The Blue and Gold

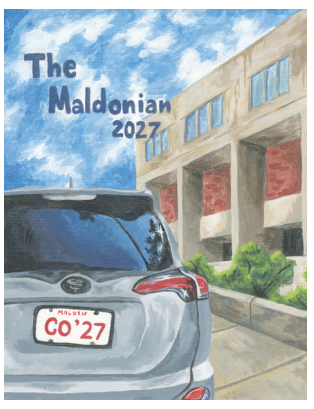
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Lilian Fang's Yearbook Contribution



Yearbook cover designed by Lilian Fang

Kyle Dang
Editor-in-Chief of Social Media & Print

Yearbooks are not an uncommon practice for high schools; however, Malden High does so in a unique fashion. What stands out is that the school offers the yearbook committee as an official course called "The Maldonian," advised by media teacher James Valente, rather than just as a club.

However, this year, Valente added a twist to the yearbook. Typically, the class favors designing their book covers digitally, as Valente recalled that the last time they had a non-digital cover was "probably pre-80s." To Valente's knowledge, it hasn't happened since he took over as advisor during the 2004-2005 school year.

Last year, in the 2025-2026 school year, they published their yearbook with graphics digitally rendered by Artificial Intelligence (A.I.).

Lately, A.I. has faced some pushback in society and can be described as "tacky," stated senior Sofia Evoras.

Evoras further explained that there is a lack of soul to AI-generated art and how she "absolutely" hates it, describing that paying a costly price does not warrant using A.I., and the art in the yearbook should instead "be created entirely by the people who participate in the class." She continued that "it promotes the lack of support for artists in modern times."

Valente himself understood that the use of A.I. is controversial amongst Maldonians, and to honor that, he commissioned a student to create the artwork this year. This was a groundbreaking event for the school, as once again, we have not had original art made for the cover in roughly over 40 years.

Valente explained that it was senior Maldonian Committee staff member Weiqi Du's idea to find student interest in designing the cover.

"I realized in the past yearbooks that they all follow a very simi-

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COSTUME BEAK-DOWN

The Great Inflatable Showdown in Malden History



Fatima Husain
Managing Editor

Participants of the Inflatable Showdown gathered for a picture. FATIMA HUSAIN

A chicken, a rooster, a sumo wrestler, a panda, a frog, a pig, a T-Rex, an eagle, a cow, and an alien walk into Malden High School's courtyard: What do you do? Obviously, watch them fight.

On Friday, October 30th, students walked into the high school expecting a normal day, but everything changed with a single sound—a chicken's shriek. They had returned, and this time, they brought their friends. But who are they?

Let's backtrack three years to when senior Logan O'Connor arrived at school in an inflatable chicken costume to revive the Halloween spirit. "Sophomore year, I started wearing the costume and playing music after hearing someone had worn an inflatable potato costume freshman year," shared O'Connor. After seeing the students' amusement, he thought to keep the tradition alive his junior year, but expressed "wanting to do something more."

That was the catalyst for the inflatable rooster adorned by senior Conner Schopp. The two friends believed it would be funny to engage in a mock Chicken vs. Rooster fight in the courtyard during lunch. What started as a joke would soon go viral on TikTok with more than 2.3 million views.

O'Connor claimed he was "so happy" finding out about the video that he "watched it for days watching the view count climb."

Besides creating a fierce rivalry with Schopp over a bag of chips, O'Connor snuck 150 squeaky chickens into school and handed them out. He recalled that the "idea of the chickens" originated with his mom, but since his dad thought "it was a bad idea," he had to sneak the rubber toys in "over the span of a week" and hide them in a locker.

The squeaky chickens would end up being handed out before the first period ended, so the two decided to purchase a thousand this year.

O'Connor detailed that "the original plan to fix the chicken shortage" was to purchase a thousand, and then create a "GoFundMe to try and raise enough money for another thousand, so all two thousand students in the school could receive a chicken." Unfortunately, the GoFundMe idea fell through.

Since this year is O'Connor and Schopp's last, they wanted to go out with a blast and recruited other inflatable animals to participate in their tradition. They had the "idea of running a WWE-style fight," where "multiple fights" would occur through lunch, stated O'Connor.

Principal Michael Sabin stated that when he "first heard of the proposal for an inflated costume fight in the courtyard," he thought it to be one of the "worst" and "absurd ideas" that he has "received in 20 years as principal." However, he admitted that he "was impressed that student spectators handled the whole thing pretty well, had a few laughs, and did not get overexcited or inappropriate."

Last year, Brunelli House Principal Jean Edwald Charles, dressed up as Bill Nye the Science Guy, happened to hear the commotion in the courtyard and went over to make sure everyone was safe. Hilariously, Charles coined the name "mad scientist referee" among viewers online.

While Charles did return to maintain a safe environment, the fight was refereed by someone else—the legendary singer Michael Jackson. Costumed by senior Nicholas Taylor, Michael Jackson would

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Visit page 14 to read more about Volleyball Senior Night

Visit page 15 to read more about Boys' Soccer Senior Night

Visit page 14 to read more about Girls' Soccer Senior Night

Visit page 14 to read more about Cross Country Senior Night

Visit page 16 to read more about the Football team

ADVOCATING FOR AUTONOMY IN ART'S 1972

Alexia Lima
Editor-in-Chief



Trainhoppers played by Will Urmston, Chadwick Stokes, and Darren Buck singing around the campfire. Photo from NILE SCOTT STUDIOS

Hopping on the train of the revolution for bodily autonomy, rock becomes the soundtrack to the fight for women's reproductive freedom in the world premiere of American Repertory Theater's (ART) rock opera 1972, written by Jessie Nelson and musician Chadwick Stokes of the beloved indie bands DISPATCH and State Radio.

Stokes, a Boston native, merges his folk-rock sound with his roots in train-hopping and activism into the music and lyrics of 1972 to paint the impassioned women's rights revolution that led to the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Senior Joan Diaz Vargas highlighted the effect of the instrumentation combined with the storytelling: "Their connection to the story and their raw emotion captivated me, especially when they were singing."

For its second production of the season, Malden returns to ART's Lavine Learning Lab, an initiative that encourages discussion and collaboration among high schools in the greater Boston area through production-centered workshops.

On Friday, November 6th, Learning Lab students arrived at Harvard University's Farkas Hall, participating in a preshow workshop alongside Boston Latin Academy and watching the production later that evening.

Held in one of the hall's rehearsal rooms, Learning Lead Vahdat Yeganeh, Learning Lab Assistant Ariella Kasmer-Jacobs, and Artistic Engagement Associate Leah Harris initiated the workshop by prompting students to fill the space of the room as if they were walking to different stations of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), paying homage to the theme of transportation in 1972.

Students were then divided into groups of three, where they were prompted to "travel" between four different MBTA stations, walking to different tables that had their own activity centered around what could be found at that given station.

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THE BLUE AND GOLD

77 Salem St.
Malden, MA 02148

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Towards True North

The rush of the curtain opening. The thrill of perfecting a routine. The catharsis of capturing the energy of a room in words. As I begin to think about these moments that have defined my past few years with a sense of finality, I have to remind myself to enjoy the ending of this stage of my life through the philosophy of always looking four ways: forwards, to see where I am going; backwards, to see how far I've come; to the sides, to see those who have been there along the way; and up, to see the values that have led me to where I am today.

These directions are not a part of any ordinary moral compass, but rather serve as daily tokens of gratitude towards the experiences, people, and values I hold close.

Looking forward to what lies ahead, I feel as uncertain, giddy, and nervous as any other senior navigating the chaos that is the college application process. While I don't have control over which outcome will shape my future (which, admittedly, does keep me up at night), the passions that I have chosen to pursue reassure me that I will be happy wherever I end up.

I will be following my love for writing and literature in college with plans to major in English, where I plan on spending my days immersed in reading and producing works that change my view of the world. I hope to transfer my skills into a career in law, where I aspire to be a family lawyer and have the honor of guiding families through the darkest of circumstances.

My future career will allow me to be a part of something bigger than myself, to protect families in their vulnerable states and be trusted with the fragility of their relationships with their loved ones.

Aside from the joy I hope to find in my career, I look forward to cultivating my love for theater through whichever avenue I can, whether it be supporting it or finding my way back to the stage.

Looking backward to the journey that led me to where I am today, I see the perseverance and ambition that willed me to not take any opportunity for granted. As the daughter of Brazilian immigrants, I witnessed my future being paved through sacrifice and the labor of love.

My single mother taught me the strength required in creating my own successes, igniting a drive in me to not let fear deter me from pursuing any of my interests or reaching for any of my dreams. From a terrified freshman trying out for her first ever school sport to a nervous sophomore auditioning for her first musical, I didn't let the fear of the unknown stop me from trying new things, the results of which landed me in my most beloved communities today.

Looking beside me, I wouldn't be where I am today without the endless support of my family, friends, and communities. To name a few, my Play Production family helped me grow into the person I am today by allowing me to express myself creatively on and off stage. The cheer community challenged me as both an athlete and a leader, forging some of my closest friendships and allowing me to foster my love of performing. My peers in The Blue and Gold encouraged my passion for writing to flower through inspiring me day to day.

To those who listened to every rant, went along with every whim, and showed up time and time again, I could not be more grateful.

Looking upward to the values that have guided me, I value connecting with others above all else. I strive to know those around me intimately and be a pillar of support for my peers.

Throughout this edition, the same directional framework can be applied. Looking forward to our country's future, we hope to see the recent wave of optimism following the results of the midterm elections shape our political landscape for the better.

By reflecting on our society's history, we can appreciate the origins of social movements such as the fight for reproductive freedom and trace them to the continued efforts in today's age. Around us, we see communities thriving under shared purpose, whether it be in going to the polls or rooting for inflatable animals.

Above all, a calling to civic duty and caring for one's community has guided our society to where it is today.

Alexia Lima
Editor-in-Chief

Alexia Lima



Alexia Lima playing Lela in Teen Beach: Escaping Junior Varieties hosted by the Class of 2027. Photo submitted by Alexia Lima







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We strongly encourage readers to respond to material printed in the form of signed letters to the editors. No libelous, malicious, defamatory, obscene, or unsigned material will be printed. *The Blue and Gold* reserves the right to edit the letters. Names may be withheld upon request. Not all letters will be printed.

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Any correspondence concerning this publication should be directed to Mr. Ryan Gallagher's room J387 or to his mailbox in the main office.

The Blue and Gold
c/o Malden High School
77 Salem Street
Malden, MA 02148

SCAN FOR MORE CONTENT!

Blue Wave Takes Over the Midterm Elections

Aundrea Cifuentes
Senior Lead Reporter

The November 3rd midterm elections marked a significant shift in American politics, as Democrats secured a historically significant majority in Congress. Election day served as a historic victory for the Democratic Party.

What began as a series of congressional races developed into a broader shift in political representation, with traditionally Republican and conservative states experiencing some of the election's most notable results.

Democrats gained over 40 seats in the House of Representatives, bringing their estimated total to 259 seats, while Republicans are estimated to have 176. There are still races that haven't been offically called yet. This will give Democrats their largest House majority since the early 1990s. In the Senate, as of November 10th, Democrats have won 55 seats, and the Republicans have won 44. Alaska has yet to be called, with the Mississippi Senate race being called in favor of Scott Colom on November 10th.

However, the election's impact extended well beyond Washington. Democrats gained approximately 259 seats in state legislatures nationwide, flipping 12 legislative chambers from Republican to Democratic control.

Notable changes appeared in Arizona, Texas, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, where Democrats gained control of legislative chambers previously held by the Republican Party. In Arizona, Democrats flipped both the state House and Senate, marking the first time in approximately 60 years that the Democratic Party secured full control of the state's government. Wisconsin also experienced a major political shift, as Democrats gained control of both legislative chambers for the first time since 2010.

Another notable shift occurred in Georgia, where Democrats flipped the state's House of Representatives for the first time since before 2004, and in Texas, where Democrats gained control of the state's House for the first time since before 2002. In Pennsylvania, Democrats gained control of the state Senate for the first time since before 1994. North Carolina and New Hampshire's legislative chambers also changed party control.

Democrats flipped Republican governorships in Georgia, Iowa, Nevada, Ohio and Texas. The Texas race was particularly notable, as Democrat Gina Hinojosa defeated Republican Greg Abbott, becoming the state's first Latina governor and ending more than three decades of Republican control of the Texas governor's office.

These victories brought the number of Democratic governors to 22 of the 36 gubernatorial races with Republicans having 12, with two races still awaiting final results.

The combination of legislative and gubernatorial victories also gave Democrats six new state government trifectas, meaning the Democratic party controlled the governorship and both chambers of the state legislature. Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin all reached these trifectas following the election.

While the results represent a substantial change in party control, the long-term effects remain to be seen. Control of state governments influences decisions involving healthcare, voting, education, laws, and other policies that directly affect residents. The shift could also possibly affect future congressional district boundaries and election administration.

Beyond the changes in party control, the 2026 midterm elections also marked a significant moment for representation in American politics. Voters elected candidates who broke longstanding barriers in Congress and State leadership, producing eight historic firsts across the country.

In Georgia, Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms became the first Black woman elected governor in U.S. history, alongside Texas electing Democrat Hinojosa as its first Latina governor. New Mexico also made history with the election of Deb Haaland, who became the first Native American woman elected governor of a U.S. state. These victories all represent major milestones in U.S. politics, bringing new backgrounds into the country.

Congress experienced historic changes as well; Michigan Democrat Abdul El-Sayed became the first Muslim, Minnesota's Peggy Flanagan became the first Native American woman, and New Hampshire's Chris Pappas became the first openly gay man elected to the U.S. Senate, while Mississippi's Scott Colom became the state's first Black senator in 152 years.

These historic victories were not limited to Democrats, as Florida Republican Byron Donalds became the state's first Black governor.

Together, these victories show that the 2026 midterms were about more than shifts in congressional majorities and state legislative control. They also marked changes in who holds positions of political leadership, with communities reaching representation in offices they had never previously occupied.

WHY THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS MATTER

Fatima Husain
Managing Editor

Students in the Malden Public Schools district will enjoy a day off on Tuesday, November 3rd, as schools will be closed to serve as polling locations for the midterm elections. While students are thrilled to have a shorter school week, it is important to understand the significance of the upcoming election and its impact at the federal and local levels.

"Voting is such an important right because it gives us a say in the kind of people that represent our needs and wants, and that ensures the laws being passed and enforced in our country are as much as within our best interests as they can be," emphasized junior Lyra Heining.

What Are the Midterm Elections?

Divided into three parts, the United States government consists of the executive branch, which enforces laws; the legislative branch, which creates laws; and the judicial branch, which determines the constitutionality of laws. Constituents regularly vote to select members of the executive and legislative branches.

The executive branch involves the President and his cabinet members, while the legislative branch consists of Congress at Capitol Hill. Congress is further divided into two parts: The Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate includes 100 members—two senators per state—and the House of Representatives includes 435 members—the number of representatives is based on state population.

The presidential elections occur every four years, while midterm elections occur every two years, during the middle of a presidency, to decide the members of Congress. During this, all House of Representatives seats are up for grabs because representatives have two-year terms. However, senators have six-year terms; therefore, only 1/3 of Senate seats are up for election at a time. The staggered system—officials are elected to seats at different times—was created to prevent senators from the same state from appearing on the ballot.

"Congress is responsible for making laws, so in many ways these elections are just as important, if not more important, than the presidential election," stated Speech and Debate and AP US History teacher Kurtis Scheer.

Many states will have more than just Senate and House races on the ballot, also including gubernatorial and legislative elections, as well as ballot questions.

The Massachusetts Ballot

Massachusetts is an overwhelmingly blue state, meaning most of its voters are affiliated with the Democratic Party. As a result, all current elected officials in office are Democrats (D). Except for Elizabeth Warren, whose current term ends in 2031, the listed members are campaigning for re-election.

