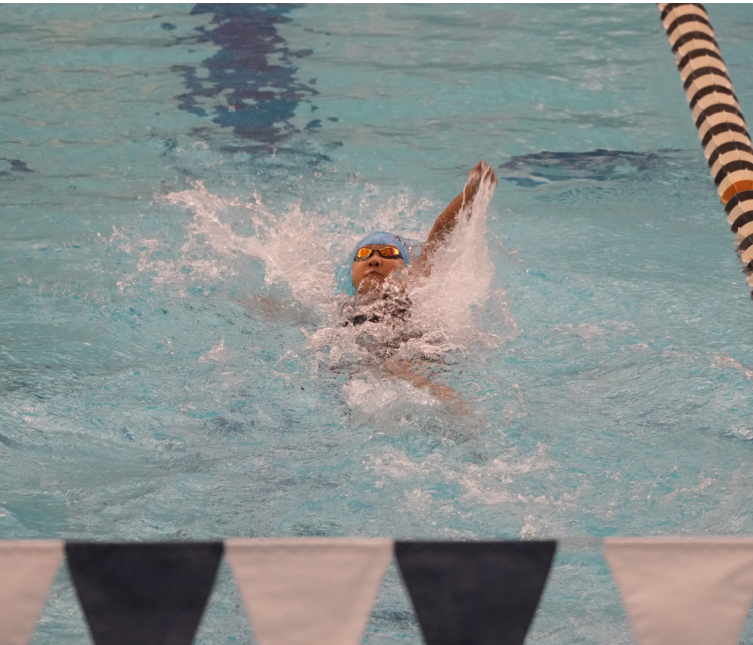
EMILY NEY

This past weekend, Girls Swimming and Diving competed at the Eastern Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Championship (Easterns). Ultimately, the team earned a seventh place spot and contributed to a second-place combined placement — across both genders — for the team.

Ariana Zhao '25 described the atmosphere at Easterns, emphasizing the impact and intensity of team spirit as swimmers cheered each other on throughout the meet.

“[Easterns] is one of the most exciting meets throughout the year because especially during every final session, the pool is packed. Every team’s obviously cheering for their own people, but whenever someone from your team’s racing, we’re all behind the lane. It gets really crowded, but everyone is cheering for each other. Since it’s really loud, it’s easy to get going in that kind of environment,” said Zhao.

Regarding the meet’s atmosphere, Katherine Feng '27 added that individually, competing athletes maintained focus and ticked up their energy by listening to high-energy music. Feng personally opted for Travis Scott’s FE!N, which, she said, drove her to swim



COURTESY OF KATHERINE FENG

Chloe Ru '27 swims in the 100 yard backstroke final.

58.24 in the 100-Yard Butterfly, a personal best.

“Everyone was listening to hype music. My hype song was FE!N [by Travis Scott]. I had decided it was my hype song and it worked and it helped me [achieve a personal record] in my 100[-Yard Butterfly],” Feng said.

Easterns is among the more significant meets; therefore, in preparation for its races, Feng noted that the team focused on

fine tuning small details. Additionally, she stressed the importance of perseverance throughout Easterns, a tiring and fast-paced meet.

“We did a lot of tapering. We did a lot of sprints and dives off the block and we tried our best to work on technique which also helped us. I think the strengths were that we were very persistent. We went through the whole meet, but one of the weaknesses was

that everyone was very tired because we had a very short amount of time in between prelims and finals and then we had a short amount of time to get to bed and get ready for the meet. Everyone was really tired but everyone did really well in persisting through the meet and still going their best times,” said Feng.

Despite the Easterns’ tiring nature and the sports individuality, both the Boys team and Girls team combine to create a strong sense of camaraderie. Kennedy Leach '25 described a crucial moment for Andover team spirit during the Boys 400-Yard Freestyle Relay.

“The end of the second final session, there was the boys 400-Yard Freestyle Relay—the entire girls team and the entire guys team was crowded behind Andover’s lane. We were all pretty much just screaming and shouting at the boys who were in the relay,” said Leach.

Leach also highlighted Captain Valencia Zhang '25, who took initiative in the absence of the Girls Swimming’s Head Coach, Hillary Kavanagh. Moreover, Feng praised Zhao and the athletes who competed in the 400-Yard Freestyle Relay.

Leach said, “Our captain Valencia, she really stepped up and managed the whole team, coordinated with the coaches and every-

thing, and she did a really good job keeping it together for the team.” Feng continued this sentiment saying, “Ariana Zhao did very well. [Also] I think all the girls on the [400-Yard] Freestyle relay did very well. They went really fast.

While looking ahead to additional high-level competitions, including Andover-Exeter this Saturday and New Englands on March 8 and 9, Leach predicted that the team’s practices will tone down volume and increase in intensity, focusing specifically on small details.

“We have two meets left. We have Andover-Exeter, which is this upcoming weekend, and then we have New Englands in two and a half weeks maybe. I think what we’re going to be working on is tailoring technique and just fixing up the tiny details, because we’ve done a lot of work over the season. And so I think the next few weeks are just going to be tweaking and paying attention to our technique and making sure that everything is crisp and feels good. I don’t think that we’re going to be doing anything ridiculously hard,” said Leach.

As a continuation of the Academy’s longest preparatory rivalry, Girls Swimming will compete at Exeter this Saturday.

# Boys Varsity Hockey Splits Two Thrilling Games: Defeats Governor’s Academy, Falls to Cushing Academy in Overtime

ALISTAIR FRITZ-GRUBER & XAVIER HOWELL

FRIDAY 2/14		
Andover		5
Governor’s		3
WEDNESDAY 2/19		
Andover		3
Cushing		4

Boys Hockey showcased resilience and determination in two hard-fought games last week. The team secured a 5-3 victory over Governor’s Academy (Governor’s) last Friday, yet fell short in a 4-3 overtime loss to Cushing Academy (Cushing) on Wednesday. Despite leading into the final minutes of the game, Boys Hockey conceded with one minute remaining, losing in a heartbreaking defeat in overtime.

In the win against Governor’s, Boys Hockey, started strong, scoring first during the match. Despite initial fears, Assistant Co-Captain Chas Sabre '25 added that the team was able to gain tremendous momentum from the first goal,

allowing the team to close out the match with a win.

“Before our first goal, it was pretty tense. We’ve had a lot of games where we’ve played well, and the result slips away in the last minute. This was looking like one of those games where you know we play well, but we just can’t score. The energy and the momentum really changed after that first goal when we got up on the board. To know that we’re not gonna let this one slip away, we’re gonna give it our all, and we ended up getting the result we wanted,” said Sabre.

The win was not only a testament to individual performances but also the team’s ability to execute aspects of its game plan. One of these was the power play, a point of focus highlighted by Sabre.

“One thing we’ve largely been practicing recently has been the power play. When you get a man advantage, you want to not only maintain the momentum of the game, you’ll get a lot of shots and zone time, but you want to score, and our power play has been doing a decent job of maintaining possession zone, but I don’t think we scored in the power play in the last few games. That is something we’ve worked a lot on, shifting guys around, and we’ve been working on that practice, and it paid off to get that power-play goal to give us the momentum type the game that big,” said Sa-



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Rui Han '25 uniting with his teammates after scoring against Governor’s Academy.

bre.

