The Phillipian

It's all about the blue

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2025-2026 Blue Key Heads Storm Through the Library, Marking the Start of Their Tenure

On Thursday evening, Andover met its 2025-2026 Blue Key Heads!

H. MANGCU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

"Insane. Sweaty." - Sarah Bae '26

"My throat is already sore." - Frank Hu '26

"GOOOO 26!" - Maya Clark '26

"Ecstatic and dialed." - Jack Farrell '26

"Amazing, excited, and I don't even know what to say." - Will Ware '26

"OVERJOYED!" - Maty Bah '26

"We are starting tomorrow." - Maddie Greenwood '26

"I'm at a loss for words." - Cade Rutkoske 26

"Blue." - Addison Deng '26

"LETS GOOO." - Malcolm Tolbert '26

Parting Words: Three Seniors Deliver Goodbye Remarks

KRISTEN MA & AZUL CABRERA

Last Friday's All-School Meeting (ASM) was devoted to Senior remarks offered by Migyu Kim '25, Sebastian Lemberger '25, and Giuliana Cardinale '25. The trio recounted their memories and imparted lessons they learned over the course of their time at Andover. The assembly would also be the last time Nate Liang '25 and Saraya Angbazo '25, Andover's 2024-2025 Student Body Co-Presidents, would take to the stage of Cochran Chapel to address the student body.

Kim kicked off the remarks by destigmatizing the construct of quitting, giving three of her own reflections of a "quitter." Kim used the example of her experience switching between two sports, squash and crew, to emphasize her three reflections.

"There's such a negative perception toward quitting that I'm quite scared to admit in front of you all that I'm a quitter myself. I did give up a bit [on squash]. To the other players, coaches, and parents outside of school, I was quitting the sport I had devoted my life to. But to me, I began taking advantage of the amazing opportunities at Andover, using my time to focus more on my schoolwork, join new clubs, attend cool events and conferences, and build new relationships," said Kim.

Reflecting on her speech afterward, Kim noted the difficulty in capturing the depth of her struggles, and how transformative the challenges students undergo can be.

K.MA/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Migyu Kim '25, Sebastian Lemberger '25, and Giuliana Cardinale '25 gave their Senior remarks last Friday.

"I almost wish that I was able to convey how challenging certain moments where I'd quit and had a really hard time were. That feeling of uncertainty and feeling of hopelessness at times, but also, the feeling of pride that comes with overcoming difficult challenges too. Those are feelings that everyone has experienced that's hard to put into words," said Kim.

Sebastian Lemberger '25 addressed the audience next, bidding a farewell to his Andover experience by redefining citizenship as the responsibility to support the pursuits of others rather than solely one's own.

"Reception is also something that you can give to others, and the ability to receive the work of others is something that even a washed-up Senior such as myself can do. A world of things was happening across campus, and I was completely unaware of it. For every email I sent, for every assignment that I completed, there was a performance or a talk that had one less filled seat and a hard worker whose work would be received by one less person. I believed that by doing things for myself, I was actually serving other people. Sometimes it is a more noble act to take the evening off and enjoy the work of another person than it is to revel in the necessity of your own pursuits," said Lemberger.

During his speech, Lemberger announced that every hymnal in the chapel had been bookmarked on Page 285. Sean Choi '27 noted his amazement of Lemberger's

Continued on A5, Column 1

Ancient Treasures Being Examined At the Peabody

NIKI TAVAKOLI & ADELYNE LIU

After travelling the world for thousands of years, a set of ancient treasures uncovered in the Office of the Physical Plant (OPP) four years ago, dubbed the "Classics Collection," is being housed in the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology. The collection includes items including Ancient Greek vases, jewelry, glass, and coins from Roman Judea as well as the Arab world. Students and curators alike are working to further catalog the collection.

When Head of School Raynard Kington and his family were moving into Phelps House, his husband Peter Daniolos was browsing through a list of OPP's available furnishings when he spotted a box labeled "Greek antiquities." Elena Dugan, Instructor in Philosophy and Religious Studies, is responsible for archival work related to this project. Dugan mentioned that the box, which was pulled from storage by OPP, contained materials far more historical than expected.

"When they pulled it off the shelf at OPP, it turned out to be this box that was full of vases that were 2,700 years old, and coins and glass and jewelry. It ended up at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology, which is the place that was the most ready to handle ancient materials," said Dugan.

The investigation into the

Continued on A5, Column 3

COURTESY OF RYAN WHEELER

At the Peabody, students were given the opportunity to view the ancient artifacts.

Where Did All the Borden Towels Go?

T.BASVI/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

The towel bins have remained empty in Borden locker rooms.

SOPHIA TOLOKH & CHRISTINA ESTRADA

What started as a stockpile of over 1000 fresh, fluffy towels has now dwindled down to zero: vanished into backpacks, lockers, and the abyss of dorm rooms. An honor system of "take one, then bring it back" was misused and now remains an inconvenience to many gym-goers trying to take a shower.

According to Corey Paolillo, Borden Memorial Gym's equipment manager, the towels were never formally removed — they simply never came back. Students would grab them, stash them in their lockers, take them to away games, or even bring them back to dorms, leaving the equipment room's stock to dwindle from 1,000 to zero in just over a year.

"I started five years ago, and it was more like you would hand in a dirty one and there would be someone standing at the door [who] would give you a clean one," said Paolillo. "When this mass volume of students are looking for stuff, [it's] not really sustainable to stand there and deal with clean and dirty towels all day. So, we just put them in the corner of the front of the room. It was an honor system, where you take one and drop it off [later], but I guess they would take the clean ones and not drop them off. So, it's just piled up in an abyss of missing towels," said Paolillo.

Jonathan Oh '27 commented that the disappearance of the towels was likely caused by students stockpiling them for personal use. He explained that individuals would take multiple towels during restocking periods and store them in their lockers, gradually depleting the shared supply.

"Something a lot of people do is since they know the towels in Borden are popular and in demand, and a lot of people use them after they shower, they tend to take extra towels when they restock in the equipment room and store them in their lockers for when they need them. It's a good idea if you're the only one that knows it, a secret method, but once everyone starts doing it, it becomes a problem," said Oh.

He added that this behavior created a collective action problem when adopted widely. Oh noted that while proper towel return would solve the issue, changing these habits in the boys' locker room remains unlikely in the foreseeable future.

"If everyone were to responsibly use their towels and return them, we wouldn't have this problem. The equipment room staff, Corey and Randy, are really good at washing towels and putting them back. If everyone just collectively used their towels and returned them as soon as they were done, that's the ideal situation. But in the boys' locker room, that's probably not going to happen in the near future."

Cora Rodgers '27, an athlete who uses the gym every day stated her disappointment at the situation. She added that students should bring the towels back.

"Well, a week ago I just thought they were out so I tried to get one because I was going to shower. I don't really know what's going on and why they're not there... [the problem] is kind of annoying. Return your towels please," said Rodgers

Commentary, A2
Adolescence as a Paradox
Emma Hong '27 reflects upon the cognitive dissonance that many adolescents feel when they see failure as both something that is natural and daunting.

Eighth Page, A8
Phunding Cuts
Elmo is not Tickled by Budget Cuts.

Sports, B1
Crew is Near-Perfect Yet Again
Despite a four-hour lightning delay, Crew won all but one race, repeating its scoreline from its meet last week.

Arts, B6
Annual K-pop show
Read about the K-pop Show, an annual student-led performance featuring a vibrant array of performances ranging from renditions of high-energy hits to acoustic musical covers.

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Editorial

Ave Atque Vale

The first roars you hear on campus come from the Seniors: slathered in blue paint, waving "Welcome Home" signs and dancing until your suitcase rattles. The first show of class pride you see is also from Seniors: leaping up from their seats to chant "Twenty-five!" to a crowd of bewildered Juniors. As simple as it sounds, Seniors are special because they've been here the longest. They have already navigated overflowing Canvas pages, experienced the whirlwind of the Freshman Fall Club Fair, and weathered the first shocks of homesickness. They have stayed up through the night finishing essays and learned to overcome burnout. Friendships of any kind are valuable in and of themselves, but the bonds we form with Seniors are all the more meaningful for the wisdom they carry — forged in the crucible of awkward first meetings and academic pressures, of late nights and caffeinated mornings. And these relationships are all the more precious for our dwindling time together.

Despite the prominent role Seniors take in shaping campus culture, they aren't the only ones who can offer advice. With Andover's diverse student body, everyone brings a different perspective and experience to the table. Even Juniors — just beginning their time at Andover, bright-eyed and energetic — remind older students of the excitement they felt when they walked through the wooden doors of the Cochran Chapel. Opportunity awaits at Andover, both outside and inside the classroom. Surrounded by exceptional kids from all across the world, we should utilize this time in our lives to learn from one another. So strike up a conversation with the person you sit next to in class, especially if you've never talked to them before. Get to know the people in your dorm, in your clubs, across the table in Paresky Commons. You never know where the conversation will lead — an answer to a dilemma you've been wrestling with or perhaps a new friendship — and time is limited. There are only three weekends left; six days of classes per subject. You may never get the same chance to know people again, and the moments with those around us will be gone soon.

Seniors and rising Seniors, while it can be easy to feel like just another face in a crowd of 300 students, don't underestimate your impact on campus. You have a voice that can help enact positive change within your communities. You don't need to be a student leader; it's enough to greet others with a smile, to lend a friendly ear, or to share a hard-won piece of advice. Leadership at Andover isn't measured in the years you've been here, but is found in your willingness to speak up.

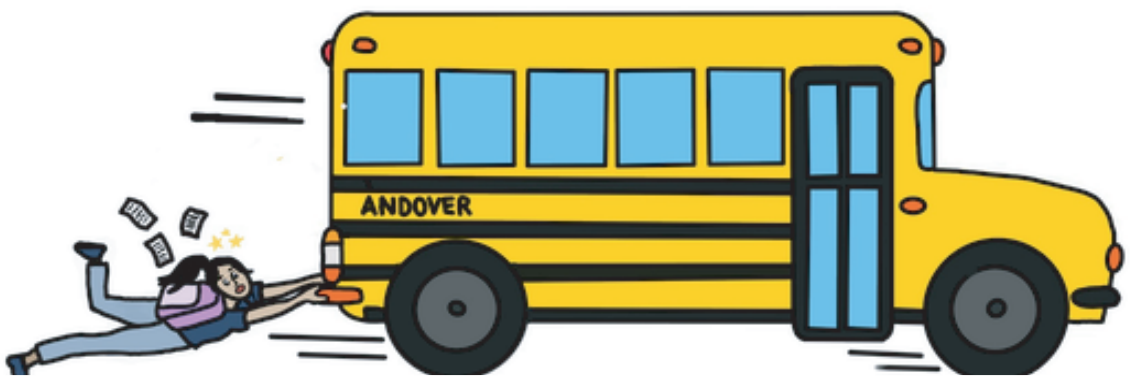
And to the Seniors: hail and farewell. Thank you for all the support you've given us — not just through Senior Remarks, but in the quiet, everyday moments. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, keep searching for ways you can uplift those around you, and carry the same positivity and empathy with you. It makes a difference; we can tell you for sure.

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

A Humble Reminder That It's Okay to Ask for Help

ALEX LIN

N. AMIN / THE PHILLIPIAN



ANNABELLE LANGHORST / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Skeptical. That's what many of my friends, including myself, felt about the adult support systems Andover has to offer. Even without giving it a chance, many of us assumed that counseling was ineffective. Others said their advisors kept canceling meetings, and that they didn't feel close to any adults on campus. However, after I decided to reach out for support, my skepticism evaporated. Whether it be from your prefect or house counselors, or a Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center (Sykes) counselor, I believe everyone, especially those who are struggling, should reach out and ask for help.

As school started to pick up recently, I'd felt like I was being dragged along, weighed down and dry of motivation. Tasks that used to be simple for me, for example, scheduling my time, studying structurally for tests, or even just keeping track of homework, seemed difficult. Yet, it felt as if everyone else was keeping up with everything without a problem, despite grief and stress. As much as students and faculty around me were saying that it was okay to allot time for myself, most people seemed to be doing fine. Was there something wrong with me? Then, one Saturday night, as I worked on the puzzle in our dorm common room, one of my house counselors brought up Sykes counseling. "I feel like everyone should try the counseling at Sykes at least once," she said, while I scanned the table for edge pieces. Did I really need it, or was I being overdramatic? Would it even help? My house counselor emphasized that counseling should be normalized and talked about. Later that night, I made up my mind. I sent an email to Sykes expressing my interest in booking a counseling session, and decided to go sometime in the next week.

Long story short, I didn't. Nor did I the week after that. I'd always come up with an excuse to avoid that short walk to Sykes: I was busy, or I had work to do, or I wanted to hang out in the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) instead. Only after a couple more unproductive nights, did I finally make the walk to Sykes. I wasn't sure what to expect, aside from a vague image of awkward questions and sterile silence. That couldn't have been further from the truth. With a cup of hot tea in my hands, I settled onto a couch, and gradually eased into conversation about all the struggles that I'd been having, emotionally and academically. Firstly, it was much easier to talk about feelings I was vulnerable about with a counselor. Although I knew these emotions wouldn't just "go away," it was nice knowing that there were valid reasons behind what I was feeling, and there wasn't anything wrong with it either. I was reassured: I definitely wasn't alone in this struggle. Lastly, we worked together to make a couple tangible plans to combat the issues that I'd been facing. At the end of my session, out of curiosity, I asked my counselor what students usually came to counseling for. She'd laughed, and said the answer was just about anything, from feeling stressed about classes to talking about a falling out with a friend.

I used to think that you had to be "depressed enough" to justify seeking mental health help, and anything less felt like overreaction. However, counseling isn't a last resort. It's a resource, and one that more people should feel comfortable trying. Talking to someone doesn't mean something's "wrong" with you, it just means that you're human, and you're taking care of yourself.

> **Talking to someone doesn't mean something's "wrong" with you, it just means that you're human, and you're taking care of yourself.**

Discussing counseling should be normalised. I'm not alone in my struggle to keep up with Andover's fast-paced schoolwork, especially amidst heavy emotions and grief. If I decided to ask for help after listening to those around me talking about it, why won't others? It could be the difference between a student struggling and thriving at Andover.

So please. To anyone who's struggling, this is a humble reminder that it's okay to ask for help.

Reach out. Speak up. You're allowed to take care of yourself.

There will always be people ready to help you do just that.

Alex Lin is a Junior from Singapore, Singapore. Contact the author at alin28@andover.edu.

The Phillipian welcomes all letters to the Editor. We try to print all letters, but because of space limitations, we enforce a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to edit all submitted letters. Letters must be responses to articles already published by *The Phillipian*. We will not publish any anonymous letters. Please submit letters by the Monday of each week to phillipian@phillipian.net or to our newsroom in the basement of Morse Hall.

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Corrections:

Tedd Parker's name was misspelled in "Community Gathered in Cochran Chapel for Lucas Lee '25's Memorial."

Malcolm Tolbert '26 name was misspelled in "Uppers Take On 2025-2026 Blue Key Head Tryouts."

Justin Bieber's surname was misspelled in the caption for "Not Just a Stage: What Andover Dance Festival Meansto Students at Andover."

The authors for "Rooting for the Planet: Earth Festival Celebrates Sustainability and Creativity" are Daniel Liu and Matthew Wei.

The Phillipian *regrets these errors.*

Held, Not Healed

PHILIP JEONG

I. PADMAWAR / THE PHILLIPIAN

There's a building at Andover where students go when their bodies give out: Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center (Sykes). Yet you don't go there to get better — you go there to disappear. Not permanently. Just long enough to slip out of sight, rest under fluorescent lights, and return to class without disturbing the flow of the academic week. For a place called the Sykes, it does remarkably little to make students well. It can hold you, but it cannot heal you.

This was the case last weekend, when I, with aching limbs, a sore throat, dizziness, and fatigue, went to Sykes in search of genuine help. Yet, instead of the medical attention I expected, all I received was closer to temporary confinement. They checked my vitals, asked a few questions, noted that I didn't have the flu, and offered me saltines and a bed. There was no treatment plan, no doctors in sight, and no conversation about what came next. I stayed the night. The next day, upon my discharge from the facility, nothing had changed. Still sick and exhausted, I went back. They welcomed me again — politely, professionally — but with the same limitations. In that place, my sickness was not solved but only isolated from the busy traffic of the world outside.

Eventually, I was excused from classes — granted an official reprieve from the obligations of the day. It spared me the harsh red "Unexcused Absence" of absence on BlueLink, but nothing more. Class assignments kept piling up, my classmates kept living their lives, and tests still loomed in the future. And when I returned to my room, it wasn't to rest — it was to catch up. I was excused from class, yes, but not from the consequences of my absence. At Andover, there is a hard distinction between being told to rest and being given the conditions to actually recover. One is performative. The other requires structural change.

The problem isn't within the people. The nurses at Sykes are kind, attentive, and patient. But they operate within a system that has no real infrastructure for recovery. Sykes cannot delay your exams, nor can it reschedule your deadlines or even negotiate with your teachers to minimize the impact on your GPA. It cannot even guarantee you another day to rest if your vitals don't quite hit the institutional threshold of "too sick to function." What it can do is offer you a warm blanket and a temporary bed — and then return you to the same cycle you were too sick to function in in the first place.

If wellness were truly treated as a priority, Sykes would be equipped not only to excuse students from class but also to initiate a short-term academic hold.