Based on the state's size, Massachusetts will elect nine House of Representatives members tomorrow. To learn more about the representatives, visit: Massachusetts House Primary Election 2026 Live Results

Since America's independence, a two-party system has dominated the country. Today, the country is divided into the left-wing Democratic Party and the right-wing Republican Party. Despite ideological polarization straining American democracy, Congress represents both ends of the spectrum, highlighting the importance of voting.

"All politics is local. The representatives closest to you are often the ones whose decisions affect your daily life the most," Scheer noted.

What Are Referendums?

Massachusetts citizens can also vote directly on legislation through ballot questions or referendums. A referendum asks voters to approve or reject a law already passed by a legislature, or to decide on a specific policy proposal referred to the public. On the ballot, it appears as a separate question with its own titles, summaries, and Yes/No options. In fact, referendums are why the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is no longer a graduation requirement.



A brief explanation of the nine referendums and what the yes/no vote do for each.
Graphic by FATIMA HUSAIN

Mock Trial and AP Government teacher Richard Tivnan explained how ballot questions are "one of the few direct links" between the people and government, "allowing voters to make decisions on specific policies."

To get a ballot question before voters, supporters must collect signatures, submit the proposal to the legislature, and then gather another round of signatures if lawmakers reject it or take no action.

This year, Massachusetts has nine referendums on its ballot, each distinct, requiring voters to be informed about the topics. However, political campaigning does not heavily focus on the ballot questions; instead, it discusses national partisan issues. As a result, most questions are not "on the radar for a lot of people this year," expressed Tivnan.

There is a blatant lack of voter knowledge where citizens do not know "who is on the ballot, what the questions mean, or that ballot questions exist in the first place," elaborated YWCA TASK Advisor Chris Murphy.

Junior Minerva Davenport underlined the importance of raising awareness, as many "assume" ballot questions do not "directly affect them." She urged that "people need to understand that their rights" either come from a clause, the Constitution, a Supreme Court ruling, or a law, "but can be undone."

Besides awareness, the language used in the questions can be complex and confusing, creating barriers for the common voter. For instance, "yes-or-no wording on ballot questions can be confusing because sometimes a 'yes' vote changes something, and other times a 'yes' vote keeps things the same," added Tivnan.

Scheer included that even "well-educated voters" can be puzzled and may need a "cheat sheet to remember whether a yes vote means what you think it means."

Low Voter Turnout

One of the biggest challenges facing the midterm elections is low voter turnout. While presidential elections often draw widespread attention, many voters do not show up for elections held between presidential cycles. "Many casual voters do not feel the same urgency to participate," Scheer explained.

Several people might also feel as if their individual vote will not make a difference or that election outcomes are already decided. Murphy argued that this mindset "keeps many people away from the polls" despite having multiple methods to vote.

Young voters face additional barriers. Many 18-year-olds are balancing schoolwork, college applications, or other responsibilities, making politics seem less important in comparison. Scheer mentioned that any barrier hinders voting: "Whether it's work, family responsibilities, or scheduling conflicts, it will reduce voter participation." Moreover, Election Day not being a federal holiday might also contribute to a low voter turnout.

One way to boost voter participation is through voter education. Schools and social media platforms can provide clear information about elections, candidates, and voting procedures. When people understand how elections affect their lives and know how to vote, they are more likely to feel motivated to participate in the democratic process.

AP World History and AP Economics teacher James Hill encouraged young voters to actively seek information rather than relying solely on social media algorithms. "Seek out news more than let news seek out you," he explained, noting that consuming "news from a variety of sources" can help voters become better informed and make more thoughtful decisions at the polls.

Beyond education, accessibility remains a challenge, particularly for "non-native English speakers," remarked Heining. While election materials may be available in multiple languages, registration requirements, ballot information, and election resources can still be difficult to navigate. Expanding multilingual resources, early-voting periods, and offering more polling locations will promote higher participation.

At the end of the day, voting gives people a voice in how their government is run and helps shape decisions that affect their daily lives, so make sure to fill out a ballot tomorrow.



Uncertainty Awaits Brazil Post-Presidential Election



Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on the left and his candidate for the 2026 election, Flávio Bolsonaro, on the right. Collage by Emilly Weihrauch

Emilly Weihrauch
Editor-in-Chief of Web Design & Mobile

The United States is home to a melting pot of thousands of ethnicities and immigrant communities. In it resides the largest population of Brazilians outside of Brazil, with the one of the largest concentrations being in Massachusetts. This past October, Brazilian immigrants across the country participated in their nation's federal election during a time of immense political controversy.

The 2026 General Election took place on October 4th to elect a number of federal officials, including members of the National Congress, the vice president, and the most anticipated of all: the president.

In conclusion of one of its most closely contested presidential elections in recent years, the left-wing Workers' Party's (PT) primary candidate Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has been reelected to his fourth, nonconsecutive presidential term.

By the end of the initial election round, right-wing Liberal Party (PL) candidate Flávio Bolsonaro had amassed 47% of votes while Lula secured 45%. Because neither candidate acquired over 50% of the overall votes, the close vote led to a runoff, where the candidates reran for their positions on October 25th for the final verdict.

On October 25th, Lula defeated Bolsonaro with 51.79% of the vote in comparison to Bolsonaro's 48.21%. Winning by 4.4 million votes, this result provided Lula a victory, but not one without opposition; the congressional elections suggest that his administration will face considerable difficulty when attempting to introduce new legislation.

This election raises questions about the direction of Brazil's national systems, economy, foreign affairs, and future for the next four years.

Congressional Affairs

This year's presidential race was largely a continuation of the political divisions that have seemed to shape Brazil in recent years. Lula—who previously served as president from 2003 to 2010 and returned to office in 2023—campaigned primarily on maintaining social welfare initiatives, supporting lower-income communities, and continuing government investment in the economy.

His opponent—previously a senator representing the state of Rio de Janeiro, Flávio Bolsonaro, campaigned on a much more conservative platform, in which he emphasized a responsibility and an agenda associated with the political movement with religious backing established by his father, Jair Bolsonaro. His candidacy attracted voters who supported the previous Bolsonaro administration.

Similar to the U.S., one of the most anticipated moments during federal election season is the presidential debate that could make or break a candidate's argument, composure, and reputation in political standings. TV Globo was set to air the debate three days before the election, but it was cancelled abruptly because Flavio pulled out at the last minute, as Lula had refused to participate in any federal debates leading up to the election.

Lula, instead, appeared on one of Brazil's most popular podcasts, Flow Podcast, to talk about the upcoming election. This was a move that many considered peculiar, to say the least, as many people felt that the podcast episode evoked a bias in favor of him.

On Sunday, October 18th, the two candidates participated in the rescheduled debate.

Playing such a vital role in the election, curated questions were asked in order to address voters' concerns and defend their records. During the first face-to-face debate, Lula and Flávio Bolsonaro exchanged accusations about corruption, crime, and the economy. The debate attracted significant attention, especially among youth in which clips of humorous and accusatory exchanges during the debate were viralized online.

The debate was not considered a clear victory for Lula, as analysts and reporters from Reuters expressed that Bolsonaro held better composure. However, the debate brought greater attention to the differences between the two candidates' focuses for the country's direction, with Lula supporting current economic policies such as raises to minimum wage, while Flávio Bolsonaro criticized raising food prices.

Although the debates did not shift voters directly toward Lula, the runoff campaign gave him an opportunity to change the focus of the election, asking voters what another Bolsonaro presidency might mean for the country. This begs the question, what do the people in congress believe in when it comes to a Bolsonaro in power?

The results of this election showed that neither political movement has overwhelming national support, demonstrating a continued competition between Brazil's left and right. This sentiment will continue, considering the PL emerged as the largest individual party in both chambers of Brazil's legislature, with many in direct support of Bolsonaro's political movement. This consequence poses a significant challenge for Lula, as Brazil's president cannot independently pass most major legislation, which means many of his proposals will likely not receive congressional approval.

The newly elected Congress is also expected to incite law changes and roles within the court. Bolsonaro-aligned lawmakers have expressed interest in changing powers in the Supreme Federal Court and to pursue the impeachment of Justice Alexander de Moraes, who was heavily involved in the investigation of Jair Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro remains imprisoned for his attempted coup against Lula in 2023, but is currently serving the remainder of his 27-year sentence at home due to poor health; approved by de Moraes, he remains a controversial figure within Congress among right-wing congressional candidates.

Economic Uncertainty

The economy remains one of the biggest challenges Lula is set to face during his next four years in office.

Throughout his campaign, Lula promised to continue investments in public services and improve living conditions for lower-income Brazilians. These priorities include programs such as Bolsa Família, which provides financial assistance to low-income families.

Despite these initiatives, Lula continues to face pressure from Congress and Brazil's citizens as, according to Vanguard, the nation's economic growth has stagnated significantly, and high interest rates are having crushing effects on businesses and consumers. The elevated national debt remains a large concern, as Lula's administration will have to find workarounds to fund social programs without increasing the country's debt—these issues could impose difficulties for Lula to keep his promises while maintaining control over government spending.

This sentiment is intensely important to voters in the United States, as economic struggle in Brazil is currently the largest driving factor for immigration into the US.

International Position

Becoming the face of your country comes with the challenge of dealing with foreign affairs and policy, and particularly its efforts to maintain positive relationships with countries of various political and economic associations.

Lula has sought to strengthen Brazil's influence in international relations, one of these efforts being maintaining an active role in the BRICS group, which includes member nations in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

The US and Brazil have maintained over 200 years of diplomatic relations, yet since July of 2025, its relations have been profoundly strained since President Donald Trump announced he would impose an additional 40% tariff on Brazilian imports. President Trump's friendship with former president Jair Bolsonaro also raises questions of whether or not the US will be involved in future affairs that involve the Bolsonaro cabinet.

Flavio Bolsonaro fled to Miami, Florida, just three days after losing the election, in which President Trump provided him and his family visas and personal approval for the stay. This led Brazilians to question Bolsonaro's controversial decision to confide in the US for safety amid Senate changes and concerns regarding the treatment of Brazilians outside their country, such as deportation.

Brazilians have also questioned the future of their national security as Lula is outspoken and sharply critical of the Israeli government's military actions in Gaza and other nations in the Middle East, publicly calling the conflict a genocide and calling out Israel's Prime Minister for the approval and enactment of the military actions in the area.

Environmental Policy

Lula has previously supported stronger environmental conservation efforts to reduce deforestation. With Brazil notably being host to a significant 60% of the Amazon rainforest, it serves as a major oxygen powerhouse for the world.

The agricultural sector is an important part of Brazil's economy, and debates over land use, environmental regulations, and economic development have historically created disagreements between government officials, environmental organizations, and agricultural producers.

During Joe Biden's presidency, when Lula was also in office, both presidents "placed environmental cooperation" as a priority in the relationship between the two nations. There was a fund established in 2023 for conservation initiatives, in which they designated $38-53 million for it. The current administration has so far cut much of the funding for Brazil's environmental matters, specifically USAID programs.

Political Engagement among Young Voters

Younger voting participation was an important part of the 2026 election, particularly as political polarization continued to shape national discussions. With social media becoming an increasingly important source of political information, younger Brazilians had more opportunities to learn about candidates, discuss political issues, and participate in elections.

Brazil allows its citizens to begin voting at the age of 16, with it being optional for those between 16-17 years old. The Superior Electoral Court (TSE) continued its incentives for the country to vote, notably for younger audiences through educational campaigns and online resources, including directions on the voting process and more.

Despite the efforts taken by TSE, youth registration decreased compared to the previous presidential election. According to their data, there was roughly a 15% decrease in younger voters' registration. This result proved the expectation that there would be more young voter engagement through social media promotions to be false.

Voter Engagement in our Area

Malden's very own Salemwood Middle and Elementary School held voting booths in the building, where Brazilians in the assigned counselor jurisdictions of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and, of course, Massachusetts only could vote.

Official publicly available records revealed that the votes from the Boston region that were collected from multiple states across New England had a total of 19,304 official votes registered, in which Flavio Bolsonaro had the majority with 71.58%, receiving 13,605 votes, while Lula had 28.42% with only 5,402.

The Next Four Years

President Lula's fourth term will bring intense legislative negotiations with a newly conservative Congress, significant fiscal and debt pressures, and a push to lower interest rates and improve complex foreign policy dynamics. With ongoing polarization, only time will tell to see if the Bolsonaro reign will impose an issue on Lula's reelection and his plans for the term. As tensions between the United States and Brazil continue to develop, Brazilian immigrants are on their toes for signs of changes and future plans.

HALLOWEEN ALONG THE WATERFRONT



Collage of Boo Bash participants designed by Tisha Neupane.

Tisha Neupane
Reporter

A young boy dressed as George Washington smiled as he rode a pony along Boston's waterfront. Not far away, two children dressed as Michael Jackson and a Minion were busy playing an inflatable ball-toss game. Between the games, costumes and music, families gathered at the Tall Ship Boston on Sunday, October 25th, for its Halloween Celebration, the Boo Bash.

Running from 12 to 4 pm, Boo Bash offered families an afternoon of outdoor activities along the waterfront. The harbor and Boston skyline provided a pleasant backdrop for photographs as children played games, collected candy, and explored the attractions.

Jessica, a consistent attendee at Boo Bash, expressed her satisfaction with the event. "This is our third time coming. My kids have always had a good time," she stated.

Her children were particularly excited about the inflatable attractions. "The kids really wanted to do the bouncy houses," added Jessica, additionally commenting on her appreciation of having a Halloween celebration in an unusual location. "The reason I like this one is because it's so unique because it's geared towards kids. You have the water and the backdrop of Boston."

Among the varying attractions, an interactive animal display caught the eye of many, with children having the opportunity to brush, pet, and feed goats, chickens, and rabbits.

The pony rides also caught the eye of many event-goers. Benny, a young attendee dressed as George Washington, was among those enjoying a ride along the waterfront.

The event wasn't limited to young children, as it attracted teenagers looking for something to do with friends. Matt Murphy, a student at Everett High School, shared that he discovered the event while browsing social media and decided to attend with his friend. "It's a good time to be around, and honestly, just the spirit, seeing everybody happy."

Murphy also enjoyed watching the football game displayed on the large screen, adding that the event offered Boston residents an enjoyable way to spend their afternoon. "I think it contributes to Boston a lot because it brings people in, and it makes the vibe feel better," Murphy remarked.

His friend, Ren Pierre Lewis Cole, also an Everett High School student, had never attended Boo Bash before. He particularly enjoyed observing the different costumes and participating in the face-painting activities. "My favorite part was being with my friends," Cole stated, describing the event as "absolute, fun galore." Additionally, Cole suggested the idea of a possible sports activity in future years.

Face painting and glitter tattoos gave visitors another activity to try between the games and other attractions. Children sat for their designs while artists worked, adding colorful details to costumes that had already been put together.

Paige, one of the glitter tattoo artists working at Boo Bash, noted that her company had been working with The Tall Ship Boston for several years, although this was her first time personally participating in this event.

"All types of kids and adults love getting glitter tattoos," Paige asserted. "It just makes the day so much fun. You get to shine and sparkle, and have a little bit of creativity, and it's super quick to do. I love being here."

Paige clarified that the tattoos took only a few minutes to complete, which helped prevent long lines. She sometimes entertained younger children by asking questions or playing small games while they waited and she cherished seeing the children's excitement over their costumes and described the visitors as sweet and polite.

Families also stopped at food stands throughout the afternoon, with vendors along the pier serving an array of food for attendees.

Verna Hampton, an executive artist, author, producer and Director of Programming for Putting Stone Creatives in Boston, attended the Boo Bash with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Hampton had joined in the activities herself, including getting her face painted, and was enjoying the afternoon in the outdoor seating area. "I'm here with my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren. And they're having a ball. So am I."

Hampton spoke about watching the children being her favorite part of the event rather than choosing a particular attraction. "Watching the children enjoying themselves, both big and little, the young and the old, because we're all kids on Halloween."