The team’s forecheck also played a crucial role. The team’s aggressive approach prevented Governor’s from establishing a rhythm and allowed the team to maintain control throughout the match.

“Our forecheck is something we’ve worked on constantly, and something we will continue to work on, but having that relentless mentality when the puck is dumped in, applying pressure to the other team, forcing turnovers,

lost in overtime,” said Michael Barrett '28.

However, the game displayed moments of brilliance and also highlighted areas for improvement. Sabre added that continued practice will build chemistry with the team.

“Our PK [Penalty Kill] is something we’re still working on. We’re shifting around some pairings, which can mess with chemistry, but practicing together and running through different cases will help us improve for our next game,” said Sabre.

Despite the tough overtime loss, Boys Varsity Hockey team won’t stop pushing forward the rest of the season. Barrett noted that, as the team focuses on special teams and defensive discipline, it is well-positioned to bounce back strongly in its upcoming matches.

“We will continue to work on our penalty kill and defense. If we can score on these chances and limit the number of goals we concede, it will be easier for us moving into the post-season. Also, getting back on defense and maintaining our shape is important, especially when we play teams that are good at moving the puck around,” said Barrett.

The team now looks ahead to its next home game against Brooks on Friday.

# Girls Ice Hockey Defeats Milton, Falls to Williston, and Ties Nobles

VIVEN VALCKX & EVA JACKSON

FRIDAY 2/14		
Andover		5
Milton		0
SATURDAY 2/15		
Andover		0
Williston		1
WEDNESDAY 2/19		
Andover		3
Nobles		3

Last Friday, Girls Varsity Ice Hockey won against Milton Academy (Milton), followed by a loss against The Williston Northampton School (Williston) on Saturday and a tie later in the week to Noble and Greenough (Nobles). Despite the loss and tie, the team played strong against its opponents, continuing to grow. Now, the team looks to finish the season well in its remaining three games as they approach the postseason.

Throughout the winter season,



A.LEE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Peyton Kennedy '25 warming up before the game against Milton.

the team has maintained a strong record of 13-2-2 (W-L-T) leading up to these games. Maya Kou '28 highlighted the team’s dedication and perseverance, emphasizing their goal of playing with intensity and control throughout all three periods.

“As of right now, we have been consistent. So far this season, we’ve been having consistent gains, and we’ve been working hard in practice. Our offensive and defensive games are both very strong, and we can, against many

teams, score a lot of goals, which is always really nice. We haven’t had many games where we slacked off, but having a complete three periods has been a really good, strong goal for us. In every game, we’re still striving to achieve that goal. Working as a team and using everybody is really important,” said Kou.

The team’s positive attitude, both on and off the ice, has been special. Marie Lee '28 noted the team’s constant support for each other on the ice and on the side-

lines.

Lee said, “They’re really hyping up, and we always cheer for each other on the bench. When I’m playing, my teammates are cheering for me, and that helps me. And when I’m not playing, I cheer for my teammates, which helps them too.”

Despite losing to Williston on Saturday, the game was very close, and tension was high. Kou highlighted Lee, who has stepped up as a new goalie this season and made an impressive save during the first period.

Kou said, “At the game on Saturday, Marie played really great. It was her best game of the whole season. To have a person step up as a goalie, it’s always really impressive. But also, in the first period, she had a really insane save, she was diving from the other side, and she blocked the empty net slapshot with her blocker while diving. She stood tall the whole game, and it was just the overtime winner that was just a lucky bounce, and she couldn’t have done that much to save it.”

Lauren Kennedy '28 also commented on the significance of their games, as well as the drive for success the team has. Specifically, she noted that the team’s Saturday game was its ‘Hockey Fights Cancer Game’ and Wednesday was Senior Night.

Kennedy said, “The matches on Saturday and today mean a lot. Our Saturday game was ‘Hockey Fights Cancer Game,’ and our game today was our Senior Night.

They [the previous two games] were also against two of the top teams in NEPSAC [New England Preparatory School Athletic Council]. We have worked hard to prepare for these games, and we are still hungry for more.”

Kou shouted out all the freshman teammates for contributing to the team’s culture and spirit. She also recognized the older players’ abilities to mentor the younger players and support them as they gain more experience.

“The Freshman class this year has contributed greatly to the team culture. We have a lot of spirit on the team, and we’re always cheerleading and stuff like that. It’s really important to have some people have different roles, but they are equally important for the team. The older grades, in return, support and mentor the younger ones. I find that we have a lot of success, and so that plays out on the ice as well,” said Kou.

Looking ahead, Lee notes that the team faces off against Loomis Chaffee (Loomis), acknowledging its status as a top-five team.

“We have Loomis next week, which is a really big game. They’re also in the top five. We want to end on a strong note and head into the playoffs. We want to be strong, so we’re trying to win,” said Lee.

Girls Hockey will face off against Worcester Academy at home on Saturday and away at Loomis on Wednesday.



## Boys Basketball Falls to Williston, Bounces Back with Senior Night Win Against St. Paul’s

DAVID SIAHAAN

SATURDAY 2/15	
Andover	53
Williston	66
WEDNESDAY 2/19	
Andover	66
St. Paul’s	56

This Saturday, Boys Basketball fell 53-66 to the Williston Northampton School (Williston). Despite an impressive chase-down block by Ollie Velez ’25 on the first play of the game, Andover could not find momentum. Although they managed to steal the ball four times, Boys Basketball turned it over twelve times, leading to many fast-break opportunities that resulted in points for Williston.

Despite the tough loss on Saturday, Boys Basketball rebounded during Senior Night, winning 66-56 against St. Paul’s School. The team found its footing early, starting the game with a lead. St. Paul’s managed to claw back,

tightening the score before Andover pulled away with a victory. Seniors David Fridia ’25 and Xavier Abreu ’25 were key playmakers and point scorers during the game. Fridia, the 6’7 forward, grabbed multiple offensive rebounds, extending Andover’s offensive drives. Abreu, the team’s captain in his final home game, impressed with over thirty points, several of which came from beyond the arc.

Boys Basketball will play Belmont Hill away on Saturday.



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Xavier Abreu ’25 performs a reverse layup.

## Girls Basketball Perseveres Through Two Tough Losses Against Dexter and Pingree to Rebound Against BB&N

VIVEN VALCKX  
& EVA JACKSON

FRIDAY 2/14	
Andover	41
Dexter	88
SATURDAY 2/15	
Andover	33
Pingree	42
WEDNESDAY 2/19	
Andover	58
BB&N	50

Girls Basketball faced a demanding but pivotal week as they took on Dexter Southfield (Southfield), Pingree, and Buckingham Browne & Nichols (BB&N). With the playoffs approaching, these matchups tested the team’s resilience and provided key learning moments. Despite tough losses to Southfield and Pingree, Andover bounced back with a crucial victory against BB&N, showcasing their determination and fight for



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ava Davey ’25 dribbling at the perimeter against Dexter.

a postseason berth.

Juliana Stevenson ’28 reflected on the team’s struggles in their losses to Southfield and Pingree, pointing to slow starts as a key factor. She noted that falling behind early made it difficult to recover, especially against strong opponents, and that allowing Pingree to build confidence ultimately hurt Andover’s chances.