FRANCESCA DIZON / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

What makes this dynamic so difficult to confront is that it doesn't look like neglect. It presents as care — gentle voices, warm meals, rest. But without the power to interrupt academic demands, that care remains symbolic. If wellness were truly treated as a priority, Sykes would be equipped not only to excuse students from class but also to initiate a short-term academic hold. This would allow for a 48 to 72 hour pause on major assignments and assessments, similar to the accommodations athletes receive after a concussion. This is not about leniency. It would involve documentation, a centralized approval process, and a limited number of uses each term. These measures would prevent students from exploiting the system while protecting those who are genuinely unwell. Right now, students may be offered comfort, but the academic machinery continues without pause. And the message remains unchanged: take your day off, then catch up quietly.

So students keep going. We take tests with headaches. We write through fatigue. We show up not because we feel ready, but because we know that resting too long puts our grades at risk. It's true that students can return to Sykes if symptoms continue. But in practice, extended time at Sykes does not come with academic protection. In my case, I was still expected to complete the same assignments, on the same deadlines, with no additional guidance or delay. My performance suffered. I was left with a compromised version of both my work and my understanding. Over time, this becomes the norm. Students begin to accept that being sick means falling behind, and that recovery is something to figure out quietly, alone.

We need care in practice. That starts with giving Sykes institutional power. Imagine a system where, upon admission, a nurse can initiate an academic wellness hold — a 48 to 72-hour pause on assignments, exams, and participation, automatically communicated to teachers. No scrambling for extensions, no shame in asking, and certainly not begging for extensions on major exams that seem too far to hold onto. Just a structured stop, built into the system, the same way we accommodate concussions or physical injuries in sports. Academic departments should be required to honor these holds, coordinated through a central liaison, so no student has to negotiate while sick. If we claim to care about wellness, this must be the baseline. Until then, Andover will continue to hold its sick students only in the appearance of compassion. But holding is not healing. We deserve both support and comfort in the spaces where we go to fall apart.

Philip Jeong is a Lower from Suwanee, GA. Contact the author at pjeong27@andover.edu.

The Era of Illegal Deportations

JEANNIE KANG

K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

I was born in Seoul, South Korea. I am residing in the United States on a F-1 visa, which allows me to enter the country to pursue academic studies. Being an international student meant much less to me under the previous administration. Despite some struggles in cultural assimilation, I mostly felt welcome in America, an alleged "melting pot of cultures." America is often referred to as the land of opportunities, wherein, regardless of your immigration status, you are welcome to pursue your dreams and contribute to the country. That was the America I anticipated when entering Andover last fall. Under the current administration, however, being international feels like a major disadvantage. As an international student, an anti-Trump post on Instagram, one wrong move at an anti-Israeli protest, or even writing this commentary article can function as an excuse for the government to deport me from this country. The simple need we have forgotten to embrace is that everyone residing in the United States, regardless of their immigration status or political stances, must have the right to speak up for our beliefs and feel safe to call this country our second home.

Since Donald J. Trump's inauguration in January, deportation has crowded news headlines across major media sites. Around 48,000 people are under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention as of April 9, and about 190,000 individuals are currently being monitored by the government agency. The Trump administration's main argument for the deportations is that the deported individuals have entered the United States illegally and thus do not deserve to be in this country. Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, has repeatedly argued that entering the United States is a "privilege" and that illegal immigrants are a threat to the security of American citizens. In contrast to their arguments, according to the New York Times, immigration officials have attempted to arrest Yunseo Chung, a legal permanent resident and a student at Columbia University, for participating in pro-Palestinian protests. Similarly, according to "CNN," Tufts University doctoral candidate Rümeysa Öztürk was handcuffed by ICE officers for speaking up for Palestine. Many American citizens have also received emails from ICE threatening them to leave the country (due to logistical errors), which testifies to how clumsily and ineptly the deportation processes are functioning under the Trump administration.

ANGELA GUO / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Freedom is dead. Freedom remains dead. And the politics today have killed her. At the core of democracy lies our freedom of speech. Healthy politics revolves around the people's capacity to constructively criticize federal policies, and it should not be upon any government to manipulate the voices of its people. Freedom of speech and media reinforced the checks and balances system that prevented political corruption and instability. The history of ideological oppression from the McCarthyism era (in which political repression of left-wing individuals thrived) and the Immigration Act of 1918 (wherein "undesirable" aliens were deported) has polluted America. Political incentives of the Trump administration have resulted in the minorities and the underrepresented shying away from voicing their thoughts that are crucial to building the diverse national identity of the United States. Ironically, deporting legal immigrants testifies to the incompetence of the current administration, as the deportations alert people that the government is incapable of accepting criticism and improving its policies without such harsh, unjustified measures.

Deportation based on individuals' political stances is the worst form of ideological oppression. Unlike other similar forms of oppression, such as censoring the media and spreading false news, deportations completely shatter immigrants' lives and those of their families. International students and immigrants have arrived in this country with their individual aspirations and goals. Deporting us to silence our unique voices not only destroys our lives but also ruins the diversity on which America was built. Especially for immigrants from developing countries who have come to the States to financially support their families and escape the oppression in their own countries, deportation may result in life-threatening dangers or severe financial struggles. The current administration has been built on the murder of the efforts of immigrants – our wishes, our desires, our futures.

According to the State Of The Academy 2024, around 16.5 percent of Andover students come from countries around the globe. Many of us joke about being deported, yet under the sheath of humor lies genuine fear. The very real threat of deportation strikes us every time we consider uploading political content on social media, read a news article about yet another deported legal immigrant, and receive emails from school, concerning how Trump's policies may affect us. We are not demanding too much; as students who have left our home countries with many aspirations, we simply hope to feel safe in this country we love and care about. Even if you are not an international student, consider speaking up for the people you love. The deportation of legal immigrants influences not merely the deported, but also shackles the fundamental value of freedom itself for everyone in America. In times packed with fear and anxiety, Andover must unite as a student body to voice for the underrepresented. As Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States, said in the 2004 DNC convention, "It is that fundamental belief: I am my brothers' keeper. I am my sisters' keeper, that makes this country work."

Jeannie Kang is a Junior from Seoul, South Korea. Contact the author at nkang28@andover.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters on The Pope

Dear Editor,

The satire about Pope Francis in the April 25 issue — published only four days after his death — felt like an added stone on my grief. Its presence in the website's "Top Stories" section felt personal and political, especially after *The Phillipian* had already received a letter from the Catholic Student Fellowship Board outlining this joke's negative impact on many in our community, including me. I have been informed that the Eighth Page satire only targets public figures, and that caricaturing J. D. Vance and Pope Francis was deemed permissible as it didn't draw any distorted caricature of Catholics or Republicans.

However, I ask the editors to reconsider. The cartoon reduces a complex relationship — and the nuanced politics of both Pope Francis and the Church — to a laughable joke. As someone from Spain, a nation that called itself Catholic for centuries while justifying genocide, torture, and war, I am painfully aware of how religion can be weaponized. My Catholicism is a choice, freely embraced; I want every believer, of any faith, to enjoy that same freedom, as long as no one's rights or freedoms are denied in the process.

Satirizing religious figures remains a delicate matter. Interfaith dialogue often begins by listening to wounds left by past clashes, not by reopening them. I hope our community can use this moment to grow through respectful conversation, not division. I therefore urge the Eighth Page to remove the current joke from the website and, going forward, to exclude religious leaders, regardless of their faith, from its satirical roster- especially when related to political matters.

Respectfully,
Alberto Agudo Dieguez '25

Dear Editor,

Two weeks ago on Easter Monday, Pope Francis, who had served as pope since 2013, passed away. The deeply admired spiritual leader left an irrevocable imprint on both the Church and globe. His life and legacy touched thousands and the shockwaves of his love resonated beyond the confines of the Vatican.

On April 25, the Eighth Page wrote a satire titled "*The Phillipian* Satire: JD Vance's "Pretty Crazy" Last Conversation With The Pope" covering a fictional conversation between Pope Francis and J.D. Vance on Easter Sunday, the day before his passing.

The piece left me gutted and indignant. I was stunned at two things: The article portrayed Pope Francis's life and legacy in an incredibly demeaning fashion. His mission was condensed into "helping out the poor and the less fortunate... Immigrants and gay people as well." Although the article's intention laid in antagonizing J.D. Vance, the byproduct was a mockery of Pope Francis.

Pope Francis had a deep commitment to upholding the life and dignity of all, regardless of their background. Pictured frequently blessing children with cancer, inviting the homeless to his birthday brunches, and washing prisoner's feet, Pope Francis led with an unparalleled kindness and humility. Millions are currently mourning him. His pureness of heart, jubilant smile and progressive policies brought hope to believers and non-believers alike. He didn't deserve this type of send off, a remark that undermined the importance of his service.

Moreover, the publication's timing was in incredibly poor taste, being released even before Pope Francis was buried; his funeral was scheduled for the following day. He had not yet been laid to rest before this skit appeared on the Eighth Page.

The death of a Pope has never been the subject of *The Phillipian* comedy the week of his death, even though it is not a part of its policy. Moreover, the article contradicts *The Phillipian*'s charter. According to their charter, *The Phillipian* adheres to having "staff members... learn and observe the legal and ethical responsibilities expected of them as practicing journalists."

While we understand the role that satire plays in journalism and that this was a "non-serious" offhand joke, I would like to invite the members of *The Phillipian* staff, and members of the Andover community to engage in serious reflection on how this simple joke might have impacted the people who were affected by this loss.

This piece's content was insensitive and inconsiderate of the rawness associated with a loss. Let's allow the departed to rest unperturbed. And in his honour, let's commemorate Pope Francis with the love and compassion he boundlessly gave the world.

Signed,
Gabriele De Carlo '26 and Mayen Etuk '26
Catholic Student Fellowship Co-Presidents

Dear Editor,

I am writing this correspondence addressed to the Editor of *The Phillipian* in response to the Eighth Page Article J.D. Vance's "pretty crazy" last conversation with The Pope, dated April 25, of *The Phillipian* vol. CXLVIII, No. 10. Please consider this my complaint about the article's contents.

His Holiness Pope Francis spent his entire life challenging us to embrace the dignity of every human being. He impassionately advocated for economic justice, environmental stewardship, societal equity, and interfaith dialogue. His words, actions, and life resonated far beyond the walls of Vatican City and extended even outside the Catholic Church.

As a Episcopalian, I found the work of His Holiness and was moved by his compassion, humanity, and empathy. Although I am not a member of the Catholic faith, I stand in unity with the billions who turned to him as a moral and ethical compass. I grieve his passing and remember his sacrosanct role in our turbulent world.

Satire certainly has a valid place in the free press, but the timing of this article is simply jarring. When even members of our campus community mourn his death, *The Phillipian* has failed to reach out with empathy and has denied our rights to a respectful mourning period, something that is customary to many major publications. To simply skip straight to parody is nothing more than dismissive and disrespectful of one's life.

Andover is a community where diverse religions and spiritual faiths thrive, and all faiths deserve to be respected. This principle surely extends to their respective spiritual leaders. It is not in the spirit of "non sibi" or "Youth From Every Quarter" to mock his life, work, or even his final moments.

This article also sets a dangerous precedent on our campus, sending a harmful message that implies that the fundamental religious identities of students and faculty can be ignored and mocked for comedic and shock value.

Sometimes, it is true that humor can heal, but not when the target is those who have just departed. That sort of humor can only exacerbate the sadness and wrath of emotions that mourners feel and feel nothing more than offensive and bigoted.

I urge the Editors of *The Phillipian* to apologize to the members of our community who have felt disgraced and offended by the article. In a time of disunity and division in this world, country, and campus, the role of the media should not be to divide us further.

I remain hopeful that *The Phillipian*'s response to this issue would demonstrate the same integrity and compassion His Holiness embodied in every moment of his life.

I thank you for your attention.

Signed,
Jaewon Choi '28

Senior Remarks Provide a Platform for Reflection

Continued from A1, Column 3

feat and his appreciation for the message he conveyed.

"His speech was very engaging. I'd like to pinpoint one of his pranks with the hymnals, which I thought was very funny and interesting and creative. I wonder where he got the idea from and everybody was very shocked. I remember hearing the sound of everyone opening up their books at the same time," said Choi.

The last speech of the day was given by Giuliana Cardinale '25, who drew a parallel between her life and the movie, "My Old A**," urging students to remain present in their lives before the future creeps up upon them. Cardinale also commented on her gratitude for the opportunities and feelings Andover afforded her, and how those opportunities and feelings often went unnoticed.

"For four years, I've heard people say how excited they are to leave. Look at the world while you're still living in it. Love it before it becomes something you only talk about, and the teenager you're telling your story to groans. When you're constantly chasing that future version of yourself, it makes it hard to notice, to sit still, look around and realize that these moments of awkwardness and unfiltered joy and boredom and mess with these people. What would your old a** say to you?" said Cardinale.

Cardinale continued, "I don't think I always recognized what a privilege it is and has been to be here, to feel so deeply about a place. Even when those deep feelings sometimes manifested as frustration, even those of us who pushed back the hardest, who rolled our eyes and stopped and made fun of Andover's oddities, what a privilege it is to have something to push back on. Something big enough, flawed enough, absurdly wonderfully enough, crazy enough, alive enough to resist, to argue with, to be angry at, to hate so much you love it, to love so much you hate it, to always return to."

Wellness Fair Sheds Light on Mental Health Awareness Month

K.MA*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center and student clubs organized a Wellness Fair during protected tme last Friday.

KAI OBATA

Students gathered outside Commons on Friday during Protected Time for a Wellness Fair that brought attention to Mental Health Awareness Month through a collection of fun activities including trivia, rock decorating, and Italian ice. The event was sponsored by Sykes Wellness Center and organized by clubs such as Active Minds, Men's Mental Health Club, and Students in Medicine (SIM).

The fair was designed to reduce stigma surrounding mental health while offering students the opportunity to unwind and take a break from academic pressures. Drew Wasylyshyn '26, Co-Founder and President of Men's Mental Health Club and Co-Founder of Active Minds, took part in coordinating with Sykes and arranging the fair. He shared his thoughts on the importance of mental health-related initiatives during the term.

"We live in a very academically rigorous community, so activities like these are very critical in maintaining students' well-being, and just giving students a way to relax and take a break from work. Without these organized events, students may give their whole time to work and not take any time for themselves," said Wasylyshyn.

Wasylyshyn continued, "If your mental health goes, then everything goes. I feel that people underestimate how important mental health is in their lives, and bringing awareness to it through a light-hearted combination of activities like these promotes a positive environment. It's very critical to take time for yourself and just enjoy life, relax, and take a break from all your responsibilities."

As a board member of SIM, Catalina Smith '27 helped manage the Italian ice stand at the fair. She expressed that athough mental health is often discussed, reminders through events that allow the community to come together are vital.

"[Mental health is] talked about in general, but it's a good reminder. Opportunities like these, especially on Friday when it's the end of the week, are really important to bring people together. I hope that students get the message that it's okay to talk about mental health and it's important that that is prioritized, especially at a school like Andover when we have a really rigorous schedule," said Smith.

For students who attended, the fair offered a time for them to release stress alongside friends while enjoying a sweet treat. Everett Woo '25 reflected on the challenges of balancing academics with well-being at Andover. He also noted the self-growth that comes from learning to prioritize mental health.

"It's easy to get caught up in what feels like an academic race and sacrifice things like sleep, food, and self-care time. But we need to learn that it's okay to slow down and take care of ourselves. This way, we will actually be better at the work we do, and slow down and develop empathy and an ear to listen to others," said Woo.

Daniel Zhang '28, a board member of Active Minds, was among the students who helped bring the fair to life. While he only recently joined the board, Zhang highlighted the value of student-led activities in conducing a more supportive environment.

"[The Mental Health Awareness Fair] was a way to show that other students are looking out for you. Though Andover has a lot of wellness resources provided by Sykes and the teachers, it's always nice to know that fellow students are looking out for you and trying to make Andover a more mentally healthy place," said Zhang.

Students and Faculty Have Worked to Catalogue the Artificats

Continued from A1, Column 5

Classics Collection has involved many people thus far. Dugan has spearheaded the project, and students from various Religion and Philosophy classes have helped with cataloguing the finds after a specialist from Harvard University paid a visit to help with initial classification. Marla Taylor, Curator of Collections at the Peabody, has been coordinating the logistics behind the cataloguing and storage of the collection, and expounded on the response of students and faculty to the news about the collection.

"The most interesting [thing is] how much faculty interest and student enthusiasm [there is]. Students do get excited about the collections at the Peabody. It's a small number of students who get really interested in the Native American collections. There are more students interested in the Classical Collection, and it's been interesting to see the dynamics of that when our attention is the opposite. It's been really fascinating, and I'm curious to see where it goes and see how these pieces can be utilized to supplement your education," said Taylor.

Among the items were coins that dated back to the Roman occupation of Judea. Other pieces included ancient Egyptian mummy masks and domestic objects from the Classical world. Selene Xu '27, one of the students studying the artifacts, noted her excitement about this as a hands-on learning opportunity and the possibility for student-led research.

"I thought that [the coins] were really cool, and I didn't know that there were so many of them. Just looking at the digital pictures that Dr. [Ryan] Wheeler [Director of Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology] sent me, I didn't see what the significance of each coin was, and I just thought they did a lot of work and it's really impressive. There's definitely going to be student presentations once they get to do more work on them, but there are so many coins left, and we're just starting. There's a lot more work to do," said Xu.