Having attended other Halloween celebrations, Hampton appreciated the size of the venue. She found Boo Bash larger and less cramped, giving visitors more space to enjoy themselves.

She characterized the gathering as "a wonderful, intergenerational, multicultural function, celebrating all Hallows' Eve. Right now, we're all kids on Halloween."



Young attendees, Dani and Ella, pose in their Halloween costumes near the waterfront deck. TISHA NEUPANE

"Right now, we're all kids on Halloween."

Verna Hampton



A young attendee, Benny, dressed-up as George Washington taking a pony ride along the waterfront. TISHA NEUPANE

To see more art created by Lilian Fang, visit @lili4ns.art.dump on Instagram!

Maldonians against A.I.

Continued from front page

lar pattern; for example, 2025's, 2024's, and 2023's books all have a navy blue and gold-plated cover. So the question I had in my head was, 'How can we make this year's yearbook more unique than previous ones?'" explained Du.

Valente claimed that it was also a push "against that A.I. idea," and approved the suggestion.

Du emphasized, "With the rise of A.I. in art and media, a hand-painted cover further highlights not only the ability for humans to be creative, but also an important yet original piece of art etched into Malden history." Although there was a wide pool of artists, it was ultimately senior Lilian Fang who was selected to create the cover.

Fang was described by Valente as "shy" and unwilling to "get herself out there," so in choosing her, he wanted to highlight Fang's skill in the arts.

"I've always enjoyed drawing ever since I was little, maybe four to five, and I would take drawing classes when I was younger," reflected Fang, who continued sharing that it was a "full-circle moment" for her, as she also created the yearbook cover in her eighth grade at Ferryway Elementary and Middle School.

Fang was given the prompt to draw a car inspired by the Class of 2027's motto: "Class of 2027, we stay driven," that remained stationary in front of the main entrance, parallel to the Holden Street side building of the high school.

Instead, given that it held a stronger metaphorical worth, Fang decided to paint the car parallel to the front Boyle-side of the high school, as she was told to interpret the prompt creatively and put an interesting spin on the concept.

What started as poorly drawn sketches by Du became an A.I. prototype of what the yearbook was looking for. The prototype was described by Du as "bogus," and they were looking for someone to take the idea and make it better.

Made with acrylic paint, Fang spent a total of seven hours painting the physical art. Fang mentioned how she initially wanted to create digital art rather than creating something physical, but settled on painting instead.

Fang turned in the piece of art to Valente and was met with applause upon viewing the artwork. "I'm pretty happy with it, although the proportions of the building were a bit off," she expressed.

Valente remarked that it was a "one-of-a-kind piece of art."

Whalen Sails into History

Madison Brazell
Reporter

Stephanie Zhao
Reporter

Sofia Ardon Flores
Reporter

With a new school year kicking off, new staff have joined Malden High. Each one of these new faces are determined to make a difference in their students' lives with their teaching. Malden High School has welcomed Hannah Whalen as a new 11th grade World History teacher.

Before coming to Malden, Whalen did her student teaching at Somerville High. She also worked in after-school programs and has been a preschool teacher. She has always wanted to work in education, graduating from UMass Amherst, where she studied history.

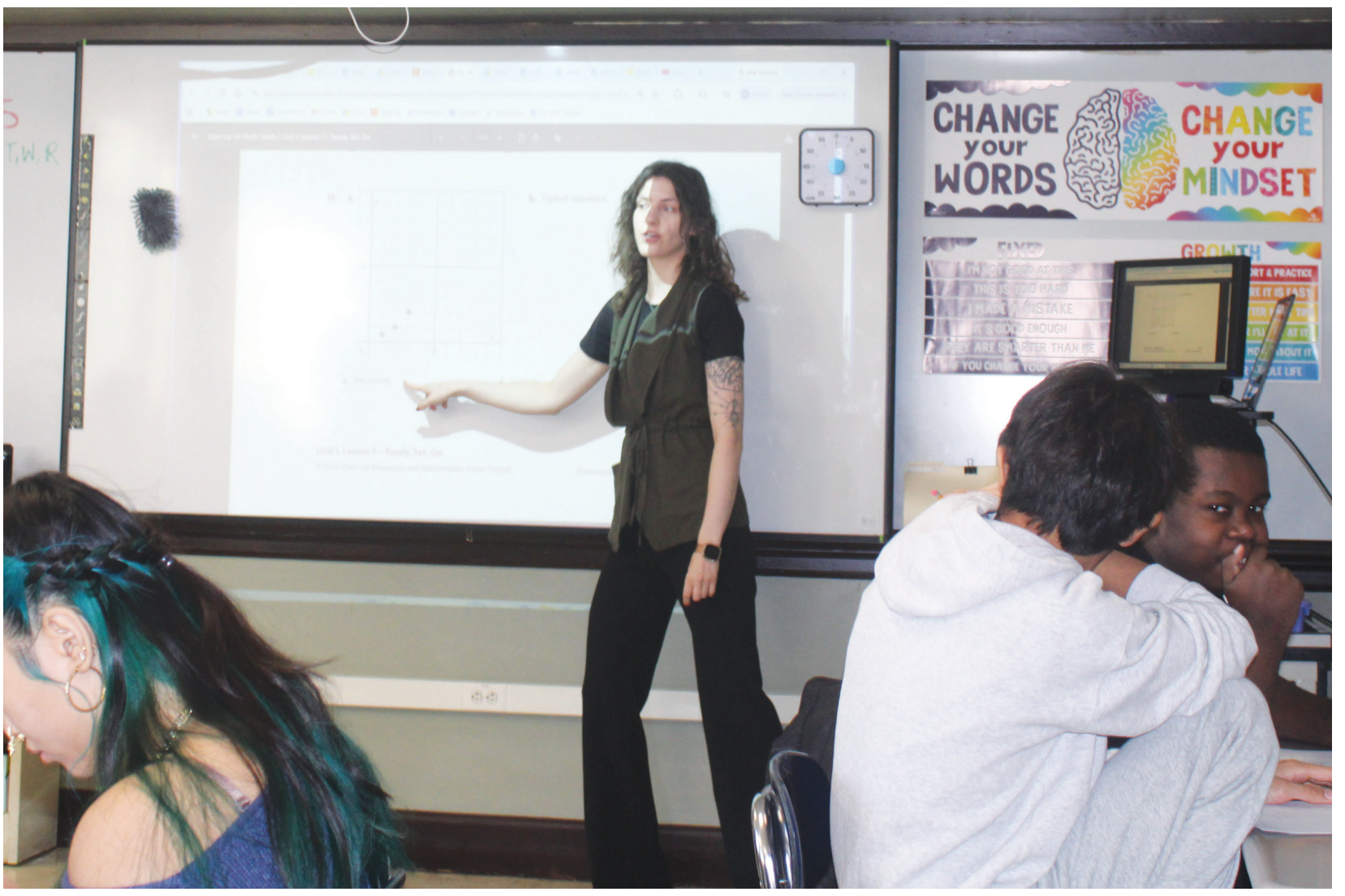
Growing up in Lexington, her interest in history came from the love of learning it. "I also really loved just talking about history with other people in my life, whether that was my friends or family," Whalen shared. Her previous experience working with students across different age groups helped her prepare for her new role at Malden High School.

Whalen believes that the most important and memorable part of teaching is "being able to spend the day with the students and really getting to learn with" them, which influenced her to teach in Malden. "I wanted to be at a school that was very community-oriented." Outside of being a teacher, Whalen dedicates her time to reading books, doing ceramics, and spending quality time with her family.

As she spends time with her students and learns with them, the biggest impact she wants to have on her students is to instill confidence in them and remind them they can do anything they aspire to. History teacher Kurtis Scheer complimented her "great personality," because "she's got a really calm demeanor that is reassuring but also clear and easy to get along with."



MEREDITH GOLDIN'S GOLDEN WELCOME



Meredith Goldin teaching in front of the class. TISHA NEUPANE

Selam Tesfaw
Reporter

Tisha Neupane
Reporter

Maeve McAlear
Reporter

As the school year begins, Malden High School welcomes Meredith Goldin into the math department as a Math 1 and 2 teacher. Previously, Goldin worked at Community Charter School of Cambridge for four years.

Outside of school, Goldin enjoys hiking and rock climbing. "I run, and I love traveling. I like finding new places to eat. Just anything outside of my apartment," she shared.

Goldin's passion for teaching is evident through the way she connects with her students, making them feel supported because Goldin prepares everyone for the class beforehand. Goldin hopes her students will develop a strong work ethic by the time they leave her class. "If you know how to do things that are hard, and how to persevere, and do problem solving, you can figure out anything in life, even if it isn't related to math," stated Goldin.

During the hiring process, Brunelli House Principal Ewald Charles recognized Goldin's ability to work well in diverse spaces like Malden High School. He emphasized that Goldin knows it is important to give students a chance to speak and went out of her way to make sure students knew they had a voice in class and outside her room.

Goldin's mastery of the subject and overall attitude were important factors that stood out to Charles during the time of evaluating Goldin for the position. "I think her knowledge and desire to collaborate are great. I think she's just going to connect with a lot of the teachers that are already here, and she'll learn from them," Charles noted.

Some students may feel more comfortable communicating with younger teachers who might relate to their struggles. It's key that Goldin adapts to what each person needs.

Although Goldin has not been at the high school long, she has already created clever strategies and engaging techniques to get her students to participate in class. For example, freshman Rachel Huang stated that at the beginning of class, students vote on "who has asked the most questions, and that person gets a free goat plushie and a homework pass."

Math teacher and collaborator with Goldin, Jean Jones, expressed that Goldin not only cares about students' math knowledge but their overall interests. "Every day, she has a question that the students answer that's not even related to math, to figure out their opinions and ideas about things." This gives students a chance to reset from other classes and encourages a slow transition into the material at the beginning of class.

Staff at Malden High School observed that Goldin is excelling at quickly adapting to her new position. History teacher Paul Doucette recognized that Goldin "seemed comfortable and already seems like a very good teacher."

Doucette added that, "Teaching math is super difficult. It's not always the favorite subject for many students in high school, and I think having a teacher who has patience and is organized makes the moment not as hard."

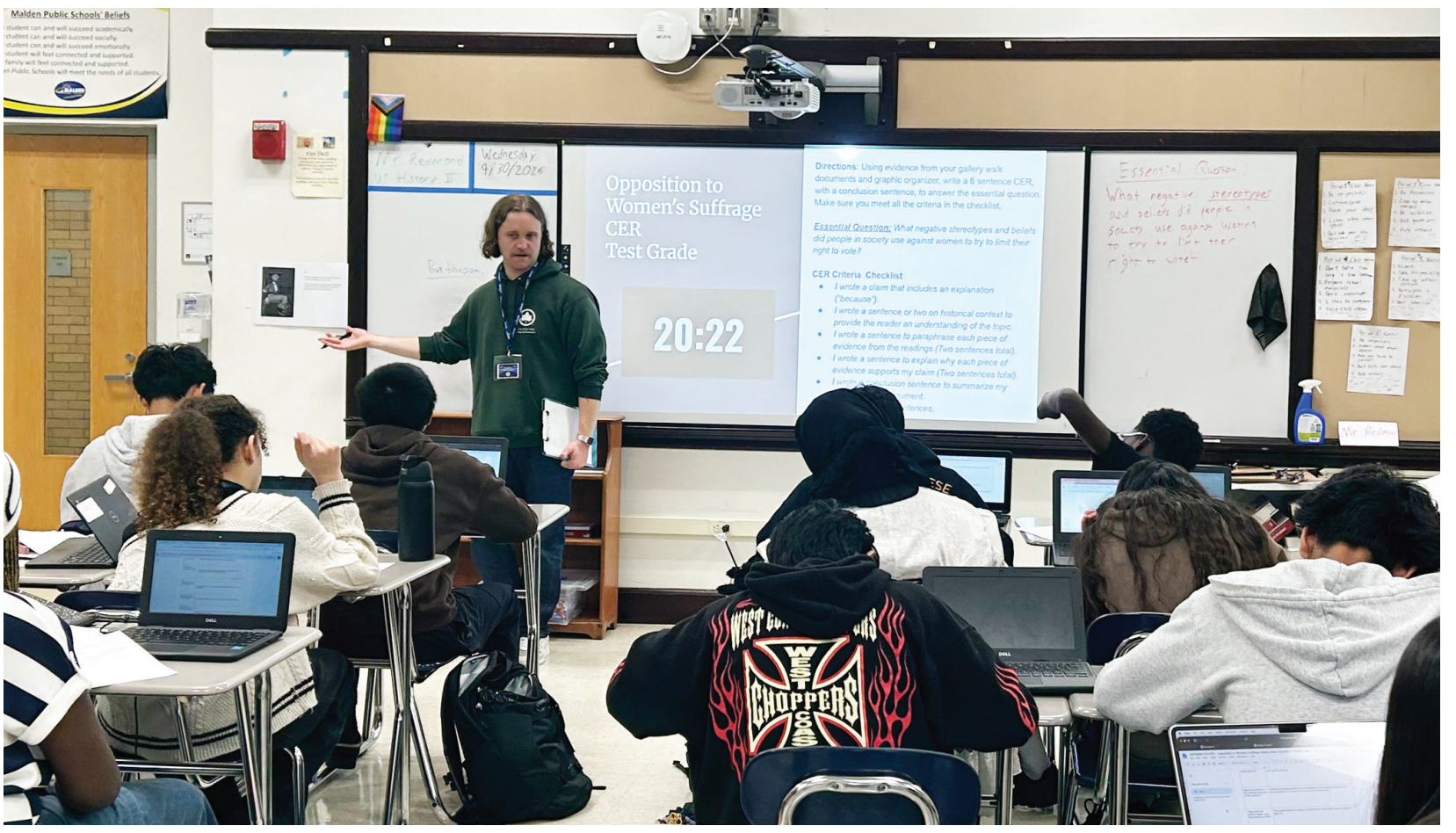
Even though Goldin has proven her ability to quickly adapt to a new environment, she highlighted some differences between the charter school she used to work at and Malden High School. The biggest difference that she noted was the much larger class sizes at the high school compared to the Charter school.

Another difference that Goldin has faced has been related to her curriculum. Unlike her previous position as the only ninth-grade math teacher, Goldin now "has the opportunity to collaborate with many math teachers who teach the same course," which has resulted in her using a universal curriculum that aligns with these other teachers.

For students and staff at Malden High, walking into Goldin's classroom means walking into a judgement-free zone. Huang feels Goldin is "always willing to help no matter what." This makes her class a safe place for many students to express their struggles in math and seek out help, knowing that they will walk out feeling more certain about the work they can use during their future high school careers.



HEARIN' KIERAN REDMOND



Kieran Redmond reviewing at the front of the class before a quiz. SELAM TESFAW

Tisha Neupane
Reporter

Maeve McAlear
Reporter

Selam Tesfaw
Reporter

For Kieran Redmond, teaching history is more than memorizing names, dates, and events. It's about helping students understand the world around them, question what they see, and learn to view an issue from different perspectives.

Redmond, one of Malden High School's newest social studies teachers, joined the school for the 2026-2027 school year after teaching for two years at Lawrence High School. Although he described himself as being "on the newer side" as a teacher, he brought classroom experience and a clear idea of what he wants his students to take away from his classes.

Redmond explained how he has "always really enjoyed history" and "enjoyed learning about history." For him, "learning about the past and social studies in general" is helpful for students to "understand the world around us and kind of why the world is the way it is."

While Redmond has a big passion for history and teaching, he has many interests outside of education. He loves bike riding, hiking, and outdoor running. He also enjoys watching movies and trying new shows and series that he hasn't watched yet.

His interest in film and movies has contributed to a strong relationship with his students. He has an ever-changing list of favorite movies and is also a big Letterboxd user, which surprised sophomore Sidney Dugue, one of his students. Dugue expressed that he wouldn't expect his extensive "knowledge about movies," from Redmond's demeanor. Redmond said that he recently watched The Odyssey, which gave him a blast from the past when he read the epic in high school.