“In both games, we got ourselves in an early deficit. Due to the firepower of Dexter Southfield, it was hard to dig out of the

hole. We did the same thing in the Pingree game, and it just gave them the additional confidence that they could hang with us when, honestly, we are the better team,” said Stevenson.

Stevenson viewed the tough losses as learning experiences, emphasizing that they provided the team with a chance to grow and improve ahead of the playoffs. Despite the results, she noted that the team has proven at times that it could compete at the highest level.

“Although it wasn’t the result that we wanted, it was an opportunity to grow as a team, especially as we get closer to the end of the season and the playoffs. We had some stretches where we showed we can compete with the highest level of NEPSAC [New England Preparatory School Athletic Council] opponents,” said Stevenson.

Head Coach Jennifer Weissbach reflected on the team’s balance of focus and fun, emphasizing how its best performances come when the team plays hard while having fun. She highlighted the importance of its Class A victory over BB&N and the excitement it generated, noting that the team hopes to carry that energy forward.

“The energy on the bus on the way there was great. The team was focused but having fun, and we are at our best when we are having fun, playing hard, and playing together. After the game, everyone was super hype. It was a big Class A win for us. The BB&N game was a Class A game that we really needed to win, so the energy was great after the game, and we hope that energy will help us in the next couple of days,” said Weissbach.

Ava Davey ’25 emphasized the strong bond within the team, highlighting the supportive and positive culture that has been a cornerstone of its season. She credited the team’s focus on the controllables as a key factor in fos-

tering a close-knit environment.

“Our team is super close, and everyone is really good friends, which is something so special. I am so happy with our team culture. We really focus on the things we can control — like how we treat and support each other, our attitudes, and how hard we work — which creates such an amazing environment in practice and games,” said Davey.

With two days of practice remaining, Andover is preparing for a key tournament at Deerfield. Weissbach emphasized the importance of the weekend and expressed confidence in the team’s form heading into these critical matchups.

“We’ll have two more days of practice here, then we’ll head to a little tournament on Saturday at Deerfield. We will have a rematch against Deerfield on Saturday morning, and then we’ll play the winner of Exeter [Phillips Exeter Academy] vs. Lawrenceville on Saturday afternoon. It’s a big weekend for us with two huge games, and I feel really good about where our team is at right now,” said Weissbach.

After the team’s tournament at Deerfield, they will play Holderness at home on Wednesday and travel to Exeter next Saturday.

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# Indoor Track Hosts NEPSTA All-Comers on Saturday, Renews Andover-Exeter Rivalry on Wednesday, and Sees School Records Broken

MATTHEW LIU

On Saturday, Boys and Girls Indoor Track hosted the New England Prep School Track Association (NEPSTA) All-Comers meet. Around 500 athletes from around 25 schools traveled to the event, which took place at the Snyder Center(Snyder). On Wednesday, in its final meet of the regular season, Indoor Track traveled to Phillips Academy Exeter (Exeter). Ultimately, Andover’s Boys fell short to Exeter, while Girls triumphed in a narrow victory.

The hundreds of athletes created an atmosphere that tested Andover’s ability to perform under pressure.

“This [meet] was open to so many different schools — there were more than 25 teams competing and hundreds of entries. Snyder was packed, and the competition was a lot tougher just because of the number of people there,” said Brady Nelson ’27.

Leading up to NEPSTA All-Comers, Indoor Track focused on refining technical aspects. Nelson reflected on the team’s preparation, highlighting the importance



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Sean Pao ’26 competes during NEPSTA at Snyder Center.

of block work and technical details in practice while also keeping in mind the conditioning of the athletes.

“We focused a lot on block work and technical details. We didn’t do any super hard workouts, just a lot of reps to make sure our form was right, our starts were strong, and we were getting the motions down properly,” said Nelson.

Andover athletes delivered standout performances on Saturday, including Caitlin Ly

’27’s 55-Meter Dash, in which she broke the school record in 7.25 and tied the Snyder facility record.

“The school record was something I had been chasing all season. Every time I raced the 55[-Meter Dash], I felt this pressure to break it, and looking back, I don’t think that was the best mindset to have. After every race where I fell short, it was hard to stay hopeful,” said Ly.

In lieu of Ly’s performance,

Co-Captain Russell Robinson ’25 highlighted the depth of Andover’s Track and Field program.

“One of our biggest strengths is that we have a really deep program. A lot of our top runners are younger, and we have a strong group of freshmen coming up. This is probably the most competitive we’ve ever been, and the scary part is that we’re only going to get better in the next year or two. That being said, our weakness is inexperience. Since a lot of our best athletes are young, they’re still learning how to stay calm and push through bad jumps or tough races. Keeping a strong mindset throughout the season is something we need to work on,” said Robinson.

Wednesday’s meet was also dazzled with impressive school records: the Girls 4x200-Meter Relay ran 1:46.37 (a qualifying time for New Balance Nationals Indoor), Marc Nelson ’27’s high jump recorded 6’4.25”, and Bennett Rogers ’26 cleared 14’1” in the Pole Vault — a height that has stood for 57 years.

Regarding Wednesday’s meet, the storied rivalry between Andover and Exeter heightened the stakes to per-

form. Robinson emphasized that the added challenge of competing away and the rowdy crowd.

“This was the first and only away meet of the season for upperclassmen, so it took some getting used to. The Juniors and Lower’s had a meet at Exeter two weeks ago, but it was still a challenge,” said Robinson.

With the season nearing the end, Andover now turns toward the USA Track & Field New England (USATF-NE) Indoor Championships. The competition will be held at Harvard University’s Gordon Track, which features a banked 200-Meter track. The meet will mark Robinson’s final high-school indoor track meet.

“For those of us competing at Harvard, it’s just one last chance to show everything we’ve got. The track there is really fast and bouncy, which helps a lot with longer events. We usually see a lot of PRs and school records broken at that meet,” said Robinson.

This weekend, select members of Indoor Track will partake in the USATF-NE Indoor Championship.

## All-Gender Nordic Skiing Competes in the Duathlon at the Lakes Region Championship

EMILY NEY

This Wednesday, All-Gender Nordic Skiing competed at the Lakes Region Championship. Boys finished sixth out of nine, and Girls, eighth among seven other schools.

Typically, skiers compete in either a Five-Kilometer Skate or Classic Skiing race. However, the Lakes Region Championship instead featured both categories in a duathlon.

“Today was a really unique meet. It was a duathlon, which means the first half of the race was Classic Skiing and then halfway through, you switch your skis and poles into Skate Skiing which is really hard to practice for,” said Sebastian Vermut ’27.

Head Coach Keith Robinson ’96 highlighted Co-Captain Sage Preston ’25, who placed 17th overall in the

Girls events with a time of 19:10.8. Coach Robinson also commended Lauren Montgomery ’25 for her impressive comeback and Co-Captain Luke Williamson ’25, who placed 21st overall among 73 boys with a time of 16:40.4.

“Sage Preston had a really good race. She finished 17th in the race and ended up like 15th in the league overall for the year across all of our races. Lauren Montgomery also did well,” said Coach Robinson. “She also caught a Middlesex girl right at the end and passed her 100 yards before the finish.”