The wide-ranging collection originally arrived at Andover thanks to Selah Merrill, a former American consul to Palestine around the late 1800s who brought artifacts back with him when he returned to the United States, putting them in his house as a 'Museum of the Bible' for students to tour when he subsequently taught at the Andover Theological Seminary. Thus, Andover's possession of the wide-ranging collection has raised ethical and moral questions among the students and faculty involved.

Austin Washington, Instructor in Philosophy and Religious Studies and a member of the project, noted the complexities of holding such items within a high school context, particularly when their origins trace back to a different region.

"The moral questions I'm asking are related to the presence of the coins on our campus. They're in our country and we know them to be part of the Israel-Palestine region. How did the coins get here? Do we have a responsibility to send the coins back? Do we have a responsibility to put the coins in an institution that's more easily accessible? Do they belong somewhere other than a high school? Why should we keep these coins? Thinking about the person who brought the coins as an individual, [and] the means by which he used to get these coins, did he have a conversation with anybody about moving those coins from the Israel-Palestine region?" said Washington.

In the future, Washington and Dugan will be attending a national conference in November to further discuss the collection and the ethics surrounding it, with experts in related fields. Many faculty members involved with the project, including Washington, also hope to integrate the collection into their class curriculum, given the historical significance of the items.

"We hope to design curriculum around the coins to make the coins useful to us in classrooms, create opportunities around the coins for people to understand what they're looking at, and engage with that part of the world and that moment in history," said Washington.

Students Collaborate With Peabody on Archaeological Research Projects

IAN S. KIM & SAKETH LINGISETTY

Since its renovation last year, the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology (Peabody) has been working on expanding opportunities for students to engage with archaeology in and out of the classroom. Recently, students have worked with the Peabody's collections to create archaeological research projects on a range of topics, including ethnomusicology and Indigenous culture.

Lainie Schultz, Curator of Education at the Peabody, explained her role in facilitating the Peabody's engagement with the rest of campus. Schultz noted the various formal and informal opportunities for students to engage with the Peabody's collections.

"There are opportunities for students to engage on their own outside of the classroom experience with the Peabody, and that can be self-initiated or that could be in partnership if there's an opportunity. Students can come with a specific idea [or interest] in mind, and then I can help them develop that, or my colleagues can help develop that. We already have a really robust work-duty program that I work with my colleague, [John Bergman-McCool, Collections Coordinator]. [Also,] finding opportunities to engage with the collections [and] the communities that are related to the collections," said Schultz.

Alberto Agudo Diéguez '25 pursued an independent research project on a set of Pecos bone flutes after reaching out to Schultz about musical instruments in the Peabody. Explaining how the flutes were the main inspiration for his research project, Diéguez elaborated on his key takeaway from the research process.

"What inspired me to do this project was that at the start of the year I was taken to a lecture [at the Peabody]. Out of curiosity, I just went there and asked about musical instruments, and the only thing that they had visible for me was a set of flutes. And I was like, 'Okay, why can't I not study it? When will I ever have this opportunity again of studying something archaeological inside my educational institution?'... This is my chance, so I'll just grab it and do an independent research project, which I had wanted to do for a long time," said Diéguez.

Diéguez continued, "I had always studied from textbooks. This project threw me into a scholarly conversation where you basically say, 'I have these conclusions, what conclusions do you have?' and then we try and develop something that's as close to the truth as possible."

Another student, Patrick Zheng '28, shared how his love for history led him to become involved with archaeological research. After learning about a set of ancient inscribed coins in the Peabody's collections, he volunteered his time to research that collection every week. Zheng noted how his work with the Peabody offered him a unique opportunity to directly engage with history through artifacts.

"I actually went to Rome, so that really inspired me because it really made me become aware of how close history can be. And because it really brought me face to face with what I loved, what I love to study. After coming back from break, I just kept that mindset, and I kept on being inspired by it. It was really convenient at that time because the Peabody [had] just announced that they had made this remarkable discovery of their new collections," said Zheng.

This spring, members of the Andover Anthropological Society (AAS), a club that allows students to engage with the Peabody's collections, studied household artifacts from Utqiagvik, an Indigenous settlement in Alaska, and presented their findings to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. Isabel Djerejian '26, co-founder of the AAS, explained that the society plans to continue this research sequence, and continue to find ways to engage students who are interested in the Peabody's collections.

"There wasn't a quick link or easy connection between student life and the Peabody, and so I wanted to bridge the two and make a really easy path between anyone who might be interested or want to learn more about what's housed in the Peabody... [Our project] was a good starting place for our first year. What we're trying to do now is every year research something from the Peabody and then present our findings to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society meeting," said Djerejian.

Zheng detailed how the Peabody welcomed his interest in its collections. He encouraged students to reach out, regardless of prior experience.

"Don't be afraid to reach out. I had nothing to do with archaeology. I didn't know how anything worked. But because I wanted to learn about it, [because] I wanted to experience this history, I reached out, and everybody was patient enough to teach me," said Zheng.

Schultz reiterated the presence of the Peabody as a resource on campus to learn more about history through its collections. She encouraged students to reach out to them with any specific interests they might have.

"One of the truly amazing things about the Peabody, having a resource like this on campus, is that there are so many knowledges, especially Indigenous knowledges that can really complement our learning and our knowledge of the world... Students should at least know that we're here, that we have these stories present, that they have this opportunity to engage with us, and [that] if they are looking for any ways to engage with Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous presences, they can talk to us, and we can help them with that," said Schultz.

10 Questions with Elena Dugan

REPORTING BY NIKI TAVAKOLI

Elena Dugan is an Instructor in Philosophy and Religious Studies and a lifelong explorer of varioous religious texts. In her free time, Dugan works on cataloguing the Classics Collection, watches baseball, spends time with her kids, and takes voice lessons.

E. LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

What was it like teaching classical mythology in a medium/maximum security prison?

One of the things that [the experience] really impressed upon me is how difficult the lives of my students and how rich their social worlds were, because so much of what we did was just talk. Being incarcerated takes so many things away from you, but one of the things that it doesn't really take away from you is your ability to talk and be with other people who are inside. That class is the inspiration for the class here we have on the books called "Crime, Punishment, and Justice," [PHR513} which is one of our electives in the department. There's a direct line from that class to the class that we taught in East Jersey State Prison. The same texts that we covered are the texts that we cover here. We read texts like the "Oresteia," and then we read a play which was written by my students about what it's like to be incarcerated, and inflected by classical myths.

How was your experience working in a salmon cannery between years in college?

It was so smelly. There's a couple different sections of a salmon cannery. The highest classiest one is to work in the egg room which is to do fish roe and that's where [Austin] Washington, [Flagstaff Cluster Dean and instructor in Religion and Philisophy], got to work because he is classy. I am not. We did king salmon which are the biggest fish and so those have to be gutted too. I would do the head and gut line sometimes where you would gut the fish. Then they would be frozen whole and sent off to restaurants instead of grinding it up into cans. When they found out that I would do one year of college they made me do the computer. It's really cool because there's people with very interesting lives who decide that they would like to go to the middle of nowhere in Alaska to can fish for eight weeks. I met really fun people and truly lost my sense of self three weeks in..

What inspired you to pursue Religious Studies as a career?

When I went to college, I was pre-med, and I was like, "I'm going to be a doctor!" Then I took a couple classes on religious studies. I took one intro to the Bible, and I said, "Well this is pretty great." Then I was supposed to do my biology requirements, and I kept just not doing them, so I got my degree in religious studies. I kept finding projects that really interested me in the world of religion and religious studies. When I went for my first masters, I thought that the Bible was very interesting. When I went for my second masters, I thought that the Ancient Mediterranean and the world of Islam was very interesting. I was doing a lot of Arabic at the time. I just kept coming up with new, different stuff.

Are there any specific texts that have interested you over the years?

I loved the stuff that didn't make the cut in the Bible. I worked a lot on the Dead Sea Scrolls. [They] are a bunch of texts that were discovered in the Judean desert, which is somewhere in the Jordan, West Bank, Israel area today. I've always thought the people who have really extreme ideas are just the most fun to talk to and the most fun to listen to. A lot of the people who put together the Dead Sea Scrolls decided that they'd go live in the desert, they wouldn't talk to anybody else, and they'd just hang out by themselves. I was like, "What a weird way to live your life. Tell me more about why you're doing that."

How and why did you learn ten different languages in graduate school?

A lot of it was chasing down this book that didn't make the cut in the Bible called the Book of Enoch. That book is a different version of the Book of Genesis. That story in particular was very valuable to Jews living in Judea and maybe Egypt around the third century BCE. The place that we find it is in Ethiopia in the fourteenth century CE. I was like, "How did that happen?" I learned a bunch of languages. I learned Arabic, Classical Ethiopic, I learned Greek, I learned Syriac, all to try to say, "How are you people talking to each other, and how did these stories get from place A to place B?" I would hang out until I found something that needed a new language, and [then] I was like "I guess I have to learn another one." And then I learn[ed] a little bit, just enough to read it. Then you're like, "Well that was okay, now I need to do another one," and then you go another way. When I was in graduate school, I learned ten different languages, but I learned them all a very minimal amount.

What was it like going to graduate school in Scotland?

My family is Scottish, so I went there as an undergraduate as an exchange student. Then I went back as a graduate student. I went on a Scottish heritage scholarship, because my grandmother is Scottish, and so there was a thing that sends people of Scottish heritage to go study at Scottish universities. It was so fun. I still do have a lot of friends there. When I was there I also worked as a bartender at a pub. Edinburgh is a beautiful old city. I thought it was very romantic. I read lots of Scottish books – I was very into that portion of it. But it was a big thing for me, [and] it was a big thing for my family. I'm very close with my grandmother. For me to be able to go back to her country, she was very excited about that.

You have written a book called "The Apocalypse of the Birds" – what is it about?

[It's about an old story of] someone who thinks that the end of time is coming. They tell this weird "Animal Farm"-esque story, where they're like "These people are the wolves, these people are the sheep, and these people are the pigs." For a very long time people thought that this story came from a time in which Jews who were living in Judea were fighting with the Greeks. My argument is that that doesn't make a ton of sense, and instead [the story] comes from an even more prominent time: when Jews were fighting with the Romans. The Romans would end up unfortunately kicking them all out of Jerusalem, killing many people, and doing what the Roman Empire did from time to time. That particular revolution is called the first Jewish Revolt and it happened in 70 CE, so my argument in the book is that this apocalypse is actually one of the only sources that we have from the people who actually led this revolution.

What drew you to Andover?

I love teaching about religion and the ancient world, and I really love doing it with people that are super keyed up and super happy to be here.

One of the things that makes our classrooms so fun that you didn't get when I was teaching in college...[is that] when people know each other they just talk in a more interesting way... Every classroom is [made up of] enemies, frenemies, best friends forever, people who are in a lacrosse rivalry, and then it just makes everything so rich and so fun. Religion is the most interesting thing that humans have ever come up with. Every single weird idea and every single fun idea that humans have ever come up with, they just stick it in religion. To take all of humanity's most extreme ideas and talk about them with a bunch of people who are friends and frenemies is so fun.

What is your Baseball and Philosophy (PHR541) class like?

I've been obsessed with baseball my whole life. One of the things that I have always really loved about baseball is that it has a really dense, confusing social world. A big part of Baseball and Philosophy is about baseball's unwritten rules, which are the things that you really should know, but you don't and they won't tell you, because you should just know it. I've always thought that that was just such a strange and wonderful thing about the world of baseball. Plus, baseball is the backbone of what an American sport looks like. When America was reckoning with the way that they thought about race in the '40s and '50s, baseball was right there at the front line. When women were starting to step out of "the home" into different arenas of life, baseball was right there with them. Baseball maps a lot of what happens just in American history. It [also] has this super peculiar, strange world of how much cheating is okay, because actually a little bit of cheating is okay. How much revenge should you take, because a little bit of revenge is okay, but not a lot of revenge. When do you get to throw pitches at people's heads? The answer is basically never. But when do you get to throw a pitch at someone's butt?

Why do you think it's important for students to study religion?

I am heavily into music, It's not all going to suit you and it's not all even going to make sense to you, but religion is just a record of the extent of what humans can think. Sometimes it's really cool and you're like, "Wow." Sometimes it's really bad, and you're like, "Why did you do that?" [Religion] motivates people to do things that are so beautiful, and so ugly, and so all over the place. Religion is one of these completely unique aspects of human life that's worth taking a look [at]. Even if it's not your jam [or] even if you don't think you're religious, it's just a record of people being like, 'This is what it is to be human and I'm going to push it all the way to the limits.'

AP Testing

What Advancement Placement Exams are Andover Students Taking?

REPORTING BY JENNA LIANG & KRISSY ZHU

AP French

"For French, I purchased an AP Study Guide. I think I would've liked to space out my studying a bit more instead of cramming it into the last few weeks. For French, I've recently been working to incorporate as many cultural and grammar aspects from the AP syllabus as possible into my assignments as practice." - Patrick Xu '27

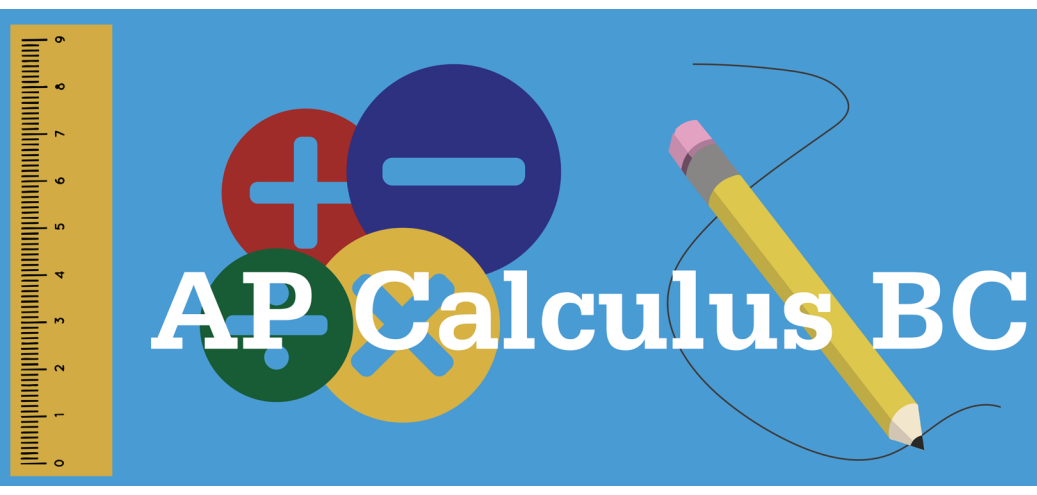
AP Music

"I'm taking [AP] Music... Andover courses prepare you very well for the AP tests, and the way they're graded allow for some gaps in your knowledge, so I would say don't be super stressed about it. I would still recommend doing your coursework and maybe do a little bit of extra studying." - Niccolo Lee-Suk '28

AP Computer Science

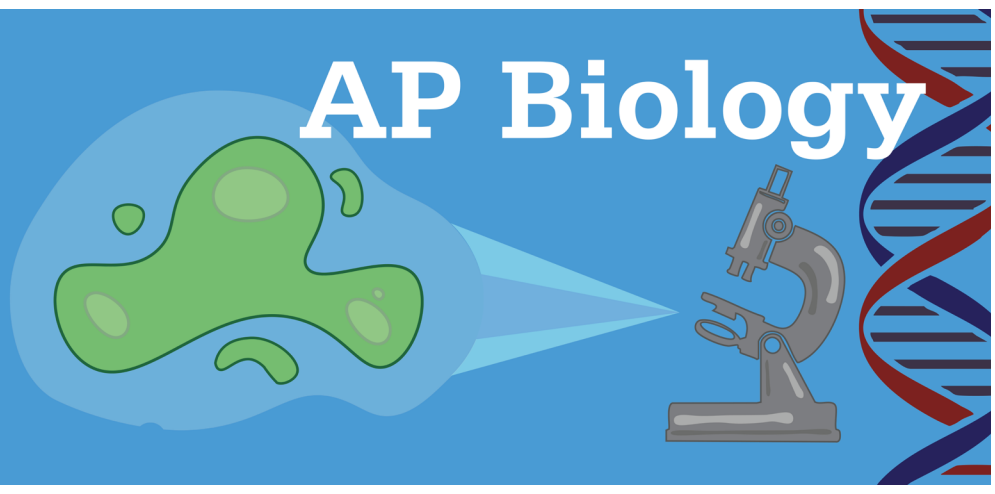
"I'm taking AP Computer Science A (CS A). I already know a bit of Java, but in general I'm just looking around online, looking for study guides, trying to cram as much stuff into my head. I think AP CS A is a bit on the lighter side of AP, since I already know a bit of computer science, but in the future if I give myself a bit more time to practice..." - Elliot Chang '28

AP Calculus BC



"The only classes here that have really helped with prep[aring] are the official AP classes like AP [Calculus] BC because they actually give practice tests as part of the material… but they're (AP tests) not that important unless you're trying to get something like the AP Scholar awards." - Angelina Vincent '26

AP Biology



"I took [Advanced Placement (AP)] Biology on Monday, [and] I think school prepared me well... A piece of advice I would give people who are trying to take APs would be to not stress about it that much... so if you don't feel ready to take one, then don't take it." - Siona Chan '26

Write for News!!!