His interests as a history enthusiast also shape the subjects he enjoys teaching. Among his favorite topics are the Cold War and the Civil Rights movement, particularly because they took place alongside one another while containing both widely known events and compact stories that are often overlooked.

Redmond's approach to teaching is centered around the independence of students. Rather than seeing himself as the person who only deposits information to kids, he describes his role as helping students develop the ability to learn and think for themselves.

"I say my philosophy is that most of the work really needs to be out with the students," Redmond expressed. "I see myself as someone who could set you up to learn and coach you through that learning." He described the process as a "give and take," demonstrating that while he can support and guide the students, they also have to take responsibility for their own learning. This balance has already been noticeable to the students in his class.

"I really hope they can process information about what happens in the world and how to understand it and see different perspectives and find those deeper meanings," Redmond said.

He connected those skills to students' lives outside of school, particularly when they encounter news and events happening around them. His goal is for students to develop "the tools" to understand those events, recognize different perspectives, and ultimately "make their judgements."

Dugue described Redmond's teaching style as "very organized, but still digestible." He mentioned that his classroom has a structured seating arrangement that still allows students to have fun and stay engaged.

For sophomore Diandra Nakamya, another one of Redmond's students, his classroom has also encouraged her to participate. She described him as "chill" and a laid-back teacher who gives students independent work and enough time to complete it in class, reducing the amount of work that they need to take home.

She also shared that students participate more in his class because he doesn't put excessive pressure on them. Instead, he gives them a moment to think before responding. She hopes he continues allowing students to "share their opinions and thoughts," something she believes he does especially well.

Redmond works with students during the classroom, aiming to create a space where students can work independently, yet receive support when required.

The Malden High staff noticed this focus even before he officially became a part of the school community. Gerard Tannetta, Malden's director of Social Studies and Arts, was involved in the hiring process. He was looking for "someone who could build good relationships with students, but at the same time challenge them."

During the hiring process, Redmond taught a mock lesson in front of a panel that included students. Tannetta said the students were impressed by the way Redmond connected his do-now activity to the lesson and felt that his teaching style was supportive of students.

Social Studies Teacher Leader Kurtis Scheer, who assisted on the interview committee, has since seen Redmond teach at Malden. "He's really engaging, getting students up and moving, challenging them with some complex texts," Scheer emphasized. At the same time, Scheer articulated that Redmond is supportive of students who need extra help and is available when they need assistance.

Jenkins House principal Jayson Payeur also noticed Redmond's ability to connect with students during the hiring process. Payeur said Redmond appeared knowledgeable, supportive, and comfortable working with young people. He also remembered that Redmond had a "really good interview," and remembered Redmond's demonstration lesson. He said Redmond was comfortable with both teaching and interacting with students and described the lesson as "excellent."

One of the first things Redmond noticed after arriving at Malden was the diversity of the school community; he knew before coming to Malden that the school included people from many different backgrounds, but experiencing that diversity in person made a different impression on him.

"I haven't been surprised at how many different languages I've heard here in Malden," Redmond remarked. "There's so many I've heard, and it's really cool to see so many people, different people from different backgrounds coming together. We all may be a little bit different, but we all have so many things in common," he claimed. "At the end of the day, we're all people, and you can find that common ground."

Andy Martinez Joins Science Forces

Raihan Saidi
Reporter

Erica Mugimu
Reporter

Elissa Yick
Reporter

As a new year at Malden High School begins, Andy Martinez has joined the school community as a new science teacher.

Martinez has dreamt of becoming a teacher since he took biology and fell in love with the subject his sophomore year of high school. Before becoming a teacher, he worked as a biologist for five years, holding off on pursuing his dream until he was "older" and "more patient," Martinez noted.

When school isn't in session, Martinez likes to spend his days spending time hiking in nature and reading books.

Martinez has had experience in many different environments, making him suitable for the diversity that MHS offers. One of his most notable jobs was at an school in Jamaica Plain where he "taught Biology to students who were learning English." He explained, "It was all different grades; some of them were freshmen, some of them were seniors, some of them were 10th graders," He also taught 8th grade science at Boston Latin Academy.

"I'm certain he's going to get involved more and become an integral member of his team," Brunelli House Principal Ewald Charles positively reflected, who pointed out: "I've seen him at meetings; he's involved, he's asking questions, and he's quickly becoming a member of the science team, integrating himself and learning and sharing his thoughts."

As Martinez settles into Malden, the community welcomes him with open arms as a new member of the science team, ready to make a positive impact.



To read more teacher profiles, visit our website.

A WILD TABLETOP CARDS & GAMES APPEARS



Banner of Tabletop Cards & Games' logo. RIN CLOUGH

Rin Clough
Lead Reporter

Finding collectibles that are trending is incredibly hard, especially with scalpers on the rise, who shove every piece of a store's inventory into their carts. However, you could also head over to a card show, but something local would be more suitable. Maybe you're into RPGs or board games, but playing with family is getting old. You're just trying to find a community that embraces your hobbies, somewhere you feel welcomed and accepted.

This new-and-upcoming hobby store is located at 61 Exchange Street, which is a short seven-minute walk from Malden High School, and opens at 2 p.m. on weekdays, making it convenient for an after-school browse. Tabletop had its grand opening on Friday, October 30th, 2026. Walking into the store, you will be presented with shelves full of merchandise, trading card equipment, and collectibles, including Pokémon trading cards, sports trading cards, and other special novelties.

There are many different sections of the store suited for tabletop gamers of all kinds, with a wide selection of board games, card games, and more complex games, such as Dungeons & Dragons or Warhammer. Tabletop also has multiple designated gaming areas, including a private "Dungeon" gaming room which can be rented out by obtaining a membership. Tabletop Cards & Games' membership is $5 monthly, and provides you with early pre-orders online, unlimited access to in-house board games and painting supplies, and "Loyalty Bonus XP", which earns you points after every dollar you spend that go towards discounts.

"They have so much on display, but they also have a whole lounge section. My personal favorite things were the Halo and Star Wars sections because I love both! I've never seen so much Halo stuff in a single store before, and that was super cool," junior Nico Cherry expressed.

Tabletop Cards & Games' main focus is community. "I want people to be able to come in, experienced or brand new, to feel welcome, and know that if they're experienced, they'll play against someone who shares that, or if they're new, they'll play against someone who's friendly with new players," shared store manager Doug, who has a passion for playing Union Strike.

"This store is a spectacular spot to buy items that will satisfy your hobbies. Not only that, but it is a great hang-out spot. The workers are extremely nice and welcoming and always help out whenever you need them," junior Davi Dei Santi highlighted.

Company president of Prima Entertainment, John, shared that the whole concept of a game store blossomed during COVID-19. "We started playing some board games and got a little bit back into Magic: The Gathering by playing with each other. We were having a lot of fun with that. I created a couple of games, and my business partner also got back into collecting sports cards."

The store's beginnings started on an app called WhatNot, which is a platform where creators livestream and sell collectibles to their viewers. Tabletop has its own designated WhatNot streaming room, where staff hype up their viewers with their best pulls by ripping open packs.

"Start small; don't worry about jumping in and trying to be the best or buying the most expensive product. It's just about starting small and doing what you love because there's so many different hobbies you can choose from," Doug continued.

The gaming and collecting community in Malden is extremely grateful to have a new store to add to the Gaming District. If some of your biggest interests consist of what this small business has to put on their shelves, then this is your sign to stroll down Exchange Street and visit Tabletop Cards & Games. The doors are open for an experience of fun and possible new friendships!

"I recommend this spot not even to just people who have hobbies like Pokémon and Warhammer, but I recommend it to anyone who wants to support an upcoming business," Dei Santi concluded.

Tabletop Cards & Games can also deliver your hobby goods via their online website, tabletgc.com, where you can find more information about the company and special events held in-store.

An important note from Doug to Tabletop Cards & Games' customers: "Just come in, learn, and fall in love with it over time."



Various board games being displayed at Tabletop. RIN CLOUGH

MALDEN HIGH COLLECTS A NEW COMMUNITY

Anna Bui
Head of Sports

Collecting is a huge part of people's lives. For many, it is a big hobby, while for others it may be something they partake in without even realizing it. Collections can come in multiple forms and sizes, and regardless of how involved one is in the hobby, the Collectors Club has created an outlet for people to share their collections, whether it's trading cards, shoes, art, or any kind of memorabilia.

Collecting can bring all kinds of people together, like junior President Jason Doan and gym teacher and advisor of Collectors Club, Jonathan Currier, who claimed they "shared the same common interest," and "wanted to share that vision with the students at Malden High School."

For Currier, collecting had been a part of his life since his childhood. He believed that it helped build "an easy connection with some friends," and that it was something he enjoyed doing.

As a result, the Collectors Club was formed. The club offers an outlet for students to share their passions and "to express what they love and what they cherish," said Doan. Students are given the opportunity to discover new interests, trade, and play with other members of the club.

Although the club is centered around collections, the community is open to all high schoolers, even if they don't have an extensive collection. The main priority of the club is to bring together students who want to learn about collecting and to be part of a community without heavy commitments.

Many members are hoping to be able to build a strong community. For junior Event Coordinator JB Mac, who wants to ensure everyone can have fun and "feel seen" and "not feel left out."



Collectors Club members posing for a photo at the end of their meeting. ISRAA MALHOUNI

The officers have already started planning ahead events, something that students can look forward to. Mac aims to "host events that are easily accessible and enjoyable to all," and feature guest speakers at meetings who are "significant" to the collecting community with backgrounds in Malden.

There are other events planned, such as Show and Tell, where students can "show off their collections that they've accumulated over time," shared junior Social Media Coordinator Gesselle Rodriguez Portillo. She expressed her excitement for this event because she enjoyed the idea of people "getting into similar interests" as her and being "able to explore different communities that people enjoy."

Junior Social Media Coordinator Lillyanna Keogh agreed with Portillo and shared that she is "looking forward to seeing what everyone collects, and trading with others."

The Collectors Club has even managed to form connections with other local trading communities outside of Malden High. They've been in contact with Tabletop Cards & Games, a recently opened collectible store in Malden, which hosts different tournaments, from Pokémon to Beyblades. The officers have planned to have outings there, encouraging students to become "engrossed in a collector's hobby environment," noted Currier.

While the club is primarily about bringing together a community, it also offers a place for students to learn and build entrepreneurial skills. One part of collecting is selling, buying, and trading, which can form skills that could eventually be applied to other aspects of life.

Through the Collectors Club, Currier mentioned that students can begin building "real world business skills of understanding market trends," and "analyzing data" to put students in "a position to build entrepreneurial skills and grow their collections."

Regardless if a student is attending meetings to share their passion or to build real-world skills, the club officers are focused on emphasizing that it is a community, where "everyone is welcomed and every collection is welcomed," concluded Doan.

TRAVERSING INTO HAUNTED FORESTS



A gargantuan skeleton greeting adventurers who dare to enter. Junior Julio Cesar De Oliveira stared down by scare actor. WILLIAM YU

William Yu
Lead Reporter

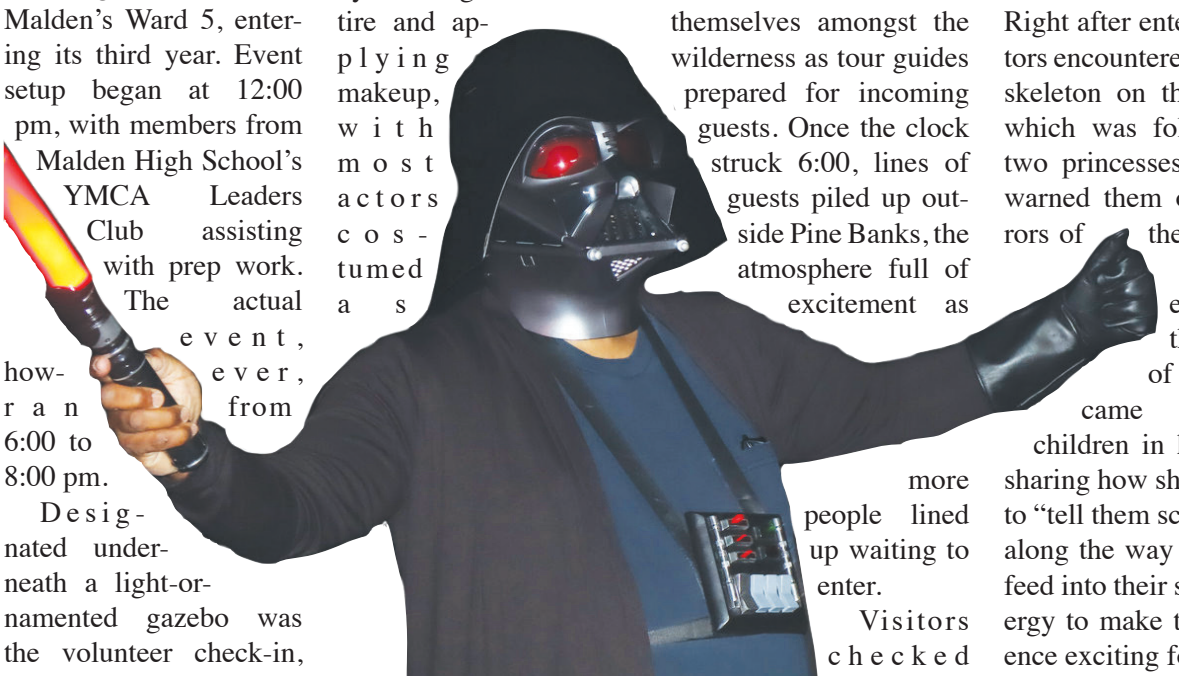
With the spooky season passing, the main thing that many thrill-seekers seek is a good scare. Many typical adrenaline-inducing activities include haunted houses, horror games, and movies. This year introduced many horror films such as *Backrooms*, *Obsession*, *Scream 7*, and most recently, *Resident Evil*. However, sitting down and thoroughly enjoying a cinematic film isn't cheap. Offering a more local experience in Malden, a cheaper, yet just-as-thrilling experience resides in the woods of Pine Banks.

Created by Ari Taylor, the Haunted Woods is a recurring annual event in Malden's Ward 5, entering its third year. Event setup began at 12:00 pm, with members from Malden High School's YMCA Leaders Club assisting with prep work. The actual event, however, ran from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Designated underneath a light-ornamented gazebo was the volunteer check-in, where piles of cryptic signs, eerie props, and decorations awaited preparation.

As you delved down the path to a playground, you found yourself tangled in cobwebs, face-to-face with a demonic doll. Towards the pond, the remains of human and animal skeletons enticed you. Adjacent to the pile of bones, guarding the Pine Banks pond, was Cthulhu: a fictional entity resembling an anthropomorphic octopus dressed as a pirate, created by American writer H.P. Lovecraft.

Around 4:00 pm, a new wave of volunteers found their way to the site, consisting of scare actors and tour guides. The scare actors prepared by dressing into their attire and applying makeup, with most actors costumed as zombies and clowns. Food and drinks were later accommodated alongside hand and foot warmers as the temperature dropped. Around 5:00 pm, tour guide volunteers followed Taylor to do a practice run around the entire course to get a feel for the trail, ending at the entrance where she gave instructions to the actors.



Junior Tenzin Tseten shared that her experience was quite "unique and enjoyable." As most scare actors were from the community, her favorite aspect was seeing the "costumes and makeup" of the people she knew

And then, an ominous darkness loomed upon the woods; the wind breezing through the trees. Scare actors hid themselves amongst the wilderness as tour guides prepared for incoming guests. Once the clock struck 6:00, lines of guests piled up outside Pine Banks, the atmosphere full of excitement as more people lined up waiting to enter.

Visitors checked in at the front, forming groups of various numbers before being paired with two tour guides who accompanied them throughout the trail. Before entering the experience, visitors were given the option to hold a light-up broom, which signaled they did not want to be jump-scared on the experience.