Like most, this race was not without its challenges — Vermut praised Adrian Werner ’25 for persevering through a fall.

“Adrian Werner had a really good race. He was really feeling it in the beginning, [and] he was able to pace out his classic really well. Towards the end in the skate

part of the race, he was able to get into good speed skating form. He did fall, but he was able to come back from that and finish really strong,” said Vermut.

The Lakes Region course had notable uphill terrain, and Preston emphasized the difficulty of switching mid-race from classic to skate skiing.

“You have to switch your entire get up mid-race. There’s a lot of anxiety about that, especially because this was a very hilly course, extremely hilly for [about] 75% percent of the time. I was talking to a lot of the girls from other teams before the race started. There was a lot of apprehension about how [the race] was going to go. But at the end, a lot of people found it easier than we expected,” said Preston.

According to Vermut, the team was accustomed to practicing each style of skiing

individually, but lost time especially during the transition.

“One of our strengths was that we’ve been able to practice both classic and skate. We’ve had multiple races in each so we definitely knew what we were doing. We wished we could’ve spent a little more time practicing the transitions. At least for me, I noticed that I was struggling with being quick and making sure I was not wasting any time. That’s something that’s really hard to practice, especially since it’s really unique to only this race,” said Vermut.

Coach Robinson reflected on the practices leading up to this meet and how the team had to adapt to weather challenges obstructing them from working on ski skills. The team will focus on maintaining fitness heading towards the final meet of the season.

“The first two days of this week, there was a lot of wax-

ing skis to prepare because they did both classic and skis for this race. It was half, two and a half kilometers, classic and then switched to skis and poles and did two and a half kilometers of skating. Everybody needed to prep double the skis of normal, so it took a lot of time to wax. Then with the wind, it was not very good skiing on campus. We just had them kind of doing fitness and prepping the skis to be ready,” said Coach Robinson. “We’re going to be trying to maintain the fitness and keep working on things like holding good form, keeping endurance, and then later in the week, just tapering down and getting ready for that final race.”

On February 29, Nordic Skiing will partake in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Championships at the Dublin School.

# Crossword Corner

BY ISHAAN PADMAWAR

1	2	3	4	5
6				
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ACROSS

- 1 Exists both inside and outside your body, pumps a lot of air.
- 6 Reduce, \_\_\_\_, recycle
- 7 Brahmins, Vaishyas, and Dalits are all groups in this system.
- 8 Performed, played, probably happened on a stage.
- 9 Toy \_\_\_\_ stars a cowboy and astronaut.

DOWN

- 1 Animals that hunt sharks in groups.
- 2 F1 drivers must have a very fast \_\_\_\_ion time.
- 3 Verve and vigor, an emotion often expressed through music.
- 4 Fall-blooming flower with a celestial latin name.
- 5 Clinging, like a velcro child.

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ACROSS

- 1 You need one of these to play chess and to surf.
- 6 Sleep \_\_\_\_ is a sleep disorder more common amongst older people.
- 7 Opposite of always.
- 8 A \_\_\_\_ mill turns grain into flour or meal.
- 9 What businesses strive to increase.

DOWN

- 1 Forehead fringe.
- 2 A form of theater with dramatic singing.
- 3 A tool of a bladesmith. Also exists in Minecraft.
- 4 This brand's pieces are full of peanut butter and chocolate.
- 5 Game where you aim for the bullseye.

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ACROSS

- 1 Narrator of "To Kill a Mockingbird".
- 6 Cole in the ninja of this element.
- 7 The muse of love poetry.
- 8 \_\_\_\_ Griffin
- 9 Coxswain sits here.

DOWN

- 1 Trickle, drips
- 2 To symbolize an exponent write a \_\_\_\_.
- 3 A synonym of speak.
- 4 A synonym of speak.
- 5 A \_\_\_\_ in your side.



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## 2024’s Most Outstanding Male Swimming Performance

### HAOYU ZHANG

This past year of swimming has been extraordinary, with thrilling performances in major meets like the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics and the Short Course World Championships, which saw 30 new world records. Featuring over a dozen male world records and groundbreaking swims, fans were treated to an unparalleled display of elite swimming. With the conclusion of the 2024 calendar year, the question remains: What was the single greatest individual swim by a male swimmer this past year?

To determine this, two major criteria must be considered. First is the analytical aspect. The World Aquatics Federation’s standardized points system ranks swims based on world records in both Short Course Meters (SCM: 25m) and Long Course Meters (LCM: 50m) formats. While not flawless, as discrepancies exist in the quality of records, this system provides a foundation for comparison. Second, the significance of the swim beyond the numbers must be considered, including the venue, the competitors, the margin of victory, and the story behind the performance. As a swimmer myself, I will also be taking into account my own emotions and reactions to each of these swims. Combining these factors, I will crown the king of all swims in 2024.

Here is a list of five stand-out swims by male swimmers, in no particular order:

- Pan Zhanle — 100 Freestyle LCM: 46.40 (WR)
- Bobby Finke — 1500 Freestyle LCM: 14:30.67 (WR)
- Léon Marchand — 200 Butterfly LCM: 1:51.21 (OR)
- Jordan Crooks — 50 Freestyle SCM: 19.90 (WR)
- Noè Ponti — 50 Butterfly SCM: 21.32 (WR)

When ranked by World Aquatics Points (WAP), the swims are as follows:

- Noè Ponti – 50 Butterfly SCM: 21.32 (WAP: 1061)
- Jordan Crooks – 50 Freestyle SCM: 19.90 (WAP: 1039)
- Pan Zhanle – 100 Freestyle LCM: 46.40 (WAP: 1030)
- Bobby Finke – 1500 Freestyle LCM: 14:30.67 (WAP: 1001)
- Léon Marchand – 200 Butterfly LCM: 1:51.21 (WAP: 977)

Here is a ranking of the swims based on their significance in my opinion:

- Pan Zhanle — 100 Freestyle LCM: 46.40 (WR)
- Jordan Crooks — 50 Freestyle SCM: 19.90 (WR)
- Bobby Finke — 1500 Freestyle LCM: 14:30.67 (WR)
- Léon Marchand — 200 Butterfly LCM: 1:51.21 (OR)
- Noè Ponti — 50 Butterfly SCM: 21.32 (WR)

Pan’s 46.40 swim in the Olympic final was a race for the ages, the kind that stays with you for decades. The 100-meter freestyle was already shaping up to be one of the most thrilling races of the Olympics, with icons like Kyle Chalmers and David Popovici on the blocks, but it was Pan who stole the show. After a nerve-wracking fight just to make it past the heats, he came back stronger than ever in the final. As the world watched, he not only claimed gold but shattered his own world record by 0.4 seconds — an electrifying finish that left many fans around the globe in awe. This race defined his career — it’s one that I and the rest of the world will remember him for.

When Jordan Crooks touched the wall in 19.90, breaking that elusive 20-second barrier in short course meters for the second time, it felt like he finally accom-



GEMMA PARK/THE PHILLIPIAN

plished what he was almost meant to. This wasn’t just his second time dipping under 20m; it was also his second time swimming faster than sprint legend Caeleb Dressel. For Crooks, it was the kind of swim that didn’t just stop the clock — it cemented his place in my mind with the world’s elite.