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Supreme Leader Going to Prom With 6'5 Feminist

Grace Chen

Hello my esteemed friends,

It has come to my attention that a new crop has risen, students full of life and of lap dancing abilities, students who almost come close to paralleling my previous presence on this campus. As a self proclaimed head cheerleader and a terrific understanding boisterous society member, I feel that it is my duty to advise you on how to do your job. As such, I feel that a list of items and of "dos and don'ts" would be most fitting in this situation, as I would like to pass on my extensive knowledge to you bright shining stars:

DOs:

Shake summ (If you aint twerkin it aint workin)

Gunga (Can be taken both ways)

Party with the King(ton)

Go to football games

Ask for consent when lap dancing

Worship Mr. Capano

DON'Ts

Find yourself in the back of a truck

Flash others on Fridays

Turn off your speaker in the chapel

Ask anyone under the age of 16 to be your valentine

Be the one driving the truck

In conclusion, my fellow Blue Key Patriots, I believe in you. I believe in your right to shout, to dance, to shake it and bake it, but most importantly, I believe in you.

Week's Top Headlines

- *Olympic Athletes Travel to Andover to Use Morse Stairs For Resistance Training*
- *After Assessing the Quality of BKH Tryouts, George W. Bush Has Decided to Take A PG Year and Return to His Status as Head Cheerleader*
- *Freshman JV Hockey Player Announces Plans to Grow A "Playoff Beard"*
- *Morse Basement Examined For Allergens or Irritants That May Cause Red Eyes*

Thiago Jollon

Minecraft, a game created by a racist Swedish guy with no friends has a universal appeal. It has been played by Swedes, racists, and people with no friends since its release in 2011. So basically, white people. The game has soared back into popularity because of the explosive Minecraft Movie. Everyone from little kids, teenagers, and grown men went to the theaters to bask in the nostalgia, relive cherished memories, and scream "chicken jockey" at the top of their lungs before assaulting the person next to them. All of this mirrored a minor South American soccer (football) game, except none of the profits were embezzled. Much like Shakespeare, the Minecraft Movie has also introduced new words into the English language. "Flint and steel" used to only be something your Boy Scout troop leader would say. But phrases like "chicken jockey" have left an indelible mark on the world. I mean, even *The Phillipian* wrote about it. In 69 years, when my grandchildren ask their senile, meth addict grandpa what life was like before the Greenland-India-Pakistan-Panama-Taiwan-China-Exeter-Russia War, I won't tell them about the price of eggs ($4.20), my GPA (3.0, Andover-scale, rounded up to the nearest whole number) or the 2024 Andover Boys Football record (1-7). I'll tell them about chicken jockey, about what a movie theater was like, and what being arrested in one for public urination was like too.

NATHAN WU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"I'll be the Gorilla if I can wrestle 100 dudes"

"She grind on my AP till I 5" "Good Day my slime!"

"Do you think I could ... *gurgling noise* ... nevermind"

Konnor Fortini

PBS Revolt: Sesame Street, Magic School Bus, Wild Kratts, and Curious George Storm Capitol Hill

In response to recent cuts to PBS funding, beloved childhood characters from Sesame Street, Curious George, Wild Kratts, and The Magic School Bus have rallied together, launching a full-scale revolution on Capitol Hill. The uprising, dubbed the "PBS Rebellion," has been marked by anarchy, educational chaos, and puppet-driven demonstrations.

The day began with glass shattered as Big Bird, towering over senators at a whopping 8-foot-2, hurled himself through the window, squawking "DON'T MESS WITH PBS!" while Elmo was overheard telling reporters, "Elmo not tickled by budget cuts!" Meanwhile, Oscar the Grouch enthusiastically endorsed the turmoil, claiming this was "the best day of my life."

Chaos escalated when Curious George climbed atop the Capitol dome, yelling "ooh-ooh-aah-aah-aah," which roughly translates to, "Curiosity didn't kill PBS; Trump did!" His handler, the Man in the Yellow Hat, was arrested briefly but released after George negotiated his freedom with the promise of "more police representation on Curious George."

The Kratt brothers, equipped with animal-powered suits, burst into congressional hearings using creature powers to mimic the speed of cheetahs and the strength of gorillas, essentially conducting wildlife-themed guerrilla tactics, to make the issue at the forefront of their meetings. Chris Kratt declared, "We're teaching Congress firsthand about habitats... the habitat of common sense!"

Ms. Frizzle and her students from the Magic School Bus crashed directly through the Capitol walls, offering impromptu science lessons to confused legislators. The Frizz, ever resourceful, shrunk Mitch McConnell to ant-size briefly, urging him to "walk in someone else's shoes... or, you know, tiny ant legs."

As the revolt gained momentum, PBS issued an ultimatum demanding not only a restoration of funding but also unlimited cookies for Cookie Monster, and mandatory nap times for all children under six years old.

The White House, scrambling to restore peace, has reportedly reached out to Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood for diplomatic assistance, though Mr. Tiger has yet to comment, preferring to "take a deep breath and count to four."

In an unexpected twist, bipartisan support for PBS appears imminent, if only to restore Capitol order. Bert and Ernie were seen drafting the compromise legislation, advocating unity while also arguing about whether muppets deserve voting rights.

Congress is expected to reconvene tomorrow after "nap time" concludes.

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can someone buy me Lorde tickets

Boys Volleyball Regains Winning Streak, Secures Place In the Finals

ASHLEY SUH

SATURDAY 5/3	
Andover	3
Choate	0
WEDNESDAY 5/7	
Andover	3
NMH	1

E.CHAI/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Arthur Wu '25 spikes the ball in sweep against Choate.

Boys Volleyball regained its winning streak by securing two crucial wins against Choate and Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH). The team will face Exeter for the 3rd time this season on Saturday, hoping to win in the finals and avenge its 0-3 loss earlier in the year.

While Warren Oh '28 highlighted teammates Will Oh '26, Michael Huang '26, Ajay Mistry '26 for their strong performances in the match against NMH, Oh specifically noted Jeremy Woodley '26 for being able to adapt to new situations and positions across the game.

"In the first set, we ended it strong. It was 25-8. Some time between the first and second set, our Captain Arthur, whom I highlighted for his performance in the previous game, rolled his ankle. That tested our team's ability to maintain composure. We had another captain on the court who made many great plays, but it tested our team's ability to work without one of our best players. To fill in those shoes, Jeremy did a great job and played a position that he doesn't usually play, but he did a phenomenal job. I also want to shout out the setters; they were just delivering hittable balls to all of our hitters," said Oh '28.

Jack Alexander '25 pointed out an impressive serve streak by Huang during the first set of the NMH game, scoring crucial points with multiple aces. He also noted Huang's other serves that consistently challenged the opposition.

"Michael went on a serving streak when we started the first set versus NMH. Although it's not a specific play, he went on a streak of eight or nine aces, and his serves were able to disrupt the other team's attacks, which made it easier to block the other team's spikes or to get an attack of our own. He came out strong and played very well," said Alexander.

Oh reflected on the past two games and pointed out the team's confidence and talent going into the final. However, he also gave insight into what the team is currently focusing on, such as the team's energy in games, serving, and receiving.

"At Choate, the main concern was keeping the energy levels high, especially when we were playing a team that we knew we were better than. We had more confidence going into it, which was our strength and weakness. Sometimes, we left focus off the table, allowing them to catch up or get a lead, and then we had to come back and show our strengths," said Oh.

Alexander shared his excitement for the team's match against Exeter to end its season and what they are working on in practice to be prepared for its final game on Saturday. Even though the team lost 3-0 when it played Exeter last week, Alexander is still confident the team has the capabilities to win.

"We've played against Exeter twice this season, once at home and once away. In our first game, which we won 3-2, we came out strong and surprised them. In the second game, we weren't in the same flow state that we were in the first game. Also, it was apparent that Exeter had started to understand our playstyle and tactics, so we have to consider that. Coach Mackinson and Coach [Beckwith] have talked about how we'll have to mix things up going into our third game against Exeter. We have a lot of power to adapt and be versatile. Our biggest goal is ensuring everyone is physically and mentally ready, because if our team is mentally prepared before that game, I have no doubts that we will win," said Alexander.

Boys Volleyball will play at Exeter on Saturday, May 10th.

Grit, Boats, and Thunderbolts: Andover One Boat Away from Perfection

AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO

Boys and Girls Crew took on St. Paul's School (St. Paul's), Hingham High School (Hingham), and Kent School (Kent) on May 3, claiming victory in all but one race. Despite long weather delays, the positive results of the race showcased improvements by novices and varsity rowers alike.

Throughout the day, races were interrupted by severe weather conditions, which, at one point, delayed the racing by four hours due to the risk of lightning. Despite the long delay, Vivien Valckx '28 noted how Andover stayed focused and determined to race.

Valckx said, "For about four hours, we were sitting in the boathouse, and we couldn't go out because there was lightning nearby. Kent had driven three and a half hours, and we didn't want to send them back without a race, so we waited until about six or seven o'clock to race and got back very late. That was our biggest challenge with the lightning, but we overcame it well by staying focused throughout those hours off."

When the boats got on the water, Andover claimed victory in all but one race. Although the race was only the third of the season, Andover achieved the same, near-perfect result in two of the three races it has competed in, a feat Head Coach Taylor Washburn has attributed to the consistent strength of novice and varsity boats alike, according to Owen Huang '27.

"Something Coach Washburn says is that the top boats are fast because our bottom boats are fast. I feel like that's true. Our bottom boats, especially the fifth and sixth boats, have been doing really well, pushing everyone to work harder to get their rowing to another level," said Huang.

Nishi Amin '28, who started Crew this year, noted how the race was a disappointment for the G5 boat, the only Andover boat not to claim a victory. Still, she shouted out teammate Brinley Davis '27 for her supportive attitude.

"For more than half of the race, my boat was in the lead. Then, in the last 250 meters, St. Paul's got in front of us and won. Our boat wasn't working together well; it was super windy, and our oars were wet; it was hard to square and feather them. I want to highlight Brinley Davis '27, because at the end of our race, we were all disappointed, but she told us all that we did a great job and boosted our moods," said Amin.

The Andover athletes showed physical and mental fortitude in continuing their race under challenging weather conditions and a four-hour delay. Huang highlighted the varsity boats' performance.

Huang said, "Honestly, I want to shout out our whole team, especially our varsity crews, so that's boats one, two, and three. Their races were scheduled for four o'clock, and they ended up starting at seven, three hours later. They were just waiting around for those three hours for the weather to pass, and throughout that, they all stayed motivated and focused, which I found impressive."

Amin noted how the coaches for the crew program have worked to create a welcoming and resilient culture. She shared that this culture allows novice rowers to discover their love for the sport and varsity rowers to pursue excellence.

"Something that stands out about Andover Crew is that we have many great coaches who help rowers of all levels. It's good because there are many novices and more experienced rowers. They create a space where we can all help each other," said Amin.

Boys and Girls Crew will race Tabor and Exeter next Saturday.

Rain, Rain, Go Away—Girls Softball Isn't Finished

AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO

SATURDAY 5/3	
Andover	1
Worcester	5

Girls Softball faced Worcester Academy (Worcestor) on Saturday, though weather conditions postponed the game in its final inning. Before the delay, Andover trailed its opponent 1-5, positioned for a dramatic comeback with two runners on base and no outs.

The rain foiled Girls Softball's final opportunity to snap back against Worcester. Andie Shim '25 described the events leading up to the game's pause.

"Toward the later part of the game, the dugout brought the energy, and I really want to shout out the whole team for continuing to bring the energy. I know we were down 5-1 in the top of the seventh, and for those of you who don't know softball, games run for seven innings. This was our last opportunity to score, and we had two runners on base and no outs before the rain stopped our game. We were in progress. We hadn't lost yet, but with the team's energy, I had faith that we could definitely come back in the top of the seventh and win the game," said Shim.

Co-Captain Madison Hugo '25 continued, "As the game went on, we started improving gradually, especially offensively. And then we had Ashley [Schuman '27] come into pitch for us for the last few innings before it started raining, and she was doing really awesome. And then it did, in fact, start raining, so it got cut short unfortunately. I don't believe that there is technically a win or a loss. It was cut short in the last inning, and I don't think that they can classify it as either a win or a loss."

Toward the end of the game, Pitcher Schuman threw 33 times in her debut following an injury. Notably, she struck out the entire Worcester starting lineup, including an immaculate inning with nine straight strikes and three strikeouts in a row. Schuman's return, Shim believes, represents a chance to raise the team's level of play during the remainder of the season.

"She struck out everyone in her return, which is absolutely crazy. Ha ving that dominance on the mound is just going to give our dugout and our players even more energy going into the last part of our season," said Shim.

In the first innings, however, the team struggled to challenge Worcester. Catcher Gabriella Potter '27 described the team's offensive struggles, stemming from its opponent's unique pitching style.

"We started out a bit rocky. In the beginning, we were just struggling to get the bat on the ball, but our defense kept it pretty clean... we were used to seeing different pitching. It took a little bit of time to adjust," said Potter.

According to Hugo, despite its loss, the team's spirit remains high and it looks forward to the rest of the season.

"We're probably at the midpoint of the season. We have three games this upcoming week and then one next week before the [Big East] tournament. Just getting more practice in this next week and a half with Ashley pitching will be great for us, and then hopefully, we can do well in the tournament and potentially win it, because we have a considerable chance this year."

Girls Softball will travel to Milton Academy on Thursday, host Lawrence Academy on Friday, and battle Concord-Carlisle on Saturday. It will face Austin Prep and Cushing on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

BOYSLACROSSE

Co-Captain Jack Frishmann: The Talent and Leadership of the Boys Lacrosse Team.

HAOYU ZHANG

Jack Frischmann ’25 is an exceptional captain for the Boys Lacrosse team. He embodies the spirit of leadership and is a presence both on and off the field. His tenacity and grit allow him to be an example for the rest of the team, pushing the team to grow every day.

Frischmann has all the qualities that are needed for a captain. Jeffery Lim ’27 noted how Frischmann’s qualities are what has led Boys Lacrosse to victory.

“He has all the characteristics a captain should have, like leadership, empathy for your teammates, lifting them up when they need it the most, and delivering as a captain. In-game, he does what a captain should do, like keeping the team in check, keeping them in motion, and letting the fire go. He leads us all to victory,” said Lim.

Not only is Frischmann a great teammate and captain, but he is also an extremely skilled player. Lim commented that his skill allows him to compete with the best players in the country.

“He is one of the most skilled people I’ve seen play. Everyone on the team can admit that Frischmann is among the best players we’ve seen. His skill set as a lacrosse player shows us that he can compete at the highest level with the highest level players,” said Lim.

Frischmann will compete for Bowdoin next year.

M.STOUT/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Co-Captain Max Herbison ’25 Leads Andover Boys Lacrosse with Camaraderie

ALEX GODSEY

Co-Captain Max Herbison ’25 leads Boys Lacrosse by fostering a strong sense of community among his teammates. The team’s bonds translate to strong performance on the field.

Herbison, initially participating in soccer and baseball in his childhood, began playing lacrosse in second grade and quickly improved. Herbison explained the reasons he quit soccer and baseball and how he arrived at Andover as a new Lower seeking to take his talent to new heights.

“But soccer didn’t have enough contact for me, and baseball was too slow-moving. The only Christmas present I wanted was a lacrosse stick, and from there, I started playing at home and then joined the team in my town. At

M. STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

first, I was terrible compared to everyone else who had started when they were really little and had lacrosse as their first sport,” said Herbison.

He continued, “But eventually, I got better and started playing club. I was originally at a private school that didn’t have lacrosse, and then I moved to a public school. I wanted better lacrosse, so I came here. I came in as a new Lower. In 10th grade, I didn’t know where I would fall on the team—there were other people in my position ahead of me. But over the years, I worked my way up to become a starter—and now, a Co-Captain.”

Boys Lacrosse’s community is unique and tight-knit. That is, players form bonds both on the field as athletes and off the field as friends. Herbison, as a Co-Captain, tries to foster a supportive environment, especially off the field.

“Off the field, we do a lot of team meals, and the team really moves as one unit this year. At meals in Commons, we always sit together, and all the guys feel like they can hang out. It doesn’t feel as much like a team as it does one big friend group that’s been together all year—especially in the spring. I think that’s what sets us apart from some of the other teams. Everyone just feels really close, especially off the field, we spend a lot of time together—whether it’s in the locker room or just around campus— it doesn’t feel like we’re just showing up to play lacrosse every day,” said Herbison.

Luke Honos ’28 corroborated his Captain’s efforts to build community on the team. Additionally, Honos noted Herbison’s commitment to play Division I lacrosse at Lafayette College as a source of inspiration.

Honos said, “He personally inspires me because he’s committed to a [Division I] school for lacrosse but then he also invites us to hang out with him all the time with the upperclassmen. Truly, it’s fun and helps him build team chemistry.”

Jeffery Lim ’27, a new member of the team, described Herbison’s cheerful nature and persevering work ethic, which guide his teammates’ growth.

“Max is a great human being. He is always full of happiness and he is always up for the job whether he likes it or not. He pushes us to become a better version of ourselves as a Co-Captain and a teammate,” said Lim.

Herbison’s leadership focuses on accountability. Luke Honos ‘28 explained the standard of responsibility that he strives toward and how it pushes the team toward improvement.

“During timeouts and things, Max tells us what we need to work on, especially in games, on both offense and defense. ... He admits when he’s made mistakes and when he’s wrong. This really helps build us up,” said Honos.

Next year, Herbison will compete with Lafayette College’s Division I Lacrosse program.