Junior Julio Cesar De Oliveira, a volunteer for the Malden YMCA Leaders, noted his versatility in tasks, expressing how he "was a free-range person" who helped out with tours and set up.

Once each group was checked off, they were granted entry in spaced-out increments to prevent group overlap; then the horrors of the haunted woods commenced. Right after entering, visitors encountered the giant skeleton on the ground, which was followed by two princesses who warned them of the terrors of the woods.

Tseten expressed that most of the fun came with the children in her group, sharing how she was able to "tell them scary stories along the way and really feed into their spooky energy to make the experience exciting for them."

Oliveira added that they were able to "run through a dark forest with friends, which made the experience thrilling."

Each tour group was hit with comical jokes by Darth Vader, who was stationed further down the path. Across from him stood an opportunity to take pictures in front of a spooky background, complete with different props to pose with.

Further down into the forest, as the groups approached the playground, the decorations and characters became increasingly frightening. Volunteers dressed up as zombies and clowns appeared along the trail, running up to visitors while screaming, adding to the haunted atmosphere.

However, the walk halted when a series of haunted characters approached the visitor groups, with the most notable being a staged scene with a masked scare actor holding a chainsaw.

Approaching the end of the trail, tour guides directed the visitors to the exit, looping them back to the entrance. The night concluded with the echoes of the screaming guests and actors that could be heard outside of the woods.

HALLOWEEN SPIRIT AT FORESTDALE

Selam Tesfaw
Reporter

Vitoria Medeiros
Reporter

Leandra Arruda
Reporter

Halloween is celebrated as a day full of fun. Although specific traditions may vary from country to country, most people agree that it is a day to enjoy with friends and family and participate in traditions such as carving pumpkins and decorating with spooky decor.

Students and staff at the Forestdale School enjoyed spending Halloween as a day filled with fun through trick-or-treating and dressing up in various kinds of costumes. The holiday serves as a way for students to wear their costumes and showcase their unique style and interests with creativity.

On Sunday, October 18th, the school transformed into a festive hub for its annual Halloween event. According to volunteer coordinator Lisa Porro, the gathering is a "tradition" that has "been going on for years."

The school cafeteria and common areas were transformed into a Halloween wonderland. Towering inflatable decorations greeted attendees, including a large pumpkin flanked by friendly monsters holding "Trick-or-Treat" signs. Scattered throughout the room were classic eerie accents, from a grinning jack-o'-lantern bucket to a creepy inflatable black spider decoration and a dangling skeleton figure watching over the festivities.

Forestdale School principal Adam Weldai shared that he has "been helping with this Halloween party for 15 years." He described the setup process as manageable and straightforward, noting that "everything that you see here just gets packed away into a couple boxes that live in a storage room down the hall, and then every year, around 12 o'clock, we come, we undo it all, put it back up on the walls, the DJ comes, and then, a little later, pizza comes, and it kind of runs itself."

Providing the high-energy soundtrack for the afternoon was DJ Julie D'orio from Party on Productions, who shared that she has assisted in hosting this event for about a decade." Over the years, she came to enjoy the celebration and found herself returning to help with the music. Setting up her professional laptop and mixing console right inside the hall, she kept the room buzzing with festive beats.

"I'm very happy to be helping because I know these people, and I've known them for a long time. They're great, and I get to just play with kids for two hours," D'orio explained.

During the event, children rotated through various activity stations set up along long tables draped in vibrant orange tablecloths. Clearly marked with handmade signs, the interactive tables included a "Pumpkin Magnet" station and a "Paper Owl" station, where kids gathered closely to glue together their crafts.

In another area, children sat side-by-side coloring festive pictures while proud parents and guardians joined them at the tables, helping with the tricky parts of the crafts and capturing photos.

The creativity of the community was fully on display through a colorful sea of costumes. Children ran around dressed as iconic characters while adults enthusiastically joined in on the fun— including Mayor Gary Christenson and Weldai, who rocked cool costumes. The lively mix of music, crafts, and community spirit made the day even more magical for the children, showcasing the tight-knit bond of the Forestdale community.

Fowl Play: Costumed Rivalries

Continued from front page

count down from three, after which the fighters would deliver their dangerously soft jabs.

The WWE match began with the prehistoric T-Rex, costumed by junior Cortez Thou, against the Bald Eagle, costumed by junior Julian Jean Gilles. The two marched menacingly toward each other, waiting for the referee to count down to one. As Michael Jackson gave the signal, both fighters displayed their friendly ire, with the T-Rex playfully going for the Bald Eagle's neck at one point.

"The fights were really entertaining to watch, especially since it was a stressful last week of the quarter. I went to a different school before, and we didn't have fun annual traditions such as these. I think that is what sets Malden High apart from other schools; it is our sense of community," voiced junior Maria Eduarda Candido.

The second round showcased the skills of the Panda, costumed by senior Jeremiah Johnson, and the Sumo wrestler, costumed by senior Thomas Darcy-Sillari. The Panda and the Sumo wrestler fought neck-and-neck, inciting students to cheer loudly for one or the other.

Junior Ella Wong remarked that fights "were cinematic with the autumn leaves," cascading around the courtyard.

In the third round, students would witness a clash between the Pig, costumed by senior Ashley Saint Vi, and the Frog, costumed by senior Ziayla West Maxwell. The fourth round would star the Alien, costumed by senior Lucas Baptista, and the Cow, costumed by senior Jose Ramirez Pool.

Baptista shared that he participated in the fights "to bring back the Halloween school spirit."

The last round was fought between the long-awaited, infamous inflatable birds—the Chicken and the Rooster. O'Connor and Schopp demonstrated their passion for the tradition through their intense, yet silly, fight.

Although O'Connor and Schopp's rounds of the costume fight have come to an end, the lively atmosphere brought to Malden High during Halloween week is sure to live in students' memories.

"As much as I think it would be fun to continue the tradition, I'd rather it end with me because it was my thing with my friends. How many years of the tradition before it gets to a point where the people who started it are forgotten?" concluded O'Connor.

Don't Be Jelly, the Winner's Brunelli



Freshmen Karen Ye, Tiana Nguyen, and Vi Nguyen working on a Brunelli poster where it says "Brunelli takes no elli's, BRUNELLI FOR THE WIN!!" STEPHANIE ZHAO

Stephanie Zhao
Reporter

Sofia Ardon Flores
Reporter

Elissa Yick
Reporter

Friendly competition arose among the Class of 2030 as students from Boyle, Brunelli, Holland, and Jenkins participated in different challenges. From arts and crafts to heated physical challenges, it was clear that every freshman who participated gave it their all.

Science teacher Shauna Campbell, who organized the event, explained that "it's three main categories, and the goal is that it allows everyone to participate in some way that they might be interested in because not everyone loves sports, and not everyone likes to be active or do stuff in front of people, and so that inspired us to have the trivia and artistic category."

"I think the Holland kids this year are actually into it more than last year in terms of competitiveness," math teacher Shu Tan explained.

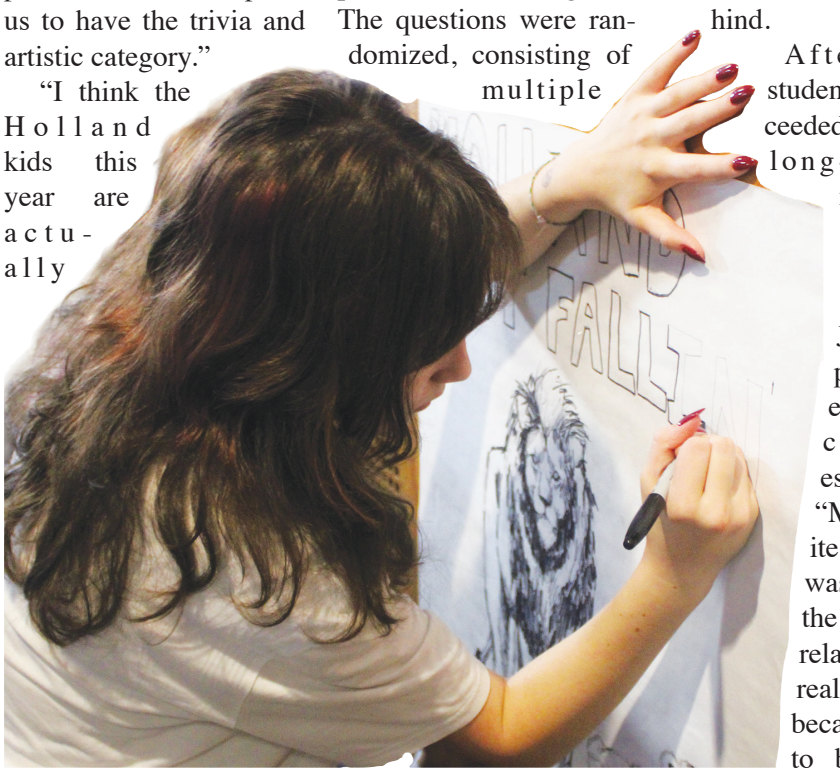
In the arts and crafts challenge, the freshman were told to design posters with unique designs for their house along with slogans like, "Holland aint fallin," "Second to none, Boyle leads the run,"and "Brunelli takes no elli's, BRUNELLI FOR THE WIN!!" Their efforts highlighted students' pride to be a part of their house.

With all these colorful, neatly done and detailed posters, the arts challenge ended in a one-point difference between Brunelli, taking second place with 9 points, and Holland, taking the overall win with 10 points.

Beginning the Olympics was the Trivia game. The questions were randomized, consisting of multiple topics and allowed people to show their quick thinking skills. After a round of unexpected questions there was a three-way tie, leaving Jenkins in last place.

After the trivia event concluded, the physical challenges commenced, which included the box relay, mattress relay, free throws, over-and-under, and lastly tug-of-war. Students were chanting cheers like "Let's go, let's go Holland", and stomping their feet.

The physical challenges started with the box relay where students went into round boxes and raced to the finish line. Brunelli took a rapid start, quickly moving with Jenkins not far behind. Concluding the box relay, Brunelli took first with the others falling behind.



Freshman Willa Deveau working on one of Holland's poster with the catchy slogan "Holland ain't fallin'." ELISSA YICK

Afterwards, students proceeded with the long-awaited mattress relay. Freshman Zaylin Jones, who participated in the challenges, shared, "My favorite challenge was probably the mattress relay. It was really fun just because I got to bounce on the mattress." As more people slid onto the mattress, the more people screamed from the stands. The energy radiating from the bleachers became more and more competitive as Jenkins slid into first place.

"The physical challenges were for people that like to do athletic things, but we made them kind of weird, non-athletic challenges. Like the mattress slide and the box thing, kind of fun and silly tasks," Campbell highlighted.

After a big win from Jenkins, it was time for the next challenge to commence. A free-throw challenge was introduced, and as everyone lined up, it was clear that this would be quite a competitive one. From the most talented basketball players, stepping up with confidence, hoping their experience would give them an upper hand, to people trying for fun, it was clear this was not going to be an easy win for any of the houses.

The crowd watched with anticipation as each basketball went up in the air. The competition had many misses and many clean shots with a swish after it went through the hoop. Ultimately, it was Brunelli who stood out with the most successful shots and took the win home.

Following up with free throws, the over-and-under challenge began, where students lined up and passed a basketball, alternating over their heads or under their legs. After they did so, they ran to the back of the line and did it again. Before the round started, teams were allowed to practice before the actual round. Many balls slipped out of hands. Some balls were aimed inaccurately.

Yet there was no room for mistakes in the actual round. It started off with Boyle moving with precision and quick hands without a single mistake. Jenkins was neck and neck with Boyle, moving swiftly to catch up. Hearing the crowds in the back cheering on their house to claim victory motivated them to want it more. Overall, with all the efforts of all teams, Boyle claimed victory over this challenge.

Freshman Annie Tan, who was a part of the winning team, expressed that what really mattered to her was "as long as we all have fun, that's a win for me."

While the timer was ticking closer to end, Brunelli sat with a one-point advantage over Jenkins. This faced Jenkins with a challenge. In order to win, they needed to take the final win and make sure Brunelli didn't get second. However, it was obvious to many that Brunelli was a strong opponent.

Kicking off the event with Jenkins against Boyle, lots of pressure

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Scramble for Your Life! Zombie Outbreak at MHS

Harmonie Ortiz
Lead Reporter

Run! "The zombies are coming!" senior Fine Arts Club (FAC) president Cat Nguyen yelled into the intercom to signal the release of the zombies. This was part of a game called Zombie Tag, a popular annual event funding the club's activities and donating to non-profits, Nguyen explained. This year, there was no doubt that the legacy of Zombie Tag had to be continued, especially since it's one of the most anticipated events at Malden High.

This long-awaited game started with checking in. The players had to say their names and were then given a random number, which they taped onto their shirts.

Once all players were checked in, members of the FAC made an announcement listing the rules. The first rule was that players could not hide wherever because of previous incidents. Second was that zombies had to wear scarves around their necks, while "safe" players had to wear them on their wrists. The final rule was not to go on the first or fourth floor, or you would be eliminated for the round.

When the first round started, uninfected players were given a five-minute head start before the zombies were released. Each round, players created a catchphrase to introduce a new one. The crowd favorite was seemingly "One, Two, One, Two, Three Release 'em," which was a popular sound on TikTok.

Players ran, screamed, and acted hastily, attempting to be sneaky. Each player used a different creative strategy to avoid the zombies. Some moved in groups, or on their own; regardless of how they strategized, everyone had a good time.

"Since we limit people to the hallways, it was really interesting seeing where people would hide or the strategies they would use," said junior Vice President Sophia Zhang.

As each round progressed, some players wished to "switch things up by becoming a zombie," explained junior Jason Doan. Others wanted to continue as a survivor, running away, in hopes of getting candy. Junior David Yohan Kintu explained that being a zombie was a "surreal" experience and a "different type of rush."

The event was a nice way "to spread some joy closer to Halloween" while "keeping it a tradition" that others can anticipate for upcoming years, remarked Zhang.

Doan described it as a moment he "won't forget" because it was "chaotic, unserious, and fun." The event made some consider how "the time spent with the ones closest" to an individual can impact how "much more enjoyable" an event can be, expressed Kintu.

Eventually, the last round ended with FAC faculty members handing out the final prizes, concluding the event on a positive note.



Junior Jason Doan throwing a sock at junior Shakib Qranfal to stun him. HARMONIE ORTIZ

BRIDGING PUBLIC HEALTH AND STEM EDUCATION

Students Explore Different Health Career Opportunities at Malden High



Program Director at Massachusetts General Hospital Ren Garcia Pallares and Human Rights Officer at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital Joe Williams listening to a student's question regarding future STEM career paths. TISHA NEUPANE

Tisha Neupane
Reporter

Madison Brazell
Reporter

A single presentation may not determine a student's future, but it can provide them with a clearer idea of where to look next. By connecting students with professionals and introducing them to opportunities available before graduation, the STEM Week discussion gave attendees a chance to consider careers beyond what comes next.

On Monday, October 19th, students gathered in the Jenkins Auditorium for a STEM presentation that introduced them to healthcare professions, hospital volunteer programs, and opportunities to gain real-world experience.

Organized by Chemistry Department Leader Katherine Shank and guidance counselor Erin Craven in partnership with MassHire, the presentation featured Ren Garcia, a Programs Director at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Joe Williams, a Human Rights officer at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital.

Shank, who has taught at Malden High for 14 years, expressed that the event was organized to help students understand how career pathways can begin before graduation. "We wanted to expose students to different areas that they might be able to get involved in and let them know what opportunities are out there, not only after graduation, but also now."

Throughout the presentation, Garcia and Williams discussed how students could gain experience in hospital settings through volunteering and internships. They talked about the application process, volunteer responsibilities, and career prospects, including Williams' work, which consists of overseeing volunteers who welcome visitors and help navigate the hospital.

The discussion highlighted careers beyond patient care, including radiology technician, medical interpretation, and laboratory work. Students also learned about certification programs and other educational routes that could help them qualify for certain positions.