Bobby Finke’s 14:30.67 in the 1500-meter freestyle was fast, but it was also a gutsy, pressure-packed masterpiece. With Team USA still searching for that elusive individual Olympic gold, all eyes were on Finke. And when it mattered most, he delivered. His signature closing speed on full display, he tore through the final 100 meters in a blistering 55.34. In that unforgettable stretch, he didn’t just win — he shattered Sun Yang’s twelve-year-old world record, etching his name into history.

Léon Marchand’s victory over world record holder Kristóf Milák in the 200-meter butterfly was the adrenaline-rushing race you’d expect from him. Fresh off a grueling win in the 200-meter breaststroke, Marchand had every reason to deliver a

lackluster performance — but he didn’t. With the energy of a roaring French home crowd behind him, he found the strength to swim stroke for stroke with Milák, ultimately outlasting one of the sport’s greatest talents. This battle against Milák cemented him in my mind as a future GOAT (greatest of all time), doing the seemingly impossible at the world’s biggest sporting event at only 22.

Noè Ponti’s 21.32 in the 50-meter fly was incredible and certainly undeserving of a fifth-place spot, but that simply speaks to the level of swimming we saw this year. Taking 0.3 seconds off the previous mark, a massive margin in such a short race, he reminded everyone just how dangerous he is in short course meters. Sure, his domination in the format made this achievement feel somewhat inevitable, but dropping a time like that still turned heads. When it comes to speed and precision in the short pool, Ponti operates on another level.

Combining my observations with numerical data for each swim, I’ve reached my final conclusion. I name

Crooks as the runner-up swim of 2024. Crooks’ world record represents a culmination of his potential. Talented but often falling short in important moments, Crooks delivered when it mattered most. He swam a nearly perfect race, one that might have outshone other performances in any other year. However, I feel that Pan Zhanle’s performance was better. Competing against a stacked field on the highest stage in swimming, Pan rose to the occasion and surpassed expectations. He dusted his competitors by over a body length, leaving spectators and myself in awe of his performance. Watching the race as a swimmer, too, everything from his technique to the power in the kick and the way he seemingly rode the waves felt immaculate. With this win, Pan not only secured his legacy but also elevated the sport to new heights. Pan’s Olympic gold-winning swim represents the pinnacle of male swimming in 2024. With the new year ahead, let’s look forward to another year of incredible races and record-breaking performances.



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- Sophia Lazar ’26

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# Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

## Fashion Through the Ages: Great Gatsby-Themed Outfits at Casino Night

WENDI WEI

Last Saturday's Casino Night inspired a variety of creative outfits, from vintage fedoras to smoking jackets and flapper headbands. This fundraiser encouraged students to channel the 1920s Great Gatsby theme with suits and gold accents; each look reflected their personal style, making the event a celebration of fashion.

NICK LIMA '25

"I wore a suit combination: a blazer and suit bottom. The beret [I wore] I got in a Dorset country store in Vermont. The sunglasses were from Costco, the tie from Hermes, shoes from Vans and I can't remember where I got the cane from. The brains behind [this] operation were my stylistic advisors in the dorm. But, I'm just the face, and they are the brain, the machinery, [and] the muscle. I wanted to go for a little bit of James Bond, Casino Royale, the frontman from Squid Game, [mostly just] an amalgamation of those three. [I felt more] confident knowing that I was, with my stylistic advisor's help, wearing indisputably the best outfit at Casino Night. It really affected my composure at the event."



NINA TORRENS '26

"I was wearing white shoes and a black mini skirt [and] a black tank top that had gold beading at the neckline. I also took one of the flapper headbands from downstairs and it matched my shirt. Since I saw the theme was Great Gatsby I wanted to [wear] a lot of black and gold and pearls because I thought they would match the theme best. The tank top [was actually] my friend's, she thrifted it and it's really vintage so I think it fits the vibe perfectly. Great Gatsby [reminded me of] short dresses and sparkles and stuff, [and] I wanted to keep going with the theme and accessorize accordingly."

TAM GAVENAS '25  
(LEFT OF PHOTO)

"I was wearing a Hermes smoking jacket with a tuxedo shirt and black jeans from Ralph Lauren. My mom, in the 1980s, was a fashion editor and she bought that smoking jacket at her workplace, and she decided that it would be nice for me to have [plus] it was Casino night, so I had to get dressy. [The] cufflinks that I had on my tuxedo shirt were my first pair and I've had them ever since I was like eight or nine. I've never worn them so [Casino Night] was my first time. Based on The Great Gatsby, just the outfit itself was fitting. There was a movie called Midnight in Paris. It's a Woody Allen movie and I feel like the whole idea of moving through different centuries, being present in the 2000s makes the 19th century so true to this."

FRANKLIN KOZOL '27

"I saw the Great Gatsby theme, so I put on a suit and tossed on a little vest [and then] grabbed a fedora to top the outfit off. My inspiration was Leonardo De Caprio in The Great Gatsby. There are so many awesome outfits in that movie, but it was always the suit and vest [combination] that stuck out to me. The fedora is my dad's. I've only seen him wear it a couple times, but I was like Casino Night, Great Gatsby theme, '20s, might as well throw it on. I foraged a bit around in my closet and found a vest. Couldn't find any suspenders or anything, but I'm lucky I found that fedora."



PAPA PAINTSIL '26

"I wore a dark red velvet suit, [and] I used some really cool black shades from the ASA wedding. I was a groomsman in that, and I kept those glasses to kind of repurpose them for this event. I think this is my first time wearing a suit at an Andover event, and I'm really happy that the look came out well. In the realm of gambling in the casino, I feel like I kind of felt like a mob boss if that makes sense. My outfit kind of embodied the bold fashion and extravagant style of the roaring '20s, which is what Great Gatsby is based on. The glitteriness of my suit, the red suit, adds a touch of luxury and glamour that was reminiscent of the Gatsby's parties. Then the red on my suit brought a more matte, modern, but also vintage sophistication that fit the era's overall grandeur."



## Ordinary Days: Transforming Everyday Stories Through Dance

MAGGIE SHU &  
NINA TORRENS

Last Friday and Saturday night, student choreographers and dancers joined together in a production that featured emotion, storytelling, and dance. With choreography by Alex Giarnese '25, Jac Gordon '25, and Tara Wei '25, THD902's "Ordinary Days" reflected weeks of dedication. Despite challenges with scheduling and attendance, the performance made a lasting impact on both the choreographers and the audience. Choreographer Jac Gordon '25, felt that her hard work and dedication over the past few months ultimately paid off. The final production was an accurate representation of her, and her choreographic talents. Gordon said, "Tara, me, and Alex put in a lot of work over the term, and I think we were all very proud of the outcome. It definitely showcased who we are as people and as dancers, and I'm so proud of all three of us for coming up with the vision and the concept and the lighting and the choreography, and I think overall it was just such a great production. "Ordinary Days" highlighted the beauty in the mundane, bringing attention to the small everyday moments that may go overlooked. The performance's blend of heart-felt pieces — like Giarnese's emotional work on grief and Gordon's high — energy hip hop piece—showcased the power of dance to capture both the intimate and vibrant sides of life. "I went to the performance because I had a lot of friends here both performing and also the choreographers for the performance, so I wanted to come out to sup-