BOYS LACROSSE

JACK FRISCHMANN ’25 (C) ACWORTH, GA	MAXWELL HERBISON ’25 (C) PITTSFORD, NY	OLIVER MARRERO ’27 NANTUCKET, MA	TYLER MIOCEVICH ’26 TORONTO, CAN	DREW WASYLYSHYN ’26 WESTFORD, MA
LEO OGUNTOYINBO ’26 HILLSBOROUGH, NC	MICHAEL GARRITY ’25 HINGHAM, MA	WILLARD POTTLE ’26 BUFFALO, NY	PIERCE BRILLE ’28 NEW YORK, NY	DEREK LABADINI ’25 CONCORD, MA	HOOYEON LIM ’27 SEOUL, KR
JOHN BANCONE ’25 SUMMIT, NJ	ANDREW BEANLAND ’26 CONCORD, MA	LUKE DEANGELIS ’25 HOLMDEL, NJ	JOHN SCARBROUGH ’25 BOULDER, CO	SAMUEL WHITEHURST ’25 ANNAPOLIS, MD
JACK FARRELL ’26 READING, MA	HENRY FERGUSON ’25 BRANFORD, CT	JENSEN KOHLER ’25 CAMBRIDGE, NY	WILLIAM OGLE ’26 SAN ANTONIO, TX	KELE GREGORY ’26 NORTH FALMOUTH, MA	LUKE HONOS ’28 MARBLEHEAD, MA
NICOLAS NORRIS ’26 BOULDER, CO	ALEXANDER DIMNAKU ’27 WELLESLEY, MA	JACOB GOURLEY ’26 READING, MA	PAUL HARRISON ’25 CHICAGO, IL	
MANAGERS:	DANIEL COLLINS ’25 WINCHESTER, MA	HAYDEN FISCHER ’25 CHICAGO, IL	JULIA FOX ’25 NEW YORK, NY	GRAYDEN ROBERTSON-PALMER ’25 SAIN ANDREWS, CAN

L.HEYD/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

GIRLS LACROSSE

CHARLEY DROUIN ’25 (C) NORTH ANDOVER, MA	LAUREN HERLIHY ’25 (C) READING, MA	NEICIA SMITH ’25 (C) WATERTOWN, NY	LOLA AGUIRRE ’26 BARRINGTON, RI	MAREN BOYLE ’26 SCITUATE, MA
MOLLY BOYLE ’25 SCITUATE, MA	AUTUMN CHRISTIAN ’27 STONINGTON, CT	ELLIE PARKER ’25 ANDOVER, MA	ASHLEY DIMNAKU ’28 WELLESLEY, MA	LILLIAN HALL ’26 ENGLEWOOD, CO	GRACYNN HARTLEY ’27 HUDSON, NH
PEYTON KENNEDY ’25 SUDBURY, MA	PIPER LASATER ’26 SAN FRANCISCO, CA	LILLIAN LOUGHLEAN ’27 PAWCATUCK, CT	EMMA MORRISON ’28 NORTH ATTLEBORO, MA	MADELINE GREENWOOD ’26 NORTH FALMOUTH, MA
LUCY PARKER ’26 ANDOVER, MA	SARAH POWERS ’26 LYNNFIELD, MA	DYLAN, SIEGEL ’26 DURHAM, NC	NEILY WARE ’25 ANDOVER, MA	ELIZABETH WODARSKI ’27 ANDOVER, MA	QUIANA BELL ’26 LOWELL, MA
MANAGERS:	CHARLOTTE GREER ’26 RANDOLPH, NJ	JOSEPHINE SARNO ’26 STOW, MA		

L.HEYD/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

GIRLSLACROSSE

Girls Varsity Lacrosse Co-Captain Charley Drouin '25 Leads with Confidence and Fire

GAURI BHAKTA

Girls Varsity Lacrosse Co-Captain Charleston Drouin '25 initially picked up a lacrosse stick in first grade, inspired by watching her older cousins play with passion and intensity. Over the years, what began as a curiosity turned into a deep love for the game. Now a Senior attacker, Drouin leads Andover's offense with poise, grit, and authority.

Drouin leads with determination and relentless effort, setting a high standard for her teammates through her actions. She described her leadership style as rooted in reliability, hard work, and integrity.

"As a Co-Captain, I would say that I aim to be a leader who leads by example, through work ethic and integrity. I want to be someone who my teammates can rely on and look up to, whether that means using my voice during tough moments or putting in the extra work behind the scenes. I try to create an environment where everyone feels supported and motivated to show up every day and give it their all," said Drouin.

Teammate Quiana Bell '26 has experienced this firsthand, noting how Drouin's competitive spirit and calm demeanor inspire those around her.

"For Charley, she's a little bit quieter... but she leads a lot through example. She brings such a great level of competitiveness to every single practice and game that makes you want to compete with her. If we need the energy to be up, or when something goes wrong, Charley will be the one to say, 'Come on guys, let's focus on the things that are going well.' She's the captain of the attackers. In that way, she'll get them going when we need that push," said Bell.

Bell also noted that one way Drouin helps foster a positive and focused atmosphere is through lighthearted traditions with teammates before games. These moments help ease nerves while strengthening team unity.

"For Charley, we always make dances together before the game. We'll always be doing our hair together in the bathroom. She knows how to have a great balance between having fun and joking around with us, but also likes setting the tone for when we all need to be focused before the game," said Bell.

On the field, Drouin prides herself on staying calm and composed in high-pressure situations to make good decisions on the field and elevate her teammates.

"My biggest strength would be my composure. Whether we're winning or losing, I try to stay calm and focused. Being steady helps me make better decisions on the field and helps my teammates stay confident. I also really try to be a great listener to my teammates on and off the field," said Drouin.

As a player constantly looking to grow, Drouin emphasized the importance of the details that often go unnoticed.

COURTESY OF CHARLEY DROUIN

"I'm focused on improving my off-ball movement, such as finding smarter ways to create space and support the play even when I'm not directly involved," said Drouin.

Bell shared how Drouin's relentless mindset pushes everyone around her to elevate their game.

"I just love how she's relentless. She's not afraid to catch the departure. She's not afraid to take the contact. She's not afraid to cut and go through those defenders. She's very perseverant. That kind of competitiveness and the willingness to win makes me want to work on my end of the field and make those defensive stops too," said Bell.

Beyond stats and hustle, Drouin's pride as a captain stems from her teammates' commitment to one another.

"I am proud of all my teammates because they have shown effort, growth, and genuine commitment to each other and the team. Whether that be shooting after practice, supporting each other through close games, or stepping up in clutch moments, they show the kind of selflessness that makes a team more than a group of players. I have seen the girls overcome setbacks and embrace roles that weren't always easy, and that resilience is something that any captain would be proud to stand by," said Drouin.

Next year, Drouin will continue her athletic and academic career at Colgate University, where she plans to play Division I Lacrosse.

Girls Varsity Lacrosse Co-Captain Lauren Herlihy '25 Leads with Energy, Inclusion, and Heart

GAURI BHATKA

Midfielder and two-year Girls Varsity Lacrosse Co-Captain Lauren Herlihy '25 has become a cornerstone of the team's spirit and strategy. With a focus on creating an inclusive and competitive environment, Herlihy strives to ensure that every player feels valued and empowered to contribute.

A lacrosse player since kindergarten, Herlihy was originally drawn to the sport for its fast pace and team dynamics. What began as a childhood passion quickly developed into a lasting commitment. From the start, Herlihy loved the feeling of being on a close-knit team, something that would later shape her leadership style at Andover.

"I aim to be a super inclusive leader. A leader who makes sure everyone knows that they are needed for the team to succeed. Also, a leader who brings a combination of positivity and fun," said Herlihy. "I would say my biggest strength is making connections with all of the girls on the team. Creating an environment where everyone can feel like they can thrive."

Fellow Co-Captain Charleston Drouin '25 emphasized the steadfastness and dedication Herlihy brings to the program. Drouin added that Herlihy's consistency and care have shaped her own development as a leader.

"On and off the field, Lauren is a natural leader. She leads by setting a high standard for our team, always putting in the work, and staying focused. Off the field, she has a way of bringing people together, making sure everyone feels included and heard. She is always willing to lend an ear or offer advice when needed," said Drouin.

Drouin continued, "Watching her navigate both highs and lows of the season has taught me a lot about maintaining balance. Her consistency and commitment to the team have challenged me to bring the best version of myself to every practice and game."

For younger teammates, Herlihy is a role model. Quiana Bell '26 described the example Herlihy sets, both in terms of attitude and performance.

"She brings a lot of energy and passion to whatever we're doing. It's very clear how much she really cares about the sport and how she really wants to succeed as a team," said Bell. "She's very much like a friend to everyone. She tries to have this inclusive team environment, but also she is not afraid to tell us when we need to step it up or to do a little bit better."

Bell pointed out Herlihy's tireless hustle on the field, especially given her role as a midfielder. Bell shared how Herlihy's hardworking attitude inspired her.

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"She is what it means to be a captain," said Bell. "As a midfielder, you're playing both sides of the field, I think she does a really good job at that. She works so hard, and that shows up every single time. It motivates me and makes me want to work harder so she doesn't have to do all that running," said Bell.

Looking ahead, Herlihy will continue her lacrosse journey at Boston College next year. "I am super excited to have the opportunity to continue playing lacrosse," said Herlihy.

Girls Lacrosse Captain Neicia Smith '25 Leads Team in both Spirit and Points

GAURI BHATKA

With her team scoring 243 goals in only sixteen games, Girls Lacrosse Co-Captain Neicia Smith '25 leads Girls Lacrosse's offense with composure and strength. Smith herself has tallied over 200 goals and assists in her career at Andover, displaying her consistency in each game. She stresses the importance of chemistry amongst the team, crediting it for the team's successes this year.

Before discovering lacrosse, Smith spent nearly seven years as a gymnast. But after picking up a lacrosse stick in sixth grade, her growing interest in team sports, combined with the changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, shifted her passion toward the field.

"I didn't start playing until sixth grade. I was a gymnast before, but I wanted to play a team sport, so I decided to try out and fell in love with it. Then there was COVID, so I decided that this is where I wanted to go in high school and college, and I worked day in and day out," said Smith

M. STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Gracynn Hartley '27 noted that Smith is a vocal leader who leads by voice and example. Despite playing different positions, Hartley admires Smith's attitude and mentality towards practice and games, a trait she hopes to embody herself.

"I have only known her for two years, but she is a funny and vocal person. She is there for everyone. She practices how she plays, and I admire that and want to take that away. I want to have the mentality that she has. She has contributed a lot to the team, and many people look up to her, and I know she is going to great places." said Hartley.

Smith added that she hopes to be a role model, guiding younger players to grow in the sport. She also stressed the importance of unity on the team, with all members being treated equally, regardless of their grade.

"One thing I want to be is a role model, especially for the younger girls on the team. I try to help the younger girls with what we are doing in practice and help them get ready for games. In the past, we have had good communities, but this year we made sure that everyone feels comfortable and that there isn't a grade hierarchy, so we all see ourselves as one," said Smith.

Smith emphasized the importance of chemistry and community amongst the team. She credits the team's unwavering support for each other as the leading driver of its 15-1 record.

Smith said, "Having a strong community and family is vital to success. I want the younger girls and captains to continue that team culture. If we want to continue being successful, chemistry has helped us only have one loss this year, and we want to have that connection on and off the field."

Smith has tallied over 200 goals and assists for Girls Lacrosse since she joined the team as a Lower. Despite the remarkable individual achievement, Smith credits her teammates, who have given her the opportunities to succeed.

"Most of my points wouldn't have been possible without my teammates, who gave me the opportunities to score. My teammates have allowed me to score, and I wouldn't be able to do that if they weren't there. They open up the field so I can go head-to-head against a defender or open passing lanes to find open players near the net. I couldn't have done so much without my teammates and coaches," said Smith.

Smith will continue to play lacrosse in college at Loyola University in Maryland.

ULTIMATE

Ultimate Frisbee Co-Captain Fumi Kimura '25 Strives to Encourage and Inspire

AVIAD AWA

Co-Captain Fumi Kimura '25 leads Ultimate Frisbee (Ultimate) through encouragement and inspiration. Kimura takes charge of practices, focusing on the development and improvement of his teammates. In this approach, he emphasizes having fun and building community.

As a new Lower, Kimura chose to participate in Indoor Track and Field during the Winter but decided to explore Ultimate throughout the Spring.

"I started Lower year and that was my first year here. I was thinking of doing track but because I did indoor track, my friend was like, 'you should hop in and play ultimate.' I tried it out, and it was pretty fun," said Kimura

Kimura has stuck with Ultimate since, and specifically, he enjoys the action of passing and receiving the disc. Additionally, he described the sport's spirit.

"The act of throwing and catching the disc is really satisfying to me. And the other thing is the spirit of the game — Ultimate really values spirit a lot. We're supposed to know the rules, we're supposed to have sportsmanship, we're supposed to be inclusive and fun. So, that's what keeps me coming back," said Kimura.

Kimura's leadership can be felt across both the practice and playing fields. Co-Captain Paxton Auguste '28 praised his team-oriented spirit during practices.

"He does a really good job at getting everyone organized and motivating everyone when we're at games and during practice. Everett [Woo '25] and him usually lead warm-ups, and [Kimura]'s really good at making sure everyone knows what they're doing. Sometimes we go through and say what we're gonna work on during practice, and he lifts everyone up when they mention what they want to work on because he really cares about us and about our improvement," said Auguste.

Kai Obata '28 corroborated Auguste's sentiment, praising Kimura for his sociability and connection with his teammates, felt across the team.

COURTESY OF FUMI KIMURA

"His best quality is his willingness to reach out to every player on the team. Obviously, a captain needs to address a group, but he is always talking to everyone on the team — he's checking in with everyone. He's very relatable, and he's a friend to all of us on the team," said Obata

Kimura places a heavy focus on practice, as he deeply cares about the growth of his teammates. Auguste highlighted how Kimura operates during practice to ensure the presence of a strong community among his teammates.

"During drills, we make sure that each of us aren't with the same people every time on the same team, so everyone gets to be on a team with him at some point. And when we rotate through drills, he's always cheering for them and making sure they know what the drill is about. So, everyone gets to have an interaction with Fumi at some point during the practice, and that's when he gets to build a connection with them and have some one-on-one time," said Auguste.

As he begins college in the fall, Kimura is still weighing whether or not to play Ultimate at the University of Chicago. He mentioned how difficult the transition from high school to college is.

"At the college level, Ultimate becomes a completely different sport. That's my image. And I think one thing that's really lost in that transition is the spirit of the game and good sportsmanship and the fun of playing it, because college level gets really serious and the level of competition rises. So, I think bringing the fun that Andover Ultimate harbors every day — every practice, every game — would be the best for me if I were to play in college, which I think I will," said Kimura.

The "Spirit" of the Ultimate Team: Co-Captain Everett Woo '25 Leads With Passion and Positivity

THIAGO JOLLON

Co-Captain Everett Woo '25 joined All-Gender Ultimate Frisbee (Ultimate) in his Freshman year on a whim, but quickly established himself as both a crucial player and team leader. As a handler (the Ultimate equivalent of a quarterback) and Co-Captain, Woo leads through his vocal attitude on the field. From his technical command of the game to his commitment to team culture, Woo has become a central figure in the Ultimate community at Andover.

Woo considered himself a soccer and hockey player when he arrived at Andover and had never played Ultimate. The sport requirement at Andover led him to branch out and try it.

"I came into Andover with a Fall and Winter sport, soccer and hockey, which I had played my entire life. Since Andover requires sports, this was the perfect opportunity to try something new in the Spring. I took a look at Ultimate [and] hadn't really heard about it, and then I said, 'You know what? I'm gonna go for it. I'm gonna try out, see how things go.' I made the team, and then what kept me there, is not this sport itself, which is really fun, don't get me wrong, but the people have been really amazing and super nice. It's been one of the kindest communities I've been a part of," said Woo.

COURTESY OF EVERETT WOO

Will Sueling '26, a new player on the team, described Woo as a great captain and leader. Woo organized important scrimmages throughout the offseason, which helped to introduce new players like Sueling to the team and get him up to speed on Ultimate rules.

"He's obviously good at Ultimate, and he brings a positive spirit to matches and is always uplifting. He did a lot of scrimmages in the winter [preseason]... so I feel I got to know everybody and learn the rules pretty quickly through that. [His biggest demand from the team] is to be interested and come here to play. It's not to be super intense, but it's to be here and to want to play and all that. He's big on participation," said Sueling.

Woo explained the unique nature of Ultimate encourages the best type of people to join. The self-officiation and "Spirit of the Game" that sets Ultimate apart from other sports relies on responsible players with integrity, fostering a special welcoming and kind community.