The meeting was successful in promoting student outreach by connecting students to new resources. "Both of the presenters gave their contact information to Ms. Shank, who then gave it to me, and I posted it on Classrooms," Shannon Votaw, a science teacher, remarked. "I've had a couple of students already reach out about different opportunities or just follow-up questions."

Sophomore Elliot Youmell, who attended the event, expressed that the possibility of gaining experience stood out, as he could get "hands-on experience" from volunteering.

Youmell identified a lack of information as one challenge students face when exploring career options, as "they don't know what is available to them." He also wished that the presentation had consisted of more information about salaries across different professions.

Maya Sanh, another sophomore who attended the presentation, valued that the students could interact directly with the speakers instead of listening to a lecture. "I wasn't sitting there listening to them talk, and other audience members interacted with the speakers."

Craven, who helped organize the event with Shank, stressed that students would gain a better understanding of what working in a particular profession is like. "I hope that the students who visited the STEM info panel with the two industry professionals will take away some sort of insider information about what it's really like to live in the day of someone in that field." She estimated that five or six classes attended the event, potentially bringing the audience to around 150 students.

Kathy Maglio, an Environmental Science teacher, also respected the presentation's conversational atmosphere. Reflecting on Garcia' explanation of her professional journey, Maglio added, "It's not always linear. There are a lot of options to get someplace."

"I hope they understand that they don't have to have everything figured out by the time they graduate high school," Shank elaborated.

Votaw noted that gaining experience early could help students determine whether a career matches their expectations before investing years into specialized education. "You don't want to go through medical school and end up with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of debt and realize this might not be what you want to do," she reiterated.

"Sometimes you have your mind set on something that you think is going to interest you, or be something you want to pursue, and then when you experience it, it doesn't live up to your expectations," Maglio added.

Craven added that Malden High would likely continue partnering with MassHire during STEM week while seeking additional ways to bring people from different industries into the school. Shank was especially encouraged by the students' participation, acknowledging that the event was better than she had anticipated. "The students had such good questions, and I wasn't sure what to expect first thing in the morning. I was really happy with the way it played out and the way that they responded to everything."

Students interested in exploring research opportunities can discover more through the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging.

HEALING HOSA BACK TO LIFE AT MALDEN HIGH

Anna Bui
Head of Sports

In 2025, over 100,000 students enrolled in medical schools, according to HealthDay. To build the skills these students need for their future careers, Future Health Professionals, formerly known as Health Occupations for Students of America (HOSA), is a student-led organization that encourages youth to become leaders in the health care field.

HOSA serves students across the nation and internationally, forming over 6,200 chapters around the world. Malden High School's HOSA chapter shut down in 2025 because of a lack of members and an advisor. Junior President Maria Eduarda Candido noticed the lack of a chapter and took the initiative to revive it within the high school, believing that it would be "a really big opportunity for students."

Junior Vice President Aya Bihi was thrilled with the revival, since she had first joined the club her freshman year and "wanted to continue with it through high school."

HOSA opens up numerous opportunities for students to "explore careers in healthcare," shared Junior Social Media Coordinator Gesselle Rodriguez Portillo. The officers hope to expand the possibilities for students by inviting guest speakers, building medical skills, and sharing internship and volunteer opportunities.

One of the most notable parts of HOSA is the competitions. The organization offers over 130 different categories to compete in; Malden focuses on five: Health Science, Health Professions, Emergency Preparedness, Leadership, and teamwork events. These competitions take place at the Spring Leadership Conference, which also includes workshops, seminars, and chances to meet healthcare professionals.



Freshman Yingying Li measuring freshman Ysabella Lantin's blood pressure. Photo submitted by Maria Eduarda Candido.

Many officers, like Junior Treasurer Meybelin Guadron, are "excited to learn and participate in the competitions"; however, they face an issue of a lack of funds. Candido shared how the club has "national dues" and required payments to attend the spring conference, causing a significant setback in the club's goal.

Luckily, plans are already being made to overcome this problem. Junior Fundraising Coordinator Phalangecia Marie Jean Charles has plans to "work with HOSA management to organize and arrange monthly bake sales during games if possible" to open the club to everyone without students having financial worries.

Despite the obstacles standing in the way, the HOSA club has established a strong restart for its members. Through workshops and teaching students different medical skills during each meeting, they are not only prepared for the spring competitions, but also for a bright future in the medical field.

Freshmen Compete for the Olympian Title

Continued from page 10

from the crowd kept Freshman Genesis Hernandez encouraged. "My heart was beating out of my chest, my hands were sweaty, and overall I felt like there was a lot of pressure for us to win, so it motivated me to try my best." As gym teacher Dan Jurkowski took his hand off the rope, Jenkins immediately sprang into action, tugging with all their might as Boyle tried to keep their ground with perseverance, but despite all their effort, Jenkins won over Boyle and moved on to the finals.

The competition continued with Brunelli against Holland determining who would claim a spot in the finals against Jenkins. Brunelli looked to get the early advantage. Holland matched them and kept the rope still. As time went by, Brunelli slowly gained momentum, tugging harder before finally claiming victory.

Before the final round, Boyle and Holland battled for third. Both teams fell short of a spot in the finals they wanted to win. From the start, Boyle slowly pulled back, gaining the upper hand while Holland struggled to keep up. As the pressure began building, Holland broke, allowing Boyle to use the last of their strength to secure victory and claim third place.

Now came the event everyone had been waiting for, the final showdown between Brunelli and Holland. Both teams lined up on each side of their rope with determination in their eyes. Freshman Bradley Merant from Jenkins explained how he "felt nervous at first," but after the last match against Boyle, he had "more confidence," showing his faith in his team's capability.

With the crowds cheering on their team through chants and cheers, both teams were ready to give it their all in pursuit of the win. As the match began, Jenkins quickly took the early lead, forcing Brunelli on their toes as they fought to hold their ground. Despite Burnelli's effort to try to take the lead back, Jenkins kept control. After a hard-fought battle, Jenkins were the winners of the tug-of-war.

As the Freshmen Olympics came to a close, all the final scores were counted. Through all the efforts along with teamwork of all participants and motivation from the crowd, there was only one winner at the end of the day, and for the 2026 Freshmen Olympics, Brunelli claimed the win they haven't seen in years.

ROCKIN' WITH LAZARUS



From left to right: bassist Tristyn Liu, guitarist Jamie Wang, and drummer Adrian Alvarado performing "BEAUTY SALON" together. YEN NGUYEN

Yen Nguyen
Editor-in-Chief of
Social Media & Print

In the heart of Cambridge, Harvard Square, local Boston band LAZARUS rocked another show at the Harvard Coop, one of the oldest and largest collegiate bookstores in the United States. Set up in the center of the bookstore's second floor, LAZARUS performed a series of classic rock covers, as well as their own singles.

The energetic rock band first began performing shows throughout Boston in February of 2026, having met in November of last year. Frontman and Emerson College student André Lazarus explained how he had "wanted to form a rock and roll band for a couple of years," but it "wasn't working," because he had not found the right people. "I didn't find my brothers, the guys who believed in me."

This changed when Lazarus "saw this kid with a band," playing in Harvard Square, where the bassist, Tristyn Liu, had piqued his interest. One day, Lazarus was performing on Newbury Street with drummer Adrian Alvarado when he had decided to call Liu to help perform with them, who ended up becoming LAZARUS's bassist. The band had all come together like a puzzle, consisting of frontman Lazarus, drummer Alvarado, bassist Liu, and guitarist Jamie Wang.

Since they met, they have been playing various shows all over Boston, at least once a week. They frequently revisit areas on Newbury Street and Boston Common. "We started in the winter, and then it was every weekend that we played. That's a lot of time to be spending together, so we all became friends," Lazarus mentioned. Lazarus "writes all the songs," while his bandmates "help create the melodies. They all go to Berkeley, or music school, and they're very talented," he emphasized.



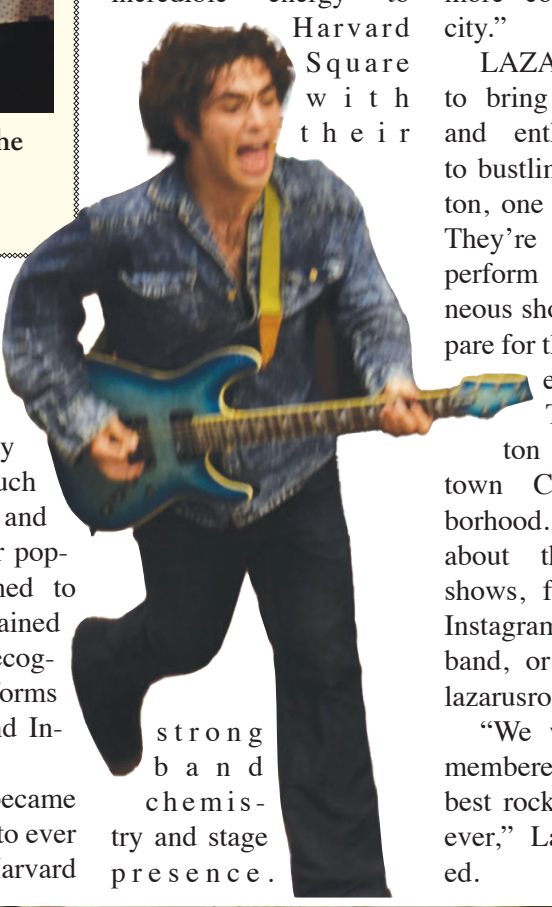
Frontman André Lazarus raising his arm in the air as he sings "Fortunate Son" by Creedence Clearwater Revival. YEN NGUYEN

Previously mentioned in a Boston Globe article, LAZARUS had recently completed their MBTA tour, in which they performed local concerts inside of trains all across the subway lines in Boston, such as the green, red, and orange lines. Their popularity only seemed to grow since they gained more and more recognition on big platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

LAZARUS became the first rock band to ever perform at the Harvard Coop on October 9th. Freshman at Harvard University, Hailey Cotter, expressed how they played really well, "and the whole place was just lit with this high energy."

The show began at quarter past six, and as time went by, the audience grew bigger. Guests came to watch from the first and second floors, as well as crowding the twisty staircase leading up to the stage. The band's tunes could be heard even from outside of the Coop.

From performing rock classics like "Fortunate Son" by Creedence Clearwater Revival to their own newly released singles, "YOYO" and "BEAUTY SALON", LAZARUS brought an incredible energy to Harvard Square with their strong band chemistry and stage presence.



During song performances, frontman Lazarus would run a lap around the entire bookstore, all while strumming the guitar and singing along, which only riled up the audience even more.

"The vibe of the show was very hype, and the band itself had a crazy energy considering the location. I would describe the entire show as energetic, loud, and unique. I've never heard of a rock show being performed at a bookstore until now," senior Sofia Evoras highlighted.

Cotter explained how she "recently moved from California to Boston, so going to really cool events like this has been so fun." She added that it made her "feel more connected to the city."

LAZARUS continues to bring musical talent and enthusiastic vibes to bustling areas in Boston, one song at a time. They're continuing to perform weekly spontaneous shows as they prepare for their big Halloween show at Off The Rails Boston in the Downtown Crossing neighborhood. To learn more about their upcoming shows, follow them on Instagram @thelazarusband, or on TikTok @lazarusrockband.

"We want to be remembered as one of the best rock and roll bands ever," Lazarus concluded.





Audience members on the first floor watching LAZARUS perform above on the second floor of the Harvard Coop. YEN NGUYEN

Rhinoceros Performance at ART

Alexia Lima
Editor-in-Chief

Challenging the societal hierarchy on a mundane Sunday morning, the absurdity of a lone rhinoceros rampaging across town forces citizens to choose whether they will conform to the absurd or cling to their humanity in the American Repertory Theater's (ART) adaptation of the timeless play *Rhinoceros*, directed by Diane Paulus.

Originally written by Eugène Ionesco in 1959 in response to the rise of fascism in Romania prior to World War II, this new translation of the interwar period piece commences ART's 2026-27 season with a reminder for audiences to value their authenticity amongst society's pressures of conformity.

Malden returns for its fourth season as a part of ART's Lavine Learning Lab, a collaborative and social-emotional learning-based initiative that fosters community amongst public high schools in the greater Boston area through production-based workshops.

On Wednesday, September 16th, Learning Lab Lead Vahdat Yeganeh initiated the first workshop by introducing one of the show's major themes: absurdism. After participating in a "one word story" exercise to get comfortable with the realm of the unexplainable, students were prompted to get into pairs and create a skit where the only words spoken were numbers.

Audience members had to determine what the relationship between both actors was based solely on the actors' body language and delivery choices, a similar technique that would be utilized in the show.

Senior Joan Diaz Vargas described the impact of learning how "absurdism is inherently funny," which prepared him for the type of comedy used in *Rhinoceros*.

The workshops aimed to explore the show's essential question: What does it mean to be a "rhinoceros"?

On the following Tuesday, September 22nd, students arrived at the Loeb Drama Center at Harvard University, where they would be participating in a pre-show workshop alongside Boston Latin Academy. To acclimate themselves to animalistic mannerisms, students were instructed to interpret pre-written skits while embodying a random animal of their choosing.

Students eagerly filed into their seats to watch the production they had been learning about and anxiously awaiting, the anticipation mount-

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Here Comes the Herd

Continued from page 12

ing further due to the star-studded cast including John Tuturro, Paul Giamatti, and Tatiana Maslany.

The avant-garde play opens on a quaint French town square, where Bérenger, played by Tuturro, is joined by his closest friend Jean, played by Giamatti, to quarrel over Bérenger's existential hangover-induced dread. Suddenly, a rhinoceros rages through the town, putting an abrupt halt to the townsfolk's calm morning.

The stampede baffles Jean, but the rest of the town seems to be unbothered by the rarity of this occurrence and brushes it off as a hoax. However, once the rhinoceroses start multiplying across town, everyone is forced to take notice.

The herd mentality begins to invade everyone's daily lives, as seen through the shift in an idle office conversation where Bérenger and his coworkers debate the ethics of becoming a rhinoceros while they watch the inhuman transformations spread like an epidemic.

At the end of the first act, the ultimate betrayal takes place as Bérenger watches Jean transform in front of his very eyes; in a fit of snorts and grunts, Jean thrashes around the bedroom, demolishing everything in his path before he locks himself in the bathroom and breaks through the door that Bérenger is waiting behind with his horn, solidifying the loss of his friend.

Bérenger is forced to accept that his friends and peers have moved beyond morality and that humanism is now outdated. To prevent him from falling victim to this mob mentality, he opens the second act appearing barricaded in his bedroom.

Bérenger's coworker Daisy, played by Maslany, visits him to check on his well-being and finds Bérenger in a state of disarray. The pair grapples with the reality that the rhinoceros population has become the majority, forcing them to accept that buildings getting trampled over and mass destruction is the new norm.

As they watch the remainder of their coworkers join the herd, Bérenger and Daisy are the last two humans standing. They rejoice that the love between them can be enough to drown out the noises of the rhinoceroses that have overtaken society, but Daisy ultimately falls victim to the ideology that they are beautiful and naturally free, becoming a rhinoceros herself.

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In the rubble of his lost love, friendships, and apartment, Bérenger is adamant on the fact that he will not conform. The back curtain was lifted to reveal a rhinoceros built out of bed frames slowly approaching Bérenger, the first and last time a rhinoceros was shown on stage and not represented through sound effects.

In the last workshop, students reflected on the show's theme of conformity to present-day societal standards. "Societal norms pressure us to become something we are not, all because we are longing to fit in and seem cool," sophomore Emily Chia noted.

Senior Grayson Herrera elaborated on the show's essential question, stating that the act of becoming a rhinoceros can be connected to "this current situation in the U.S. I think, ultimately, what happens is no one really has a choice in what they do, unless they have been given choice through education."

Rhinoceros teaches audiences the importance of thinking for oneself, no matter how tempting hiding behind mass opinion can be.