port. I think my favorite part was either Alex's last piece — that piece made me almost cry, it was so sweet— or Jac's hip hop pieces, because those ate. Alex's piece, all of it together was [about] grief, and the last piece was so warm. He's one of my closest friends so seeing that, it was really sweet, and really special," shared Amina Gorman '26. The performances' diversity in themes and choreography allowed each piece to stand out while still feeling unified. Attendee Mia Burton '25, highlighted how the choreographers brought their own distinct emotions and styles to the stage. Burton said, "they were all pretty separate. And they had their speeches in the beginning where they each said what their theme was. Tara's was kind of bright and uplifting. Jac seemed more like a genre study analysis with a story. I think that they were all very separate and yet cohesive, especially when they use the same artists for songs. There was some Radiohead, there was some Billie Eilish." Burton appreciated the creativity displayed in each piece, particularly in Gordon's choreography to "L'amour De Ma Vie" by Billie Eilish. The dynamic shift in style and dramatic stage changes showcased Gordon's innovative approach to captivating an audience. "My favorite was Jac's dance during "L'amour De Ma Vie" by Billie Eilish. That was a great song. And when they came out in the shiny shirts there was a huge stage change with the lights and there were strobe lights. And it was a huge genre shift in what her dances had previously been in the beginning of her piece. And I felt that it really displayed her creativity as a choreographer," said



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY /THE PHILLIPIAN  
Student choreographers Jac Gordon '25, Tara Wei '25, Alex Giarnese '25 thank the audience for attending "Ordinary Days."

Burton. Wei, choreographer of "Orange Exuberance," recognized that the process of creating her piece went far beyond just choreography, as she was responsible for every aspect of her piece. She acknowledged how the role required her to consider the broader picture, including details she hadn't anticipated. "I took away that it takes a lot to just put something together. So to just choreograph is so different than having to think about the lighting or even what to say in your speech. There were so many smaller things that I didn't think about going into this. And I real-

ized that I had to start thinking about costuming and the formations instead of just the choreography," said Wei. Though the process may have been extensive, Wei felt deeply moved by the final performance. Watching her vision unfold on stage and seeing her dancers passionately bring it to life was a testament to her hard work. "It was really exciting to see the visions that I [had] come to life and to watch my dancers actually be able to perform with the lighting and the music that I chose. So it was really beautiful to watch it all come together" said Wei. She continued, "My favorite

part of it was watching from the wings and cheering them on as they went and performed, and watching such raw emotions so close to them. Although I couldn't watch it in the audience, I was able to watch it in some capacity and it was just as beautiful and moving." Unfortunately, this THD902 production faced attendance challenges due to timing conflicts and overlapping events. Despite this, choreographers were thankful for the support of those who could attend, particularly their friends who made an effort to be there. Gordon said, "Because of the timing of the show, unfortunately not many people were able to come due to the blizzard and then Casino Night; I wish that we could have changed the timing a bit so more people could have come. We also had ADF the previous weekend, which meant that people were kind of burnt out from dance, but we did well considering the people that came. And the people that were most important to us came like our friends, so that was all that mattered. "Ordinary Days" resonated deeply with dancers, choreographers, and its audience, as it highlighted the storytelling capabilities of dance. Gordon, Wei, and Giarnese each brought their unique visions to life, conveying complex emotions and narratives. "Watching the other dancers bring to life their stories was just super impressive. It just reminded me of the fact that I'm surrounded by people that have these great minds and that, you know, dancers have so many ways of telling stories and I feel like they go underappreciated sometimes. So it's really fun to watch that come to life in the studio," said Burton.



# Arts & Leisure

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## POTW: Romantic Rhythms and Melting Melodies

**NATHAN CHUN '28:**  
**BRUCH VIOLIN CON-  
CERTO NO.1 MOVEMENT 2**

“I first encountered it when I was working on it six months ago. Every phrase and every moment is filled with an incredible tenderness and phrasing, and it’s unlike a lot of slow movements and concerto, which can be quite dull. It’s really a testament of the capacity of humanity to love.”

**MADELYN SONG '27:**  
**“THIS MUST BE THE  
PLACE” BY TALKING HEADS**

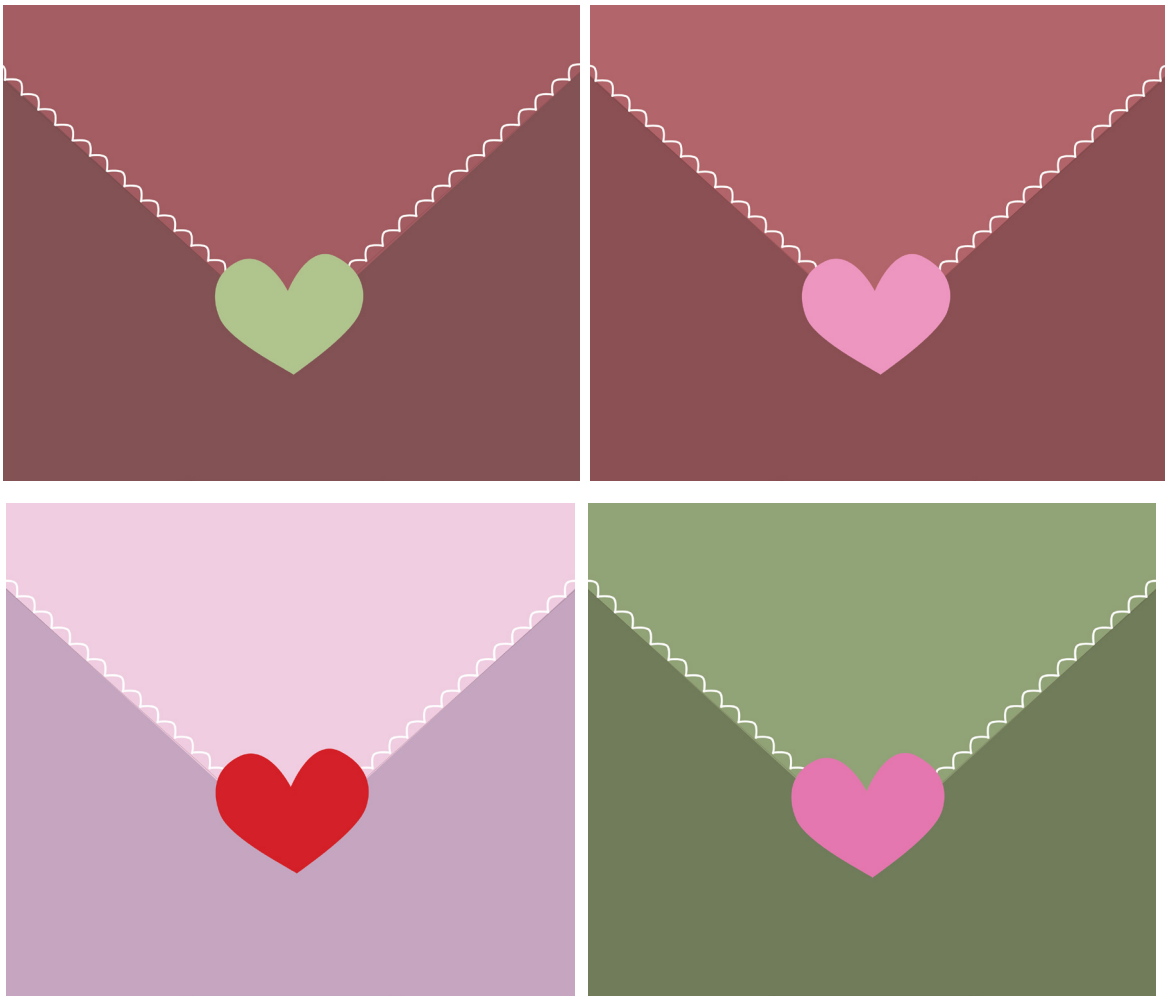
“My dad used to play ‘Talking Heads’ a lot, so I heard that song like once or twice when I was little. It’s really sweet. It’s about finding home in another person, even if you’re like, unsettled yourself — just being with someone else. It’s just [about] someone who makes you feel safe, and the song is very nice. Shout out to ‘Talking Heads.’ I love ‘Talking Heads.’”