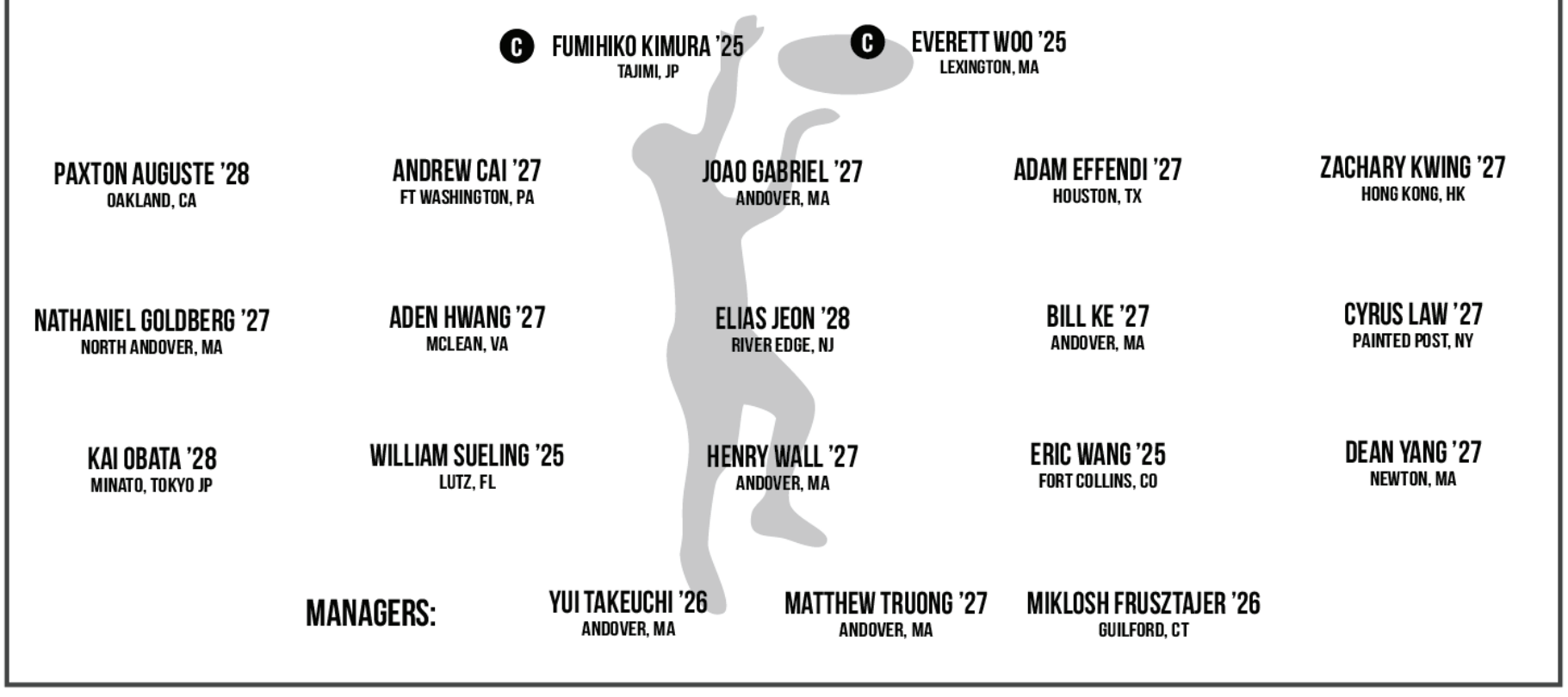
"One thing about Ultimate that's different from other sports is that there are no referees. The players themselves have to make calls. That attracts a very specific type of person who's willing to take responsibility for their own fouls and whatnot. There's this thing called 'Spirit of the Game' in Ultimate which emphasizes trust, responsibility, and communication with your own team and the other team," said Woo.

Bill Ke '27 noted that Woo's skill as an Ultimate player ultimately comes from his love of the game. This enthusiasm, in turn, inspires the rest of the Ultimate team, who have had their lives positively impacted by their captain.

"He's driven by a genuine love for the game, and that allows him to reach new heights skill-wise, making him a really good leader of the Ultimate team. He's someone we not only look up to on the field, but also off the field, as he organizes scrimmages, eats lunch with us after the scrimmages, and is generally a positive figure in our lives, both skill-wise and as a person," said Ke.

This summer, Woo will play club Ultimate for Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance, a Boston-based team that competes at the national level. After Andover, he plans to continue playing club Ultimate in college.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to be captain. The team makes it easy. Everyone wants to be here. Everyone cares. That's what makes it special," said Woo.



C.WANG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

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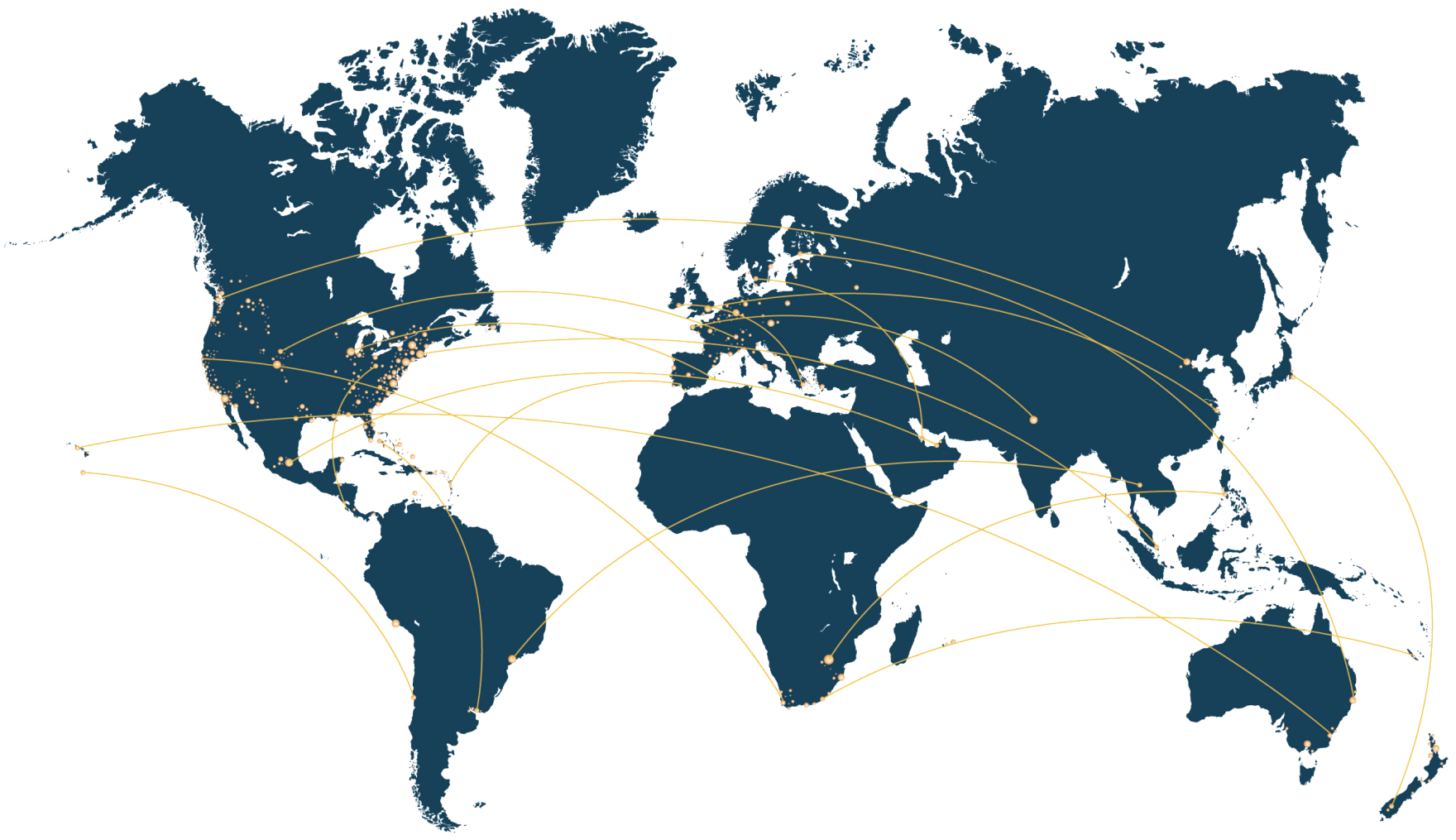

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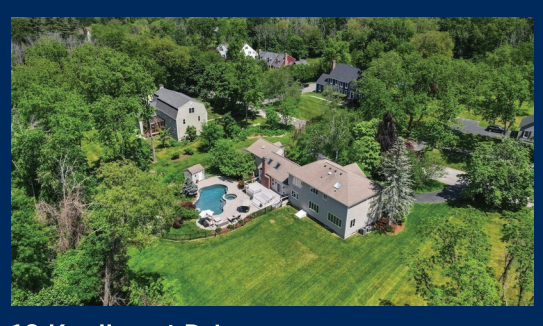

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Ultimate Frisbee Loses by One Point to Both NMH and Summerville in Weather-Disrupted, Neck-and-Neck Battles

ALEX GODSEY

FRIDAY 4/25	
Andover	8
NMH	9
WEDNESDAY 4/30	
Andover	10
Summerville	11

Last Saturday and Wednesday, Ultimate Frisbee suffered narrow losses to Northfield Mount Hermon (8–9) and Summerville (10–11), extending its losing streak. Originally scheduled to play both NMH and Williston on Saturday, the team saw the Williston match canceled and the NMH game cut short due to harsh weather.

Severe conditions disrupted the game against NMH, ending at the end of the third quarter. Co-Captain Everett Woo '25 expressed both pride in the team and frustration that the stormy conditions cut a game short when momentum was building in the team's favor.

"On Saturday, we played Northfield Mount Hermon. It was a tight game, and we lost 8-9, which was frustrating since it was canceled by lightning. We had some good rhythm, but our team has been improving, and we showed it in that game," said Woo.

Reflecting on the strides of growth the team has made, Paxton Auguste '28 talked about the systems and execution critical to Andover's success.

"We played zone defense, where multiple people surround the person holding the disc, and it cuts away all opportunities up the field. We did a great job swinging the disc across the field, with four different handlers, giving us more opportunities and space to get the disc up the field. Today, we were handling undercuts. Undercuts are when you stand in front of the person so that they can't cut in toward the thrower, and we did a great job with that, which caused the other team to drop the disc and force turnovers," said Auguste.

The team is adjusting and learning to build a community. Dean Yang '27 described the importance of supporting each other and its role in the team's overall play.

"A key part of our improvement is that we aren't getting down on each other when we make mistakes. Our coach likes to say 'relentless positivity.' If someone makes a mistake, they know they made it. You don't have to yell or make them feel bad. Instead, you pick each other up after errors. We struggled with that a few games ago, and our attitude has significantly improved since then," said Yang.

Nate Goldberg '27 and Woo have been a strong duo on the field. Auguste highlighted their connection and praised their performances against NMH.

"Nate Goldberg and Everett Woo had strong chemistry on Saturday. They made many good plays and knew where each other was on the field. They were both talking, and if they just keep that up, we will have a good chance of winning in the future," said Auguste.

Elaborating on the previous statement, Paxton illustrates their play in the match against Somerville. He noted an impressive play by Goldberg and Woo, highlighting their chemistry and skill in the game.

"Nate and Everett exchanged cutting into the end zone and handling the disc. First, Everett threw a deep pass to Nate, and he caught it. A tall defender guarded him, but he read the disc better than them. Then, Nate had the disc against the sideline and saw Everett cutting deep on the opposite side of the field. He threw it so that the throw curved into him, which was incredible," said Auguste.

Andover will play at home against Concord Academy on Friday. Fueled by previous clashes, Woo expressed anticipation and excitement.

"We have a game against Concord Academy on Friday, and it means a lot to many of us with how we played last year, and how we're looking to reciprocate those results in this year's game. So, we're looking forward to playing that game and winning," said Woo.

Ultimate will play Concord Academy on Friday, May 9.

Girls Water Polo Splits Doubleheader against Loomis and Choate, Defeats Exeter in Overtime

EVA JACKSON

SATURDAY 5/3	
Andover	4
Choate	9
SATURDAY 5/3	
Andover	8
Loomis	4
WEDNESDAY 5/7	
Andover	10
Exeter	9

On Saturday, Girls Water Polo faced Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) and Choate Rosemary Hall (Choate) in a doubleheader. The team, on Wednesday, defeated Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) in a thrilling, overtime victory. Though both games on Saturday got pushed back due to weather conditions, the team stayed positive and pushed through fatigue to play its hardest. The team preserved through fatigue on Saturday and tough competition on Wednesday, showing its determination and toughness.

The team also has learned to keep its cool during tight situations and to slow down mentally on offense. Sophia You '26 commented on how the team has learned to be patient and to find good opportunities and subsequently reward them.

"Something we did well was just staying calm and collected. Before as a team where we would get frustrated a bit if things weren't going our way or when we wouldn't know what to do, we would throw the ball. But now we're getting really good at identifying opportunities and rewarding them. Also, we've gotten better at being patient and not making any hasty decisions," You said.

Similarly, Co-Captain Ariana Zhao '25 cited an increase in team morale and focus over the weekend.

"We were just very positive. We had a lot of fun on Saturday. It was a long day because we got some delays due to the weather and games being pushed back. I thought we were always pretty positive; we adapted pretty well. Both of the teams that we played, played pretty differently. So we adapted our defense well.

We did a good job with keeping cool, doing what we do, and not worrying too much," said Zhao.

C.ZHOU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Ariana Zhao '25 looks to bypass the opponent's defense.

A consistent work ethic has differentiated the team with players not shying away from working extra hard to get the team a win. You highlighted her teammate Addison Deng '26 who left everything in the pool to help the team win after an exhausting day on Saturday.

"Addison Deng did a good job. For the second game, we were all really tired. But she made sure to counter hard every single time, and she did a lot of extra swimming, even though she was already tired from before," You said.

Adding on to what You said, Camden Schopler '27 commented on the drive of the team and the fact that no one is afraid of making a mistake, since they know they will make it up on defense.

"Everybody works really hard, if anybody has the ball, they are gonna shoot it. Nobody's afraid to shoot, a lot of other teams have issues where some of the players won't shoot because they're afraid to miss but everybody on the team is willing to shoot or miss. They will match up with anybody on defense," said Schopler.

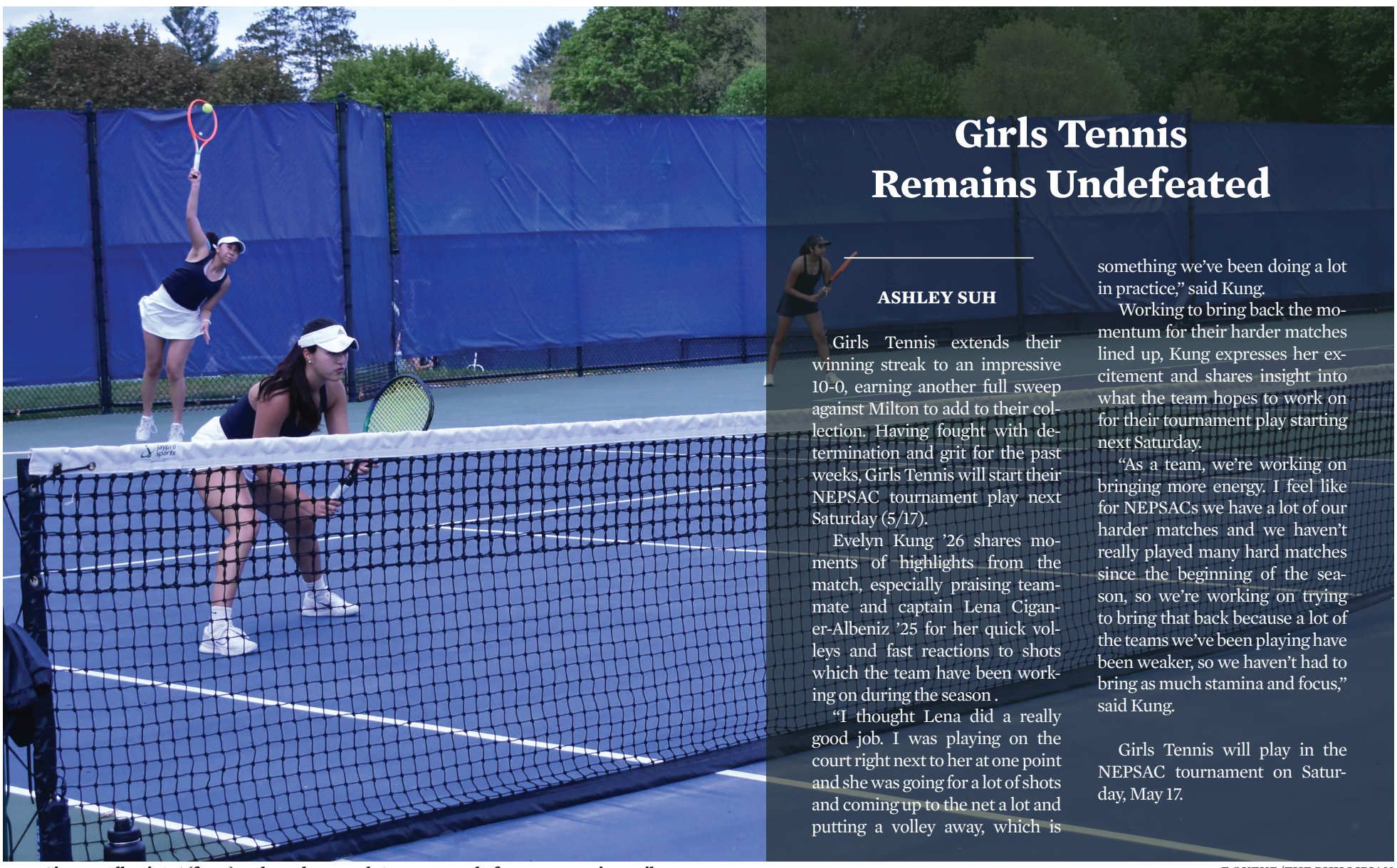
This Wednesday the team earned each success in their game against Exeter, having been down the majority of the game. Schopler commented on what the team learned from that win and how they fought back.

"It was pretty tense, we were down by three in the beginning, three to zero, but we got it back up, then we were down by one before we went into overtime and then we were down again and then shot and won," said Schopler. She continued "Just have a positive mindset and play your hardest throughout the entirety, because we were losing at multiple points during the game, but in the end we pulled out and won the game."