1972 Ignites Women's Rights Revolution



From left to right: Brit King, Hannah Foxman, Khalia Wilcoxon, Darby Patterson, and Jackera Davis as the Janes in *1972*. Photo from HAWVER AND HALL

Continued from front page

Downtown Crossing was set up in the middle of the room so students could share their work from the stations with each other as they moved on to the next.

At the Boylston stop, students visited Boston's Theater District where they were instructed to perform a series of six tableaus depicting major themes and events from the show: escape, discovery, death, belonging, purpose, and activism.

Getting off the train at the Museum of Fine Arts, students were given materials to draw stations of their own life, adding important stops of their life's journey and being prompted to interpret how these stops connect and why.

Lastly, students stopped at State to write interview questions they would ask the subjects in a series of historical images from the reproductive rights movement. Highlighted in the images were women from the Jane Collective, an underground initiative started by Heather Booth that provided illegal abortions to women from all walks of life. The Janes and their story in championing abortion access is a pivotal part of 1972's storyline, leaving students eager to take their seats and experience this retelling of history firsthand.

The stage was preset with a projected railroad track against a starry night, folk melodies filling the air and setting the pre-show mood. The curtain rose, revealing a band within a train car, setting the rock-concert tone and "electric energy," senior Cathen Fontanilla depicted.

The focus shifts to reveal protagonist Hannah, a pregnant 19-year-old singing about her aspirations of escaping her abusive relationship and broken home yet feeling trapped "standing at the door lock." Senior Raquel Ferreira noted the impact of the set design: "When Hannah comes out singing about escaping her relationship, there's a hole in the wall next to her, and it was a very good way of showing the abuse that she was going through without directly showing it."

Hannah gathers the courage to escape and wanders into the night, coming across Trainhoppers Depot, where Stokes, Eddie, and Pinto are gathered around a campfire.

The trio assesses her battered appearance and offers that she joins them on the next train, taking a leap of faith and her life into her own hands. Hannah accepts their offer and meets the remainder of the train-hopping rock ensemble, welcoming her onto the train by sharing ghosts of their pasts to motivate her to open up to the group about her experience.

After sharing that she's contemplating an abortion, the trainhoppers offer to refer her to a known "doctor" who will perform the illegal procedure, emphasizing the importance of her choosing to take this next step for herself without their influence.

Hannah gathers the courage to visit the doctor, finding herself in a hospital bed alongside another patient awaiting treatment, Louisa. Through the adjoining curtain of their shared hospital room, Louisa confides in Hannah her dreams of being the first woman to land on the moon and her troubled upbringing, before a nurse interrupts them.

The sketchy doctor is ready to see Louisa, appearing to be under the influence of the same anesthesia drugs he uses on his patients. In the middle of the procedure, the doctor exclaims that he is not intoxicated enough to carry on with Louisa's abortion, leaving her injured.

Hannah urges Louisa to flee with her before her safety is jeopardized any further. Shortly after their escape, Louisa dies from health complications following the unfinished abortion; Hannah is left heartbroken and given a new purpose to advocate against the healthcare system that failed her friend and herself.

Hannah comes across a flyer stating "Pregnant? Don't want to be? Call Jane." After leaving a hopeful voicemail, she travels to Chicago and meets the Janes: a powerful organization of women who banded together to provide abortions for women no matter their background of financial means.

The Janes explain to Hannah their underground mission of empowering women to save other women's lives and assure her that they will take care of her free of charge. Hannah not only gets the life-changing healthcare she needs through the Janes, but she finds her calling for advocacy and supporting other women, ultimately deciding to join the organization.

Months into her work as a Jane, the police raid the organization's concealed makeshift hospital, searching for the doctor responsible for performing illegal abortions after discovering the Janes' promotional flyers. The police interrogate the Janes to no avail, the group of women unanimously answering the police's questions at the same time, concealing their identities; when they urge, "Who's the doctor?" the Janes respond as a collective, "I am."

The women were shortly arrested, but the fight for reproductive freedom was far from lost. Their lawyer deliberately delays their trial until abortion becomes legalized through Roe v. Wade and all charges are dropped.

1972 pulls from the true story of the Janes; the screen lining the train car's exterior flashes with images of the actual Janes who were arrested in May of 1972 for performing abortions and newspaper headlines from January of 1973 when the Roe v. Wade's decision was released.

The ensemble ends the show with an enthralling ode to the Jane Collective that started a revolution with a name, repeating "Come on Jane!"

Reflecting on the message of the show and Hannah's journey, senior Keira Celicourt explained: "I think it's important for audiences to understand how much community and support can mean to someone."

Further reiterating the power of community within advocacy, at this showing, a special Act II post-show discussion was hosted by Doctor Chloe Zera, Chief of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Claire Teylouni, Executive Director of Reproductive Equity Now.

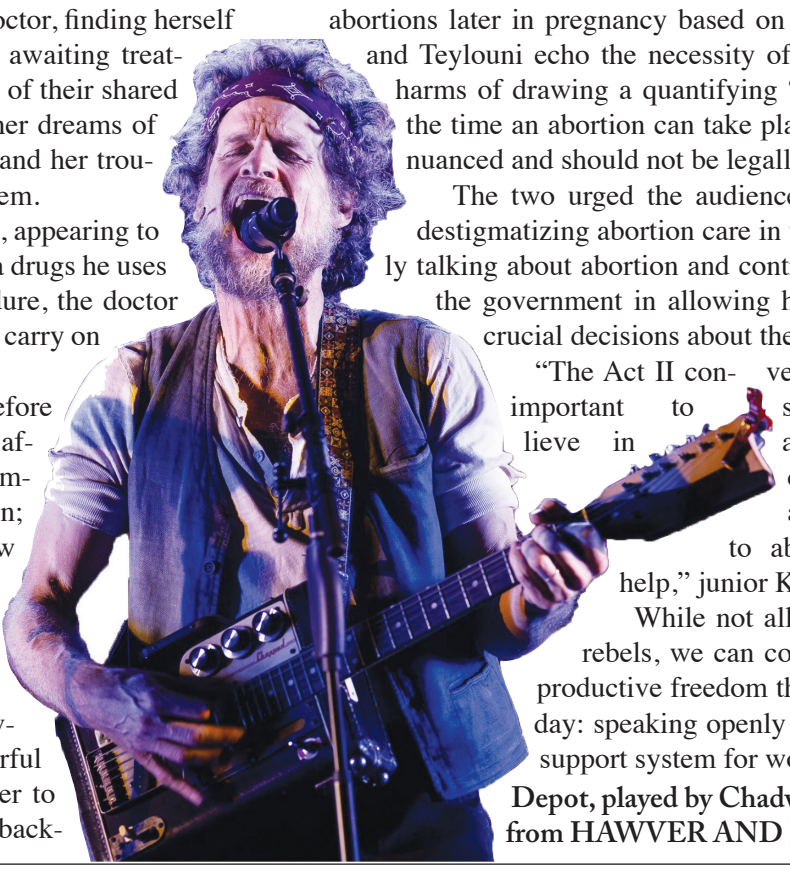
Zera and Teylouni express how 1972 made them reflect on how much has changed within the fight for reproductive freedom since the year 1972 itself, and how the fight itself is still the same, especially with the stepback following the overturning of Roe v. Wade in 2022 that ended the decades of federal protection of abortion care.

However, the legal landscape surrounding abortion continues to evolve. The pair highlighted how Massachusetts's Prioritizing Patient Access to Care Act was put into action that same evening, replacing the state's previous 24-week cutoff for abortion care and allowing for abortions later in pregnancy based on physician evaluation. Zera and Teylouni echo the necessity of this act by explaining the harms of drawing a quantifying "line in the sand," limiting the time an abortion can take place since each pregnancy is nuanced and should not be legally constrained.

The two urged the audience to actively participate in destigmatizing abortion care in their communities by openly talking about abortion and contributing to the fight against the government in allowing healthcare patients to make crucial decisions about their lives.

"The Act II conversation taught me that it's important to stand up for what we believe in and to make sure that our community knows that we are a trusted person to talk to about abortion and getting help," junior Kyla Farrow reflected.

While not all of us can be underground rebels, we can contribute to the fight for reproductive freedom through small actions everyday: speaking openly about abortion and being a support system for women.



Depot, played by Chadwick Stokes in 1972. Photo from HAWVER AND HALL

XC SENIORS RUN ONE LAST MEET



Cross Country seniors posing with a poster designed by Track and Field Distance Coach Meghan McCormick. KHKOLA NIAZI

Khkola Niazi
Lead Reporter

Some people on Malden's Cross Country team will tell you the best part of the sport is not running. Ask them on Senior Night, and you get some version of the same answer: It is the people.

On October 21st, the team gathered at Pine Banks to celebrate the seniors for their dedicated Senior Night. The afternoon was built around them, and by the end, most of the players were still taking it all in.

Senior Captain Ian Ian Ho mentioned that the most meaningful moment of her season was Senior Night. The seniors had watched everything the team did for them come together; she expressed that "it was really, really heartwarming." She wasn't always so sure she would find her place; when she first joined cross country, she didn't know anyone. Ho later on mentioned that by being on the team, "you're going to make a lot of friends," continuing, "because of the sport, I made a lot of really good and deep connections."

Senior Angela Lam's advice to her first-day self was to "just have fun. Don't put too much pressure on yourself, you get better with time and practice." She then added a sentiment shared by the rest of the team: "The best part of the season is the people around you."

Senior Sophia Chen's words were part pep talk, part workout survival guide. "Be consistent," she said that cross country is a place where "you thrive with collaboration as well as persistence, even though when you're in the middle of the workout, you want it to be over.

But, the truth is that it'll give you more advantages than you think, so just keep on going!"

Senior Captain Keira Celicourt's advice came from a mistake she used to make in races. She explained that she ran scared: She'd start slow, hold back, and avoid passing people because she didn't want to be the one to try and fail. Once she took risks, she shared that she "got a lot faster—significantly—and I PR'd every single meet."

It didn't stop at the finish line. Celicourt shared how cross country made her more outspoken and more willing to take chances. She learned to speak in public, to be kind to others, and to lead. "I kind of grew into myself."

Last year was rough for Lam, she said, and her teammates and coaches showed up. She expressed that "they're so supportive" and that "they're very understanding of our busy schedules, and they take care of us."

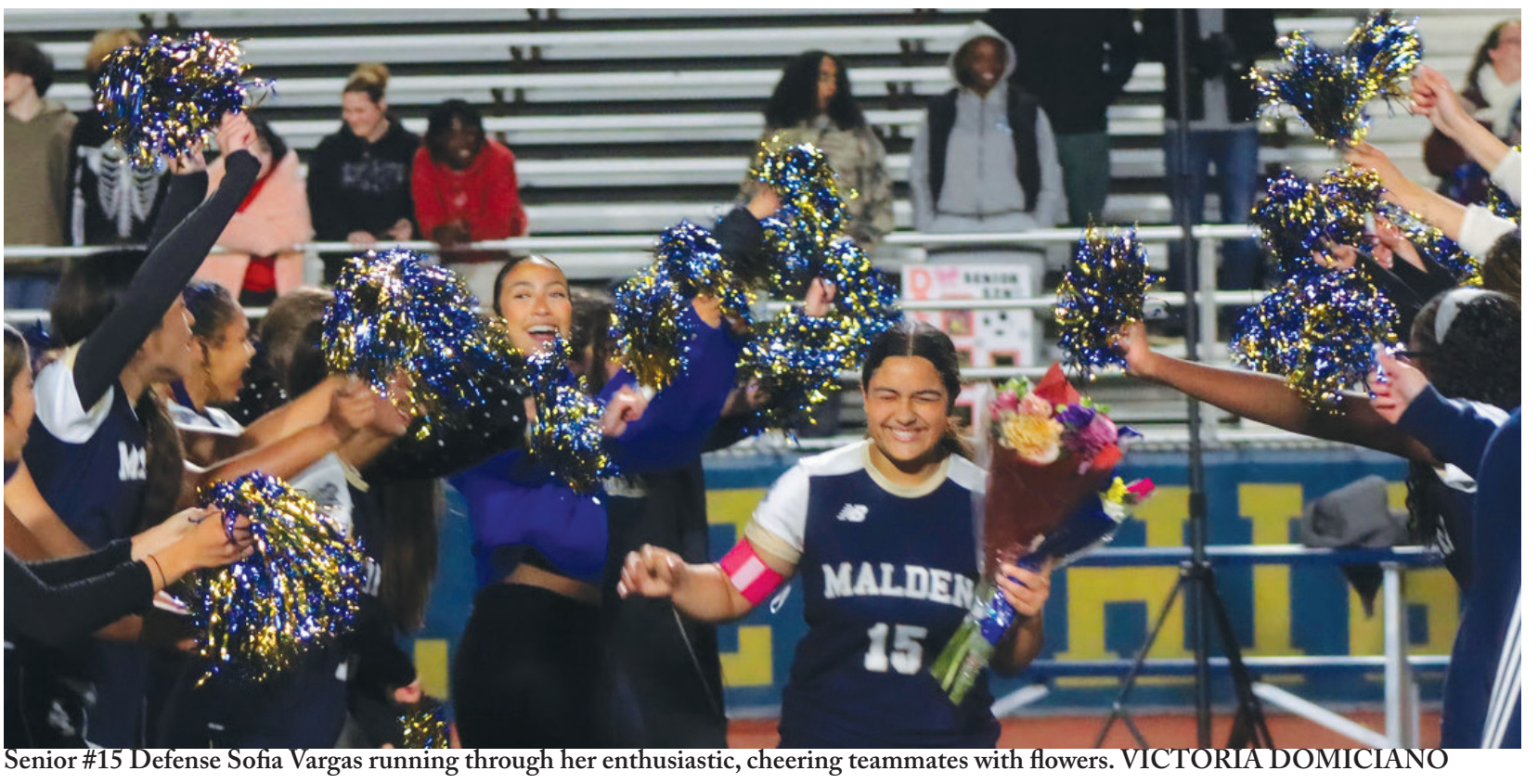
Coach Nicholson has watched all of this from the sidelines, and for him, Senior Night isn't a routine. This is his fourth year coaching the high school team, which means he got to coach this class from their first day of freshman year to their last season. "It's an extra special night for us," he said. "They're such great kids."

"I asked how the seniors had changed since freshman year. They have gotten better as runners," he said, "but the kids themselves haven't changed. They have been the same amazing kids from freshman year, sophomore year, to today. They make the team fun," noted Nicholson.

What stays with him is how they treated everyone else. "It's fun to come to practice. They make it enjoyable for anyone who wants to try. They're super accepting. They just make a warm atmosphere."

Eventually the season will end, the seniors will graduate, and next year's team will start running without them. They will never forget this golden time. But the thing Nicholson noticed in them, the thing every one of them said about their teammates, isn't something you can beat. They built a team where no one feels like an outsider, where a nervous freshman runner who doesn't know anyone can end up meeting their closest friends.

GIRLS' SOCCER SENIOR NIGHT



Senior #15 Defense Sofia Vargas running through her enthusiastic, cheering teammates with flowers. VICTORIA DOMICIANO

Aundrea Cifuentes
Senior Lead Reporter

Held at MacDonald Stadium on Thursday, October 15th, Girls' Soccer Senior Night commemorated each senior as friends and family came to celebrate their hard work during the 2026 fall season.

The night was filled with laughter and bonding in the stands as Malden played a tough and defensive match against Everett.

After the game ended in a 0-0 tie, the ceremony to highlight the seniors took place. "We would've liked to win, but it wasn't a loss, so it was better than nothing," expressed senior Center Back Nyla Pierre.

The first half was played with high intensity and physicality from both teams.

Overall, both halves remained scoreless as players displayed their defensive adjustments to each other's offense. "There wasn't enough communication, and it was stressful because it was senior night and everyone wants to win for senior night," emphasized Pierre.