**ERIC MYUNG '28: “VAL-  
ENTINE” BY LAUFEBY**

The vocals are glorious, and she has a very calming quality to it, and it still has a melancholy tone at the same time. Laufey is awesome. I really appreciate the composition and overall message of the song. It’s more than just a song, it’s an artistic statement. It also reminds me of her.

**MATTHEW WEI & CHARLIZE SOW**

*Love songs have a special way of capturing emotions we sometimes struggle to put into words, whether it’s joy, nostalgia, longing, or simple admiration. After Valentine’s Day, students shared their favorite love songs, with picks ranging from classic pop to orchestral pieces – a testament to the limitless definitions of love.*



**MIA BURTON '25:**  
**“MYSTERY” BY MATT  
MALTESE**

“Matt Maltese is so good at blowing his lyrics to extreme proportions, and then reeling them back in with simple analogies. In this song, he talks about the wiles of existence, and how even though the world is full of questions left unanswered, and our bodies are inherently mechanic, love is a constant to who we are. Most of all, Matt Maltese makes it clear that love is the most important thing above all else, even if it’s sometimes hard to understand. I think that’s beautiful.”

**AEVA CLEARE '26: “I  
JUST DIED” BY AMERIE**

“I think that ‘I just died’ is my favorite love song (but it was super hard to pick). It’s part of my favorite genre, sort of relaxed RNB, and I just think that it’s a super fun song to sing, and the lyrics are really fun to picture. Some of my favorite songs are weirdly complicated to sing, like the cadence of the words feel a little off so it’s hard to follow, but that’s what makes it fun, learning exactly how to copy the artist.”

## LOTW: Sophie Tung '25 Styles Streetwear With Theatrical Elements

**ADEN HWANG  
& DANIEL LIU**

Donning a graphic purple long-sleeve top from Marc Jacobs’ Heaven collection, Sophie Tung ’25 styles her outfit with a set of chunky necklaces, a pleated white skirt, and thrifted heels. With a purposefully bold silhouette, the long sleeves paired with the pronounced square shoulders surround the outfit with a theatrical flair.

Growing up, Tung attended a school with required uniforms, causing her to have little control over her day-to-day style. When she arrived at Andover, Tung found her chance to use fashion as a creative outlet, experimenting with bolder stylistic habits and shaping her personal aesthetic. Tung’s style is defined by bold colors and a distinctly Y2K influence, stemming from her mom’s fashion magazines.

“I went to a school in Hong Kong that required us to wear school uniforms. There wasn’t a lot of freedom in that. When I got to Andover, I realized that there’s no dress code. I started to like be bolder in terms of expressing myself through style. I’ve been recently leaning towards very vibrant colors. I really like wearing one very sharp color and then paired with other very dull colors. I draw inspiration from my mom’s vintage Japanese fashion magazines. I feel like most of the stuff there is Y2K, so that is like a huge inspiration for the way I dress,” said Tung.

A creative way Tung puts her outfits together is through a digital wardrobe program, inspired by the film, “Clueless.” Through having a digital archive of all

of her clothing pieces, Tung is able to envision different combinations and create an efficient system of visualizing outfits. Besides this program, Tung reflects her mood and the energy she wishes to give off through her fashion.

“In summer, I coded a program that has basically photos of all my clothes. It’s actually inspired by the digital wardrobe in ‘Clueless.’ I coded this system that lets you choose my outfits every day. When I’m feeling really down, I would definitely wear a lot of darker colors. When I’m feeling like I wanna be a little bit more intimidating because I’m not an intimidating person, I can only express that through my outfits,” said Tung.

Tung’s approach to fashion has evolved as she becomes more conscious of the environmental impacts of fast fashion. Now, Tung prioritizes sustainability through thrifting and creating her own clothes. Inspired by the show ‘Project Runway,’ which features designers creating their own fashion pieces, Tung alters old clothing into new and improved pieces instead of purchasing mass-produced clothing.

“I’ve been trying to shop less and I’ve been trying to definitely avoid fast fashion. I used to shop fast fashion a lot, but I’ve been recently trying to avoid [it]. Sometimes I would just go thrifting, and then if I really wanted to switch some things up, I might even go to The [Nest] just to adjust a piece that I don’t really wear anymore and just bring it back out again. Basically, when I was a really young kid, my parents got me into ‘Project Runway.’ I became very interested in making clothes and runway fashion,”

said Tung.

Looking ahead, Tung hopes to blend her passion for fashion with her experience in journalism. Either by taking courses in sewing and design or pursuing job opportunities, Tung hopes to expand and deepen her knowledge of fashion. Additionally, she aspires to intern at a large fashion magazine, building on her experience of working with campus publications. For Tung, the prospect of attending and reporting on runway shows is an exciting way to merge her interests.

“I do want to try taking summer courses in sewing or, especially in college, maybe I would take some courses outside of school or just [do] online workshops. I also kind of want to intern at a large fashion magazine because I worked for The Phillipian and I’ve worked for ‘The Pariah.’ I feel like if I can tie that part of my identity with fashion, that would be pretty cool. I would really like to go to fashion runway shows and interview designers and then talk to people and ask them how they think about fashion,” said Tung.

Making daring and bold fashion choices, Tung’s style is uniquely hers. Whether it’s experimenting with colors, textures, or unconventional pieces, she pulls off the outfits that others might hesitate to wear. Alice He ’25, a close friend of Tung, made note of her refreshing take on fashion, emphasizing Tung’s ability to style pieces that reflect her dynamic personality.

“Sophie’s style is very much a mixture of all the things that she loves and finds beautiful. She often wears pieces that, if I were looking at them on a clothing rack, I wouldn’t give



I. PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

**Tung puts her outfits together through a digital wardrobe program.**

them a second glance. But when she wears them, she somehow makes them very much her own. She’s able to make any piece of clothing look good. She likes a lot of colors and a lot of different textures, and that makes her very dynamic and very representative of her personality as well. If you ask most of my friends, they’d probably

say Sophie has the most unique and personable style. If I see an outfit, I know immediately that it’s something Sophie would wear,” said He.