Wednesday's win against Exeter was pivotal for the team before playoffs, where they worked together seamlessly. Schopler elaborated on her excitement for the upcoming games and overtaking teams with her team's unity.

"I'm really looking forward to having us all play together because today's game was very good for the team, we really worked hard together and had one mind. Everyone was on the same page so I'm excited to use that to overcome games," Schopler said.

The team will face Deerfield Academy and Hopkins on Saturday.



Lena Ciganer-Albeniz '25 (front) and Kendra Tomala '26 warm-up before sweep against Milton.

E.OKEKE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Girls Tennis Remains Undefeated

ASHLEY SUH

Girls Tennis extends their winning streak to an impressive 10-0, earning another full sweep against Milton to add to their collection. Having fought with determination and grit for the past weeks, Girls Tennis will start their NEPSAC tournament play next Saturday (5/17).

Evelyn Kung '26 shares moments of highlights from the match, especially praising teammate and captain Lena Ciganer-Albeniz '25 for her quick volleys and fast reactions to shots which the team have been working on during the season .

"I thought Lena did a really good job. I was playing on the court right next to her at one point and she was going for a lot of shots and coming up to the net a lot and putting a volley away, which is something we've been doing a lot in practice," said Kung.

Working to bring back the momentum for their harder matches lined up, Kung expresses her excitement and shares insight into what the team hopes to work on for their tournament play starting next Saturday.

"As a team, we're working on bringing more energy. I feel like for NEPSACs we have a lot of our harder matches and we haven't really played many hard matches since the beginning of the season, so we're working on trying to bring that back because a lot of the teams we've been playing have been weaker, so we haven't had to bring as much stamina and focus," said Kung.

Girls Tennis will play in the NEPSAC tournament on Saturday, May 17.

Track & Field Triumphs in Last Home Meet of the Season

AVIAD AWA

On Wednesday, Outdoor Track & Field held its final home meet of the season against Concord Academy, Cushing Academy, Montrose, and the Cambridge School of Weston (Cambridge). Spirits were high going into the meet and the favorable weather further enhanced the positive energy. Putting its best foot forward, the team surpassed its opponents in collective points on both the Boys and Girls side.

Sean Kim '26 competed in both the 400-Meter Race—placing first in 52.14 seconds—and the 4x400-Meter Relay. Reflecting on the final score, Kim attested to the all-around strength of the program.

"I don't think there was one event where we were particularly weak. Most events I saw, it was pretty much Andover was in the top three in each spot. Team morale was really great the whole time. I know everyone was always cheering each other on. I thought that was really cool," said Kim.

Particularly, though, Brady Nelson '27 noted Anya Budzinski '26's determined performances in the 800-Meters and 4x400-Meter Relay. Nelson described how, following a grueling race in the 800-Meters, Budzinski took the 4x400-Meter Relay.

E.OKEKE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

The Girls 100-meter blasts off to a lighting start.

Nelson said, "[Anya] had a really tough race during the 800, but, while being super lactic, I saw how she battled through, and she went for 4x400 as well. And that's stepping up, and she's being a big team player there. She did great."

The Girls 4x100-Meter Relay team, comprising Co-Captain Naima Reid '25, Caitlin Ly '27, Ela Budzinski '28, and Julie Chan '27, finished its race in 48.54 seconds—its fastest time this season. Ly commented on the relay team's successes and its preparation leading up to the event.

"To start off the running events of the meet, both boys and girls ran great 4x100[-Meter Relay] times... We had smooth handoffs like how we practiced the days leading up [to the meet], and our hard work paid off as our time was just tenth of a second off from the school record," Ly said.

Additionally, Ly praised her relay teammates Reid and Budzinski '28 for their strong performances in their events. Reid scored a personal best, running the 200-Meter in 26.83 seconds. Budzinski '28 placed first in the 400-Meter and ran 26.90 seconds in the 200-Meter after being placed in a slower heat due to a mishap.

"A notable performance was Naima's 200-Meter race: she finally went under 27 seconds, which is such an incredible achievement as a sprinter. Also, before that, she had already run the 4x100[-Meter Relay] and the 400[-Meter Dash], so the fact that she was able to PR by almost half a second is super impressive," Ly said.

Ly continued, "Another person who stood out was Ela. First, she was a part of our incredible 4x100[-Meter Relay] team, and then she placed first in her individual event of the 400-Meters, and then for her third event, despite some setback, she got back up on her feet and ran an impressive 200-Meter time with an almost six second gap between her and her opponents."

The team will compete at the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Division I Championships on May 17.

Despite Two Losses, Golf Enters Big Weekend with Win Against St. Pauls

HAOYU ZHANG

After two tough home defeats against Dexter Southfield and Deerfield Academy, Andover Golf found redemption on the road with a commanding win against St. Paul's on Wednesday. Although the team ended last week on uneven greens and hard-fought matches, it started this week on a high note as the team pulled together for a mentally resilient performance.

Despite entering the Dexter Southfield match on Friday with confidence, Andover fell short. The greens at Indian Ridge, riddled with aeration holes, posed a significant challenge that stifled the team's putting game and momentum.

"We were putting on some really terrible greens, for Dexter, we could have done a few things better for sure, but it really came down to course conditions. Still, no one's blaming anyone—just tough luck," said Ian Kim '28

The next day's match against Deerfield was tighter than the final score of 3.5 to 8.5 might suggest. Most matches came down to the final holes, but again, Andover couldn't capitalize in the clutch.

"We definitely recognized Deerfield as a tough opponent going in, a lot of matches were decided on holes 17 and 18. We just didn't close out," said Kim.

Kevin Zheng '26 echoed that assessment and cited improving iron play as a positive take away from the match.

"Our irons were absolutely phenomenal. But when we stuck a 50-degree wedge to two feet, we'd still three-putt on those aerated greens. The conditions just killed our putting," said Zheng.

Still, some players made a mark even in defeat. Zheng highlighted Ann Zhao '25's a strong performance early in the match against Deerfield. He also suggested that practice efforts had shown results—just not on greens that resembled "pothole fields."

"Ann played really well against Deerfield. I watched her first three holes. I didn't watch the end, which is probably why she lost—but those first few holes were impressive. The holes were the size of potholes—there were thousands of them on each green. It made putting really difficult. Honestly, that played a crucial role in our loss," said Zheng.

With lessons learned and no aerated greens in sight, the team traveled to St. Paul's on Wednesday and delivered a decisive win, despite a rain delay and a reshuffled roster.

"We didn't have our usual number one for varsity playing, but even with a different lineup, we came out with a good win," said co-captain Heyon Choi '25.

Kim also shouted out Sebastian Montemayor '27 for his grit at the top of the lineup and ability to tie with a tough opponent this Wednesday.

"His opponent was having the best round of his life... Sebastian really stayed in it, made a 10-footer for par to tie everything up," said Kim.

As the team looks ahead to the III tournament this weekend, players and coaches alike are focusing on mental resilience and a sharper competitive edge.

"We all know how strong our team is, but we can't just rely on confidence. Golf is a mental game. You have to believe in yourself, but also admit there are things to improve. At least for me, I felt I always let my guard down a little in the beginning. Then I realize on the third and fourth holes that I need to lock-in," said Choi.

With improved putting surfaces, stronger individual play, and a hard-learned humility, Andover Golf is entering the Independent International Invitational tournament this weekend not just with momentum, but with renewed purpose.

Baseball Snaps Losing Streak with Win Over Exeter in Doubleheader

EVA JACKSON

Andover Baseball team split their doubleheader against Exeter this past Saturday, losing its first game 2-1 and winning their second game 8-2. With that second game, the team ended their seven-game losing streak, putting them back on track for the rest of the season. Saturday was also Senior night, where the team celebrated and showed appreciation for their seniors. Andy Du '25 commented on the excitement and positive atmosphere surrounding the games on Saturday.

"The energy was pretty high. It was senior night so people were pretty excited. The atmosphere was good," said Du.

With New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) playoffs starting next week, the team is optimistic about their performance.

Baseball will play another doubleheader against Deerfield on Saturday.

Miles O' Neil '28 swings at bat, helping the team to breaking their losing streak.

COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

The Double-Edged Sword of Sports Gambling is Reshaping Sports

EVA JACKSON

Sports betting has undoubtedly changed the sports world, but is this change for the better or the worse? On one hand, sports betting has expanded the profitability and visibility of sports, bringing more money in for players, organizations, and leagues alike. However, with the uptick in viewership and attention to games, the seriousness with which people take their bets has downsides. There is an increased number of hateful messages being sent to athletes of all sports, and the mental health of athletes is sharply affected.

In 2020, consulting firm Altman Solon released a study involving 14,000 people from around the world and their relationship to both sports and sports betting. The study found that in the U.S., 88% of bettors regularly watched sports while only 41% of non-bettors did. Parlays and in-game bets have increased the fervor and stakes with which viewers pay attention to games. In 2022, Variety Intelligence released a study on the correlation between sports betting and higher engagement rates on sports games. The study found that 52% of millennials would continue watching a blowout game if they had placed a bet, while only 32% would continue if they didn't have a bet placed. While viewership numbers have increased, has sports betting become dangerous to both bettors and athletes? There can be great joy in watching your favorite team win, and making some money off of it, too. But when people solely watch games to make a few bucks, what happens to the joy of sports?

Most fans cheer for the team they grew up watching, have family connections to, or that represents their hometown. However, Variety Intelligence shows that a significant percentage of people of all ages become fans of new teams due to sports betting. 24% of Gen Z bettors, 30% of Millennial bettors, and 22% of Gen-X bettors became fans of new sports teams due to betting. While sports betting has improved the quality of watching for many fans, it also trivializes a sport you love, making it less about supporting the team you root for and more about making money.

After the Supreme Court struck down the federal ban on state-authorized sports betting in 2018, states across the country gained the ability to legalize and regulate sports gambling on their own terms. Thirty-eight states permit sports betting, thirty of them allowing people to place bets from their phones. The increase in permittance means an increase in gambling addictions and addiction crises. NBC News reports that there is an increase in calls to the gambling addiction hotlines across the country. These calls include people who are losing their homes, filing for bankruptcy, or destroying their relationships. A YouGov survey discovered that 31% of sports betters wager over 100 dollars each month. A recent Investopedia study found that bankruptcy filings increased by approximately 28% within four years of legislation in states that legalized online sports betting. According to Legal Sports Report, market leaders FanDuel and DraftKings have generated 40 billion dollars in the thirty-eight states where sports betting is legal. Americans have wagered more than 450 billion dollars since the legalization of sports betting in 2018. An associate professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management told Investopedia that researchers found that as people increased their spending on sports betting and gambling, their investments and savings declined significantly. Net investments in states that allowed gambling decreased by 14% in households.

With an increase in sports betting, states are making more money due to the taxes placed on bets. In 2023, states made 1.8 billion dollars from taxes on sports bets, helping to fund education, counseling resources for gambling addictions, and infrastructure. Industry leaders have also contributed to addressing challenges. DraftKings, FanDuel, and Bally's worked together to form the Responsible Online Gaming Association, investing a total of 20 million dollars to work to promote responsible online gaming and to address problem gambling as the sports betting industry grows. Although it is a step forward, the amount of preventative measures for uncontrolled and reckless betting is severely lacking.

Gambling of any kind is a pendulum of unpredictability and uncertainty. People can go from doing extremely well to poorly in a short span of time, or vice versa. However, Sports betting doesn't just affect the bettors; it affects the athletes as well. When someone loses their hard-earned money in a sports bet, they often take their frustration out on the athletes involved in the game. For example, according to an article by the NCAA, twelve days after North Carolina legalized sports betting, Armando Bacot from North Carolina's men's basketball team received sports betting-related abuse via social media in personal messages. The NCAA has worked to protect athletes' mental health and, with Signify Health, to address harassment. They found that one in three athletes have received abusive messages from individuals invested in betting outcomes, and that 90% of harassment is produced online. Across the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball championships, Signify AI flagged over 54,000 comments or posts for potential threats or abuse towards an athlete. Of the 54,000, 4,000 were confirmed as threatening or abusive. Women's basketball players received three times as many threats as male athletes; there were more than 540 abusive betting-related messages sent to basketball student-athletes of both genders, some even being death threats. Not only are athletes affected, but officials, coaches, administrators, and other sports-related employees have been harassed related to their involvement in competitions.

FELISHA LI/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

While some people find immense joy and success from sports gambling, it costs others their livelihoods. Gambling addictions have increased since sports betting became legal, as well as hateful messages to athletes and people associated with making competitive sports happen. So what can be done? The NCAA has had many initiatives, including the Draw the Line campaign, to help protect the mental health and well-being of athletes. The NCAA is calling for a ban on "proposition bets," which are linked to specific athletes, like if Lebron will score over 30 in a game or if George Kittle scores the first touchdown, not the final result. Four states have banned proposition bets on specific collegiate athletes, including Ohio, Vermont, Louisiana, and Maryland.

Overall, sports betting is a double-edged sword. While fun and rewarding for some, it has detrimental effects on others. Which is stronger, the positive or the negative? Although I believe the bankruptcy and death threats to athletes point to the negative, and gambling always has downsides, it is possible for sports betting to be safe and enjoyable for all. However, stricter control, regulation, and preventative measures must be implemented to ensure that sports betting is safe for both the bettors and the athletes.

Cycling Continues to Perform as Members Chase High Standings

HAOYU ZHANG

Cycling raced in its second-to-last race of the season this Wednesday. The rainy weather highlighted the race, leading to some team strategy complications.

Frank Hu '26 mentioned that the change in weather messed up the team's consistency. In warmups, Hu unfortunately crashed, leading to pulling out of what would have been his last race of the season.

"I crashed during the warmups. It was bad weather going into our race, and then it cleared up, making me overconfident. I was turning and must have gone over a patch of sand or debris. I lost control, and the bike slid out from under me. I smashed up my bike and had to try to exchange it for another one. I tried both Jasjit [Hargun '27] and Eddy [Marrero '28's] bikes because they had raced previously in the Boys C race, and they were done. Both of them didn't fit me, so I was unable to compete, said Hu.

The Boys C race came first, before the weather had fully cleared. Despite the challenging conditions, Hargun and Marrero did well, placing second and fourth, respectively.

Porto said, "The Boys C riders, Jasjit Hargun and Eddy Marrero, had to fight intense rain and the fear of lightning during their race. That was difficult, and I'm proud of their hard work."

Hu also commented on Hargun's strategy and unfortunate ending, to his race. Hargun had led most of the race but was overtaken in the final straight.

"Jasjit was doing well. He was leading in Boys C for the entire race. Unfortunately, he was beaten in a sprint at the end. He lost by 2.3 seconds. It was unfortunate, but he did well. He was getting tired because he led the pack, breaking the wind for other racers. The racer in second was riding off his tail and not using as much energy because Jasjit was doing the wind-breaking for him. He got exploited on that last lap, which is probably why he lost the sprint," said Hu.

This race was also unique as it was a more vertically challenging course. To prepare for this race, Hu noted that the team had planned a strategy for approaching the race.

Hu said, "We planned a strategy around the course. This course started on a big downhill, ending on an uphill with flat track in the middle. This course is different from the other races we've ridden, so especially in Boys B, we talked about strategy a lot, like catching up to the Boys A kids, where to sit, where to draft, and when to sprint. I wasn't able to use any of it, but it was useful for the other racers in the Boys B race.

Heading into the season's final race, Porto and Robinson are in third individually for Boys B. Meanwhile, Hargun and Marrero are in first and second in Boys C.

"For our Boys C, Jasjit Hargun is first overall, and Marrero is second. For Boys B, I am in third, tied with our captain, David Porto, so our goals are to finish the season strong and secure those overall podiums. Next week is our league championship, so it's double points, but it's also on a flat course with a sprint at the end, so we're going to practice some of our sprinting technique to make sure we can finish as strong as possible, said Matt Robinson '27.

Cycling will race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway for its last race of the season next Wednesday.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Beyond the Blue: The Art Behind Blue Key Head Audition Outfits

Andover's Blue Key Head Auditions are a selective, student-led tradition steeped in joy, laughter, and fun. As the Class of 2026 throws on blue tutus and paint to earn a coveted spot, they are not just performing, but learning what it really means to lead through school spirit.

FRANK HU '26

"I had a Hatsune Miku wig on, a ripped up 'Home' Andover shirt, my cycling bib on, then a tutu around the cycling bib. To round it off, I put paint on my face, drew A's on my legs, and put handprints everywhere. Well to be honest there really wasn't any inspo [behind it], I just asked my friends for a little advice on the outfit and what they had. I got the wig and tutu from friends, while the cycling bib shorts were mine. The Andover 'Home' shirt I cut up myself. It was kind of perfect, as the skit I was given was very girly. I'm just a bit sad to see the 'Home' shirt go... I was originally gonna use my Abbot Cluster shirt, but I couldn't find it. [The outfit] really helped with my nerves. People were looking at me and they couldn't even recognize me, and so I felt like I could basically do whatever with 100 percent confidence."

MALCOLM TOLBERT '26

"I had purple crocs, blue socks, and blue tights that were under my shorts. Which were these blue jellyfish shorts that I got off Amazon. I also had a blue suit jacket, and a gorilla T-shirt. And then I had pit vipers that my friend gave me and a blue wig. Honestly, I just found whatever was blue and funny. I was given a few recommendations from friends to wear the gorilla shirt and I just decided to go with it. My given skit was to pretend to be J.D. Vance and explain why I kill[ed] The Pope. I thought it was funny, so I wanted my outfit to be the same. My outfit definitely helped me be less nervous because it's already silly enough. There's nothing else to be really nervous about because you already look so silly, so might as well go out and be silly and as fun as you can be."