"We're often forcing balls up the field, despite having better options. This is partially due to our teams habit of trying to play individually rather than as a team. It's something we've unfortunately been conditioned to do, but at higher levels of soccer, playing individually hurts the team a lot more than it may help the team. We need to pass the ball around, and pick our heads up to find easy options, something I feel we often forget to do. We shouldn't be forcing the ball up the field, but unfortunately on senior night that exactly what we were doing, therefore explaining our tie," Senior Captain and Center Midfielder Amelia Berliner reflected.

Despite the loss, all the various playing styles and passion were recognized. "I am so proud of where our team has come with our different playing styles, teamwork, and passion," commented Senior Captain and Right Back Defender Sofia Vargas.

The stands were packed with alumni of the Malden's girls' soccer team, families and friends of the players, and other supporters.

After the game ended, the audience ran down to the field, and the underclassmen lined up across from each other, creating a tunnel for the seniors to run through.

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Girls' VB Serves up Senior Night

Kyle Dang
Editor-in-Chief of
Social Media & Print

Baskets full of gifts and mementos lined the ground, adorned with bouquets, posters, and balloons. Coach Dan Jurkowski faced the bleachers as he thanked the crowd for arriving and celebrating tonight's occasion as he led into the ceremony for the Girls' Volleyball senior night.

"I sat with these girls for four years in so many cities. Whether we were all crying, asleep, or singing, those were experiences I will miss and forever cherish! Everyone was so happy and feeling nostalgic. It made me feel very grateful for the people I met during my time playing volleyball," senior Raquel Ferreira emotionally stated.

Seniors Ly Nguyen, Raquel Ferreira, Maliya Kazadi, who is also a Senior Lead Reporter for The Blue and Gold, then Senior Captains Sherley Jeune, and finally, Aaliyah Ferreira were called one by one, followed by Jurkowski dedicating a small remark to each senior. Flashes flickered, and cameras shuttered; friends, family, alumni, and the volleyball team rushed from the sidelines to gather in for group pictures.

In a light-hearted spur of the moment, Raquel and Aaliyah Ferreira stepped to the side to sing their own rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner, which was met with applause from the audience and opposing team, which led right into their match against Lowell.

This match against Lowell marked the girls' volleyball team's 20th match, and their last match in the regular season before their preliminary match in States. Up to this point, the team's record was 11-8, which begged the question: would this match end in victory or loss?

The first set, and ultimately the first rally, began with Malden's serve from Raquel Ferreira, which gained Malden the first point. The set quickly drew to a halt, as Kazadi faced a potential injury after the volleyball ricocheted against the side of her face. However, Kazadi persevered, setting Malden's determined spirit for the rest of the match.

As the set progressed, both teams played to their best efforts, which was made obvious by their neck-and-neck scores. Malden would gain the first set over Lowell after an ace from Kazadi with a final score of 25-23.

Lowell began the second set serving before losing the point to Malden after dropping the

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BOYS' SOCCER KICKS IN 3-2 SENIOR NIGHT WIN



Malden High School senior Elyas Albani is lifted into the air by his boys' varsity soccer teammates during the Senior Night celebration at Macdonald Stadium, following Malden's 3–2 victory over Bishop Fenwick. BILAL PSARLY

Harmonie Ortiz
Lead Reporter

The Malden Boys' Soccer match on November 2nd, 2026 began like any other match but held a significantly different meaning as the end of the match neared. It highlighted the contributions of the seniors to the team and showed them how much they are appreciated.

Malden's soccer team entered the match following a week packed with triumphant matches. Heading into the match, the team was filled with nerves as it was their last home match. Despite these nerves, they didn't let their unfamiliarity with Bishop Fenwick interfere with their teamwork, and took home a 3-2 win.

Malden did not let the nerves of senior night block out their drive to win. It may have been hard "trying to separate the celebration of seniors from the game itself," said Coach Jeremiah Smith, but the team came out and put the celebration to the side for later.

Malden jumped straight into the match, starting with a fiercely earned point scored by Senior Captain Abdul Kalefa three minutes into the match. Kalefa set the pace, showing the crowd what Malden is capable of.

Malden was put on defense as Bishop scored swiftly after Malden, tying the match 1-1. This did not shut the Tornados down but instead encouraged them. After a fight for possession over the ball, a foul was called against Bishop Fenwick, and Malden gained possession.

The fast pace of the match left the crowd anticipating what would happen next. The players narrowed in on skills and showed spectacular dribbling skills, leaving Bishop Fenwick's defense far away from the ball. Senior John Goncalves De Matos took the ball and scored, leaving the crowd erupting with excitement.

This play did not seem to stop Bishop Fenwick's drive. Shortly after Bishop Fenwick scored once again, the game became a tough fight to take the lead. Smith reflected that "it took almost to halftime before we really settled down and just started playing our game."

After halftime, Malden seemed to come out as an entirely new team. Pushing with a new ambition, Malden's strong defense was on clear display. The frozen tie of 2-2 was soon melted.

Matos came out of the break and scored once more—putting Malden in the lead as they had no desire to relinquish it. Malden's hard-fought battle helped them secure possession of the ball and keep it out of the reach of Bishop Fenwick, who did not let Malden get far either. Bishop Fenwick attempted a few goals, but all were immediately shut down by junior goalie Wender De Abreu Moura. Moura kept Bishop Fenwick's offense on their toes and blocked every shot until the time ran out.

Finally, the match ended 3-2. The crowd jumped out of their seats and ran to go see their friends and family on the field. It washed over the team that this "was the last time the seniors got to play at home and in their last ever high school season," reminisced Junior Captain Adam Namir.

Smith reflected on how the seniors were "setting a standard for younger players" on how to approach a season to be successful. "It's not something that you can just show up the last week of August and be successful. It's something you have to work for," declared Smith.

With each senior's hard work and immense contribution to the team, "To see all of the friends and families of our seniors coming down on the field, that was just a really great moment," expressed Smith.

"The most memorable thing was everyone coming to take pictures with us," described Senior Captain Juan Caballero. The seniors "were kind of sad," knowing this was their last season, reflected Caballero.

No matter what, the seniors will be known for setting the pace for soccer and showing where true leadership and teamwork could take you. This year, the Malden Boys' Soccer team also advanced to the MIAA State Tournament, which was played on November 8th, 2026 against Braintree and resulted in a 2-0 loss



Malden Boys' Soccer players gather for a group photo on the field, celebrating their teammates and the memories shared during Senior Night. BILAL PSARLY



Senior Matheus Lima walks onto the field with his family and friends as teammates line up on both sides to applaud him during the Senior Night celebration. BILAL PSARLY

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ball. Things were looking great for Malden; having won the first set and the first point, they were en route to a marvelous match.

Any further points eventually stagnated for Malden, as Lowell would continuously accumulate points, gapping the scores by a significant lead. Malden would eventually come back, albeit not enough to win the set. Lowell would win 25-21. Now tied at 1-1, both teams were at high stakes.

A half-time intermission followed; the bleachers emptied while both players and guests retreated for a quick break. With both teams refreshed, the third set began with Malden's possession, which was served by sophomore outside hitter and defense specialist Sabrine Harrzaguia. The first rally would once again go to Malden after Lowell sent the ball out of bounds.

Much like the previous set, Malden would face a pause in their scoring, allowing Lowell a significant lead ahead of them. However, skillful play from Malden would tie the score at 20-20. Eventually, the set would conclude 25-22, with an ace on Lowell's side.

Uncertainty filled the air as the scoreboard displayed MALDEN: 1, GUEST: 2. The audience from Malden sat, wondering if this would be the last set or if Malden would make a comeback.

Lowell began the fourth set by serving, which would gain them the first rally due to Malden's unsuccessful serve receive. This set would be the most anticipated one of the night. Malden quickly led the set, setting the score at 10-3. Lowell's offense persisted, playing assertively and catching up to the Tornados, this time leading the scoreboard.

An intermission was called–the scoreboard sat at 16-12, with Lowell ahead by four points.

Tension and nerves filled the gymnasium. The scoreboard continued to tick up, leaving viewers on the edge of their seats. Another timeout was called at 24-19. Then 24-20, and finally, 25-20.

Unfortunately, Malden would lose the final set.

Their loss was not in vain; "friends and family coming to support" was the most important part, stated Nguyen.

"Life isn't fair, and at times things will seem like they can't come back up. It will. Just believe in yourself," Nguyen declared. This sentiment from Nguyen was quickly reflected, as seniors, friends, and family lined up against their respective posters, quickly shifting the mood from their loss.

Group by group, individuals shuffled out of the gym, leaving the court empty and full of melancholy as the team played its last game of the season.

"As Junior Captain, I am definitely going to miss these seniors a lot," reminisced Hadassa Pierre-Rene, a reminder of her important role leading into next year.

Junior Xiaohui Li would walk off the court, expressing, "I'll miss the way they would lead our team and lift anyone if they were feeling down."

"Throughout the season, they taught me how to be aggressive in every play but, at the same time, be controlled," Li continued.

Girls Final Kick of the Season

Continued from page 14

The girls' soccer coach, Rick Caceda, wanted to show the seniors appreciation through his speech. He recognized this class as "one of the best," elaborating that they are not only "good at soccer," but also "great kids."

Caceda shouted out the fact that they made it to States last year, and that was the fourth time the girls' varsity soccer team has ever made States, and announced that "they might make it this year again."

After expressing his gratitude toward the girls, he then started calling each senior and dedicated a personal speech to them, then had them run through the lines made by the underclassmen soccer girls. Each player was given a bouquet.

"I felt super appreciated; I felt so much love throughout the entire night. My entire family came, and everyone else I've grown up with through high school," said senior Outside Winger Maya Pedraza.

With more seniors coming down the field to get pictures with relatives and friends, many players shed emotions on the amazing night. "The love I felt that night didn't compare to any other experience I've felt being celebrated." Captain Berliner commented as she listened to the speech performed by her coach—walking down the field with her family—being able to sulk in the moment.

"For me it meant a lot because that was my fifth year, and every single year I would help create the senior nights, be there early, fill up balloons, and it was finally my turn to sit back and just watch everything for me– it was my day. It was so heartwarming to see everyone come support me. High school sports are so much more than athletics and staying in shape; it becomes a community, and having your friends come support that is an indescribable feeling," Berliner continued.

The night ended as all the seniors picked up their posters and gifts and left MacDonald Stadium. The entire night displayed all the love and appreciation everyone has for the team and their hardworking seniors. "This night was well worth the wait; it all came down to it, and it makes me excited for my future games," she concluded.

Their upcoming games may determine their journey to States, as they hope to make it for the second year in a row.

Malden Football Beats Lynn Classical

Football Wins 36-16 in Pink Out Game Advocating for Breast Cancer Awareness



Malden Tornados facing off against Lynn Classical at the line of scrimmage for the football. KADY SMITH

Calvin Fontanilla
Reporter

Sarah Biadi
Reporter

On October 16th, the Golden Tornados faced the Lynn Classical Rams and walked away with a 36-16 victory. Not only that, but the Tornados also honored Breast Cancer Awareness Month by showing up with their bright pink gear for their Pink Out game.

While the victory was a major accomplishment for the Tornados, the Pink Out game gave the game a deeper meaning. Players and spectators wore pink and ribbons to show support for individuals and families going through hard times affected by breast cancer. "It was a great way to show support for people going through a rough time," explained Coach Witche Exilhomme.

As the first quarter came to an end, the crowd cheered and watched tensely as Junior Captain Jayden McGuffie scored a touchdown, giving the Tornados a 6-0 lead. Despite missing a couple of key players, the Tornados fought long and hard. Shortly after, Malden converted a two-point conversion, ending the first quarter with a lead of 8-0.

The Tornados continued its momentum in the second quarter when quarterback Joshua "Josh" Dionne connected with running back McGuffie for a 50-yard touchdown pass, extending the lead to 14-0. Lynn Classical responded with a touchdown and a successful two-point conversion, bringing the score to 14-8. However Malden maintained its advantage heading into halftime.

Following the game, Exilhomme credited the team's determination to "solid practice all week long," allowing players to be in the right place and succeed in executing their plays. Exilhomme praised his team's dedication to getting healthier and improving over the cold weather. "The more physical we can be in cold weather, the more dangerous we'll be as football players," he shared.

Exilhomme also reflected on the team's performance and preparation mentioning that they "we're very focused," and "it's a game they wanted to win." He also wanted the players to work on staying healthy and returning from injuries. Along with improving on the field, Exilhomme reminded the team to stay focused in their classes and keep their grades up as the first quarter comes to an end.

As the players make their way back onto the field after halftime, the cheerleaders bring the energy back to the sidelines with loud cheers, chants, and spirited routines, encouraging both the players and the crowd. Their enthusiasm helped create an exciting atmosphere while reminding everyone that the game was about more than just football.

The Tornados continued their strong performance in the third quarter. After blocking a Lynn classical punt, Malden gained possession near the 11-yard line. Senior wide receiver Akre "Arioc" Akre then scored a touchdown, followed by a successful two-point conversion from McGuffie, giving Malden a higher lead of 22-8.

In the fourth quarter, Malden's defense continued to put pressure on the Lynn Classical Rams, helping seal the victory. Senior wide receiver Jemiah Charles intercepted a pass from Lynn Classical and returned it for a pick-six, adding another six points to the scoreboard. The interception gave Malden another big moment in the game and showed how the team was able to make important plays on both offense and defense. The touchdown brought the score to 28-8, giving Malden a stronger lead as the game came closer to ending.

With the defense continuing to hold off Lynn Classical, Malden was able to maintain its lead and stay in control of the game. The players continued to work together and stay focused as the clock ran down, making sure Lynn classical had fewer chances to catch up. Their teamwork, effort, and determination helped them finish strong and secure a 36-16 over Lynn Classical.

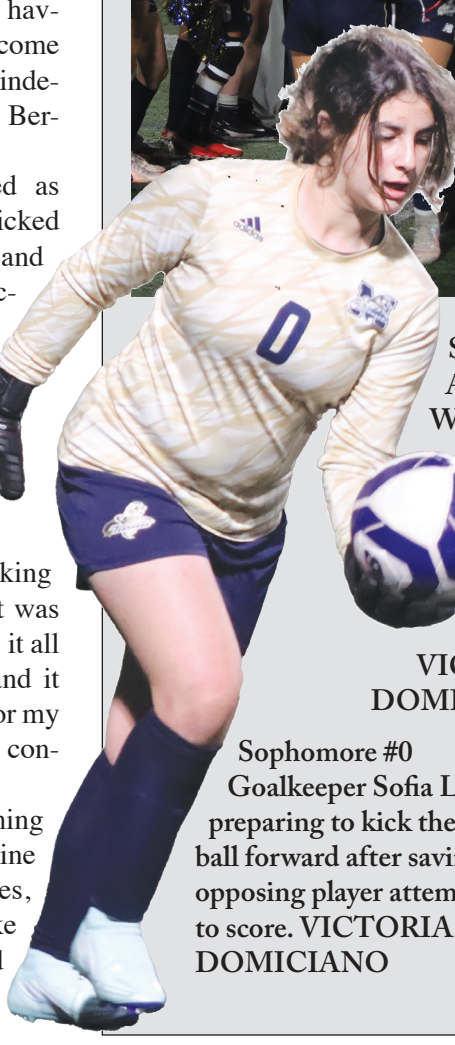
In the end, the Pink Out game showed how sports can bring a community together for something bigger than the game itself. It also reminded everyone of the importance of raising awareness, supporting those affected by breast cancer, and showing families that they are not alone.



Senior Imane Agoumad and junior Wiam Saadouni hugging after their special handshake through their cheering teammates. VICTORIA DOMICIANO



Senior Captain #7 Defense and Midfielder Amelia Berliner taking a photo with her family. VICTORIA DOMICIANO



Sophomore #0 Goalkeeper Sofia Leno preparing to kick the ball forward after saving opposing player attempt to score. VICTORIA DOMICIANO



Senior #5 Midfielder Maya Pedraza-Alexander taking a photo with her family. VICTORIA DOMICIANO