*Editor’s Note: Sophie Tung was an Arts Editor and Alice He was a Managing Editor for The Phillipian, Vol. CXLVII.*



# Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

## Paul Hertz: An Artist-in-Residence Who Blends Art, Technology, and Activism

ELIAS JEON &  
DANIEL ZHANG

On February 13, the Addison Club hosted an open lunch with current artist-in-residence Paul Hertz. Hertz '67, a Phillips Academy alum, used this event as an opportunity to connect with Andover students and

As an algorithmic artist, Hertz generates computer algorithms to create abstract visuals. Despite the rise of AI algorithmic art, Hertz has managed to pave a creative path within the algorithmic art field, particularly through the diverse computational methods he uses.

“At first I hadn’t really come across algorithmic and generative art before other than AI art, but [Hertz’s] process was highly meticulous and also, very personalized. I was talking about post-digital art theory and how he humanizes the digital realm. I find that so compelling because I have never come across something like that before,” said Francesca Dizon ’26, board member of the Addison Club.

Straying away from traditional art mediums, Hertz skillfully combines algorithmic art, with one of his long-term passions, music composition. He consistently finds ways to translate sound — and the feelings different sounds may evoke — into visual art.

“I produce a lot of computer graphics using my own software. The latest ones are visualizations of audio waves. I have used simulated bird flight, regular random noise,

tiling patterns and topological procedures to produce images with the computer. I continue my collaborations with musicians and composers. I have developed techniques for collaboration involving shared structures and poetic concepts that can be used in multiple media streams,” Hertz explained.

No matter the media, art has always been more than simply a career for Hertz. Through his work, he has been committed to advocating for social, political, and cultural advancements.

Students who attended lunch with Hertz appreciated how he was able to draw inspiration from the change he wished to see in the world.

Dizon shared her experience talking to Paul Hertz, stating “he’s such a well-rounded artist. I’ve never come across art that blends so many different fields. He involved math and he aims to dismantle political, social, cultural structures. I find his work so compelling, so I learned a lot about him. It was just a really good experience to interact with different artists with different inspirations.”

Hertz’ return to Phillips Academy, as an artist-in-residence has been a full-cycle experience, considering it is where his artistic career began. Had it not been for an art teacher he encountered as a student over 50 years ago, Hertz likely would have never explored his artist capabilities.

“I attended Phillips Academy from 1963 to 1967 when it was still a boys school. I

thought I was going to study science. I loved mathematics, but in the summer of ’64 I met an art teacher, E.M. Cooke, who persuaded me that I could become an artist. After PA, I exhibited my work and also collaborated with theatrical performers and musicians. I laid the ground for a theory of intermedia composition, a way of producing both visual and musical work from the same structures,” said Hertz.

During his time as an artist-in-residence, Hertz is ready to share his work with a new generation of artists who are equally as passionate and dedicated to the art form. He is confident that his work will speak to those who are willing to listen.

“I’m here to talk about my work with different audiences. I hope to find in my work something that will awaken an echo in the people who are listening. I’m covering a lot of different subjects. It’s a challenge. I’m also doing some of my own work while I’m here. Solitude can be very productive and I found a little bit of solitude here along with a warm welcome,” said Hertz

Hertz encourages aspiring artists to avoid conforming to molds that restrict their creative freedom. Challenges are inevitable in the art world, making it all the more essential to stay true to your vision, even if that means exploring different avenues to support your passion.

“There are many different ways of practicing art. Art can develop in many different situations besides galleries and museums. The most import-



K. MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Paul Hertz ’67 finds ways to translate sound into visual art.

ant thing for me has always been to find communities of other artists that support each other. If I were to give any sort of advice it would be to seek out the community that supports your particular way of making art. Making a living with your artwork alone is not at all easy, especially if your work is unfamiliar or innova-

tive. It’s great if you can find other work to sustain you that is still associated with art. For me, that was teaching. If you have a vision for what your art should be, stick with it, but acquire the professional skills that can let you do many different things,” said Hertz.

## Art for Impact: Students Organize LA Fire Relief Exhibit

TAYLA STEMPSON &  
NATHANIEL DAROCHA

Last Saturday, students held “Arts, Words, and Voices: LA Fire Relief,” a workshop blending artistic expression with activism, raising awareness about the inequalities heightened by the Los Angeles wildfires. Organized by Elise Zhang ’26, Ethan Liu ’26, and Aglaia Hong ’27, the final exhibition is set to debut at Falls Hall on March 1, including student work, live performances, and a conversation with the CEO of the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation (LAEPF) Community Brigade.

According to Zhang, she and her fellow co-organizers identified a gap between awareness and action in wildfire relief efforts, believing there were not enough opportunities for direct support. In an effort to close the divide, they have been working towards the exhibition while providing students a meaningful opportunity to participate.

“Aglaia, Ethan, and I wanted to do something about it. We’ve seen a lot of awareness campaigns, but not enough direct action to help these communities. We wanted to lead that change and create a way for other students to get involved. Raising awareness

is important, but so is supporting grassroots efforts like the LAEPF Community Brigade,” said Zhang.

In cooperation with several campus organizations, the founders have planned several workshops leading up to the final exhibition, such as the one this past weekend. In addition to student groups, Zhang mentioned their continued work with the visual arts and music departments to coordinate logistics and promotion.

“Leading up to the exhibition, we have four workshops scheduled. We just finished the climate equity workshop in collaboration with the PASC. Next week, we’re hosting the social equity workshop with Asian Women Empowerment. We’re also organizing an economic equity workshop in collaboration with the Philanthropy and Investment Club. We’ve reached out to many campus groups to help advertise and contribute through workshops. We’ve been in communication with the music and visual arts departments to determine the best way to organize the event,” said Zhang

This exhibition is not just for show; student-organizers aim to use art to communicate an important message of equity. Ethan Liu discussed the importance of the topic, as well as plans to feature student work.



I. PADMAWAR /THE PHILLIPIAN

Organizers Aglaia Hong ’27, Elise Zhang ’26, and Ethan Liu ’26 worked to raise awareness on campus.

“The theme of our event is equity. There are different types of equity like social equity, economic equity, and environmental equity. By that, I mean the injustices that happen, and through these clubs we will touch on each of these and then see how we can help people who are interested in this event take their art and then connect,” said Liu.

According to Liu, these workshops are just the beginning. The trio has worked tirelessly to gather works from all over campus to be featured at the final show, with the hopes of bringing together visual and performing arts to demonstrate the communities’ contributions to activism.

“In my time here at Ando-

ver, I’ve rarely seen collaboration between the different art forms in the sense that we’ve had writing, visual arts, and the performing arts all come together in one event for one cause. I think that’s very powerful if it goes smoothly because it [shows] the collective power we have as an Andover community,” said Liu.

Write for Arts!

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## A circular seal with a scalloped edge. The text "BEST OF" is in large, bold, black letters at the top. "ANDOVERS" is in red, italicized letters in the middle. "2024" is in large, bold, black letters at the bottom. Below "ANDOVERS" in small text, it says "MADE IN ANDOVER, MASS."

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