WENDI WEI

ADDISON DENG '26

"I wore a Perry the Platypus onesie, with a blue tutu and blue bikini over it. I also had these glasses that light up. I was the first audition on Monday, so I didn't have much time to get my fit prepared. Actually, I relied a lot on Amazon one day delivery. I was very excited, but also very stressed. But one of my senior friends who graduated in 2024, Molly McKinnon '24, texted me right before my audition, because she saw in the story that I was going first, and she told me, you got this, have so much confidence, it's always hard going first. So I took her words to heart and had fun with my audition. I [also] heard my Nathan Hale kids screaming Perry the Platypus in the background, which made me laugh. [The outfits were] definitely very silly, and it just says that I don't care about what other people say about me and that I just want to have fun... especially when I'm with friends."

Andover's K-pop Show Echoes With Contagious Energy

CHARLIZE SOW

Under the saturated neon-pink lights of Pan Athletic Center's dance studio, Andover's annual K-pop show blended passion and community last Wednesday evening. A packed audience pressed forward in their seats, each cheer after the next pulsing through the room. Lying behind the tightly executed choreography and magnetic stage presence was months of practice in empty dance studios, shared playlists across dorm rooms, and a collective love for K-pop.

The show featured dance covers of popular K-pop hits, live music renditions, and intermission games hosted by two MCs. Dancer Allegra Lee '27 described the energy shared between the audience and the performers, celebrating both artistry and community.

"This K-pop show was even better than last year. The turnout was incredible, the audience was so energetic, and I loved the games and audience participation. We did a whisper challenge with noise-canceling headphones and a K-pop trivia game. Everyone prepared so well — it was crazy how talented the dancers in JVNE are. I was so proud to see everyone come together and dance because they love it. We also had way more musical numbers this year. People often forget K-pop is more than dance — it's also very musically rich. That aspect was really showcased this year," said Lee.

Behind the two-hour performance was months of logistical challenges and artistic decisions, led by the board members of K-pop Club who started planning back in Winter Term. With students balancing packed academic schedules and extracurricular commitments, the preparation process became a test of dedication and teamwork.

"From around midterms of Winter Term, we had weekly hour-long practices, usually in Snyder [Center], but sometimes in Borden [Memorial Gym] or [George Washington Hall] (GW), depending on what was available. It got really busy, especially coordinating rehearsals when you're in a lot of numbers. But it was a good experience — it helped me stay organized and figure out details like costumes and lighting, which I thought was really cool," said Lee.

What set the K-pop show apart was not necessarily how polished it was, but rather the driving message of camaraderie behind it. With no auditions required and no experience necessary, anyone with interest was welcomed to perform. Dancer Adelyne Liu '28 highlighted how the easygoing nature of the show encouraged a learning environment.

"The K-pop show [is] a much more relaxed, fun atmosphere. There were no auditions, so it felt more accessible and created a high-energy environment where people could just enjoy themselves instead of worrying about perfect execution. We really tried to be understanding and supportive of each other. The K-pop show is welcoming to all skill levels, so some people were newer to dancing. In my group for 'Like OOH-AHH,' one member had never danced before, so I spent time working with her one-on-one during conference periods or department meeting times to go over the choreography," said Liu.

E. LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Students captivated audiences in Pan Athletic Center's Dance Studio.

As the night wound towards its final act, the show took a shift towards an emotional sendoff. "Rock With You" by Seventeen, performed by a group of ten Seniors that live together in the stack Bertha Bailey, stood out with its synchronized movements, seamless transitions, complex lifts, and a level of cohesion that spoke to years of friendship and community. Performer Eric Wang '25 spoke to the preparation and symbolism behind the act.

"A lot of us grew to really enjoy [the show] and treasure the memories we made from it. 'Rock with You' is kind of an expression of love. Since we're all Seniors, it felt like a final send-off for our last year at PA. It was a really good experience to challenge myself and go outside my comfort zone. Also, it was a good challenge to try teaching the dance — since I was one of the more experienced members, I helped teach others, and that was a really valuable experience. We made some really good memories, especially in our final year here," said Wang.

In the days after the performance, memories of K-pop Show lingered, not just in recordings or social media posts, but also in the reflections and take-aways from performers and audience members alike.

"I wanted to show people that you can do hard things. K-pop is honestly one of the hardest things I've ever done. I started as a ballet dancer, and for a long time I thought that was all I could do. But I learned that's not true. Just starting small — maybe with a one-minute number — can be really impactful and help you grow as a dancer. I saw so many new people who had never danced before the show, and they improved so much over time. Dance is something really special and exciting. It's a way to express yourself and be part of a community, and everyone should have the chance to experience that," said Lee.

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Clothing for a Cause: PA Wings Initiative Hosts Successful Thrift Event for Charity

MAGGIE SHU & NATE DAROCHA

Racks of clothing, a constant flow of students, and booming music set the scene for the PA Wings Initiative's thrift pop-up, a student-led fundraiser that aims to give worn apparel a fresh start. The event, which combined philanthropy, community, and sustainability, was a major success, raising an impressive amount for charity. Both students and faculty came to shop, support friends, and ultimately help a worthy cause.

Coheads Sean Griggs '26 and Robert Budzinski '26 described the excitement of seeing their planning come to fruition. Griggs recalled the satisfying feeling of a big turnout, after they had worked hard to coordinate the event. Even casual shoppers, whether aware of it or not, were helping the club donate to those in need. PA Wings Initiative is potentially going to give the money to the Lazarus House, a charity focused on providing shelter, food, and other resources to people in need.

"Robert and I helped to set up everything for the thrift... it was a new experience, [and it] ran pretty smoothly. Especially when people began filing in, and I think at its peak, maybe 20 minutes after we started, I think we had maybe 50 or 60 kids in there at once. So it was really great to see how many people came out to both support the club if they knew what it was, but also to come to the thrift store and, knowing or unknowingly, their donations and the money that they're spending on these clothes is going to go to a good cause.

Chloe Abou-Ezzi '27 initially attended the event to support a friend, but in the process, discovered the exciting aspect of thrifting culture. What began as an obligation transformed into a genuine shopping experience, particularly when she found a quirky Mona Lisa T-shirt.

"My friend Laura was helping run [the PA Thrift], so I just thought I'd go support her. I got a really funny Mona Lisa T-shirt, so that was definitely my favorite part. I thought it was funny, so I bought it as a joke. And the music, the music was low-key hype... I think the selection was pretty good," said Abou-Ezzi.

Board member Drew Wasylyshyn '26 also noted the event's upbeat and welcoming atmosphere as a major accomplishment. With music playing, people smiling, and even Paresky Commons staff stopping by to shop, the event created a lively, community-driven space.

"I'd say a highlight was just the overall vibe of the thrift. It was a great time. We brought a speaker in, we were playing music, and we made it a very welcoming environment. Even some of the [Paresky] Commons workers decided to come shop at the thrift, and it was really great. Everyone was smiling and laughing and looking through clothes, and having fun," said Wasylyshyn.

C. TANG/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

The PA Wings Intiative thrift pop-up drew students into Paresky Lower Right.

Ashley Suh '27 also attended the thrift intending to support a friend, but soon found herself fully immersed in the experience. Impressed by the vast collection, she also found herself in awe of the organization and tidiness of the event, making it easy for her to discover new pieces. Suh expressed awe for the thrift's mission and is looking forward to donating to future causes.

"A few of my friends and I thought we would go and see what they have and support her. I found this really cute Vineyard Vines shirt, and it was such a steal. It was $5, it was really cute, and I thought they had a lot of good stuff. I would definitely donate to the PA Thrift events because I could see that they were going to good use. I didn't think there was anything that could be improved. It was very well organized and very tidy," said Suh.

Wasylyshyn hoped attendees would leave with a deeper appreciation for how simple acts, like donating clothing, can significantly impact someone else's life. He emphasized that fundraisers like the thrift event are effective and crucial in supporting those in need.

"I hope that [the attendees] took away how donating clothes can really elevate and improve someone's life. I think that it's such a small act that has so much potential to brighten someone else's day. Fundraisers like these are really critical to help out our community and the people struggling around us," said Wasylyshyn.

Elson Courtyard Comes Alive with Culture at Asian Women Empowerment Club's Annual Night Market

DANIEL ZHANG

Elson Courtyard was bustling with music, conversation, and the enticing aromas of Asian cuisine on Friday night as the Asian Women Empowerment Club hosted its highly anticipated annual Night Market. Tables crowded the courtyard as students browsed a vibrant selection of food stands representing a diverse range of Asian cultures from popular drinks like boba milk tea to savory snacks such as onigiri, pani puri, and Jin ramen. Despite a sudden downpour mid-event, spirits remained high. The lines at food booths barely thinned, as students laughed, ate, and supported one another in a warm display of cultural appreciation.

The Night Market was unique in that, unlike many affinity spaces that are reserved for students of certain identities, this event was open to everyone. As an inclusive cultural celebration, the Night Market allowed students of all racial, ethnic, and gender identities to learn about and enjoy the cultures of their Asian peers. Christina Appau '27, who attended the event to support her roommate, one of the club's coheads, shared her thoughts on the experience.

"I think it's very beautiful. The night market was very close-centered and it's a very intimate space. There are cultural foods we can try in case we haven't been exposed to them before. This is my first time trying boba, and it was really nice," said Appau.

The sense of joy and curiosity was shared by organizers as well. Kaya Mangani '27, a board member of the Asian Women Empowerment Club, reflected on the smooth planning process and praised the team's ability to execute their vision successfully.

"We've had tons of people come in. The planning process was smooth, we figured out what we needed and ordered everything. Setup went well, and I think the event has run smoothly overall," said Mangani.

However, the event was not without its challenges. According to Chloe Park '27, co-head of the Asian Women Empowerment Club, it was difficult to find a faculty chaperone due to the Board of Trustees meeting. In addition, sourcing authentic ingredients for some of the more specialized dishes required extra effort and coordination. Still, Park was proud of how the night turned out and was especially moved by how engaged attendees were with the cultural offerings.

"A lot of people didn't know some of the foods, and it was great to see how excited they were and how they were just as excited as I was to share it with them," said Park.

The Night Market is the club's most popular event of the year, and Park is already thinking ahead to how they can make it even better next time. She emphasized the importance of maintaining tradition while making room for improvement.

"There will probably be a few changes, especially with the food. We'll consider what people are clinging to. We definitely want more drinks next year, we had a lot of food, but not enough drinks. Other than that, this event is a tradition for our club, and we want to stick as close to it as we can," said Park.

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May the Scores Be With You: Academy Wind Ensemble Performs Thrilling Star-Wars-Themed Concert

ADEN HWANG

As the final chord of the main theme from "Star Wars" resonated powerfully, the audience in John Barry Hall erupted with applause. Last Sunday, the Academy Wind Ensemble ended its 2024-2025 season with a "Star Wars" themed concert. The performance featured a diverse range of repertoire, from excerpts from the "Star Wars" soundtrack to an arrangement of "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin to "La Creation du Monde," a ballet by Darius Milhaud.

For many performers, playing "Star Wars" music brought back a wave of nostalgia for their first time watching the films. Anthony Diaz '25 reflected on the thrill of watching "The Return of the Jedi" as he performed the Battle of the Forest, an iconic song from the movie's soundtrack.

"I'm a big Star Wars fan, so getting to perform amazing music by John Williams was an amazing time to play with the band and show off my clarinet skills. I was especially excited to play the 'Imperial March.' That's one of my favorite songs from the entire Original Trilogy. But I also really enjoyed the Battle of the Forest. I vividly remember watching Return of the Jedi. That song during the forest battle was amazing. Great fight scene, and performing it sparked joy in me," said Diaz.

For audience members such as Maya Tomlinson '28, the concert offered more than just entertainment—it was a vivid celebration of musical skill and the spirit of the original "Star Wars" score.

"It was absolutely amazing. Both ensembles were great—the Andover Contemporary one and the Wind Ensemble. The covers were fantastic and dramatic—very memorable and reminiscent of the original songs. It was a really good homage to the original movies," said Tomlinson.

As the ensemble's last concert of the year, graduating Senior Diaz reflected on his time with the music program, expressing gratitude for the challenges he faced and the opportunity to perform alongside passionate musicians.

"As a Senior, I feel very appreciative of performing in the band. Personally, I've thought of my Andover experience and what I want to leave on campus after I'm gone," Diaz said. "I would definitely like to leave [my musical talents] here, especially for people watching these performances and hopefully inspiring them to watch more concerts when I'm gone. Musically, joining this band has greatly helped with clarinet experience and performance skills so I'm really glad I got to play for a band as great as this," said Diaz.

Cyrus Law '27, a clarinetist in the Wind Ensemble, shared his thoughts on performing "Star Wars" music for the first time, highlighting the excitement of playing such iconic pieces.

"The Star Wars score has this grand cinematic quality, and playing those pieces with the band made it feel like we were part of something much bigger. The energy during 'The Imperial March' was especially powerful, it really brought the whole performance to life. Preparing for something like this goes beyond just practicing the music, it's about connecting with the emotion behind it. For 'Star Wars,' you're playing music that represents iconic scenes and characters, so you have to immerse yourself in those moments. It made each performance feel more meaningful," said Law.

Law shared his thoughts on how the audience's energy can affect the performance, noting that their reactions play a significant role in fueling the musicians on stage.

"The energy from the audience really does impact how we perform. When the crowd is excited, it pushes us to give more, to put even more into each note. After 'Princess Leia's Theme,' the applause felt so enthusiastic, and it gave us this boost to finish the concert even stronger. It's amazing how music can create that connection with the audience," said Law.

Beyond the music itself, Tomlinson emphasized the talent of the student performers and the importance of recognizing and supporting their work. While many concerts remain under-attended, she hopes that events like this one demonstrate the exceptional quality of Andover's musical programming.

"I recommend a lot more people go to our musical performances. I feel like a lot of people don't really understand how talented the musicians here are. We're just so good, and we get to watch all these incredible recitals for free on a weekly basis. A lot of people don't take advantage of that, and they should," said Tomlinson.

Seniorities on Stage: Seniors Take a Final Bow in a Joyful Drama Labs Show

DANIEL LIU & MATTHEW WEI

Laughter echoed through the Tang Theatre as students enjoyed final senior shows filled with humor, heart, and just the right amount of chaos. The mostly-Senior cast embraced their final curtain call with clever scripts, quirky characters, and the electric energy that defines Drama Labs. From last minute rehearsals to a judgment-free crowd, the night was a joyful celebration of theater as a creative playground.

Sebastian Lemberger '25 spoke from the perspective of both an actor and producer, highlighting the relaxed, witty atmosphere that Drama Labs takes after. In his last term at Andover, Lemberger found a team of seniors to share his final experiences with, wrapping up his final act with a tight rehearsal schedule.

"We had two shows over the entire term. One of them was entirely Freshmen and the other show was entirely Seniors. Being a senior, I was in the entirely seniors one. I think, at least speaking from the senior end, a lot of [producers] procrastinated until the end, myself included. But I think it all came together well in the end," said Lemberger.

Emphasizing Drama Lab's role in welcoming newcomers, Lemberger viewed this last performance as a last chance for students who want to take a chance on a new passion, relishing in the unique experience of a low-stakes, yet exciting show.

"It was nice to see a bunch of people who had never done any theater whatsoever in their life get the chance to participate in something before leaving the school. It was their first time doing theater, and so we were going from basically zero to a show, and I think that was a lot of fun," said Lemberger.

For Lemberger, the real enjoyment came from a rehearsal process full of friends and carefree laughter. Upholding Drama Lab's reputation of a leisurely yet focused community, Lemberger emphasized the rare notability of a space where everyone feels that they can be themselves, confident and ready to enchant the audience with jokes and gags.

"The pieces were mainly whatever directors were just getting their friends to do something because it would be fun, so I think that one thing that I will miss about drama labs is how goofy it is generally, because you don't often get those opportunities where you have a basically a judgment free performance opportunity that is also a full performance," said Lemberger.

Similarly, Felisha Li '28 felt comfortable in the jubilant and welcoming atmosphere, connecting different scenes to her own life. Paying attention to the small details, Li noticed the craft in every prop, giving props to the directors.

"I think they're really interesting. There were a lot of props. So I thought that was really cool, because that probably takes a lot of skill. The last show was Hamilton

COURTESY OF WINSTON WALL/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Byron Johnson '25 and Sebastian Lemberger '25 performed in one final production at Andover.

based, because I watched Hamilton a couple of years ago, and it sounded really familiar. Everyone was really hyped up, they all laughed and reacted to whatever was going on," said Li.

For Athena Zhang '25, the magic of the night lay in transformation. Watching friends disappear into their roles, she found herself taken aback by just how convincingly they shed their real-life identities.

"I don't have a single favorite scene, but I was especially impressed with Cathy Ma ['25]'s acting—it was the first time I'd seen her perform, and she was amazing. Will Ge ['25] and Cathy both did a great job embodying their characters. Will had to play three or more different roles, and each one had a distinct personality. They played their parts in such a way that I didn't think of them as the actors — I believed in the characters," said Zhang.

Matt Robinson '27 came not just to see a show, but to say goodbye. For him, the performance was more than entertainment, it was a final chance to see friends like do what they loved before graduation.

"I have a lot of friends who are in it. They're seniors, and I haven't been able to go to one before. And since it was their last performance, I thought I wanted to go and see them before they graduated," said Robinson.

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